

SSAR Receives Cert Training

15 members will join Urban Search and Rescue Team

Fifteen members of Superstition Search and Rescue team recently graduated from CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training, which brings the organization's total to 25, with an additional 22 members in training.

The 15 members will now join the newly formed Urban Search and Rescue Team.

"A CERT team is a nationally recognized volunteer emergency response team made up of individuals who have received specific training in disaster response," said Commander Robert Cooper.

"These individuals assist both local and national emergency responders in the event of a major disaster event. The training these individuals receive is recognized by Homeland Security and FEMA and serves to equip the team members with the skills to determine what services are needed and what actions should be taken to provide the greatest good for the greatest number. Whether a disaster is man-made or natural, CERT teams are trained to mobilize immediately to save lives and offer immediate help to victims."

Cooper said thanks to the dedication of his group's members, its partnership with the Apache Junction Police Department (AJPD) and the continued support from the community, SSAR will be one of the most well-equipped urban rescue teams in the states. It is also a few steps shy of being recognized as a National Response Team, which can be called upon to assist in rescues nationwide.

While disaster preparedness is at the heart of the CERT program, the SSAR Urban Response Team will also use its skills to assist the AJPD and community in other areas such as cold cases, lost children and adults, local emergencies and more. SSAR also continues to provide the com-



Superstition Search and Rescue recently celebrated 15 of its members finishing CERT training. Those with the training are wearing bright yellow vests.

munity with the highly skilled wilderness rescue services for which they are renowned.

The Apache Junction Police Department welcomes this additional help and values the partnership of such a well-trained, nationally recognized Community Emergency Response Team.

"It is in times of emergencies when you need to draw on all available resources to help mitigate what has occurred," said AJPD Police Chief Jerold Monahan. "Having well-trained, dedicated volunteers are a huge asset and valuable resource that any community can benefit from."

SSAR has helped the AJPD with a number of missing person cases, including the case of the kidnapped 2-year-old girl that occurred last year. The result was a successful rescue and a long prison sentence for the offender.

SSAR is a private volunteer service organization dedicated to wilderness and urban search and rescue in Arizona since 1981. The members are trained in urban rescue, CERT and are highly skilled in wilderness first aid, technical rescue and orienteering. SSAR does not charge for these life-saving services as members sacrifice their personal time and resources to assist those in need, Cooper

said. SSAR operates a 24/7 emergency hotline at (480) 620-0299 for those needing assistance.

In addition to the achievement, SSAR received a "general donation" from an unnamed Gold Canyon resident for equipment to outfit its expanding team.

SSAR relies on donations from individuals and/or corporations and fund-raising activities to support the train-

ing and equipment they need to continue serving individuals who find themselves in situations in which they require assistance. All donations are tax deductible. To donate, send a check or money order payable to SSAR to P.O. Box 1123, Apache Junction, AZ 85217. For more information on SSAR or to make an online donation, visit www.superstition-sar.org.

Project Paves Pathway To Providers

Project helping fund education at CAC



Central Arizona College

By Guy Harrison
Central Arizona College

Childcare providers needing a Childhood Development Associate (CDA) credential or looking to take early childhood education (ECE) courses toward an associate degree may do so with the assistance of the state of Arizona's Professional Career Pathway Project (PCPP) at Central Arizona College.

Shirley Harter is the PCPP program specialist for Central Arizona College and helps oversee the operation of the program for CAC and the entire state as the college coordinates the statewide program.

"The intent of the program is to provide professional development for childcare providers," Harter explained. "PCPP has raised the bar for childcare professionals."

To be eligible for the funding, the student must work in a childcare center or be a family childcare provider, or be a family group home provider or employee. Volunteers may be eligible for the program as well.

In addition, students are required to identify a goal and

pursue ECE coursework to accomplish that goal. Students must complete all courses funded by PCPP with a "C" grade or better to continue receiving funds. Only ECE courses can be funded through PCPP.

The funds cover one to six credits per semester and 12 total credits per school year, a textbook stipend of \$10 per credit each semester for use at the college bookstore, and multiple CDA assessment fees for DES and DHS certified providers.

In addition to tuition funding, PCPP provides a CDA mentor service to eligible participants.

"The mentor will help the student with their application, observation and preparation of a portfolio for the credentialing processing," Harter said.

For more information on PCPP at CAC, students should contact either Shirley Harter (520-494-5077 / shirley.harter@centralaz.edu) or Carol Adamavich (520-494-5030 / carol.adamavich@centralaz.edu).

County Survey Yields 35%

Response Rate

Officials say it provides good baseline data

FLORENCE—As part of its ongoing commitment to results-driven management, Pinal County commissioned its first citizen satisfaction survey.

Tom Miller, Ph.D., president of National Research Center, presented the survey findings to the Board of Supervisors at the June 16 meeting.

The survey methodology called for 3,000 surveys to be mailed to randomly selected households. The 35 percent response rate was based on 963 completed surveys being returned during the results tabulation period.

Results of the survey, coupled with the Managing for Results program, will be used to communicate priorities for planning and potential resource allocation. The survey provided valuable information on residents' baseline awareness of county services.

Some key results of the survey

are as follows:

- 71 percent reported their neighborhood was a "good" or "excellent" place to live
- 66 percent considered Pinal County a "good" or "excellent" place to retire
- Pinal County was rated a "good" or "excellent" place to live by 65 percent of respondents
- 58 percent consider the overall quality of life in Pinal County as "good" or "excellent"

For more information, visit <http://pinalcountyaz.gov/Departments/NewsInformation/Lists/News%20and%20Announcements/DispFormA.aspx?List=034c985%2Df072%2D4734%2D926b%2D9dcd43664a&ID=975&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fpinalcountyaz%2Egov%2FDepartments%2FNewsInformation%2FPages%2FNewsArchive%2Easpx>

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- Two Ham Biscuits & Hashbrowns with 2 toppings
- Chicken Biscuit & Hashbrowns with 2 toppings
- Two Sausage Biscuits & Hashbrowns with 2 toppings
- Three Biscuits & Sausage Gravy

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- Bert's Chili & Grilled Cheese
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- Bacon Lover's BLT & Hashbrowns

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