

AHWATUKEE Foothills NEWS

Celebrating 30 years of service

NEWS

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Local Pulitzer Prize winners:

The East Valley Tribune – sister publication to AFN – won a Pulitzer Prize this week for a five-part series that exposed how police protection suffered as Sheriff Joe Arpaio focused on efforts to combat illegal immigration. Tribune reporter Ryan Gabrielson and former Tribune reporter Paul Giblin produced the five-part series "Reasonable Doubt," which exposed slow emergency response times and lax criminal enforcement from the sheriff's office. Source: East Valley Tribune
For a complete list of winners, visit pulitzer.org. To read the five-part series, visit eastvalleytribune.com.

OPINION

Going green: Earth

Dog adventure biz open to AF residents



When Melanie Barnes takes her clients' dogs for a spin, they usually end up worn out and dog tired before returning home to their owners.

Image courtesy of Melanie Barnes

By TRAVIS ROEMHILD
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

An East Valley business is offering residents a different take on pet sitting, which includes ex-

ercise for canines and peace of mind for their owners.

As any dog owner knows, there are some times when you get home from a long day of work that you just want to sit back and relax, but Rex or Bailey is definitely

going to let you hear about it.

Melanie Barnes, who owns Four Paws Adventures, offers a solution to those days and others when you want your pooch to get a little extra attention or a lot more exercise during the day.

For her services, Barnes will pick up the dog from your house, take them on a hike or to the dog park, and return them worn out and ready for a full night's sleep.

MORE PAWS • PAGE 8

ews

April 22, 2009



"My goal is to make them too tired to bark or dig," said Melanie Barnes about her exercise goals for her clients' dogs.

Image courtesy of Melanie Barnes

PAWS

FROM PAGE 1

Another aspect of her business is matching dogs' personalities to find the right group for your pet.

"I'll do introductory meetings, check out the dog's personality and match them up with my dog or other good, well-balanced dogs. Then I will know who they can get along with," Barnes said.

She started Four Paws Adventures in October 2006 and recently grew her business to the North and West Valley. Barnes said she began the business after seeing what some doggie day care services offered.

"As opposed to doggie day care, which is a concrete room, this is outdoors with fresh air and more socialization," she said. "I was just out hiking with my dog and I thought dogs really do love hiking. So I thought I would start offering a different option for dog owners."

Her services could help those owners whose dog can get into trouble home alone. Biting, chewing of furniture and other expensive items, and digging could signal that your canine is not getting enough exercise, or they are just really bored.

"My goal is to make them too tired to bark or dig," she said. "I pick 'em up, tire them out, and drop them off."

As the temperature heats up as Phoenix approaches summer, Barnes said she will be spending less time hiking and more time at dog parks like Cosmo Dog Park, which features a lake for dogs to swim.

One Doggie Field Trip is \$34 or a pack of eight can be purchased for \$238. To find out more information, visit www.FourPawsAdventures.com or call (602) 617-6419.

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