

0	Call No.	Year	Title of Newspaper Article
1	007.220	April 1, 2015	News Briefs - 303 Drainage Project Complete
2	007.220	April 1, 2015	News Briefs - 303 Drainage Project Complete (Slight Variation)
3	007.220	April 1, 2015	Flood Irrigation Starts in April
4	007.220	April 1, 2015	Scottsdale Properties Removed From Floodplain
5	007.220	April 7, 2015	Loop 303 Drainage Project Completed
6	007.220	April 8, 2015	Resident Cries Foul Over Floodwater Mitigation
7	007.220	April 9, 2015	Buckeye Meets With Top Officials Regarding Gila River Restoration
8	007.220	April 10, 2015	Hike With a View - Pinal Planning for Trail Along CAP Canal - Effort Being Made to Allow Hikers to See Sights
9	007.220	April 18, 2015	Peoria Spends \$350,000 to Address Parks Damage From 2014 Storms
10	007.220	April 29, 2015	Calm Before the Storm - Town Looks for Solution to Prevent Storm Water Damage
11	007.220	April 29, 2015	Pinnacle Peak West - Area Drainage Master Study
12	007.220	April 29, 2015	Scottsdale Council Eyes Nov. 3 Bond Vote
13	007.220	May 2, 2015	City Buys Land to Prevent Flooding in South Scottsdale
14	007.220	May 3, 2015	Learning About the Earth - Conserve and Protect Club at St. John Bosco Hosts Mini Earth Fest for Students
15	007.220	May 5, 2015	Storms Get May Off to a Wet Start in Phoenix Area
16	007.220	May 6, 2015	Unusual Storm Slams Valley, FH
17	007.220	May 10, 2015	Our Turn - Phasing Out Urban Flood Irrigation is a Bad Idea
18	007.220	May 10, 2015	Communities - Scottsdale Buys Land to Prevent Flooding
19	007.220	May 13, 2015	Scottsdale, County Partner on Local Flood-Control Projects
20	007.220	May 14, 2015	Mayor Jackie Meck in DC
21	007.220	May 15, 2015	The City of Scottsdale and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County Invite You to Attend a Public Meeting
22	007.220	May 17, 2015	Once-Polluted Water Irrigates Ball Fields
23	007.220	May 17, 2015	The Republic's 125-Year Journey to Bring You the News - Riding the State's Rapid Rise
24	007.220	May 17, 2015	Top Stories of the Decade - 1890 - Flood, Scams and War
25	007.220	May 17, 2015	Top Stories of the Decade - 1960 - Cities, Suns and Water in the Desert
26	007.220	May 18, 2015	10 Memorable Weather Events - Flood, Flood, Flood... Heat
27	007.220	May 21, 2015	Weather Topics - Citizen Scientists Collect Rain Data in Phoenix Area - They Supplement Official Gauges
28	007.220	June 3, 2015	Drive Cautiously in Bad Weather
29	007.220	June 3, 2015	Improved Levees Help Keep Scottsdale Dry
30	007.220	June 3, 2015	New Flood Warning Stations Planned in Preparation for Monsoon Season
31	007.220	June 5, 2015	Improved Levees Help Keep City Safe From Floods
32	007.220	June 6, 2015	AMC Environmental Issues June Breakfast - Flood Control
33	007.220	June 10, 2015	Amended School District Reworks Budget for Flood Control
34	007.220	June 12, 2015	Sonoran Preservation Program Receives Unanimous Vote
35	007.220	June 15, 2015	Valley Agencies Working to Prevent Monsoon Damage

36	007.220	June 17, 2015	Monsoon Season Under Way - Queen Creek Officials Hope New Retention Basin Will Help Prevent Flooding, Road Closures Thei Year
37	007.220	June 17, 2015	TPV Floodwater Management is Shared Responsibility
38	007.220	June 24, 2015	Groundbreaking Ceremony Held at QC Wash Trail
39	007.220	June 26, 2015	Phoenix Plans to Ride Rails to Economic Prosperity
40	007.220	June 27, 2015	County to Improve Intersection at 99th Avenue and Union Hills
41	007.220	July 1, 2015	Lightening Strike Causes House Fire
42	007.220	July 3, 2015	Residents are Reminded Not to Drive Through Running Water
43	007.220	July 9, 2015	Watch Out for Flash Floods
44	007.220	July 10, 2015	Tapping Into River's Potential
45	007.220	July 10, 2015	When Rains Cover Valley, Are You Covered?
46	007.220	July 10, 2015	A River Runs Through SW Valley
47	007.220	July 11, 2015	Valley Residents Can Get Free Sandbags Today
48	007.220	July 15, 2015	Our Viewpoint - Monsoon Dangers
49	007.220	July 16, 2015	West Valley - Gila River Restoration Plans Revived
50	007.220	July 18, 2015	West Valley Soundoff - How West Valley Cities Prepare for the Monsoon
51	007.220	July 19, 2015	Flooding Overwhelms Areas of Wickenburg
52	007.220	July 20, 2015	Destruction, Debris and Community in Wickenburg
53	007.220	July 20, 2015	Monsoon Hammers Wickenburg
54	007.220	July 22, 2015	\$10 Million Southern Avenue Streetscape Improvements Contract Approved
55	007.220	July 22, 2015	Buckets of Rain - Torrential Monsoon Brings Roaring Flood
56	007.220	July 22, 2015	Flood Recovery Efforts Continue in Wickenburg
57	007.220	July 22, 2015	MCDOT to Improve Anthem Roadway Wash Crossings
58	007.220	July 22, 2015	Recovery Underway on Many Fronts
59	007.220	July 25, 2015	Soundoff - What are Top Infrastructure Needs in West Valley?
60	007.220	July 28, 2015	Voices for Rural Arizona - 2 Buckeye Men Selected to Participate in Leadership Program
61	007.220	July 29, 2016	Aztec Flooding Raises Questions of Responsibility
62	007.220	July 29, 2016	Volunteers Help With Aftermath
63	007.220	July 29, 2016	Will Saguaro Be Done on Time? - Lanes Now Switched Over, so Work Should Go Faster
64	007.220	July 29, 2016	Working Together Through Storms Helps Us Prepare For Future Events - Town Managers Update
65	007.220	July 30, 2015	Monsoon 2015 Off to Spotty Start
66	007.220	July 30, 2015	Q&A - Where Did All the Water From Wickenburg Flood Go? What River Did It End Up In?
67	007.220	August 1, 2015	Massive Monsoon Storm Soaks Valley
68	007.220	August 4, 2015	Salt Cedar Trees Pose Dangers in Buckeye
69	007.220	August 5, 2015	Assistance Available For Low Income Residents Affected by Flood
70	007.220	August 8, 2015	Rain, Wind Wreck Havoc In Parts of Valley - Storms Lead to Delays at Airports, Freeway Crahes
71	007.220	August 12, 2015	It Rains, I Pours, It Clears Out Fast

72	007.220	August 12, 2015	One For the Record Book - What Went Right, Wrong During July 18 Flood Subject on Aug. 24 Meeting
73	007.220	August 13, 2015	Board of Supervisors Approve I-10 Protective Upgrades in Buckeye
74	007.220	August 14, 2015	Notebook - ASU Leads Study on Bracing Nation's Infrastructure for Extreme Weather
75	007.220	August 16, 2015	City Workers Attempt to Unclog the Drain
76	007.220	August 18, 2015	Buckeye Flood Control Structure Rehabilitation Work Under Way
77	007.220	August 19, 2015	One Year Later - New River 2014 Flood Highlights Importance of Preparedness
78	007.220	August 19, 2015	Historic Review: Putting That Huge Rainstorm in Perspective - Publisher's Perspective
79	007.220	August 19, 2015	Town, County Approve Funds for School Drainage Project
80	007.220	August 26, 2015	Rain, Blowing Dust Hits Valley
81	007.220	August 26, 2015	Announcement of Intent to Revise Floodplains/Floodways of Selected Watercourses in Wickenburg Area
82	007.220	August 26, 2015	County Supervisors Approve I-10 Protective Upgrades
83	007.220	August 26, 2015	Flood Repairs - Progress Slow, Funding Short
84	007.220	August 28, 2015	Monsoon Storm Dumps Rain on Parts of Phoenix Area
85	007.220	September 1, 2015	Flood Control District Wants Your Flood Stories!
86	007.220	September 2, 2015	Flood Impact - Residents Asking for Answers From Town
87	007.220	September 6, 2015	The Risk Remains
88	007.220	September 8, 2015	Rebuilding What the Waters Swept Away
89	007.220	September 4, 2015	Lessons Learned From Phoenix Flood a Year Ago
90	007.220	September 9, 2015	Construction - Drainage Project Affects Traffic in Peoria, Surprise
91	007.220	September 9, 2015	Hundreds of Homes in Mesa Were Without Power After Aug. 29 Storm, SRP Reports
92	007.220	September 12, 2015	Drainage Project Affects Traffic in Peoria, Surprise
93	007.220	September 12, 2015	Gilbert, Chandler Add Homes for Floodplain - Insurance Will Be Required for 275 Properties
94	007.220	September 13, 2015	High-Risk Flood Zones Redrawn in Two Cities - Property Owners Will Face Insurance Requirements
95	007.220	September 15, 2015	Monsoon Closes Elementary School, Strands Vehicles
96	007.220	September 16, 2015	City Provides Update on Work Done After 2014 Catastrophic Storm With Flooding in Mesa
97	007.220	September 16, 2015	Infrastructure Projects Seek to Address Server Flooding in the Valley
98	007.220	September 16, 2015	New Projects Seek to Address Server Monsoon Flooding in Valley
99	007.220	September 16, 2015	Preparing for the Next Big Flood
100	007.220	September 16, 2015	Projects Address Flooding in Valley
101	007.220	September 17, 2015	Mesa Plans Major Improvements to Drainage System
102	007.220	September 19, 2015	Soundoff - How Should City Get Ready for the Next Megastorm?
103	007.220	September 20, 2015	Projects Address Flooding Risk Near South Mountain
104	007.220	September 21, 2015	It's Going to be a Rainy Couple of Days in Ariz.
105	007.220	September 22, 2015	Wide Storm Threat Over, But Rain is Still Possible
106	007.220	September 23, 2015	Parts of Phoenix Area Get Rain and Flooding - Scottsdale Neighborhood Affected as Wash Overflows
107	007.220	September 23, 2015	More Money - Flood Repairs Proceed, Costs Continue to Rise
108	007.220	September 23, 2015	Morrisotwn Students Participate in Live Broadcast

109	007.220	September 25, 2015	How Should City Get Ready for the Next Megastorm?
110	007.220	September 26, 2015	Public Open House - 115th Avenue & Union Hills Drive Drainage Improvement Project
111	007.220	October 1, 2015	Tempe, Downtown Phoenix Got Worst of Monsoon
112	007.220	October 7, 2015	Monsoon's Over, but Fall Storms Bring Funnel Cloud, Steady Rain to Valley
113	007.220	October 19, 2015	District 3 Coffee Chat
114	007.220	October 7, 2015	Line of Storms Leaves Mark in Pinal
115	007.220	October 7, 2015	Storms Drop Up to an Inch of Rain on Parts of Metro Phx.
116	007.220	October 7, 2015	Wash Project to Begin
117	007.220	October 7, 2015	Weather: Storm Drops 1 Inch on Metro Phoenix
118	007.220	October 8, 2015	Drainage - Supervisors OK Wickenburg Project to Prevent Local Flooding
119	007.220	October 9, 2015	Muddy Mess - Buckeye Fire Truck Caught in Flooded Wash Tuesday
120	007.220	September 16, 2015	Time to Hit the Trail
121	007.220	October 14, 2015	News Briefs - Flood Control Projects Approved
122	007.220	October 21, 2015	Never Again - Town, County Working to Buy Flooded Homes
123	007.220	October 21, 2015	New River Trail Expansion Dedicated Connecting Peoria's Trail to Glendale
124	007.220	October 21, 2015	Recreation - Peoria Taps Site for Park 'To Serve All Generations'
125	007.220	October 21, 2015	Thanks, El Nino - Winter Weather Phenomenon Brought Wild, Rainy Day to Arizona
126	007.220	October 23, 2015	El Nino Predicted to Cause Wet Winter - W.V. Gets Sneak Peek of Possible Strong Storms to Come
127	007.220	October 23, 2015	El Rio Corridor Open House
128	007.220	October 23, 2015	North Peoria Community Park Site Worth the Wait, Mayor Says
129	007.220	October 24, 2015	Peoria Taps Site for Park 'To Serve All Generations'
130	007.220	October 27, 2015	A River Runs Through It - W.V. Residents Get Chance to Weigh in on Development Along El Rio Corridor
131	007.220	October 28, 2015	Council Looks at Home for 3rd Community Park - \$30 Million Park Scheduled to Open in Fall 2018
132	007.220	October 28, 2015	Heavy Rains Test Improvements - Residents Consider Selling Homes
133	007.220	October 28, 2015	Mesa Property to be Sold by County Flood Control District
134	007.220	October 30, 2015	Thunderstorms Put on a Show and Drench the Phoenix Area
135	007.220	November 18, 2015	Winter Storm Wets Weekend
136	007.220	November 4, 2015	New Dam Takes Shape at Tempe Town Lake
137	007.220	November 5, 2015	Town Council Meeting
138	007.220	December 2, 2015	Town Explains Fee Need
139	007.220	December 9, 2015	Flood Control Project Begins
140	007.220	December 9, 2015	Town Funds Continued Flood Repairs
141	007.220	December 11, 2015	Gilbert Buys Expansive Regional Park Land for \$10
142	007.220	December 16, 2015	Questions Persist on Environmental Fee - Letter Prompts Inquiries
143	007.220	December 19, 2015	West Valley Soundoff - How West Valley Cities Prep for Rainy Winter
144	007.220	December 25, 2015	Goodyear Housing Plan Progresses After 11 Years

040115

Arrowhead Media
Surprise Republic
Phoenix, AZ

#1

NEWS BRIEFS

303 drainage project complete

The Arizona Department of Transportation and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County have completed a Loop 303 drainage system to transport stormwater from local watersheds and the Loop 303 to the Gila River.

The portion of the drainage system from Van Buren Street north to about Bell Road was included in ADOT's freeway construction. The 4.7 mile long outfall project is downstream of the drainage system. The outfall is west of Cotton Lane and extends from Van Buren Street to the north bank of the Gila River. It includes open channels, underground storm drains and culverts, and landscaping of the corridor.

"The completion of this corridor will increase public safety from stormwater along this portion of the Loop 303 freeway," Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman said.

The project increases drainage protection for Loop 303 and provides regional stormwater protection for several areas along the east and west sides of Loop 303.

040115

Arrowhead Media
Southwest Republic
Cir: 17,300
Phoenix, AZ

#2

NEWS BRIEFS

L-303 drainage project complete

The Arizona Department of Transportation and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County completed a drainage system to transport stormwater from local watersheds and Loop 303 to the Gila River.

The portion of the drainage system from Van Buren Street north to about Bell Road was included in ADOT's freeway construction. The 4.7-mile outfall project is downstream of the drainage system. The outfall is west of Cotton Lane from Van Buren Street to the Gila River.

The project increases drainage protection for Loop 303 and provides regional stormwater protection for several areas along the east and west sides of Loop 303.

040115

Arrowhead Media
Glendale Republic
Cir: 46,400
Phoenix, AZ

#3

Flood irrigation starts in April

Glendale will resume annual private property flood irrigation Monday, April 6, for properties on the east side of 59th Avenue and Wednesday, April 8, for properties on the west side of 59th Avenue.

Most water customers now receive treated water only from a municipal delivery system. Urban irrigation refers to the direct delivery of non-potable Salt River Project irrigation water to urbanized areas. Urban irrigation from open or underground ditch systems for outside landscaping takes place in a small area of downtown Glendale.

Residents in the service area can call customer service at 623-930-2288 to receive service and to verify their property is in compliance with city irrigation specifications. For a service-related emergency after 5 p.m., call 623-930-3190.

040115

Arrowhead Media
North Scottsdale
Independent
North Scottsdale, AZ

file

Scottsdale properties removed from floodplain

Staff reports

Independent Newsmedia

Over 600 properties in Scottsdale will be removed from a floodplain thanks to the Granite Reef Watershed Drainage Improvements Project, according to a press release.

An Intergovernmental Agreement was approved by the Maricopa County Flood Control District's Board of Directors to share costs for the initial phase of the Project, the release states.

The initial phase of the project will de-

sign the expansion of existing storm drain systems, including additional catch basins and other storm drain laterals, and will acquire property for future detention basins.

Future phases will include the construction of those improvements and additional storm drain and channel features. When completed, the overall system will intercept flood water within the Granite Reef Wash watershed and safely convey it to the Indian Bend Wash which outfalls at the Salt River.

The District, Scottsdale and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community are

partnering on this project, which has been in the works since 2002.

"I am pleased that this project will remove the floodplain from so many properties," said Steve Chucri, chairman of the FCD Board and District 2 Supervisor.

"As always, our primary concern is the safety of our citizens and this project will provide additional 100-year flood water protection for citizens in the watershed."

City of Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane agrees.

"With the approval of the Granite Reef Wash IGA, we take another step towards

providing increased stormwater protection for our citizens."

Project partners are the City of Scottsdale, the District and the SRPMIC, with the city as the lead agency for the design of the Project.

The estimated total cost for the initial phase design and detention basins rights-of-way acquisition is \$3.5 million, according to the release.

The cost will be shared between the city, the SRPMIC, and the District. The total estimated cost of the complete Project is \$24-28 million.

#5

Loop 303 drainage project completed

View report

Working with the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County has completed the Loop 303 drainage system, which transports storm water from local watersheds and Loop 303 to the Gila River.

The portion of the drainage system from Van Buren Street north to approximately Bell Road was included in ADOT's freeway construction.

The Flood Control District constructed the 4.7-mile-long outfall project at the downstream of the drainage system. The outfall is west of Cotton Lane and extends from Van Buren to the north bank of the Gila River; it includes open channels, underground storm drains and culverts and landscaping of the corridor.

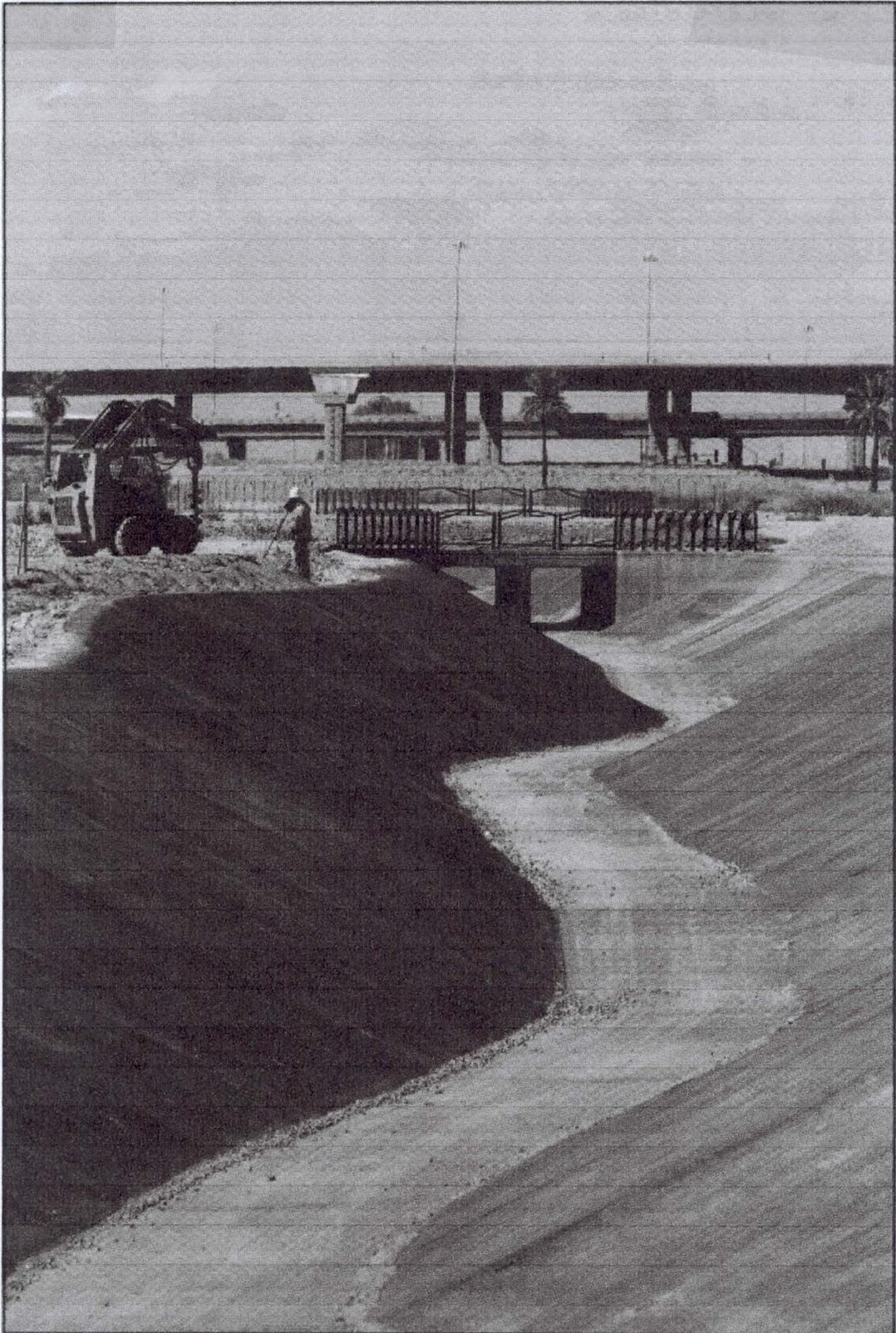
"The completion of this corridor will increase public safety from storm water along this portion of the Loop 303 freeway," Clint Hickman, who represents District 4 on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, said in a release. "I am proud that our county and state agencies were able to work together to complete this project."

ADOT's Phoenix Construction District Engineer Madhu Reddy said he agreed.

"Constructing the outfall corridor required partnering and significant coordination among agencies," Reddy said in a release. "Improving the regional drainage system and finishing Loop 303 north of I-10 will benefit the West Valley region for decades to come."

Not only does the project provide increased drainage protection for Loop 303, but it also provides regional storm water protection for several areas along the east and west sides of Loop 303.

"By partnering with ADOT, we were able to plan and produce a cost-effective solution for storm water collection and conveyance for the Loop 303 and surrounding communities," said Bill Wiley, chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District, in a release.



View photo by David Weibel

WORKERS PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES on the Loop 303 drainage system March 31.

#16

Resident cries foul over floodwater mitigation



By Terrance Thornton
Independent Newsmedia

As the Town of Paradise Valley continues to actively evaluate effective stormwater management throughout local neighborhoods, one resident is raising concerns

over enforcement measures.

The Town of Paradise Valley is looking to find solutions to stormwater drainage issues impacting residents throughout the municipality, and recently conducted its first "Community Conversation"

to discuss those concerns.

Dallis Bjerkeseth contends the town failed to enforce its own ordinances concerning private development where established

See Water — Page 24

Water

Continued From Page 1

wash systems exist. That failure, over the last few decades, created significant flooding opportunities.

"All of these washes have been engineered. The fact that the wash is not maintained, the fact that they built a home in a wash, it literally floods half an acre," he said in a March 31 phone interview.

Mr. Bjerkeseth lives in Gary Estates and says his neighborhood, in addition to his own subdivision, consists of homes coined the Mummy Mountain View Estates and La Vista in central Paradise Valley.

"I have lived here 23-plus years, and I have never once contacted the city about flooding. For whatever reason I never did, you just dealt with it yourself. All of a sudden I got this letter from this guy at the town and he is mentioning that I have a mound of dirt that is effecting runoff," he said.

Paradise Valley faces a unique geographical challenge mitigating and controlling floodwaters due to the topography of the area. Within Paradise Valley town limits there is Mummy Mountain, Phoenix Mountain Preserve and the north side of Camelback Mountain.

Paradise Valley homeowners are responsible for maintaining all natural washes located on their property. An understanding of town codes concerning natural washes and arroyos is necessary to reduce flooding and storm damage on resident property, town officials say.

The town's drainage system consists primarily of privately maintained natural washes with limited underground drainage systems, bridges and culverts.

"Most of the homes around me have been redeveloped by the new owners, torn down and built new," Mr. Bjerkeseth said of his three-development neighborhood of tract-type homes.

Mr. Bjerkeseth says many of Paradise Valley's flooding issues are self-created.

"I think what Paradise Valley's stance was, if nobody ever complained, nothing was ever said," he said.

"Here is the thing: Everybody who built over these washes, blocked these washes. Who is culpable? Are the Realtors culpable? I don't know if the Town of Paradise Valley is culpable, but they are not enforcing anything and that is the problem."

The town's approach

Paradise Valley Town Manager Kevin Burke says the municipality is and has been enforcing its rules in regard to drainage easement and storm water management.

"Yes, the town regularly enforces its ordinances regarding development within identified washes," he said in an April 1 written response to e-mailed questions.

"The Building Permit Application also requires grading and drainage plans and drainage easements for projects with a value over \$500,000."

Mr. Burke says the town requires all modifications to water flow due to private

development to be approved by a town engineer and all existing private structures within local washes are required to have those plans filed with municipality prior to construction.

"All of these requirements are backed by Town Code provisions. And the town regularly obtains drainage easements and an accompanying maintenance agreement for the drainage area as a requirement of new development," he explained.

"The town enforces its own codes -- not the county's regulations -- with respect to washes and drainage-ways, including restrictions on building in a wash or drainage-way and in requiring stormwater to enter and exit a property under development at the same locations."

Mr. Burke points to Section 5-10-5(B) (2a)(e) of Town Code as the staff's standing orders in approval of documents allowing private development within identified wash systems.

"Again, the town enforces its own regulations and standards and violations of the Town Code are a misdemeanor and can be prosecuted as either a misdemeanor or filed as a civil offense," he said.

"First offenses are often filed as a civil offense, with fines that can range up to \$750 per each day that the violation continues. Misdemeanors are punishable by imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to \$2,500, or both.

"Additionally, for egregious violations that threaten public health and safety, the town has declared such to be a nuisance and could use nuisance abatement to remove the nuisance, such as a structure that blocks a wash, and then file a lien on the offending property."

The perception of fault

Water flows have not been maintained, Mr. Bjerkeseth contends.

"These guys really haven't got a clue on how this water flows," he said. "I have all the engineering that says where the water is supposed to go. Now go look at all the building permits they ignored and the way they let people build all over them."

Mr. Bjerkeseth says his neighborhood's flooding issues are "a microcosm of what this whole city is."

"If they open up these easements it would solve 95 percent of these problems," he said. "The problem is that all of these homes have been built and no one has diverted anything. All they have done is built dams. Looking at the rules they (the town) can come in here and do whatever they need to do."

Mr. Burke contends Paradise Valley has measures in place addressing water retention, easements and maintaining established wash systems.

"If a structure that blocks a wash or diverts flows from the wash is built without a permit, then the town would request that the structure be removed -- if the town were aware of the impermissible structure," he said.

"If a building or property is under construction when a structure that blocks or diverts a wash is reported, a Stop Work Order is issued and the structure must be

removed, unless the owner is able to apply to alter the wash as noted above -- which does not happen often.

"If an obstruction is discovered after construction, then a letter of violation is sent giving three weeks to remedy the violation. If no response a second letter is sent giving 10 days to remedy the violation. If no action is taken this is followed up by a citation."

In terms of legal culpability, Mr. Burke says liability typically follows the entity that built the structure.

"The general rule is that liability follows the person who constructs the structure or modifies the land so as to divert water onto

the property of another, which is almost always some party other than the town," he pointed out.

Paradise Valley Town Council is hosting another stormwater community talk from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 23 to discuss next options and the potential for micro studies on the unique drainage issues facing the municipality.

News Editor Terrance Thornton can be contacted at 623-445-2774 via e-mail at tthornton@newszap.com or follow him at www.twitter.com/nnewsman

040915

Arrowhead Media
Buckeye Sun
Buckeye, AZ

#7

Buckeye Meets With Top Officials Regarding Gila River Restoration

Buckeye City Council met with staff from Senator McCain and Senator Flake, Penny Pew from Congressman Gosar's office, Maricopa County, Flood Control District, USDA, Army Corp of Engineers, Arizona Game and Fish, BLM, City of Goodyear and Avondale representatives.

The topic for discussion was working on the El Rio and Gila River Restoration project. They came together to find solutions to flooding issues and water conservation.



041013

Arrowhead Media
Casa Grande Dispatch
Cir. 11,500
Casa Grande, AZ

Hike with a view



Pinal planning for trail along CAP canal

Bill Coates/Dispatch photos

A group surveys a possible alignment for a trail that would follow the Central Arizona Project canal. They're standing atop a flood control earthwork just south of Apache Junction. Planners have talked about routing the trail around the earthwork to offer a view of the Superstitions, in the background, and other ranges.

Effort being made to allow hikers to see sights

By BILL COATES
Casa Grande Dispatch

D APACHE JUNCTION on McGann spread out the maps on the tailgate of his pickup. He was parked on Baseline Road, just east of Ironwood. It was late March.

McGann is a Tucson landscape architect and planner. Pinal County hired his firm to help plan a trail that would run the length of the county, north to south.

Kent Taylor studied the maps as McGann went over them. Taylor heads the county's Open Space and Trails Department. Overseeing development of new county trails falls to him.

This trail — when completed — is to follow the Central Arizona Project canal. Of the canal's 336 miles, some 100 run through Pinal County.

Congress approved construction of CAP in 1968. It carries water from the Colorado River to Tucson, and points in between.

CAP's founders saw in the canal the potential for a good hike, Taylor said.

"They actually put it in the legislation," he said. "There should be an 8- to 10-foot right of way for the trail."

But hiking a trail means experiencing nature. Good views. A sense of being in the great outdoors. And here's where the original CAP right of way falls short, Taylor said — at least for some stretches.

The section that runs south from Apache



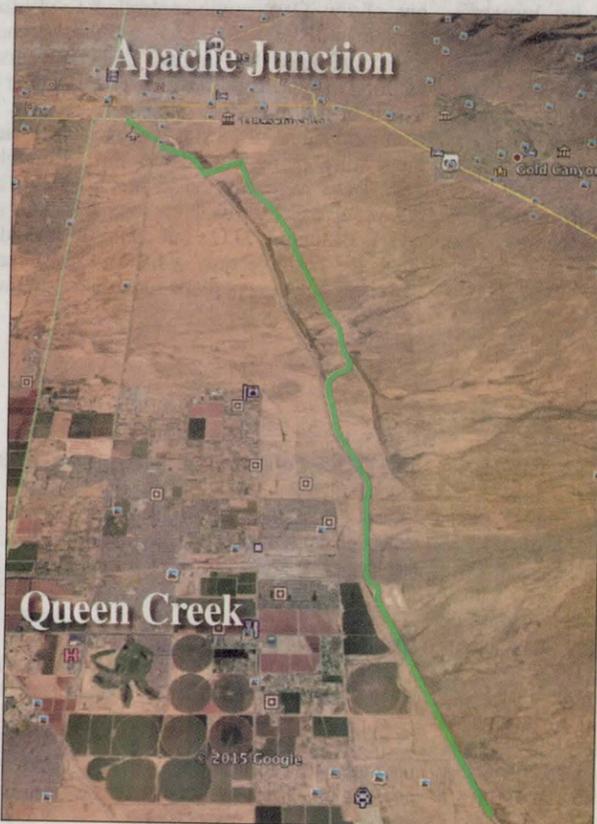
Kent Taylor, the county's open space and trails director, talks about plans for a Central Arizona Project canal trail. Taylor is with a group atop a flood control earthwork fronting the canal. The east side of the earthen dam has become something of a desert oasis with stands of mesquite and cottonwood trees.

Junction is one such stretch. The original right of way follows the west side of the canal.

"You're looking at a block wall," Taylor said.

And where there's no wall, the hike would offer little more than a view of a chain-link security fence and a flat, parched landscape. No vistas on this side.

The maps suggested an alternative. From Baseline Road, the trail would follow the canal along the east side. It would offer mountain vistas, including the Superstitions.



Google Earth

A map shows a proposed route (in green) for a planned Pinal Country trail along a section of the Central Arizona Project canal, south of Apache Junction.

— Canal path, Page 10A

Canal path

Continued from Page 1A

Five others joined Taylor and McGann at the tailgate. Scott Martinez is a landscape architect with McGann's firm. Gordon Brown is an advocate for open spaces. He lives in San Tan foothills. Elizabeth Butler wants trails suitable for horseback riding. She lives in Apache Junction. Both are members of the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission.

Nick Blake is Apache Junction parks superintendent. Kelly Martin is a park ranger. The trail's northern reach could become part of a planned city park.

After the maps were digested, it was time to see the lay of the land firsthand. In a three-pickup caravan, the team set out along a CAP maintenance road, generally closed to the public. They kept to the canal's east bank for about a 6-mile excursion. They made several stops along the way to take in the views. And talk about pluses and minuses.

It was the final field trip along the CAP canal in Pinal County. Other sections were covered in earlier surveys. Planning for the trail runs south to north, even as the water is carried north to south. At its southern end, the trail would pick up from the Pima County line, south of the Picacho Mountains. It would connect to Pima County's CAP trail. Pima County had a head start in planning. For one thing, it's already come to terms with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the CAP's landlord. Pinal County is in talks right now, Taylor said.

The CAP trail, it happens, calls for a number of agreements with other agencies. One of them is the Maricopa County Flood Control District. It has retention earthworks along the canal where the caravan stopped.

A 30-foot embankment rises above the canal's east side. Floodwater runs off the mountains beyond. The earthworks stop it from contaminating the canal. It also blocks the view of those same mountains. And leaves the canal side dry and parched.

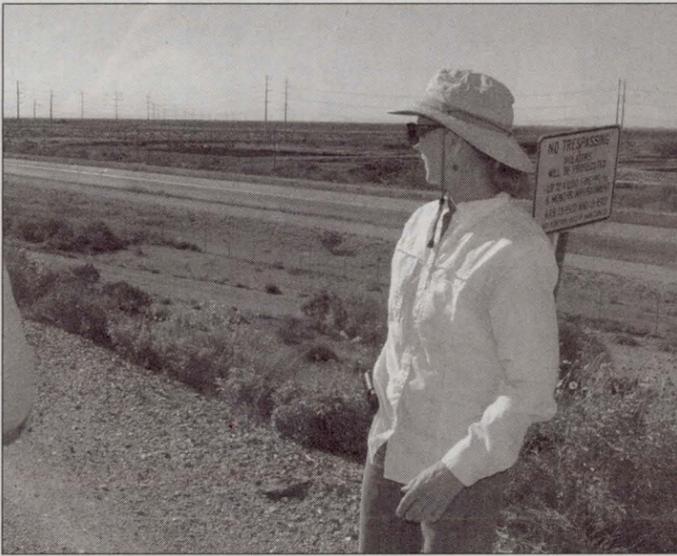
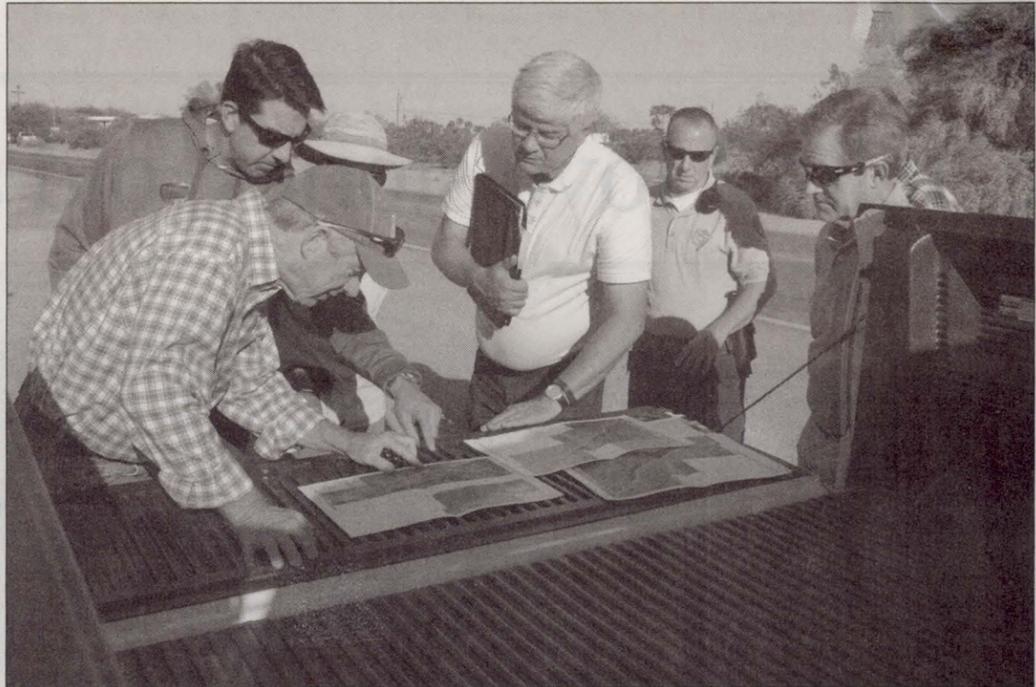
"All the water that used to flow through here stops," Taylor said to Gordon. He pointed across the canal, to a patch of dried weeds. "That side doesn't get crap."

Well, it does in a literal sense. The Apache Junction wastewater treatment plant sits on the west side, just south of Baseline Road. The original right of way would take hikers right by it. They'd see the block wall Taylor referred to. That's hardly a better trail experience, as Taylor imagines it.

At the first stop, the field trip party piled out of the pickups and tackled a steep path up the embankment. They reached a service road that runs along the crest.

"This is a great view," Taylor said.

He pointed to the steep and craggy bluffs of the Superstitions and other ranges beyond. Then he pointed down. At the earthen dam's base, floodwaters had created a ribbon of desert oasis. Mesquite, cottonwoods and thick



Bill Coates/Dispatch photos

Above, Tucson landscape consultant Don McGann, left with cap, points to map of a proposed Pinal County trail along the Central Arizona Project canal. Looking on, from left, are Scott Martinez of McGann and Associates; Apache Junction Parks Superintendent Nick Blake; Park Ranger Kelly Martin; and Kent Taylor, director of the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Department. At left, Elizabeth Butler, a member of the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Advisory Commission, looks down a service road along the Central Arizona Project canal, south of Apache Junction.

undergrowth. The vegetation and rainy day ponds attracted animals. And they, in turn, attracted wildlife biologists from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The setup likely came as a pleasant surprise, Taylor said.

"I don't think they envisioned some of the ... changes when the canal came in — the green-up areas."

As for this stretch of trail, here was the plan, a tentative one at that.

It would cross through a break in the earthworks. For about 2 miles, it would run along the high side, above the flood zone. Hikers would have mountain views to the east. And just off the trail, by the earthworks, a green swath.

They'd be a quarter-mile or so from the canal, making their way through a tract owned by the State Land Department. The county would have to lease the right of way. Taylor doesn't see that as a barrier.

After 2 miles or so, the trail would swing back toward the canal, to the dry side of the earthwork. Here, it would be set back from the canal. Hikers wouldn't feel pinned in.

The flood control district plans some major upgrades. The work could be done by 2018.

"As far as the trail goes," Taylor said, "I can't tell you what the time line is."

That's for a completed trail. The planning is moving forward, at a cost of about \$59,000. A CAP trail

master plan is expected by fall.

But before any final maps are rolled out, the public will get a chance to weigh in. Two public meetings are planned for summer. Dates and places have yet to be worked out.

People don't have to wait to be heard, though.

"Right now, they can comment on the website," Taylor said. That's at www.pinalcountyaz.gov/open-spacetrails.

Commissioner Brown takes such input seriously.

During the field trip, he joked about the view offered by the canal's west side. "A chain-link corridor," he said.

Reached by phone, though, Brown was more circumspect. He hadn't taken a position on any alignment, he said. And won't until he hears the full range of public comment.

"That's a vital part that needs to be added," Brown said. "This isn't a done, fixed thing."

The advisory commission he serves on will make recommendations. The Pinal County Board of Supervisors has the final word.

With a plan in place, the next step will be implementation. That includes figuring out costs and casting about for funding sources.

The trail would likely be built in segments, Taylor said. Some challenges might include moving gates and fencing.

But building a trail along a canal has its advantages, said McGann, the Tucson consultant.

For one thing, you don't have to start from scratch.

"The alignment is basically set," he said.

The finished product would not be a trail unto itself. It would connect to a network of county trails.

Then there's the bigger picture. It might tie into something of a super trail, one that crosses the state and possibly into Nevada. It was an idea Taylor kicked around with his counterparts from Pima and Maricopa counties.

"The term we're using loosely is the Sun Corridor Trail," he said. "It was really the back-of-the-napkin kind of discussion that kind of started the whole thing."

It would be like an Arizona Trail without the overnight backpacking. Hikers would be within a day's reach of motels and restaurants. Sedona might be a stop.

It would be, Taylor said, a credit card trail.

The pickup caravan made a last stop atop a flood control embankment. Below, on the flood side, cows grazed in a green field, fed in part by CAP water. Tall cottonwoods provided shade.

The canal continued on, carrying water to thirsty fields and towns. The modern day trailblazers turned off at Ocotillo Road in Queen Creek and joined the flow of traffic on a trail of asphalt.

Reach Casa Grande Dispatch Valley Life Editor Bill Coates at 423-8610 or bcoates@trivalleycentral.com.

041815

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Today
Sun City, AZ

#9

REPAIRS

Peoria spends \$350,000 to address parks damage from 2014 storms

By Jeff Grant
TODAY STAFF

The city is completing a series of repairs to local parks damaged during a pair of severe storms last year totaling just over \$351,000.

The City Council earlier this year approved a budget adjustment from the general fund to the contingen-

cy fund.

Community Services Director John Sefton said the money would cover a variety of projects not completed on an emergency basis.

"Safety items were addressed very quickly and mitigated with the operational budgets already approved through mayor and council.

Through the city's risk fund, many other items were addressed, mostly structural. However, there are several items that remain to be done," Sefton told council members during their Feb. 17 session.

Many of the outstanding items left from the Aug. 19 and Sept. 27, 2014, storms involved trails that were either

undermined by erosion from heavy rains or had gravel displaced. Those items were addressed as well, Sefton said. In some cases, the city partnered with the Maricopa County Flood Control District to complete repairs.

"The trail system is one of our key priorities for our citizens," he said.

At Skunk Creek, a popular trail, safety railing was installed along the pathway that runs along the creek.

Other areas addressed later or still requiring attention included a playground and walking areas at Hays Park, signage and shade structures at Centennial Pool and re-

» See Parks on page A8

42915

Arrowhead Media
Town of Paradise Valley
Independent
Scottsdale, AZ

#10



The Town of Paradise Valley hosted a "Community Conversation" last week to discuss ideas on how to prevent damage caused by local flooding. Terrance Thornton/Independent Newspapers

Calm before the storm

Town looks for solutions to prevent storm water damage

By Terrance Thornton
Independent Newsmedia

Paradise Valley officials hosted a "Community Conversation"

April 23 to ponder possible efforts residents and the municipality can take to better manage, retain and mitigate hazardous water flows some say have been exacerbated

by local development.

Town officials say studies must first be done before they can determine how to improve current flood situations, pointing to

\$500,000 earmarked in next fiscal year's budget for at least one comprehensive wash study.

See **Flooding** — Page 11

Flooding

Continued From Page 1

The town's drainage system consists primarily of privately-maintained natural washes with limited underground drainage systems, bridges and culverts.

Paradise Valley's unique topography, which includes Mummy Mountain, the Phoenix Mountain Preserve and the north side of Camelback Mountain, represents a unique challenge to controlling floodwater.

The last two years have seen above-average rainfall -- resulting in above-average storm damage to town structures and roadways, town officials say.

One resident claims the town has failed to enforce its own ordinances concerning private development where established wash systems exist. That failure, over the last few decades, created significant flooding opportunities, says Paradise Valley resident Dallas Bjerkeseth.

Paradise Valley homeowners are responsible for maintaining all natural washes located on their property. An understanding of town codes concerning natural washes and arroyos is necessary to reduce flooding and storm damage on resident property, town officials say.

In a five-part presentation, town officials explained to a full crowd how one can obtain flood insurance, current efforts to map the town's wash system and what elected leaders think might be plausible next steps for flood management.

But every step comes with a significant cost. Town leaders say residents could see a storm water management fee established, special projects could be bonded through special assessment districts and a secondary property tax could be created specifically to help pay for flood water projects.

"If the town does nothing else you can, on your own, purchase flood insurance," said Paradise Valley Town Manager Kevin Burke following the National Flood Insurance Program presentation, which was conducted by telephone with representative Bruce A. Bender.

A Change in protocol

Paradise Valley Building Inspector Bob Lee says his department is going to do a better job tracking and creating usable data for resident complaints as private wash enforcement gets a renewed municipal focus.

"Here in the past few weeks, we have learned a few things," he told the crowd. "Tracking the complains is important. Some of us were busy focusing on resolution rather than focused on tracking the complaints. We have changed protocols."

To date, Mr. Lee says there have been 840 private building complaints, of which 383 fell in the realm of code compliance while 26 of those were related to wash management.

"Most of the complaints involve making the homeowner aware of the problem and they take care of it," he said of typical compliance efforts.

According to town code, residents have

an initial three-week period followed by a 10-day period to comply with legitimate code compliance citations. If needed, the town can exercise its right to abatement of the property if compliance efforts are not successful.

Mr. Lee says wash systems have changed and an active effort by town officials is to map the town's entire wash system using GPS equipment.

"We have been made aware of the majority of the wash issues through the mapping of the washes," he said. "We have had an employee walk the washes for the past few years."

Town code seeks to maintain the current wash system in its "undisturbed, natural state," Mr. Lee contends.

"A lot of people don't know the wash is theirs," he said. Mapping efforts, he said, are still under way.

One resident, Dorothy Smith, called into question the town allowing private development to exist where washes exist.

"There has been a history of allowing pipes to be filled up, and people building where the washes are," said Public Works Director Jim Shano in response to the question.

"There are areas of the town where things are built where washes used to be and we have allowed houses to be built."

But today town officials are remapping the current wash system, Mr. Shano says, which will ultimately result in effective mitigation efforts.

The town, he said, has identified six watershed areas.

"These are some important studies that need to be done by the town. It is a regional effort. But we have to do these before we can ask, 'what are next steps?'"

Mr. Shano says that over the next two years town officials expect to complete two studies -- one for the Cherokee and one for the Cheney wash system.

Dollars for retention

Paradise Valley Councilwoman Mary Hamway, who is spearheading the town effort, laid out potential options to pay for what town officials have said in the last year could amount to about \$17 million worth flood retention projects.

Among the options: institute a storm water management fee, create special assessment districts allowing for voter-approved project financing or to pursue various tax scenarios including the creation of a secondary property tax specifically for flood mitigation projects.

Councilwoman Hamway says the creation of a storm water fee or new taxing scenarios would likely be the best fit for Paradise Valley residents.

The community of Paradise Valley needs to start taking wash management seriously, Councilwoman Hamway says.

"As a homeowner, you have to wake up and know that you are responsible for your wash," she said.

"It's your property and you need to take care of it. We need to update our codes. How do we avoid future problems? I am your advocate and I want to do something."

042915

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Northeast Section
Phoenix, AZ

#11



Pinnacle Peak West Area Drainage Master Study

Join us at a community meeting to learn about the flood risks identified in your area and provide input on potential regional options to reduce flood risks to the community. Content for each meeting will be focused on one of two geographic sub-areas: Northwest Watersheds and Rawhide Wash (see map). Please attend the meeting for your area.

Northwest Watersheds Area

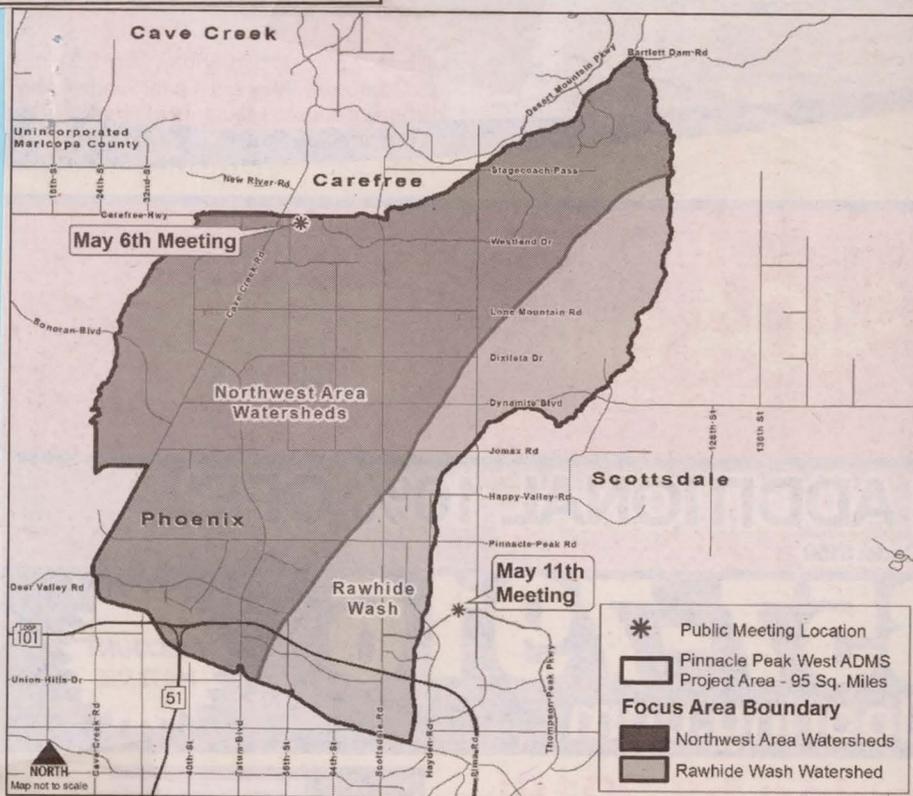
May 6; 6-8 p.m. (Presentation at 6:15 p.m.)
Holland Community Center, 34250 N. 60th St, Scottsdale

Rawhide Wash Area

May 11; 6-8 p.m. (Presentation at 6:15 p.m.)
Grayhawk Golf Club, Fairway House
8620 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy, Scottsdale

Can't make the meeting?

Review public meeting materials and comment online:
<http://gis.fcd.maricopa.gov/apps/Flood-Hazard-Identification-Studies/> (Search for Pinnacle Peak West)



MORE INFORMATION

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www.fcd.maricopa.gov

042915

Arrowhead Media
Scottsdale Republic
Cir: 42,000
Phoenix, AZ

#12

Scottsdale Council eyes Nov. 3 bond vote

BETH DUCKETT

THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

A fall bond election is in the works for Scottsdale.

Council members last week trimmed a bond proposal to include 21 projects tallying nearly \$100 million. The Nov. 3 election would ask voters to raise property taxes to finance debt for public projects.

The decision happened during a work-study session, where no formal vote was taken. Council members gave direction to staff for the proposal. The Council still has to call the election and sign off on the program.

It would be the city's third bond election in five years. Voters rejected bond proposals in 2010 and 2013.

"We have a serious problem in the city, and the only way to solve it is for the citizens to join in investing in our capital assets," Councilman David Smith said.

A 2015 election likely will "get a better response from citizens," Councilwoman Kathy Littlefield said.

The other option is a 2016 election, which would coincide with federal, state and county elections. The Scottsdale Unified School District also is looking at a fall 2016 vote for its elementary school-construction bond.

Council members ranked the projects individually and used their combined scores to choose the top projects.

Councilwoman Linda Milhaven suggested the city organize the projects into separate "questions" on the ballot. The categories are police, fire, roads and pavement, parks, flood control, and technology.

The recommended projects:

» Renovate Vista del Camino park and

Indian Bend Wash area: \$18.5 million.

» Upgrade chemical treatment systems at four aquatic facilities: \$3.5 million.

» Install energy-efficient sports field lighting at four facilities: \$4.6 million.

» Replace aging restrooms, maintenance and storage buildings at four parks: \$3.4 million.

» Replace outdated irrigation systems: \$1.9 million.

» Replace 140 miles of deteriorated pavement on streets: \$12.5 million.

» Design and build fire Desert Foothills fire station: \$5.1 million.

» Design and build Desert Mountain fire station: \$3.7 million.

» Expand and renovate Civic Center Jail and police station: \$10.1 million.

» Improve flood protection near Indian Bend Road and Lincoln Drive: \$2.7 million.

» Improve intersection at Hayden and Chaparral roads: \$2.5 million.

» Widen Happy Valley Road from Pima to Alma School roads: \$4.8 million.

» Improve Highland Avenue intersections at Scottsdale Road and Goldwater Boulevard: \$2.1 million.

» Improve and repair sidewalks downtown: \$4 million.

» Replace energy-control systems at five buildings: \$1.5 million.

» Improve Wi-Fi in public buildings: \$470,000.

» Purchase disaster-recovery technology infrastructure: \$4.9 million.

» Add bike lanes on McDowell Road: \$3.1 million.

» Rebuild the public-safety vehicle training track: \$1.7 million.

» Relocate fire station 603: \$6.75 million.

» Renovate fire station 605 (75th Street and Shea Boulevard): \$800,000.

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Arrowhead Media
Surprise Republic
Phoenix, AZ

#13

City buys land to prevent flooding in south Scottsdale

BETH DUCKETT

THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Scottsdale has bought land at Apache Park owned by the Scottsdale Unified School District at a cost of \$2.02 million.

The city plans to build improvements on the land at 85th Place and Moreland Street to protect against flooding in the area surrounded by houses in south Scottsdale.

Scottsdale also plans to sell its old human-resources building at 7575 E. Main St. to the school district for the same price of \$2.02 million. The district will move its administrative offices to the downtown building, according to a council report.

After months of negotiations, the Scottsdale City Council approved the first land deal on Tuesday.

The city bought 4.6 acres at the park next to the former Apache Elementary School, where it plans to build a retention basin as part of a massive flood-control project known as the Granite Reef watershed, Public Works Director Dan Worth said.

A City Council report on the topic says flooding hazards in the area are "substantial" and "potentially damaging" for houses and other properties along the water course.

The improvements will curb flooding and drainage problems by providing storm-water retention, the report says.

The upgrades are part of the larger Granite Reef Wash watershed project, which would eliminate potential flood hazards affecting hundreds of residents and property owners.

More than 600 properties in Scottsdale will be removed from a floodplain as part of the Granite Reef watershed.

The project is currently budgeted for \$51 million, but likely will be substantially less, Worth said.

The city is pursuing initiatives to reduce the cost, he said.

Scottsdale, the Maricopa County

Flood Control District and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will share the cost of the larger project.

The vote was 6-1 in support of the land sale, with Councilman Guy Phillips dissenting.

Phillips argued that the school district was buying the property "basically for free." He said Scottsdale's purchase is "basically what constitutes swamp land, because it's going to be a retention basin."

At a meeting Tuesday, the City Council is expected to approve an agreement to sell the Main Street building to the school district.

The talks for the land swap began because the school district wanted to move out of its aging main office at 3811 N. 44th St. in Phoenix.

School district voters last fall approved the sale of the main district office building at 44th Street and Indian School Road.

Worth noted that the the two transactions between the city and school district are not a trade.

"Neither transaction is contingent on the other," he said.

In other action Tuesday, the Scottsdale City Council:

» Approved a nearly \$400,000 contract with Phoenix-based Arrington Watkins Architects to design a fire station at Hayden Road south of Jomax Road.

The station will be designed over 16 months. Construction could begin in late 2016 and finish in 2017, according to the city.

The Scottsdale City Council has tentatively included the design and building costs for the station in a November bond election. The city would ask voters to raise taxes to take on new debt to fund the station and other projects.

» Turned down a rezoning that would have allowed Brown's Classic Autos, 9024 E. Bahia Drive, to conduct on-site sales.

#14



Pre-K students learn about Daria, a great horned owl, from Donna Jabara, of Liberty Wildlife, at St. John Bosco Catholic School on April 29.
[David Jolkovski/AFN]

Learning about the earth

By Allison Hurtado
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

A unique club at St. John Bosco Catholic School in Ahwatukee Foothills took an entire week to celebrate Earth Day and ended its celebration with a mini earth fest with guests from Liberty Wildlife, the Phoenix Zoo, ASU Horticulture and Maricopa Animal Safe Haven, among others.

"It's my passion," said Patrice Whalen, a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher at the school. "It's been my passion forever. I think it's important to help kids realize to be respectful of the earth. I think

Conserve and Protect Club at St. John Bosco hosts mini Earth Fest for students

once they participate, I hope it instills a little awareness with them. When they grow up they're going to be the ones making the laws and voting on things. If they become just a little more aware and learn to respect things at this level, hopefully they can make the world a bet-

ter place."

Whalen hosts the Conserve and Protect Club at the school, or CAP. Students in the club have been working since January to prepare for Earth Day. Beginning on April 22 they had a pet food, towel and toy drive; a bake sale; allowed students to pay \$1 to wear a green shirt; and hosted a "Decorate a Recycle Bin" contest to support no-kill shelters in the Valley.

"I wanted to get involved because even though I knew things were happening to the environment, I wanted to help it out," said Kristen Kop-

» See Earth on page 22



Pre-K students learn about Darla, a great horned owl, from Donna Jabara, of Liberty Wildlife, at St. John Bosco Catholic School on April 29. [Photos by David Jolkovski/AFN]

Earth

» From page 1
plin, a seventh-grader in the club. "We actually did stuff to help the environment... It really helped me figure out how to change the world. Besides just knowing about it, you get to make a difference. It's really cool."

Students from all grade levels got to enjoy the final mini Earth Fest during lunch on April 29. Liberty Wildlife brought live birds of prey, MASH brought dogs up for adoption, the city of Phoenix



Pre-K student Lauren Wiscombe pets Benji, from the Maricopa Animal Safe Haven (MASH), at St. John Bosco Catholic School on April 29.

brought information on recycling and Maricopa County Flood Control brought hands-on demonstrations about conserving water.

"I hope they gain an appreciation for more of our native wildlife and just that they're a little less intimidated if they see something in the wild," said Sara Skromme of the Phoenix Zoo, who brought skins and skulls from native animals. "They can know to leave it alone and it will leave them alone. The kids love it, especially since they can touch and feel it."

Whalen is also an employee at the Phoenix Zoo, where she helps operate the night programming and teaches kids about nocturnal animals, desert living and conservation. The CAP Club does activities



Pre-K students Agnes Pezutto and McKenna Vallejo learn about a bear skull from Sara Skromme, an instructor from the Phoenix Zoo, at St. John Bosco Catholic School on April 29.

and programs throughout the year to encourage sustainability. The students adopted a highway, host regular fundraisers for local no-kill shelters and regularly help the school with its recycling pro-

gram, which has been nationally recognized.

• Contact writer: (480) 898-7914 or ahurtado@ahwatukee.com.

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#15

Storms get May off to a wet start in Phoenix area

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Many parts of the Phoenix area saw a month's worth of rain within a 24-hour period starting late Sunday night and lasting through Monday.

Two bands of showers and storms, one overnight and the second on Monday afternoon, left more than an inch of rain in some Valley locations. Some of the afternoon storms packed gusty winds, small hail and heavy rain.

Parts of the northeast Valley, such as Cave

Creek, Fountain Hills and Scottsdale, received over an inch of rain by Monday afternoon, according to Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauges.

Tempe and parts of the southwest Valley also saw heavy rain as thunderstorms moved through about 3:30 p.m.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport received almost a quarter inch of rain Monday. The normal rain total for May in Phoenix is 0.11 inches.

May is typically one of the city's driest months.

"It's a welcome bonus

to get rain in the month of May," National Weather Service meteorologist Mark O'Malley said. "It widely varied, but many locations received a quarter of an inch to three-quarters of an inch (Sunday) night."

A low-pressure trough brought the rain to the state. That weather system arrived a little earlier than expected and dropped rain on the area Sunday night.

O'Malley said the weather system that brought the rain should move to the east today.

"There could be a few showers lingering around

(today), but it won't be quite as widespread as what we've seen the past couple of days," O'Malley said.

After the system passes today it should leave behind drier and cooler weather.

Highs should be in the 80s through Thursday. Friday's forecast calls for temperatures in the upper 70s with another chance of rain.

The normal high temperature for this time of year is about 91 degrees.

"Those (are) below normal temperatures," O'Malley said. "That's another bonus."



JOHN SAMORA/THE REPUBLIC

Charles Blevins of Phoenix makes his way past an abandoned shopping cart in a large parking lot rain puddle on his way to a bus stop after shopping at a Fry's grocery store in Phoenix on Monday.

#16

Unusual storm slams Valley, FH

It is still nearly six weeks until the calendar start of the summer monsoon on June 15, but it sure sounded like an early arrival overnight Sunday to Monday morning.

The storm that went crashing through the Valley dropped up to an inch of rain in parts of Fountain Hills.

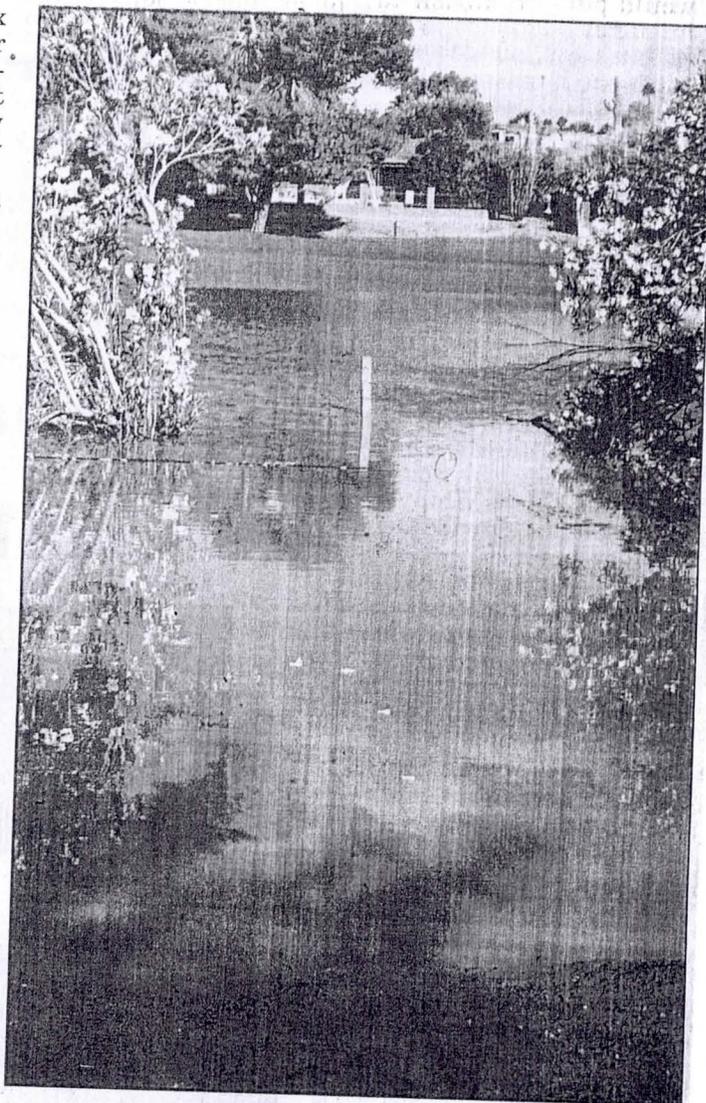
The Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauge at the Palisades Boulevard fire station collected 1.02-inch from the storm. Farther west and north in the lower McDowell Mountains a monitoring station on Hesperus Wash received 1.10 inch.

Down the wash at Hesperus Dam there was .94 inch. The rain gauge outside The Times' office on Laser Drive received 1.50-inch.

All other county rain gauges around the area received between a half inch and three quarter inch.

SRP reported a power outage during the storm covering roughly the area of Fountain Hills northwest and east of Palisades and Golden Eagle boulevards. Power was restored about midnight.

Much of the Saguaro Boulevard construction area was flooded by the storm.



More than an inch of rain fell in Fountain Hills overnight Sunday, with a giant pond accumulating on Saguaro Blvd. in a construction area. The pond spilled over onto a fairway at Desert Canyon Golf Club, creating a temporary water hazard for linksters.

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Phoenix, AZ

#17

OUR TURN

KAREN WILLIAMS
AND WENDY WONDERLEY

Phasing out urban flood irrigation is a bad idea



For over 50 years, homeowners in our neighborhood knocked on neighbors' doors to have them voluntarily donate funds for the flood irrigation system.



Our neighbors gave funds because of the awareness of the benefits of a flood irrigated neighborhood, such as lush

green grass, mature trees, shady streets and urban wildlife.

In his April 26 Viewpoints essay, "Don't flinch from the truth. Wave it like a flag to get solutions," Terry Godard states "City planners must be bold, perhaps by requiring shade from every building and phasing out flood irrigation."

Phasing out flood irrigation must be challenged.

Our north-central Phoenix neighborhood could not be replicated today and without flood irrigation the landscape would look and feel much different. Our stately shade trees were established on flood irrigation and their over 50-year-old deep roots would not adapt well to other methods of irrigation.

As has happened in other areas (including Phoenix's beloved Encanto Park several years ago), a switch away from flood irrigation leaves the trees stressed and likely to topple over in the next big windstorm.

Drive into any flood-irrigated neighborhood in the summer and enjoy the immediate drop in temperature provided by these trees, true champions in the effort to reduce the heat-island effect and increase sustainability. Killing trees reduces shade and increases the cost of cooling homes.

Although flood irrigation may appear to be "wasting" water, well-operated systems are surprisingly efficient and more sustainable than the plastic-rich drip- and sprinkler-irrigation systems. Ask a farmer with a laser-leveled field and the farmer will tell you it is both efficient and low tech.

Flood irrigation is so important to the character and quality of life of our neighborhood that we formed an irrigation water delivery district as provided for under Arizona law.

This requires every homeowner in the district to pay, through taxes collected by the county, to ensure the ongoing maintenance and operation of our flood irrigation system. Our neighborhood enthusiastically supported this additional layer of government along with the additional taxes.

Does any politician really want to start a legal fight with homeowners who have legal rights to water? And why would any mayor or City Council member want to destroy the landscape in these flood-irrigated, often historic, neighborhoods. These neighborhoods will never be replicated. The attention on flood irrigation would be better spent supporting this sustainable irrigation approach.

We understand water conservation. We pay our city bill every month like everyone in Phoenix. In addition to our monthly water bill from the city, we pay SRP for the delivery of our irrigation water. We will not, however, willingly give up our rights to water on our lands to accommodate future growth in Phoenix.

We agree that water shortage is a serious issue and deserves attention, but the suggestion to eliminate flood irrigation does not take into account the reality or the complexity of the issue and is an extremely poor choice as the starting point for addressing water issues.

*Karen Williams is president of Sun View Estates II Property Owners Association.
Wendy Wonderley is a board member of Sun View Estates II Irrigation Water Delivery District No. 54.*

051015

#18

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

Communities

Scottsdale buys land to prevent flooding

BETH DUCKETT
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Scottsdale has bought land at Apache Park owned by the Scottsdale Unified School District at a cost of \$2.02 million.

The city plans to build improvements on the land at 85th Place and Moreland Street to protect against flooding in the area surrounded by houses in south Scottsdale.

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After months of negotiations, the Scottsdale City Council approved the first part of the land deal on Tuesday.

The city bought 4.6 acres at the park next to the former Apache Elementary School, where it plans to build a retention basin as part of a massive flood-control project known as the Granite Reef watershed, Public Works Director Dan Worth said.

A City Council report on the topic says flooding hazards in the area are "substantial" and "potentially damaging" for houses and other properties along the water course.

The improvements will curb flooding and drainage problems by providing storm-water retention, the report says.

The upgrades are part of the larger Granite Reef Wash watershed project, which would eliminate potential flood hazards affecting hundreds of residents and property owners.

More than 600 properties in Scottsdale will be removed from a floodplain as part of the Granite Reef watershed.

The project is currently budgeted for \$51 million, but likely will be substantially less, Worth said.

The city is pursuing initiatives to reduce the cost, he said.

Scottsdale, the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community will share the cost of the larger project.

The vote was 6-1 in support of the land sale, with Councilman Guy Phillips dissenting.

Phillips argued that the school district was buying the property "basically for free." He said Scottsdale's purchase is "basically what constitutes swamp land, because it's going to be a retention basin."

At a meeting Tuesday, the City Council is expected to approve an agreement to sell the Main Street building to the school district.

The talks for the land swap began because the school district wanted to move out of its aging main office at 3811 N. 44th St. in Phoenix.

School district voters last fall approved the sale of the main district office building at 44th Street and Indian School Road.

In other action Tuesday, the Scottsdale City Council:

» Approved a nearly \$400,000 contract with Phoenix-based Arrington Watkins Architects to design a fire station at Hayden Road south of Jomax Road.

The station will be designed over 16 months. Construction could begin in late 2016 and finish in 2017, according to the city.

» Turned down a rezoning that would have allowed Brown's Classic Autos, 9024 E. Bahia Drive, to conduct on-site sales.

Opponents voiced concerns that the new zoning would not match the character of the area.

051315

Arrowhead Media
North Scottsdale
Independent
North Scottsdale, AZ

#19

Scottsdale, county partner on local flood-control projects

Scottsdale residents and businesses will soon be protected from flooding thanks to a partnership between the City of Scottsdale and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

The joint venture will construct three drainage improvement projects in neighborhoods that were flooded during the 2014 monsoon.

The city requested the drainage improvements through the district's Small Project Assistance Program, which contributes construction costs toward projects that are local in nature but pose a safety risk to citizens and property.

"This collaboration between the City of Scottsdale and the Flood Control District is a good example of how small projects can make a big difference in our communities," Chairman of the Flood Control District and District 2 Supervisor Steve Chucri said.

"Once constructed, these drainage improvements will help protect residents and businesses that were impacted by the monsoon storms last year."

City of Scottsdale Mayor W.J. "Jim" Lane feels the projects will provide increased flood protection for the Scottsdale community in the event of another severe storm.

"Scottsdale appreciates our partnership with the Flood Control District of Maricopa

County," Mayor Lane said. "Nothing is more important than the safety of our neighborhoods, and these projects will help improve neighborhood safety by protecting our residents from potentially devastating floods."

The three approved projects are:

- 67th Street to 68th Street Storm Drain Improvements
- 8525 E. Pinnacle Peak Road Drainage Improvements
- Third Avenue and Craftsman Court Drainage Improvements

"We appreciate our partnership with Scottsdale on these drainage improvements," chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District Bill Wiley said.

"We hope that other communities will consider our Small Project Assistance Program to help mitigate local flooding issues. These small projects can play a vital role in keeping residents safe."

Construction is expected to begin in 2016. For more information, call the Flood Control District at 602-506-1501.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County serves county residents to reduce their risk of injury, death, and property damage from flooding, while still enjoying the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

051415

Arrowhead Media
Buckeye Sun
Buckeye, AZ

*20

MAYOR JACKIE MECK IN DC

Article by: City of Buckeye, Mayor Meck



Left to right: George Diaz, Government Relations, City of Buckeye; Vice Mayor Eric Orsborn and Mayor Meck in DC.

Washington D.C so far is a successful trip! We have been meeting with our federal government representatives about the Gila River Projects.

We have visited the offices of Senator John McCain and Senator Jeff Flake, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, Congresswoman Krysten Sinema and Congressman Raul Grijalva. We will also be seeing Congressman Paul Gosar and Congressman Ruben Gallego.

The support is 100% positive. The staff has assured us that fire and flood dangers in the river bottom is a concern and all representatives are interested in removing the Salt Cedars and eliminating the danger.

Now, we are working with our City of Buckeye staff along with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and various other partners to find a viable solution and the dollars to make it happen. Be on the lookout for many of these congressional leaders to be visiting Buckeye in the following weeks to see the issue first-hand.

#21

051515

Arrowhead Media
Southwest Republic
Cir: 17,300
Phoenix, AZ

The City of Phoenix and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County invite you to attend a public meeting to receive updates on steps taken since the 2014 Laveen summer storms to address the local drainage issues.

At the meeting, potential interim projects to reduce flooding will be shared with you.

Staff from the City of Phoenix and the Flood Control District will also be available to discuss the two ongoing studies in the area which will develop long-term solutions to the flood problems.

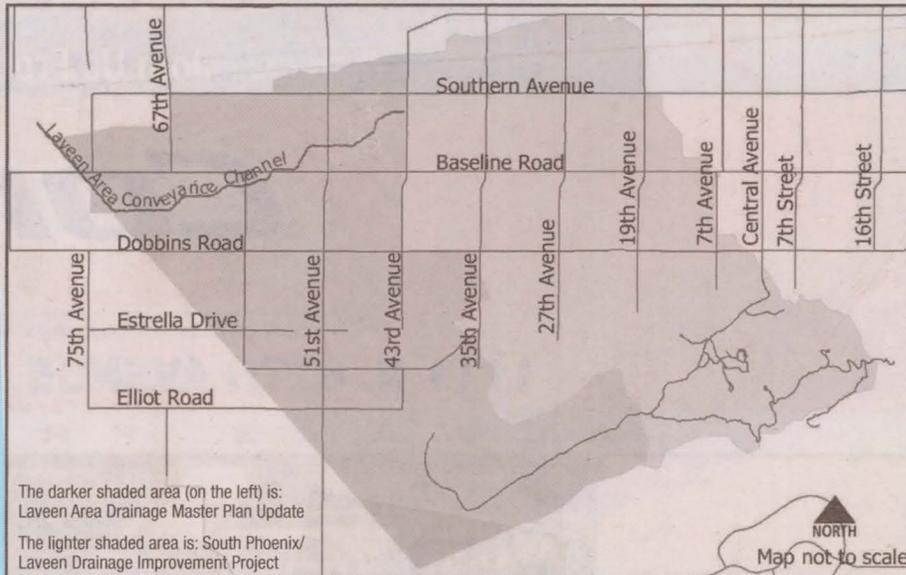
Public meeting

May 18th, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Remarks at 6:45 pm
Phoenix Fire Department Station 57
1708 West Dobbins Road, Phoenix, 85041

For more information about the two studies, go to fcd.maricopa.gov or call (602) 506-1501.
Para informacion sobre este Proyecto, favor de llamar al (602) 506-8091.



City of Phoenix



#22

Communities



After the polluted water is treated, a mile-long water line delivers the water from the airport site to a retention pond between two practice fields. It saves Goodyear \$200,000 a year.

Once-polluted water irrigates ball fields

DAVID MADRID
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Goodyear is dousing its spring training complex with water that once was polluted as part of a Superfund site but that now has been cleaned and is delivered to the city complex at no cost.

The water used on the 16 fields at the Goodyear Spring Training Complex comes from a polluted plume called the Phoenix-Goodyear Airport South Superfund Site. The Goodyear complex is spring training home of Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds.

The pollution of the site began decades ago, when the Phoenix Goodyear Airport was the Litchfield Park Naval Air Facility.

After the pollution is cleaned, a mile-long water line delivers the water from the airport site to a retention pond between two practice fields and saves Goodyear \$200,000 a year, said Mark Holmes, Goodyear water resources

manager.

Goodyear paid about \$350,000 to install the water line, but it expects to recoup its costs within two years, Holmes said.

He said the baseball complex uses about 250 acre-feet of water per year, and the water line can deliver up to 807 acre-feet per year. An acre-foot of water would cover an acre to the depth of 1 foot. It is 325,851 gallons, roughly enough to serve a family of five for a year.

The excess water the ball fields can't use is put into an irrigation channel and goes to the Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District where it is used for irrigation, Holmes said. The city is exploring other ways to use the excess water, he said.

The project removes water from the south plume and aquifer on the former property of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., the company conducting the clean-up.

In 1942, the Phoenix Goodyear Airport was the Litchfield Park Naval Air

Facility. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. began operating their subsidiary, Goodyear Aerospace, at the airport, where it modified and repaired aircraft, which were then transferred to the adjoining Naval Air Facility until 1945.

In 1946, the Naval Air Facility was placed in modified maintenance status and its primary function became preserving and activating military aircraft.

Waste from working on the aircraft, and routine maintenance from cleaning and degreasing, was discharged into the main drainage ditch, which eventually drained into a marsh area south of the airport, according to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

The discharged waste streams contained oil, grease, battery acids and solvents, and that continued until 1952, when an on-site sewage treatment plant was constructed.

In 1968, the Navy transferred ownership of the property to Phoenix and in 1991, the EPA, Arizona and Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. signed an agreement to clean up the south plume.

"Not only is Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. providing free water to the city, also the (Arizona) Department of Water Resources granted the city an exemption," Holmes said. "This water does not have to be replenished as required by state law, because it is part of Superfund activity."

The water is safe, but not for drinking, and it is monitored continually, Holmes said. The water line can bring in 500 gallons per minute.

"At full capacity, that's 720,000 gallons per day," he said.

The Phoenix Goodyear Airport Superfund Site contains two contaminated plumes — masses of harmful substances that move with the groundwater flow — divided into north and south.

From the time the water line was installed in the middle of October through the end of December — the lowest-demand time of the year — the city saved \$25,000 in water costs, Holmes said.

051715

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

WWW.AZCENTRAL.COM

125

YEARS
SERVING
ARIZONA

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015 | 1F



THE REPUBLIC'S 125-YEAR JOURNEY TO BRING YOU THE NEWS

Riding the state's rapid rise

CONNIE CONE SEXTON THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

It debuted as *The Arizona Republican* in 1890, became *Arizona Republic* in 1930 and eventually renamed itself *The Arizona Republic* in 1946. ¶ While the name may have changed during its 125 years, the mission stayed the same: to deliver the news of the day. ¶ Through hundreds of thousands of stories, the publication has documented Arizona's transition from its Wild West territorial days to its quest for statehood; told of the rise and sometimes fall of its leaders; and chronicled the impact of war, poverty and crime. ¶ Along the way came stories of hope and efforts to make Arizona a better place. ¶ *The Arizona Republican* began publishing on May 19, 1890, with a lofty goal: to deliver the paper to every part of the territory, seven days of the week. **STORY CONTINUED ON 2F**

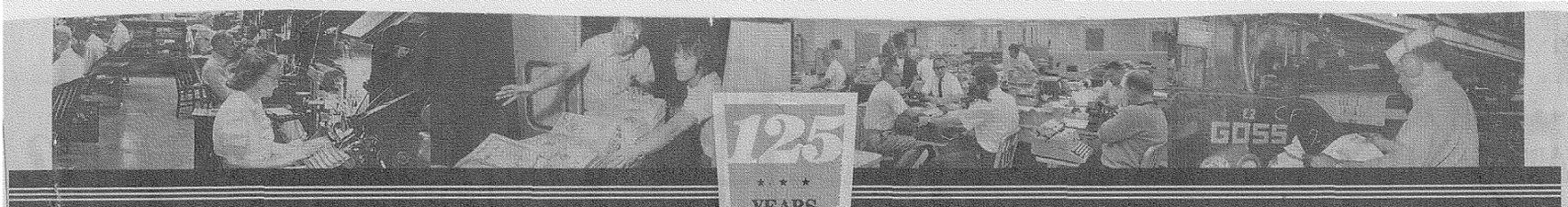
MORE ON OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

- » **Online extras:** For photos, videos and other content related to *The Republic's* 125th anniversary, go to 125.azcentral.com.
- » **Tease your brain:** Try your hand at a commemorative crossword puzzle. **3F**
- » **Viewpoints:** *The Republic* wove itself into the community over 125 years. **8F**

When the Salt River went on a rampage in February 1891, washing out the railroad bridge at Tempe and leaving many people homeless, *The Arizona Republican* gave the event extensive news coverage.

REPUBLIC ARCHIVE

#223



125
YEARS
SERVING
ARIZONA



President William Howard Taft (seated) signs the Arizona Statehood Bill in Washington, D.C., on the morning of Feb. 14, 1912.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Republic chronicles state's rise

Continued from Page 1F

When the paper launched, not quite 89,000 people lived in the territory, with 11,000 of them in what would become Maricopa County.

Owners of *The Republican* — Arizona's Territorial Gov. Lewis Worrley and Attorney General Clark Churchill — selected Phoenix for its home. Although it was not the largest community in the territory and only a city since 1881, it held promise. It became Arizona's capital in 1889.

The newspaper operated from the first two floors of a three-story brick building on First Avenue, just north of Washington Street.

The first edition had four pages, with seven columns filling each page. The front page was a mix of international, national and local news, including a report that Germany would never attack France unprovoked, allegations of problems with the U.S. prison system and the alleged assault of an 8-year-old Phoenix girl.

The front page also had a couple of jokes, including this one: "John was a great smoker when he was alive," said the widow, who was in a reminiscent mood. "And," she added, "maybe he is yet."

In an editorial to its readers, Editor Charles Ziegenfuss promised that the "friends of Arizona will be our friends and her enemies will be our enemies. Agriculture, railroads, irrigating canals, mines, mills, smelters and everything calculated to build up the territory and enhance the interests of the people will receive the earnest and undivided support of *The Republican*."

Readers may have been startled by a story that appeared on the publication's second day. It was about a suicide of a prominent citizen. The headline: "Cold in Death."

The story included graphic language: "The body of the suicide still lay in the dust, and there was about the head a great pool of blood and brains that had run out."

If it took a bit of brashness to print such copy, one of the greatest challenges to editors came some nine months in. The newspaper was tasked with covering a flood that wiped out portions of the community.

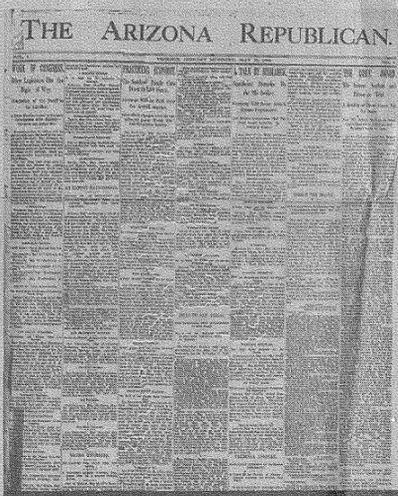
1891: Swept away

A devastating storm hit the Valley in the early morning of Feb. 19, 1891. Residents living along the Salt River in Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe woke to discover the river had dramatically risen overnight.

Unlike today, where breaking news can be quickly reported digitally, readers of *The Republican* had to wait a day to learn how the storm carried away the bridge of the Maricopa & Phoenix Railroad in Tempe, a lifeline into the community.

The Feb. 20 edition of the paper carried stacked front-page headlines: With a Crash/Fell Many Adobe Houses Last Night/Swept Out by the Flood/The Salt River the Highest Ever Known.

The coverage included a chilling, near-chronological account of how the



REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO
The first edition of *The Arizona Republican*, published on May 19, 1890.



REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO
"The Forty-eighth State Steps Into the Union Today": *Republican*, Feb. 14, 1912.

storm came and went, with tales of heroism, close calls and chaos.

"The Salt River was an angry, raging stream carrying destruction in its wake," the story read. "The men in most cases stuck doggedly to their homes but steadily the water kept creeping higher and higher until it began to be plain that a flood was coming, the like of which was never known in Central Arizona."

The river kept rising, one foot an hour. At every bend of the river, the water would strike with such force that the "banks were washed away as if they were but toys in the hands of a giant."

The Feb. 22 Sunday edition presented multiple accounts of relief efforts. Subsequent articles in later weeks would explore the need for better construction to rebuild the Tempe bridge.

"The reaction of Valley residents to the flood, along with events of the following two decades, set important precedents for the interaction of humans and the Salt River," Andrew Honker wrote in "A Terrible Calamity Has Fallen Upon Phoenix" for the summer 2002 edition of *The Journal of Arizona History*. "Within 15 years, construction began on Roosevelt Dam."

In his 1990 book, "All the Time a Newspaper," which examined the first 100 years of *The Republic*, former veteran *Republic* reporter Earl Zarbin wrote that Arizona businessmen pressured editors of *The Republican* to not distribute news of the flood outside Phoenix for fear it could hurt the growing community.

The request was rejected. Editor Edwin Gill hit back in a Feb. 21 editorial titled, "You'll Hurt the Town." He wrote, "This is an old cry continually raised by little petty speculators. It so happens that several of this class take serious objections to *The Republican* publishing a full and impartial account of the flood. For the benefit of such people, we wish to say that *The Republican* is first, last and all the time a newspaper. ... To publish the news hurts no one."

The flood of 1891 turned out to be not only breaking news but led to a bit of watchdog journalism, as well: both hall-

marks of *The Republic's* reporting today.

The mechanics, speed and formats of delivering the news have changed. The publication has moved from type set by hand to computerized page design and printing, producing the news both as a traditional newspaper as well as digitally. But the objective of the news report has always been to capture and hold readers' interest.

Here are examples of how the newspaper told the stories of key events or epochs in Arizona's history: the quest for statehood, the compelling, yet gruesome story of 1931's trunk murderess Winnie Ruth Judd; the exploding growth of Phoenix and the state post-World War II; the savage murder of *Arizona Republic* reporter Don Bolles in 1976; and the issues that united and divided Arizonans from 2000 until today.

Statehood

Arizona became part of the United States on Feb. 14, 1912. It was no small achievement.

For decades, residents of the Arizona Territory had pushed to become part of the union. Time and again, Congress hesitated. Some members worried the territory hadn't proven itself worthy and that it was a "wild and woolly place populated with nothing but Apaches, outlaws, rattlesnakes, cactus and Democrats." Arizona's state Historian Marshall Trimble wrote in his book "Arizona 2000."

One vocal holdout was Thomas Bard, a U.S. senator from California. In early December 1902, he was quoted as saying: "Arizona has reached the height of its development for the present." He argued the territory's copper and gold mines would soon be depleted and its population would stagnate.

Editors at *The Republican* were incensed and in the paper's Dec. 6, 1902, edition wrote: "Why he has acquired no information concerning a great empire which lies next to his own state, we cannot understand. ... He evidently forgot that many men have achieved reputation for wisdom by keeping their mouths closed."

Four years later, Congress proposed

creating a state by merging the Arizona and New Mexico territories. Although a majority of New Mexico residents supported the idea, it was soundly rejected by a 16,265 to 3,141 vote in Arizona.

Finally, after Arizona was willing to remove from its constitution the ability to let its citizens recall judges, President William Howard Taft agreed to grant statehood.

The Feb. 15, 1912, *Republican* front page declared: "Cheers greet joyful news of statehood. Bright folds of old glory have new star."

Thousands turned out for the celebration and jammed doorways of businesses lining the downtown streets. Some walked to the capital, some rode horses, others arrived on buckboards, by rail or car. Stores closed shop.

George W.P. Hunt, who had been chosen as governor for the new state, took the oath of office seconds before noon. He arrived at the state Capitol as he promised: on foot, a 45-minute stroll from a downtown hotel. Hunt said he didn't want to waste the cost of a carriage ride.

Hunt was said to never again refuse a lift.

And as for letting citizens recall judges, voters restored that authority to the Constitution during Arizona's November 1912 general election.

The trunk murders

The early 1930s in Phoenix gave readers of *Arizona Republic* (the publication's new name since 1930) a fascinating double-murder case to follow.

Winnie Ruth Judd, the wife of a local doctor, was arrested on suspicion of shooting two women acquaintances and packing their bodies in a couple of trunks. One body didn't quite fit, so it was dismembered and tucked inside a trunk and a suitcase.

The press dubbed her the "trunk murderess," and she soon became internationally known.

The *Republic* first alerted readers to the intriguing crime on Oct. 20, 1931, a Tuesday: "Two Phoenix women were brutally shot to death, probably while they slept Friday night, and their bodies shipped in trunks to Los Angeles, it was revealed last night, when the trunks were opened upon arrival at the Southern Pacific station there."

Baggage men in Phoenix had noticed blood dripping from the luggage. They assumed someone was just transporting a deer and chose not to examine them or delay the shipment, the story reported.

But upon arriving in Los Angeles, the odor from the trunks was so great, they were forced open.

"The first trunk opened disclosed the gruesome slaying," the story said. "In it was the body of one woman and the head and limbs of another." Alongside the trunks was a hatbox, containing surgical tools and a pistol.

A "fashionably dressed woman" showed up at the station to claim the luggage. When she was asked to open the trunks, she said her husband had the key and then fled the station.

Police would discover the murdered women were Agnes Anne LeRoi, an X-

See REPUBLIC, Page 4F



125
YEARS
SERVING
ARIZONA

Arizona's story told by Republic

Continued from Page 2F

ray technician at the Grunow Memorial Clinic in Phoenix and Hedvig Samuelson, a schoolteacher who had come to the Valley. It was Samuelson's body that was in pieces.

The *Republic* would write that they were returned to Phoenix. And in a couple of lines worthy of Raymond Chandler, the reporter penned: "Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson came home yesterday. They came as they went — as baggage."

Judd might never have been arrested if the trunks hadn't been addressed to "R.J. McKinnell," her brother. Piecing together his name and letters in the trunk, the police began a manhunt to find Judd, a one-time roommate of the women.

After just a couple of days on the run, she surrendered on Oct. 23. Her murder trial began on Jan. 19, 1932. Judd, who was tried only for the murder of LeRoi, claimed she had killed the women in self-defense. Over the years, many have speculated about her motives, some saying the killings were done out of jealousy.

On Feb. 9, the jury reached a verdict. The *Republic's* headline: "Mrs. Ruth Judd Convicted." The jury had deliberated less than three hours, taking time out for dinner.

"Winnie Ruth Judd must die on the gallows for the trunk murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi," the story began.

Judd was sent to death row at the Arizona State Prison in Florence. She was later found to be incompetent and was confined at the Arizona State Hospital. She would escape seven times, the last time in 1963, remaining free for six years. Judd was returned to the Arizona hospital in 1969 and was paroled in December 1971. Judd died in October 1998 at the age of 93; a letter believed to be in her handwriting, on file with the Arizona State Library Archives, stated she acted alone in the crime.

Post-World War II growth

Tucked inside the Jan. 3, 1960, edition of the newspaper, now titled *The Arizona Republic*, was a modest story about a new community opening.

The headline read: Retirement Village to Open Today.

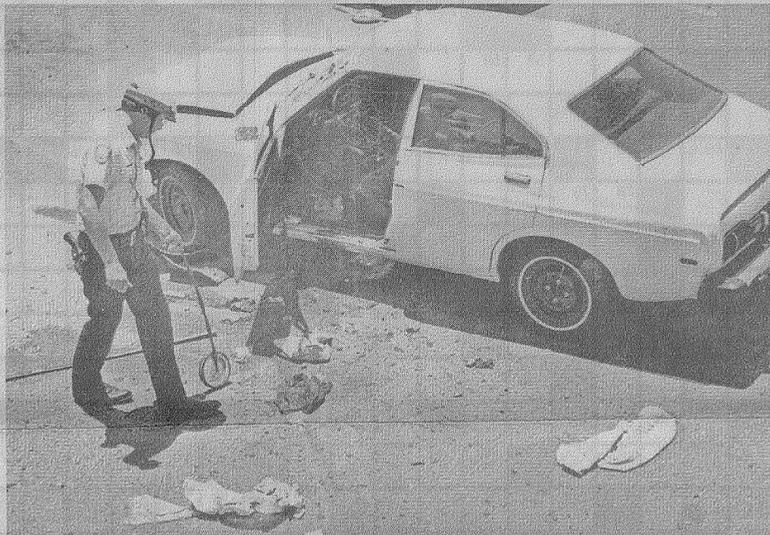
And below: "Struggling against a time deadline, Del E. Webb Construction Co. managed to have practically all of its work on its new village for senior citizens completed yesterday."

That new village? It was Sun City, considered by many to be the first successful planned community in the country for retirees.

As for the turnout for the opening? There were reports of 100,000 people. The crowd was packed with retirees who wanted to tour the five model homes and check out the recreation building and nine-hole golf course.

Thousands of retirees flocked to live in Sun City as the community expanded. The flourishing of the development echoed the expansion that the Valley had been experiencing in the post-World War II era, as soldiers who had been stationed at Luke Air Force Base decided to make Arizona their home.

Developer John F. Long was ready for them. In the 1950s, he opened Maryvale



NANCY ENGBRETSON/PHOENIX GAZETTE
Police investigators examine the remains of Arizona Republic reporter Don Bolles' car after a remote-controlled bomb exploded beneath it on June 2, 1976. Bolles died 11 days later.

in West Phoenix — modest homes with modest prices for growing families. The community was named after his wife, Mary.

The *Republic* chronicled the heyday of development from the late 1940s into the mid-1960s.

In his book, "Phoenix: The History of a Southwestern Metropolis," author Bradford Luckingham calls 1941 to 1960 the "boom years" for Phoenix. "The war years saw the activation of several military installations in the area, followed by the establishment of defense industries."

The Valley's population swelled. In 1940, there were an estimated 107,000 people living in metro Phoenix. By 1960, there were 584,000.

Lots of people meant lots of cars. Freeways would help, transportation experts said.

But Eugene C. Pulliam, the Midwestern newspaperman who had purchased *The Republic* in 1946, was hesitant to support freeways, in part because he didn't want a freeway system to divide the city. Critics of the newspaper challenged his leadership, saying *The Republic* seemed to side too much with an anti-freeways movement.

Pulliam died in 1975. In the decades to follow, an extensive freeway system in the Valley would develop.

Don Bolles

On June 3, 1976, the front page of *The Republic* carried the horrific details of a car bomb that had exploded the day before. It was not a routine story, even more so because this story was personal.

The explosion had critically injured *Republic* reporter Don Bolles.

He had gone to the Clarendon Hotel in central Phoenix to meet a source. The interview never happened. He was seen leaving the hotel after getting a phone call. Bolles headed for the parking lot, "squeezed alongside a purple battered Volkswagen and got into his little white Datsun," the story read.

"Don started the car. He moved back-

ward six feet, steering to the right. He was still rolling when bomb and car and the man were blasted by whatever mine was taped or wired beneath the floorboards."

Bolles flung open his door and then propelled his body out of the car. His torso slid out; his shredded legs did not. A woman screamed. Bolles cried out, "Help me."

The paper reported that the 47-year-old reporter was injured in a gangland-style attempt to murder him. Bolles, who had investigated organized crime and political corruption, had received several death threats. This time, it appeared someone was making good on a promise.

Police, *The Republic* reported, believed Bolles had been lured to the hotel an attempt to kill him.

Attempts to save his life led to the amputation of his left leg and parts of his right arm and leg. Still, he died June 13.

Republic publisher Nina Pulliam was steadfast that Bolles' cause "must live on."

In a box that appeared on the front page of the June 14 paper, Pulliam spoke directly to readers.

"Don Bolles is gone but the fearless, tenacious spirit which motivated and sustained him in his work — and in his heroic but losing battle for his life — will live on." She added that the newspaper does not intend to let Don Bolles' death "go on unavenged."

Journalists from several newspapers and television stations across the country banded together to help see justice done. They were members of the Investigative Reporters and Editors organization that was less than a year old.

The reporters gathered in Phoenix and would call their effort the Arizona Project. Although many newspapers across the country carried their stories, *The Republic* did not, explaining to readers that some of the information in the reports couldn't be verified. In addition, some of the focus of the IRE's stories echoed articles that had already appeared in *The Republic*.

John Harvey Adamson, racing-dog owner and former tow-truck operator, admitted to planting the remote control bomb and pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in 1977. After refusing to testify against others linked to the Bolles killing, he was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death, a sentence that later was overturned. He spent 20 years in prison, entered the Witness Protection Program and then left voluntarily. Adamson died in 2002.

Former *Republic* reporter Charles Kelly helped the group of IRE reporters with research, while continuing his reporting duties for the newspaper. Looking back, he said, the Arizona Project served its highest purpose "in reaffirming the common bond of journalists — that they really are working together to seek justice and reveal the truth, even if they work for different employers and cover different communities. That's what makes journalism a calling, and not just a job."

2000 and beyond

In the past 15 years, many issues or events have united or divided Arizona: the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Diamondbacks winning the World Series that same year, immigration reform, the 2011 shooting near Tucson of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and others, the 2013 deaths in the Yarnell Hill Fire, the recent scandal involving the U.S. VA health-care facilities and, more recently, Glendale hosting its second Super Bowl game and the ability for same-sex couples to marry in Arizona.

As it has reported the news, *The Republic* has strived to take readers "deep inside a story, to really understand a person or to relive an event," said Josh Susong, *The Republic's* news director and content strategist who runs the storytelling team.

"Newspapers used to compete against one another for the latest news," he said. "Today we realize we just compete with everything for people's time, whether it's spent on TV shows or video games or Twitter. In recent years we have recognized, perhaps more than ever before, that there's something we do well that can't be done well in Twitter snippets."

"Because we write it, we can recreate a real story. We call it narrative journalism or storytelling, and we try to approach many of our biggest stories this way. That could mean telling the full story of a terrifying shooting last week, or the full story of life aboard the USS Arizona more than 70 years ago. Real, deep, true stories bring an event to life, and that's what we can offer."

Randy Lovely, senior vice president of news for *The Republic*, said that as the company marks the newspaper's 125th year, it's also the 20th anniversary for azcentral.com. "So as the media landscape evolves, we'll be here as the primary source for news and information," he said.

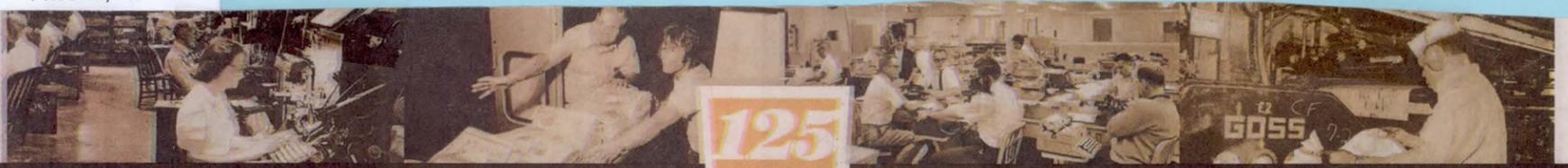
"We are proud that *The Arizona Republic* has been able to record the dramatic pace of change that has made Arizona such a unique place for 125 years," Lovely said. "It's amazing to look back at the headlines that have shaped this community. And we fully intend to be here to watch and report on the yet-unknown news events of the future."



In this 1956 photo, crowds of curious people line up to view model homes built by developer John F. Long in Maryvale.

051715

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ



125

YEARS
SERVING
ARIZONA

TOP STORIES OF THE DECADE

1890

Floods, scams and war

Silver City, N.M. Not everyone believed his claim was valid, but some hedged their bets, paying Reavis in exchange for mineral rights, railroad rights of way. It is not clear how much money actually changed hands. His scheme finally collapsed, and the "Baron of Arizona" was charged with land fraud. He is fined \$5,000 and sentenced to two years in a federal penitentiary.

4 1898
Arizonans go to war

A group of Arizonans joins Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders to serve in the Spanish-American War. The cavalry unit was made up of cowboys, gamblers, hunters, prospectors, buffalo soldiers, college students and Native Americans from across the country.

The Republican publishes daily accounts about battles in Cuba and the death of William "Buckey" O'Neill of Prescott. Arizona is not yet a state but hopes to become one. Some think that volunteering for the war might help. O'Neill's tomb in Arlington National Cemetery bears the words: "Who would not die for a new star on the flag."

5 1899
A lucrative mine — or not

Eastern newspapers report an impressive gold, silver and copper mine in Graham County. A prospectus for the Spnazuma mine lures investors from all walks of life, including farmers, schoolteachers and "clerks in the small eastern cities ... who knew nothing of mines and mining. ... No reporter, however, had visited the mining site," Earl Zarbin writes in "All the Time a Newspaper." *The Republican's* mining editor, George H. Smalley, decides to check it out. Before Smalley's reporting "exposed the fraud, almost \$3 million in Spnazuma stock had been sold." Smalley is offered a \$5,000 bribe to change his story and is shot at three times while pursuing developments.

— Ron Dungan

1 FEBRUARY 1891
Flood crashes through

Phoenix suffers its worst flood since settlement began when the Salt River rises overnight, washing away the banks and sweeping through Mesa, Tempe and Phoenix. Residents awake to the sound of a dull roar and scramble to salvage their belongings as the flood takes out buildings, irrigation canals and a railroad bridge. Several families are left homeless.

"The loss comes hardest upon those least able to afford it," *The Arizona Republican* reports. "Poor people were hurried into the streets with nothing but the clothes on their back. All last evening the air was filled with the crash of falling buildings, the water undermining the adobe walls."

Reaction to the flood and events on the national stage over the next two decades lead to construction of a series of dams to help control the river's flow.

2 1892
Deadly end to feud

The Pleasant Valley War, one of Arizona's most infamous conflicts, comes to an end when rancher Tom Graham is shot in Tempe. Before he dies of his wounds, Graham identifies John Rhodes and Ed Tewksbury as his assailants. Their trial takes a bizarre



Prominent Arizonan William "Buckey" O'Neill of Prescott died in the Spanish-American War while serving with Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

twist when Graham's widow brings a gun into court and attempts to shoot Rhodes. Her plan is foiled when the gun's hammer catches on the piece of cloth she conceals the gun in.

Rhodes is released when a judge rules there is insufficient proof he was at the ranch when the shooting took place. Tewksbury is convicted, but the conviction is tossed out on a technicality. He is found innocent in a second trial.

3 1895
Land scam unearthed

A major land-fraud case comes to a close when James Addison Reavis is brought to trial. For years, Reavis had claimed to be the heir to a massive Spanish land grant, and went so far as to file a claim with the surveyor general of Arizona, using fake deeds, title papers signed by the king and queen of Spain, various wills and photographed copies of documents written in Spanish. The alleged grant extended from the Salt River Valley to somewhere around

#25

TOP STORIES OF THE DECADE

Cities, Suns and water in the desert

1 JAN. 1, 1960 Sun City opens

Del Webb's Sun City opens for business as the nation's first master-planned "active" retirement community. Thousands of cars line Grand Avenue on opening day to get a view of one of the six model homes. Sun City sells 272 retirement homes the first weekend, and by the end of the month, all 400 of its homes planned in the first year are sold. Its success attracts national attention and spurs Del Webb to build several other similar communities in the coming decades.

2 NOV. 21, 1962 Phoenix's first zoo

The Valley's first major zoo opens as the Maytag Zoo, named after Robert E. Maytag, who had rallied friends and animal enthusiasts the year before to gather support for building a zoo in Phoenix. Maytag had died unexpectedly from pneumonia in March 1962, nearly ending the project, but his friends and family carried on. In its first week, the zoo receives 35,000 visitors. The name is changed to the Phoenix Zoo in 1963.

3 JUNE 29, 1963 Beginnings of Legend City

The 87-acre Legend City theme park opens between Phoenix and



SUN CITIES MUSEUM
Visitors swarm the model homes of Sun City, Del Webb's "active" retirement community in the northwest Valley, on Jan. 1, 1963. The first 400 homes there sold in a month.

Tempe, near Papago Park. Advertising man Louis Crandall had visions of creating a "miniature Disneyland" in Phoenix, but bad weather and lower-than-projected attendance would doom the project. By the end of 1964, the theme park is in bankruptcy court. Legend City changes ownership three more times before closing for good in 1983.

4 1964 Goldwater for president

The Republican Party nominates Arizona's U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater for president — the first Arizonan to win a party nomination. Although Lyndon B. Johnson easily defeats him in the November election, Goldwater's campaign sets the tone for a rise in conservative politics nationwide.

5 1965
A desert flood

Floods from late December 1965 into January 1966 wash out all Salt River crossings in Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa and Scottsdale. The flooding surrounds Sun Devil Stadium with water and closes a runway at Sky Harbor Airport.

6 JUNE 13, 1966
'You have the right ...'

The U.S. Supreme Court overturns the conviction of Ernesto Miranda, an Arizonan who had been arrested and charged with rape and kidnapping in 1963. The ruling throws out Miranda's supposed confession and establishes the "Miranda Warning." Since then, reciting the warning ("You have the right to remain silent ...") has been required of police when making an arrest.

7 SEPT. 30, 1968
CAP Canal authorized

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968, approving the Central Arizona Project to bring Colorado River water to the Phoenix area by 1980. It will become Arizona's largest single resource of renewable water supplies and a lifeline for the state's continued growth and development.

8 OCT. 18, 1968
Suns take the court

The Phoenix Suns begin playing as an NBA expansion team at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, becoming the first major professional sports team in the Valley. The team's name is selected from about 28,000 entries in a "Name the Team" contest sponsored by *The Arizona Republic*. Because 377 people submitted the "Suns" name, the contest winner, Selinda King, is chosen by drawing. She wins \$1,000 and season tickets for the first year.

— Amy B Wang

#26

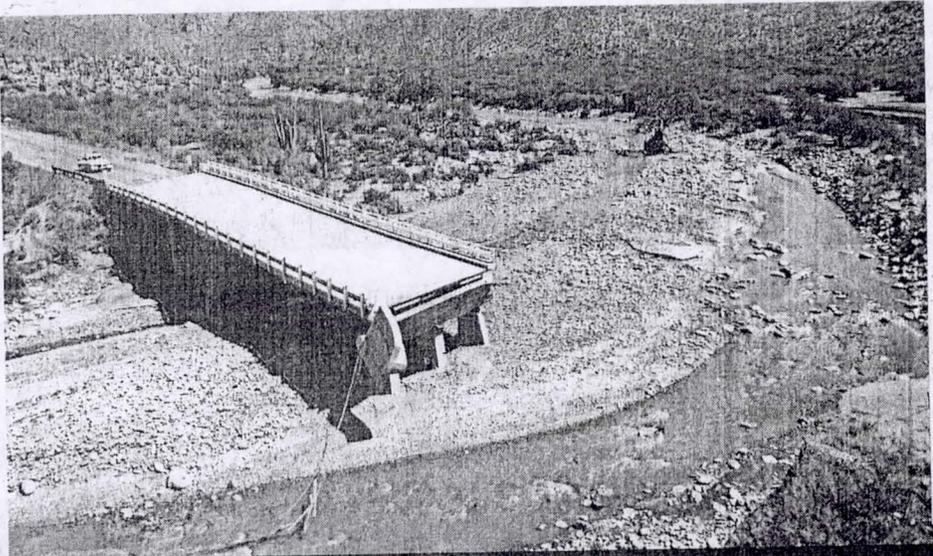


10 MEMORABLE WEATHER EVENTS

Flood, flood, flood ... heat

1 County's largest flood

According to Maricopa County Flood Control District, the largest flood in the county occurred in 1891 when days of rain swelled the Salt River to 18 feet deep and 3 miles wide in spots. In February of that year, the railroad bridge spanning the river in Tempe collapsed and homes along the river bank were destroyed.



REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO
The bridge across Sycamore Creek was washed out by a September 1970 storm. That same month, a flash flood killed 23 people.

2 Cold and snow

Although Phoenix is known for warm, if not hot, weather, there have been instances where snow has accumulated here. On Jan 20, 1933 (and again Jan. 21-22, 1937) an inch of snow fell in the city. The coldest recorded temperature in the city was 16 degrees on January 7, 1913.

3 Flood kills 23

On Labor Day in 1970, a flash flood killed 23 people, with most of the fatalities coming in the Mogollon Rim area as campers there did not get word of the approaching water. A National Weather Service report at the time said all but four of the victims were in automobiles, attempting to outrun the water.

4 Knockout flood

In February 1980, flooding cut off the southeast Valley from the rest of the Valley for four days. Flood waters knocked out all of the crossings over the Salt River except for the Central Avenue and Mill Avenue bridges. That flood prompted a project to deepen the Salt River channel through Phoenix and to reinforce

bridges along the way.

5 Flood kills 14

In the first weekend of October 1983, 14 people were killed due to flooding as the remnants of a tropical storm brought rain to the area. Interstate 10 south of Phoenix was closed when the Gila River overflowed its banks. The river was measured at over a mile wide in spots during the flooding.

Some residents of Stansfield and Maricopa were forced to climb onto their roofs to wait for National Guard helicopters to rescue them. The flooding destroyed more than 800 homes and caused more than \$500 million in damage.

6 Record heat

Phoenix-area residents can take the heat as the thermometer regularly tops 100 degrees for much of the year. There have been days, though, that have made even the most heat-tolerant Phoenicians take notice. On June 26, 1990, the high temperature reached 122 degrees. Flights at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport were grounded for several hours as a result of the record-setting heat.

7 Tempe flood

In January 1993, several days of rain again flooded the Salt River.

That flash flood washed out the Mill Avenue Bridge in Tempe and sent tons of garbage down the river as the water reached a landfill near the banks of the river.

8 Deadly heat wave

In 2005, 20 deaths were attributed to a July heat wave. Temperatures weren't record-setting, but highs con-

sistently topped 110 degrees and lows didn't dip below the 90s. Heat advisories and excessive-heat warnings lasted for more than a week.

Many of the victims were homeless but the dead also included a 37-year-old man found in his vehicle, a 66-year-old man found outside his home and three elderly women found inside their homes. A 97-year-old Mesa man died inside his home, where the temperature had reached 110 degrees. His wife, who was also in the home, survived.

9 Record dry spell

Much of the Southwest has been in a drought for more than a decade, but even within that long-term condition there have been some notable dry spells. For Phoenix, the longest period without measurable rain started in late 2005 and ended March 11, 2006. During that stretch, the city's rain gauge was dry for 143 consecutive days.

10 Record-setting rain

On Sept. 8, 2014, Phoenix-area residents woke up to find the skies had opened up and they were in the midst of a historic rainstorm. The remnants of a tropical storm provided the moisture for a storm that dumped 3.29 inches on the official rain gauge at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, breaking a record that had stood since Sept. 5, 1939.

There was some flooding throughout the Valley but hardest hit was Mesa's Emerald Acres neighborhood where more than 100 homes took on water.

— Weldon B. Johnson

052115

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

#27

WEATHER TOPICS

Citizen scientists collect rain data in Phoenix area

They supplement official gauges

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

The forecast calls for rain, and television, newspaper and social-media reports are filled with photos and videos of the downpour.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town or even a few blocks away, there wasn't even a sprinkle.

Climate scientists are eager to get data on rainfall amounts in the Valley, and the official rain gauges of the Maricopa County Flood Control District, the National Weather Service and other agencies aren't enough.

To help fill the void, there are networks where citizen scientists can get involved and plug in their results as easily as logging onto a web-site.

In the Phoenix area, the two most extensive networks are CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network) and Rainlog.

CoCoRaHS (cocorahs.org) is a national network with more than 400 gauges in the Phoenix area.



CHERYL EVANS/THE REPUBLIC

Arizona State University fans weather the rain during a baseball game against Washington State University at Phoenix Municipal Stadium in Phoenix on May 15.

Rainlog (rainlog.org) originated at the University of Arizona and though most gauges are in the Southwest, it has participants throughout the country. It has about 120 gauges in the Valley.

The two networks differ slightly in how they operate. Both offer a simple, Web-

based interface for reporting data. CoCoRaHS, however, requires its members to use a uniform rain gauge.

Data from CoCoRaHS volunteers are immediately fed to the National Weather Service and can be part of its criteria for issuing flood or storm advisories.

#28

060315

Arrowhead Media
Scottsdale Republic
Cir: 42,000
Phoenix, AZ

Drive cautiously in bad weather

MARK DEBRUYCKERE

SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC |
AZCENTRAL.COM

Severe weather is no stranger to the desert Southwest. Dust storms, thunderstorms and flash floods are all common during the monsoon that begins June 15 and continues through September.

Many people don't think about it until the time arrives, but knowing what to do if caught out on the road during these storms is important.

When driving in the middle of a storm and visibility is low, turn on headlights and slow down to a cautious speed to see reasonable distance ahead.

Under extreme dusty conditions where the road is barely visible, pull off to the side of the road to get as far right as possible. Turn off the car and headlights, set the parking brake and keep off the brake

pedal.

When driving in the rain or soon after it stops, it is important to pay close attention to traction. Rain may cause tires to hydroplane at certain speeds. Slow down!

Be watchful for fast moving vehicles, as they can splash up blinding sheets of water. By the time visibility clears, it might be too late.

Water on the road may be deeper than it looks. Slow speed accordingly and drive with caution.

Pay attention to hazard signs such as "Do Not Cross When Flooded," "Road Closed Due to Flooding," and "Roadblocks." Ignoring barriers or signs can threaten life and property which can result in legal enforcement by the police.

Do not attempt to cross rain-swollen washes. A flash flood can quickly sweep a vehicle away. Control of the vehicle

can be lost in just 6 inches of water. Most vehicles will begin to float in 2 feet of water.

If the car has stalled in water, climb onto the roof of the car and use a cell phone to dial 911. Be specific about location and wait to be rescued.

If the water level is low enough to wade to safety, do so, but beware of floating debris, slippery rocks, currents and holes that are deeper than the water level. Get to dry land and find shelter immediately!

Listen to the radio or television for information or instructions and possible road closures.

There are many dangers involving the monsoon while you're driving. Get more monsoon safety tips at www.ScottsdaleFD.com.

Mark DeBruyckere is operations division chief for the Scottsdale Fire Department.

060315

Arrowhead Media
North Scottsdale
Independent
North Scottsdale, AZ

#29



Special to the Independent

Workers secure five public levees along the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt.

Improved levees help keep Scottsdale dry

Staff report

Independent Newsmedia

Through the heart of Scottsdale runs a ribbon of recreation and solitude. Tree-filled berms create shade for joggers; concrete walls buffer traffic noise.

These barriers help define the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt and stand ready to perform a crucial job – protect neighborhoods from millions of gallons of floodwater when the wash flows.

Scottsdale recently completed a renovation project to further secure five public levees along the greenbelt so that they can continue to safely protect the city for de-

CADES TO COME.

Aside from the larger community benefit, these improvements also mean roughly 500 property owners will not be required to carry federal flood insurance – saving these citizens around \$500,000 per year. The levee analysis and upgrades cost about \$500,000, according to a press release.

“It’s always a great outcome when we can increase the safety and function of our flood control system and save property owners money,” stated Ashley Couch, the

Levees

Continued From Page 4

city’s stormwater manager, in the release.

Most of the levees that stand guard against flooding in the wash blend into the character of the greenbelt. Residents may walk past them daily without ever realizing they are part of an intricate engineering system to keep their homes and businesses dry.

Scottsdale’s recent work upgraded five levees located along the wash between Lincoln Drive and McKellips Road, according to the release.

The improvements included raising the height of one levee, repairing eroded areas and installing backflow prevention devices on several storm drains.

The improvements gained the levees’ accreditation from the Federal Emergency Management Administration. Accreditation

means the designated floodplain area in Scottsdale will not expand and some 500 property owners near the levees are off the hook for the pricey, federally required insurance.

While the greenbelt levee system protects property owners from what can be a raging river during heavy rains, Ms. Couch still recommends all property owners carry flood insurance, since homeowners’ insurance policies do not cover storm-related flooding, according to the release.

The good news is when a property is outside the federally designated floodplain, flood insurance is a lot cheaper to buy. Policies start as low as \$119 per year, including contents coverage, according to the release.

“Nearly 20 percent of all flood claims in the U.S. occur outside designated floodplains,” Ms. Couch stated. “So we recommend everyone carry flood insurance just to be on the safe side. Typical flood claims in Scottsdale are tens of thousands of dollars.”

060315

Arrowhead Media
Foothills Focus
New River, AZ

#30

New flood warning stations planned in preparation for monsoon season

PHOENIX – Sixteen new flood warning stations will soon be installed throughout Phoenix, thanks to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the city of Phoenix. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the IGA with the city that adds 16 automated flood warning stations to the District alert system. The city of Phoenix is purchasing the 16 monitors to be installed and operated by the District as part of their existing system.

“This IGA between the city of Phoenix and the Flood Control District shows how intergovernmental collaboration can work to the advantage of both public agencies and the residents they serve,” Maricopa County District 3 Supervisor Andy Kunasek said. “The addition of these 16 stations into our regional flood warning system will bring increased peace of mind to communities that were heavily impacted by flooding in 2014.”

Maricopa County District 5 Supervisor Steve Gallardo agreed that the enhanced reporting will benefit local residents. “We appreciate our partnership with Phoenix on these additional warning stations,” Supervisor Gallardo

said. “Areas like Laveen that were hit hard by last summer’s storms can rest easier knowing the extra monitors will allow for earlier detection of severe thunderstorms to mitigate potential damage.”

“The welfare and safety of our residents is always our top priority,” Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton said. “If adding these flood warning stations gives us the ability to better protect our citizens from storm and property damage, why wouldn’t we do this?”

The District currently operates 354 flood warning stations that include rain and stream gages as well as weather stations. The addition of 16 flood warning stations will bring the network in Maricopa County to 370.

“The Flood Control District’s mission is to reduce the risk of flooding to people and property,” Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Flood Control District Bill Wiley said. “Adding more stations to our alert system will enable us to better warn and protect the public from impending storms, particularly in vulnerable areas like Laveen and Skunk Creek.”

All new stations will be purchased and installed this year. For more information, call the Flood Control District at (602) 506-1501.

060515

Arrowhead Media
Scottsdale Republic
Cir: 42,000
Phoenix, AZ

Improved levees keep city safe from floods

Submitted by Mike Phillips, public affairs manager, on behalf of the city of Scottsdale.

Through the heart of Scottsdale runs a ribbon of recreation and solitude. Tree-filled berms create shade for joggers; concrete walls buffer traffic noise.

These barriers help define the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt and stand ready to perform a crucial job – protect neighborhoods from millions of gallons of floodwater when the wash flows. Scottsdale recently completed a project to further secure five public levees along the greenbelt so that they can safely protect the city for decades to come.

Aside from the larger community benefit, these improvements also mean roughly 500 property owners will not be required to carry federal flood insurance — saving these citizens around \$500,000 per year. The levee analysis and upgrades



CITY OF SCOTTSDALE

Workers reinstall grates during the levee renovation project along the Indian Bend Wash greenbelt.

cost about \$500,000.

“It’s always a great outcome when we can increase the safety and function of our flood con-

trol system and save property owners money,” said Ashley Couch, the city’s stormwater manager.

Most of the levees that stand guard against flooding in the wash blend into the character of the greenbelt. Residents may walk past them daily without ever realizing they are part of an intricate engineering system to keep their homes and businesses dry.

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cey, federally required insurance.

While the greenbelt levee system protects property owners from what can be a raging river during heavy rains, Couch still recommends all property owners carry flood insurance, since homeowners’ insurance policies do not cover storm-related flooding.

The good news is when a property is outside the federally designated floodplain, flood insurance is a lot cheaper to buy. Policies start as low as \$119 per year, including contents coverage.

“Nearly 20 percent of all flood claims in the U.S. occur outside designated floodplains,” Couch said. “So we recommend everyone carry flood insurance just to be on the safe side. Typical flood claims in Scottsdale are tens of thousands of dollars.”

#531

#32

060615

Arrowhead Media
AZ Capitol Times
Cir: 2,220
Phoenix, AZ

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

**AMC Environmental Issues
June Breakfast — Flood Control**

Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel, 1600 S. 52nd St., Tempe. 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. The Arizona Manufacturers Council June Environmental Issues Breakfast will feature a discussion on flood control from Bill Wiley, director of the Maricopa County Flood Control District. Wiley will discuss recent flooding issues and the structures and programs that are in place to reduce flood problems in the future. He will also give a sneak preview of what to expect this coming monsoon season. Cost: \$40, members; \$55, non-members. Information: Contact Taylor McArthur at (602) 248-9172 x123 or email tmcarthur@azchamber.com.

~~**NAWBO 2015 Desert Diamonds Awards Gala**~~

~~Phoenix Country Club, 2901 N. Seventh St., Phoenix. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The National Association of Women Business Owners – Phoenix Metro Chapter (NAWBO) annual event recognizes the outstanding achievements of local businesswomen. The 2015 Desert Diamond award winners will be announced, including the Business Owner of the Year, Member of the Year, Corporate Partner of the Year, Unsung Hero and Bridge Builder of the Year. The Spirit of Sisterhood Award, President's Awards and the 2015-2016 board of directors will also be announced. Cost: \$50, members; \$60, non-members. Information/RSVP: (480) 289-5768.~~

061015

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

#33

Amended

School district reworks budget for flood control

By Kevin Cloe
Publisher

Wickenburg's school district officials have discovered a way to pay for its share of a planned \$1.9 million flood-control channel and roadway adjacent to Hassayampa Elementary School.

The school board, in a special meeting Monday, approved a substantial increase in the district's Adjacent Ways tax category to generate \$810,000 this coming year - slightly less than half of the estimated cost of flood-control project/trailhead access the district and the Town of Wickenburg are sharing responsibilities.

It was an amendment to the budget the school board approved for the upcoming school year.

"This is the one area where the school district can do something on its own," noted Wickenburg Schools Superintendent Dr. Howard Carlson, explaining how the state limits what the district can do in raising tax rates in the general budget. The local district, Carlson said, can adjust the Adjacent Ways tax category as long as it stays within the limits of the overall budget.

The Adjacent Ways tax category is set aside annually for any work that needs to be done for access in or out of school properties.

Generally, that amount is usually about 10 cents per \$100,000 of assessed valuation that generates about \$150,000 per year, and this coming fiscal year it would have been about \$162,000, according to District Business Manager Victoria Farrar.

This year, however, the district's overall property tax rate was reduced significantly due to an increase in the assessed value of all the property within the district and when it was forced to discontinue the district-sponsored charter school program.

School board member Curtis Arnett and Farrar explained that by increasing the Adjacent Ways tax to 50 cents (per \$100,000 of assessed value), the district could generate the \$810,000 and still keep the district's overall tax rate below last year.

The cost to the property owners within the district is about \$1 this coming year for a home with an assessed value of \$200,000.

The school district is working with the Town of Wickenburg to establish a flood-control channel around the Hassayampa Elementary School that also can be used as a roadway for access to the town's completion of the

See School page A-2

School

From the Front Page

Kerkes Trailhead, used as a staging area for equestrian trail rides through the community.

School district officials expect the flood-control channel will eliminate the flooding problem in the

Hassayampa Elementary School parking lot and also help with a smoother flow of traffic entering and exiting the parking lot.

The Town of Wickenburg still needs to determine how it plans to provide its

share of the cost for the project.

The targeted starting date for the flood-control project is December, with an anticipated 18-month term to complete the project.

061215

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Times
Cir: 5,017
Glendale, AZ

#34

Sonoran Preservation Program receives unanimous vote

By CAROLYN DRYER
EDITOR

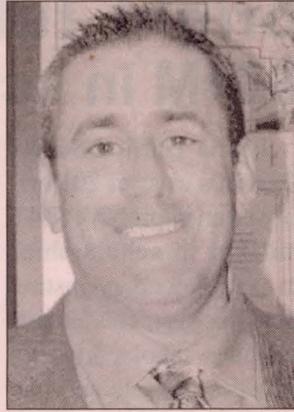
It will take a number of partnerships with other government agencies and private organizations. But Peoria City Council took a big step at its June 2 meeting to expand the city's conservation and preservation boundaries.

Planning and Community Development Director Chris Jacques took the lead, and, in his presentation, recommended council approve and adopt a resolution "establishing the Sonoran Preservation Program as the city's guiding document and implementation framework for the identification, prioritization and assemblage of areas of special interest into a meaningful network of connected open spaces for a variety of users."

City Manager Carl Swenson called the program "the most significant planning the city has done in several years. It continues the process going forward on how we preserve these assets and treasures for future generations."

Jacques agreed, saying, "Yes, this is a seminal document."

He then outlined steps taken to get to this point, including a comprehensive council study session May



**Chris Jacques, Director
Planning and
Community
Development**

19. Even with the approval of the resolution adopting the program, Jacques said the next chapter is implementation, planned for discussion at a September workshop. At that time, Jacques said council will explore and identify funding sources.

Part of the program involves purchase of private land within the planned preservation area. The program, as explained by Jacques, is intended to be balanced - understanding the need to protect open space, but also respect individual property rights of land owners.

The program document is not a regulatory or zoning instrument. Rather, it is intended to be a guide for making decisions about areas of special interest.

It does not stand alone. It is designed to align with the

newly adopted Community Services Master Plan.

Along with discussions with various city boards - Planning and Zoning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board - the city contacted the Bureau of Land Management, State Land Department, City of Scottsdale, Pima County, City of Phoenix, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Sonoran Institute, Desert Foothills Land Trust, Arizona Forward and other stakeholders and interests to obtain guidance on the plan.

A representative from the Sonoran Institute Legacy Program, who also sits on the board of White Tank Mountain Conservancy, praised council for its approval of the program.

Robert Hall, a 33-year resident of Arizona, retired to live in Peoria three years ago, and said he was "really impressed by open spaces" in the city.

"This is a very well thought out plan," he said. "There are 325 historic and prehistoric sites identified, more than any other place in the Valley."

Still more positive comments came from a representative of the Desert Foothills Land Trust, who called the work by staff and council "incredible,"

and the program represents "an incredible opportunity for the community."

Mesquite district Councilmember Bridget Binsbacher, in whose district most of the plan will be implemented, said, "I am so pleased with everything I'm hearing this evening. I have heard from many citizens in the Mesquite district. This is a great moment."

#35

061515

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

Valley agencies working to prevent monsoon damage

BEN MARGIOTT
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Doug and Lana Baccus survived more than 15 years of Arizona monsoon storms without any flooding. But a storm of historic proportions last year knocked down an exterior cinder-block wall, and floodwaters rushed into their Phoenix house. The resulting water line measured 14 inches high.

Two storms later, their downstairs was virtually destroyed, and the Baccuses couldn't undertake the repairs alone.

On Thursday, crews from HandsOn Greater Phoenix and the Home Depot Foundation made finishing touches to the house near 19th Avenue and Dobbins Road after a few weeks of renovations. Volunteers hoped to finish the repairs by today. "We're very appreciative of everything they have done for us," Lana Baccus said. "Thank you' is just not enough."

The new cinder-block walls around the property were most crucial. Doug Baccus, who served in the Navy for more than two years, said if they had a quality cinder-block wall in place for last year's storm, their house might have been spared.

Mesa and other Valley agencies are taking extra precautions to prevent the property damage that resulted last year from almost a foot of water in some places. The Maricopa County Flood Control District, which works alongside cities in their flood-preparation efforts, completed 10 projects in the monsoon off-season, district representative Jen Pokorski said.

But projects to prevent flooding in

areas that were affected most in 2014 are at least a year away. Five projects in Mesa were approved last week, including a \$400,000 venture to prevent the Emerald Acres area from future devastation.

Emerald Park was built at a lower elevation than the surrounding area specifically for flood prevention, but it overflowed in 2014 and the additional rainfall flooded more than 200 homes in Emerald Acres and an elementary school.

Another project will address the La-veen neighborhood near the Baccuses' home, which was especially hard-hit. In September, the city of Phoenix will break ground on a 38-acre water-retention basin at 27th Avenue and South Mountain Avenue. This year, however, the Arizona Department of Transportation, which handles flood prevention and control on state freeways, addressed a potential threat to the expanding West Valley by collaborating with the Flood Control District to finish the Loop 303 drainage system.

Scottsdale is doing its part, as well. The city recently purchased 4.6 acres of Apache Park from the Scottsdale Unified School District. Although it won't be ready for this year's monsoon, a water-retention basin will eventually be built on the land. The basin will support the area's Granite Reef Wash watershed project, which will eventually remove more than 600 homes from a floodplain.

The Flood Control District advises homeowners to purchase flood insurance if they don't already live in a floodplain, where it's required. Insurance does carry a 30-day waiting period, so the district recommends purchasing it before the monsoon.

#36

061715

Arrowhead Media
Queen Creek Independent
Cir: 14,250
Apache Junction, AZ

Monsoon season under way

Queen Creek officials hope new retention basin will help prevent flooding, road closures this year

By Wendy Miller
Independent Newspapers

The town of Queen Creek is gearing up for this year's monsoon season — June 14-Sept. 20 — and hoping the community will not see a repeat of last year's historic 500-year storm, Public Works Director Troy White said during a phone interview.

The 2014 season set a record for Phoenix for the most rainfall ever on a single day when on Sept. 8, 3.29 inches of rain were recorded at Sky Harbor Airport, surpassing the previous record of 2.91 inches in 1939, Keith Kincaid, a forecaster with the Phoenix office of the National Weather Service, said during a phone interview.

"We recorded half of the state's annual rainfall in one day," Mr. Kincaid said.

Public works crews from Maricopa and Pinal counties as well as individual communities hurried to close and clear roads. Mr. White said he started sending out workers around 10 p.m. Sept. 7.

He estimated his crew members spent about 500 hours total closing roads, pumping water, delivering sandbags and cleaning up after the storm.

"That included getting the roads and channels clear. As the basins filled up, they had to pump out the water and spread it out," Mr. White said. "They spent numerous hours checking our channel system to make sure the debris did not block the pipes."

Among the major road closures on Sept. 8 were Riggs Road at 196th Street and Riggs between Power and Hawes roads, and the southbound lanes of Ellsworth Road at Hunt Highway, according to postings that day on the town's Facebook page.

Major erosion occurred at certain areas of the Sonoqui Wash embankment, Mr. White said. The town is still clearing large deposits of sediment and soil from some retention basins, he said.

"We still have 4 to 6 inches in the bottoms of the basins and we

See Monsoons — Page 4



Independent Newspapers/Wendy Miller

Above: Tishia Stewart, a park ranger at San Tan Regional Mountain Park in Queen Creek, holds two Couch's spadefoot toads. The amphibians tend to emerge from their underground homes during rainstorms to eat and mate, Ranger Tish said. Left: Flooding closed many roads in the east Valley last summer, including this one in Queen Creek.



Special to the Independent/Town of Queen Creek

Monsoons

Continued From Page 1

need to get that cleared so the basins can work properly," he said. "There is still plenty of capacity there to handle close to a 100-year event."

A "100-year" storm event has a one in 100, or 1 percent, chance of happening in any given year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Paleoclimatology website: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/ctl/resource100.html. A "500-year" event has a one in five hundred, or 2 percent, chance of happening in any year, according to the same site.

Mr. White said the channel system incurred about \$650,000-\$750,000 in damage. A federal state of emergency was declared, enabling the town to eventually recoup most of funding needed to repair those areas.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is installing Phase 3 of the Sonoqui Wash, which includes large retention basins south of Hunt Highway and east of Hawes Road, and a pipe system to the Sonoqui Wash that will help mitigate some of the areas that were flooded in last year's storm, Marnie Schubert, the town's spokeswoman, said in an e-mailed response to questions.

The work should help some of the communities hardest hit last year, Mr. White said.

"A lot of water was collected and made

its way to Riggs Road. A couple areas north of Riggs got hit pretty heavy. This should alleviate some of the flood water," he said.

He said the new retention basin should intercept water from a watershed that makes its way to Riggs and Hawes. It will be sent through the piping system and above-ground channel and diverted into Sonoqui Wash at Riggs Road just east of Hawes, he said.

"That's water that typically would sheet-flow to the west side of Hawes," he said.

Over the past 10 years the flood-control district has spent more than \$40 million for storm drainage structures in and around the Queen Creek area, Ms. Schubert said.

"This has also significantly improved the flow of flood waters during storms," she said.

Town Emergency Manager Joe LaFortune provides information in advance when monsoon activity is predicted, Ron Knight, fire chief for the Queen Creek Fire and Medical department, said in an e-mailed response to questions. Mr. LaFortune has prepared a monsoon safety tip sheet that will be distributed to Queen Creek residents in their July water bill, Chief Knight said.

He and Mr. LaFortune participated in a storm preparedness meeting June 9 that included Mr. White and representatives from the town's communications department, Chief Knight said.

The meeting was to review the town's policy and procedures prior to the monsoon season, he said.

Chief Knight said his department re-

sponded to street-flooding issues and assisted residents with sandbags when needed during last year's monsoon. He said he did not recall responding to any fires caused by lightning.

Sandbags will be available this year at Queen Creek Fire Station No. 412 at 24787 S. Sossaman Road and at the town's recycling center at Ellsworth Road and Crewse

Lane, just south of the Queen Creek Town Hall, 22350 S. Ellsworth Road.

For more information, visit the town's website at www.queencreek.org.

In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1, Mr. White said. To report flooding, call the town's non-emergency number at 480-358-3000, he said.

061715

Arrowhead Media
Town of Paradise Valley
Independent
Scottsdale, AZ

TPV floodwater management is shared responsibility

By Mary Hamway
Special to the Independent

On Sept. 8, 2014, the Town of Paradise Valley experienced a 100-year storm event. To put this in perspective, to reach the magnitude of the 100-year event, 3.94 inches of rain fell in 6 hours, and consequently, many of our residents experienced flooding.

One might assume that a 1000-year event means that we won't get that much rain again any time soon. However, future rain amounts and the chance of flooding have no relationship to past events.

In fact, the Sept. 8 storm was the third significant storm event to occur over the past two years.

Flood control experts agree that we will see storms like this again, and that communities should plan for the new reality of shorter and

more intense storms.

Since it is impossible to completely safeguard against flooding, these same experts suggest that municipalities are better served by becoming more resilient through targeted flood control programs that minimize local damage, reduce the risks of flooding and help the community to recover quickly.

In a 6 to 1 vote of the fiscal year 2015-16 budget, a majority of the Paradise Valley Town Council made storm water management a priority.

Over the years, new home construction and walls have altered the historical flows of some washes. In an effort to better understand how water flows today, the town has been divided into six different watersheds where we plan to conduct detailed studies. Starting in this year, \$500,000 has been

GUEST Commentary

Mary Hamway



allocated to perform two studies.

Over the next three years we hope to complete all the studies, as well as develop an inventory of existing drainage facilities, identify drainage issues, and update our Drainage Master Plan.

In Paradise Valley, most washes are on private property and are not engineered, but remain natural habitats. Through community discussions and mailers, our goal is to raise awareness of the dangers of these storm events, and to

highlight the responsibility of each property owner to keep washes clear of debris.

In many cases, washes run between property walls and the responsibility is shared between the two adjacent neighbors. Educating and working with our residents remains an ongoing effort.

Our town staff is also reviewing code enforcement and the institutional processes that could help reduce the risk of flooding in the future. For example, we are evaluating retention for hillside homes, and we are considering changing when a certificate of occupancy is issued by waiting until after the final landscaping and drainage inspection.

We also intend to keep specific site plans as permanent records so that engineered drainage solutions are not lost as homes change

owners or are remodeled.

An automated warning system called Code Red has been implemented where residents can receive notification of significant storm events. We are updating our technology to include a GIS (Geographic Information System) and a database for managing code enforcement citations. And, we continue to work with other local governments to share costs and find new solutions.

Storm water management remains a shared responsibility between the town and its residents.

Only by working together, gathering data and implementing meaningful solutions can we ever hope to be a resilient community. For more information about storm water management, please visit our website at www.paradisevalleyaz.gov.

#37

#38

062415

Arrowhead Media
Queen Creek Independent
Cir: 14,250
Apache Junction, AZ

Groundbreaking ceremony held at QC Wash Trail

The town of Queen Creek hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Monday, June 15, for the Queen Creek Wash Trail at Desert Mountain Park. Estimated to take between 60 and 90 days, the construction project will extend the existing multi-use trail at Desert Mountain Park, connecting the Queen Creek Wash Trail to the Crismon Road Alignment, according to a press release.

"We have a fantastic group here this morning," Mayor Barney said as he opened the groundbreaking ceremony. "I am pleased to have the various representatives here from ADOT, Meadow Valley and NFRA. I appreciate all that you have done in preparation for the project. I also commend council and staff for their efforts. This is an exciting addition to our community."

The project is a joint partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and the Arizona Department of Transportation. NFra Inc. completed the design for the project and Meadow Valley Contractors will be completing the construction.

The majority of the project is grant-funded. A Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant is funding \$525,000 and the Transportation Enhancement Activities is funding \$486,926. The town is contributing \$140,000, of which \$110,000 was provided by the developer of the Hasting Subdivision.

The 2-mile expansion of the Queen



Special to the Independent/Town of Queen Creek

Local elected officials and dignitaries participated in the June 15 groundbreaking ceremony for the Queen Creek Wash Trail at Desert Mountain Park.

Creek Wash Trail is one component of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan, connecting more than 20 areas of Queen Creek, providing regional connectivity to the town of Gilbert, San Tan Mountain Regional Park and Pinal County, according to the release.

While the wash will remain open for the majority of the construction, there will be limited restrictions to protect the safety of individuals who utilize the trails. The 10-foot wide multi-use trail will function in a

similar capacity to the current trail system from Hawes Road to Power Road.

The trail is intended to accommodate pedestrians and equestrians with the appropriate separation. Minor vegetation clean-up will be completed in the wash and a few decomposed granite ramps in and out of the wash will be added to accommodate equestrians.

For more information about capital improvements in the town of Queen Creek, visit QueenCreek.org/BetterRoadsAhead.

COVER STORY

The *Phoenix Business Journal* is taking a two-part look at transportation issues in the Valley. This edition features a story on Phoenix's proposed transit tax. Next week, we will look beyond the city and focus on the state of transportation, from roads and rail to airports.

PHOENIX PLANS TO RIDE RAILS TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

BY ERIC JAY TOLL
etoll@bizjournals.com
602-308-5616, @PhxBizEric

When Phoenix voted in 2000 to pump \$1.4 billion into building the backbone of the Metro light rail system, Mayor Greg Stanton said residents were way ahead of the curve.

As a 0.4-cent sales tax was approved strictly to fund light rail and some bus improvements. Now Stanton and a majority of the Phoenix City Council are asking voters to extend that tax through 2050 and increase it to 0.7 cents to cover other transit improvements.

"We're going to build 1,000 miles of bike lanes and routes," Stanton said. "The money will be used to maintain streets, get bus stops out of traffic lanes, and increase bus schedules and routes."

Stanton said the reason for the investment is simple: Light rail has been the driver for economic development in the downtown area.

"The biomedical center, University of Arizona campus and (Arizona State University) downtown are all proof of how light rail transformed the area," he said.

Public-sector development along the light rail line in Phoenix since 2010 totals almost \$1.9 billion. More than 2 million square feet of public-sector development has been added along the right-of-way, most at the downtown UA and ASU campuses.

"There would not be an Arizona State University downtown campus without light rail," ASU President Michael Crow said in an interview earlier this year.

More than just providing a way for

people to get around, backers of the tax increase say, light rail will provide 93,000 jobs and \$5 billion in new development, including \$3.7 billion in private dollars, that transit development will generate – all for about \$4 to \$5 per family per month.

Need for new funding

Phoenix has suffered seven years of legislative neglect in transportation funding, as state lawmakers have raided highway user revenue funds to help balance the budget. As a result, Phoenix Street Transportation Director Ray Dovalina said the city has \$7.5 billion in near-term street maintenance and flood control needs, but only about \$500 million a year in funding.

Phoenix taxpayers will have to fill the gap created by lawmakers diverting gas tax revenue into the state's general fund instead of using it to fill the city's potholes.

"Right now, we receive so few street dollars that it will take 60 years for streets to be rebuilt, instead of the normal 30- to 40-year rebuilding

cycle," Dovalina said at a recent *Phoenix Business Journal* roundtable on the transportation industry.

To find out what the city needed, Stanton asked former U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters and former Arizona State Land Commissioner Maria Baier last summer to co-chair a committee to develop a plan. The Citizens Committee on the Future of Phoenix Transportation recommended a 35-year transportation program of light rail, new and improved streets, bike lanes, and improved transit routes and schedules. The price tag would total \$31 billion by 2050.

▶ ABOUT THE VOTE

Phoenix residents will be asked to approve a sales tax that would raise \$17 billion over the next 25 years.

The city will start sending out mail-in ballots by the end of July. In-person voting will take place Aug. 25.



Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton is a big backer of the city's push for an extended and expanded sales tax that would fund future light rail and other modes of transportation.

JIM POULIN | PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL

"The committee had a balance between those wanting to see transportation to support economic development, and those who wanted to provide the community with more transportation options," Baier said. "In the end, it was obvious that the transportation system is mostly used to benefit the economy."

The sales tax would raise about \$17 billion. The rest of the money would come through grants and bonds. The measure includes shifting \$16 million in transportation funds to help hire more police officers.

Light rail for the economy

Transit tax backers don't point to ridership as a factor in adding more tracks and trains, but to development that has sprung up around light rail as a motivating factor to expand the tax.

The first 22 miles of light rail, 13 of

which are in Phoenix, generated \$6.9 billion in capital investment, including \$5.5 billion from the private sector.

Light rail construction had a grueling impact on business access, resulting in the closure of numerous small businesses and restaurants along the route. However, light rail's completion has changed areas of Phoenix for the better, said John Graham, president and CEO of Sunbelt Holdings.

"You're seeing developers who used to only build in suburban landscapes looking to create infill development along light rail," he said.

Sunbelt Holdings and divisions of Lennar Corp. and Meritage Homes Corp. are building projects along light rail, as are a number of boutique developers. In Phoenix proper, more than \$4.1 billion

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



REAL PEOPLE AND PHOENIX TRANSPORTATION

ROBIN SPAULDING

Project manager, FM Solutions

Robin Spaulding came to the Valley from Rhode Island. A self-styled "country woman," she lives and works in downtown Phoenix. She made the move from the Anthem area for the urban environment.

"I've been downtown for three years," she said. "I'm an artist and wanted to experience the arts district and urban living."

Although she owns a car, she finds living downtown gives her different transportation options.

"I walk, bicycle and take light rail, but once in a while I need to drive," said Spaulding. "The transportation options provide ways to get to activities. There's so much to do, so many places to eat. (Phoenix) is becoming a walking city."

She said expanding transportation will be a significant benefit for Phoenix.

"More places to go without a car," she said.



*Robin
Spaulding*

KEITH MULVIN

Case coordinator, Americorps

A downtown denizen for five years, Keith Mulvin works in Sunnyslope, nearly 14 miles from his Roosevelt Row apartment. He does not own a car; instead, he uses a monthly Valley Metro pass.

"I'm a believer in sustainable living," he said. "At some point, you have to live what you advocate."

Mulvin uses his bike and Valley Metro to get everywhere. Even in the summer, he commutes by bike to his office.

He said it's possible to get anywhere with public transportation.

"It just takes a little patience," he said. "But you save all of the costs of a car, payments, gas, maintenance and insurance."



*Keith
Mulvin*

COVER STORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in private investment has taken place within a quarter-mile of light rail stations since 2008.

In downtown Phoenix, CBRE put together a light rail economic impact for the *Phoenix Business Journal* on a station-by-station basis. At the Washington Street and Central Avenue station, for example, roughly 800,000 square feet of new office space was built following light rail construction in 2008. A large proportion of that volume – 620,000 square feet – was CityScape. Stanton said the anchor development would not have been constructed without light rail.

When light rail started rolling in late 2009, 19 percent of the 9.5 million square feet of commercial office space near the Washington-Central station was vacant. At the end of 2015's first quarter, the square footage near that station had increased to 10.4 million square feet of office, and the vacancy rate had dropped to 12.8 percent. Overall, the first-quarter 2015 office vacancy rate for Phoenix was 23.8 percent.

The construction and development story is nearly the same around most of the light rail stations. Overall in Phoenix, light rail catalyzed more than 33 million square feet of new development, nearly 6,700 residential units and more than 2,500 hotel rooms.

Big backers

The money invested in 35 years of capital construction of light rail, street improvements and flood control is expected to generate as many as 164,000 jobs, according to estimates from the Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors.

AGC Arizona is among the organizations providing financial support for the ballot measure.

"Investing in transit and transportation-related construction is a quality-of-life issue that (AGC) supports," said President and CEO David Martin. "With light rail, private investment follows the stations and adds a lot to the economy. Without effective transportation – all types of transportation – the economy can't grow."

Of those jobs, almost 56,000 will be construction-related and more than 82,000 will be indirect jobs that are likely to remain even after construction is completed. In today's dollars, those jobs will generate \$1.8 billion in annual payroll, according to AGC.

Dovalina said millions of dollars in the new programs include flood control and drainage improvements to prevent the kind of flooding that occurred in some Phoenix neighborhoods after last fall's major rain storms. Multi-use paths will be developed along canals with the extended sales tax.

"This is more than just commuting. Phoenix is a major transportation hub," Martin said.

He said all parts of the transportation plan contribute to a healthy Phoenix economy. AGC Arizona is part of We Build Arizona, a lobbying group that also includes the Arizona Builders Association, the Association of Minority Contractors of Arizona and the Arizona Transportation Builders Association. The group contributed \$125,000 to MovePHX, a coalition that's pushing for the transit tax. **▀**

LIGHT RAIL IN 2036

Passage of an increased sales tax to fund transportation improvements could mean a very different-looking Metro light rail system.

By 2036, Metro light rail could be moving people around the Valley on three distinct routes. The map shows the existing line, the extensions already under construction, and others being considered.

- ASU West to ASU Downtown to ASU Polytechnic/Phoenix-Mesa Gateway airport
- 59th Avenue/Interstate 10 to Main Street/Gilbert Road (Van Buren Street/First Avenue to 59th Avenue/I-10 under study)
- Paradise Valley Mall to South Mountain (Jefferson Street under study)
- Central Station to Grand Canyon University and Glendale (light rail, bus rapid transit or express bus route under study)
- Existing and under construction

If county or municipal voters outside Phoenix approve it, light rail could extend into Peoria or Surprise; to Avondale or Goodyear; and south to Gilbert or east to Superstition Vistas.



LIGHT RAIL STATS

\$1.4 billion

Cost to build

\$31.2 million

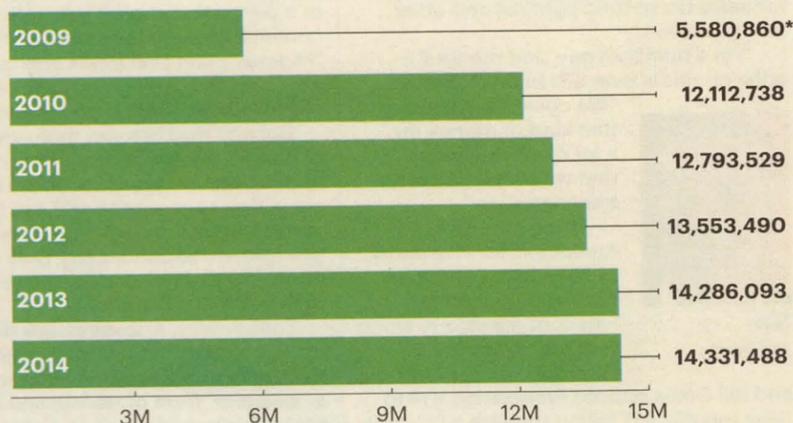
Annual cost to operate

LIGHT RAIL ATTRACTS GROWING RIDERSHIP

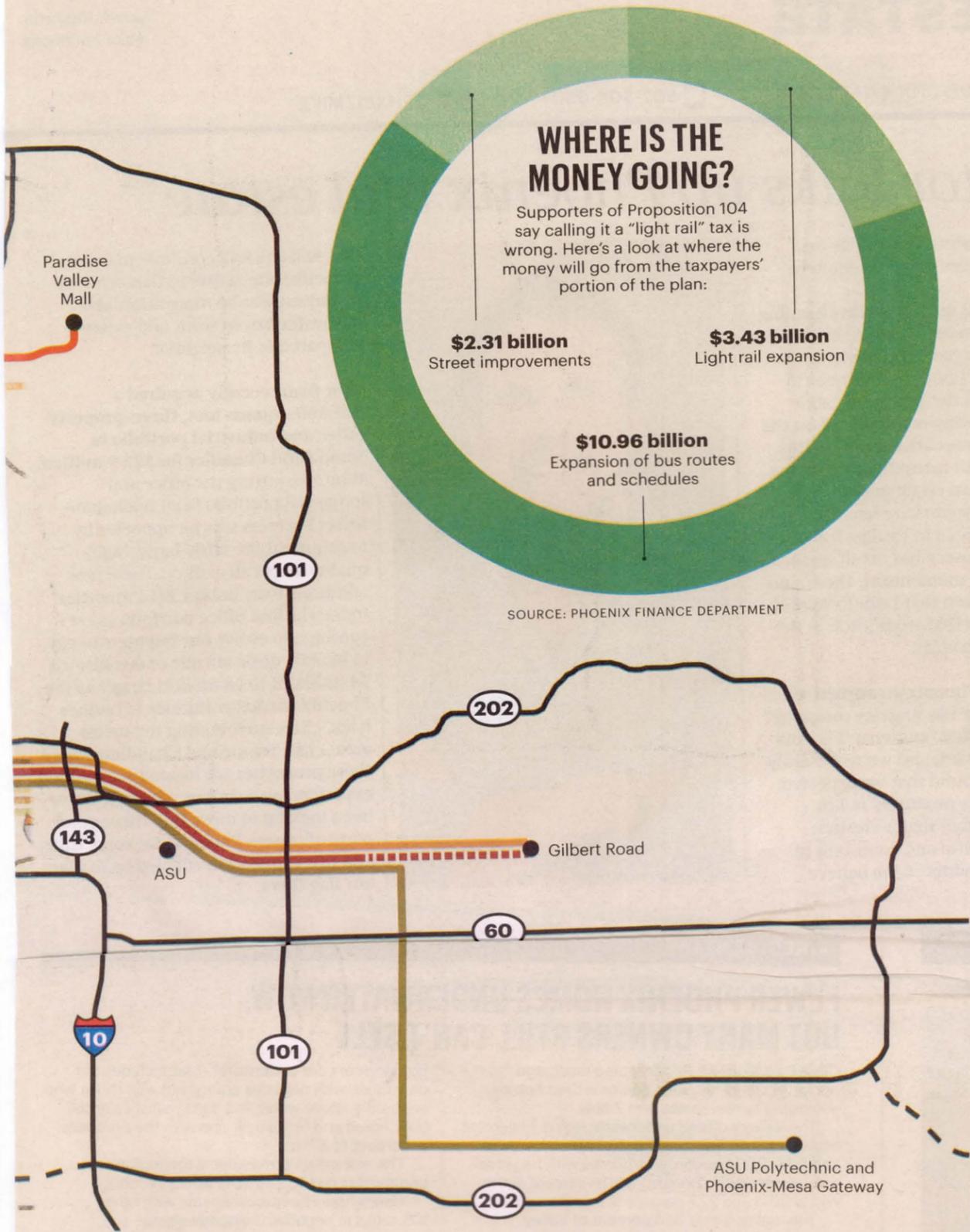
Metro light rail has seen increased ridership since its launch in December 2009. Various factors have contributed, including the expansion of Arizona State University's downtown Phoenix campus.

That increased ridership has officials looking at expansion. These charts detail where those expanded lines could run, as well as how light rail's ridership and other forms of transit have grown.

METRO LIGHT RAIL RIDERSHIP



* Metro light rail was operational for six months in that fiscal year.



LEVERAGING THE BIG BUCKS

The total cost of all the transportation improvements in the city of Phoenix under Proposition 104 will top \$31 billion over 35 years. Taxpayers are being asked to put up almost \$17 billion. The taxpayer investment will be used to leverage grants and boost the city's priority in competing for transportation dollars.

Extended 0.4-cent sales tax	\$9.9 billion
Added 0.3-cent sales tax	\$6.8 billion
Regional funds	\$2.9 billion
Federal funds	\$4.0 billion
Bond funds	\$1.7 billion
Transit fare	\$5.1 billion
Other	\$1.1 billion

SOURCE: MOVEPHX

TOTAL DEVELOPMENT ALONG LIGHT RAIL, 2008-15

169

Number of projects

\$6.9 billion

Capital investment

\$1.4 billion

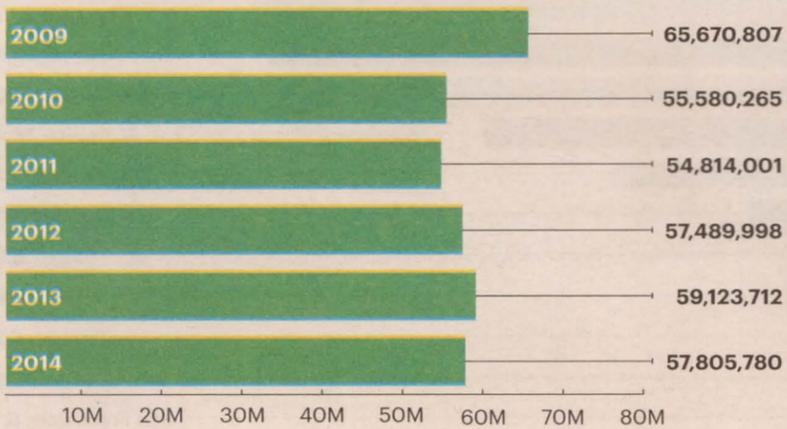
Public investment

\$5.5 billion

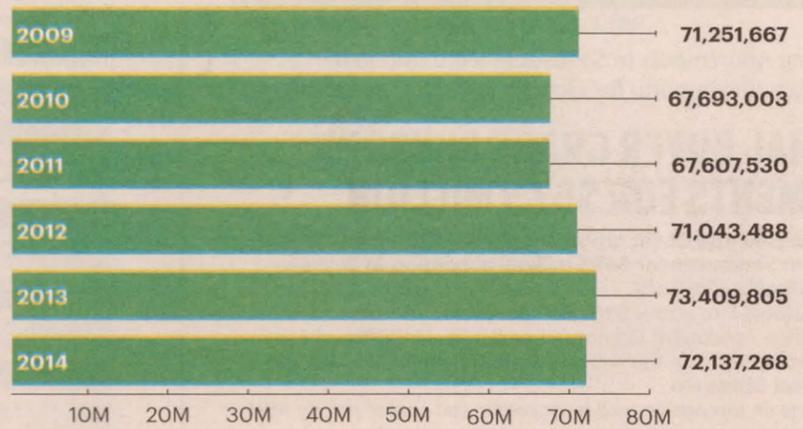
Private investment

Commercial	12.9 million square feet
Government	200,000 square feet
Education	900,000 square feet
Residential	9.4 million square feet
Residential units	16,670
Hotel rooms	3,405

VALLEY METRO BUS RIDERSHIP



TOTAL VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP



SOURCE: VALLEY METRO

County to improve intersection at 99th Avenue and Union Hills

By Jeff Grant
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation plans improvements to ease traffic congestion and flooding during heavy rains at the intersection of 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive, offi-

cial with MCDOT said.

The \$2.6 million project, scheduled to start in spring 2016, will include:

- Adding an eastbound lane on Union Hills Drive as it approaches the intersection.
- Adding a right-turn lane

from northbound 99th to eastbound Union Hills.

- Extending and reshaping the culvert covering the drainage canal in the median on 99th Avenue, according to MCDOT Communications Manager Traci Ruth. The culvert extension will

leave the drainage canal and median similar in configuration to one on 99th Avenue and Burns Drive, 1.8 miles to the south, Ruth said.

The culvert improvements will help direct water flowing south along the canal more

» See Traffic on page A5



The intersection of 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive, looking northwest along 99th Avenue. The county will widen the crossing and redesign the drainage system next year. [Jeff Grant/Daily News-Sun]

Traffic

» From page A1

efficiently. MCDOT also will remove a heavy silt buildup in the canal that has impeded water movement.

"That's all good news to me," said Jim Powell, Transportation Committee chairman for the Sun City Home Owners Association, calling 99th and Union Hills Drive "a difficult intersection."

"The way it's set up now, it's kind of odd. Cars are making left-hand turns and kind of face each other. It does need improvement. We were told about that (project) a while back, so we knew they (MCDOT) were going to do something," he said.

The intersection is immediately to the southeast of the Sun City Fire and Medical Department's administration building. Fire Chief Mike Thompson welcomed the drainage improvements the project will bring.

"On the east side of 99th, Union Hills become a lake every time there's a flood," Thompson said during the June 16 fire district Board of Directors meeting.

However, Thompson and other Sun City Fire and Medical Department officials have concerns about the project's impact on the administration building both during and after the work.

During the meeting, Thompson said MCDOT needs to take some property in front of the department's administration.

Fire Marshal Jim Fox informed board members the project will take about 20 feet of property now containing xeriscape, including gravel, rocks and trees.

"I think once they get this done, the south side of our building will be pretty naked," Fox said.

The project will take two to four spaces from the department's parking lot and will cost the department those spaces during construction as well, the fire and medical department officials said.

Fox said he had been told by MCDOT officials the county believed the department could afford to give up the spaces. The fire marshal disagreed.

"We have large meetings in this building; we use this for training, too. I'll tell you what, it's packed out there in the parking lot when we're us-

ing it," he said.

The fire officials said they plan to raise the issue with MCDOT during an upcoming meeting to discuss the county's payment to the fire district for the property, even though Fox said the county's appraisal of the property is in line with what it has offered other areas for similar parcels.

"We're going to talk to them about possibly reducing a little bit of that (property that would be taken)," Fox told the board.

Ruth said the project is now in its design phase. Once shovels are in the ground, the work is expected to take nine months, she said.

• Check us out and like Yourwestvalley.com on Facebook and [YourWVNews](http://YourWVNews.com) on Twitter
Contact reporter Jeff Grant at 623-876-2514 or jgrant@yourwestvalley.com.



The intersection of 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive, looking east along Union Hills Drive. The county will widen the crossing and redesign the drainage system next year. [Jeff Grant/Daily News-Sun]

Jeff

070115

Arrowhead Media
Fountain Hills Times
Cir: 6,000
Fountain Hills, AZ

#41

Lightning strike causes house fire

A monsoon storm sweeping through Fountain Hills on Monday night brought lightning, but very little in the way of rain.

Fountain Hills Fire Department reports a vacant house on Sycamore Drive was struck by lightning at about 10:30 p.m.

Fire Chief Randy Roberts said firefighters found fire coming from the rear roof area of the structure, but were able to quickly extinguish the blaze.

Roberts said damage was confined to the section of the roof where the strike occurred, with minor damage to the interior of the home.

The homeowner was not immediately located.

The Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauges around town collected only .08 inch at the Palisades Fire Station, .20-inch at the Stoneridge Dam, not too far from the location of the lightning fire and .04 was recorded at SunRidge Dam.

A storm over this past weekend recorded winds up to 47 miles per hour on Saturday at Fountain Park.

070315

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Times
Cir: 5,017
Glendale, AZ

#42

Residents are reminded not to drive through running water

Every year, firefighters are called on to rescue a stranded motorist who attempted to drive through running water. This can be a life-or-death situation for the passengers of the vehicle, as well as for the firefighters.

Control of a vehicle can be lost in as little as six inches of water. Most vehicles will begin to float in two feet of water. It is very difficult, especially at night, to discern the depth or force of flowing water. What may seem like a shallow stream may have unseen depth or may be flowing much faster under the surface.

The way to prevent becoming trapped or swept away by flowing water is to not drive through it. Find an alternate route whenever available, even if it takes extra time out of your day. If no alternative route is available, wait it out. Arizona's monsoons are usually fast moving and temporary.

In 1995, Arizona created the "Stupid Motorist Law"

to encourage Arizona drivers to use common sense when it comes to driving through flooded areas. The Law specifically bans drivers from driving around barricades in place to prevent them from driving through a flooded area. Drivers trapped after driving around barricades may be responsible paying the cost incurred by police and fire emergency personnel.



Photo courtesy Peoria Fire-Medical Department

Peoria Fire-Medical Department's Tactical Rescue Team practices swift water rescue.

070915

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

#43

WEATHER TOPICS



REPUBLIC FILE

Rescue workers make their way to a motorist trapped inside a car by fast-moving water, on Indian Bend Road between Scottsdale and Hayden roads in 2006.

Watch out for flash floods

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Among the biggest dangers from the monsoon are flash floods.

Flooding accounts for almost a third of all weather-related fatalities in Arizona and is among the leading causes of such deaths nationwide. Over the past 10 years, an average

of 71 people have died annually because of flash or river floods.

In Arizona, flash floods present the most danger, particularly in mountainous areas. A flash flood is defined as a flood that occurs within a few hours (usually less than six) of a heavy rain or dam or levee failure.

It takes only about 6 inches

of swiftly flowing water to sweep a person off of their feet and 18-to-24 inches of rushing water to move most vehicles.

The National Weather Service issues flash flood watches and warnings via weather radio, through cell-phone alerts and with the help of media outlets.

071015

Arrowhead Media
The Arizona Republic
NW Valley Section
Phoenix, AZ

TAPPING INTO RIVER'S POTENTIAL

A decade-old plan to restore a 17-mile stretch of the Gila has been revived, with hopes that it will bring new development and recreation opportunities.

GROWTH, Page 3



INSIDE TODAY: YOUR WEEKLY REAL ESTATE LISTINGS || ALSO FIND MORE ONLINE AT NORTHWESTVALLEY.AZCENTRAL.COM

MARICOPA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Supporters of El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, which has an estimated cost of \$300 million to \$500 million, want to foster a riparian habitat along the Gila River from Avondale to Buckeye.

#44

071015

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
North Central Phoenix
Phoenix, AZ

When rains cover the Valley, are you covered?

DAVID M. BROWN

SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Flooding in your area? No worry: My homeowners policy has me protected.

No: As the monsoon season presents its annual drama to the Valley, homeowners beware.

"Hazard Insurance does not cover flood-related losses," said Ron Williams, a Scottsdale-based Farmers Insurance agent.

And, he noted that last year's severity of rain, not only near washes but also in neighborhoods where water pools, increased residential losses.

Because Arizona is in an arid climate, the dry, hard ground does not readily absorb water, and rainwater can pool on the surface, said Andrew R. Carlson, legislative liaison for the Arizona Department of Insurance in Phoenix.

"When the water begins to pool, it can lead to flooding — even in areas that are not considered a high risk for floods," Carlson said. "If that water enters your home at the ground level and damages your home and belongings, that event constitutes 'flooding' and is not covered by your homeowner's insurance policy."

As a result, homeowners may want to consider purchasing a separate flood-insurance policy for their homes or renters for their valuables.

Flooding in the desert has always been a challenge, requiring large infrastructure projects such as dams as well as remediation for Valley homes and businesses damaged by monsoon rains and torrents such as the October 2014



Water damage from a flood is not covered under hazard policies.

DC RESTORATION

event.

Two years ago, flooding in the Northwest Valley at Anthem pushed water/mud into lower lying areas and inundated homes, causing considerable damage, said Derec Bradshaw, principal of Mesa-based Damage Control and DC Restoration, an 11-year-old restoration contractor.

"Homes may have precautions put in place to avoid flooding; however, during monsoon season, the influx of water is so great that most drains and gutters cannot keep up with the high volume of water," he said.

Drywall, insulation, flooring, landscaping, pools and spas can be affected as well as basements from wells overflowing with water. In recent years, DC Restoration has handled claims from \$2,000 to \$30,000 for residential and \$100,000-plus for commercial, Bradshaw said.

Groundwater-caused damage is miti-

gated using the Las Vegas-based Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification guidelines, such as cutting drywall at least one to two feet up the walls and removing affected flooring, insulation, baseboards and cabinets.

"Properties in low-lying areas or flood zones are more susceptible than most homes, but, depending on the deluge of water, even homes that are not in the flood zones can be affected," Bradshaw said.

While standard homeowners policies do not cover damage to homes, if you live in an area the federal government designates as a "high-risk" flood zone, your mortgage company will require you to buy flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Carlson said.

"If you don't buy it, your mortgage company will usually buy it for you and 'force place' flood insurance on your dwelling and charge you for the coverage," he said. Maps and additional information are at floodsmart.gov, a FEMA-run Web site. And, ADO's Consumer Affairs Division is able to help consumers with insurance-related issues: insurance.az.gov/consumers or call 800-325-2548.

Any structure in a designated special flood hazard area on the most current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, in which the building is being used as collateral for a federally backed loan, will be required by the lender to carry a flood

insurance policy pursuant to the Flood Disaster Act of 1973 and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, said Edie Lohmann, FEMA Region IX NFIP insurance specialist, in collaboration with Bob Bezek, FEMA Region IX senior engineer, and Robert McCord, FEMA Region IX Hazard Mitigation Assistance branch chief.

Congress established the NFIP in 1968, and through the program property owners are able to insure against flood losses.

"FEMA works in close coordination with its federal, state, local, and private-industry partners to identify flood risks nationwide using flood studies that are scientifically and technically appropriate and engineering practices that meet professional standards," Lohmann said.

In the West Valley, some of the developed areas that are at the base of mountains and areas that have flood hazard areas delineated through or around the development may require flood insurance, said Kelli A. Sertich, AICP, CFM, Floodplain Management & Services Division manager for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Phoenix.

She suggested that those homeowners who are concerned they are in a floodplain can consult the District's web page for guidance, maricopa.gov.

Flood insurance through NFIP can be purchased with any licensed property and casualty insurance agent. Property owners should check with their local insurance agent first. If they need assistance finding an agent to write a flood policy, they can visit floodsmart.gov.

#45

A river runs through SW Valley

Gila restoration project envisioned as boost to environment, tourism

SUSIE STECKNER

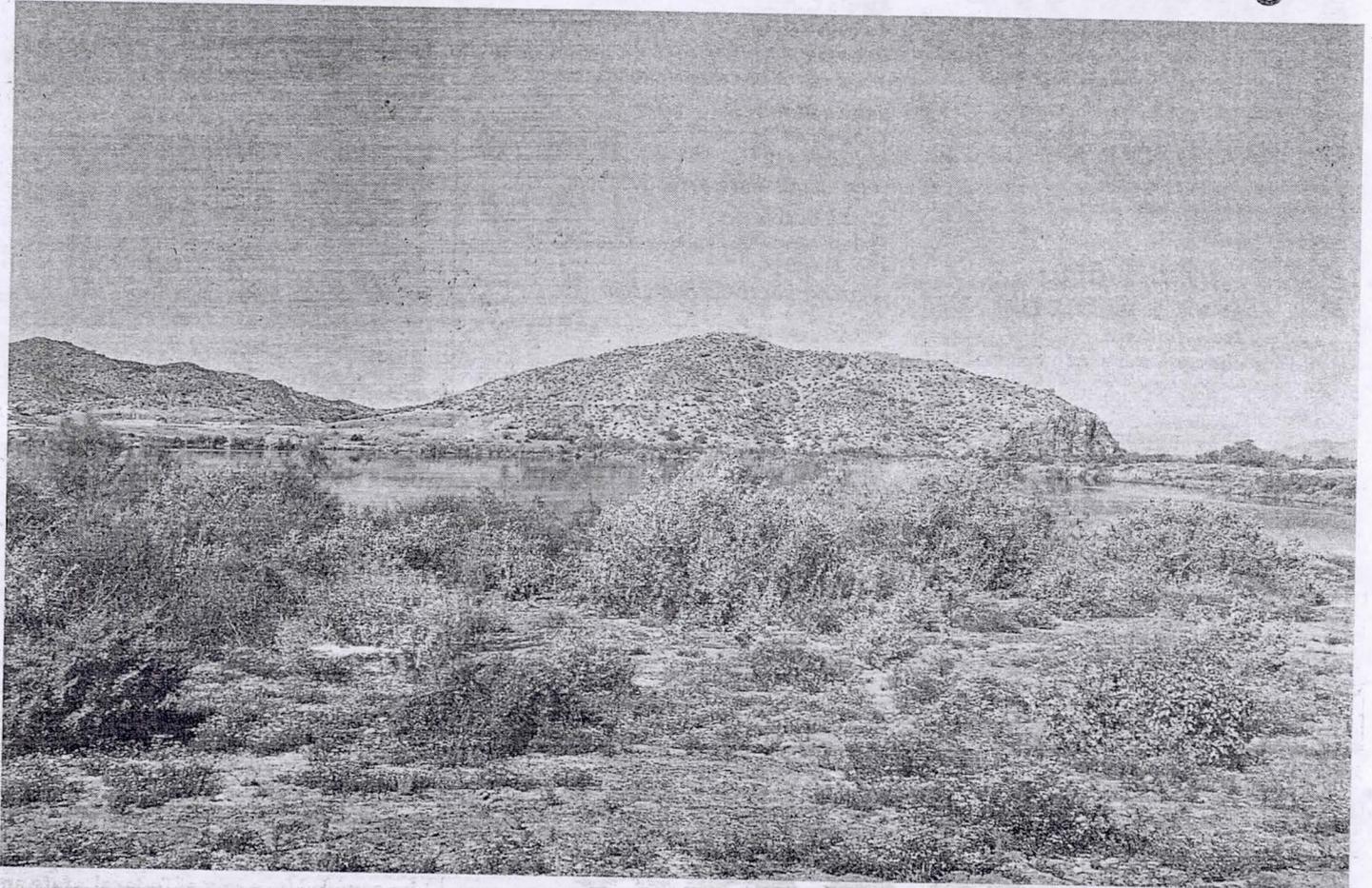
SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck recalls visiting his grandparent's dairy farm on the banks of the Gila River each summer. The river was a little piece of paradise in the southwest Valley: large, healthy cottonwood trees dotted the banks, fish, turtles and birds called the area home, and clear water flowed freely.

"I could walk throughout the river bottom, next to the running water," Meck said. "Today, you cannot get in the river bottom."

The Gila River of Meck's youth is today far from paradise. Invasive salt cedar trees are choking the river, creating serious and costly environmental and economic problems. Public safety is threatened. Natural habitats are disrupted. Recreation is stunted.

But a decade-old plan to restore a 17-mile stretch of the Gila River from Buckeye to Avondale has been revived, with hopes that the meandering waterway will one day bring new development and recreation opportunities to the West Valley.



Backers of El Rio Watercourse Master Plan want to foster a riparian habitat with more open water and native plants along 17 miles of the Gila River from Avondale to Buckeye.

MARICOPA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

#46

The massive project includes many complex components, such as constructing a new levee, battling the invasive salt cedars and protecting endangered species. The project also hinges on hundreds of millions in funding and partnerships between multiple public and private landowners.

Advocates acknowledge that clearing these hurdles is daunting and will take years. But they say restoring the Gila River is vital to the region. The plan will have far-reaching impact in terms of flood control, wildfire prevention and water conservation, as well as economic growth.

The restoration plan could also put this stretch of the Gila River on par with other destination projects such as Tempe Town Lake and Tres Rios in Phoenix.

A restoration plan, called El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, was developed in 2005. It covers a 17.5-mile stretch of the Gila River, from the confluence with the Agua Fria River west to the State Route 85 Bridge. The plan includes multiple

partners, chief among them the Maricopa County Flood Control District, the communities of Avondale, Buckeye and Goodyear, state and federal agencies, and private landowners involved in mining.

The plan has moved along in fits and starts, but largely stalled because of the sagging economy. Two notable efforts have moved forward to address the salt cedars that are choking the Gila River; said Jen Pokorski, the flood control district's ombudsman and citizen advocate.

Invasive salt cedars are causing major problems for public officials throughout the Southwest. The trees are huge water consumers and officials estimate that a single tree absorbs 300 gallons of water every day. That water used by the trees along that stretch would be enough for 200,000 households.

"In a time like this with water conservation becoming a huge national issue,

this would be an amazing recovery for our entire region," Meck said.

As a result of this unwanted consumption, native trees are kept from water, which disrupts natural habitats. In the Gila River area, the salt cedars have hurt the habitats of the endangered willow flycatchers, Yuma clapper rails and Western yellow-billed cuckoo.

Salt cedars are also highly flammable and burn hotter than most trees. Officials fear that the trees' overcrowding in the Gila River create the potential for large wildfires that threaten nearby properties.

The overcrowding also has congested the Gila River, exacerbating an already flood-prone area. What's more, the growth of salt cedars has expanded the size of the floodplain, affecting future development and farming.

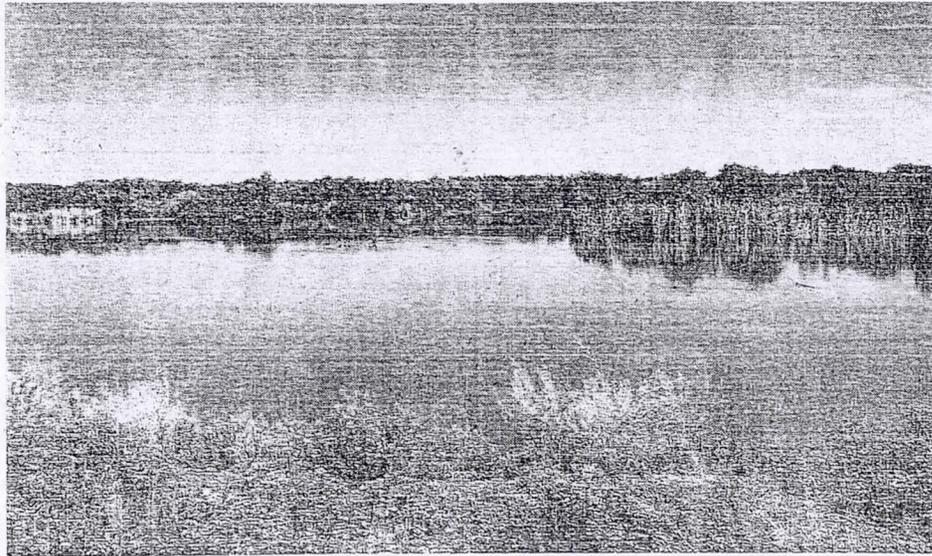
In 2007 and 2008, the Maricopa County Flood Control District completed pilot

projects that involved removing salt cedars and reintroducing native plants at two sites. The two projects, which spanned 60 acres and cost about \$450,000, offer a glimpse of the challenges ahead. Some salt cedars came back and the sites required intensive maintenance as the new plants became established.

Now, a second effort is underway to deal with the larger salt cedar issue in the 17-mile stretch. A plan being drafted will address how best to remove the trees, how to revegetate, what areas to target and more. The plan, funded by a grant from the Gila River Indian Community, is expected to be available this fall. A final plan should be in place in early 2016.

But this blueprint is just the first step in what will be a lengthy process involv-

See GILA, Page 4



MARICOPA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Planners see the Gila River as a recreation destination with such activities as bird watching (there are more than 100 species) and hiking.

Gila

Continued from Page 3

ing multiple stakeholders, government permits, environmental studies, funding applications and more.

The big unknown is how to pay the estimated \$300 million to \$500 million tab, which includes the removal and revegetation, annual maintenance and, if needed, land acquisition. That cost will likely be covered by a mix of federal, state and local dollars, and grant funding.

Another large component of the plan is the addition of a new levee, which will help reduce the floodplain. The proposed levee is to be paid for by developers but there have been no new projects to trigger the levee construction, Pokorski said. Once it is built, public agencies would maintain it. The estimated price tag for construction of the levee is between \$150 million and \$200 million.

The plan also focuses on another key partnership with private landowners involved in mining operations and the Arizona Rock Products Association. Pokorski said a likely scenario is that the land would be mined over the next decade or longer, and then it would be turned over to public agencies to maintain. With its shallow groundwater, the area would provide more open water and new recreation opportunities.

Ultimately, planners envision this stretch of the Gila River as a recreation destination and burgeoning habitat. Think bird watching, family bike rides,

Restoring the river

A wide-ranging plan to restore a 17-mile stretch of the Gila River includes:

- » Removal of invasive salt cedar trees
- » Reintroduction of native trees
- » Habitat restoration for endangered birds and other animals
- » Construction of a new levee
- » Development and recreation opportunities
- » Flood protection, fire prevention, water conservation

lazy afternoon canoe trips and scenic picnics.

One step toward this vision could be connecting the river and Estrella Mountain Regional Park via the Maricopa County Regional Trail alignment, which follows the north bank of the river. Communities involved in El Rio project are beginning to develop ideas for small pilot recreational projects such as trail heads.

Another step is fostering a riparian habitat throughout the river corridor with more open water and native plants. There are currently more than 100 species of birds in the Gila River, in addition to animals such as beavers and tortoises. Pokorski sees plenty of ecotourism opportunities like bird watching excursions.

Meck said restoring the Gila River will benefit generations of visitors.

"I would love to see the eradication of the salt cedar, which would allow young people and adults from all over enjoy the ribbon that the cities have running through approximately 17 miles."

#47

071115

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

Valley residents can get free sandbags today

ANTHONY MARROQUIN

THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County and Phoenix have teamed up with a national materials company to provide Valley residents with sandbags to protect them from flooding, according to county officials.

Residents can pick up as many as 10 sandbags per household from 8 a.m. to noon today in the parking lot of the Laveen school administration building, 5001 W. Dobbins Road.

The bags will be available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last, according to a news release from the county.

Officials say they hope the bags will help homeowners prevent damage like that of the 2014 summer storms.

The bags are being donated by the Alabama-based Vulcan Materials Co.

X-48

071515

Arrowhead Media
Fountain Hills Times
Cir: 6,000
Fountain Hills, AZ

Our viewpoint

Monsoon dangers

Early monsoon rainfall in the area has hopefully diminished one summer danger that's been lingering for a while – extreme fire hazard conditions.

While other parts of Arizona and states throughout the West have had to contend with lightning- and human-caused sparks turning into wildfires, we've been fortunate in this immediate area to not suffer any huge blazes.

Let's hope it stays that way.

As anyone who has lived here for more than a year can attest, however, there are plenty of other dangers associated with the monsoon – blinding dust, lightning strikes, falling trees (or other flying debris) and washes flooded from storm runoff.

There are still a few large open wash crossings in Fountain Hills going across streets that can pose hazards when significant amount of runoff occurs. When in doubt, it's usually better to turn around and find a different street where there is a culvert accommodating a wash and its runoff.

Such places as Indian Bend Wash, unincorporated areas in northern Maricopa County or even McDowell Mountain Road between Fountain Hills and Rio Verde can pose flooding dangers this time of year.

They don't call it the "Stupid Motorist's Law" for nothing. Let's avoid the flooded washes this summer and having to pay for any rescue efforts.

071615

Arrowhead Media
AZ Business Gazette
Cir: 1,565
Phoenix, AZ

#49

WEST VALLEY

Gila River restoration plans revived

SUSIE STECKNER

ARIZONA BUSINESS GAZETTE • AZCENTRAL.COM

Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck recalls visiting his grandparent's dairy farm on the banks of the Gila River each summer. The river was a little piece of paradise in the southwest Valley: large, healthy cottonwood trees dotted the banks, fish, turtles and birds called the area home, and clear water flowed freely.

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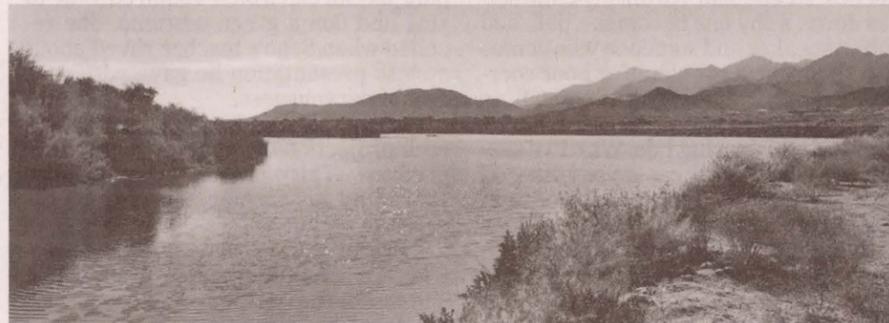
The Gila River of Meck's youth is today far from paradise. Invasive salt cedar trees are choking the river, creating serious and costly environmental and economic problems. Public safety is threatened. Natural habitats are disrupted. Recreation is stunted.

But a decade-old plan to restore a 17-mile stretch of the Gila River from Buckeye to Avondale has been revived, with hopes the meandering waterway will one day bring new development and recreation opportunities to the West Valley.

The massive project includes many complex components, such as constructing a new levee, battling the invasive salt cedars and protecting endangered species. The project also hinges on hundreds of millions in funding and partnerships between multiple public and private landowners.

Advocates acknowledge that clearing these hurdles is daunting and will take years. But they say restoring the Gila River is vital to the region. The plan will have far-reaching impact in terms of flood control, wildfire prevention and water conservation, as well as economic growth.

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MARICOPA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Backers of El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, which has an estimated cost of more than \$300 million, want to foster a riparian habitat along the Gila River from Avondale to Buckeye.

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The plan has moved along in fits and starts, but largely stalled because of the sagging economy. Two notable efforts have moved forward to address the salt cedars that are choking the Gila River, said Jen Pokorski, the flood control district's ombudsman and citizen advocate.

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the 17-mile stretch. A plan being drafted will address how best to remove the trees, how to revegetate, what areas to target and more. The plan, funded by a grant from the Gila River Indian Community, is expected to be available this fall. A final plan should be in place in early 2016.

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071815

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Republic
Phoenix, AZ

#50

WEST VALLEY SOUNDOFF

How West Valley cities prepare for the monsoon

The Republic regularly asks West Valley leaders to share their thoughts on issues, and this week's question is about monsoon season.

Question: How has your city prepared for the monsoon, and are there any services your city offers to help residents get homes and businesses storm-ready?



Jamie Aldama

Glendale

Glendale's cable channel, Glendale 11 in partnership with CBS 5, produced a 30-minute TV show which provides viewers with information about the monsoon, safety tips and local resources for emergencies. This can be viewed at www.glendaleaz.com

When heavy rains and potential flooding are predicted, sand and sandbags are available free to the public at the following locations:

- » Bonsall Park North, 59th Ave. & Bethany Home Rd.
- » City of Glendale Community Center North, 14061 N. 59th Ave.
- » Glendale Fire Department Support Services, 7501 N. 55th Ave.

Citizens must bring their own shovels.

Important numbers to keep readily available during monsoon season:

- » Report downed trees and road hazards during regular business hours: 623-930-2656 and 602-582-6814 after hours and on weekends.
- » Special bulk-trash pick-up following a storm: 623-930-2660.

I encourage our residents to visit the city's website, which includes specific monsoon preparedness information.

—City Councilman Jamie Aldama



Georgia Lord

Goodyear

The safety of our residents is always a top priority for Goodyear, and we take steps throughout the year to make sure we are prepared for the monsoon season.

We establish and maintain partnerships with key agencies and organizations that will help respond to emergency situations. Our qualified staff ensure that all of our equipment is properly maintained and

they are able to remove trees, debris and other storm damage from streets as quickly as possible.

When a storm occurs, we have crews available during non-working hours to address emergencies, and we keep our residents informed through our website, social media and email blasts.

—Mayor Georgia Lord



Cathy Carlat

Peoria

Cities are in the business of protecting citizens, and emergency preparedness is something we take very seriously.

Peoria's Police, Fire and Public Works Departments prepare extensively to respond to every kind of emergency our community could face. We have plans to respond to flood and dam activity and we monitor historical data so we can be ready to close areas preemptively.

Our preparedness team is active, regularly conducting drills and constantly reviewing to make sure all parts work together seamlessly. Our goal is first to keep our residents safe, and then to protect property and land.

—Mayor Cathy Carlat



Sharon Wolcott

Surprise

In Surprise, we work hard to inform and keep our residents safe.

Our website, surpriseaz.gov/monsoon, offers a variety of storm safety tips, including reminders to avoid driving through flooded washes and to pull aside during a dust storm with your car lights off and foot off the brake.

The site also contains information on what to do if your power goes out and a map of the 10 locations around the city where residents can fill sandbags in the event of flooding. In addition, our Public Works crews are on call 24 hours a day to check for downed trees and debris during the monsoon.

Finally, during major storm events, the city can open our Emergency Operations Center in which all of our department personnel gather and work together to assist residents in need.

—Mayor Sharon Wolcott

#51

071915

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ



COURTESY OF 12 NEWS

Heavy rain on Saturday caused severe flooding in Wickenburg. ADOT and the state DPS, along with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, were trying to help clear roads.

Flooding overwhelms areas of Wickenburg

ALEXA D'ANGELO
AND GARRETT MITCHELL

THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Floodwaters swept RVs and vehicles away and poured into structures in Wickenburg on Saturday evening after heavy rain pounded the area.

The flooding, due in part to an overflowing Sols Wash, damaged business and residential structures. The water swept away part of Constellation Road, making it impossible for people to go in either direction, according to an employee of a nearby mobile-home park.

Floodwaters could be seen washing around horse trailers and recreational vehicles as they flowed downstream toward the Hassayampa River and lapping into outbuildings and corrals.

Up to 3 inches of rain was reported in the area, with the possibility of more storms hitting overnight.

There were power outages throughout the downtown late Saturday night, and businesses were shuttered.

At Wickenburg Way, west of downtown, resident Shelbie Blank said her house "kind of flooded." She added, "We live on a hill, and the water pooled and started coming inside."

Roads were being cleared of mud and debris with help from the state departments of Public Safety and

Transportation, and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation.

Authorities in Wickenburg said Saturday night that they were too busy coping with the flooding to immediately answer media questions.

The flooding came after a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for Maricopa County and northern Pinal County by the National Weather Service at about 4:45 p.m. Saturday.

U.S. 60 was closed in both directions at Milepost 111, just east of El Recreo Drive in Wickenburg, because of the flooding, according to ADOT.

Earlier, several areas in Buckeye were left without power due to storm-related conditions. APS reported three outages in the area, affecting Yuma Road and 218th Avenue through 232nd Avenue and Jackrabbit Road. More than 1,000 customers were affected.

The storm also closed State Route 72 from Mileposts 13 to 46 due to flooding, according to ADOT.

Earlier, ADOT reported low visibility on Interstate 10 between Tucson and Phoenix due to a dust storm.

Blowing dust was also reported in Buckeye and Coolidge, with gusty winds at about 40 mph.

The Weather Service predicted a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms Sunday, mainly after 11 a.m.

072015

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

#52



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

Tammy Heath (left) and Vern Crissman help dig mud out of a home in Wickenburg that flooded on Saturday for a second time in a year.

Destruction, debris and community in Wickenburg

GARRETT MITCHELL
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

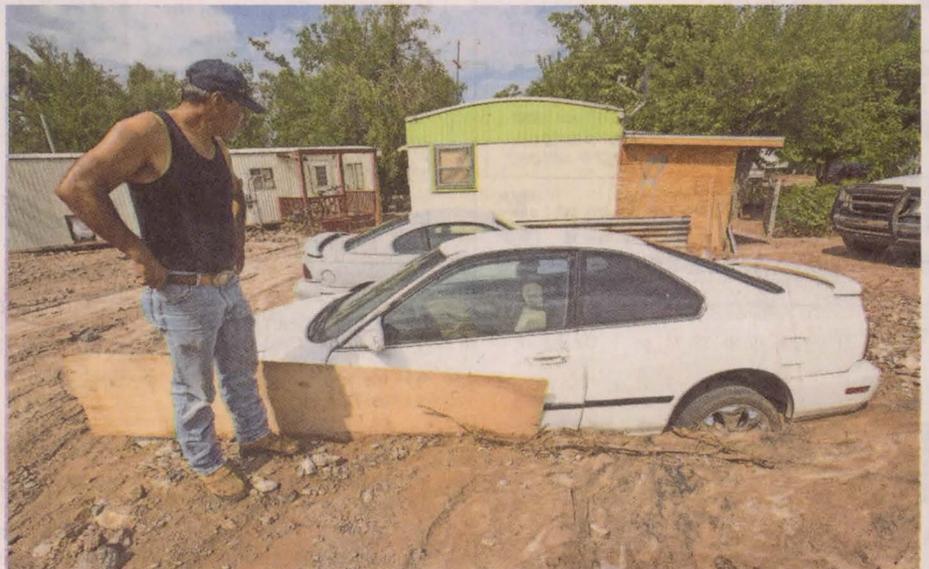
Wickenburg residents were digging out debris, trudging through mud and assessing damage to their homes Sunday after a monsoon storm sent floodwaters coursing through neighborhoods Saturday evening.

The flooding, due to overflowing washes, damaged both business and residential structures, though an official total had not been calculated as of Sunday evening, according to Josh Wright, Wickenburg's town manager. No injuries or rescues were reported.

Crews worked through the night and into the day to clear roadways, restoring normal traffic flow on most streets.

The National Weather Service logged more than three inches of rain in the area Saturday in just a few hours.

One of the areas most affected by the



Tim Guzman examines his cars, which became trapped in mud after floodwaters washed through Aztec Village RV and Mobile Home Park in Wickenburg during Saturday's storm.

See **FLOODING**, Page 8A



PATRICK BREEN/THE REPUBLIC
Kids bring home fans to help remove water from houses in Wickenburg devastated by flooding after Saturday's storm.

Flooding

Continued from Page 3A

downpour was a neighborhood along Constellation Road, a hilly, tiered street where front lawns are now sodden with mud.

Tony Hill has lived at the base of Constellation Road for 36 years. The thoroughfare suffered major damage from the floodwaters that overflowed adjacent washes and poured into many of the neighborhood's houses.

Hill, 70, said Saturday's downpour sounded like a "roar" as two feet of water entered his home.

With his cuffed denim jeans covered in mud, Hill pointed to the inside of his home, which had 2 inches of the sticky earth wedded to the floor. Furniture was scattered throughout and lights remained on despite bent power poles outside.

"There was so much destroyed — so many memories," he said. "If I were a young man, it wouldn't matter to me, but I'm heartbroken for my wife."

Hill said that since a flood last year, he'd made efforts to combat excessive water by creating a berm around his property.

It was ultimately leveled by Saturday's waters.

"I've been telling the city for years to expand the wash," he said, taking his aviator sunglasses off and pointing to the long stretch of sand and mud in front of his property.

"But I bet it's about 15 feet wider since last night," he said.

Outside Hill's home, Paul Russell, who owns his own backhoe, came out to clear 3 feet of mud, dirt and debris from outside the house.

"The city's actually here and they're running ragged, so they've been working on a lot of the main roads," Russell said. "They're just buried."

Farther down Constellation Road, Hill's longtime neighbor Midori Sass sat on top of a blue cooler in her driveway. Her eyes locked onto her front yard, where mud and residue from the floodwaters landed.

"I'm devastated," she said. "(The water) was so massive, and it took just seconds for it to gush from the front of my house to the back."

Town Manager Wright said the community will work with the Maricopa County Flood District to better protect the area, adding that in-depth studies would be necessary to create an adequate solution.

"The area doesn't have a significant, long history in flooding," Wright said. "We'll have to make the road and its drainage area accommodate the flow of water."

Wright said the town's immediate goal was to make major roads passable. Members of the community helped friends and neighbors sort through the effects of the overflow.

"There's a lot of people out there who help when things like this occur," Wright said. "People in Wickenburg step up to help out."

Red Cross volunteer Joy Richards came from Phoenix to offer relief to those affected by the storm. The Red Cross has opened a shelter at Wickenburg Community Center in the downtown area.

Richards said the organization was helping residents to "alleviate their circumstances."

Volunteers made the rounds to areas hit hardest during the storm, meeting with residents and providing cleanup kits and instructional pamphlets for what they can do to assess property damage.

Richards said Wickenburg's response was unlike that of a big city's as neighbors came together to offer food and shelter for each other.

"They really take care of their own here," she said.

#53

Monsoon hammers Wickenburg

WICKENBURG, Ariz. (AP) - Several communities northwest of Phoenix were trying to put themselves back together Sunday after monsoon storms flooded streets and bent steel utility poles like aluminum cans.

The National Weather Service says between 1 and 4 inches of rain fell

in and around Wickenburg Saturday afternoon in a 90-minute period.

The nearby cities of Wittman and Morristown were also battered.

Rain flooded at least two washes in Wickenburg, sending floodwaters into neighborhoods.

Some homes were flooded but there have been no reports of inju-

ries. Arizona Public Service says more than 2,000 customers lost power.

As of Sunday, about 100 were still waiting for service to be restored.

APS says crews are working nonstop to replace more than 40 power poles.

Wickenburg is about 65 miles northwest of Phoenix.

072215

Arrowhead Media
East Mesa Independent
Apache Junction, AZ

#54



Special to the Independent/City of Mesa

The west entry monument sign into Mesa, according to documents provided to the city council.

\$10 million Southern Avenue streetscape improvements contract approved

Staff reports

Independent Newspapers

The Mesa City Council on July 8 approved a \$10,070,897.19 contract with Haydon Building Corp. with a \$503,544.86 contingency for change orders for a Southern Avenue improvements project from the Tempe Canal to Sycamore.

It is the second project from the city's Fiesta District Implementation Plan along Southern and includes the replacement of water and gas lines and storm drain improvements to help alleviate flooding in the area, according to the meeting agenda at <http://mesa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. The project will include a variety of improvements from the Tempe Canal to Sycamore to support this concept and will also include the replacement of water and gas lines, and storm drain improvements to help alleviate flooding in the area, according to the agenda.

Funding is available from the 2013 Street Bond Program, the 2014 Water Bond Program and the 2014 Gas Bond Program. Additional funding for this project is being provided by the Salt River Project Municipal Aesthetics Program, according to the agenda.

"Part of the 2008 bond package was for the phase one of the Southern Avenue Fiesta District streetscape improvements. We're currently coming forward with the

construction contract to build the second phase. It's approximately the same length as the first phase," Beth Huning, city engineer, said to the council at a July 1 study session, according to live streaming video of the study session on Cox Cable Channel 11.

"We'll be continuing on with some of the elements you saw in the first phase," she said.

They include bus stops, light poles, pavement markings, pathways and welcome-to-Mesa monument signs, Ms. Huning said.

"We'll be starting construction as soon as we get the contract approved and continuing forward with that project," she said to the council.

Additional funding for the project is being provided by the Salt River Project Municipal Aesthetics Program, according to a council report written by Ms. Huning and Rob Kidder, assistant city engineer. "This program will fund the improvements at the Tempe Canal and the conversion of the overhead 12kV power lines to underground (these are the lower power lines on the existing poles; the 69kV lines at the top of the poles will remain). The Tempe Canal improvements will be done by Haydon Building Corp., with the cost reimbursed to the city. The 12kV power line conversion will be bid by SRP to one of their approved contractors," according to the council report.

#55

Buckets of rain

Torrential monsoon brings roaring flood

By Jeanie Williams
Editor

Long after flood waters subside, Wickenburg area residents will remember the sky opening up Saturday evening dumping a dangerous deluge, ripping out roads and filling homes and businesses with water, sand and debris.

Maricopa County Flood Control District (MCFCD) reported the heaviest rainfall at 5.2 inches in the Twin Peaks area, six miles southwest of Wickenburg. The storm rolled in around 5 p.m. and rain continued for about 90 minutes. News helicopters from Phoenix began to swarm the skies; the Town of Wickenburg set up a command post; and police and firemen received more calls than they could answer all at once.

According to Fire Chief Ed Temerowski the fire department received 12 calls in less than three hours.

"Resources were thin," Temerowski told Town Council on Monday evening. "There were multiple gas leaks, power poles down and a car accident in the middle of all this, but we managed well. My crew did an excellent job."

In addition to all the calls, WFD and Maricopa County Flood Control were watching Wickenburg's three flood retardant dams very closely.

"All three dams reached above the 50 percent level," Temerowski said. "They were monitored visually and electronically."

According to Temerowski, one dam reached the 75 percent level, causing concerns.

"But we had eyes on it, and it reaffirmed to me that the flood control measures worked," he reported.

All three dams continue to be monitored closely, and when the water subsides, will be dredged, he said.

During the storm, no swift water rescues were required, and no injuries were reported. The landscape didn't fare as well. The amount of water dumping from the huge black cloud created so much run-

off that washes jumped their banks and the Hassayampa roared with huge waves of chocolate-brown water and debris. Cemetery Wash, which skirts Turtleback Mountain, was out of control, sweeping the paved Via Tortuga crossing completely away, leaving only concrete rubble on one side and a 10 to 12-foot vertical drop on the other. Meanwhile, flood water rolled into the Simpson Ranch area on S. Tegner. News reports and multiple social media sources showed the river all but overtaking Simpson's property for a time. The railroad track in the same area suffered damage, and trains were halted.

Meanwhile, downtown the streets became rivers. US 60 was closed for a time because the water was too deep to navigate with anything but a boat. Many businesses suffered damage from the overflowing streets. The west side of town was threatened as well as water reportedly swept through the industrial park and came close to jumping into mobile home parks.

In the area of Constellation Road and El Recreo Drive, it was a repeat of similar flooding from an isolated monsoon storm last summer. This time, the water did even more damage to streets, vehicles and homes. On Sunday, many residents were mucking sand, mud and debris out of their houses and hauling away wrecked appliances and furniture; the sidewalk along Constellation Road was undercut for many yards while the surface of the pavement was stacked with at least a foot of sand and river rock; water broke a wall and ruined the garage door of a home; the Jack Burden Road crossing revealed a deep ravine cut by the fast moving water; La Siesta Plaza resembled a mud puddle; El Recreo Drive required heavy equipment to remove the packed sand; and several homes which suffered last summer's storm were

Storm

From the Front Page

again in sad shape.

Further out, Constellation Road was buckled, and huge pieces of asphalt were missing. Road Closed signs were plentiful, and the water line to the rodeo grounds was in pieces.

Wickenburg appears to have suffered the most widespread damage from the storm, but the Morristown and Wittmann areas were also hard hit. MCFCD reported between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall. Winds were severe enough to topple more than 30 power poles along Grand Avenue and close to 20 in the area of Patton Road. A southbound semi and an SUV, which had pulled to the side of Grand Avenue as the storm passed, were trapped when the power lines went down (see photos on Page A-3). Emergency crews responded, and the occupants remained inside their vehicles until APS arrived to ensure the power was off and free them from the wires. The power to most residences in the area was restored before morning.

See Storm Page A-7

072215
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Daily Courier
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Prescott, AZ

#56



Michael Chow/The Arizona Republic via AP
Vern Crissman hugs Laura, no last name given, before helping her dig out her house for the second time in less than a year in Wickenburg on Sunday.

Flood recovery efforts continue in Wickenburg

Special to the Courier

WICKENBURG - Recovery efforts from the weekend's floods continued Monday, with multiple agencies working around the clock to address street and utility damage while providing resources to affected residents.

Town Manager Joshua Wright said in a news release Saturday night's storm dropped between 4 and 5 inches of rain in less than an hour, overtopping washes and flooding several homes. That amount of rain is up from the National Weather Service data of between 1 and 4 inches of rain falling in and around Wickenburg Saturday afternoon in a 90-minute period.

The majority of the damaged structures are in the Vista del Pueblo neighborhood, located north of Highway 60 and east of the Hassayampa River along the Powder House Wash, Wright said.

Town of Wickenburg Public Works crews have logged more than 230 man hours reopening roads, removing debris, and repairing water lines since the storm began, Wright said. The town has contracted local haulers to remove dirt along Constellation Road, Jack Burden Road, and El Recreo Drive, with more than 140 dump truck loads of material removed to date. Constellation Road remains closed to through traffic.

Also significantly impacted was the Simpson Ranch property and adjacent BNSF Railroad tracks, which were flooded by waters from the nearby Cemetery Wash. While the tracks have reopened, South Tegner Street, a private road that leads to the Ranch, remains closed, according to the news release.

Across the community, preliminary estimates indicate 12 structures impacted by flooding, Wright said. That number is anticipated to change as more homeowners are contacted. The town is requesting all impacted property owners call the American Red Cross at (800) 842-7349 to report the extent of their damages.

Resources for affected homeowners are available daily at the Red Cross' Client Assistance Center at the Wickenburg Community Center, 160 N. Valentine St. The center is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. through Friday, July 24. On Thursday, disaster relief and local government agencies will offer a "one-stop shop" at the center for residents to obtain recovery information.

Other areas of Wickenburg narrowly avoided evacuation Saturday night after flood-retarding dams approached capacity. Those engineered structures performed as designed, however, preventing water from spilling into additional neighborhoods.

While the initial response is focused on repairing infrastructure and assisting affected residents, officials are already discussing ways to mitigate future flood events. Those conversations are likely to continue for several months.

The town appreciates the outpouring of support and offers of assistance it has enjoyed from across Arizona over the past two days, Wright wrote.

#57

**MCDOT to improve
Anthem roadway wash
crossings**

ANTHEM – Starting in August, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation will be working on six roadway wash crossings in Anthem.

The MCDOT Anthem Drainage Improvement Project will focus on erosion prevention basins, minor excavation, slope stabilization, and maintenance access. Construction will start in August and should be finished by December.

The project locations are Anthem Way east of N. Venture Drive, Anthem Way west of Freedom Way, Anthem Way east of Freedom Way, Gavilan Peak Parkway north of Summit Walk Drive, Whitman Drive east of Courage Trail, and Venture Drive north of Bryce Way.

During the project, sidewalk and lane restrictions will be required. Motorists are asked to watch for detours and use alternate routes as necessary, and, as always, to obey traffic warnings and drive safely through the construction zones.

For more information, call MCDOT Project Information at (602) 506-3342, e-mail mcdotprojects@maricopa.gov, or go online to www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/projects.

072215

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir. 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

#58



Photo contributed by Pamela/
Lynn Edwards

A gauge on 328th Avenue shows close to 5 inches.



Photos by Jeanie Williams

Rosemary Peterson surveys the damage at Via Tortuga, the road to many residences on Turtleback Mountain. The road was completely wiped out by Cemetery Wash during Saturday evening's storm. Damage in Wickenburg was widespread. Volunteers, utility workers, public works, Red Cross and many others continue to work on recovery. More photos on Pages A-3 and A-5.



Residents on Constellation Road and El Recreo Drive were cleaning up Sunday after Powder House Wash jumped its banks, and flooded several homes with sand, mud and debris. The wash took out water, gas and phone lines and deeply undercut the sidewalk while burying trash cans and other items it had swept out of yards.

Recovery underway on many fronts

Recovery efforts from Saturday's flood continue in Wickenburg, with multiple agencies working around the clock on street and utility damage while providing resources to affected residents.

As of Tuesday morning, Town Public Works crews had logged more than 230 man hours reopening roads, removing debris and repairing water lines since the storm. The Town contracted local haulers to remove dirt along Constellation Road, Jack Burden Road and El Recreo Drive, with more than 140 dump truck loads of material removed as of Monday evening. Constellation Road remains closed

to through traffic.

Also significantly impacted was the Simpson Ranch and adjacent BNSF Railroad tracks, which were flooded by waters from the nearby Cemetery Wash. While the tracks have reopened, South Tegner Street, a private road that leads to the ranch, remained closed as of Tuesday. Across the community, preliminary estimates indicate 12 structures impacted by flooding, according to Town Manager Josh Wright. That number is anticipated to change as more homeowners are contacted. The Town is

See Recovery Page A-7

Recovery

From the Front Page

requesting all impacted property owners call the American Red Cross at (800) 842-7349 to report the extent of their damages.

Resources for affected homeowners are available daily at the Red Cross' Client Assistance Center at the Wickenburg Community Center, 160 N. Valentine St. The center is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. through Friday, July 24. On Thursday, disaster relief and local government agencies will offer a "one-stop shop" at the center for residents to obtain recovery information.

Areas of Wickenburg narrowly avoided evacuation, Wright said. "While the initial response is focused on repairing infrastructure and assisting affected residents, officials are already discussing ways to mitigate future floods. Those conversations are likely to continue for several months.

"The Town appreciates the outpouring of support and offers of assistance it has enjoyed from across Arizona over the past two days," Wright said.

Large chunks of Constellation Road washed away, along with the water line to the rodeo grounds.

Photo by Jeanie Williams



SOUNDOFF

What are top infrastructure needs in West Valley?

The Republic regularly asks West Valley leaders to share their thoughts on issues, and this week's question comes in the wake of the bridge collapse on Interstate 10 in California on Sunday.

Question: What is the most pressing infrastructure need in your community?



Avondale

Aging infrastructure is a challenge in many communities, including Avondale.

Like all things, roads, sidewalks, and water and sewer lines have a life span. As they near the end of that life span, we need to replace and repair or risk a reduced level of service to residents.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are used for a number of programs in our city. For every dollar we receive in CDBG funding, another \$3 in local and private investment is leveraged to enhance our existing infrastructure needs.

Unfortunately, CDBG funding has been reduced by 25 percent since 2009. These funds, combined with other funding, can be used to repair city streets, sidewalks, and replace waterlines before they rupture causing possible water outages.

Add in federal proposals to pare back or eliminate the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, which is the only way communities can finance large-scale capital projects, and we face the potential of a significant failure in our infrastructure.

— Mayor Kenn Weise

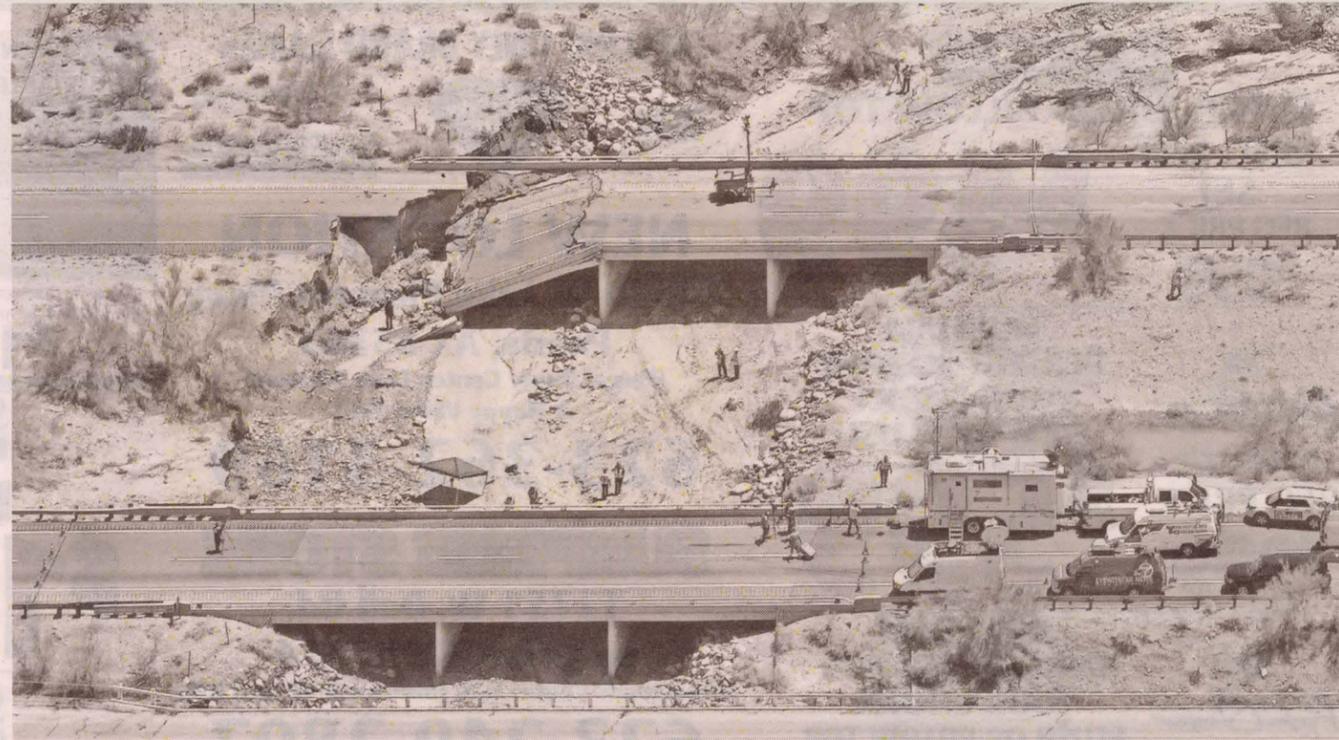


Buckeye

Buckeye can relate to the California issues; the flood and the freeway fire. Buckeye is in need of immediate removal of the salt cedar trees, especially along the State Route 85. In the event of a fire or flood, that bridge that services 10,000 cars a day would be closed or destroyed, effecting traffic and emergency response into the Lewis Prison. Visit www.gilariverprojects.com for the full story.

— Mayor Jackie Meck

A major issue is the width of Interstate 10 from Verrado Way west to at least State Route 85. It is one of most deadly stretches of the I-10 in our state.



Water from a storm Sunday caused a bridge on eastbound Interstate 10 in California to collapse, raising concern about bridges elsewhere. AP

We also have the Salt Cedar tree growth in the Gila River from Avondale west past SR-85.

SR-85 runs from the I-10 south to the I-8 at Gila Bend.

The Salt Cedar are an invasive species that is not even native to the United States. Each tree sucks up about 300 to 400 gallons of water a day. Buckeye, along with many others, have been working for years to get cooperation from those that control the Gila River to allow us to remove the trees. SR-85 runs over the top of the Gila River and the Salt Cedar at that location are now growing as high as the bridge bed or higher.

If there were a fire in the river basin like the recent one in Kearny, the heat from the fire will most likely cause the bridge to buckle. If this were to happen, SR-85 could be closed for months.

We desperately need the Salt Cedars removed from the Gila River not only to prevent a possible buckling of the bridge but for the water savings from the thousands of Salt Cedar that suck it up every day.

— Councilman Craig Heustis



Glendale

Glendale Engineering staff is working on several projects that are intended to service and maintain the infrastructure and keep areas of attention from becoming "pressing." A consultant was secured through ADOT to inspect all the bridges in Glendale. Plans and specifications were developed to address the highest priority recommendations from the report and construction will begin on Aug. 10.

As part of the council approved Pavement Management Program, city staff is managing the engineering and construction of over \$15 million of street and paving improvements in FY 2015 and 2016.

Drainage improvements are being identified as a result of a weather event last September. As studies are completed and advanced to design phase, construction is expected to begin in early 2016.

The Legislature has used a road-ded-

icated gas tax to balance the state's general fund budget for five years, leaving a multi-billion dollar shortfall and immediate need for highway safety and improvement.

— Councilman Gary Sherwood



Peoria

In our Citizens Survey, 98 percent of the residents said they would recommend living in Peoria to someone who asks. I believe one of the reasons residents think so highly of Peoria is our commitment to conservatively reinvest in existing infrastructure including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems. This is done through ongoing, proactive maintenance, repair and replacement programs.

Because Peoria is a dynamic and growing community, our challenge is to stay ahead of the transportation, and water service needs. This includes extending water services and improving our

See SOUNDOFF, Page 7

Soundoff

Continued from Page 7

roadway system to meet the needs of our current and future citizens.

— Mayor Cathy Carlat



Surprise

The I-10 collapse speaks to the general condition of America's infrastructure, which has long been neglected. Twenty years ago, as a member of the Minnesota Legislature, I spoke out about the need to put safety first and in-

vest in that state's key bridges. Twelve years after that warning, the I-35W Bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River killing 13 people and injuring 145.

For young communities like Surprise, we need to make certain the projects we invest in today are accomplished with a long view in mind. These investments cannot happen without partnership between state and local transportation agencies and the federal government.

The I-10 incident should serve as a reminder that our infrastructure must be designed and maintained in such a way to keep commerce moving and most importantly, our people safe.

— Mayor Sharon Wolcott

Voices for rural Arizona

2 Buckeye men selected to participate in leadership program

by Jeannette Cruz
staff writer

Ed Gerak, general manager of the Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District, and Paul Heiden, manager at the Heiden Land and Cattle Co. in Buckeye, are taking part in Class XXIV of the Center for Rural Leadership.

The Center for Rural Leadership, also known as Project CENTRL is an intensive one-year

educational program that promotes personal and professional leadership development experience to serve and provide a voice for rural communities in Arizona.

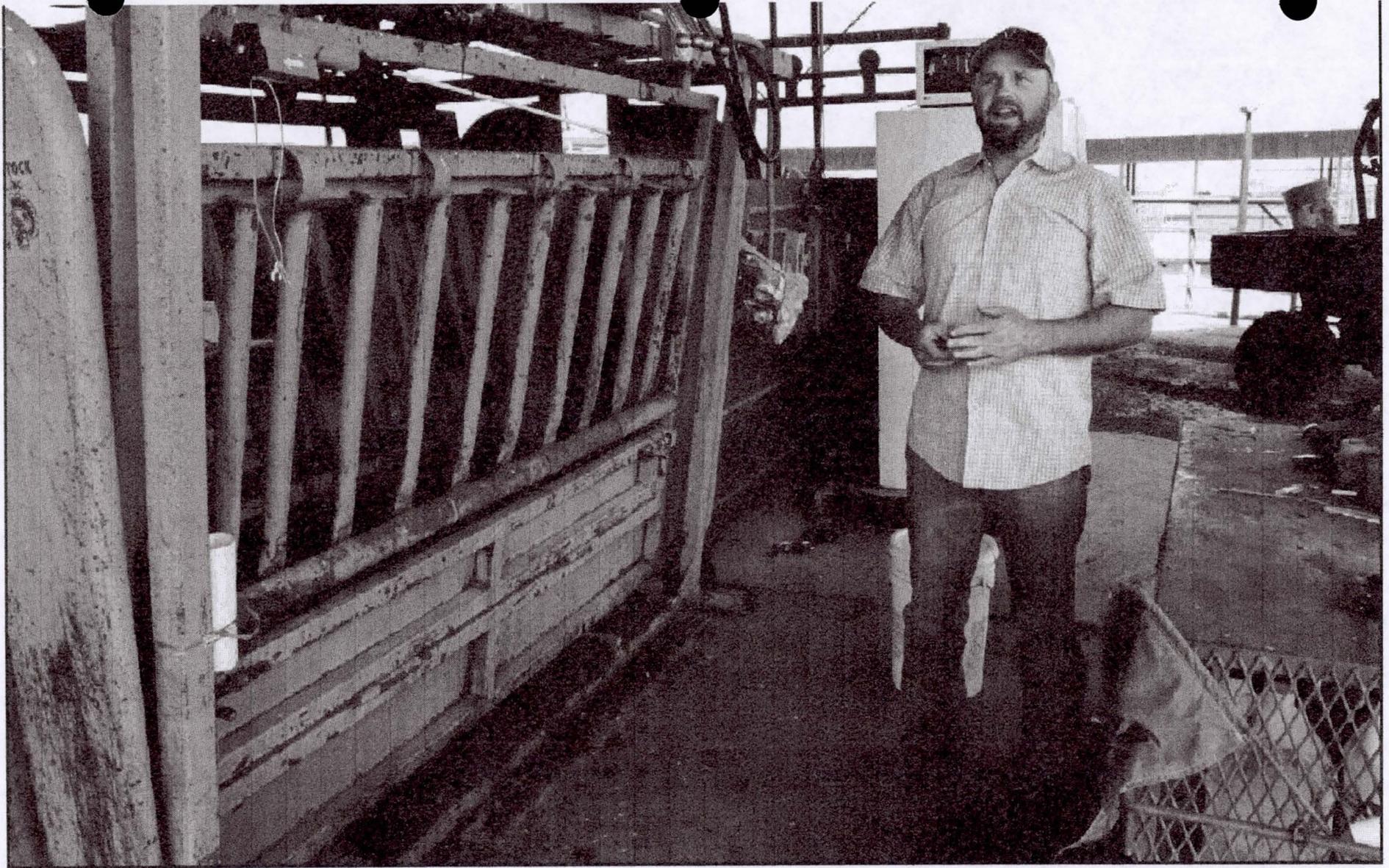
The nonprofit operates in partnership with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

Over the next year, Gerak and Heiden will attend a series of six seminars held throughout Arizona, a six-day public policy

trip to Washington D.C., and a five-day international study tour in Mexico. Seminar topics will include fundamentals of leadership, communication, community and economic development; managing natural resources; focus on social issues, border, immigration, labor and food-supply dynamics; and state and national

(See Voices on Page 3)

#100



View photo by Jordan Christopher

PAUL HEIDEN, a fourth-generation Buckeye cattle rancher, talks about being selected for Project CENTRL July 24 at his farm. Project CENTRL focuses on promoting rural leadership in Arizona.

Voices

(From Page 1)

public-policy formation.

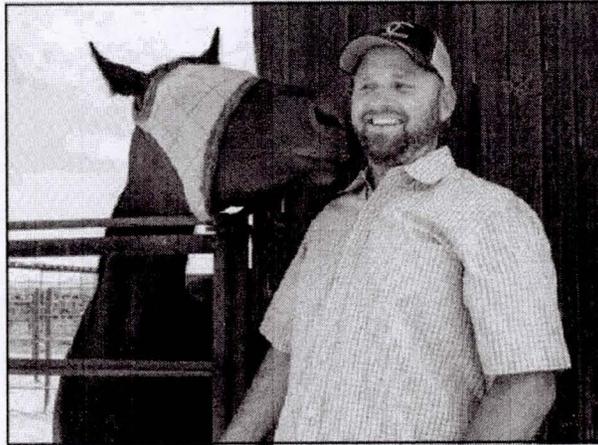
Gerak and Heiden attended the first seminar for Class XXIV June 25-27 at the Crown Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort in Chandler. The seminar touched on leadership development.

One component of the seminar was to learn how to give a 30-second elevator pitch, Gerak said.

"The skills they taught were to understand your situation, what matters to the person you are talking to and give them three bullet points of your resume," he said. "I can see the benefits, especially with meeting new people and trying to establish rapport."

Gerak spent the first eight years of his career in the building industry, primarily in concrete, before becoming manager at BWCDD, where he replaced Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck, former general manager of the drainage district.

He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in civil engineering with a specialization in construction management from the University of Michigan, and a master's in business from Arizona State University.



Although Gerak initially hoped for a career in construction, he realized the job would require a lot of traveling, which took away from being able to start a family, he said.

Now, married with twins, Gerak said he enjoys the Buckeye atmosphere.

"Buckeye is great because it still has that small-town feel even though it's growing rapidly," Gerak, who is originally from Michigan, said. "There are great people,

in the West Valley in general, and I enjoy the values that these people have."

BWCDD owns and operates the Buckeye Canal, and delivers nearly 130,000 acre-feet of irrigation annually to local farmlands.

Taking it forward

Heiden, a fourth-generation farmer and rancher, sought Project CENTRL as an opportunity to push the agricultural system forward.

"It's getting smaller and smaller," he said. "We need stronger leadership to keep it moving forward in rural Arizona. Agriculture is obviously the most important industry, because without it, we'd go hungry."

Although Heiden Land and Cattle Co. in Buckeye has been a family business since the 1940s, Heiden said he would like to learn how to manage his business more effectively and improve his public speaking skills.

Project CENTRL has had more than 600 graduates since it began in 1983, and 16 new participants were selected for Class XXIV.

"There are a lot of alumni from Project CENTRL that have pursued state leadership, and it is a special program in that aspect, especially with the networking connections, but I think Project CENTRL can be valuable for a lot of people — it's not agricultural-based, it's focused on developing leadership," Gerak said.



View photos by Jordan Christopher

(ABOVE) ED GERAK, general manager of the Buckeye Water Conservation District, stands over a canal July 24 in Buckeye. Gerak was selected to participate in Project CENTRL, a one-year educational program that promotes leadership development experience to serve and provide a voice for rural communities in the state. (Below) Buckeye cattle farmer Paul Heiden gets some attention from one of his horses July 24 on his farm. The fourth-generation farmer was also chosen to participate in Project CENTRL.

#61

Aztec flooding raises questions of responsibility

By Patti Jares Slattery
Reporter

After floodwaters roared through Wickenburg on Saturday, July 18, many stepped in to help residents who suffered damage. One obscure area which was hit severely – twice in the past year – is Aztec Village, the small mobile home park that houses 29 people at 401 E. Wickenburg Way. The 40-year-old park slopes downward west of Country Kitchen along Sullivan Street and is virtually unnoticed by passersby.

APS employee volunteers from the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant helped dig out mud, sand and debris from the park following the flood. Meanwhile, discussions reopened between Aztec owner Jim Corbett and manager Beverley Bodioga with the Town of Wickenburg, regarding the town's level of responsibility for flood control and maintenance.

Corbett, a realtor and former town attorney for Wickenburg, approached Town Council July 20 with Bodioga, explaining the severity of the situation and asking council members to view for themselves the damage to the park.

"It's devastating," Corbett said. "There are a number of tenants suffering right now. The mud came in a foot deep in some places...it's mind-boggling for me to see it...I think it's important the council hears this because it's the

partial responsibility of the town of Wickenburg."

The area of responsibility Corbett argues is Sullivan Street, a small road skirting Aztec village and dead-ending at the entrance to Jim Simpson's Ranch. Formerly the Phoenix highway, Sullivan Street now allows access to Aztec Village. During the last two major floods, huge amounts of water have emptied from E. Wickenburg Way onto Sullivan Street, and that water has poured into Aztec Village. Bodioga told the council that she and Corbett sought help from Maricopa County Flood Control last year and were told that nothing could be done until the Town of Wickenburg contacted the county.

Floodplain Management and Services Division Manager Kelli A Sertich confirmed to the *Sun* last week, the county flood control could not act without a request from the town, and to date a request has not been received.

"If we're going to partner with the town, they have to take the lead," said Sertich. "Essentially, the town has to come to us. We couldn't step in. It's their jurisdiction."

One solution offered by Public Works Director Vince Loriface was to sell Sullivan Street to Corbett. He proposed the idea during a private conversation,

See Aztec Page A-3

Aztec

From the Front Page

according to Corbett.

"Let me make this crystal clear," Loriface told the *Sun*. "This was my solution, not the town's solution. The town would basically deed it over and we'd still have an easement for access and utilities. A lot of it comes down to what he wants to do. The town wants to be a partner with him, facilitate discussion."

"There's a solution, but we need an engineer to figure out what needs to be done," said Corbett, who has owned the park for 25 years.

According to Corbett, a wash that ran behind the park once channeled the water from Sullivan Street, through a flap gate that let the water in, flowing across Simpson's pasture and into the Hassayampa River. But according to former public works director Russell Willis, the town filled in the wash sometime after his retirement.

Willis, who was public works director for 37 years, believes the town shares some responsibility of the flood damage because of a lack of maintenance.

"The washes aren't being maintained at all," stated Willis. "The little washes aren't cleared out, so even a small rain causes overflow. There are employees busting their tails, but they don't have anybody showing them what to do."

"We used to clear the drainage between Sundance (Pizza), and take the (Powder House) wash all the way to the river. We trimmed a lot of trees, cleared rights-of-way and cleaned streets a section at a time. I see the waste and nothing being done, and it makes me sick."

According to Wickenburg Town Manager Josh Wright, the town maintains many washes, but numerous washes in the Wickenburg area are on private property and not the responsibility of the town.

"I have the highest respect for Russell Willis," Wright said. "For many, many years he served the community of Wickenburg, but there are a few things to consider here. What I might see with my naked eye as flood control is actually private property, and I don't know if the issue of maintenance could have helped this latest situation. With

that much water flowing down a non-engineered channel, your maintenance protocol is not going to help you."

Wright researched the drainage channel by Sundance Pizza that the town had maintained years before, and found it to be on private property.

"...there does not appear to be any Town maintenance responsibility...we've already spoken with the owner, who understood that maintenance of this area was his responsibility," Wright said.

As far as the wash that once ran flood-water into Jim Simpson's property and out to the Hassayampa River, Wright pointed out that it was years before he was hired as town manager. However, he researched the area and found that the flap gate was privately constructed.

"...there is nothing, on initial review, that indicates the Town has maintenance responsibilities in this area (e.g. right-of-way, a drainage easement, etc.) "However," concluded Wright, "we will be following up on this issue with the property owners to determine if there is work that needs to be done. If the flap gate is determined to be the Town's responsibility, we will address it immediately."

According to Wright, the Town is working on a solution, and encourages residents to make the town aware of locations that need attention so cleanup can be scheduled.

"The town takes its maintenance responsibilities seriously," noted Wright, "and has historically been very prompt in addressing areas of concern."

In the meantime, residents of Aztec are apprehensive about additional damage more monsoon storms might bring. Volunteers spent two days with heavy equipment to uncover asphalt which was buried at least two feet deep. Along with the sand and debris, mud seeped in and made it difficult for residents to leave their property.

"There's asphalt down there somewhere," said Aztec resident Charlie Womack, as he watched a backhoe scraping the main road. "If they leave it just like it is, we're gonna get another flood," he predicted. "No doubt about it."

#62



Photos by Patti Jares Slattery

A volunteer with equipment from Palo Verde Nuclear Plant helps dig out Aztec Village following the July 18 flood.

Volunteers help with aftermath

By Patti Jares Slattery
Reporter

The flood of Saturday, July 18 brought widespread damage to Wickenburg and surrounding areas, but it also brought the best of the best to lend a hand to those who lost much.

While houses were seriously damaged and streets rendered impassable, members of the Wickenburg Fire Department cleared roads, repaired water pipes and scraped mud and debris from houses and property.

The Red Cross set up a station at the Wickenburg Community Center the following Tuesday through the entire week, helping families most affected by the flood.

On Thursday, The Town of Wickenburg facilitated a workshop in conjunction with several organizations including Maricopa County Flood Control, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Red Cross, setting up information booths to answer any questions and educate those seeking answers.

In addition, 60 to 70 APS workers from the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant appeared with heavy equipment the follow-

ing Monday, dredging mud from property and recarving roads buried in some places by more than two feet of sand.

Spearheaded by APS employee and Buckeye resident Howard Ridenhour, along with longtime resident Hank Nelson, the volunteers focused their attention on badly damaged streets and property in the area of Jack Burden, El Recreo and Constellation roads and the Aztec Village Mobile Home Park on E. Wickenburg Way and Sullivan Street.

In addition, Ridenhour's wife Misty, along with Wickenburg resident Tina O'Connor drove to the most damaged and secluded areas, knocking on doors and offering the plant's heavy equipment to clear their property. They also volunteered their labor.

The following Tuesday, 40 volunteers from the APS crew returned to concentrate their efforts on Aztec Village.

"The chief nuclear officer at the plant talked to us about our commitment to the community," said Ridenhour. "This is how we roll."

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Arrowhead Media
Fountain Hills Times
Cir: 6,000
Fountain Hills A7

#63

Will Saguaro be done on time?

Lanes now switched over, so work should go faster

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

With all traffic switched over to the southbound lanes, Nesbitt Contracting and the Town of Fountain Hills are expecting smooth sailing for the remainder of the Saguaro Boulevard reconstruction project.

Although there are just three months remaining on the nine-month construction calendar, town Development Services Director Paul Mood notes that the remainder of the work is all paving related with underground drainage completed.

"The remaining work will go much faster," Mood

said.

Mood said that barring significant weather issues or encountering unknown utilities, Nesbitt should have no trouble meeting the deadline.

Working north to south the work will be done in three sections – Fountain Hills Boulevard to El Lago Boulevard, El Lago to Malta Drive and then on to Trevino Drive.

The project calls for the old asphalt to be removed along with any previous base material and the road bed taken down to about 12 inches.

The old asphalt is being ground on the site to be

(cont. on page 12A)



Contractors lay down the final segments of asphalt to the southbound lanes of Saguaro Boulevard near La Montana Drive. Photos by Earthwhile Films & Photography courtesy of the Town of Fountain Hills.



A unique view of the work looking over the shoulder of the man operating the asphalt spreader.



Workers have begun construction on the new three-pool fountain located in the Avenue Plaza at the intersection with Saguaro Boulevard.

Saguaro

(cont. from page 1A)

returned as a portion of the new base material. An initial new layer of asphalt 1.5 inches thick will be then put in place.

The southbound lanes are completed to that stage at this time with the first coat of new pavement. An additional 1.5 inches of asphalt will be the finish coat. That will be done on both sides around the second and third week in October, according to Mood.

The last week in October the contractor will be working to raise water valves and manhole covers and striping the pavement.

Nesbitt has asked for and been granted permission to work Saturdays during the final 90 days of

the project. Mood said he believes that work will be limited to milling and grading.

"They won't do work that needs to be inspected on the weekend," Mood said.

The new traffic signals at Saguaro and Palisades/Panorama were installed last week.

New street lighting is being installed at Saguaro and Avenue of the Fountains to improve pedestrian safety.

Also improving pedestrian safety is the extension of median curbs and crossing cutouts at Saguaro and the Avenue.

Work is currently being done on the new fountain on the Avenue at Saguaro, but that work is independent of the paving project.

Mood said he has heard from the Maricopa County Flood Control District that

they are about to advertise for bids on the Ashbrook Wash crossing improvements.

"They believe construction on that project will begin early to mid-October," Mood said.

That will create an additional period of crossover traffic over a short distance while that work is being done.

Mood said he expects to be showing the council the proposal for the annual pavement management program in September. He said that would include mill and overlay work near McDowell Mountain Elementary and Fountain Hills Charter schools during fall break.

Residents can get information regarding the Saguaro project by following on the website at www.saguaroblvd.com.

#64

072915

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

Working together through storms helps us prepare for future events

On July 18, Wickenburg was reminded of Mother Nature's power when as many as five inches of rain fell in less than an hour, inundating homes and tearing up roads. While it was over quickly, the storm was also terrifying and stretched the limits of our flood control systems.

When all was said and done, approximately 33 structures - 29 homes and four businesses - were damaged. An estimated \$250,000 in immediate infrastructure repairs is necessary, with many more expenses to come. Residents' lives and livelihoods suffered as they tried to put the pieces back together.

But Wickenburg's response to the storm also demonstrated what makes us a resilient community. Helping each other is second nature to those of us who live here, but often surprising in areas around the country that watched the scene play out on television.

Neighbors took care of each other, checking on friends as though they were family and lending a hand to scrape mud out of water-damaged homes. In Wickenburg, you don't have to ask for help - it just arrives when you need it most.

The Town of Wickenburg's emergency services personnel responded in outstanding fashion. Just as we've rehearsed many times, our Police, Fire, and Public Works departments knew exactly where to be and when to ensure residents' safety. In the end, we can all be thankful that there was no loss of life, no reported injuries, no rescues, and no mandatory evacuations.

In the days following the storm, Town employees logged hundreds of hours reopening streets, repairing water lines, and working with partners like the American Red Cross to see that residents had access to resources. Major infrastructure repairs already started this past weekend.



Town Manager's Update Josh Wright

Our efforts won't end there. In the coming days, weeks, and months, we'll be working with federal, state, and county governments to obtain as many resources as possible for residents and businesses to repair damage.

More important, we'll be working with partners like the Flood Control District of Maricopa County to determine how to ensure these types of flood events don't happen again.

Those partnerships have worked before. Flood control infrastructure built over the last several decades performed as it should during the July 18 storm, with the Sunset and Casandro dams holding back water that otherwise would have forced evacuations in many neighborhoods.

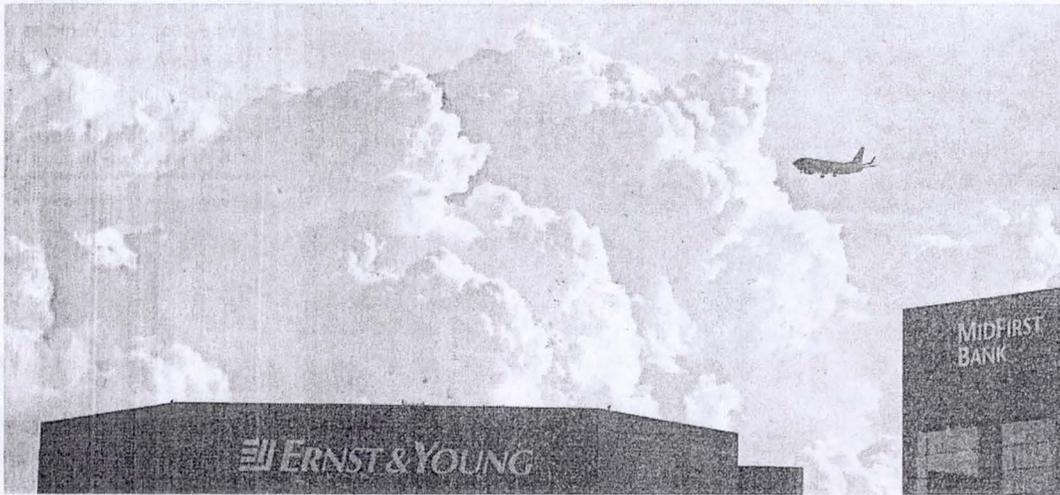
After any disaster, it's natural to ask "Why?" and look for someone to hold accountable. Pointing fingers in this situation won't help anyone, though. The reality is much more complicated, with new weather patterns, a changing watercourse, and privately-owned washes all playing a role.

The solutions to these types of problems are never easy, quick or cheap.

Just as we've had to work together to recover from this storm, we'll also have to work together to figure out how to make sure we're prepared the next time one hits.

#65

WEATHER TOPICS



ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

Thunderheads build near Phoenix, where rainfall is nearly a half inch below normal this season.

Monsoon 2015 off to spotty start

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Roughly halfway through the monsoon season, Phoenix is about half an inch below normal rainfall levels, while rain gauges in other parts of the state are riding high.

Ken Drozd, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Tucson, said it's the way the monsoon works.

"That is a feature of the monsoon; it produces spotty rainfall," Drozd said.

Southeast Arizona is usually prime for monsoon rain. However, some spots there have been drenched, while

others remained relatively dry before Tuesday's storms.

Tucson Airport saw 2.38 inches of rain from June 15 (the start of the designated monsoon season) through July 28. That's .02 inches below normal levels. However, 1.51 inches of that rain fell during Tuesday storms.

Meanwhile, Nogales has recorded 3.22 inches (normal is 4.14), Douglas 5.38 inches (normal is 2.9) and Sierra Vista 5.8 inches (normal is 2.9).

In the Phoenix area, the totals have also been spotty.

As of July 28, Sky Harbor Airport had an official measurement of .47 inches of rain,

.60 inches below normal. Several other parts of the Valley have received only a trace of rain since June 15.

Chandler Airport has recorded .32 inches, Florence Dam 1.03 inches and Wickenburg Airport 4.64 inches, according to Maricopa County Flood Control District data.

Drozd said the signs point to more consistent activity in August and September. There are better chances for near-normal to above-normal precipitation statewide.

The lack of rain in Phoenix so far wasn't unexpected.

"It's kind of a fickle month," Drozd said.

#66

073015

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

Q&A

Where did all the water from the Wickenburg flood go? What river did it end up in?

On July 18, storms dumped more than four inches of rain on Wickenburg in less than an hour.

The flash floods from all that water in such a short period of time caused washes in the area to overflow, resulting in extensive damage throughout the city.

The washes are meant to flow into the Hassayampa River, which is normally dry. As a result of the flood waters that day, the river was flowing at a rate of about 6,000 cubic feet per second, according to the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

While some parts of the city experienced flooding, others were spared by dams designed to lessen the floods' impact. Some of those dams neared their capacity during the storm, but they did not overflow. The dams slowly release the water through a storm drain system into the Hassayampa River.

The situation in Wickenburg on that day is an example of the dangers of flash floods, even in developed areas.

The normally dry washes and rivers that people live near can quickly overflow during the downpours that sometimes accompany summer storms. The rain can come so heavily that flood control measures can't keep up. Emergency management officials are always reminding residents not to cross flowing washes and rivers. They can be deceptively deep and swift flowing.

It only takes about six inches of rapidly moving water to sweep a person off their feet and 18-24 inches of rushing water can move most vehicles.

The National Weather Service issues flash flood watches and warnings via NOAA weather radio, cellphone alerts and with the help of media outlets.

Have a weather question? Send it to weldon.johnson@arizonarepublic.com.

Massive monsoon storm soaks Valley



Commuters turn to methods traditional and makeshift in order to stay dry during a monsoon rainstorm Friday in downtown Phoenix.

MICHAEL SCHENNUM/THE REPUBLIC

#167

Flights delayed, traffic snarled, power knocked out

WELDON B. JOHNSON
AND ABIGAIL GOLDER
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

After teasing the Phoenix area for much of the week, the monsoon made its way back into the Valley on Friday afternoon, and in a really big way.

Severe thunderstorms, heavy rain and blowing dust blitzed the Valley throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

The storms grounded planes and caused delays at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. They also knocked out power to thousands of customers from Apache Junction to central Phoenix. And downpours flooded streets in Tempe and other Valley communities.

See **STORMS**, Page 14A



MICHAEL MEISTER/THE REPUBLIC

The rain in downtown was preceded by a dust storm that blew in Friday afternoon.

Missing the monsoon

Friday's rainfall: 0.62 inches

The rest of July: 0.31 inches

Monthlong record for July:
6.47 inches (1911)

More online

For up-to-the-minute weather reports and complete forecasts, go to weather.azcentral.com.



Friday's Valley-wide storm was a supersoaker. Downtown Phoenix (above) was soggy, and parts of Tempe flooded after getting more than an inch of rain in an hour.

DAVE SEIBERT/THE REPUBLIC

Storms

Continued from Page 1A

A towering wall of dust that blew into downtown Phoenix ahead of the rain made quite an impression on Anirudh Mohanty, who was visiting from India. Mohanty said he had never seen the likes of it.

"We don't live here, so we are not used to it," he said. "We are not prepared."

Ed and Patti Wessel of Naples, Fla., were in town visiting their daughter and took refuge in a downtown restaurant to let the storm blow over.

Ed said he knew it wasn't safe to try to drive through a dust storm.

"We saw the weather and said, 'We better let this pass,'" he said.

The rain made for a messy evening commute as slow-moving storm cells dumped more than an inch of rain on parts of the East Valley. Floodwaters

"We saw the weather and said, 'We better let this pass.' "

ED WESSEL

VISITOR FROM NAPLES, FLA., WHO TOOK SHELTER FROM THE STORM IN A DOWNTOWN PHOENIX RESTAURANT

closed some streets in Tempe, forcing drivers to find alternative routes.

The storms also caused scattered power failures throughout the Valley, though most of the people affected had service restored by 7 p.m.

Of the 3,700 customers in central Phoenix who lost power, all but a handful were back online by early evening.

The leading edge of the storm first struck near Apache Junction early in the afternoon, knocking down power poles and leaving about 1,500 customers still in the dark by early evening. At the height of the power failure, more than 7,500 homes and businesses were without power.

More than an inch of rain fell in an hour near Arizona State University in Tempe, stranding four drivers in a low-

lying area south of campus. A police cruiser helped push Austin Taylor's Volkswagen Passat GTI from the 1½ feet of water that pooled on Mill Avenue just north of Broadway Road.

"It was definitely questionable" as to whether he could make it through, Taylor said. The standing water didn't seem high, but other vehicles passing through created waves.

The severe weather provided a memorable end to what had been a relatively uneventful month of weather in Phoenix.

As of 7 p.m. Friday, Sky Harbor Airport had recorded 0.62 inches of rain, which was more than had fallen in the previous 30 days. Although that brought the monthly total to at least 0.93 inches, it was still far short of the record of 6.47 inches for the month. That record was set

in 1911.

The average temperature for the month, 94.7 degrees, did not place July 2015 among the warmest or coolest Julys on record. It was only the ninth-warmest July in the past 10 years.

The average high temperature of 105.1 degrees was most notable for being exactly 1 degree short of the 30-year normal (106.1) for the month. Before Friday's high of 110 degrees, Phoenix was on track to accomplish the rare feat of making it through July without reaching that temperature.

July's average low was 84.2 degrees, which made it the eighth-warmest July in the past 10 years.

Today's forecast calls for a slight chance — 10 percent — of thunderstorms in the morning, with that chance increasing to 20 percent by nightfall. Expect mostly cloudy skies, with a high of 101 degrees and a low of 83. Sunday is expected to be sunny and slightly warmer, with a high of 104 degrees and a low of 84. That pattern is expected to continue Monday.

#68

Salt cedar trees pose dangers in Buckeye

by Jeannette Cruz
staff writer

As crews worked to repair a California bridge that collapsed July 19 on Interstate 10 after heavy rains, fear and concerns grew over the State Route 85 bridge in Buckeye, because it's surrounded by salt cedar trees.

With 15,000 acres of dense brush and salt cedar trees that have grown above and around the bridge and congested the Gila River, Buckeye officials hope someone will hear their concerns, Mayor Jackie Meck said.

"We do not have [SR85] channeled," Meck said. "Any flood waters or fires that come will take out any farmland and houses. It's not doing that now, but it will do that in the future."

Salt cedars not only kill native trees and plants because of the large amounts of water they consume, but they are also highly flammable, putting surrounding homes, public facilities and roadways at risk, including SR85, which carries traffic to and from Interstate 8.

"Some of the trees are now actually a bit taller than the bridge itself," Buckeye Fire Chief Bob Costello said. "The concern is that they burn very rapidly and very hot, but the concern with the bridge itself is that inside the concrete, there is moisture and when you superheat that moisture, it turns into steam and causes the concrete to fracture. The concrete then acts as an insulator for the steel, and if you expose the steel to excessive heat, it can compromise the structural integrity of the bridge."

Future floodplain delineations show 7,000 acres of land in Buckeye would be affected and at least 200 homes, limiting development and farming, and requiring residents to purchase

Salt cedars

(From Page 1)

costly flood insurance or install home-raising pads between 2 and 8 feet high, Meck said.

Sen. John McCain visited the site over the Gila River south of Buckeye's downtown July 18, saying that eradication of the tall salt cedar trees that loom near the bridge was vital to preventing a dangerous fire and smoke hazard similar to the one that devastated a portion of a California highway last month.

"I drove him to the river, and when he got up on the bridge, he said he had never seen salt cedars this bad," Meck said.

Buckeye officials also showed McCain the Gila River restoration project plan that local, state and federal partners are working on, Meck said.

The decade-old plan to restore the 17-mile long watercourse along the Gila River, called the El Rio Watercourse Plan, was developed in 2005. Partners for the project include the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the cities of Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye.

The plan was developed to restore a portion of the Gila River and improve flood control, said Jennifer Pokorski, a citizen advocate with the county Flood Control District.

It included the construction of a new levee, recreation trails, open water lakes and the removal of salt cedar trees, Pokorski said.

"The idea was to create this amenity for the communities down there, but also to protect the people from flooding," she said. "The levee would be built as

development occurred alongside the river."

In 2008, downturns in the economy made funding tight, and the El Rio plan staggered. In response, the county Flood Control District completed two pilot projects in Goodyear and Buckeye to remove salt cedars and replace them with native species.

"It was a small-scale replacement for us to test methods to see how it would work on a large scale like the Gila River," Pokorski said. "We are developing a plan for that removal and replacement for the whole 17 miles."

The plan draft is expected to be completed in October, Pokorski said.

"It's really a flooding-safety issue from a flooding perspective," Pokorski said. "From our standpoint, what the salt cedar does is it grows so dense that it basically blocks the flow of water in the river and traps a lot of sediment."

Still, before the removal of any trees and the construction of a channel to mitigate possible fires and flood waters, the plan must take permits from the federal government, consent from private land owners and seek federal funds, Pokorski said.

"It is extremely expensive," she said. "It could cost well over \$300 million to replace and remove the salt cedars at this stretch of the river."

Meck, who recalls visiting his grandparents' farmland on the banks of the Gila River as a child, said he used to fish along the running water channel, which was surrounded by cottonwood and willow trees.

"It's never been this bad," he said.

Jeannette Cruz can be reached by email at jcruz@westvalleyview.com.



View photo by Jordan Christopher

THE SR85 BRIDGE in Buckeye, which crosses the Gila River, is overrun by invasive salt cedars. The nonnative trees choke out native species and are a fire hazard.

#69

080515

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

Assistance available for low income residents affected by flood

The Town of Wickenburg has partnered with Maricopa County and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to promote assistance programs for low-income residents affected by recent flooding.

The Maricopa County Home Improvement Program (MCHIP) assists residents by providing funds for rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes. The program can be accessed for emergency repairs as well as major and minor rehabilitation services.

Homeowners must qualify for assistance under United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income guidelines. Generally, combined household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

The MCHIP application form and a table illustrating income guidelines are available at <http://www.hsd.maricopa.gov/Divisions/Community-Development/Housing-Programs/Home-Improvement-Assistance.aspx>. Residents may also contact the County at (602) 506-5911.

The USDA Section 504 Grant Program similarly aids very-low-income residents through funding for repairs or improvements that remove health and safety hazards. Qualifying homes must be owner-occupied, modest, and located in a rural area. The maximum grant award is \$7,500.

The USDA conducts personal visits with all applicants to inspect the severity of the hazard. The Town has provided a list of flood-affected structures to USDA, which will mail the application form directly to homeowners.

Both programs frequently have waiting lists and funding limitations. Residents should apply as soon as possible to expedite review of their applications.

Flood-affected residents who need assistance completing the applications, or who have not received the USDA application by mail within the next several weeks, should contact the Town's Community Development & Neighborhood Services Director, Steve Boyle, at (928) 668-0512 or sboyle@wickenburgaz.org.

Rain, wind wreak havoc in parts of Valley

Storms lead to delays at airports, freeway crashes

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Monsoon storms pelted parts of metro Phoenix with heavy rain and strong winds Friday afternoon, forcing airport delays and wreaking havoc on Valley freeways.

Drier air was expected to move into the Valley on Saturday, reducing the chances of rain over the weekend. Mostly sunny skies are expected, with highs from 101 to 106 and lows in the mid-70s to mid-80s.

Thunderstorms began popping up in the Valley late Friday afternoon, packing strong winds and torrential rain in some areas. Flights at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport were held at their gates or on the taxiways for at least 45 minutes until the storms let up.

The Arizona Department of Transportation reported around a dozen crashes on Valley freeways Friday evening and standing water in some stretches. At one point, there were at least eight crashes reported along Interstate 10 and Loop 202 between central Phoenix and Tempe.

The weather prompted severe-thunderstorm warnings from the National Weather Service for northeastern Maricopa and central Pinal counties. A strong outflow boundary from southern Arizona storms earlier in the day helped spark



DIANA PAYAN/THE REPUBLIC

A pedestrian takes cover from a downpour Friday afternoon in downtown Phoenix. More than half an inch of rain fell in some parts of the city.

the late-afternoon activity.

Reports of storm-inflicted damage included windows blown out in a central Phoenix high-rise, downed trees blocking a roadway in Scottsdale and minor flooding in parking lots in Gilbert.

Some of the heaviest rainfall appeared to be in south Phoenix, central Tempe and east Mesa, according to data from the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. Those areas all received more than half an inch of rain. Around a

quarter-inch of rain fell around Sky Harbor Airport, according to the district.

Parts of Pinal County also saw heavy rain, with more than half an inch reported near Florence. Strong storms were also reported in northern Arizona.

#70

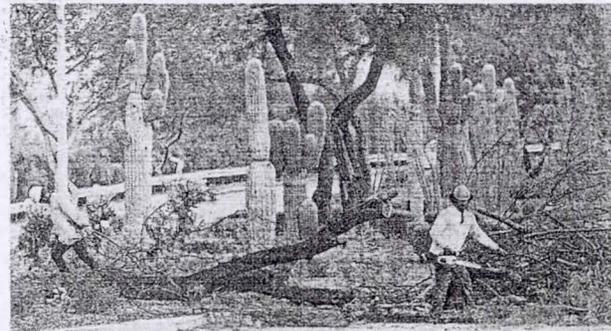
IT RAINS, IT POURS, IT CLEARS OUT FAST

WELDON B. JOHNSON AND ABIGAIL GOLDER
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

A storm full of sound and fury visited the Valley on Tuesday morning. But in the end it signified nothing, perhaps, aside from high humidity and other conditions typical of Arizona's monsoon.

The storm arrived earlier than most, lashing the area with 60 mph winds, turning the skies a chalky, grayish brown, and dropping buckets of rain in parts. More than 18,000 homes and businesses lost electricity, dozens of flights were diverted from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, and downed trees blocked roadways across the Valley.

See **STORM**, Page 2A



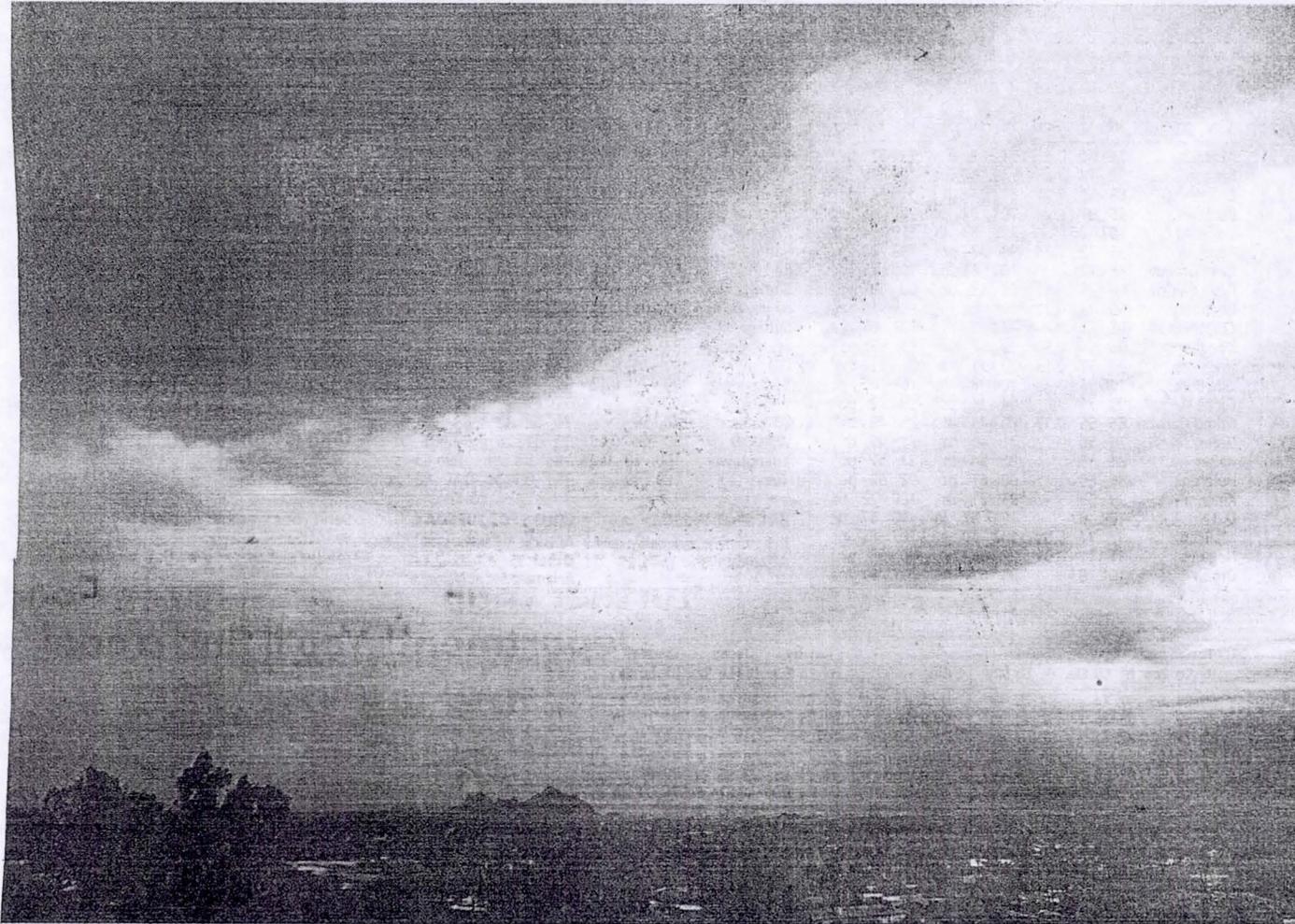
NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

City crew members work to clear a fallen tree on Chandler Boulevard. Heavy winds downed trees across metro Phoenix.

Today's forecast: Partly cloudy with highs between 99 and 103 and a 20 percent chance of rain. **More weather coverage, 2A**

#71

Monsoon storm disrupts Valley, but not for long



DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

A dust storm moves over the Papago Buttes in Phoenix on Tuesday morning. The storm lashed the Valley with 60 mph winds.

Storm

Continued from Page 1A

Then, as soon as it arrived, the storm was gone.

By late afternoon, power had been restored to almost everyone affected, according to Salt River Project and APS officials. Flights that had been diverted from Phoenix amid the storm started trickling in. And the skies turned a cloudy baby blue.

But as National Weather Service meteorologist Ken Drozd told *The Arizona Republic* at the outset of the season, unpredictability is a hallmark of summer weather here.

"That is a feature of the monsoon; it produces spotty rainfall," Drozd said. "Some areas get really heavy downpours, while other areas don't get anything."

The Valley forecast for the rest of the week calls for partly sunny conditions and a different form of hazardous weather — excessive heat — by week's end.

A severe thunderstorm struck the southeast Valley late Tuesday, and more monsoon activity is possible today. But a strong ridge of high pressure building over the desert Southwest will dry out the air and cause temperatures to approach 110 degrees by Thursday. As a result, the National Weather Service in Phoenix has issued an excessive-heat watch for much of the state through Saturday evening.

Tuesday's monsoon storm developed in the far East Valley at about 9 a.m. and moved quickly through the area behind a wall of blowing dust.

It caught Valley visitor Melissa Mcallister by surprise. Mcallister is here from Michigan helping her daughter get settled for classes at Arizona State University.

"It was way different from Michi-

gan," said Mcallister, who had never seen a dust storm.

The storm knocked out power to thousands with outages ranging from Apache Junction to Glendale and from Scottsdale to Chandler. Parts of central Phoenix, Tempe and Sun City were among the hardest hit.

Tempe High School reported losing power at about 10:30 a.m. Students were in classrooms when the outage hit, but power was restored shortly.

Tuesday's storms packed 60 mph gusts and locally heavy downpours in the East Valley before moving northwest. Areas with the most precipitation included Wickenburg to the west, with more than an inch of rain, and north Scottsdale, which received just shy of an inch, according to rain gauges of the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

Monsoon storms often occur in the afternoon or evening, after drawing energy from the heat of the day. Tuesday morning's storm tapped into moisture

from activity in southeastern Arizona and an upper-level atmospheric disturbance to get started.

The cloud cover and lower temperatures brought on by the morning storm helped calm things down through the afternoon. But Tuesday night, the National Weather Service issued a dust-storm warning.

Today should be partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs should be between 99 and 103 degrees in the Valley, with lows in the upper 70s to upper 80s.

The rain is expected to clear out Thursday. Skies should be mostly clear with highs from 105 to 110 degrees and lows in the 80s. Expect more sun Friday with highs from 107 to 112 and lows in the 80s. There is a 10 percent of rain Friday evening.

The heatwave continues Saturday with highs from 106 to 111 degrees. Things should be slightly cooler Sunday, with highs from 104 to 108 degrees.

One for the record book

What went right, wrong during July 18 flood subject of Aug. 24 meeting

The storm that hit Wickenburg on July 18 broke multiple records, according to a report issued by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. The storm dumped as much as five inches of rain in a three-hour period, impacting an estimated 37 structures and causing hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to public infrastructure, according to Town Manager Josh Wright.

The record rainfall came as a result of tropical moisture associated with the remnants of Hurricane Dolores. Residents and businesses along the Powder House and Cemetery washes were particularly impacted by flash flooding, although no swift-water rescues were needed.

Thirteen of the 19 district rain gauges in the Wickenburg area set new records for 30-minute, one hour, or three-hour durations. Some of those gauges have been in place for more than 30 years. Similarly, five Wickenburg-area

wash gauges recorded their highest-ever peak discharge, including the Casandro, Flying E and Powder House washes.

Despite record rainfall, Wickenburg's three flood-retarding structures performed as designed and prevented mandatory evacuations. The Casandro Dam reached the highest water level of the three structures at 85.2 percent full. The Sunset and Sunnycove flood-retarding structures recorded levels of 74.8 percent and 66.9 percent, respectively. None of the three had ever exceeded 50 percent capacity since they were built.

The Casandro Dam is west of Mariposa Street and north of U.S. 60 (directly behind the former bowling alley). The Sunset Flood Retarding Structure (FRS) is east of Mariposa Street and south of U.S. 60 (directly behind El Ranchero Restaurant). The

See Flooding Page A-9

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#72

Flooding

From the Front Page

Sunnycove FRS is west of Kellis Road behind the Wickenburg Municipal Cemetery.

"On July 18, some areas of Wickenburg experienced what could effectively be considered a 1,000-year flood event," Wright said. "Flood control structures are rarely built to that standard and no amount of maintenance can prepare a community to handle that volume of water in such a short period of time. We are extremely fortunate that there were no injuries or loss of life."

The Town's small public works crew continues to work to clean up the post-storm mess. Their work is prioritized in order of greatest need, with safety issues, such as dredging drainage channels, ranking higher than aesthetic matters, such as street sweeping. All projects will eventually be completed, Wright said.

Major repairs to damaged infrastructure began July 24 and will continue through the end of this month. The Town's initial estimate to repair Tegner, Constellation and Ocotillo roads is \$250,000. Drainage structures along Mariposa Drive will require more extensive reconstruction, but the road

has been deemed safe for pedestrians and vehicles.

Town staff have met with flood district representatives and scheduled a presentation to the town council regarding options for mitigating future flood events. The meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 24, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 155 North Tegner St.

"The Town had a productive meeting and tour of affected areas with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County last week and anticipates more such meetings will be held in the near future," Wright said. "The District will also be present at the Aug. 24 special council meeting as we discuss options for mitigating future flood risks. There are several options we can pursue, all of which come with different costs and timelines. While we cannot control Mother Nature, the town and district share the common goal of finding ways to minimize risk to life and property from future flood events."

The District's full report can be accessed at http://alert.fcd.maricopa.gov/alert/WY15/StormRpt_07182015.pdf.

#73

#74

081315

Arrowhead Media
Gila Bend Sun
Cir. 1,200
Gila Bend, AZ

081415

Arrowhead Media
Business Journal
Cir: 15,122
Phoenix, AZ

Board of Supervisors Approve I-10 Protective Upgrades in Buckeye

The Maricopa County Supervisors has approved two construction contracts to rehabilitate a dam protecting Interstate 10 in Buckeye. The improvements to the Flood Control District's Buckeye Flood Retarding Structure (FRS #1) protects people, property and infrastructure below the dam.

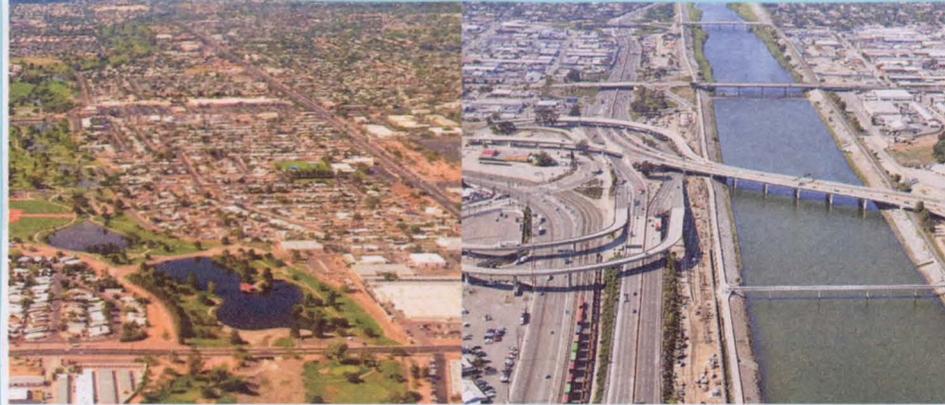
The improvements to Buckeye FRS #1, located 7.1 miles from SR 85 west to the Hassayampa River, correct several non-emergency dam deficiencies. The structure protects seven miles of I-10, a vital link for residents to California.

"We are making a major upgrade to our infrastructure in the West Valley, putting people to work and bringing in federal dollars to add to our own," said Maricopa County Board Vice Chairman Clint Hickman. "This structure protects I-10 for seven miles and we know how important that is."

The upgrade allows FCD to contract with Coffman Specialties, Inc. to improve the central core of the dam in the amount of \$24,750,000. The approved contracts will also improve an emergency spillway and principal outlet of the dam, for a total of \$11,000,000. The total cost of the improvements is not intended to exceed \$35,750,000, which is less than the approved budget for the upgrades. Funding for the improvements has already been budgeted for fiscal year 2016/17.

Buckeye FRS #1 is a product of a partnership between FCD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The NRCS is funding 65 percent of the upgrades, with 35 percent coming from County funds.

"This is good news for the West Valley," said Maricopa County Supervisor, District 5, Steve Gallardo. "This project ensures flood protection for a key portion of Interstate 10, which is our lifeline. These are older structures, built in the 1970's, that need these upgrades."



PROVIDED BY ASU SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Indian Bend Wash, left, is an example of a safe-to-fail flood control project. The Los Angeles River, right, would overflow during extreme weather.

NOTEBOOK

ASU leads study on bracing nation's infrastructure for extreme weather

The recent collapse of a section Interstate 10 – the result of an extreme weather event – has a group at Arizona State University looking at how to protect infrastructure in the future.

The challenge faced by a group led by Chuck Redman, founding director at the ASU School of Sustainability, is safeguarding massive infrastructure projects from road and rail to power lines from extreme weather that, if they fail, could halt a region's economy.

With a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Redman and his team will provide solutions to protect infrastructure from unanticipated damage.

"Infrastructure is to be efficient and handle typical weather events," he said. "When an extreme event occurs, it doesn't work out well for infrastructure."

The Interstate 10 failure isn't the only recent example. A massive earth-

quake and tsunami in 2011 in Japan wrecked infrastructure, most notably the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The reactors were not seriously damaged by the tsunami, but by the fact that the emergency infrastructure, the generators, were located in the basement and flooded.

Redman says his group will examine "safe-to-fail" infrastructure versus "fail-safe" infrastructure. He said Indian Bend Wash is an example of safe-to-fail. In an extreme storm, only trails, ballfields and golf courses are flooded – facilities relatively inexpensive to rebuild.

"The wash has room for a wide floodway, which keeps water shallow," he said. "The LA River, which is paved and channeled, has no safety valve. If extreme weather pushes too much water down the channel, it'll overflow and damage homes and buildings, items expensive to replace."

#15



City workers attempt to unclog the drain to decrease flooding on 48th Street north of Warner Road after a storm on Aug. 11. [David Jolkovski/AFN]



76

Buckeye flood control structure rehabilitation work under way

by Jeannette Cruz
staff writer

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has approved two construction contracts to rehabilitate a dam protecting Interstate 10 in Buckeye.

The flood control dam is one of three located just north of I-10 and is a prominent drainage feature within Buckeye.

The Flood Retarding Structures Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were built in 1975 by the Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service, under local sponsorship by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

The rehabilitation of Buckeye Flood Retarding Structure No. 1, located between Buckeye Road in Tonopah and Sun Valley Parkway, involves the removal of dam safety deficiencies and improvements to the overall safety of the dam.

Phase one of the project, involving planning and pre-design, was completed in 2007. Phase two of the final design began in 2008 and was completed in 2009. Phase three, slated to begin shortly and to be completed in 2017, involves construction of a new emergency spillway.

The three Buckeye Flood Retarding Structures collect storm water runoff from the north and work in a series to move flood waters from the easternmost dam, No. 3, between Verrado and Rainbow roads, to No. 2, north of I-10 and west of Watson Road, and finally to No. 1 where the water is released into the Hassayampa River.

Buckeye Flood Retarding Structure No. 1 has a length of about 7.1 miles and is 26 feet higher than the next Flood Retarding Structure, with a storm water storage capacity of approximately 6,345 acre-feet from 74 square miles of runoff from the western slopes of the White Tank Mountains.

According to Flood Control District project documents, several non-emergency dam safety deficiencies have been identified at Buckeye Flood Retarding Structure No. 1 and District officials are analyzing alternatives to correct the deficiencies, maintain the flood control benefits to downstream properties and comply with state dam safety requirements.

Major dam rehabilitation features will include a new

material zone constructed within the dam embankment, raising the easternmost 2,400 feet of the dam by about 1.5 feet, and improvements to the existing emergency spillway and principle outlet works.

"The primary improvements are to install a zone within the dam called a central filter that prevents dam failure due to cracking, to construct a new emergency spillway and to make other needed improvements," said Anna Johnson, communications officer for the Flood Control District.

The project will add 100 years more of flood control and bring the dam up to current design standards, Johnson said.

"We are making a major upgrade to our infrastructure in the West Valley, putting people to work and bringing in federal dollars to add to our own," Maricopa County Board Vice Chairman Clint Hickman said in a news release. "This structure protects I-10 for seven miles, and we know how important that is."

The upgrade allows the Flood Control District to contract with Coffman Specialties Inc. to improve the central core of the dam by an estimated cost of \$24.75 million.

Work on the emergency spillway and the principle outlet of the dam will cost a total of \$11 million.

Buckeye Flood Retarding Structure No. 1 is a product of a partnership between the Flood Control District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is funding 65 percent of the upgrades, with 35 percent coming from county funds.

"This is good news for the West Valley," said Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Gallardo, D-District 5.

"This project ensures flood protection for a key portion of Interstate 10, which is our lifeline. These are older structures, built in the 1970s, that need these upgrades."

Hickman agreed.

"One of my goals has been to help bring infrastructure to the West Valley, which then spurs jobs, growth and development," he said in a news release. "I look forward to the day we take similar action on McMicken Dam, which protects Luke Air Force Base."

One year later

New River 2014 flood highlights importance of preparedness



Then and now: Pictured left is the New River Wash, alongside the Frontage Road, during the Aug. 19, 2014 flood. Pictured right is the New River Wash in the same area, photographed Aug. 13, 2015.

**ELIZABETH MEDORA
STAFF**

NEW RIVER – Aug. 19, 2014 started like a typical rainy day during the monsoon season. In just a few hours, however, it was evident that this was no ordinary storm. Record rainfall caused damage all over the Valley, and New River especially was hit hard. About five inches of rain fell that day, much of it in just five hours.

Over the course of Aug. 19, 2014, Daisy Mountain Fire Department and other Valley fire

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continued on page 9

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departments performed multiple water rescues. New River Elementary staff evacuated students to the Anthem Community Center. The I-17 was closed down for miles due to Skunk Creek flooding over the freeway. Roadways around the North Valley flooded and were closed.

While the 8/19/14 flood was unusually severe, flooding is always a possibility during monsoon season. Paul Schickel of Daisy Mountain Fire counsels everyone to plan ahead and be prepared.

"You never really know what you're going to get," Schickel said regarding monsoon storms.

Schickel is the Program Organizer of the DMFD Community Emergency Response Team. CERT training helps residents prepare for emergencies and be ready to evacuate if necessary or shelter in place for three days. Schickel encourages everyone to keep three days' worth of provisions on hand, enough for themselves, their family, and their pets.

In addition to non-perishable food and bottled water, Schickel recommends that residents put together a kit that includes things that would be difficult to replace or go without in an emergency: medication, eyeglasses, and similar items. Another recommendation is having hard copies of insurance policies, family records, and other important documents available so that in an emergency, needed information can be quickly accessed. A flash drive that holds copies of important documents is also

recommended, as it is easily portable and can be opened on most computers.

For additional flood protection, DMFD is offering free sandbags at the DMFD Station #141, located at 43814 N New River Road. Residents can stop by and get sandbags during normal business hours.

Maricopa County Flood Control District also stresses the importance of being prepared in case of an emergency. On their Web site, www.fcd.maricopa.gov, the Flood Control District encourages residents to:

- Purchase flood insurance for their property,
- Stay informed and provide input on flood control projects and studies in your community,
- Follow safety guidelines during storms and floods, especially when near flooded washes and riverbeds,
- Adhere to regulations when building or maintaining property in a floodplain.

For residents who may be living in a floodplain, the

Flood Control District offers information on proper permits and ways to improve property safety in the case of a flood.

"We encourage residents to obtain floodplain use permits so FCD can work with them to make sure they locate or move barriers on their property, out of a potential water flow," three Flood Control District staff members wrote in response to a request for information. "We can also help educate them about anchoring tanks and buildings, elevate objects, etc. The Floodplain Management & Services Division at FCD has proper permitting brochures, and the FEMA Floodsmart

site is also a great resource with permitting information. FCD will visit areas and talk with people to guide them."

The Maricopa County Flood Control District also offers information on flood clean-up. See information and recommendations for residents at www.fcd.maricopa.gov/citizen.

The damage caused by last year's flood is still evident in some areas of the New River Wash. Downed trees

and erosion mark where the flood swept through. The damage is, however, reported to be on the surface.

"Overall, our understanding is that there were no significant changes to the river that warranted us to redelineate the floodplain," Flood Control District staff noted. "Desert rivers naturally move a lot of sediment during a rain event; some areas were scoured and sediment was deposited in other areas. The extent of the water

was consistent with our existing floodplain delineation. That means that overall, the water went where we thought it would go.”

The Flood Control District doesn't specifically handle damage to bridges, such as the bridges on New River Road and the I-17 Frontage Road, but they did note that, according to their data, the bridges were not damaged.

Flash floods are notoriously unpredictable. Having provisions stored and having an emergency plan in place helps residents be prepared for the unexpected.

“We want to get people as involved and active as we can,” Schickel, who organizes CERT training, noted.

Learn more about emergency preparedness through the Daisy Mountain CERT training. The next CERT class starts Thursday, Sept. 3, and will be held at the Daisy Mountain Fire Station #141, located at Circle Mountain and New River Roads. The training runs for eight weeks and is open to anyone who is at least 18 years old. Training is free. The classes will be tailored to the local community. To register or to learn more, contact Paul Schickel at (623) 695-1424 or Paul.Schickel@DMFD.org.



No pup left behind! Daisy Mountain firefighters returned to a flooded home during the 2014 flood to rescue the resident's dog.

081915

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

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Historic review:

Putting that huge rainstorm in perspective

Certainly, it doesn't help those who were most impacted by the deluge of rain that fell on Wickenburg on July 18, but how could anyone have anticipated five inches of rain in less than three hours?

The Wickenburg Sun has kept a record of rainfall of each month dating back to 1939 but hasn't been updated for the last eight years. That's a project we'll nibble away at through the next several months ... but the history is interesting.

The wettest year since 1939 (even counting the last eight years) was 1965 with 25.2 inches of rain for that 12-month period. The most amount of rain that fell in any one month that year was 5.69 inches in December (more details on that month in a later report).

Then there was 1978, when 22.2 inches fell – and the wettest month was November at 4.53 inches, but more than four inches fell in each of the first three months that year.

Then came 1992, when 20.52 inches fell – and no month exceeded four inches.

In those 76 years, the average rainfall for a year was only 11.28 inches ... and we've had 10.87 already recorded this year – with more than four more months to go. And, of course, almost half of that 10.87 fell within three hours of one day.

Does that put the July 18 downpour in perspective?

We all learned that we have washes that we never knew existed in this community due to that deluge.

With all the finger-pointing that went on after the horrific damage to some homes on July 18, the real focus should have been on Mother Nature. Yes, a few washes could have been better maintained ... and probably would have been cleaned up eventually. Had any genius anticipated



Publisher's Perspective Kevin Cloe

a five-inch downpour in less than three hours, Maricopa County Flood Control and the Town of Wickenburg would have put flood control higher on the priority list.

It was so sad watching those families who resided on El Recreo and Constellation roads (behind McDonald's) dig their belongings out from under inches of mud and silt. Then there was the downhill side of Highway 60, where the Aztec Village mobile home park was swallowed up from the storm runoff. Most of those personal belongings at those locations were destroyed, and the value of their homes certainly plummeted. Several businesses were also impacted but seemed to have recovered quickly.

It was a reminder of Hassayampa River flooding that washed away Ray Johns' home along Jack Burden Road in 2005 in front of hundreds of witnesses during the Gold Rush Days celebration. And then there were the mobile homes swept off their foundations and sent down river further south during a swollen Hassayampa event.

Yes, there were other significant damages reported all around town, but they didn't get the attention that those along the Powder House and Cemetery washes received through the statewide media sources and local, county and state flood control officials.

As a result of all that damage, flood control measures certainly will be placed on a higher priority at all those agencies. But how much time,

effort and money should be poured into projects to prevent July 18 from happening again? Should we expect another five-inch storm? Not reasonable.

Most cities, counties and states attempt to prepare for a 100-year flood, but Wickenburg Town Manager Josh Wright noted that some areas in town on July 18 experienced what might be considered a 1,000-year flood.

Who can reasonably prepare for something like that?

When we bring our rain charts up to date, we imagine it will paint an incredible picture of how monumental that storm on July 18 was in the history of our community. It should be interesting to hear how county and local government officials assess the damage and what recommendations come out of the special Town Council meeting next Monday, Aug. 24.

In the meantime, all that damage brought back a thought that had been tossed around Wickenburg for years – mostly by the late Garth "Brownie" Brown, who made several efforts to gain support for a Box Canyon Dam, along the Hassayampa River north of the town limits. Yes, some of the emphasis of the Box Canyon Dam was placed on recreational uses, but dams certainly have been constructed for flood control.

How much a Box Canyon Dam might have limited the damage from the July 18 storm, we will never know.

But maybe that old proposal might be worth bringing to the table again.

081915

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

Town, county approve funds for school drainage project

By Patti Slattery
Reporter

The Hassayampa Elementary School's round gym will soon be saved from floodwaters that pour around the structure during heavy rains, but the water being alleviated from the area will be dumped into the school's north parking lot.

Town Council voted Monday

night to add \$60,625 from the capital improvement contingency fund to a recent grant of \$181,875 from the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, beginning a \$242,500 construction project that will place an underground cement culvert from along Coconino Street from South Tegner across Valentine Street toward the Hassayampa River.

According to Town Manager Josh Wright, it would cost \$1.8 million to complete the project all the way to the river. Because of the limited funds, runoff will dump into school parking lot.

Councilman Chris Band questioned dumping water into the parking lot, but Councilman Kelly Blunt pointed out the area is "natural drainage."

Wright explained to the board that because the flooding problem doesn't impact a lot of homes, the flood control district didn't give the project a high rating, and less funding, limiting the town's funds to complete the drainage way all the way to the river.

"The project is ultimately designed to fix all of the issues,"

Wright later told The Sun, referring to the entire \$1.8 million project. "Yes, water will drop in the parking lot for now, but hopefully save the gym."

According to Wright, the Town has been working alongside the school district, and the district is keenly aware of the change in flow of runoff water.

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082615

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ



MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

A dust storm moves over the East Valley ahead of a monsoon storm Tuesday afternoon.

Rain, blowing dust hits Valley

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

The 2015 monsoon might be winding down but it still made its presence felt in the Phoenix area on Tuesday.

Strong storms made a mess of the evening commute for some residents, bringing blowing dust, high winds and locally heavy rain to parts of the area.

The afternoon storms got started about 4:30 p.m., when National Weather Service radar started tracking a strong thunderstorm about 30 miles south of Gila Bend moving north at 20 mph. By 4:45 p.m., that storm had spread toward Sun Lakes and blew over the southeast Valley communities of Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa and Apache Junction. An hour later, it was the northeast Valley's turn as Paradise Valley, Scottsdale and Fountain Hills got hit with brief, heavy rains.

By 7 p.m., rain totals from that storm included .47 inches near Maricopa, .31

inches in Ahwatukee, .24 inches near downtown Chandler, .28 inches in west Mesa and .43 inches near Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, according to Maricopa County Flood Control District gauges.

In the northeast Valley, Fountain Hills seemed to get the most rain, with .20 inches by 7 p.m. A gauge at Pinnacle Peak recorded .16 inches of rain.

Another strong storm developed east of the Valley. At 5:15 p.m., the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for northeast Maricopa County and northwest Gila County, packing wind gusts up to 55 mph.

Areas in the path of that storm included Tonto National Monument, Four Peaks, Roosevelt Lake and Dam and Apache Lake. Rain totals from that storm topped out at about .20 inches in several locations.

Today, look for partly cloudy skies with highs from 101 to 106 degrees and a 20-percent chance of rain.

082615

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
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Wickenburg, AZ

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Arrowhead Media
Sun Cities Independent
Sun City, AZ

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENT TO REVISE FLOODPLAINS/
FLOODWAYS OF SELECTED WATERCOURSES IN THE WICKENBURG
AREA, INCLUDING AREAS WITHIN THE TOWN OF WICKENBURG
AND UNINCORPORATED MARICOPA COUNTY, AZ**

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) is conducting a study which will result in revisions to several floodplains/floodways within the Wickenburg Area. The study has two particular areas of focus. The first area is bounded on the north by the Maricopa County/Yavapai County line, on the south and west by Sol's Wash, and on the east by North Rancho Casitas Street. The second area is bounded by the Vulture Mountains on the south and west, the Hassayampa River on the east, and the Town of Wickenburg on the north. The study is within Township 7 North, Range 4 West, Section 18; Township 7 North, Range 5 West, Sections 13, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 35; and Township 8 North, Range 5 West, Section 32.

The District conducts floodplain and floodway delineation studies to identify and refine areas that are subject to inundation by a 100-year flood (one percent chance of occurring in any year).

Once the study is complete, impacted property owners will be invited to a public meeting to review its results. The results will be used by the District or the local jurisdiction to regulate development within the floodplain/floodway. The study will be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for updating FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) which are used to determine federal flood insurance requirements and rates.

This announcement is intended to inform all interested persons and communities of the commencement of this study, to provide citizens with an opportunity to bring any relevant technical information to the attention of the District and/or FEMA. This information will be considered during the course of the study. Your comments should be addressed to Mr. Richard P. Harris at the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, 2801 West Durango Street, Phoenix, AZ 85009, (602) 506-4528, rph@mail.maricopa.gov.

**County supervisors approve
I-10 protective upgrades**

The Maricopa County Supervisors approved two construction contracts to rehabilitate a dam protecting Interstate 10 in Buckeye.

The improvements to the Flood Control District's Buckeye Flood Retarding Structure protects people, property and infrastructure below the dam. The improvements to Buckeye FRS No. 1, located 7.1 miles from State Route 85 west to the Hassayampa River, correct several non-emergency dam deficiencies. The structure protects seven miles of I-10, a vital link for residents traveling to California.

The upgrade allows FCD officials to contract with Coffman Specialties, Inc. to improve the central core of the dam in the amount of \$24.75 million. The approved contracts will also improve an emergency spillway and principal outlet of the dam for \$11 million.

The total cost of the improvements is not intended to exceed \$35.75 million, which is less than the approved budget for the upgrades. Funding for the improvements was already budgeted for fiscal year 2016-17.

082615

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir. 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

Flood repairs

Progress slow, funding short

By Kevin Cloe
Publisher

The conditions that caused considerable damage during the five-inch rainstorm in Wickenburg on July 18 won't be fixed overnight, but the Town of Wickenburg and Maricopa County Flood Control are beginning to work on short-term remedies.

That's what about 50 local residents heard from local and county officials Monday night, Aug. 24, during a special meeting of the Wickenburg Town Council.

Retaining walls are being built and washes cleaned out – primarily along the Powder House Wash along Constellation and El Recreo roads – but major infrastructure needs will require funding from sources yet unknown.

Gregory Jones, regional planning manager for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, reported that the district's funds are "extremely tapped" and his department would inform town officials when funding might become available.

"We work with 23 other jurisdictions," he said, "and right now, our resources are stretched thin."

Wickenburg Town Manager Josh Wright added that the flood control district requested from its various jurisdictions a list of flood prevention priorities this year and cost estimates. He said those priorities amounted to about \$2.8 billion and the district had only

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spent about \$2.3 billion in the past 30 to 40 years.

"It's scary," noted Wickenburg Town Councilman Everett Sickles. "We need to do something right now, but it's not going to happen overnight."

Both town and county officials said they will search for grant possibilities to provide funding for projects that would help prevent future flooding.

About a dozen of the 50 audience members addressed the Town Council. Some of them praised the government for the work it had done immediately after the storm and continuing each day, but most of them requested the

town take a larger view of the flood damage and include other damaged parts of the community in its assessment and repairs – particularly along Cemetery Wash.

Public Works Director Vince Lorefice noted areas that were identified with flood damage – including Constellation Road, Jack Burden/Constellation Road Spillway (behind McDonald's), Powder House Wash, Ocotillo Crossing, South Mariposa, and 323rd Avenue.

The council Monday night approved the emergency expenditure of \$228,849.10 from its Capital Improvement Fund Contingency to cover the cost of the short-term repairs.

According to resident Drake Sass, the sedi-

ment in Powder House Wash has already been reduced to the level it had been 20 years ago.

Former Town of Wickenburg Public Works Director Russell Willis drew the initial applause from the audience Monday night when he noted how the town government had previously maintained the washes in the community, "but nothing is happening right now."

"We're not going to make everyone happy right now, but we're working on it," concluded Mayor John Cook.

(Editor's note: Watch for more of Willis' comments and others' in next week's Wickenburg Sun).



DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

Jeff Emery of Tempe jumps over a pool of water across Southern Avenue during heavy rains in Mesa on Thursday.

Monsoon storms dump rain on parts of Phoenix area

Calmer conditions likely today with a high near 109

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

A slight chance of rain and thunderstorms turned into a certainty for parts of the Phoenix area Thursday afternoon.

The combination of humidity (dew-point temperatures were around 65 degrees) and temperatures over 100 degrees early in the afternoon fueled the development of monsoon thunderstorms throughout the Valley. The storms, which started popping up on the outskirts of the Valley at about 2:30 p.m., brought heavy rain, damaging winds and power outages to the area as the afternoon progressed.

Severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for parts of the northwest, southwest and southeast Valley over the course of the afternoon. There were reports of damaging winds due to microbursts in the west Valley, as well as flooding on U.S. 60 in Tempe that slowed traffic during the early parts of the evening commute.

The day started with a 10 percent chance of rain in the National Weather Service forecast, and conditions came together to make the small probability pan out.

NWS meteorologist James Sawtelle

said outflow boundaries from storms that developed on the outskirts of the Valley helped form the storms that directly impacted the Phoenix area.

"The storms grew pretty quickly right after lunchtime," Sawtelle said. "That's earlier than normal. Normally, those outflow boundaries don't start encroaching on the metro area until late afternoon."

Some of the heaviest rainfall from the storms occurred in Tempe, causing localized flooding on the U.S. 60 near the Mill Avenue ramps.

A rain gauge on the south part of Arizona State University's campus recorded 0.98 inches as a severe storm moved slowly over that area, according to the Weather Service. Other gauges in Tempe recorded around a half-inch of rain.

In the northwest Valley, a gauge just west of Surprise recorded 0.87 inches of rain.

Most other parts of the Valley saw between a 10th and a quarter of an inch of rain from the storms.

Things should calm down today. Expect mostly sunny skies, with highs from 104 to 109 degrees and lows in the 80s. There is a slight chance (10 percent) of showers or thunderstorms in the evening.

Saturday should be mostly sunny, with highs from 104 to 109 degrees and lows in the 80s.

On Sunday, a slight chance (10 percent) of rain returns, with highs from 101 to 106 degrees.



Flood Control District wants your Flood Stories!

BY COUNCILMAN BILL GATES, COUNCIL DISTRICT 3, CITY OF PHOENIX

Moon Valley is fortunate to be surrounded by the Phoenix Mountain Preserves that provide beautiful scenery and recreational opportunities. However, it also means that if the area gets any significant rain, we have a higher likelihood of flooding, as we are all aware of every time Coral Gables is closed. September 8th marked the one year anniversary of the storm that brought record-setting rainfall and caused massive flooding throughout Phoenix. While the South Mountain area received the brunt of that storm, it could have as easily hit District 3. Many of you may have had flooding during that storm as well. It's time to share your stories!

The Maricopa County Flood Control District (FCD), in association with the city of Phoenix, is conducting an Area Drainage Master Study in the Upper East Fork Cave Creek Watershed. The study area runs from Shaw Butte and North Mountain to the south, the CAP Canal to the north, Cave Creek Wash to the west, and roughly SR-51 to the east. The study will help locate areas which flood frequently or have drainage problems and identify solutions that will reduce the risk of future flooding.

This area was last studied 30 years ago when much of the area was undeveloped, now the entire area is fully developed and the storm water and drainage improvements

need to be included. Additionally, FCD has more scientific tools, updated rainfall data, and more precise survey information to more accurately identify flood hazards and show how storm water will likely flow. The updated data and the latest drainage models will help FCD better identify ways to reduce future localized flooding and drainage problems in the study area. FCD will create a new detailed hydrologic model that identifies flood prone areas and share this information with neighborhoods in high hazard areas to discuss possible solutions to reduce future flooding.

Your personal flooding stories are needed to compile a comprehensive list of known flooding problems. Please share your stories, pictures, and videos to show where flooding and drainage issues occur in your neighborhood, business areas, streets you use and/or places you go.

For information or to report a flood, visit ReportaFlood.org. You can also contact the FCD Project Manager Burke Lokey at BurkeLokey@mail.maricopa.gov.

Thank you for your help and as always, please contact my office with questions at 602.262.7441 or Council.District.3@phoenix.gov.

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Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

#86

Flood Impact

Residents asking for answers from Town

By Kevin Cloe
Publisher

The floodwaters from the July 18 storm quickly subsided, but the discussion about impacts continued at last week's special meeting of the Town Council. Although the primary focus was on the damage the overflow of the Powder House Wash caused during a five-inch, two-hour rainstorm, some locals want to make sure the Wickenburg Town Council and its staff won't forget about other parts of the community which were severely impacted by the storm.

About 50 residents attended the special meeting of the Wickenburg Town Council last week, but only a dozen addressed the council from the podium.

Former Town of Wickenburg Public Works Director Russell Willis received the first vociferous applause from the audience after he pleaded that the town government adopt regular maintenance of the washes in the community.

"I'm a 70-year member of Wickenburg, and the town (government) used to help protect the community," he said. "Now you're acting like a large city, with every-

one on their own."

He explained that the local government should do more than just push around the build-up of sand around the washes but rather haul the sand away.

"Nothing is happening now," he concluded, followed by the audience's applause.

Mayor John Cook had arranged to meet with Willis and current Public Works Director Vince Lorefice the following week and discuss what can be done, and Willis said this week they toured the affected washes and surrounding areas but didn't determine an immediate solution.

While there were some objections at the meeting regarding how the town staff handled the build-up of sand in the washes, some also praised the staff for the work it had done during the storm and afterwards.

Mark Hancock, whose family owns the Desert Cypress Mobile Home and RV Park off Jack Burden Road (behind McDonald's), complimented Lorefice and his staff for the quick building of a retaining

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Flood

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wall along the Powder House Wash that runs adjacent to his park and the clean-up in the area after the storm.

Drake Sass, a local resident whose home was impacted by the rain runoff and mud from the wash, suggested the council put pressure on Maricopa County officials to provide corrective action to avoid the flooding in the area. He also praised the work of the Public Works Department for already reducing the level of the sand in the wash to a level that it had been 20 years ago.

One homeowner simply asked for the town government to help him with a \$25,000 bill he received

for the county's work on his property to clear off the mud from the overrun wash.

Bob Bandera then reminded the Town Council that other areas of town were severely damaged by the flooding - primarily Cemetery Wash.

"I think the staff should put together a package of all the areas around town that were affected," he said, explaining how homeowners along the Cemetery Wash are now forced to take rough access roads (out of the neighborhoods) that have some safety issues. The usual access roads were damaged in the flood.

Doug Johnson followed with the same concern

about safe access to his home and asked the council for temporary relief.

John Wemesfelder also commended the work of the town staff and asked for more attention to Cemetery Wash and the Lewis addition subdivision that has previously been working with the council to resolve the road issues there that are on private property.

The most emotional appeal came from El Recreo Road resident Laura Lemon, who noted her 60-year-old home had been flooded during storms in three of the past four years.

"This time we lost three cars and a travel trailer, and I was told I wasn't

even a flood zone," she reported.

"Now we can't even walk through a doorway without ducking (because the mud and sand has built up so high).

"I can't rent it or sell it now, and I won't live there," she added, fighting back tears. "I was told it would cost \$40,000 just to have the sand removed. I'll just have to walk away from it."

However, she also expressed her appreciation for the help she received from the town staff and community.

"This is an amazing place," she said of the Wickenburg community's support.

Beverly Bodioga, man-

ager of the Aztec Village Mobile Home and RV Park that was swamped by the Powder House Wash runoff when it crossed Highway 60 on its way to the Hassayampa River, requested help from the town and county governments in cleaning the wash culvert adjacent to the park and other channels from the higher elevations across the highway that send rainwater runoff onto the park's property.

She wanted a clarification of whose responsibility it is to keep the culvert and channels clean.

Again, Mayor Cook instructed Lorefice to assess the situation and report back with his findings.

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Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

#87

MESA FLOOD, ONE YEAR LATER

The disaster that ripped apart a Mesa neighborhood was driven by both nature and human decisions. Could it happen again?



THE RISK REMAINS

MARIA POLLETTA AND SEAN HOLSTEGE
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

In Karen Gleason's mind, the storm was long over. She'd heard about it all week, as meteorologists tracked Hurricane Norbert's march up the West Coast and forecast its collision with the still-potent dregs of Arizona's fading monsoon.

She'd heard about it that morning, as television channels cycled through endless shots of cars floating down flooded freeways, their shell-shocked drivers clinging to emergency responders.

She, like other parents of Keller Elementary students in Mesa, had opted to keep her daughter home through the worst of the Sept. 8 downpour.

But by early afternoon, the sky had been peaceful for hours, and Karen was comfortably curled up on the living-room couch folding laundry and watching afternoon TV as then-10-year-old Sofia caught another show in the bedroom.

Ready to tackle the next chore, the 52-year-old put one bare foot down on the rug below and felt a squish. That's strange, she thought. Had she spilled something?

The wet patches she saw spreading across the carpet didn't make sense.

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TOP: Karen Gleason and her daughter, Sofia Ochoa, were unable to live in their Mesa home for six months after floodwaters inundated their neighborhood in the Emerald Acres area on Sept. 8, 2014. **ABOVE:** Residents and friends waded through a neighborhood near Stapley Drive and U.S. 60 the day after the flood. PHOTOS BY DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

The storm

The county's flood control district reported that enough rain fell on Maricopa County on Sept. 8, 2014, to nearly fill Bartlett and Horseshoe lakes combined. On a scale of 10, the county agency rated the storm severity at 8.8, just shy of the "devastating" category 9.

More coverage

Coming Tuesday: Cody and Joni Phelps were expecting a baby when the historic storm flooded their duplex.

Online: For then-and-now photos, videos and more, go to azcentral.com.

Flood

Continued from Page 1A

Neither did the water that had begun to seep slowly, then swiftly, across the living room and into every other room of Karen's one-story home just north of U.S. 60, blocks away from Mesa's Emerald Park.

The truth — that the greatest damage caused by the morning's record-breaking deluge didn't arrive until after the storm had ended and the sun was out — would be just as incomprehensible for almost 200 of her neighbors. They watched helplessly as rising floodwaters from the overflowing Emerald Park basin ravaged their homes.

The finger-pointing began even before the murky water had receded, a process formalized in a yet-unresolved lawsuit homeowners filed against the city, state and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Tracing the exact flow of the water that swamped the Emerald Acres area that day is nearly impossible. But a yearlong *Arizona Republic* review of thousands of pages of engineering records, maintenance logs, reports, analyses, e-mails and photos from Mesa and ADOT shows how human decisions helped set the stage for the disaster.

Two top the list. First, the 1970s-era drainage system fashioned to manage runoff alongside the U.S. 60 was built to a standard less stringent than what is recommended today. And the layout of the area, with its low-set houses and terrain partly graded against the larger region's natural slope, in extreme cases causes water to back up rather than drain away quickly.

Experts who reviewed the events agree the type of storm that can cause a catastrophe like the one seen last September is rare — a one-in-1,000 chance in any given year — but clearly possible.

With the lawsuit pending, city and state officials remain mostly unwilling to comment on their roles in the flood. Documents from this spring show Mesa applied for and secured county funding to help finance flood-control improvements in the neighborhood, but without more information from the city, it's unclear how effective those upgrades will be — and construction isn't anticipated to begin until next year.

What is clear, experts say, is that without a dramatic overhaul of the area's drainage system or a fresh plan to temper its shortcomings, the kind of flood that wrecked Karen Gleason's neighborhood will happen again.

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In the 1970s, as ADOT worked to extend the Superstition Freeway through Mesa, engineers knew the berm planned alongside it would act as a dam during heavy storms.

They designed an interlocking system of retention basins, canals, pumps, spillways and small diversion dams to prevent unmanageable backups of rainwater on properties to the north.

If water pooled on the freeway, ADOT could quickly pump it into a channel parallel to the 60. Meanwhile, city storm drains would send water to basins along the freeway. Depending who had available space, Mesa could direct water from its basins into ADOT's canal and vice versa.

The concept — which would keep water off the freeway, out of homes and available to parks for irrigation — was sound. But when it came to the system's dimensions, engineers did not plan for storms capable of dumping the volume of water that hit Mesa last September.

They used a "50-year storm" benchmark, which federal disaster experts had already deemed outdated. And it appears they

misunderstood even that baseline.

"A 50-year storm is by definition an almost once-in-a-lifetime event," engineers wrote in a 1975 report prepared for the state. "The chances two such storms take place in quick succession seem inestimably small."

But a 50-year storm is not, by definition, a storm that happens only once every 50 years. A 50-year storm is one that has a one-in-50, or 2 percent, chance of happening in any given year.

And while a 50-year storm doesn't always generate a 50-year flood — other factors such as soil saturation contribute — the two ideas are directly linked. The 50-year flood standard refers to floods with a 2 percent chance any year.

In 1973, the National Flood Insurance Program had set a 100-year flood — that is, a 1 percent chance in any year — as the standard for federal disaster relief and preparedness funding, as well as insurance underwriting. Federal agencies use the same minimum today.

It's not easy or cheap to overhaul an insufficient drainage network, but aggressive monitoring and advanced technology can sometimes bolster outdated infrastructure. In systems in other states, for instance, gates that control water flow can be programmed to open and close automatically, and gauges can monitor water levels and flows.

In Mesa, city and state officials primarily use their eyes and hands to control the system.

City inspection records show a Mesa employee making regular rounds checked on the Emerald Park basin the day before the flood. A detailed report was not available, but the absence of work orders issued that day suggests the inspector deemed everything in working order.

A day later, the park was underwater, and the flood was creeping beneath Karen Gleason's front door.

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Her feet planted in the damp carpet, Karen looked across the room and saw the baffling stream of water begin to rush in more rapidly.

She sprinted to the bathroom and grabbed the thickest towel she could find. She hurried back to jam it under the door, trying to hold off what was quickly becoming a torrent of dingy water.

She raced to the kitchen next, slamming closed the sliding doors that led to a sunken patio.

Still not grasping what was happening, she ran to the hallway, thinking she would seal the doors to the bedrooms, bathroom and office.

The doors would be no use. Rivulets were already unfurling across carpets and reaching up the walls of every room.

Water kept coming. There wasn't much more she could do inside, so she decided to see what was going on outside.

She opened the front door to a scene her "brain didn't quite get."

Karen's cul-de-sac and yard were submerged in 2 to 3 feet of muddy water, her partly soaked neighbors scattered like buoys throughout the street.

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Like the infrastructure nearby, the neighborhood hit hardest in the September flood — a subdivision called Emerald Acres and other lots west of Emerald Park — was mostly built during the 1970s.

Most houses are simple one-story ranches or clustered patio homes. Some working- and middle-class residents have lived there for three decades or more.

According to a report ADOT commissioned to analyze the flood, the foundations of homes in the area are elevated only a few inches above the street curb, likely because they were constructed when building codes were more lax. This heightens flood risks. The current



DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

With an insurance claim denied, Karen Gleason and daughter Sofia were able to fix their flood-damaged home with help from community volunteers who replaced drywall and flooring.

standard in Mesa and elsewhere is at least 12 inches.

The Emerald Acres area is not unique; other older or unincorporated neighborhoods in the Valley don't meet modern-day elevation minimums.

So Karen's neighborhood might not have fared so miserably, were it not for the fact that parts of the area were graded against Mesa's natural east-to-west slope.

Water droplets that fall on the east side of town typically flow west. But in the area around Emerald Park, the report says, the neighborhood is graded like a bowl.

The Emerald Acres area can manage ordinary storms, as that bowl drains into the park and nearby basins. When a huge amount of water enters the zone, though, the water fills the bowl. And it keeps rising until it gets high enough to spill over

the edges.

The ADOT report plainly describes the phenomenon:

"When the capacity of the Emerald Park Basin is exceeded (and) storm water overtops Harris Drive and flows into the Emerald Acres (area), the subdivision may be inundated by several feet of storm water before it can 'break out,'" it says. "The grading of the development, adjacent roadways, and the land adjacent to the US 60 channel determine the extent of the ponding."

When the "ponding," or pooling of water, is severe as it was Sept. 8, there's no explicit plan regarding what to do.

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Surveying the spreading swamp around her, Karen still had no idea where the water was coming from. None of her neighbors understood yet,

either.

As her daughter joined her outside, Karen started to fret about what might be in the water. More scraps and debris were gliding across her yard and into her home, and her next concern was about the mold that might come once the water was gone.

It's only a matter of time until the city helps us, she thought.

When Karen and Sofia walked back inside, the water was 6 inches deep — belly-high for their black-and-tan Chihuahua, Iggy, and shaggy West Highland white terrier, Walter. They scooped up the dogs and perched them on the furniture.

As the minutes ticked by, Karen's panic ebbed and she began to focus.

She found the insurance documents she could salvage. She grabbed her phone. She climbed onto the raised sleigh bed in

Drainage standards in Mesa

A system of retention basins, canals, and pumps was built to keep water off the freeway, out of homes and available to local parks for irrigation.

Engineers had to calibrate the system's capacity to some predicted level of rainfall, but did not plan for storms with the volume of water that hit Mesa last September. Much of Mesa's system was designed to lesser standards, for 2- and 10-year storms.

And because of a lack of gauges, engineers could not estimate how quickly the basins were filling up. In the year since the flood, Mesa has installed cameras to help monitor water flow in real time.

her bedroom, where Sofia was already sitting, and started dialing.

She called her homeowner's insurance to report the crisis.

She called a niece living nearby to see if she could take the pair in for the night.

Knowing her neighbor, Tim, was already contacting the city for help and an explanation, she left that call to him.

For hours, she waited.

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Mesa and ADOT officials, too, thought the chaos of the morning storm was behind them when the inundation of the Emerald Acres area began.

By lunchtime, they had responded to hundreds of emergency calls. But when a local television reporter called and alerted

Continued on Next Page

"It's been very hard, but I've seen much more of the best in humans than the negative since the flood happened."

KAREN GLEASON

MESA RESIDENT WHOSE HOME FLOODED IN SEPTEMBER 2014

officials to the flood, things in the field had been quiet for hours.

Crews from both agencies soon flocked to where the Emerald Park basin met the ADOT channel.

They wrestled with the channel gate, attempting to allow more water to pass through.

Manually turning a wheel usually raises or lowers such metal gates, letting water flow downstream or diverting it into the park. But in photos and video from that afternoon, it seemed firefighters couldn't open the Emerald Park gate by hand. Other photos show a chain and lock on the wheel that controlled the gate.

Crews brought in a backhoe to help remove channel debris and eventually rip out the gate.

At the same time, ADOT and Mesa officials at command centers were trying to identify the precise source of the water and whether either agency could do anything more to alleviate the flooding.

E-mails from that day indicate Mesa believed water ADOT had pumped off the freeway was at least partly to blame for the flooding, while ADOT told Mesa the flooding was "NOT water from the ADOT highway system but, rather, water from an overloaded city of Mesa drainage basin ... being pumped out."

Public-information officers also debated the details of the message each was presenting to reporters and the public, ultimately agreeing to present a united front focusing on how the "unprecedented amount of rain" had simply been "too much for the retention basins and channels along the U.S. 60 to handle."

As night approached, officials in heavy boots and rain slickers began going door to door, urging those still in their homes to find a dry place to sleep.

Karen and Sofia had made plans to stay with Karen's niece for the night, but they had no way to get there. Finally, sometime after 8 p.m., a neighbor with a truck tall enough to safely drive through the floodwater helped them out.

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By the time Karen could return to check on her home, nearly everything she owned had been destroyed.

Some things — the irreplaceable Middle Eastern rugs passed down to her by her parents, the shoe collection carefully cultivated over the years, the antique chairs, the 75-year-old jewelry box — she would never get back.

She and Sofia could stay at Karen's friend's house, she thought, just until her homeowner's insurance came through.

They ended up sharing a spare room there for more than six months.

Not only did her insurance company reject her claim, Karen said, it gave her deadlines to get the home back up to snuff. The city, which at first had helped coordinate cleanups and press conferences to answer residents' questions, clammed up given the legal action pending against Mesa and ADOT.

"You really feel for people when you see communities like this, because I'm guessing most people didn't know they had a flood risk," said Robert Traver, stormwater expert and professor at Villanova University.

In 2007, Traver analyzed the response to Hurricane Katrina on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers and identified several factors the smaller-scale Mesa disaster shared, including officials "not looking at what happens in a larger (more than 50-year) storm, not communicating to residents the consequences of that storm (and) not understanding the system in totality."

"What you have to do is get the hydrology right," Traver said.

City and state officials

could create a more comprehensive contingency plan that includes preparations for bigger, more powerful storms, or they could buy out residents living in the most vulnerable areas and start over, Traver said.

If they do neither, he said, Mesa's history will repeat itself.

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Ultimately, it was volunteers who helped Karen most, not any official agency.

After seeing her case in the news, a married couple with a background in humanitarian relief rallied a network of assistants. They spent three weeks ripping out and replacing drywall and flooring at no cost.

Though the garage and patio room still need to be repaired, Karen and Sofia were able to return home in March.

"It's been very hard, but I've seen much more of the best in humans than the negative since the flood happened," Karen said in the weeks leading up to the flood's one-year anniversary Tuesday.

Mesa and ADOT have taken some steps to improve the drainage system since last year, formally analyzing its performance, installing cameras to help monitor water flow in real time and offering grant funding to eligible homeowners.

Earlier this year, Mesa applied for Maricopa County Flood Control District funding to help cover the cost of five drainage projects, including one at Emerald Park expected to begin in 2016. Plans in-

clude adding a "bleed-off" line for a storm drain, increasing the capacity of two detention basins and incorporating an "overflow structure" to send extra water back into ADOT's channel.

There's a chance the still-pending lawsuit, in which Karen and more than 100 neighbors are involved, could force officials to do more. Residents are seeking a combined \$13.6 million in damages, but those interviewed by *The Republic* say what they want most is a guarantee they won't see a repeat of last year's devastation.

"I'm immensely anxious about everything we've been able to fix washing away," Karen said.

While it could be years before a verdict or settlement is reached, daily reminders of the flood are inescapable.

In Karen's living room, a stack of paintings taken down after the disaster still rests in the corner. A barely salvaged storage trunk, paint peeling, waits to be mended nearby.

From her driveway, she can see the words spray-painted across the shingles of her neighbor's roof: "FLOOD ZONE?"

And when brief but forceful monsoon storms swept the Valley last Sunday and Monday evenings, Karen and other residents checked the neighborhood's streets and basins again and again, their nerves jittery until hours after the downpour had stopped.

At Emerald Park, they saw city pumper trucks sitting in the rain, waiting.

#87
Continued

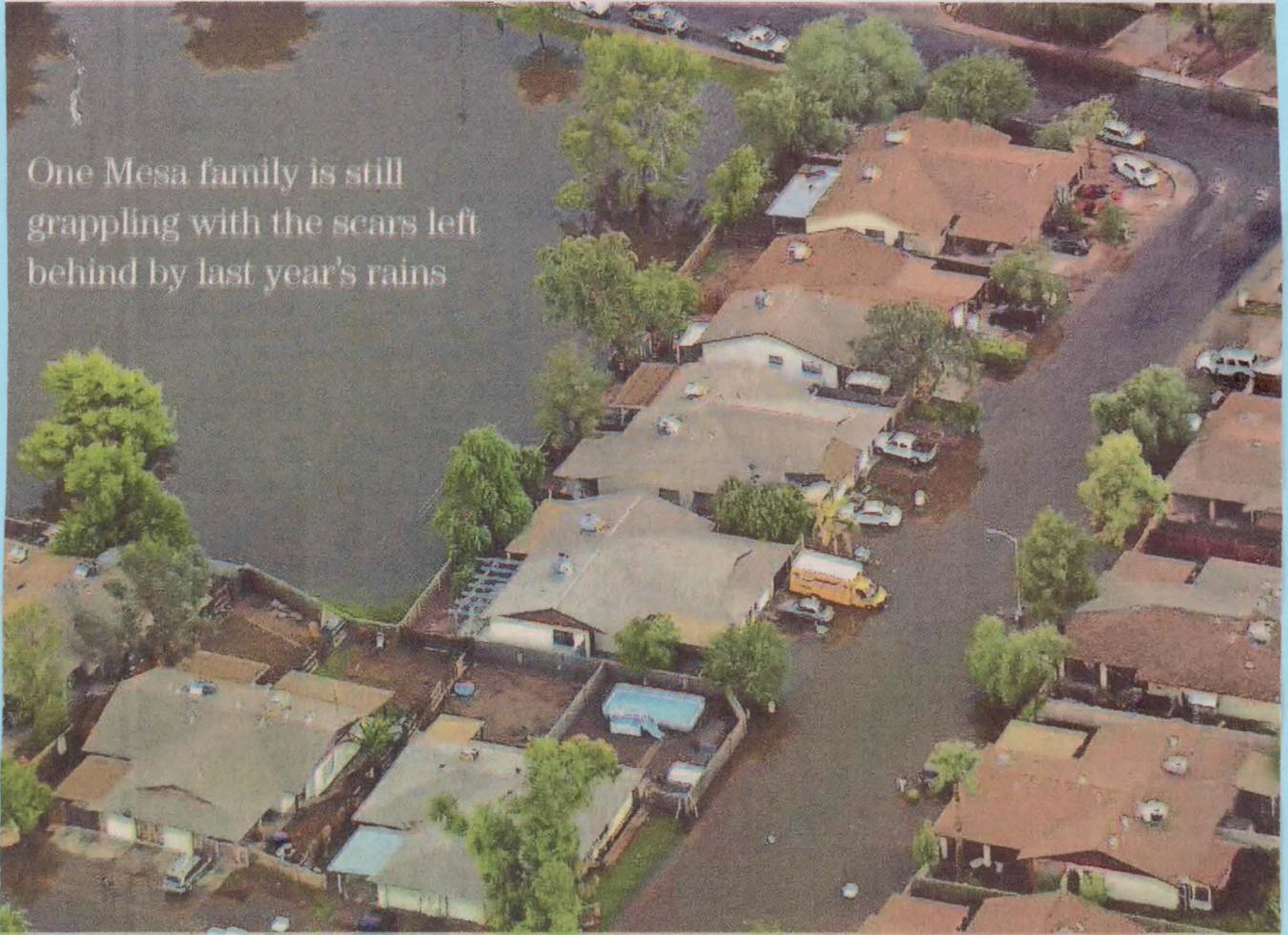
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Phoenix, AZ

#88

MESA FLOOD: ONE YEAR LATER

One Mesa family is still grappling with the scars left behind by last year's rains



COURTESY OF 12NEWS

REBUILDING WHAT THE WATERS SWEEP AWAY

PARKER LEAVITT THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

The more-obvious signs of disaster faded from Doran Street long ago, when the murky water receded and debris-filled dumpsters were carted away.

Inside the Phelps home, however, the physical and psychological effects of last year's disastrous rain-storm still linger — in missing baseboards, sleepless nights and jittery nerves.

Cody and Joni Phelps were among the hardest hit last Sept. 8, when a monster storm soaked parts of the Valley with 5 inches of rain, turning Interstate 10 into a lake and flooding hundreds of homes.

Joni, who was eight months pregnant, had to be floated from her duplex near Stapley Drive and Southern Avenue in Mesa and down the street to safety.

The couple had just spent \$11,000 — financed through a second mortgage — to dress up their modest home for the baby. Heartbroken, they watched as the flood ruined brand-new floors and a mocha-colored nursery, accented with pink, yellow and green flowers.

After Dani LeAnn was born three weeks later, the

See FLOOD, Page 9A



PATRICK BREEN/THE REPUBLIC

A year ago, record rainfall flooded neighborhoods in Mesa (top), leaving people like Cody and Joni Phelps (above), with their children Dani and Robert, struggling to recover and pick up the pieces from the storm's damage.



COURTESY OF 12NEWS

Major flooding closes the U.S. 60 and Meridian Road intersection at the Mesa-Apache Junction border during last year's historic rains.

Flood

Continued from Page 1A

family found itself living in a recovery zone, surrounded by concrete floors and very little furniture.

Much has changed in a year.

Bright-eyed baby Dani, now 11 months old, happily scoots across new vinyl floors, patterned after the cherry laminate destroyed by the flood.

The couple's 9-year-old son, Robert, lounges on their salvaged couch, which is back in a fully furnished living room.

Cody says the family is closer and his marriage stronger. Joni agrees. Stress can bring out the worst and best in people, but they've weathered it all.

"It's easy to be married when everything is good financially, emotionally, physically, but that's not all what marriage is," Joni said. "It's about the hard times, pulling together and making sure we as a whole are good, even if everything else isn't."

But the trauma leaves unwanted scars, too. Despite appearances, life isn't exactly back to normal.

The Phelps family still gets nervous whenever it rains. If it's coming down hard enough, Joni sends her husband to check for rising water in the park. They have sandbags ready in their backyard.

"I noticed you don't watch those home-improvement shows anymore," Cody tells his wife, smiling.

"I don't think that's funny," she fires back with a chuckle. "Before the flood, I used to watch HGTV all the time. I'd think, 'Ooh, awesome remodel.' And now ... no, never."

Home repair has indeed taken a back seat to raising two children. The baseboards are still missing, as are the closet doors, which soaked up the floodwater like sponges. A patch of repaired drywall still needs paint.

Cody hopes to finish the last of the home-repair projects soon. Then, they plan to sell and move, seeking a clean slate and bigger living space close to family in Queen Creek.

Their Mesa duplex — the first home



DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

Joni Phelps was eight months pregnant with her daughter Dani when the Sept. 8, 2014, rains hit. She had to be floated down the street to safety from her flooded duplex in Mesa.

Volunteers provide needed help

Fixing up the Phelps home and the Mesa neighborhood flooded last year has truly been a community effort.

Volunteers scoured the area in the days following the flood, hauling away trash and debris. Home Depot delivered free buckets by the truckload and donated gift cards worth as much as \$500.

Workers from R&K Building Supplies built new shelving for the Phelpses' garage, while members of Redemption Church in Gilbert delivered meals and painted drywall.

"To see how many people just stepped up, people we never knew, who donated help or volunteered time," Joni Phelps said. "It's really nice to see there are still selfless people."

they've owned together — now feels tainted, they said. "I'm sure this will be a great house for someone else," Joni said. "Just when you have those negative memories, it's hard."

Like a new car damaged in an accident, "it feels ruined even though it's fixed," Cody said.

Still, the couple are confident they'll find a buyer. The duplex attached to

theirs sold and closed in just one month last spring.

But first, they plan to celebrate one year of post-flood life this week at Disneyland, a well-earned first vacation since the storm.

Then it will be back to making new family memories. Preferably ones that don't involve a sump pump, a life raft and soggy drywall.

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Chandler Republic
Ocotillo
Phoenix, AZ

#89

Lessons learned from Phoenix flood a year ago

GREMLYN WADDELL

SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Remember what happened nearly a year ago?

The Sept. 8, 2014, storm in the metro Phoenix area that left homes flooded, washed away roads, closed schools for the day and stranded vehicles?

Daniel Henz, a meteorologist with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, said within the span of six hours that morning, 261,000 acre feet of water — or roughly 2 to 2½ inches — fell on the urban corridor. Much of the city was affected, including the I-17, the I-10, the U.S. 60 and the Loop 101, not to mention countless neighborhoods where muddy water damaged ceilings, walls and floors.

“To turn that into a number people can more easily understand,” Henz said, “that’s 85 billion gallons of water, enough to fill Bartlett Lake and Horseshoe Lake, combined. That’s nearly a half year’s water supply for urban Phoenix. It’s just a lot of water.”

Indeed, the storm report produced by the district’s Alert Team states that, according to the National Weather Service office in Phoenix, Sept. 8 saw “3.30 inches of rain at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport, which was the most rain ever recorded on a calendar day in its nearly 115-year period of record. Other locations across central portions of the county registered even greater totals with upwards of 4.00-5.50 (inches).”

Now, what many of us have forgotten is that there were several other flooding events leading up to that big day. Henz



FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT OF MARICOPA COUNTY
This home near 47th Avenue and Estrella Street shows some of the damage caused by the Sept. 8, 2014, flood in the Phoenix area.

said there was the Aug. 12 storm that hit the South Mountain area, the Aug. 19 storm centered over the I-17 corridor heading north out of Phoenix and even a Sept. 27 soaking that’s known as the “forgotten storm” because so many other events hogged the headlines.

“Those were some pretty big events, and they were unusual for the monsoon season because the flooding tends to be more in the winter months,” he said. “We thought the Aug. 19th storm would be the last big event of that season, but it wasn’t. It was an unusually long monsoon season last year, and what was unique about Sept. 8 is that it wasn’t just a typical monsoon event. There were remnants of Hurricane Norbert that provided tropical moisture and an unseasonably early trough off the coast of California, so it became this organized, large scale event.”

Will history repeat itself?

That’s anyone’s guess, Henz said, but “the science shows there are no guarantees.”

While rainfall amounts for Phoenix are currently average to below average, there is said to be a strong El Niño event unfolding that could spell trouble for the West Coast along with good chances for above-average rainfall locally.

If nothing else, last year served as a wake-up call for residents to be prepared in the event of a flood — even though doing may seem odd for desert dwellers — and folks should be taking precautionary measures now.

Anna Johnson, communications officer for the Flood Control District, said reaching out to the agency is a great way to start. Staff members encourage homeowners to obtain floodplain use permits and will work with them to make sure they locate or move barriers out of a potential water flow area on their property.

“We can also help educate them about anchoring tanks and buildings, elevating objects, etc.,” Johnson said. “The Floodplain Management and Service Division at FCD also has proper permitting brochures, and FCD staff will visit areas and talk with people to guide them about what to do.”

After all, homes and larger structures that have been built in accordance with floodplain regulations are better positioned for reduced risk, according to Kelli Sertich, Floodplain Management and Services Division manager at FCD.

“A property may have a lot of water, but the home may not get flooded,” she said, adding that FMS staffers can let

homeowners know if their homes have been built per the regulations. “Residents who live in floodplains can enjoy their property safely, but they need to be aware, to learn to live with water and to be ‘flood smart.’ We encourage people to purchase flood insurance inside the floodplain and out.”

So, how exactly does one become “flood smart?” Probably the easiest way is to visit floodsmart.gov and heed the tips. They’ll include such things, Sertich said, as:

- » Find out where your property is in relation to floodplains, mountainous areas that drain rapidly, low areas, etc., so that you understand what kind of flooding can occur in your area.

- » Observe conditions that could increase flooding near your home (Has it rained a lot lately and the ground has already become saturated? This lowers the ground’s ability to hold additional water. Where has your property or street ‘ponded’ water in past storms?)

- » Use the FCD’s mobile app to check storm warnings and rainfall amounts.

- » Check your property regularly to assure fences and culverts are clear of debris. If you live on a wash, keep vegetation trimmed back.

- » Anchor any items that could float away and/or cause damage to your property. Move trailers and other non-anchored items to the higher parts of your property.

- » Store valuable items up high in your home and in the garage; use water-tight containers when possible.

- » Remember, when a flash flood hits, there is very little time to react.

#90

CONSTRUCTION

Drainage project affects traffic in Peoria, Surprise

STAFF REPORT

Weekend traffic restrictions will be in place along 115th Avenue beginning 9 p.m. Friday so that utility relocation may begin for the 115th Avenue and Union Hills Drive drainage improvements project.

The following road closures will be in place and are scheduled to be removed by 6 a.m. Monday:

- 115th Avenue north and south bound lanes from Beardsley Road to Union Hills Drive;

- 115th Avenue northbound lanes will be closed north of the Avenue of the Arts.

The same restrictions will be in place the following weekend, 9 p.m. Sept. 18 to 6 a.m. Sept. 21.

Motorists should consider utilizing alternate routes,

such as 99th Avenue, during the weekend closures.

The 115th Avenue and Union Hills Drive drainage improvement project is a partnership between the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the cities of Surprise and Peoria and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation.

The main goal of the project is to intercept flood wa-

ter that enters the communities adjacent to 115th Avenue from the northeast and carry the water to the Agua Fria River via existing and improved changes and/or storm drains. The project is designed for the 100-year storm event.

#91

Hundreds of homes in Mesa were without power after Aug. 29 storm, SRP reports

A Saturday, Aug. 29, monsoon storm snapped power poles in west Mesa and left hundreds of people without power.

“Storm update: We have 13,000 customers without power, and poles down near Southern and Stapley in the E. Valley,” Salt River Project reported at 9:27 p.m. Aug. 29 on Twitter at @SRPconnect.

At 10:11 p.m., SRP Tweeted that the number had been reduced to 9,300 customers.”

As of 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, there were 62 homes without power from the winds and storm that swept through the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Power poles were down in the area of Val Vista Drive to Gilbert Road and Broadway Road to University Drive, according to the SRP outage website at <https://myaccount.srpnet.com/myaccount/outages/public>. SRP crews were working to restore power as quickly as possible to the 62 homes there, according to the website.

The power had been off since 7:46:25 p.m. for six homes and 7:57:18 p.m. for 56 homes, according to the website.

National Weather Service reported that wind gusts of up to 24 mph were reported at 8:03 p.m. Aug. 29 in east Mesa and 34 mph in west southwest Mesa at 7:10 p.m.

Weather reports from trained spotters, according to the NWS, included:

- 8 p.m. Aug. 29, wind damage: five to six power lines blown down, with half-inch hail and tiles in the road in “WSW Mesa.”

- 8 p.m. Aug. 29, flooding: a National Weather Service employee reported flooding on the roadway on Broadway between Lindsay and Gilbert roads. Also, pea-sized hail reported and winds approximately 50 to 60 knots, or, according to a conversion table by the Storm Prediction Center at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov>, 58 to 69 miles per hour.

Rainfall from the storm (by place, one hour and 24 hours) was, according to the NWS:

- Fitch Park in Mesa, 0.16 and 0.35 inches.
- Kleinman Park in Mesa, 0.39; 0.39 inches.
- Mesa Tower in Mesa, 0.20; 0.20 inches.
- Mountain View Park in Mesa, 0.35; 0.39 inches.
- Powerline Floodway in Mesa, 0.00; 0.31 inches.
- Price drain at Loop 202 in Mesa, 0.59; 0.59 inches.

#92

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Gilbert, Chandler add homes to floodplain

Insurance will be required for 275 properties

JESSICA BOEHM
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Approximately 275 Chandler and Gilbert property owners will be required to purchase flood insurance beginning in November, when their homes are added to a high-risk flood zone.

A 10-year study by the two municipalities, along with the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, used new technology to better determine which areas are at risk of flooding.

"There were some areas in both of our communities where the mapping was sketchy at best, and there were new technical methods to go in and do more of a comprehensive update," said Tom Condit, development engineer for the Town of Gilbert.

About 250 Gilbert properties around the Eastern and Consolidated Canals and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks will enter the floodplain when the new maps take effect on November 4. And nearly 300 properties will leave the floodplain, thanks to the update. Chandler will see only about 25 land parcels added to floodplain, and 335 removed.

"Some people will be excited about the news, and others may not," Condit said. "We just want to make sure everyone is protected, and this is the best data we have."

Kathryn Gross, senior hydrologist with the Maricopa County Flood Control District, said the Gilbert and Chandler areas drain from higher ground in the east to lower ground in the west, but canals and other features positioned at a higher elevation become barriers when water is trying to drain.

"Water's being stopped by these man-made features and could pose a flood threat," she said.

Laurie Bearce has lived in Cooper Ranch, a neighborhood northeast of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Cooper Road, for eight years. Her home will be added to the floodplain in November.

Bearce said it seemed "unusual" for her home to be considered at-risk for flooding seemingly out of the blue, especially because the neighborhood hasn't had any significant flooding issues.

"The rain runs off the roof and into



CARLOS CHAVEZ/THE REPUBLIC
Mercedes Kim, 30, of Chandler reacts after her car got stuck in the water on Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, after record rainfall in the Valley.

the street and drains like it's supposed to," she said. "Even the really big storms, we've never had standing water more than a day after."

But Bearce and many of her neighbors will now be forced to purchase flood insurance. All federally-backed loans require property in high-risk flood areas to carry insurance.

Eddie Lohmann, FEMA national flood insurance specialist, said owners of newly impacted properties should purchase a preferred risk policy before the new maps go into effect. Coverage purchased before November 4 will range from \$137 to \$405 per year for a single-family home.

"Not only is it the easiest thing for them to do, it's the cheapest thing for them to do, and it may provide them with some benefits down the road as far as their premium goes," Lohmann said.

After November 4, newly impacted property owners will have a one-year period to secure flood insurance at a discounted rate, between \$165 and \$445.

See FLOODPLAIN, Page 5

Floodplain

Continued from Page 4

Residents who choose not to purchase insurance until after November 2016 will see a steep price hike, from about \$1,300 to \$2,500

Chandler and Gilbert residents already get a 15 and 10 percent discount on flood insurance respectively thanks to the municipalities' involvement in FEMA's Community Rating System. Chandler and Gilbert have taken voluntary precautionary steps to prevent flood damage, which secures a discount for residents.

"They're doing more from a safety and ownership perspective to keep property owners safe and out of harm's way," Lohmann said.

Residents impacted by the new floodplain maps will be notified by mail this month, Condit said. Informational meetings will be held Sept. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert and Sept. 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Chandler Downtown Library.

Condit cautioned that although it may seem like flooding is improbable in the Valley, every area has the potential. Con-

"There were some areas in both of our communities where the mapping was sketchy at best."

TOM CONDIT
DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER, TOWN OF GILBERT

dit pointed to the extreme weather event a year ago that drenched the Phoenix metro area and flooded parts of the East Valley.

"Yes, it's a beautiful place to live and it's sunny 300 days out of the year but we just have to be prepared for those unusual events that happen only once in a blue moon," he said. "We just don't want people to get flooded out, we want to protect people's property in that way."

Gross, with the county Flood Control District, echoed Condit's caution and also warned that there are retention basins and other areas in the Valley that may not be a part of a flood map, but still carry the potential for a flood risk.

"There are localized hazards that may not be mapped but they still are real and citizens should take those into consideration as well," Gross said.

#93

Arrowhead Media
 Arizona Republic
 Cir: 438,722
 Phoenix, AZ

High-risk flood zones redrawn in two cities

Property owners will face insurance requirements

JESSICA BOEHM

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Approximately 275 Chandler and Gilbert property owners will be required to purchase flood insurance beginning in November, when their homes are added to a high-risk flood zone.

A 10-year study by the two municipalities, along with the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, used new technology to better determine which areas are at risk of flooding.

"There were some areas in both of our communities where the mapping was sketchy at best, and there were new technical methods to go in and do more of a comprehensive update," said Tom Condit, development engineer for the Town of Gilbert.

About 250 Gilbert properties around the Eastern and Consolidated Canals and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks will enter the floodplain when the new maps take effect on November 4. And nearly 300 properties will leave the floodplain, thanks to the update. Chandler will see only about 25 land parcels added to floodplain, and 335 removed.

"Some people will be excited about the news, and others may not," Condit said. "We just want to make sure everyone is protected, and this is the best data we have."

Kathryn Gross, senior hydrologist with the Maricopa County Flood Control District, said the Gilbert and Chandler areas drain from higher ground in the east to lower ground in the west, but canals and other features positioned at a higher elevation become barriers when water is trying to drain.

"Water's being stopped by these man-made features and could pose a flood threat," she said.

Laurie Bearce has lived in Cooper Ranch, a neighborhood northeast of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Cooper Road, for eight years. Her home will be added to the floodplain in November.

Bearce said it seemed "unusual" for her home to be considered at-risk for flooding seemingly out of the blue, especially because the neighborhood hasn't had any significant flooding issues.

"The rain runs off the roof and into the street and drains like it's supposed to," she said.



CARLOS CHAVEZ/THE REPUBLIC

Mercedes Kim, 30, of Chandler reacts after her car got stuck in the water after record rainfall in the Valley on Sept. 8, 2014.

But Bearce and many of her neighbors will now be forced to purchase flood insurance. All federally-backed loans require property in high-risk flood areas to carry insurance.

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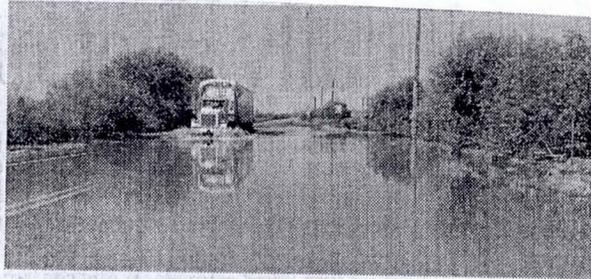
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#95



The Associated Press
A tractor trailer navigates through a section of State Route 238 between Gila Bend and Maricopa that remains closed due to flooding.

Monsoon closes elementary school, strands vehicles

BUCKEYE (AP) — An elementary school in a Phoenix suburb was closed Monday because of power-line damage from an overnight storm that trapped drivers on flooded roads south of the metro area.

The buildings of Liberty Elementary in the Buckeye area were apparently undamaged but power poles fell onto school property, damaging fencing and playground equipment. The school will reopen Tuesday.

Meanwhile, authorities said no injuries were reported after about dozen vehicles were stranded Sunday night along roads in the Maricopa and Gila Bend areas.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said as many as eight vehicles were stuck in one wash. Deputies

helped the vehicles' occupants reach safety in Gila Bend and Maricopa, the office said.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Joaquin Enriquez said a man driving a pickup that got stuck in several feet of water on State Route 238 between Gila Bend and Maricopa had to climb up to safety into a nearby tree.

The Arizona Department of Transportation said SR238 remained closed from west of Maricopa to State Route 85 near Gila Bend, and the department recommended a detour via State Routes 347 and 84 and Interstate 8.

Arizona Public Service Co. said about 4,000 Buckeye-area residents were without power at one point but service was restored to most of them later Sunday night.

#96

09 16 15

Arrowhead Media
East Mesa Independent
Apache Junction, AZ

City provides update on work done after 2014 catastrophic storm with flooding in Mesa

On Sept. 8, 2014, the city of Mesa experienced a catastrophic storm that experts quantified as a 1,000-year flood event. Many parts of the city received unprecedented amounts of rainfall resulting in neighborhood flooding, according to a press release.

Since then, the city, working closely with other agencies including the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, reviewed the drainage system to identify opportunities for improvement. Some of these included ADOT removing the concrete weirs in the U.S. Highway 60 freeway channel and the city installing additional rain gauges and video monitoring at critical facilities.

The city also identified five projects that would enhance overall drainage including projects in the Emerald Acres neighborhood and the areas around Main

Street and Horne. The total construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$5.4 million. The city applied for, and received, nearly \$1 million in grant funding from the flood control district with the remaining \$4.4 million coming from the city's transportation enterprise funds.

These five projects are under design, with the Emerald Acres project being reviewed with ADOT for approval.

As was the case during last year's storm, and as a matter of practice, the city continues to work closely with the Mesa United Way, the Salvation Army and faith-based groups to identify community needs and provide support and resources whenever possible. The city also worked with its Housing Revitalization Division to give priority to those residents impacted by the storm who qualify for federal dollars designated for housing rehabilitation, according to the release.

091615

Arrowhead Media
Scottsdale Republic
Cir: 42,000
Phoenix, AZ

#97

Infrastructure projects seek to address severe flooding in the Valley

BRENNA GOTH
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Judy Mercado said she thought the chances of her Laveen home flooding were a trillion to one, before a storm dumped inches of rain over South Mountain in August 2014.

The water ruined the houses of Mercado and many of her neighbors near 27th Avenue and Dobbins Road as canals overflowed and streets became rivers. When a record-setting storm hit the Valley less than a month later, they were flooded again.

"It was one of the worst things you could actually live through," said Mercado, who stayed in a camper for several months and is still working on repairs.

A year after an intense monsoon season overwhelmed Phoenix infrastruc-

ture — particularly in Laveen and near South Mountain — leaders say they are investing in changes to prepare city streets and protect homes. Already, the city has spent about \$7.5 million in the area as part of its recovery efforts.

Now, construction will start in the next several weeks on a 36-acre storm-water retention basin near 27th and South Mountain avenues, said Hasan Mushtaq, Phoenix's floodplain manager.

Last year's storms were especially problematic for developments impacted by water coming off South Mountain, he said. Drainage in neighborhoods was primarily designed for smaller, more frequent storms.

"The systems couldn't really take it," Mushtaq said.

See **FLOODING**, Page 11



Some roads were closed for days after record-setting rainfall in the Phoenix area caused flooding on Sept. 8, 2014.

NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Flooding

Continued from Page 10

The new retention basin will collect water and guide it to an existing storm drain. It's the start of larger system planned for the area.

Phoenix is partnering with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County on the \$4.5 million project. The district will reimburse the city for its share to expe-

dite the project.

The basin adds to immediate recovery efforts that the city completed within several months of the storm, said Jack Noble, street maintenance superintendent.

Near South Mountain, crews reconstructed 21st Place to include an indentation to divert water. A sinkhole was repaired at Thomas Road and 91st Avenue.

South Mountain Avenue received a new gutter to prevent flooding, and

See **FLOODING**, Page 12

Flooding

Continued from Page 11

workers cleaned out thousands of culverts throughout the city to make sure water can properly move through them.

The city also improved its storm response, Noble said. Street crews received a new truck earlier this year that has a vacuum function that can remove surface water from the roads.

Twice this year, city departments have used a storm trailer equipped with supplies like chainsaws, a generator and a lighting unit to be used as a mobile command center.

"It really puts the logistics right there," Noble said.

Stormwater infrastructure projects work as intended where they're constructed, Mushtaq said. But the city has limited money for new projects after spending funds from a



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The challenge is finding new resources for stormwater infrastructure, said Councilwoman Kate Gallego, whose district experienced flooding during last year's storms.

Phoenix coordinated with other government agencies and community organizations to help residents whose houses were swamped, Gallego said. But the area still doesn't have the infrastructure it needs, she said.

Some Laveen residents like Mercado still fear for their homes, though rains were less intense this year.

Now, Gallego and other leaders are advocating for preventative measures. This year, the city focused on education and outreach to residents about the monsoon season and flooding.

Gallego is also pushing for more recognition of the infrastructure problem throughout the region, she said.

"This is a problem that will not go away," Gallego said.

NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC; MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

091615

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
North Central Phoenix
Phoenix, AZ

#98



New projects seek to address severe monsoon flooding in Valley

BRENNA GOTH
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

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"This is a problem that will not go away," Gallego said.

Record rains that hit the Valley on Sept. 8, 2014, left cars stuck in floodwaters on Interstate 10 (above); other area streets were closed to traffic for days (left). Phoenix is taking steps to stop such flooding from happening again.

091615

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
North Central Phoenix
Phoenix, AZ



PREPARING FOR THE NEXT FLOOD

A year after an intense monsoon season overwhelmed Phoenix infrastructure — particularly in Laveen and near South Mountain — leaders say they are investing in changes to prepare city streets and protect homes.

COMMUNITY LIVING, Page 3

091615

Arrowhead Media
Mesa Republic
Cir: 14,000
Phoenix, AZ

#100

Projects address flooding in Valley

BRENNA GOTH

THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

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The new retention basin will collect water and guide it to an existing storm drain. It's the start of larger system planned for the area.

Phoenix is partnering with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County on

See FLOODING, Page 25



NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Some roads were closed for days after record-setting rainfall in the Phoenix area caused flooding on Sept. 8, 2014.

Flooding

Continued from Page 24

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See FLOODING, Page 26

Flooding

Continued from Page 25

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MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

Record rains that hit the Valley on Sept. 8, 2014, left cars stuck in floodwaters on Interstate 10, and other streets in the area were closed to traffic for days. Phoenix is taking steps to stop such flooding from happening again.



Mesa Mayor John Giles explains the use of water pumps to prevent future flooding at Emerald Park on Sept. 16. [David Jolkovski/Tribune]

Mesa plans major improvements to drainage system

By James Gingerich
TRIBUNE

After the flooding Mesa experienced last year that inundated parts of the city with up to a foot of water, there has been a concerted effort by city officials and state agencies to ensure the city is prepared should that once-in-a-1,000-years storm present itself again.

In partnership with the Maricopa County Flood Control District (MCFCD) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), the city of Mesa made improvements to the drainage system in the immediate aftermath of the storm, but the greatest improve-

"The city of Mesa is anxious to give peace of mind to the residents of the Emerald Park and other neighborhoods — to help them know that the city is doing everything they can to make sure that this flooding does not happen again."

Mayor John Giles

ments planned between the agencies are forthcoming.

"We did some things to mitigate the chances of that flooding happening again including removing the concrete weirs that are in the

ADOT flood canal that runs parallel to the US 60," said Mayor John Giles. "In addition there were remote control cameras that were added to the city's largest flood control basins so we could monitor how full those basins are getting during storms along with additional mobile pumps so that when those retention basins are reaching their crest we could pump overflow water into sewers and the ADOT canal system."

The most serious flooding occurred at Emerald Park where the failure of water pumps and the overflow of canals caused by weirs — concrete

» See Drainage on page 7

#101

Drainage

» From page 1

barriers meant to slow the flow of water — caused hundreds of residents to be uprooted from their homes and Keller Elementary School to close temporarily. Many of those problems should be solved by the improvements already in place.

However, the city wanted a sure method of ensuring that the park would not overflow again. After all, Emerald Park is one of the largest water retention basins in Mesa, built to handle a once-in-100-years storm, but the storm last year far exceeded those expectations. So the city applied for a grant from the

MCFCD for the construction of a spillway that would direct water into the canal system through a culvert.

"There is not a single city in the country that engineers for a 1,000-year event because to do so would make the cost of development so prohibitive that you wouldn't be able to build any neighborhoods in that area," Giles said. "In spite of that, with this new spillway that we will be installing at Emerald Park, the system will be able to handle an event similar to what happened last year."

After the flooding ceased in the Emerald Park area in 2014, the neighborhood near 2nd Avenue and Solomon Road, by the closed Mesa Junior High School,



Mesa Mayor John Giles explains changes to the canal to prevent future flooding at Emerald Park on Sept. 16. [David Jolkovski/Tribune]

experienced flooding that although not as severe was still enough to cause property damage and reveal the lacking drainage infrastructure in that part of the city.

With help from the new grant money, the former campus will be partially turned into a new drainage basin that will prevent future flooding — many of the standard improvements to the berms and pump systems have already been implemented. As well, the city has separate plans to place several youth sports fields at the closed school.

In addition to the Emerald Park and Solomon Road neighborhoods, three other Mesa neighborhoods have been earmarked by ADOT and MCFCD for improve-

ments. According to ADOT, the Royal Palms and the 10th Avenue and Sirrine neighborhoods will have drainage improvements installed, and a new retention basin is planned for the area around 9th Avenue and Horne Street.

The cost of the improvements are expected to amount to \$5.4 million. In terms of funding, \$1 million will come from grants from the MCFCD's Small Projects Assistance Program, the greatest amount that could have

been granted, with the other \$4.4 million coming from the city of Mesa's general fund.

No matter the cost, Giles expressed his hope and confidence that these additions will dramatically increase the ability of Mesa's drainage system to handle the rainwater, which is all the more important considering the expected magnitude of the upcoming El Niño season.

"The city of Mesa is anxious to give peace of mind to the residents of the Emerald Park

and other neighborhoods — to help them know that the city is doing everything they can to make sure that this flooding does not happen again," Giles said. "None of us expected a 1,000-year event, but now that we know that it is a possibility you can expect we will be better prepared for it when it happens again."

• Contact writer: 480-898-6581 or jjgingerich@evtrib.com.

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#102

091915

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Northeast Section
Phoenix, AZ

SOUNDOFF

How should city get ready for the next megastorm?

Every week, *The Republic* asks Phoenix City Council members and the mayor to respond to a question about an issue affecting city government.

Question: What should Phoenix do next to prepare for another mega storm?

Background: Phoenix residents have seen their share of fierce storms this summer. But the downpours haven't matched the intensity of the 2014 monsoon season, which overwhelmed city infrastructure, particularly in south Phoenix and Laveen.

To better prepare for future mega storms, city leaders said they are investing in projects to protect streets and homes. Already, the city has spent about \$7.5 million in the area as part of its recovery efforts.

Construction is expected to start in the next several weeks on a 36-acre storm water retention basin near 27th and South Mountain avenues. Improving the city's drainage systems for water coming off of South Mountain has been a focus given drainage in neighborhoods was primarily designed for smaller storms.

Plans for the basin follow other recovery efforts city workers made after an August 2014 storm. But the city has limited money for new projects after spending funds from a 2006 bond program.

Councilwoman Kate Gallego, whose district includes parts of Laveen and south Phoenix, said the area still doesn't have the infrastructure it needs.

Here are the answers of city leaders who responded to the question.

"When Phoenix experienced record-breaking rainfall and historic flooding in 2014, our preparation and real-time communication helped residents avoid potentially dangerous situations and any loss of life. Our most recent storms also hit hard, and again the city responded in a calm, strategic manner that put safety first for our residents. But I commend Councilwoman Gallego's call for more investment in flood-control infrastructure to stay prepared for our region's stronger and more serious storms, especially in South Phoenix and Laveen. This requires a cooperative regional response side-by-side with the Maricopa County Flood Control District. Current infrastructure funds don't match the need."

— Greg Stanton, Mayor

"While we have taken positive steps, Phoenix has significant infrastructure needs in every corner of our city. Anyone who was impacted by this year's monsoon storms saw it firsthand — infrastructure is an investment better made today than waiting for a crisis tomorrow. I have worked hard with city staff to find ways to expedite investments in safety during difficult budget times. Additionally, the Maricopa County Flood Control budget has shrunk in recent years. I am thankful the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors recently voted to increase funding for flood control, and I hope funding will return to historic levels."

— Kate Gallego, District 8, southeast Phoenix and parts of downtown

Projects address flooding risk near South Mountain

BRENNA GOTH

THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

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NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

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Some Laveen residents like Mercado still fear for their homes, though rains were less intense this year.

Now, Gallego and other leaders are advocating for preventative measures. This year, the city focused on education and outreach to residents about the monsoon season and flooding.

#104

092115

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

It's going to be a rainy couple of days in Ariz.

JEROD MACDONALD-EVOY
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Much of Arizona, including the Valley, has been placed under a flash-flood watch for today and Tuesday, as a strong storm system is expected to bring heavy rains to the state, the National Weather Service said Sunday.

Some areas of the Valley can expect 2 to 3 inches of rain over the next two days, with the potential for winds reaching 30 to 40 mph, meteorologist Hector Vasquez said.

The watch affects areas from Yuma to Kingman in the western part of the

state, through central Arizona to Globe and the Mogollon Rim area, including Payson.

A strong low-pressure system 400 miles southwest of San Diego was beginning to "intensify" and was on track to move into Arizona on Sunday, the Weather Service said.

The system is expected to begin in the south and gradually expand into northern parts of the state.

"The situation is fluid and we are painting with a broad brush," said Vasquez. "Conditions will be conducive to producing heavy rainfall and possibly flooding."

The fast-moving storm system, bringing in tropical moisture, will create humid conditions during breaks in the rainfall, which most likely will be "continuous," Vasquez said. He suggested people in areas prone to flooding prepare and possibly purchase sandbags.

Last September, a similar system created major flooding in parts of the Valley, including blockages on Interstate 10 and in a central Mesa neighborhood, Vasquez said.

"I was driving back from California at the time and the freeway was closed," Vasquez said.

092215

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

Wide storm threat over, but rain is still possible

Heavy rainfall was forecast for Phoenix area Monday

WELDON JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

The threat of a much needed area-wide soaking rainstorm didn't materialize for the Phoenix area Monday, but parts of the Valley could still see significant rain.

The latest National Weather Service forecast discussion states that the threat of widespread, heavy tropical rain is over, but a passing tropical depression has left the air laden with moisture. That moist atmosphere could still feed development of storms that could dump heavy rain over smaller areas and cause minor flooding.

A flash-flood watch remained in effect for most of southwestern and south-

central Arizona until 9 p.m. Monday.

Early Monday afternoon, storms developed that dropped as much as an inch of rain in far northwestern Maricopa and east-central La Paz counties. Those storms prompted a flood advisory in those areas that expired at 5:30 p.m.

Rain totals were significantly less than that closer to the Phoenix metro area Monday afternoon. By 5 p.m., a Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauge at South Mountain had recorded 0.39 inches of rain to lead the Valley at that point.

The main source of the moisture behind the expected storm, a tropical depression that developed off the coast of Baja California, changed its track and headed farther east than expected. That disturbance's new path lessened the chance of widespread rain.

Paul Iniguez, a meteorologist with the Weather Service in Phoenix, explained.

"It looks like what happened was it spun up into a tropical depression, it got a little stronger," Iniguez said. "That increase in strength has caused the path of the system to change. So it's moving further east."

The flash-flood watch will continue until Tuesday afternoon for parts of east-central and southeastern Arizona. Parts of southeastern Arizona, particularly in the Safford area, did see some flooding Monday.

Though the main area of moisture will track east of the Phoenix area, there is still plenty of potential for heavy rain in the Valley on Monday. Iniguez said anyone who has been outside recently can feel the mugginess.

As a result, any showers or storms that develop today could still cause heavy rain.

The current forecast still calls for up to 2 inches of rain through today. Those

totals could be higher within some thunderstorms.

"There are scattered showers out there now and some storms trying to pop up in some areas," Iniguez said. "So, we're continuing with the flash-flood threat through today."

The latest Weather Service forecast still includes a significant chance of showers and thunderstorms through this evening. Those storms are more likely to be the scattered, fast-moving storms typical of the monsoon season. Within those storms, there is still the potential for locally heavy rain.

"But we're not looking at widespread heavy rain as if this big flood of moisture was still heading for us as it was before," Iniguez said.

On Wednesday, the chance of rain drops to 10 percent early in the day, as a drier weather pattern takes over.

#105

092315

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

Valley & State



#106

BETH DUCKETT/THE REPUBLIC

Water fills a low-lying area in Scottsdale during a storm that hit the Valley on Tuesday.

Parts of Phoenix area get rain and flooding

Scottsdale neighborhood affected as wash overflows

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Early evening storms Tuesday, one of which turned out to be severe, dumped heavy rain and buffeted parts of the Valley with strong winds.

Some areas saw over an inch of rain in less than an hour, resulting in localized flooding in Scottsdale and southeast Valley cities.

A neighborhood near 84th Street and Cactus Road in Scottsdale was nearly impassable after a wash maintained by the city overflowed and channeled up to four feet of water through residential streets. Scottsdale police were posted in the area to provide motorists with detour information, and several motorists who had gone through the blockade to reach their homes would have been stranded if not for neighbors who helped them push through.

A flash-flood warning remained in effect much of Tuesday night for parts of the southeast Valley, including east Mesa and Gilbert.

There were reports of grape-sized hail near Baseline and Sossaman roads in Mesa, and the Crismon Road exit ramp

on the U.S. 60 was closed due to flooding, according to Bianca Hernandez, a Weather Service meteorologist.

The National Weather Service first issued a severe thunderstorm warning for eastern Maricopa County at about 6 p.m., when radar indicated a severe storm capable of producing damaging winds in excess of 60 mph and small hail over Mesa.

By the time it was finished, the storm dropped as much as 1.54 inches of rain in an area stretching from the U.S. 60 and the Red Mountain Freeway to the north, and Gilbert and Crismon roads, according to Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauges.

Earlier, a strong storm just south of Phoenix left behind 1.10 inches of rain. That storm developed over the Laveen area and headed east. The precipitation tied a daily record for rain in Phoenix: 0.41 inches fell at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, a record set on Sept. 22, 1987.

At about the same time, radar indicated a strong storm over the Scottsdale Airport moving slowly to the southeast. That storm packed high winds and dropped 1.34 inches of rain.

The drying trend starts today, as the forecast calls for partly sunny skies with highs from 93 to 97 degrees.

Republic reporter Miguel Otárola contributed to this article.

09 23 15

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

More money

#107

Flood repairs proceed, costs continue to rise

By Patti Slattery
Reporter

Wickenburg Town Council on Monday okayed the expenditure of \$20,278 of emergency money to continue to repair damage from the July 18 flood which dumped close to five inches in the area, took out roads and washed mountains of sand into neighborhoods.

The move Monday brings the total Capital Improvement Contingency Fund spending on flood repairs to \$249,186 – a dollar amount which taps out the \$250,000 approved by council earlier this summer.

More money will be needed to repair some of the extensive damage the flood caused, according to Mayor John Cook who said more needs to be done before another storm.

Public Works Director Vince Lorefice explained to the council that some improvements are wrapping up, including pavement and street repairs on Constellation and Jack Burden roads, and repair to the concrete crossing on Ocotillo Drive.

In addition, funds went towards numerous dumpsters for cleanup and concrete blocks for retaining walls at Jack Burden Road and Sullivan Street.

The cost of future repairs will

be high, including the waterline along Constellation Road to the Everett Bowman Rodeo Arena. The temporary fix was \$15,000 and a permanent repair will be an estimated \$800,000, Lorefice explained.

To save expenses and secure water for the rodeo grounds, the town is converting an irrigation well on the grounds to a potable well, but the time line is at least five months.

Lorefice explained the town is currently looking for grants for further repairs, but some might have to be built into the five-year capital funds plan.

“Take another five years?” asked Cook. “We’re shooting dice and gambling that another strong rain won’t come along.”

Cook expressed a need for preservation efforts – especially on streets such as South Mariposa, where another heavy rain could make an already damaged portion of the road irreparable.

“Another pretty good rain could take the road out,” said Cook. “If we lose the road, it could cost two to three times more.”

“We have to look at this more closely,” he said, “and bring it

See Repairs Page A-3

Repairs

From the Front Page

The town has placed rails along South Mariposa to protect residents from falling, but Lorefice later told *The Sun* that the condition of the road is so severe, it could take between \$6 - \$700,000 for repair.

Lorefice explained the town has already received engineering proposals, and agreed to look at the situation further, and “bring it back.”

By the Oct. 5 council meeting, Lorefice hopes to

have a final proposal for engineering services, with a possible presentation by the engineers. At that time the council could determine a timeline for moving forward on the project, he said.

092315

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

Morristown students participate in live broadcast

By Mary Ann Rosehnal
Sun Correspondent

Morristown School seventh graders had a phenomenal experience this month. They participated in a live broadcast with the "Meteorite Hunter," Geoff Notkin. He showed examples of meteorites he found, taught about meteorites, and answered questions via the internet. They plan to look for a meteorite in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) garden.

The "STEM Pro Live" crew drove down from Phoenix and filmed with Morristown students to be linked with Aerolite Meteorites Headquarters. Students were impressed with the team. Footage from their visit was filmed for an upcoming episode of Meteorite Hunters Unlimited, broadcast live from Phoenix's Walter Cronkite building.

Students thanked Maricopa County Education Service Agency for providing this innovative educational show and broadcasting live to over 4,000 Arizona children in their classrooms. This is a way to make education modern and fun.

The local program was loaned a Robot through which students will communicate with Olga Ephstein from ARCADIS Civil Engineers, a Ph.D. student at Arizona State University (ASU), working with the Morristown students.

Linda de Berge, volunteer librarian of the General

Morristown News

Federated Woman's Club-Morristown's Volunteer Library announced that in addition to normal hours as listed on their website calendar, www.gfwc-morristown.org, they will be open until 6 p.m. on the Tuesday and Thursday of the third week of the month. The library is located in the old main building of Morristown school on Rockaway Hills Road. This library is open to the public.

Morristown students thanked the Del E. Webb Center for Performing Arts in Wickenburg for inviting them to see Trout Fishing in America last week (TFIA). TFIA is an eclectic folk rock band best known for family music and kids' songs. Formed by Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet in 1977, the long-standing musical partnership has been bringing award-winning music to stages and schools for over three decades. TFIA recordings have garnered four Grammy nominations, as well as three national indie awards and multiple Parents Choice Gold and American Library Awards.

To clarify questions from this column a couple of weeks ago: Taxes on homes in the Morristown Elementary School District increased by approximately 27%. The greatest increase was in the taxes for the Morristown School District and the Maricopa County Flood District. Taxes vary depending upon the area in Morristown the homes are located. Circle City area homes with no improvements and the same owner appear to have higher taxes this year than in the years 2000 through 2013. In the more upscale areas of the community there are several years in that period that are higher than this year but many in that 13 year period are lower. There are many factors that go into a tax rate for a particular property.

Full disclosure: this correspondent is a member of the Governing Board of Morristown School District No. 75 and a retired employee of this district. Any comments in this column are as an individual and not representing the district in any way.

The Morristown Mustangs Volleyball teams have home games with Aguila, beginning at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the multipurpose room. They will travel to Congress for games beginning at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29. The Parent Teacher Student Association sells refreshments at all home games. Proceeds of the sales help support the school's sports programs.

#108

0925 15

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Northeast Section
Phoenix, AZ

SOUNDOFF

How should city get ready for the next megastorm?

DUSTIN GARDINER
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Every week, *The Republic* asks Phoenix City Council members and the mayor to respond to a question about an issue affecting city government. Last Saturday, responses from Mayor Greg Stanton and District 8 council representative Kate Gallego were published. Here are responses from councilmen Michael Nowakowski, Bill Gates, Sal DiCiccio and Daniel Valenzuela.

Question: What should Phoenix do next to prepare for another mega storm?

"In my first years on the City Council, I ensured the building of new detention areas and completion of the Laveen Area Conveyance Channel along 43rd Avenue and Southern and Baseline roads. This added infrastructure, with a cost of over \$37 million, provided relief during storms by carrying water towards the Salt River. The upcoming construction of the detention basin on 27th and South Mountain avenues will provide additional capacity for the mountain water flow and will help to alleviate any future flooding. Along with my colleague, Councilwoman Kate Gallego, I will stay committed to smart planning and preventative measures as we continue to develop the Laveen and South Mountain areas."

— **Michael Nowakowski**, District 7,
southwest Phoenix and
parts of downtown

"Last year's megastorms in Phoenix and this week's deadly floods on the Utah/Arizona border reminded us that we must be prepared for the summer monsoon. I have taken steps to improve Phoenix's storm readiness by visiting the Phoenix National Weather Service to discuss better ways to provide weather alerts to our residents, supporting City funding to strengthen a dam which protects Moon Valley from flash floods, and working with the Maricopa County Flood Control District to identify existing flooding and drainage problems in District 3. I encourage residents who have photos and/or videos of flooding in

their neighborhoods to post them at reportaflood.org or send to council.district.3@phoenix.gov."

— **Bill Gates**, District 3,
Sunnyslope, Moon Valley
and parts of northeast Phoenix

"Success is only achieved with proper preparation. Here is what must happen: 1. Proper development planning is critical along with an analysis of our maintenance of drainage systems. 2. Expedite capital improvements starting with the \$7.5 million of work to restore and improve stormwater drainage, construction of the largest stormwater retention basin at 27th Avenue and South Mountain Avenue. 3. Finalize plans for \$66 million of stormwater control projects. Maintenance of existing flood control infrastructure is a team effort, and we must work with city, county and private land owners. This includes reaching out to encourage commercial developments and homeowners associations to maintain critical flood control on their properties to keep drainage infrastructure and washes cleaned out so water does not get diverted and overflow into unexpected areas."

— **Sal DiCiccio**, District 6,
Ahwatukee and east Phoenix

"As a firefighter, I have witnessed firsthand the damage from our most extreme storms and was on duty during the major storm two weeks ago — working directly with residents whose personal property was flooded or damaged. The city has made substantial infrastructure investments over the last year, and we are moving in the right direction. But we need to work with our partners to find creative solutions to increase our resources, especially for residents and business owners in need of recovery assistance. We must continue to work with county, state and federal partners to plan and find funding for future stormwater control projects, so we're prepared before the next storm crisis hits."

— **Daniel Valenzuela**,
vice mayor, District 5, parts
of west and central Phoenix

#109

#110



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

**115th Avenue & Union Hills Drive
Drainage Improvement Project**

**Wednesday, October 7
6-7:30 p.m.
Paradise RV Resort**

10950 West Union Hills Drive, Sun City

Residents in the area of 115th Avenue and Union Hills Drive are invited to an open house to review the design for PHASE 2 of the 115th Avenue and Union Hills Drive Drainage Improvements Project.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the cities of Peoria and Surprise, and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, have partnered to improve drainage in the area of 115th Avenue and Union Hills Drive. Currently, the area experiences flooding due to a lack of drainage.

The open house is being held to discuss the second phase of a three phase improvement project. When complete, the project will reduce the risk of flooding and will enhance resident safety.

*For additional information, please contact:
Bobbie Ohler, Project Manager
(602) 506-2943
bao@mail.maricopa.gov*

Tempe, downtown Phoenix got worst of monsoon

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

So much for the idea that an urban heat island protects downtown Phoenix from getting the worst of monsoon rain.

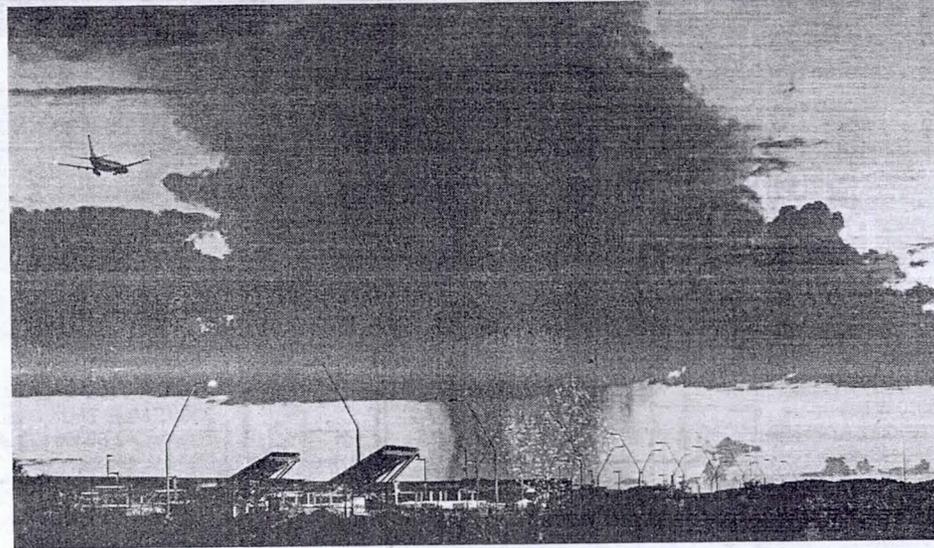
During the 2015 monsoon, downtown Phoenix was one of the wettest areas in the Valley, according to information compiled by the National Weather Service in Phoenix. A swath of the Valley running roughly from downtown Phoenix to Arizona State University's Tempe campus received between 3 and 5.5 inches of rain from June 15 through Sept. 30.

Meanwhile, an area in the northwest Valley that included portions of north Phoenix, Deer Valley and Glendale only saw about a quarter of an inch during the monsoon.

The disparity this year illustrates the typical hit-or-miss nature of monsoon rain in the Valley.

"The heaviest rain was near downtown, and it streaked off to the east," said National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Iñiguez. "During the summer, these thunderstorms develop and interact with each other. It can be random to an extent. Sometimes that randomness occurs at the same point and some areas really get it while some areas don't."

The official rain gauge at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport recorded 3.29 inches of rain during the monsoon. That's .58 inches above normal for the



A thunderstorm approaches from the west as a plane lands at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on Sept. 13, just days before the end of the monsoon for the season.

MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

period though it's well short of the 6.34 inches in 2014, which was the seventh wettest monsoon season in Phoenix.

The 2015 season ranks as the 35th wettest.

The part of the Valley receiving the most rain during this monsoon was in north Tempe. A Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauge near the main ASU campus recorded 5.5 inches of rain from June 15 through Sept. 30.

Meanwhile, another gauge near Loop 101 and Interstate 17 recorded just .25 inches of rain for the season. Other gauges in the northwest Valley reported similar totals.

Iñiguez said the Weather Service staff looks at dozens of rain gauges in the Valley operated by the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

That helps them get a better picture of monsoon activity in the Valley beyond

the relatively few National Weather Service gauges.

They use that data to determine the Phoenix Rainfall Index, which is meant to be a Valley-wide composite.

The rainfall index is an attempt to quantify rainfall area wide, rather than the snapshot from a given location that a single rain gauge will provide.

"Phoenix is such a big city, the metro area is so spread out," Iñiguez said. "During the summer, it's very difficult for a thunderstorm event to cover that big of an area. The airport is one of many locations. It would depend on whether it happened to rain over there or not. This summer, it happened to rain quite a bit over the airport."

The rainfall index for the 2015 monsoon was .81 inches. In comparison, last year's index for the season (which included a record-setting storm) was 5.85 inches. A normal index number for the Valley is 1.4 inches, Iñiguez said.

The .81 figure for this year is the second driest since 1998. The index has been around for about 20 years, Iñiguez said.

State climatologist Nancy Selover said this year was pretty typical, as far as monsoon rains go.

"There have been fairly small storms," Selover said. "They dump a bunch of rain and then they disappear. Another one will pop up, but it won't pop up next to the first one, so you don't have that continuous rain that goes across the entire Valley."

10-1-15

#111

100715

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

WEATHER

Monsoon's over, but fall storms bring funnel cloud, steady rain to the Valley

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

The Phoenix area apparently doesn't need monsoon conditions to produce an eventful day for weather watchers.

A possible tornado was spotted in a rural area south of Goodyear as showers and thunderstorms moved through metro Phoenix on Tuesday afternoon, though officials said there was no damage.

The storms were connected to a strong low-pressure system that was making its way across the Southwest.

More on weather

Inside: Find the forecast for the week ahead. **2A**

Online: See video of the West Valley's drenching. **azcentral.com**

Weather watchers reported a funnel cloud shortly after noon near Rainbow Valley. The National Weather Service could not confirm whether it touched the ground.

"We received several reports of a funnel cloud," Weather Service meteorologist Jessica Nolte said. "But from the photos we saw, there wasn't a clear angle to see if it touched down."

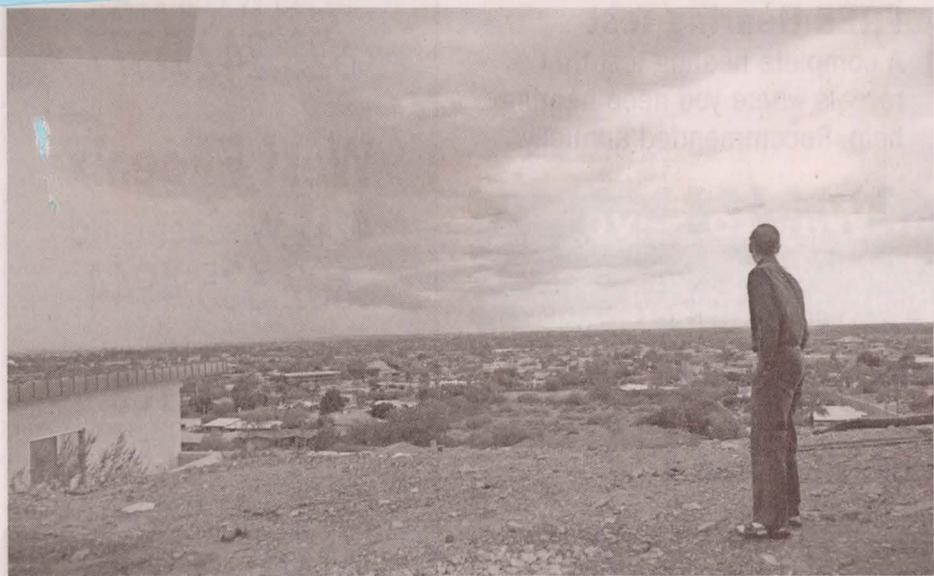
A funnel cloud does not become a tornado until it touches down.

See **STORMS**, Page 8A



MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

Hailey Hole, a sophomore at ASU, tries to stay dry as Tuesday's storm dumps rain on downtown Phoenix. Much of the Valley saw about an inch of rain.



ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

The storm was heaviest in the West Valley, with 1.5 inches near Loop 303 and Camelback Road.

Storms

Continued from Page 1A

Robert Nobis, of Goodyear, saw the funnel cloud and said it stirred up debris. He said it was a mile and a half south of his Estrella Mountain Ranch home.

"There are a few farms out there," Nobis said. "From what I could tell, the only thing it was doing was pulling up dust, dirt, loose debris and maybe some shrubbery. That area is not very populated."

Nobis, who said he has taken the Weather Service storm-spotter class, estimated the storm lasted about five minutes. He didn't stay outside the entire time because of lightning and rain.

The funnel cloud was short-lived and occurred over farmland. A Buckeye Fire Department spokesman said there was

no damage connected with it.

Most of the storm activity occurred on the west side of the Valley.

Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauges picked up close to an inch of rain in several places. The highest total as of 5:30 p.m. was a gauge near Loop 303 and Camelback Road in the far West Valley; it picked up 1.5 inches.

Several flash-flood warnings and advisories were issued for portions of the Valley throughout the afternoon. The last of the advisories, for the Interstate 17 corridor near New River and Anthem, was in effect until 7:15 p.m. Heavy rain in that area caused Skunk Creek to run more than 2 feet deep, enough to result in urban and small-stream flooding.

Showers and storms were expected to taper off Tuesday evening, and there was only a slight chance of rain after midnight. Today should be partly sunny, with a 20 percent chance of showers and storms early in the day.

#112

District 3 Coffee Chat

7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20

Northtown Clubhouse
2202 E. Waltann Lane

Phoenix Councilman Bill Gates welcomes the community to enjoy coffee and get updates about news and events from District 3. Special guest speaker is Burke Lokey, Flood Control District, National Weather Service. Free and open to the public.



Shoppers make their way in the rain into Wal-Mart Tuesday.

Oscar Perez/Dispatch

Line of storms leaves mark in Pinal

Staff Reports

Funnel cloud sightings, lightning, golf ball-sized hail, cooler temperatures, wind and rain.

Those were some of the elements a weather system brought into Arizona and Pinal County Tuesday afternoon.

The line of thunderstorms dropped up to an inch of rain on some parts of central Arizona.

National Weather Service meteorologists say some cities west of Phoenix and in Pinal County were the hardest hit by the storms.

The Maricopa County Flood Control District reported some rain

gauges hitting as high as 1.3 inches of rain by 1 p.m.

In Goodyear, police say some roads around the city were flooded in low-lying spots.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport reported departure delays between 30 and 45 minutes at one point Tuesday afternoon due to lightning in the area.

The storm was associated with a low-pressure system that was cen-

tered over Southern California on Monday and moved into Arizona.

Separate funnel clouds were reported sighted near Buckeye and the Interstate 8/Interstate 10 junction. No damage was reported from either, but there was some of the more traditional damage caused by wind and rain.

The National Weather Service issued a small stream flood advisory for the Casa Grande area at about

3 p.m. and power lines were blown over near Signal Peak, reportedly catching some trees on fire.

Winds of nearly 60 mph were reported in Coolidge and Florence, with golf ball-sized hail reportedly falling in parts of western Pinal County.

A vicious hail storm was reported in northwest Tucson while temperatures dipped to below freezing in Greer.

#115

Storms drop up to an inch of rain on parts of metro Phx.

PHOENIX — A line of thunderstorms dropped up to an inch of rain on some parts of the Phoenix metropolitan area Tuesday.

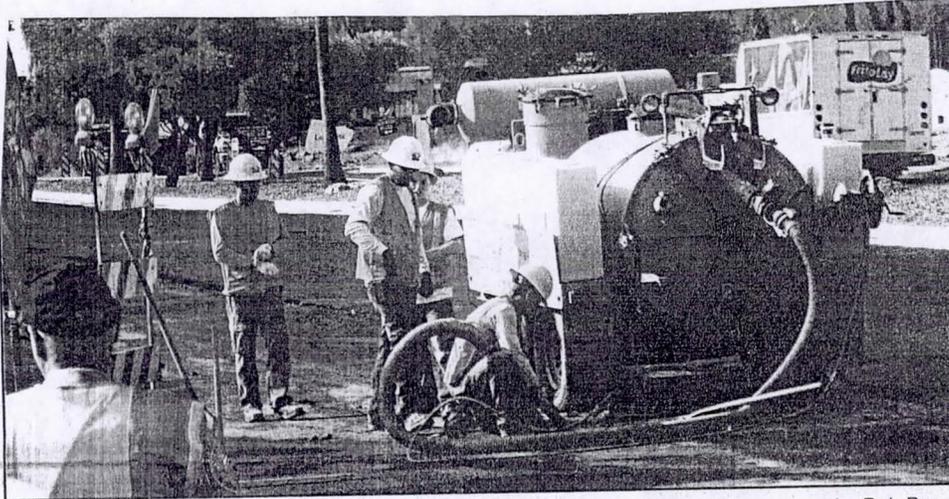
National Weather Service meteorologists say some cities west and south of Phoenix were the hardest hit by the storms, which also brought hail and strong winds.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County reported some rain gauges hitting as high as 1.3 inches of rain by 1 p.m.

In Goodyear, police say some roads around the city were flooded in low-lying spots.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport reported departure delays between 30 and 45 minutes at one point.

#116



Times photo by Bob Burns

A contractor working for Cox Cable has the new pavement on Saguaro Boulevard trenched out to repair a fiber optic cable. The work is causing a slight delay in completing the paving project.

Wash project to begin

By Michael Scharnow
Times Editor

Just when motorists thought the work on Saguaro Blvd. was getting somewhat close to the end, another project is starting up that will impact traffic near Saguaro and Grande boulevards for months to come.

In a joint project with the town, the Maricopa County Flood Control District is overseeing the construction of new box culverts on Bayfield Drive as well as Saguaro

Blvd.

Eleven homes have been identified as subject to flooding in the area, necessitating the improved culverts.

The \$2 million project is essentially being split between the county and town.

Town funds of \$1.1 million are on hand for the work in its capital improvements fund.

Work is expected to start within the next week or two, and the contractor (CS Construction) has six months to

complete the project.

The existing piping will be removed and new box culverts will be built across Bayfield and Saguaro to channel water from the Ashbrook Wash.

The Saguaro Blvd. concrete box culvert will have six rectangular barrels. Each barrel is six feet high and 10 feet wide, according to Town Engineer Randy Harrel.

The Bayfield Drive concrete box culvert will have six rectangular barrels as well (each barrel

(cont. on page 9A)

Wash

(cont. from page 1A)

is five feet high and 10 feet wide).

Larger catch basins will be built in the curbs to catch roadway drainage, preventing local flooding during major storms.

Bayfield Drive will be closed where it crosses Ashbrook Wash during the project, and Saguaro Blvd. will be narrowed down to one lane open in each direction where it crosses Ashbrook Wash (just north of Grande Blvd. and near the sewage treatment plant).

The Saguaro Blvd. box culvert will be built as an east "half" and a west "half," Harrel said, to allow

traffic to be routed around the half under construction.

No reconstruction work was done on Saguaro Blvd. by the current contractor where the new culverts will be built across Saguaro.

The wash contractor will be required to coordinate its activities with the Saguaro Blvd. reconstruction

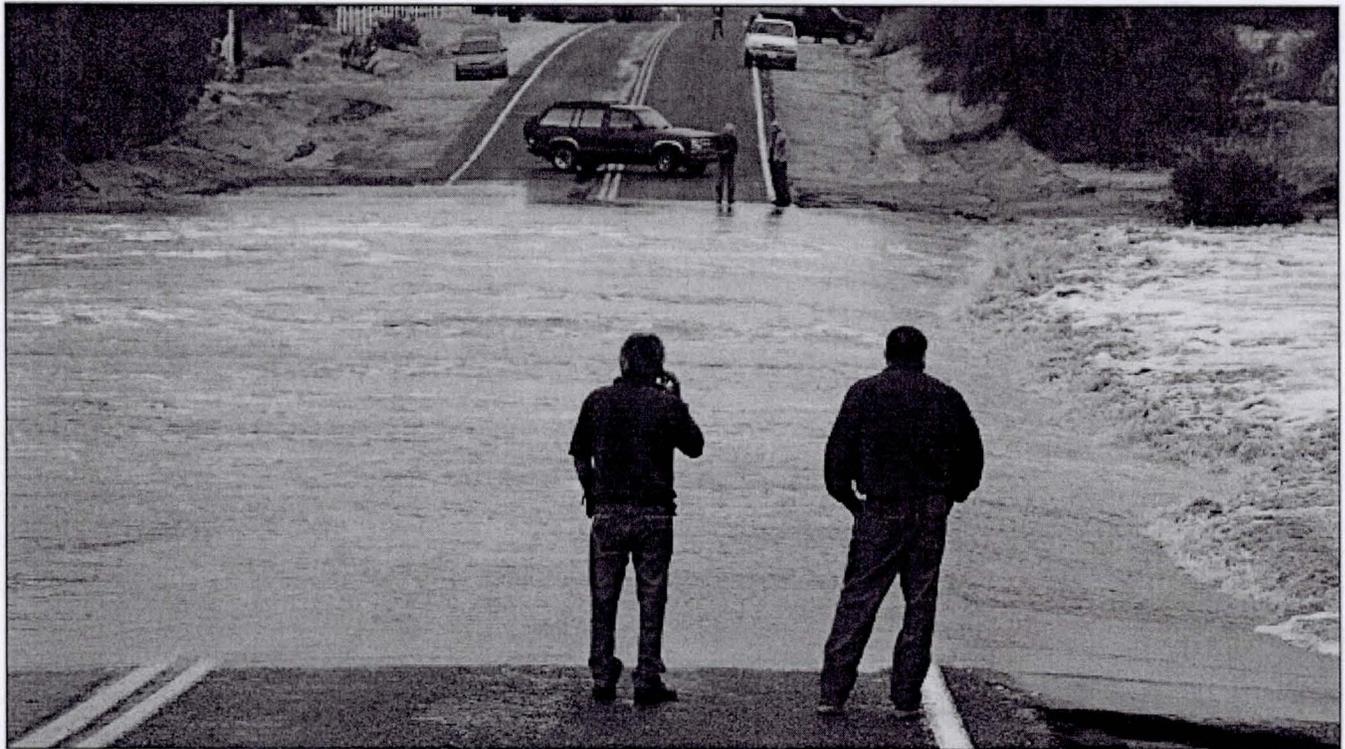
project.

The roadway will match the new pavement once the Ashbrook Wash improvements are completed.

The wash project also includes the removal of palm trees in Ashbrook Wash from Saguaro Blvd. all the way to Balboa Wash (Del Cambre).

#117

WEATHER: STORM DROPS 1 INCH ON METRO PHOENIX



Associated Press

The usually dry Waterman Wash flooded out several roads from heavy rains including a 100-yard-wide swath of Narramore Road leaving motorists stranded on both sides of the flooding, Tuesday in Buckeye. A line of thunderstorms has dropped up to an inch of rain on some parts of the Phoenix metropolitan area.

National Weather Service meteorologists say some cities west and south of Phoenix were the hardest hit by Tuesday's storms, which also brought hail and strong winds. The Flood Control District of Maricopa County reported some rain gauges hitting as high as 1.3 inches of rain by 1 p.m.

DRAINAGE

Supervisors OK Wickenburg project to prevent local flooding

STAFF REPORT

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved several neighborhood flood control projects Wednesday, including the Hassayampa Elementary School Flood Drainage Improvement in Wickenburg.

The drainage project is a cooperative effort between the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the Town of Wickenburg to help resolve flooding problems. Wickenburg requested the drainage improvement through the Flood Control District's Small Project Assistance Program.

"The neighborhood flood control project is one of the best things we do in Mari-

copa County," said Supervisor Clint Hickman, whose West Valley district includes the Sun Cities. "This project will protect homeowners in Wickenburg, reduce costly repairs near the Hassayampa Elementary School and bring local construction jobs. The partnership with the town extend and expand our resources to accomplish more."

The estimated total cost of the project is \$242,500. FCD's estimated share of the project cost is \$181,875 and the town's estimated share of the cost is \$60,500. The project will reduce flows that have caused flooding to residential properties and have impacted road access or closures.

#119

Muddy mess

*Buckeye fire truck caught
in flooded wash Tuesday*

by Emily Toepfer
assistant editor

The West Valley received the brunt of a rainstorm that blew into the Phoenix area Tuesday, and the downpour left flooded roadways and stranded residents in its path.

Rainbow Valley got just over an inch of rain, causing Waterman Wash to flood near 220th Avenue and Narramore Road and blocking residents from getting to or from their homes.

A semi truck attempting to leave a local dairy also got stuck in the waters and had to be pulled out by a front loader, which also helped residents navigate the washed out roads.

About two miles northeast, a Buckeye Fire Department ladder truck had to be rescued from a flooded wash at Tuthill and Elliot roads after it had mechanical issues, Fire Chief Bob Costello said.

The truck was dispatched to a water rescue at about 1 p.m., but the victim was able to get out before fire crews arrived, Costello said.

Another unit on the scene pulled the fire truck out of the water, and it was towed to the city shop to determine what repairs are needed, he said.

No firefighters were injured in the incident, Costello said.

In Goodyear, police reported roads around the city were flooded in low-lying spots, such as Cotton Lane and Indian School Road.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County reported some rain gauges hit as high as 1.3 inches by 1 p.m. Tuesday.

About 350 gauges are strategically placed throughout the county and are constantly tracking how much rain is falling, which canals and streams are flowing fast and where flooding might occur, officials said.

Scientists in the Flood Control office spent the day monitoring their boards so they could send emergency crews to areas hit hard by the weather.

"When it's raining hard, or we have a lot of runoff, the lights will flash and alert us to that," said Steve Waters, a branch manager for Flood Control.

While some gauges registered an inch and a half, others never made it to half an inch, Waters said.

"I could describe it more like a pinwheel," he said. "There were some broken lines of storms, so some areas got hit really hard and others only got a little bit or none."

The district also watches for floods to alert

(See Muddy on Page 3)



KPHO/KTVK photo

A BUCKEYE FIRE TRUCK had to be pulled out of a flooded wash Tuesday at Tuthill and Elliot roads in Rainbow Valley after it had mechanical problems.

Muddy

(From Page 1)

the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is updating 99 of 477 Maricopa County Flood Insurance Rate Maps that will go into effect Nov. 4.

To see if your home will be added, removed or remain in a flood plain, go to gis.fcd.maricopa.gov/apps/RevisedFloodMaps/.

FEMA recommends purchasing flood insurance before Nov. 4 if your home is being added to a flood plain.

For information about the updates, contact the Flood Control District at 602-506-2419.



View photo by Jordan Christopher

WATERMAN WASH at Tuthill and Elliott roads in Rainbow Valley wiped out the road Tuesday during a flash flood that soaked the West Valley.

#120

091615

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Times
Cir: 5,017
Glendale, AZ



Photo courtesy City of Peoria

Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat and Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers are flanked by Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman and Glendale Yucca district Councilmember Sam Chavira as they cut the ribbon dedicating the New River Trail that connects Peoria to Glendale.

Time to hit the trail

Cyclists, equestrians, walkers, hikers, joggers and other outdoor enthusiasts will now be able to have a nonstop experience on the New River Trail from just north of Deer Valley Road in Peoria extending all the way to Bethany Home Road in Glendale.

Several months ago, Peoria completed the last mile in the southern portion of the city that ended at the City of Glendale on Northern Avenue. Glendale is now ready to open their portion of the trail from Northern Avenue to Bethany Home Road, and the two cities celebrated Oct. 12 with a dedication ceremony.

The ceremony featured officials from the cities of Peoria and Glendale, along

with dignitaries from the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

The New River Trail is designed to accommodate all non-vehicular users, including walkers, joggers, strollers, bicyclists, roller blades and equestrians. The trail provides a great way to experience nature, enjoy bird watching and view native wildlife. The entire trail system is planned to be more than 25 miles in length with more than 18 miles of the trail located within Peoria. This trail system aligns along some of the Peoria's local shopping, dining and entertainment venues making it a fun way to reach your destination.

#121

101415

Arrowhead Media
Surprise Republic
Phoenix, AZ

NEWS BRIEFS

Flood control projects approved

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved four neighborhood flood control projects, including District 4, the Hassayampa Elementary School Flood Drainage Improvement in Wickenburg.

The small drainage project is a cooperative effort between the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and Wickenburg to help resolve flooding problems. Wickenburg requested the drainage improvement through the district's Small Project Assistance Program.

SPAP is an annual process that allows county communities to share the cost of small flood prevention projects with the Flood Control District. In addition to partial funding, communities are responsible for ongoing project maintenance.

"The neighborhood flood control project is one of the best things we do in Maricopa County," said Supervisor Clint Hickman. "This project will protect homeowners in Wickenburg, reduce costly repairs near the Hassayampa Elementary School and bring local construction jobs."

The estimated total cost of the project is \$242,500. The district's estimated share of the project cost is \$181,875, with Wickenburg's share estimated at \$60,500.

The project will reduce flows that have caused flooding to residential properties and have impacted road access or closures. Information: annajohnson@mail.maricopa.gov.

102115

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

#123

Never again

Town, county working to buy flooded homes

By Patti Slattery
Reporter

A flood roared through Wickenburg July 18 causing widespread damage, but some residents were affected significantly more than others. Six homes along Powder House Wash were damaged beyond repair, and the town is working with the county to relocate residents, buy properties and tame future flood waters.

Town Council voted unanimously Monday evening to attempt to acquire the six houses in the neighborhood of El Recreo Drive and Constellation Road, to pay each resident pre-flood fair market value for their homes and assist in relocation of the residents.

Called the Wickenburg Flooded Properties Acquisition Project, the plan is through an intergovernmental agreement with Maricopa County Flood Control District (FCD), using FCD funds with the Town acting as a liaison. The agreement must be approved by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, which will make its decision at its first meeting in November.

According to Community Development and Neighborhood Services Director Steve Boyle, residents would then have 45 days to allow the town to acquire their homes, and after that period, they would

Solution

From the Front Page

be paid post-flood value – significantly lower.

“The Town’s worked closely with flood control (district representatives) since July 18,” said Boyle, explaining that a solution to engineer water from the neighborhood was quickly ruled out because of cost. “We want to take a boots-on-the-ground approach for the people who own property. We want to go to the district, allocate funds and have it completed by next monsoon season.”

According to Boyle, the homes would be demolished and the FCD would begin looking at “some kind of channelization,” citing that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers expressed willingness to fund a study project in the area.

When asked if the decision would be the best financial step for the town, Town Manager Josh Wright told the council there is always some degree of liability, but this plan will “let the water course flow the way it wants to.”

“It will naturally flow to the Hassayampa River,” said Wright, “and will actually help people around there.”

Wickenburg resident Midori Sass, a property owner whose home was irreparably damaged in the flood, approached the council,

emotionally explaining that she had spent 22 years upgrading her home – a home that would be paid off in nine years. She told the council she wanted to be treated fairly.

Councilman Kelly Blunt, a Century 21 realtor, assured Sass that he would personally assist her and any of the other six property owners in obtaining fair appraisals for their homes.

At this time, five of the six property owners have been agreeable and one has not been asked specifically about having the town acquire the property, according to Wright.

When asked if all residents would have to agree to have the program progress, Wright was uncertain.

“I don’t know if we can answer that question until we go out and talk to those folks,” he later told The Sun. “We won’t know until prices are discussed,” he said.

According to Wright, the town would have to re-evaluate the program if any of the six home owners were not in favor, but conceptually, it would probably be able to go forward if only one property owner was not agreeable to relinquishing their property.

102115

Arrowhead Media
Arrowhead Ranch
Independent
Sun City, AZ

#124
#123

New River Trail expansion dedication connecting Peoria's trail to Glendale

Cyclists, equestrians, walkers, hikers, joggers and other outdoor enthusiasts will now be able to have a nonstop experience on the New River Trail from just north of Deer Valley Road in Peoria extending all the way to Bethany Home Road in Glendale.

Several months ago, Peoria completed the last mile in the southern portion of the city that ended at the city of Glendale on Northern Avenue. Glendale opened its portion of the trail from Northern Avenue to Bethany Home Road, and the two cities celebrated with a dedication ceremony and fun run/walk Oct. 12.

The dedication ceremony featured officials from the cities of Peoria and Glendale, along with dignitaries from the Maricopa County Flood District and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

"Peoria's work in developing the New River Trail network continues to pay substantial dividends," stated John Sefton, Peoria's Community Services director. "From strong health and wellness benefits to positive economic impact, Peoria's trails play a key part in our quality of life. ... This important connection with Glendale's trail system highlights the collaborations in design and delivery of a popular and essential recreational amenity."

The New River Trail is designed to accommodate all non-vehicular users, including walkers, joggers, strollers, bicyclists, inline skates and equestrians. The trail provides a way to experience nature, enjoy bird watching and view native wildlife. The entire trail system is planned to be more than 25 miles in length with more than 18 miles of the trail located within Peoria. This trail system aligns along some of the Peoria's local shopping, dining and entertainment



Submitted Photo

Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlata and Peoria Yucca District Councilman Samuel Chavira.

venues.

The Glendale trail runs from Bethany Home Alignment north to Northern Avenue along the east side of New River channel where it connects to new Peoria trail on the west side of New River Channel up to Olive Avenue.

"The trail expansion is a joint effort between agencies to benefit the residents of the region. We continue to work with local cities and unincorporated towns so that other Flood Control structures can be cross-utilized for recreation and other positive uses," said District 4 Maricopa County Supervisor

Clint Hickman.

Most of the property being used by the cities for the trail system was purchased by FCD for the channelization of the New River channel as part of the Flood Control project sponsored by the Corps of Engineers.

The FCD Right-of-Way permitting process reviews plans to ensure public safety with the trails as well as to make sure that the trail design meets the requirements necessary for continued flood protection as designed and required by the Federal sponsor for the river channel and levees.

#124

RECREATION

Peoria taps site for park 'to serve all generations'

By Jeff Grant
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The city's Engineering Department is recommending entering an agreement with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County for establishment of a 120-acre park off Lake Pleasant Parkway behind the New River Dam to serve the rapidly developing northern portion of Peoria.

Engineering Director Andy Grainger, who presented the results of a site study to the City Council Tuesday night, said the MCFCD-owned land, south of the Dixileta Drive alignment, is more than adequate to serve the city's purposes.

"The natural desert environment has the appropriate size and slope to accommodate all the amenities we envision. Its access from Loop 303 and Lake Pleasant Parkway is ideal; and (the parkway) has water and sewer infrastructure for us to access," he said.

Part of a 457-acre tract owned by the flood-control district, the parcel is over a mile from the nearest house, making it unlikely to draw residents' objections, Grainger added.

Flood-control district representatives could not immediately be reached for comment. However, Grainger described reaction by the agency, which essentially is

» See Project on page A6

Projects

» From page A1

a subdivision of county government, as "very enthusiastic."

FDC support is key since the project, which would cost Peoria nothing to a nominal fee of \$1-\$2, requires U.S. Army Corps of Engineers backing. Grainger said the county agency has an excellent working relationship with the Los Angeles-area corps office, and would be able to use that to trim the permitting process for such projects.

Councilwoman Bridget Binsbacher, who represents the Mesquite District, where the project would go in, said: "This is fantastic. It's going to serve all generations," she said.

Binsbacher, whose children have taken part in city youth athletics, said families in that area often face the difficult choice of driving their youngsters to venues in other parts of the city for practices and games or staying out of the program.

"By the time you get there and back, kids aren't getting to bed until 10 o'clock. On a school night, that can be a problem for kids," she said.

Costs will depend on the fi-

nal project elements, but City Manager Carl Swenson said the funds would come from Peoria's capital projects budget, which would be reprioritized to accommodate the park.

Architectural Services Manager Ed Striffler said Peoria has the option of tapping into non-potable groundwater for ball field irrigation. Grainger noted water and sewer access is avail-

able through the lines now running along Lake Pleasant Parkway.

While the parcel lies in a flood plain, the portions targeted for the park are areas not vulnerable to an inci-

dent beyond a 25- to 100-year event.

The 330 or so acres not used for the park would remain undeveloped.

Mayor Cathy Carlat, another Mesquite District res-

ident, noted a park the size and scope of Rio Vista or Pioneer Park – Peoria’s two signature community venues in the central and southern parts of the city – has been discussed for years.

“This has been so worth the wait,” she said.

Carlat said the park’s first phase plan would likely include playgrounds, lighted ball fields, picnic areas and open turf areas. A splashpad and dog park also figure to be in the mix.

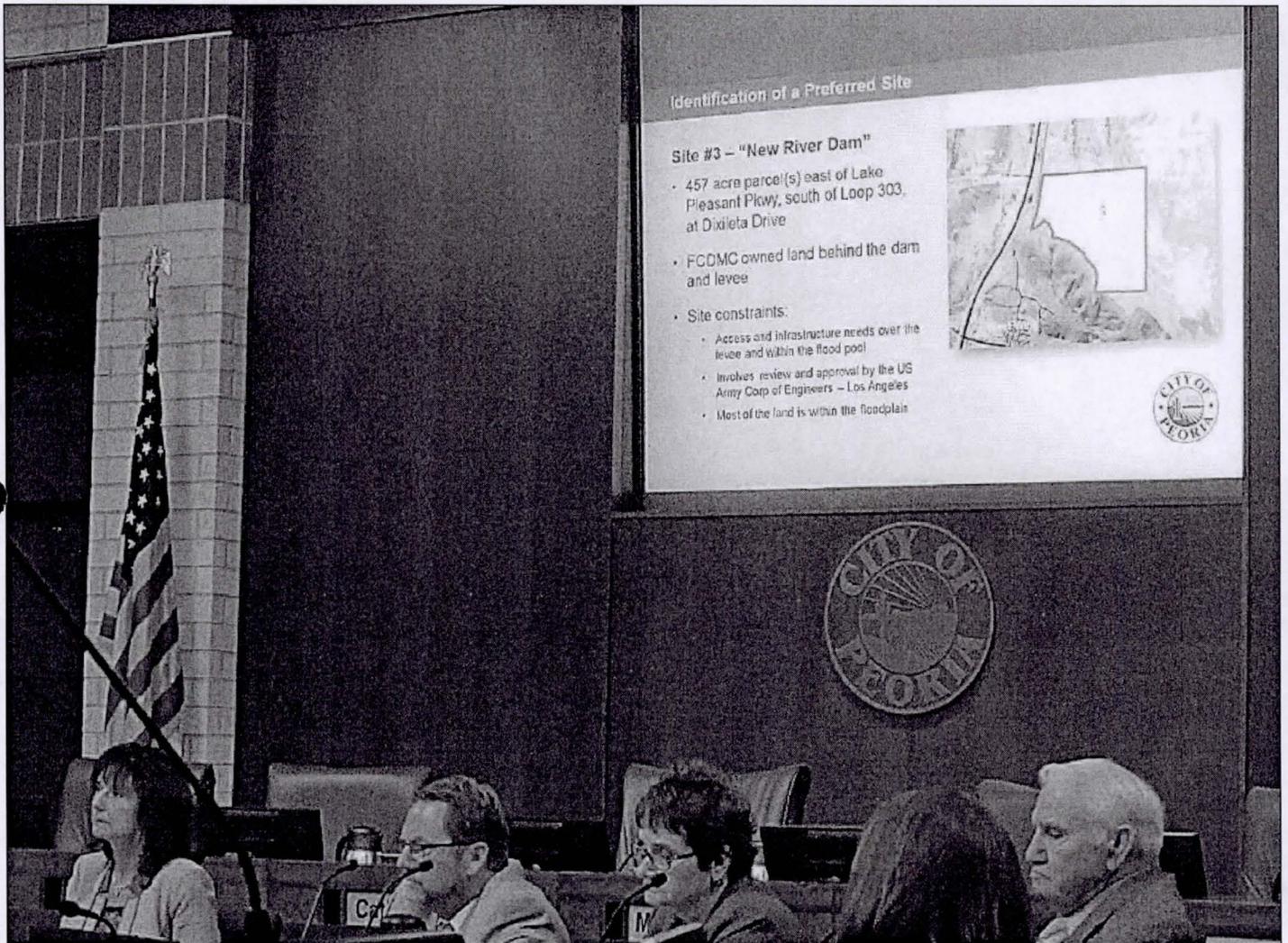
She envisions a recreation and community center, on the order of Rio Vista’s, perhaps in a later phase.

Striffler said final decisions on the lineup would follow a community meeting in early 2016 to obtain resident input.

Binsbacher said she intends to begin reaching out to citizens prior to that date for input as well.

Studies would take much of 2016, with a final design by the following year and the park’s opening sometime in 2018.

Contact reporter Jeff Grant at 623-876-2514 or jgrant@yourwestvalley.com.



Peoria city staff Tuesday recommended the establishment of park off Lake Pleasant Parkway. [Jeff Grant/Daily News-Sun]

102115

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

#126



Chelsea and Brian Hjalmeron, and their daughter, Jillian, take a selfie during the first snow of the season near Flagstaff on Tuesday. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

THANKS, EL NIÑO

Winter weather phenomenon brought wild, rainy day to Arizona

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

October in the Phoenix area is often a transitional weather month, when the chaos of the monsoon retreats and Arizona gradually settles into a pattern of wet winter storms.

We seemed to skip that in-between phase Tuesday, as much of the state saw rain, winds and severe thunderstorms. Near Flagstaff, there was even a little snow.

Thank you, El Niño!

The weather phenomenon, which most often influences the southern tier of U.S. states in the winter months, has already set up shop in a big way in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The warmer-than-usual waters associated with El Niño are contributing moisture to the low-pressure systems fu-



El Niño brought a low-pressure system over the Southwest on Tuesday, dumping rain over the Valley and flooding roads like 11th Avenue and West Joy Ranch Road in New River. PATRICK BREEN/THE REPUBLIC

See **EL NIÑO**, Page 16A



MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

Vehicles line up on Desert Hills Drive close to 15th Avenue near Anthem as Skunk Creek floods the road on Tuesday. The western part of Maricopa County received the most severe storms.

El Niño

Continued from Page 1A

eling the turbulent weather we experienced Tuesday and may see again today.

Mike Crimmins, an associate professor and climatologist at the University of Arizona, said, "October is a funny month in the Southwest."

"It's kind of a feast or famine. But this year, we had this really strange transition from monsoon kind of ending in early September, honestly, to low-pressure systems interacting with tons and tons of tropical moisture to our south. It has led to an unusually wet October so far. That really is El Niño related."

On Tuesday, rain began falling as early as 3 a.m. in some parts of the Valley, but more storms popped up about 9 a.m. and others showed up closer to noon.

A minivan became stuck in a running wash near 19th Avenue and Desert Hills Drive near Anthem at about 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Within 45 minutes, a three-person rescue team strapped a life vest on the driver and walked her through the flooded wash to

safety.

Some of the storms turned severe, including one that dumped rain over parts of the West Valley and central Phoenix heading into the early-afternoon hours. That storm left just more than an inch of rain in Goodyear as it made its way across the area.

Other severe storms passed over the Carefree, Cave Creek and Scottsdale areas, as well as the western part of the county.

A Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauge in Wickenburg registered 1.26 inches of rain by early afternoon.

The National Weather Service in Flagstaff issued a rare tornado warning for a storm that was southeast of Winslow late Tuesday morning. It produced at least one funnel cloud, but the National Weather Service said it didn't touch the ground. Also in northern Arizona, light snow fell near the Arizona Snowbowl.

Closer to the Valley, there were reports of funnel-cloud sightings near Wickenburg and Anthem, but those storms did not touch ground to become tornadoes.

The low-pressure system bringing the rain is expected to stay in the area until Thursday.

"October is a funny month in the Southwest. It's kind of a feast or famine."

MIKE CRIMMINS

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CLIMATOLOGIST

El Niño predicted to cause wet winter

W.V. gets sneak peek of possible strong storms to come

by Emily Toepfer
assistant editor

The summer monsoon may be over, but a wet winter season is blowing in on its tailwind thanks to a stronger than normal El Niño, weather officials said.

The National Weather Service is forecasting a 50- to 60-percent chance that this winter will be wetter than normal.

In the West Valley, Avondale bore the brunt of a storm Tuesday that soaked the city with more than an inch of rain in an hour, according to the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

No injuries were reported as a result of the

storm, but Avondale police assisted one vehicle that got caught in a flooded area near Fourth Street and Lower Buckeye Road, officials said.

"We know certain areas of the city where it floods a lot, so the officer was going over there to see if maybe we needed to close the roadway for the flooding," Officer Ray Emmett said. "When he got over there, he saw a vehicle was already trapped, so he basically used his vehicle to push it out and the guy went on his way."

While there was no significant damage to city property or facilities, the torrential downpour made for a very busy day for Avondale's streets

(See El Niño on Page 2)



View photo by Jordan Christopher

CARS MAKE THEIR WAY down Litchfield Road during Tuesday's downpour in Goodyear. El Niño was to blame for the heavy rains that flooded streets throughout the West Valley.

#126

El Niño

(From Page 1)

maintenance crews, said Pier Simeri, a city spokeswoman.

Several roads south of Interstate 10 were flooded, including the city's historic area along Western Avenue, Simeri said.

"Our crews responded immediately to make sure that the roads were safe for the traveling public," she said. "That included pumping water out of the streets and clearing debris. They worked until 9 p.m. Tuesday night."

Over in Goodyear, half-inch-sized hail was reported by the National Weather Service at Van Buren Street and Estrella Parkway, and also near 181st and Glendale avenues in Waddell.

Tonopah also received about half an inch of rain, causing officials in the Saddle Mountain Unified School District to let pupils out early at around 11:45 a.m.

"Our bus routes traverse major washes, which fill rapidly and unexpectedly; therefore, student and staff safety mandates we take every precaution when storms suddenly strike," Superintendent Mark Joraanstad said.

Saddle Mountain's buses travel 1,500 miles per day in mostly rural areas.

The district is part of a preparedness planning group with five other school districts and the city of Buckeye, and is already working to coordinate efforts in response to the anticipated wet weather this winter, Joraanstad said.

El Niño is characterized by unusually warm temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean, which spurs extreme weather patterns around the world, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This year's El Niño appears likely to rival the strongest on record in 1997-98, the World Meteorological Organization reports.

Emily Toepfer can be reached by email at etoepfer@westvalleyview.com.

#128



**El Rio corridor
open house**

Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye, along with Maricopa County and Flood Control District of Maricopa County representatives will discuss planning and design guidelines for the development of the El Rio corridor of the Gila River. The meeting will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Estrella Mountain Nature Center, 14805 W. Vineyard Ave., Goodyear.

102315

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Times
Cir: 5,017
Glendale, AZ

North Peoria community park site worth the wait, mayor says

By CAROLYN DRYER
EDITOR

Design and construction for the first phase of a community park in North Peoria is estimated to cost \$30 million, and it has already been funded in the city's Capital Improvement Program for FY 2017-2018.

That being settled, a Tuesday council study session came to a consensus about a park site. And the good news is, it will come

at a surprisingly low price.

When city council adopted the Community Service Master Plan, a community park in northern Peoria was targeted as a high priority. There were specifics included in that priority: lighted ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, open turf areas, a dog park, and other associated amenities.

Once phase one is completed, plans call for a recreation center.

In its analysis, the park's design consultant, 12 Design, looked at three sites. One is owned by the Bureau of Land Management. It is 160 acres near the future intersection of 99th Avenue and Lone Mountain Parkway. This site, however, presents challenges. It has natural washes, and floodway delineation across a large portion, as well as significant cultural resources. All of these would

MORE PARK ON 2

PARK: Largest site gets best review, From 1

be problematic when it comes to offering the diverse programs at the park.

The second site is owned by Property Reserve Arizona LLC. It was once the site of a gravel pit operation. The 320-acre property is east of Loop 303, west of the Agua Fria River, and north of Jomax Parkway.

This site, too, has challenges. There are concerns about the nature of the fill, along with significant infrastructure requirements, and according to Peoria Development and Engineering Director Andrew Granger, "(with) its geographical constraints, it would be highly challenging to locate all the programmatic functions of the park onto the site within the approved budget."

The third site is the largest at 457 acres. It is owned by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and is behind the New River Dam in the impoundment area east of Lake Pleasant Parkway, south of Loop 303, and what Granger described as "the most ideal site for the park due to the site location away from development, close proximity to infrastructure, and natural condition of the land, which will be able to fully accommodate the park's full design build-out."

Efforts are already underway, as the city works with FCDDMC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with conceptual design and mitigate any impacts to the existing New River levee and dam areas.

During discussions Tuesday, it was clear Granger and city staff leaned toward the third site. Granger was given the go-ahead to proceed with its acquisition. It will not be an ownership agreement, rather, a long-term lease-type agreement that must be approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. Granger indicated the FCDMC is willing to help fast-track that process.

Of note, the city is able to acquire the land at no or nominal cost because it plans to develop the land for public, not private, use.

Mesquite Councilmember Brigdet Binsbacher said, "I love the idea it's a lot of land to work with."

Mayor Cathy Carlat said, "This has been such a long time coming. But, it's worth the wait. To find this spot, it will be the most beautiful park in our city and all cities around. It's really a gift for the citizens of our city. I'm ready to get started as soon as possible."

Public meetings are scheduled to begin in early 2016, when residents will be asked to make suggestions about park amenities.

Binsbacher, who has been working with city staff throughout the site selection, said, "I want to make sure the whole process of creating this new park, from start to finish, is in the hands of those people who will use it every day."

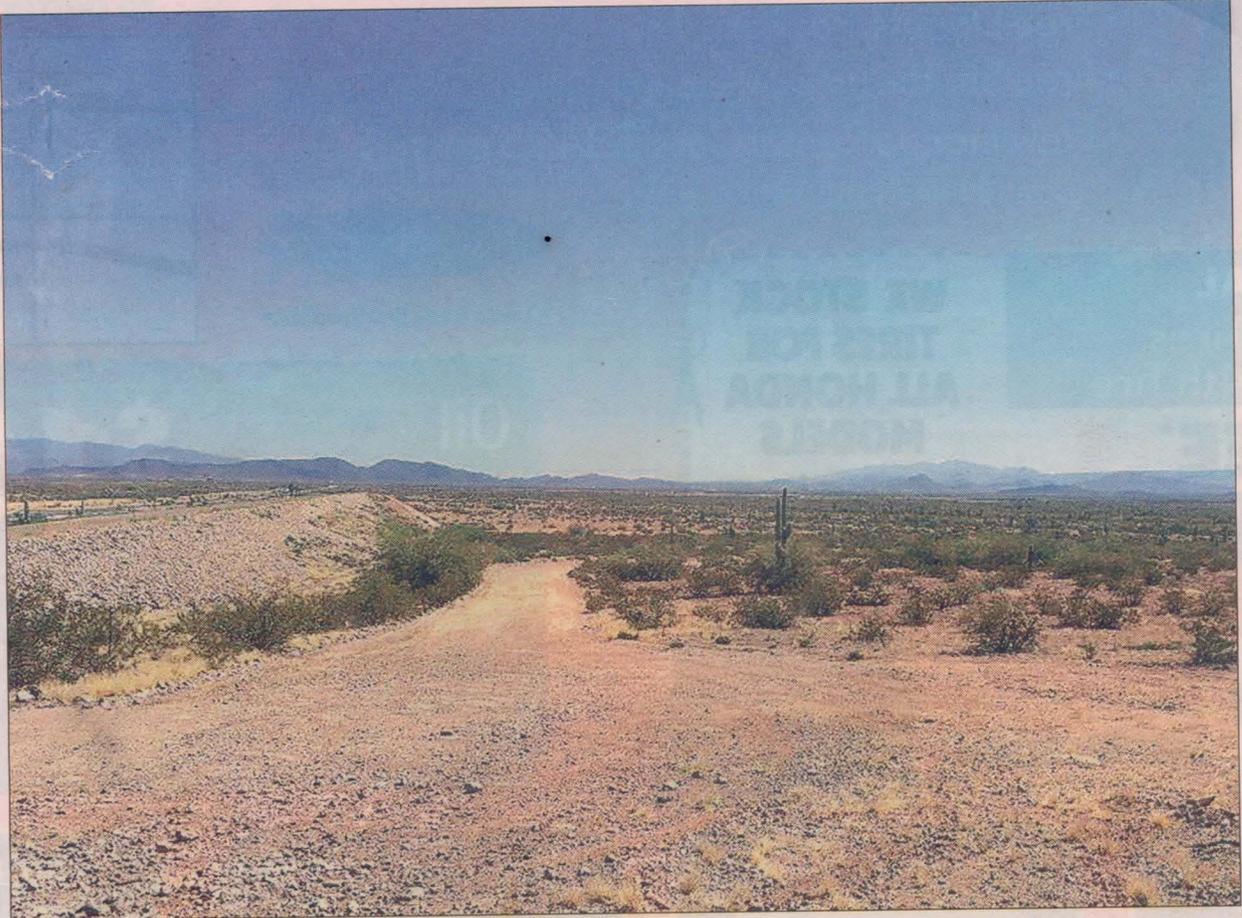
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102415

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Today
Sun City, AZ

#129

NEW RIVER DAM



This land near the levee east of Lake Pleasant Parkway between Happy Valley Road and Loop 303 is slated for establishment of Peoria's third community park, a 102-acre multiuse facility with an eventual community center. [Jeff Grant/Today staff]

Peoria taps site for park 'to serve all generations'

By Jeff Grant
TODAY STAFF

The city's Engineering Department is recommending entering an agreement with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County for establishment of a 120-

acre park off Lake Pleasant Parkway behind the New River Dam to serve the rapidly developing northern portion of Peoria.

Engineering Director Andy Grainger, who presented the results of a site

study to the City Council Tuesday night, said the MCFCD-owned land, south of the Dixileta Drive alignment, is more than adequate to serve the city's purposes.

"The natural desert envi-

ronment has the appropriate size and slope to accommodate all the amenities we envision. Its access from Loop 303 and Lake Pleasant Parkway is ideal; and (the parkway) has water

» See Park on page A6

Park

» From page A1

and sewer infrastructure for us to access," he said.

Part of a 457-acre tract owned by the flood-control district, the parcel is over a mile from the nearest house, making it unlikely to draw residents' objections, Grainger added.

Flood-control district representatives could not immediately be reached for comment. However, Grainger described reaction by the agency, which essentially is a subdivision of county government, as "very enthusiastic."

FDC support is key since the project, which would cost Peoria nothing to a nominal fee of \$1-\$2, requires U.S. Army Corps of Engineers backing. Grainger said the county agency has an excellent working relationship with the Los Angeles-area corps office, and would be able to use that to trim the permitting process

for such projects.

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Costs will depend on the final project elements, but City Manager Carl Swenson said the funds would come from Peoria's capital projects budget, which would

be reprioritized to accommodate the park.

Architectural Services Manager Ed Striffler said Peoria has the option of tapping into non-potable groundwater for ball field irrigation. Grainger noted water and sewer access is available through the lines now running along Lake Pleasant Parkway.

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park the size and scope of Rio Vista or Pioneer Park - Peoria's two signature community venues in the central and southern parts of the city - has been dis-

cussed for years.

"This has been so worth the wait," she said.

Carlat said the park's first phase plan would likely include playgrounds, lighted ball fields, picnic areas and open turf areas. A splashpad and dog park also figure to be in the mix. She envisions a recreation and community center, on the order of Rio Vista's, perhaps in a later phase.

Architectural Services Manager Ed Striffler said final decisions on the lineup would follow a community meeting in early 2016 to obtain resident input. Binsbacher said she intends to begin reaching out to citizens prior to that date for input as well.

Studies would take much of 2016, with a final design by the following year and the park's opening sometime in 2018.

Contact reporter Jeff Grant at 623-876-2514 or jgrant@yourwestvalley.com.

• Check us out and like Yourwestvalley.com on Facebook and YourWVNews on Twitter

#130

A river runs through it

W.V. residents get chance to weigh in on development along El Rio Corridor

by **Jeannette Cruz**
staff writer

The public is invited to a meeting and open house today regarding the design guidelines and planning standards for future development along the El Rio Corridor of the Gila River in the West Valley.

The informational meeting will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Estrella Mountain Nature Center, 14805 W. Vineyard Ave. in Goodyear.

The El Rio Corridor is a 17.5-mile project stretching along the Gila River from its confluence with the Agua Fria River west to the State Route 85 bridge.

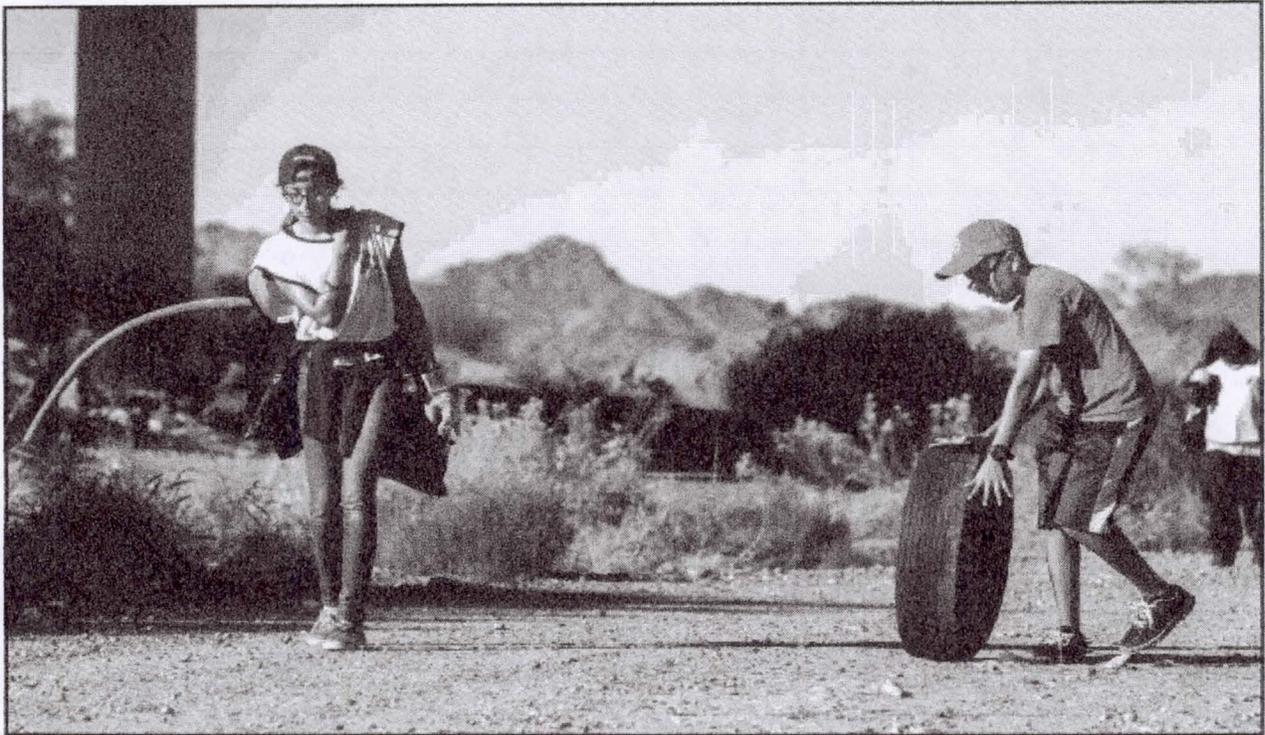
"This is kind of the second step in the process for the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, which was developed in 2006 and adopted by Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County," said Bob Wisener, Buckeye

conservation and project manager.

The El Rio Watercourse Master Plan was designed to enhance the land around the Gila River, while also providing alternatives for flood control in the area.

During the open house, staff from each of the cities and agencies, along with the consultant team, led by J2 Engineering and Environmental

(See River on Page 2)



View photos by Jordan Christopher

(ABOVE) NUVIA CLUFF-MARTINEZ, left, and Jose Escalante, 13, both of Avondale, work together Oct. 24 at the Tres Rios cleanup in Avondale. The El Rio Corridor begins at Tres Rios and runs west to Buckeye. **(Below)** West Phoenix resident Venessa Price picks up trash during the annual cleanup, which is one of Avondale's Make a Difference Day projects.

River

(From Page 1)

Design, will provide an overview of the the El Rio design guidelines and planning standards.

The document includes land development guidelines, local planning requirements and transit planning, Wisener said.

The recommendations will cover land development, trails, open space, landscaping, signage and economic development opportunities, Wisener said.

"We are ensuring that we are preserving views to the river, trails and open spaces," he said.

The guidelines are not regulatory, but are intended to provide guidance for development along the river.

"The ultimate goal is to have consistent development to the river, preserving access to the river, really keeping recreational and multi-use opportunities and preserving natural resources," Wisener said.

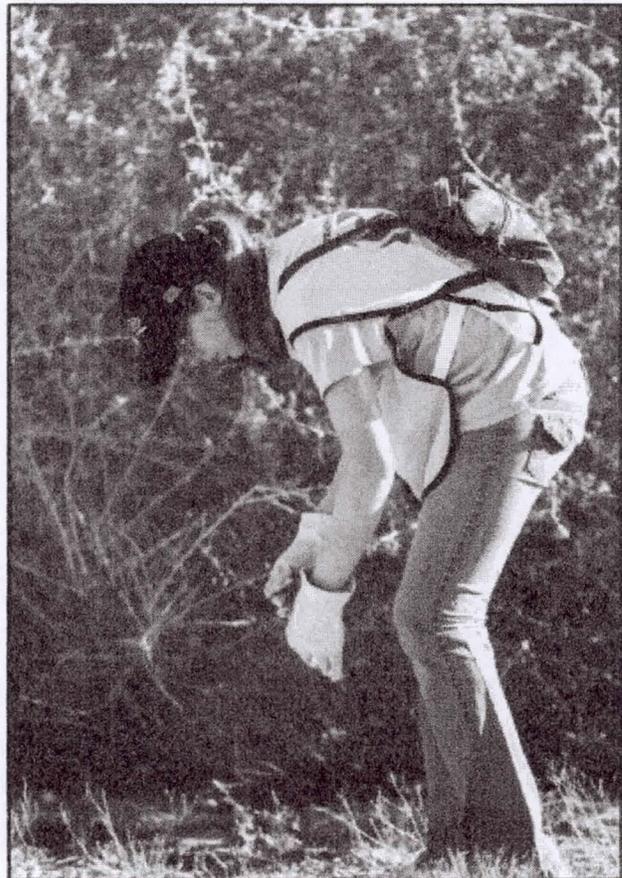
The cities of Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye have also identified conceptual designs for three pilot projects, which will provide recreational access to the river.

The public will be able to view informational boards about the guidelines, provide input and ask questions of agency staff and the consultant team.

In addition, a draft of the design guidelines and plans is available online at gilariverprojects.com.

The agencies will accept public comments on the draft document until Nov. 10. Comments and questions can be submitted to Wisener at rwisener@buckeyeaz.gov.

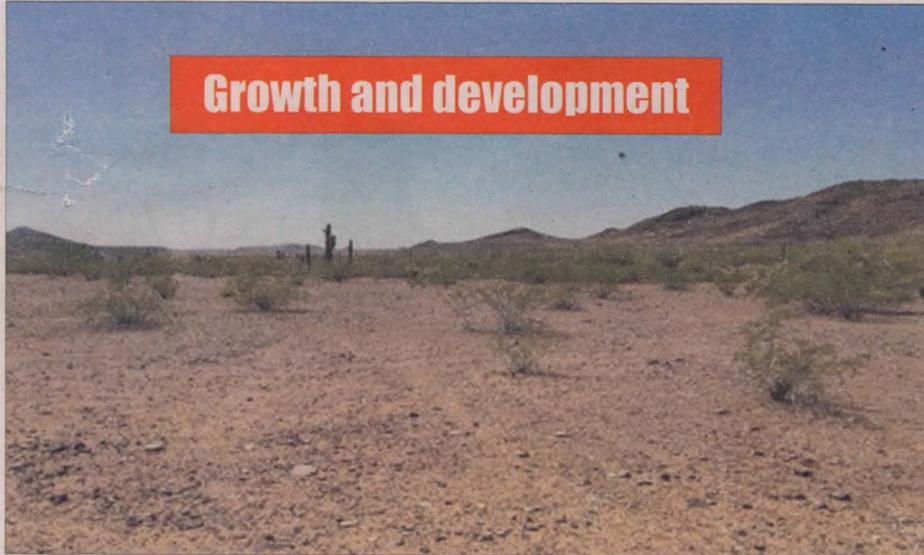
Jeannette Cruz can be reached by email at jcruz@westvalleyview.com.



102815

Arrowhead Media
Peoria Independent
Peoria, AZ

Growth and development



Submitted photo

The New River Dam site with West Wing Mountain in the background is the preferred site for Peoria's third community park.

Council looks at home for 3rd community park

\$30 million park scheduled to open in fall 2018

By Cecilia Chan
Independent Newspapers

As a testimony of its northern growth, Peoria is ready to site its third community park there.

The staff-preferred location is about 457 acres and sits behind the New River Dam, east of Lake Pleasant Parkway and south

of Loop 303. Nearby home developments include Pleasant Valley, Rock Springs and Sonoran Mountain Ranch subdivisions.

"This has been such a long time coming," Mayor Cathy Carlat said. "The citizens in the northern part of the city have been waiting a long time."

The site is owned by Maricopa County Flood Control District and would cost the city zero or a token \$1, according to Andy

See Park — Page 6



Rio Vista Community Park

8866 W. Thunderbird Road

- 52 Acres
- Urban lake
- 6 large group picnic ramada
- 3 lighted sand volleyball courts
- Playground and tot lot
- Skate park
- 7 lighted softball fields
- Multi-purpose fields
- Splash park
- walk/jog path
- Recreation Center
- Veterans Memorial Wall



Pioneer Park

8755 N. 83rd Ave.

- 6 ball fields – Concessions area
- 4 lighted multipurpose fields
- Dog park
- Lake with catch-and-keep fishing
- Picnic ramadas with grills
- Playground/swing sets
- Splash ground
- Heritage Garden for small events

#131

Park

Continued From Page 1

Granger, city Development and Engineering director at last week's study session.

A city-hired consultant examined the three most viable sites in Northern Peoria to locate the park. The other two sites that did not make the cut due to various obstacles are a 160-acre plot of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management near the future intersection of 99th Avenue and Lone Mountain Parkway and a privately owned 320 acres east of Loop 303, west of the Agua Fria River and north of Jomax Parkway.

The city has budgeted \$30 million for the project, which includes \$500,000 for a study and \$1.7 million for design.

The new park will include lighted ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, a dog park and possibly a skate park. Future plans call for a recreation/aquatics center, with Westwing Mountain in the backdrop, but is not yet funded. At least 120 acres of the property would be developable, with amenities built on pads so not to disturb the natural habitat, Mr. Granger said.

The city will begin in early 2016, to solicit residents' input on amenities they want to see for the park.

"Development is obviously up north and will remain that way for many, many years," Ironwood District Councilman Bill Patena said. "There's no question those citizens there will need the amenity."

He then asked staff how the future community center will be funded.

City Manager Carl Swenson said the two options are to either reprioritize the 10-year capital improvement program or find a new revenue source to fund the construction.

City staff anticipate a one year-design

What do you think?

Do you have an opinion on this issue? Share your comments.

•E-mail: cchan@newszap.com

process with construction to begin in mid-2017 and completion by fall 2018.

The big hold-up in moving faster would be the need to apply for a permit from the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, which could take one to two years, Mr. Granger said. But that process could be shortened by piggy-backing onto Flood Control's permit with the federal agency, he added.

Despite the land being located primarily in a flood plain, attributes include its accessibility to Loop 303 and Lake Pleasant Parkway. It also allows for passive recreation such as hiking, biking and horseback riding, which can extend beyond the site.

The site also has possible access to non-potable groundwater, according to staff.

The largest expense in a park is the irrigation of ballfields, Mr. Granger said.

Potable water, which is not drinking quality, costs three times more than non-potable water, he noted. Of the city's other two community parks — Rio Vista uses SRP irrigation water and Pioneer uses reclaimed water.

The council is expected to approve the final park selection in a future meeting.

"I'm so excited about this I can hardly stay in my chair," said Mesquite District Councilwoman Bridget Binsbacher, who represents North Peoria. "I love the idea that it's a lot of land to work with. We can grow into that land."

102815

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

Heavy rains test improvements

#132

Residents consider selling homes

By Patti Slattery
Reporter

Heavy rains washed through Wickenburg last Tuesday, Oct. 20, putting the Town's repairs and new improvements to the test.

As floodwaters rose and swept towards the Hassayampa River, it was apparent that improvements actually steered water away from homes, especially on El Recreo Drive and along Powder House Wash.

"They (Town of Wickenburg employees) came in so fast," said Wickenburg resident Tony Hill, whose home is one of the six chosen to participate in the Wickenburg Flooded Properties Acquisition Project. "It looks like they've done everything they can. I'm just tickled to death they're doing such a fantastic job. I appreciate it."

According to Hill, recent improvements made by the Town helped divert water from his property.

For the last two years, Hill and his wife Trudy have succumbed to floodwaters, damaging the interior of their home, garage, possessions and property. This time water flowed by, but their property remained dry, although the rain was significantly less than the downpour on July 18.

"We're thankful that no homes were flooded on Tuesday or Wednesday," noted Town Manager Josh Wright. "After the July 18 flood, the Town spent approximately \$250,000 to rebuild roads and drainage structures... in particular, the Town's efforts to re-channelize portions of Powder House Wash and the temporary food wall we constructed at the south end of the wash were critical in preventing floodwaters from

entering homes. We also built a new spillway where the wash empties into the Hassayampa River behind McDonald's. Working with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and other partners, we are looking forward to acquiring flood-prone properties in this area in the very near future, which will allow the wash to follow its natural course..."

Along with the Town's success, however, there were also areas of improvement that did not seem to stop the floodwaters.

Aztec Mobile Home Park had concrete barriers placed along the east side of the property on Sullivan Road, but according to Manager Bev Bodioga, water poured over the top of the barrier, dumping sand, rocks and water into the park.

"If the town doesn't get together and do something along Bass Road (north of Aztec), it will continue to get flooded," Bodioga said.

According to Wright, the barrier was a temporary fix, and he hadn't heard the water went over it during this past storm.

"Our team inspected this area after last week's storms and does not believe the notion that water flowed over the top of the concrete flood wall is accurate," noted Wright. "The flood wall is effectively a series of stackable concrete bricks that help hold water back and hold the road in place. There are spaces in between the blocks, however, and it makes sense that some water passed through those openings... The flood wall was designed as a temporary solution to one of two drainage concerns near Aztec Trailer Park: first, water draining across US 60 from

See Floods Page A-8

Floods

From the Front Page

El Recreo Drive is diverted to a relatively small culvert beneath the highway owned and maintained by the Town. The concrete wall is intended to prevent water passing through this culvert to sheet flood over Sullivan Street and into Aztec, and it appears to have performed as designed."

Even though none of the six homes in the flood plain were damaged last week, they are already irreparably impaired from previous floods. The Town of Wickenburg is currently waiting on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to approve the acquisition program and will then approach each resident for appraisals to determine fair-market, pre-flood value, then offer to purchase the properties and assist residents in relocation.

As far as Hill is concerned, he sees the acquisition project philosophically.

"I don't have a choice," he said. "I've gone through all this and I'm still alive. You can't control nature," Hill said.

Homeowner Drake Sass,

another resident approved for the program is willing to consider selling, but is disappointed he will walk away from a home that would have been paid off in nine years.

"It's clear to me staying in this location is dangerous, and both my wife and daughter are terrified anytime it begins to storm," Sass said. "We've been through this twice. Do I think it's a good idea? I think it's a great idea, but the offer will determine what we will do."

Laura Lemon, another of the six whose home was destroyed, is trying to stay positive.

"It's easy to get in the victim mode," she said, "but I'm determined to be grateful. The bottom line is it's a good thing for flood control to get together with the town."

As far as walking away, Lemon is still grieving the loss of the home she resided in for 10 years, but said she is willing to sell to the town.

"Really, we don't own anything," she said. "We think we do, but we don't."

#133

102815

Arrowhead Media
East Mesa Independent
Apache Junction, AZ

LOCAL News

Mesa property to be sold by county flood control district

A total of 12.6 acres of vacant land at Loop 202 and Power Road and zoned RS-90 in the city of Mesa is to be sold at auction Nov. 10 by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

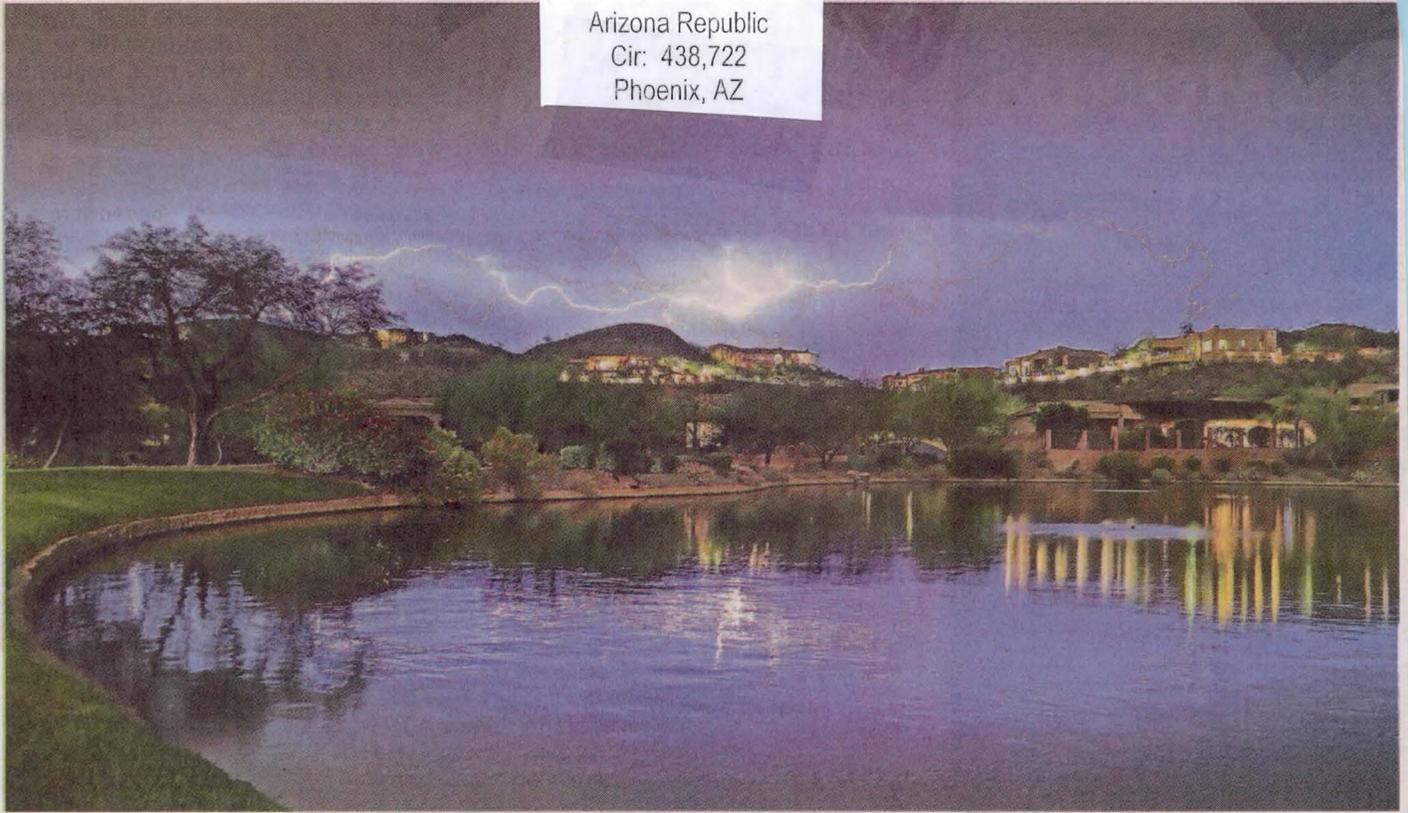
It is east of Power Road and south of Eagle Crest Drive, according to the Maricopa County Department of Transportation website. Learn more at <http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/real-estate/property-management.htm>.

#134

103015

Arrowhead Media
Arizona Republic
Cir: 438,722
Phoenix, AZ

WEATHER



DAVID KADLUBOWSKI/THE REPUBLIC

Lightning streaks across the sky in Ahwatukee Foothills on Thursday. Bands of strong storms developed to the south and west of the Valley.

Thunderstorms put on a show and drench the Phoenix area

WELDON B. JOHNSON
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Nearly every Valley community received at least a little rain Thursday.

Some residents woke to light showers, and some were treated to a light show after dark. In between were several rounds of precipitation, with gentle rain giving way to strong storms in the afternoon that dissipated in the evening.

The National Weather Service in Phoenix issued three severe thunderstorm warnings Thursday afternoon as bands of strong storms developed to the south and west of the Phoenix area.

There were reports of downed power lines near Apache Junction which left a handful of homes without power. Thunderstorms hit Apache Junction, Buckeye, and Litchfield Park early in the afternoon but dissipated Thursday night.

During the strongest storms, a Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauge near 116th Avenue and the Gila River had recorded the most rainfall in the area with .63 inches.

A passing cold front caused the deluge. The sporadic showers are expected to leave highs for the Valley in the upper 70s today. There's a 20 percent chance of rain this morning, but the showers should taper off by 11 a.m.

#135

111815

Arrowhead Media
Fountain Hills Times
Cir: 6,000
Fountain Hills, AZ

Winter storm wets weekend

The cool, damp weekend was a reminder that we are heading into the winter months, and long-range forecasts suggest it could be a wet season ahead.

The Maricopa County Flood Control District rain gauges in Fountain Hills collected rainfall amounts ranging from a quarter to one-third inches.

The greatest amount for those monitoring stations was .35-inch along McDowell Mountain Road just north of town. The Fountain Hills Fire Station on Palisades Boulevard received .31-inch.

The rain gauge outside The Times office on Laser Drive had about .50-inch.

The county monitoring sites received more than an inch of rainfall in higher elevations north of Fountain Hills near Sunflower. Payson was receiving snow Sunday and Monday.



MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

Construction workers continue to work on the \$40.8 million hydraulic steel dam at Tempe Town Lake, Sept. 29, 2014, at Tempe Town Lake.

New dam takes shape at Tempe Town Lake

DARREN DARONCO

THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Dam repair at Tempe Town Lake took a visible leap forward Monday as crews installed the first of eight steel gates.

"This is a real milestone where we are at," said Tempe spokeswoman Nikki Ripley.

While crews have worked on the western dam since June 2014, the large gate offers visual proof to residents that the roughly \$47 million project is nearing completion.

Ripley said the city estimates the dam will be finished by March 2016.

Once finished, the city will drain much of the lake's water so crews can remove the old dam.

Ripley said about two-thirds of the water will get diverted. She said that process could take about six weeks before the lake could be refilled and reopened.

Construction won't interfere with any Tempe Beach Park events.

"All the linear parks and pathways are projected to remain open," Ripley said.

But some boating and other water-related events will be rescheduled. The

"This is a real milestone where we are at."

NIKKI RIPLEY

TEMPE SPOKESWOMAN

city will direct most of the lake's fish into SRP canals.

The steel gates are expected to be a much more durable option than the rubber bladders. One of those rubber bladders burst in 2010 while the city was preparing to replace the old dam, spilling over a half billion gallons of water from the lake.

The eight steel gates each stand 17 feet high, 106 feet wide and weigh 232,000 pounds, and are expected to last at least 50 years, according to a Tempe press release.

Tempe Town Lake sits south of Loop 202, from east of Rural Road to west of Mill Avenue.

110515

Arrowhead Media
Gila Bend Sun
Cir. 1,200
Gila Bend, AZ

#137

Town Council Meeting

The Gila Bend Town Council held a regular meeting on October 27 in the school media center. All councilmembers present except Fernando Fernandez.

Valerie Swick, Project Manager, from Maricopa County Flood Control gave a presentation on the updated Flood Control Plan for Gila Bend. The latest plan has revised recommendations for improvements to the Sand Tank and Bender washes with levys built along Sand Tank Wash and in the area of south Scott Avenue. The improvements would protect the property on Gila Bend's southside from flooding in the event of a 100-year flood. The total cost is estimated at \$3,357,000.

Council received the September Law Enforcement Report and an update from MCSO.

Council approved the minutes of the October 13 council meeting and the payment of claims in the amount of \$215,712.69 for October 1 through 15.

Council approved the annual renewal of employee insurance benefits with Aetna beginning December 1, 2015.

Council approved the Minor Subdivion/Lot Split for the Sonoran Trails property to re-plat Cotton Center One, Lot 1 into Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 in order to return it from housing development back to agricultural production. The Council also approved the mutual termination of the Sonoran Trails Development Agreement.

Council approved emergency repairs to the Wastewater Department's backhoe estimated at \$24,021.40 plus a rental at \$2,528.49.

Town Manager reported that the highway 85 paving project in the area of the airport is out to bid. Work is expected to take place in mid January to February.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for November 10.

120215

Arrowhead Media
Fountain Hills Times
Cir: 6,000
Fountain Hills, AZ



Stormy weather can leave washes and arroyos in Fountain Hills with rushing water that can cause damage if not properly managed.

Town explains fee need

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town of Fountain Hills is in the process of implementing an environmental fee to help offset the costs of federal- and state-mandated clean water regulations.

Property owners will be receiving a bill in January for a total of \$36 to cover the \$3 per month fee for 2016.

The town is holding a series of public open house sessions to answer questions about the fee and how it will be used. The first of those is today, Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. at the Community Center.

This article explains the storm water regulations to which the town must comply.

Most people do not know that there are two completely separate systems that handle storm water and sewer water in the community.

Having separate systems for storm water and sewer waste water is common in virtually every municipality in the Valley.

On average the Valley receives about seven inches of rain each year, and storm water is treated differently than sanitary waste water.

Through last week the Maricopa County Flood Control District had recorded 7.56 inches of rain thus far in 2015 at the Palisades Boulevard Fire Station in Fountain Hills.

After a rain storm, water travels through a complex storm water collection sys-

(cont. on page 18A)

Fee

(cont. from page 1A)

tem that is made up of gutters, catch basins, streets, washes, retention basins and other storm water conveyance structures.

While the storm water travels through the system it carries debris, oils, sediment and other contaminants that are picked up along the way.

The water in the storm system is not treated for contaminants in the same way that sanitary wastewater is treated.

It goes directly into the ground via infiltration into the soil. Any contaminants will eventually make their way into the water table and even rivers and lakes.

The sanitary sewer collection is a closed system receiving waste water from homes and businesses from sinks, toilets, showers and baths. From there the waste water travels through a series of pipes to the wastewater treatment plant.

Clean Water Act

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA), among other things, regulates storm water and urban runoff to protect water quality, and it specifies the responsibilities of municipalities.

The Phase II Final Rule requires small municipal storm water systems, designated as MS4s, such as Fountain Hills, to obtain a permit that specifies the measures that must be taken to prevent pollution from entering the storm water system.

In Arizona Phase II permits are administered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

The Town of Fountain Hills has held at Phase II permit since June 2003 and, as a result, must meet certain requirements as the permit holder.

The main requirement is establishing and maintaining a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP).

Fountain Hills is required to prohibit non-storm water discharges into the storm water system and to implement enforcement procedures.

In order to meet these requirements, the Fountain Hills Town Council adopted Ordinance 03-13 on June 3, 2003. The SWMP includes six Minimum Control Measures with Best Management Practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for each:

- *Construction of storm water runoff controls.
- *Illicit discharge detection and elimination.
- *Pollution prevention.
- *Post- construction storm water management.
- *Public education and outreach.
- *Public participation/ involvement.

Fountain Hills is a member of Storm Water Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM), an organization made up of 23 municipal organizations.

The STORM organization helps provide educational material relating to storm water management and provides a forum for discussion of best management practices for participating municipalities.

One can visit the STORM website for more information at www.azstorm.org.

The Town Council has moved to implement the storm water fee for all land parcels in Fountain Hills as a way to generate revenue to cover costs related to meeting these permit and enforcement requirements.

Failure to do so could result in the town paying hefty fines for non-compliance of these mandates or possibly reducing other town services to pay for these services.

The town has scheduled the following open house meetings for residents to attend and learn more about the environmental fee:

*Wednesday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m., Community Center, Yavapai Room.

*Wednesday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m., Community Center Computer Lab.

#139

120915

Arrowhead Media
Fountain Hills Times
Cir: 6,000
Fountain Hills, AZ

Flood control project begins

Contractors have begun work on a flood control and drainage improvement project in Ashbrook Wash.

As a result, Bayfield Drive is closed between Hamilton and Ashbrook drives.

The closure will continue to April 1, 2016.

The project includes the construction of concrete box culverts where Bayfield crosses Ashbrook Wash.

Additionally, another phase of the project will include the construction of box culverts at Saguaro Boulevard and Ashbrook Wash.

The Saguaro work started Monday, Dec. 7, according to town Street Supervisor Justin Weldy.

Work on Saguaro will begin on the west side (southbound lanes), with traffic restricted to one lane in each direction in



Crews began work on Monday, Dec. 3, at the Bayfield Drive crossing of Ashbrook Wash. The street is scheduled to remain closed through March for construction of a culvert at the wash.

the northbound lanes.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the Town of Fountain Hills are partnering on the

project to make drainage improvements in Ashbrook Wash between Bayfield Drive and Del Cambre Avenue.

A third component of the project is the removal of numerous palm trees growing in the wash, which inhibits storm water flow. That work is also beginning this week in the wash.

Besides the replacement of the two culvert crossings (at Bayfield Drive and Saguaro Boulevard), the additional work will include cleaning and channelizing Ashbrook Wash as necessary to ensure it can safely convey flood flows.

Once completed, properties adjacent to the wash between Bayfield Drive and Del Cambre Avenue will have protection from flooding caused by 100-year flow events through the wash, or flows that have a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

#140

120915

Arrowhead Media
Wickenburg Sun
Cir: 4,086
Wickenburg, AZ

Town funds continued flood repairs

By Patti Slattery
Reporter

For the third time Wickenburg Town Council ratified spending of emergency funds for repairs following monsoon flooding earlier in the year. During the Monday council meeting, \$36,189 was approved to be taken from the Capital Improvement Project fund (CIP) for continuing repairs.

With this most recent approval, the total expenses to date are \$285,316, which is \$1,497 under original estimates. Of this most-recent allocation, \$9,138 will go to Rummel Construction to replace the waterline along Constellation Road to the Everett Bowman Rodeo Arena. This is \$1,270 under the original bid of \$10,408.

Initially, the Town attempted to solve the waterline break by developing an existing well at the rodeo grounds into a potable well, but testing determined levels of nitrate

were higher than acceptable.

A major flood on July 18 took out Constellation Road and damaged homes and property in the area of El Recreo and Jack Burden roads. Then, the flood in October did more damage. Although recent repairs prevented some problems with flooding, the sidewalk, shoulder and parts of Constellation Road along Desert Cypress Mobile Home Park were destroyed. Herco Concrete repaired the damage with slurry from Hanson Aggregates as a reinforcement. Herco charged \$13,200 and Hanson Aggregates \$10,973. The budget for Herco Concrete went over by \$800, and Councilman Chris Band questioned Public Works Director Vince Lorefice about the cost difference. Lorefice said the additional funds went toward concrete, explaining that once repairs began it became apparent there was more damage than first estimated.

Gilbert buys expansive regional park land for \$10

JESSICA BOEHM
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Today, the land southwest of Queen Creek and Higley roads is nothing more than a dirt lot that runs along the Roosevelt Canal, scattered with patches of overgrown weeds.

After spending just \$10, Gilbert potentially is on its way to developing that land into a regional park of the caliber of Kiwanis Park in Tempe or the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt in Scottsdale.

The 225-acre plot is owned by Flood Control District of Maricopa County, which is currently building a basin on the land that will capture water from the Queen Creek Wash and Sonoqui Wash during storms.

Gilbert Council member Eddie Cook, who saw potential in the property two years ago, said he began meeting with Maricopa County supervisors shortly after his idea was hatched to see if the county would hand over part of the land to the town.

In an agreement signed in May, the county granted Gilbert recreational use

of the land, so long as the park development does not interfere with the basin. The county charged a nominal amount, \$10, for the land.

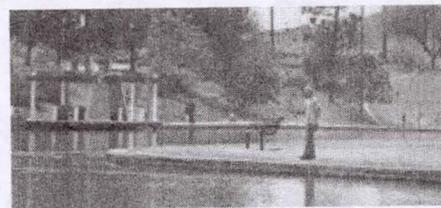
The land, combined with an adjacent 47 acres already owned by the town, will make up a 272-acre regional park. It will be large enough to fit Gilbert's four existing district parks — Freestone, Crossroads, Discovery and McQueen — within its boundaries.

The financial benefits of this park land go beyond just the low initial cost, Parks and Recreation Director Rod Buchanan said. Having one large park as opposed to building four smaller parks around the southern part of the town will keep long-term operational costs down.

"It costs less per acre to maintain than it would at four other locations," Buchanan said.

The size of the park will lend itself to amenities that could rake in money for the town, like sports fields and corporate ramadas, Buchanan said.

Cook said he believes the park will be a magnet for regional sports tournaments and other large-scale events that



CHERYL EVANS/THE REPUBLIC

Nathan Foreman, of Queen Creek, fishes at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. Gilbert Council member Eddie Cook envisions a comparable regional park for the town.

will draw visitors — and their dollars — from across the Valley and beyond. Small businesses and maybe even a hotel could locate around the park to provide for these guests, he said.

"You begin to see that that park will be an attraction for major events like that and see that economic development from that park is just going to nurture and grow other businesses," Cook said.

Not everyone is thrilled about the potential size of the park.

Councilman Victor Petersen said he is

concerned that the size of the park does not meet the actual need of Gilbert residents. He said he does not want the town to go into debt to build something much larger than necessary.

"I live in south Gilbert and I understand that there is an argument that there's an immediate need for parks in south Gilbert — I get that. But nobody's arguing that we need all of this park at this point," Petersen said.

Last month, the Town Council approved the conceptual design process of the park, which will unfold over the course of the next six months. The town will work with a contractor to conduct an extensive review of amenity options, traffic and parking accommodation, revenue opportunities and more. The review will cost up to \$732,000.

Public input about desired amenities will be sought by way of focus groups, workshops and online input during this process, Buchanan said.

Council members directed that prices of potential amenities be included in all discussions with the public so that residents can make educated decisions.

#171

Park

Continued from Page 8

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Council members directed that prices of potential amenities be included in all discussions with the public so that residents can make educated decisions about what they'd like to see in the park.

"Until you put a price tag on something, they're always going to want the biggest and best thing," Petersen said at a November Council meeting. "Until they see what it means to their pocket-books and to their taxes, it's not going to be really very meaningful feedback."

By late spring, an initial conceptual design, which will include a cost analysis, will be presented to the Council. The park itself is expected to take years to complete. The earliest the first phase of the park would be open to residents is 2019, Buchanan said.

Maricopa County Supervisor Denny Barney, who represents Gilbert, said he is glad the Flood Control District land will be used for something else important to the community.

"I think it will just become a great asset for the entire southeast Valley because of the size of the complex and what it can become over time," Barney said.

Barney said he hopes that the success of this partnership will allow for creative Flood Control District land use across the Valley.

"In our mind, if we can do it safely and allow a productive repurposing of these assets that allow it to be used for floods and cross-purpose into something else, it makes sense to me," Barney said.

121615

Arrowhead Media
Fountain Hills Times
Cir: 6,000
Fountain Hills, AZ

#142

Questions persist on environmental fee

Letter prompts inquiries

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Just over a dozen residents turned out for a town-sponsored open house related to the new environment fee, and they expressed some confusion and had a lot of questions.

The open house was the second such meeting the town hosted but the first to take place after residents received a letter from AMS Billing Services, a Florida company the town has hired to bill and collect the fee.

Several residents even had questions about whether the letter was legitimate or some sort of scam, according to Town Manager Grady Miller.

"We also received a number of phone calls from people who were not aware the fee was being implemented," Miller said.

It was November 2014 that the council approved the plan to collect a fee of \$3 per month from owners of each land parcel in Fountain Hills.

The revenue from the fee would be used to fund various requirements of the EPA, U.S. Clean Water Act and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) that the town must comply with.

Programs that could be

covered under the fee include street sweeping, dust control, dam inspections (the town has six dams under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Department of Water Resources it must maintain), and storm water management and wash drainage maintenance.

There are also needs for on-call storm damage clean-up and providing citizens with an option of household hazardous waste disposal (paint, household chemicals, etc.).

Miller said residents also wondered why the town needed to get outside help to collect the fee.

The town did ask the Sanitary District, Republic Services and EPCOR Water if they would help with the billing. Miller said they all declined, primarily because of the significant difference between billing households as they do versus every parcel, which the town needs to do.

The town advertised for qualifications and proposals for contractors to do the work.

AMS Billing Services, a Sarasota, Fla. company, was the only bidder. They met the qualifications the town was looking for, and could do the job cheaper than the town establishing and maintaining an

(cont. on page 9A)



Times photo by Bob Burns

A contractor has begun work on the construction of updated drainage culverts on Saguaro Boulevard at Ashbrook Wash. The town is working with the county Flood Control District on the project. The town is paying its portion of the project with capital improvement funds. Environmental fee funds could be used for this type of project in the future.

Fee

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in-house operation.

The \$3 per month fee is being billed as a single annual collection of \$36.

Miller also said residents raised concern over the appearance of inequity with single-family homes paying the same as commercial sites.

When the council first started discussing the fee as early as 2007, there was some consideration of trying to base the fee on square footage or hard

surface for runoff.

The Arizona Legislature ended that discussion when it passed a law that any such fees collected by municipalities or other political subdivisions could only be flat fees and not based on assessed valuation, zoning or size of structure.

Miller said that without the fee the town could face fines for non-compliance or further reducing other services more severely.

The fee could collect about \$540,000 on an annual basis. The cost of billing through AMS is \$85,000. The bills will arrive in January.

WEST VALLEY SOUNDOFF

How West Valley cities prep for rainy winter

Arizona may be in for a rainy winter, so we wanted to know how West Valley cities have prepared.

The Republic asked: What has your city done to help make sure residents don't endure any significant flooding?



Goodyear

City staff is very proactive to make sure our residents have the information they need to stay safe during heavy rainfall that results in flooding. Communication is key, so we have frequent updates on the city's website, social media accounts and email blasts. Our Fire Department coordinates sand and sandbag distribution at three different locations. And the Police and Public Works departments coordinate any street closures due to flooding or traffic signal outages. During an emergency, you can bet the Goodyear team has all hands on deck. We experienced it during last year's 100-year rain event and we'll

also be well prepared this year.

—Mayor Georgia Lord



Peoria

To reduce or remove the impact of potential natural disasters, we consider it serious business to analyze historical events and the potential for flooding and disasters to happen. Therefore, we partner with county agencies and have a detailed hazard mitigation plan and city flood response plan. We work to mitigate flooding before it happens by monitoring rain fall, closing roads and having key response personnel on the ready for significant rainfall. While we can't control the weather, we do plan for rapid response when flooding does occur.

—Mayor Cathy Carlat

Surprise

This spring, the city will work with



our partners, the City of Peoria and the Maricopa County Flood Control District, to alleviate the flooding that currently impacts the roadways and develop-

ments between Beardsley and Bell roads, along 115th Avenue. Improvements will be made to the existing channel along the 115th Avenue alignment from the Agua Fria River north to Beardsley Road, including new storm drains, channel modifications, landscaping and utility adjustments.

We are also planning for the future Martin Acres Drainage Improvement Project to reduce flooding to about 60 homes that are impacted by a floodplain bisecting the area in the northern portion of our city.

—Mayor Sharon Wolcott

Have a question for West Valley leaders? Email carrie.watters@arizonarepublic.com.

Goodyear housing plan progresses after 11 years

JESSICA BOEHM
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

More than a decade after plans started for a 1,250-lot neighborhood in Goodyear, development finally is on track to begin.

El Cidro Ranch is planned for the area south of Lower Buckeye Road and east of Citrus Road and construction is expected to begin early next year. Home sizes will vary from 35 feet wide to 45 feet wide and feature varying architecture styles, thanks to a development amendment passed by Goodyear City Council on Dec. 14.

Setbacks including a crumbling housing economy and the impending extension of Loop 303 caused the delay in development, city officials said. The land was purchased about 11 years ago by BET Investments.

"Basically they're a victim of timing. The zoning was originally approved in 2007 so it was just right before the recession hit," said Katie Wilken, planning manager for the city of Goodyear.

Scott Moore of BET Investments said at the Council meeting that his company ran into other hiccups along the way. BET Investments had to work with the city when Loop 303 was realigned to pass through part of the property, which caused them to lose about 130 lots, Moore said. Additionally, a seizure of parts of the land by the Maricopa County Flood Control District required the company to revise all of its plats once again.

The housing market has changed drastically since the land was zoned in 2007, Wilken said, which led the company to ask the Council for an amendment that would shorten the width of side yards between houses. This change would allow for houses with garages on the side of the property, which paves the way for features like front porches or courtyards, Moore said.

A document provided to Goodyear by a law firm representing BET Investments states that buyers are likely to want these types of homes that have less yard maintenance.

"Builder feedback in this ever-changing market is unique home styles are what's hot, not large and expensive homes and yards that are costly to maintain and operate. This is especially true when trying to market to the Millennials who feel that less is (sic) more," the document states.

The amendment would allow BET Investments to work with three build-

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Housing

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ers to create diverse housing styles, Moore told the Council.

Some Council members expressed concern that the smaller space between homes would be visually unappealing and unwanted by Goodyear homebuyers.

"Here we have a project that hasn't even broken ground yet and we're already being asked to reduce our standard," Councilman Bill Stipp said.

The amendment passed 4-2 after a promise that BET Investments would provide sample renderings to the Council so members could better understand what the housing products would look like. Stipp, joined by Councilman Joe Pizzillo,

opposed the amendment.

BET Investments declined to speak with *The Arizona Republic* about El Cidro Ranch.

Mayor Georgia Lord said she was in favor of providing more options for Goodyear housing.

"People want choice," she said. "They want flexibility and the market does call for it right now and in other areas of Arizona they're starting to do that."