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Higley district offers softball camp

A winter-break softball camp will be Jan. 3-6 at Coronado High School. The camp is designed for all skill levels and is hosted by experienced fast-pitch softball players and coaches in the Higley Unified School District.

Those in Grades 2-4, from 8-9:30 a.m., will focus on hitting, catching, throwing and base running. Grades 5-6, meeting from 10 a.m.-noon, will work on all techniques as well as hitting mechanics, bat speed, base-running and field positions. The goal is to teach the fundamentals of fast-pitch softball while following the NFHS guidelines and prepare participants for middle-school and high-school fast-pitch softball in a fun and safe environment. Students should bring their own gloves.

MEET THE COACH

Sunni Braakmsma is the softball coach at Coronado Elementary-Middle School. She began her career in softball by playing fast pitch for her middle- and high-school teams. From 1994-2005, she coached softball for various leagues throughout the Phoenix metro area. She coaches club softball in Gilbert. "My goal is to be able to teach young athletes how to play the game of softball and enjoy it," she said in a release.

SIGNING UP

Register online or in person at the district office, 2935 S. Recker Road, from 8:30 a.m.-4 pm. Monday-Friday. Information: 480-279-7055 or 480-279-7034.

BRIEFS

Charter breaks ground

Val Vista Academy, a public tuition-free charter school scheduled to open next August in Gilbert, has broken ground for its new campus at Val Vista and Germann roads.

Operated by Ball Charter Schools, Val Vista Academy plans to serve approximately 250 students in Grades K-5 for the 2012-2013 school year and up to 600 in K-8 for the years following. Val Vista Academy will follow the models developed by other local AZ Ball Charter Schools, including Dobson Academy and Hearn Academy. The school is now accepting enrollments.

Information: www.azballcharter-schools.org.

Wonderland at Goddard School

A free Winter Wonderland will be held 3-6 p.m. Saturday at the Goddard School, 1420 N. Higley Road, Gilbert. The family activity includes holiday games, crafts, and free pictures with Santa.

Information: 480-830-6028.

Two complete basic training

Air Force Airman Torrey B. Sanchez graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

Sanchez is the son of Pamela Fife of Mesa, and a 2006 graduate of Gilbert High School.

Meanwhile, Army Pvt. Luis A. Felix Amarillas has graduated from basic

combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

He is the son of Paola Amarillas of Mesa, and the nephew of Ana Luisa Felix of the San Tan Valley area, as well as a 2010 graduate of San Tan Foothills High School.

Mercy Gilbert unit accredited

The Diagnostic Imaging Department at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center has received accreditation from the American College of Radiology for both ultrasound, including vascular, and computed tomography, including cardiac.

Ed Jones, director of Diagnostic Imaging, said in a release that the department is one of more than 20,000 facilities that are ACR-accredited. The accreditation program, which began in 1987, is a peer-reviewed, educationally focused evaluation process to ensure that patients are receiving the highest level of image quality and safety.

The ACR accreditation is a two-step process over a three-year period. "We are so proud to be recognized by a medical society that is renowned throughout the U.S.," said Jones. "Being accredited by ACR is rewarding as it is considered the gold standard of accreditation and care."

Law enforcement training

The Chandler-Gilbert Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy is accepting applications for a new class beginning on Jan. 7.

SEE NEXT PAGE