

Business briefs

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Maracay to open Sombrero Peak March 26

Scottsdale-based Maracay Homes has partnered with American Solar Electric, an Arizona-based residential solar integrator, to provide solar electric systems as a standard feature at Sombrero Peak at the Pines, 8540 N. Continental Links Drive in Marana.

The announcement came as part of the community's grand opening activities, which will be held March 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Marana Chamber of Commerce will join the festivities and ribbon-cutting at 11 a.m. Food and prizes will be available to the public.

Each new home in The Pines community will feature a 3 kW grid-connected solar electric system that will result in a five-year savings of nearly \$3,000 while eliminating the production of over 40,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, according to a Maracay press release. Additionally, homebuyers may be eligible to capture thousands of dollars in solar tax credits associated with the purchase of the new homes.

"We are offering our customers significant savings on monthly energy costs by tapping into Southern Arizona's most abundant natural resource, the sun," said Tony DiLillo, Maracay Homes senior associate and a Marana resident.

The integration of solar during new home construction is in high demand statewide and is another significant indicator that Arizonans want to save money on their utility bills.

"American Solar Electric is proud to bring our expert design, construction and customer support services to new residents at The Pines. Installing our systems during the construction of a new home not only lowers the cost of solar, but also allows for a very aesthetically pleasing installation", said Sean Seitz, president and co-owner of American Solar Electric.

Interested parties can visit Maracay's website at www.maracayhomes.com/ or call (480) 346-2670 for more information.

New Marana

Farm Stand

vendor offers

garden kits

John Keller, a former minister and pool salesman, is now selling container gardens and local tomatoes at the Marana Farm Stand at the Marana Heritage Farm, 12375 N. Heritage Park Drive. The outdoor market operates on Mondays from 3 to 6 p.m.

A resident of Arizona for nearly 25 years, Keller retired from designing outdoor living areas and is now pursuing his passion for teaching people about container gardening. The Earthbox is an easy-to-use container garden that regulates water levels and allows novice and advanced growers to improve their harvest.

"People don't realize you can grow tomatoes year-round in Arizona," Keller said "It's easy and a great way to do container gardening." He welcomes people to visit his home near Dove Mountain to see the Earthbox in use, and Farm Stand visitors will now see Keller regularly at the market.

The Marana Heritage Farm is a partnership between the Community Food Bank's Community Food Resource Center, the Town of Marana Parks and Recreation Department and dedicated community members.

As part of the continuing efforts to benefit and educate residents of Marana and surrounding communities, the staff at the Marana Farm Stand is actively welcoming new vendors for the Monday afternoon Farmers' Market. Those interested in becoming a vendor at the Marana Farm Stand should contact Maggie Whiteside at 468-1416.

AAED luncheon to address aviation, airpark

The Arizona Association for Economic Development will hold its next luncheon March 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Evergreen Air Center, 24641 E. Pinal Air Park Road, No. 3, in Marana.

Guest speaker Mark Stark will discuss economic activities of Evergreen Aviation and Pinal Airpark on Southern Arizona. The luncheon also will include a tour of Evergreen and WAATS facilities.

The cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members and late registrants.

Registration will be accepted through noon on Friday, March 25. Attendees who require a vegetarian meal should request one in advance.

For more information, call (602) 240-AAED (2233) or visit www.aaed.com.

Toygaroo.com rents toys online

Toygaroo.com, a new toy rental company, has launched its online service.

Toygaroo, which has a similar format to Netflix, allows families to rent toys for their children and provide a steady rotation of playthings that can grow along with them.

In addition, Toygaroo will be featured on the March 25 season premiere of ABC's "Shark Tank," a show that allows entrepreneurs to pitch their business ideas to successful investors.

"Any family with children understands the toy cycle. Parents buy a toy their child wants, they play with it for a few weeks and it ends up sitting in a toy bin or cluttering the playroom until the next garage sale," said Nikki Pope, company spokesperson. "With Toygaroo, these problems are solved, saving parents a lot of money in the process."

Each year, the average family with two kids spends about \$2,400 on new toys, according to the company's press release. Toygaroo members can receive up to 48 toys in a year for less than \$560. Plans start as low as \$35.99 for a shipment every other month, with the average shipment being worth over \$120. The company offers more than 300 hundred toys to choose from, free shipping and FedEx delivery.

For more information, visit Toygaroo.com.

Tucson Mall revamps with store renovations and relocations

In-N-Out Burger drive-in opened March 18 on the north side of the Tucson Mall near BevMo.

Additionally, some existing Tucson Mall stores now have new, renovated locations inside the mall. Radio Shack has relocated to a new space on the upper level near Sears. Game Daze, Arizona's largest specialty game store, has moved downstairs by the play area, where a new Crocs store will open soon.

Guests also will soon find the return of Cathy's Accessories near Shi by Journeys, a women's haven for trendy shoes and accessories. Pacific Sunwear, an action-sports-themed lifestyle apparel and accessories store known by many as Pac Sun — will be relocating from the Macy's wing to a new space on the upper level next to Gloria Jean's Coffee.

Joining the Tucson Mall in April is Down East Basics, which has begun construction on an upper level store near the new Pac Sun location; it will offer stylish and affordable clothing for women and girls.

Tucson Mall is owned and managed by General Growth Properties, Inc.

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More about **Tucson Mall**

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