

Briefs

100 ACRES SET FOR NEW COD EAST CENTER

The Desert Community College District Board of Trustees has voted to accept a gift of 100 acres of land near Coachella as the site for a new Eastern Valley center for the two-year community college. The new facility would replace the existing center in Indio, which is currently leased from Riverside County, and could eventually become a full campus.

The gift is valued at \$100,000 an acre, according to the Sam Belzberg, a Rancho Mirage banker, international businessman and developer who owns the parcel to be donated, which is near the intersection of Avenue 62 and State Highway 86, along Buchanan Street, in an unincorporated area just south of Coachella, east of the 86 Expressway and south of the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport in Thermal.

Jerry Patton, COD vice president of administrative services, said the agreement includes a 90-day environmental review with that document used to determine where the specific site will be.

Patton said following the 90-day review, which will include a look at soil conditions and seismic considerations, work could begin on infrastructure.

"As soon as we can do all that, we'd like to put modular classrooms in in an attempt to start offering classes as soon as the fall of 2006," Patton said. The Eastern Valley Center in Indio will continue to offer classes until a transition plan is finalized and implemented.

In March 2004, Coachella Valley voters approved Measure B, a \$346.5 million bond issue to provide funds for College of the Desert to rehabilitate its 43-year-old main campus in Palm Desert and to expand into

eastern and western portions of the Valley. Patton said it would take three or four years before permanent buildings would be completed on the site.

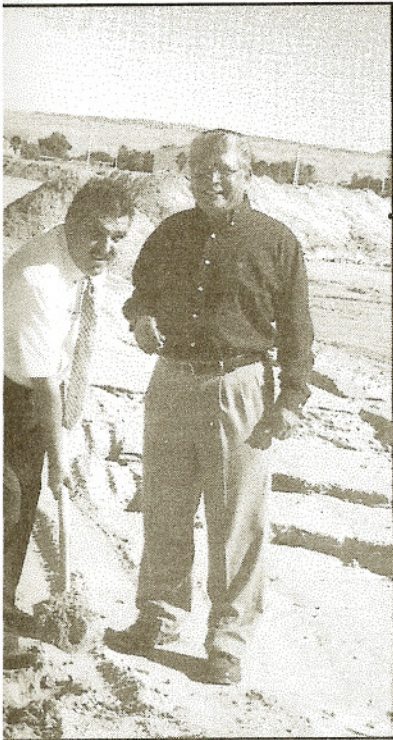
Dr. Maria Sheehan, COD Superintendent/President Maria Sheehan said the decision capped a rigorous process to find the right site for expansion in the East Valley. "There were at least 15 properties that were thoroughly examined. A consulting firm addressed the pros and cons of each. In the end, this was the one.

"In addition to a great location, it comes to us as a gift, an incredibly generous one. And because we don't have to buy the land, our funds will go a lot further. We will be able to start immediately towards our goal of a permanent educational center in this rapidly growing area of the valley."

Belzberg and his wife, Frances, with their son, Marc, helped found a wide range of charitable organizations including OneFamily Fund, which has distributed more than \$12 million in aid for families of 2,350 victims of terrorist attacks in the Mideast.

Action Canada provides recognition for exceptional Canadians actively taking leadership roles in their chosen fields. The Belzbergs are founding benefactors of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, as well as the Dystonia Medical Foundation in Chicago.

COD's Eastern Valley Center moved from various storefront and high school classroom locations to the current site at the Riverside County Workforce Development Center in 2001. It currently serves 1,800 students and began offering classes in 1988.



COURTESY PMA ADVERTISING

Executives in groundbreaking Centennial President Dan Morgan and Coachella Mayor Richard Hayden, Coachella Mayor Billan.

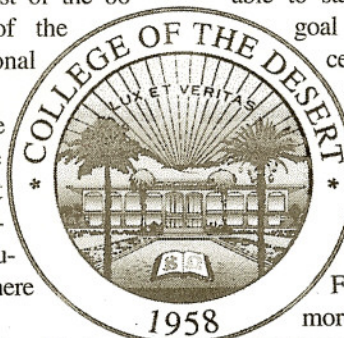
ECT UNDER WAY

Fields for soccer, volleyball and baseball for our community parks.

"We're in the final stages of approval for the future phases of Avalar and hope to have those approvals by early next year," said Morgan. "Those neighborhoods will include larger homes as well as entry-level homes priced from the low 10,000s."

With an emphasis on building neighborhoods, Navarra will include homes with six bedrooms.

Navarra is being developed in 16 phases, with the first phase due to open Dec. 10. The project's sales office is open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 760-398-1616 and www.CentennialHomes.com.



DES PRINTING

Individual customers.

Anderson and Ace recently merged operations in a move intended to maximize overpotential, according to company officials. The company remains at 748 S. Vella Road in Palm Springs, while the new digital press and related equipment is located at 2000

