

Congress asked to OK Syria hit

Obama backs away from ordering missile strike on his own

Obama's decision to back away from ordering a missile strike on Syria has drawn criticism from lawmakers and analysts who say the move signals a lack of resolve to deal with the crisis.

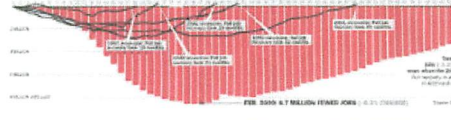
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DESPITE GAINS ACROSS U. ARIZ. RECOVERY STILL LAGS

U.S. JOB RECOVERY FOLLOWING RECESSION: The 2007-09 recession shaved a larger share of the workforce and a slower period than previous downturns. The chart shows the number of jobs lost and the U.S. during a recession and how many months it took to regain lost jobs.



Recession, job losses hit harder, lasted longer in Arizona than in rest of the U.S.

Arizona's job market is still recovering from the recession, but the state's recovery is lagging behind the rest of the country. The state's unemployment rate remains high, and it has taken longer to regain lost jobs compared to other states.

Obama pushes housing aid plans



Catherine Reager, REAL ESTATE

The White House's housing aid efforts, along with other federal programs, have helped nearly 400,000 Arizona homeowners over the past few years.

Here are other specific plans to expand housing aid advocated by President Barack Obama during his appearance in Phoenix last month:
- Replace Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, government-owned mortgage giants, with a private insurance group funded by lenders.
- Waive closing costs for more borrowers to refinance through the current Home Affordable Refinancing Plan. Homeowners with good credit and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac-backed mortgages now can refinance no matter how underwater they are on their loans.
- Cut red tape for borrowers who qualify and are trying to get loans now that lenders have eased their requirements significantly.
- Fix the nation's immigration policies to help boost homeownership and home values.
- Create incentives to spur development of more affordable rental housing.



A \$1.7 million home is going up in north Scottsdale's Silverleaf community using pre-engineered, factory-built steel walls.

Nathan Day, the developer of Sterling at Silverleaf, is using Scottsdale-based iFrame technology and products to build the house, which will take less than four months to construct compared with the usual 10 months for a luxury home. iFrame builds exterior and interior wall-framing panels that meld formed steel studs with embedded interlocking insulation. Each wall panel is designed off-site. At the job site, the interlocking panels can be assembled in less than half the time of traditional walls. The panels are designed to be 75 percent more energy efficient than traditional wood frames and reduce the risk of mold and dust.

MARKET PULSE

Belfiore Real Estate Consulting tracked the 30 residential communities opening across metro Phoenix in June. Jim Belfiore said the area surrounding the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport had the most subdivisions open, with 10. 'The new communities coming to market are a welcome addition and a step in the right direction,' he said. 'Supply is so constrained at this moment, though, home prices are expected to continue rising to the tune of annualized rates of 8 to 10 percent.'

HOUSING

Number of home sales per day, June 2013: 303.5. Number of home sales per day, June 2012: 299. Dollar amount of single-family home sales, June 2013: \$1.6 billion. Dollar amount of single-family home sales, June 2012: \$1.5 billion. Number of additional houses listed for sale, June 2013: 7,036. Number of additional houses listed for sale, June 2012: 7,774. Source: TheWilcoxReport.com

IN FOCUS

June housing numbers, Pinal County:
- Number of houses sold: 922.
- Median sales price: \$140,000.
- Pre-foreclosures and short sales (part of overall figure): 68.
- Investor flips: 84.

'Anti-amnesty' movement failing to pick up steam

The anti-amnesty movement is failing to pick up steam, according to a new survey. The survey found that most Americans support the current immigration policies, and that the anti-amnesty movement is not gaining traction.

Cardinals season pro

The Cardinals are looking to have a successful season. They have a strong pitching staff and a solid offense. They are expected to be a contender for the National League pennant.

Surprise police deny profiling

The Surprise Police Department has denied allegations of racial profiling. The department says that all officers are trained to treat everyone equally and that there is no bias in their enforcement of the law.

A key player in concussion suit

A key player in a lawsuit over concussions is being named. The lawsuit is filed by former NFL players who claim that the NFL knew about the dangers of concussions but did nothing to protect them.

With inventory tight, houses on market often sell quickly



Source: Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service Inc.

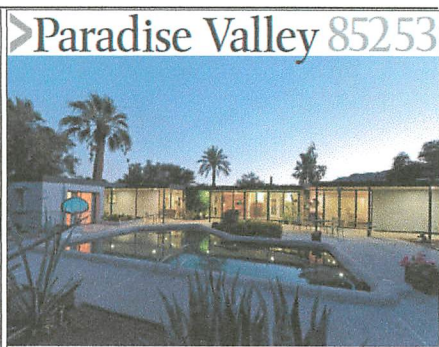


Premier Location!



9491 E. Desert Cove Ave.

Snuggled on a serene cul-de-sac, this lovely home begins with a shady lawn and a warm and welcoming walkway to a soaring covered entry and handsome front door. Inside, the formal rooms are graced with gorgeous pillared archways, low pony walls, tall windows and whisper-quiet sliding doors that ensure easy breezy indoor/outdoor dining and entertaining. Around the corner, the heart-of-the-home kitchen sparkles with jet-black appliances, rich raised-panel cabinetry, a convenient serving prep island and a two-windowed breakfast area. Nestled nearby, the family room features a center-set fireplace framed by media/art display niches and towering windows that dapple the floors with just the right amount of natural light. All of the supporting bedrooms are quite spacious, especially the master bedroom, host to a romantic fireplace designed to take the chill out of a cool winter's eve. In addition, this generous retreat enjoys a large walk-in closet and a pampering private bath with a soothing jetted tub. Sure to be a popular gathering place for friends and loved ones, this beauty's big backyard sports a custom entertainment gazebo/ramada, a can't-wait-to-take-a-dip heated pool, a relaxing spa and an extended covered patio. A brick-trimmed play lawn, plenty of pathway pavers and a tucked-away side-entry garage complete this ultra-enticing scene. Visit www.9491EastDesertCoveAz.com. (north/south exposure; 4BD; 3BA; 3,127SF)



All Beadle-Inspired View Contemporary



7511 N. Tatum Blvd.

Hosting a fabulous setting alongside the Paradise Valley Country Club golf course, this All Beadle-inspired beauty wows with a crisp, cool and oh-so-contemporary ambience. Ready for you to move right in and make it your own, this gem's visual adventure begins with a sun-kissed foyer backdrop by huge walls of view glass that open to a deep dining patio, expansive lounge/ent deck and a sparkling pool. Filled with natural light, the foyer is a gorgeous greeting salon that leads to elegant formal rooms as well as a sleek, chic skylit kitchen graced with stainless steel appointments and a stunning butcher-block-style serving/prep island that doubles as a breakfast bar or buffet area. Not far away, the family room is an ideal place to kick back with friends and loved ones, while the master suite is an ultra-inviting retreat for relaxing after a day at work or a round on the neighboring golf course. A sampling of additional amenities includes a wealth of flexible areas just-right for galleries, offices, studios and/or creative spaces. Meanwhile, perfect for guests or intergenerational living, the guest house includes its own kitchen, while the pool house is super-convenient for those savoring some fun in the Arizona sun. Speaking of fun in the sun, the backyard is graced by a swank 1950's Palm Springs feel thanks to its big views of both the golf course and mountains. Visit tourfactory.com/021042. Offered at \$1,200,000. (SBD; 4BA; 3,408SF)