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## **Christian academy gains new school site** ***Aiming to start K-12 classes Sept. 5, seeking donations***

By Karen Walenga

Sahuarita Christian Academy has found land for a new school campus and is aiming to open for classes in grades K-12 on Sept. 5.

The academy plans to set up its three-piece modular building at 2301 E. Sahuarita Road.

The property, owned by Oscar and Terasita Yescas, is on the north side of Sahuarita Road, east of the FICO pecan groves and west of Delgado Road, according to David Lyon, executive director of Sahuarita Christian Academy.

While the school has yet to be able to purchase between three and nine acres at the site, the owners are allowing the academy to set up its building on their property, Lyon said.

He adds that there is a possibility of acquiring additional adjoining acreage in the future.

"We have an architect, whose firm specializes in building school campuses in the state of Arizona that will be coming down from Phoenix (later in August) to look at the property and then do a development plan for us," Lyon said.

"At some point, we should have a drawing from the architect that will show our vision for the area there in regards to the school, multi-purpose gymnasium, youth and day-care centers, playing fields, park and subsequent GED, English, other languages, arts and additional programs," he added.

"The community will be called Rancho Nueva Esperanza (New Hope), a master planned campus community," Lyon said.

The academy also will have "many meetings with all of the different departments from the town of Sahuarita to make sure that our buildings, roads and landscape plans work with the future expansion plan for Sahuarita Road," he added.

Currently, Sahuarita Christian Academy has as many as 25 families who would like to educate their children in a Christian education environment, according to Lyon.

And given the rapid growth in Sahuarita these days, the school anticipates a need and opportunity for its own expansion, he said.

The academy is seeking permits from the state and town of Sahuarita to move its three-piece modular building onto the new site.

Then it will restructure the walls with new interior doors, put on a new roof, replace all exterior doors and windows, install all electrical and plumbing and bathrooms, as well as insulate, sheet rock, texture, paint and install skirting and more.

While Lyon's goal is to open the school the day after Labor Day, he admits there is much to be done and many variables before gaining approval to occupy the remodeled building.

The academy is seeking donations to help with the move, installation, remodeling and purchase of additional curriculum materials.

Donations of any amount can be sent to: SCA, P.O. Box 1704, Sahuarita, AZ 85629. They are tax-deductible since SCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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