

DENTALHEALTH

Local dentists offer candy buy-back programs for kids

By **JOSH SNYDER**
SPECIAL TO AFN

Shortly after Halloween kids will get an incentive to give up their sweet tooth for cold, hard cash.

Several Ahwatukee Foothills dentists are participating in programs that allow kids to make money by selling their pre-wrapped candy back to their offices. The candy will then be sent to men and women in the military serving overseas.

On Nov. 2 Rapacz Dental will host "Operation Buy Back." From 2 to 6 p.m. the Ahwatukee-based office will pay kids \$1 per pound of donated candy up to \$5. In addition, people will be able to sign cards for the soldiers.

"It's really great to see because a lot of the military people don't get any type of goodies

either for Halloween or for Christmas," said Shelley Miller Rapacz, office manager at Rapacz Dental. "It's just another way of saying 'thank you' to (the troops)."

The dentist's office is also giving away goody bags for the kids, as well as raffle prizes for adults, Rapacz said. The goody bags will include items like toothbrushes and toothpaste.

"Everything's kind of healthy," she added.

Kids and parents who can't make it to the event are free to donate candy at Rapacz's office any time until Nov. 4. The dentist said the program doesn't just help the troops; it also benefits the community by getting teeth-decaying candy out of kids' hands while also improving their self esteem.

"We want kids to feel good about giving their candy away," Rapacz said.

Design by Dental, another office operating in Ahwatukee Foothills, is offering a similar

program, called "Cash for Candy." The program was conceived by Dr. Rahul Kode, a cosmetic dentist working in the office, who said he wanted to do something good for the troops.

"It's going to be great," Kode said. "We just hope that it grows."

He said that his office will also give children \$1 for every pound of candy they bring in. The program will continue for about two weeks after Halloween, he said. No official deadline for donations has been set.

Cash for Candy is currently independent of other organizations, such as Operation Buy Back, but may team up with them in the future, Kode said. At the moment, Dental by Design plans to ship the candy overseas themselves.

Neither program requires appointments. Children can just come in with their parents

to sell their candy.

Rapacz and Kode both said they plan to host a similar event again next year.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," Rapacz said.

See videos from troops benefiting from Operation Buy Back and its parent program Operation Gratitude at www.halloweencandybuyback.com.

Dental by Design is located at 4855 E. Warner Road. For more information on that program, call (480) 753-9063.

No official deadline has been set for the Cash for Candy Program at Rapacz Dental, 3646 E. Ray Road. For more information on that program, call (480) 759-4501.

Josh Snyder is interning this semester for the Ahwatukee Foothills News. He is a senior at Arizona State University.

We've Got You Covered!

Ahwatukee Carpets has been covering floors since 1991. We offer quality product, installation and customer service. We have a huge selection of affordable carpets, tile, hardwood and laminates.

Since 1991

ahwatukee CARPETS

15215 S. 48th Street, Suite 185, Phoenix, AZ 85044
480.598.9811

Monday - Thursday 10am - 6pm
Friday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

MASSAGE & CHIROPRACTIC

Holiday Special 1 HOUR MASSAGE \$29
One per person w/d only Expires 12/06/10

MASSAGE 4-PACK \$39.75
Always Each Massage Total \$159.00 Expires 12/06/10

Chiropractic Adjustment \$30 each
w/d only Expires 12/06/10

FREE 30 MINUTE MASSAGE
With Any New Chiropractic Patient w/d only Expires 12/06/10

We treat the following conditions:
• Headache • CTS • Neck Pain • Leg Pain • Low Back Pain

We accept:
• BLUE CROSS / BLUE SHIELD • MEDICARE • UNITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Massage Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts!

602.492.4476

TEMPE - GRAND REOPENING!
5777 S. Rural Rd. #5 (Between Baseline & Guadalupe)

AHWATUKEE
106331 S. 51st St. • Elliot & I-10 (Next to Wells Fargo)

CHANDLER
4913 S. Alma School Rd. #4 (Located in Fulton Ranch)

Elect Duane Washkowiak

Tempe Union H.S Governing Board

- Proven business background – 35 years of corporate & private business success
- Track record of serving on Boards & giving back to community – as a volunteer myself, I appreciate the efforts of all parents who support the schools through their involvement
- Strong advocate to improve Schools & Student Achievement results
- Solid leadership skills & builds consensus
- Focus on key strategic results
- 24 year Tempe resident & parent whose children graduated within the District

Thank you for your support and your vote on November 2nd! Duane

"The Southeast Valley Regional Association of REALTORS® endorses member and Past President, Duane Washkowiak for Tempe Union High School District Governing Board."

DUANE Washkowiak

Tempe Union High School District
www.vote4duane.com

Ad sponsored by Friends of Duane Washkowiak

Defend Your Home. Protect Your Family. HELP PRESERVE YOUR IDENTITY.

FREE IDENTITY THEFT SEMINAR

Call now to schedule a FREE seminar on identity theft from the experts at LifeLock®.

An identity theft expert can help your business or group better understand:

- Identity theft trends
- The many ways identity theft can happen
- The risks individuals face
- What you can do to help protect yourself and your family

Contact Cortney Lanik
Manager of Educational Programs
for more information.
Email cortney@lifelock.com or call 480-457-2032

LifeLock
Relentlessly Protecting Your Identity™