

BUSINESS BRIEFS

coachella valley

Bank announces \$3.1 million raised in new capital

Bank of Southern California, which has offices in La Quinta and Palm Springs, announced it raised \$3.1 million in new capital in a private placement of common stock.

The San Diego-based bank also announced it received regulatory approval to acquire about \$24 million in deposits from Mizuho Corporate Bank of California.

The transaction is expected to close Aug. 26 and will bring the bank's total deposits to about \$179 million and total assets to \$297 million, bank officials said in a statement.

Nathan Rogge, president and CEO of Bank of Southern California, said the bank's total capital is \$22.7 million, making it "one of the best-capitalized banks in the region."

The 10-year-old bank acquired two branches from **Palm Desert National Bank**, giving it six offices in San Diego and Riverside counties.

Bank of Southern California's total risk-based capital ratio is 17.6 percent, above the minimum level of 10 percent required to be considered "well-capitalized."

The bank's Tier 1 capital ratio was increased to 11.9 percent.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

coachella valley

Bank launches ATM tracker for college students

Wells Fargo & Co. announced it is offering several online personal financial management tools and mobile banking services designed to help students maximize their budgets in the face of tuition increases.

Wells Fargo's ATM Cash Tracker enables students to establish a monthly withdrawal budget at the ATM to track cash and display the budget on the screen during each transaction.

The bank's My Money Map interactive online tool provides a "dashboard view" of the student's financial picture using information from accounts and transactions, company officials said in a statement.

An Online Transfers tool enables parents to move funds from their accounts to a student's account, and a My Savings Plan tool gives students an opportunity to set savings goals and monitor their progress.

Students who enroll in Wells Fargo's CollegeSTEPS Program can receive electronic postcards that provide information about budgeting, financial aid, scholarships and college preparation. Call (800) 378-5526 or visit www.wellsfargo.com/student for more information.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

indio

Agencies have until Sept. 1 to submit grant applications

Community nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies that provide support and services that benefit Indio residents have until Sept. 1 to submit applications for grant money from the city of Indio.

Nonprofit or government agencies can seek funding up to \$5,000.

Funding is available for organizations and agencies that will strengthen the business community, support the city's overall economic development program or enhance Indio's marketing capacity and recognition in the region, city officials said in a statement.

Call **Jim Curtis**, Indio human services manager, at (760) 391-4174, or visit www.indio.org.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

palm desert

Annual forum to focus on local real estate market

The eighth annual **Commercial Real Estate Investor Forum** to be held at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 7 at the **Agua Caliente Resort & Spa** in Rancho Mirage will provide insight into the local commercial real estate market.

Economist **Esmael Adibi**, director of the **A. Gary Anderson Center for Economic Research at Chapman University**, will be the featured speaker.

The cost is \$35 per person and includes a buffet breakfast.

The forum is sponsored by the **California Desert Association of Realtors** and **Desert Area Commercial Information Exchange of the Coachella Valley**.

Call **Paul Potter** at (760) 346-5637 or email paul@cdaronline.com to RSVP or to become a sponsor.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

palm desert

Submit your float entry for annual golf cart parade

Organizers of the 47th annual **Palm Desert Golf Cart Parade** to be held Oct. 23 are taking golf cart float entries.

This year's parade, which kicks off at 1 p.m., will have a circus theme, dubbed "Carnival Style."

Other events include a **Palm Desert Rotary** pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and a **Golf Cart Show** at 10 a.m. on El Paseo.

Other information is available at www.golfcartparade.com or by calling the **Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce** at (760) 346-6111.

Title sponsors this year include the City of Palm Desert, the Chamber and **The Auen Foundation**.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

palm desert

QuickBooks Pro 2011 topic of six-part seminar series

The **Coachella Valley Women's Business Center** will kick off the six-part seminar series "QuickBooks Pro 2011" from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 8.

The seminars will continue every Thursday for five weeks at **Workforce Development Center**, 44-199 Monroe St., Indio.

Participants should have a basic understanding of business accounting and financial concepts, be computer literate, have keyboard proficiency of 25 words per minute, be able to use a 10-key pad, and have some experience with invoicing, organizers said.

Vicki Beckner with Computer U LLC, will be the instructor for the series.

The initial seminar will provide an introduction to the QuickBooks software. Students will begin to build a fictitious company and continue the process throughout the series.

Remaining seminars will explain how to set up vendors and customers, bank and trust accounts, create lists, enter services and payables, pay bills, invoice, make deposits, perform bank reconciliation, and other information.

The cost for the entire six-part series is \$120.

Visit www.cvwbc.org, or call (760) 345-9200 for information.

Separately, CVWBC will present the free new technology webinar "Purchasing and Inventory Management" from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Online registration is required and must be completed by Monday.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

palm springs

Mixer alert: Meet Desert Business Association at Rainbow Bar

The **Desert Business Association** will hold a mixer from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at **The Rainbow Bar and Grill**, 216 S. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs.

The mixer's sponsor, dentist **J. Scott Shepherd of Palm Springs Family and Cosmetic Dentistry**, will introduce the newest member of his staff, dentist **Sarah Enright**.

The event will include happy hour prices and a variety of appetizers.

DBA members get in free; the cost is \$5 for guests.

DBA, a gay/lesbian chamber of commerce, was formed to promote and support businesses that are accepting and supportive of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Visit desertbusinessassociation.org.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

rancho mirage

Submit your art for library's book cover competition

The **Rancho Mirage Public Library** announced it will present the "You Can Tell A Book By Its Cover" art competition.

Artists are asked to imagine a book they would like to write and publish, then create its cover. All work must be original and created between Jan. 1 and Oct. 24, the deadline for submissions.

Artists must be 18 or older to be considered.

Artwork can be submitted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 22 or Oct. 24 at the conference room of the library, 71-100 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage.

The event is free to the public.

Call (760) 341-7323, or visit www.rancho-mirage-library.org.

Winners will be announced at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 16.

— **MIKE PERRAULT**

GIVING BACK

Donation helps Habitat for Humanity build more homes



nina ronda
giving back

In this weekly feature, The Desert Sun spotlights valley firms performing good deeds.

The American dream of owning a home will soon be a reality for two families, thanks to Home Depot.

On Aug. 4, the Home Depot Foundation donated \$365,000 to Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley to construct two homes during the foundation's annual Community Building Invitational project in September. The grant will also be used toward additional low-income housing in the Coachella Valley.

The grant is the largest in the nonprofit organization's 22-year history.

Patrick Swarthout, president of the local Habitat for Humanity board of directors, said, "The board is especially grateful to receive our largest gift at a time of economic uncertainty, when we need financial support the most."

The Home Depot Foundation is committed to providing resources to assist local nonprofit organizations that improve homes and facilities that serve disadvantaged



SHEILA GRATTAN SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

Indio Mayor Lupe Ramos Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller, Habitat for Humanity Coachella Valley Board President Patrick Swarthout and Richard Bell of the Indio Home Depot, representing the Home Depot Foundation, celebrate at the groundbreaking of three new homes for low-income families.

families and individuals.

"We are excited that our departmental and supplier volunteers will be able to truly make a lasting impact on the community," said Kelly Caffarelli, president of The Home Depot Foundation.

Home Depot has stores in Indio, La Quinta, Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage.

What is your business doing to give back to the Coachella Valley? Share your thoughts with us by e-mailing **Nina Ronda** at nina.ronda@thedesertsun.com for our feature *The Business of Giving Back*. (760) 778-4639

WHO'S COMING TO TOWN

aug. 18-20

Cala (Cocaine) Anonymous 2011 annual convention. JW Marietta Desert Springs Resort & Spa.

sept. 7-11

Hot N Dry 2011 roundup meeting. Riviera Palm Springs.

sept. 8-17

Investment Company Institute 2011 tax and accounting. JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa. Attendees: 800

sept. 9-19

Society of American Florists 2011 annual convention. The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa.

sept. 19-25

Million Dollar Round Table 2011 Top of the Table. Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, Villas & Spa. Attendees: 500

sept. 20-26

U.S. Tennis Association September 2011 league tournament. Miramonte Resort & Spa. Attendees: 70

sept. 21-25

International Association of Gay & Lesbian Bridge Club 2011 international bridge tournament. Hotel Zoso.

sept. 27-29

United Methodist Church 2011 board of ordained ministry convocation conference. The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa. Attendees: 200

sept. 28-oct. 2

Helmsbrisco 2011 Sound Credit Union board of directors meeting. Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, Villas & Spa.

oct. 3-7

California Academy of Physician Assistants 2011 annual primary care symposium. Hilton Palm Springs Resort; Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel. Attendees: 700

oct. 5-7

Meeting Site Solution October

2011 Los Angeles County management conference. Hyatt Grand Champions resort, Villas & Spa.

oct. 5-16

Linkage 2011 Global Institute for Leadership Development and human resources leaders summit. JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa.

oct. 6-9

University of California, Irvine — Cancer Research Institute 2011 West Coast retrovirus meeting. Hyatt Regency Suites. Attendees: 10

oct. 8-13

National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems 2011 public safety employees pension and benefits conference. Hotel Zoso.

oct. 9-17

World Waterpark Association 2011 annual fall national convention. Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel. Attendees: 450

oct. 11-16

U.S. Tennis Association 2011 senior league tournament No. 1. Miramonte Resort & Spa. Attendees: 450

oct. 13-16

Global Events Los Angeles The Western Neuroradiological Society 43rd annual meeting. Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa.

oct. 13-22

AACC International 2011 annual meeting. Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel; Palm Springs Convention Center.

oct. 14-18

Consero 2011 one-on-one meeting. Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa. Attendees: 120

oct. 17-23

W.J. Weiser & Associates 2011 North Central Section Arthroscopy Association. The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa. Attendees: 300

oct. 18-24

U.S. Tennis Association October 2011 senior league tournament No. 2. Miramonte Resort & Spa. Attendees: 150

oct. 19-23

Lumber Association of California & Nevada 2011 Lumber association annual meeting. Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa.

oct. 25-oct. 30

U.S. Tennis Association October 2011 senior league tournament No. 3. Miramonte Resort & Spa. Attendees: 150

nov. 3-8

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Pacific West Regional Council

2011 fall workshop. The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa.

nov. 3-6

California Mathematics Council Southern Section 2011 annual conference. Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel. Attendees: 4,000

nov. 4-6

Rotary District 5330 conference. Doral Desert Princess Resort.

nov. 10-16

California Association of Health Facilities 2011 annual. Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel. Attendees: 600

nov. 11-13

University of California, Irvine — Cancer Research Institute 2011 cancer center retreat. Hyatt Regency Suites Palm Springs.

nov. 29-dec. 4

Experient Ohio 2011 annual WAIC conference. Hotel Zoso. Attendees: 140

dec. 1-26

American Sports Builders Association through Stringfellow Group ASBA 2011 technical meeting. JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa.

jan. 10-15

American Public Transportation Association 2012 BMBG annual business meeting. Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, Villas & Spa.

jan. 12-15

Synapse Sports 2012 California — Boom Lacrosse tournament. Embassy Suites La Quinta Hotel & Spa. Attendees: 21,435

jan. 13-20

National Association of Private Special Education Centers 2012 NAPSEC Leadership conference. Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa.

jan. 14-21

ConferenceDirect 2012 California Association of Realtors winter meeting. Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa.

jan. 26-feb. 2

Association for Laboratory Automation 2012 annual convention. Rooms to be placed. Attendees: 4,500

feb. 12-18

VIP Marketing Services 2012 VIP Marketing Services. Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, Villas & Spa. Attendees: 300

feb. 13-19

Tire Industry Association 2012 quarter conference. The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa.

feb. 15-24

American Bankers Association 2012 NCCB conference. JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa. Attendees: 675

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