

## Swim school roots dig deep into love of water

By **CHELSEA BALLARD**  
STAFF WRITER

Bob Hubbard cannot get his clients out of the pool.

The splashing and kicking is nothing more than commonplace inside his office, Hubbard Family Swim School at 84th Avenue and Thunderbird Road. But squealing kids and the smell of chlorine is a far cry from Hubbard's previous profession as a lawyer.

Hubbard said swimming is something his family has always shared a passion for — enough to open their own swim school in 1998. Hubbard and his wife, Kathy, started teaching swimming lessons to subsidize a swim club they were operating and it incited Bob to make a career change.

"We really just fell in love with it," Bob said.

Bob used to be an ocean lifeguard and Kathy was one of the first women to compete in collegiate swimming. She went on to compete at the national level at the 1968 Olympic trials. The couple has eight children and seven grandchildren, who also share a love of the water.

What began as swimming lessons in whatever pool was available for rent has expanded into two locations (the third in Mesa is opening soon) in Phoenix and Peoria, more than 100 instructors and 1,000 students and the celebration of a 10-year anniversary of the company.

"As it has grown, it's been a real challenge and treasure," Bob said. "I love the relationship we have with our families."

The school teaches children age 6 months to 12 years and offers a summer recreation program, including a 40-member competitive swim team.

"I love summer recreation because it gives them (students) another challenge," Bob said. "They run into kids who are faster and they realize they have a little more work to do."

The team competes with Arrowhead Country Club, Glendale/Peoria YMCA and Bellaire Community.

Peoria Store Manager Deb Paparelli has worked with the Hubbards since the school's inception. She said working there has allowed her to watch kids grow, including her own



Photo by Chelsea Ballard

**Hubbard Family Swim School Instructor Courtney Campbell gives direction to Sophia Cunningham, 3.**

three children.

Lessons typically last half an hour once a week and there is one instructor for every four to six kids, depending on the age group. Bob said the staff

views parents as students as well when they bring in young children.

"When they start young, they can swim through their growth spurts," Bob said. "It's great physically

and it's great that they can stay in touch with the water."

Instructors come from all area high schools, col-

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PEORIA

### FOUR NETWORKING GROUPS OFFERED MONTHLY TO CHAMBER MEMBERS

**WHAT:** **Networking Group on Tuesdays**  
**WHEN:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month, 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  
**WHERE:** **Firebirds Rocky Mountain Grill**  
16067 Arrowhead Fountain Center Drive  
Continental Breakfast, \$4

**PROGRAM:** Everyone has the opportunity to meet some of the 30 – 45 business leaders that attend each meeting. You can sign up to be the "spotlight businesses" of the day and give a 10 - 15 minute presentation. Do you have a special talent...are you an entertainer? If so, we want to know about it. Call Jim Dorr at (623) 363-6244 of Jimmij Graphic Design LLC for more information.

**WHAT:** **Networking and Wine Tasting**  
**WHEN:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Each Month, 5 p.m – 6:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** **Wine Styles Wine & Gifts**  
8279 W. Lake Pleasant Pkwy. #104

**PROGRAM:** Network in a relaxed casual atmosphere. Taste a variety of wines for only \$5. For the month of July, bring a guest and you and your guest are Free at this fun networking activity. Call Chuck Strange at 623-521-6506 of Adultcare Assistance Homecare for more information.

**WHAT:** **Brown Bag Networkers**  
**WHEN:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Each Month, Noon – 1p.m.  
**WHERE:** **Western International University**  
14100 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave. #100

**PROGRAM:** Classroom Networking. Bring your lunch and we will provide beverages. Gain the experience of speaking in front of a classroom. All audio/visual is provided for businesses wanting to visually showcase their business as a "spotlight business". This is a venue you may also want to use to hold a business seminar. Call Scott Clark at 623-337-4802 for additional information on this network group.

Everyone is encouraged to bring literature, business cards, a guest, and time to network with Peoria Chamber members.

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Photo by Chelsea Ballard

Sophia Cunningham, 3, swims to the end of her lane at Hubbard Family Swim School in Peoria. She is taught by instructor Courtney Campbell.

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**SWIM: School keeps kids in pool,** From B7

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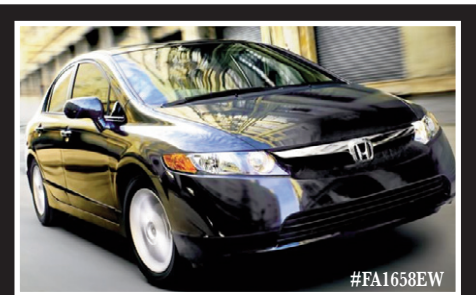
Kathy, with the help of family members and membership in local and national swimming organizations, developed the curriculum at the school.

Bob said he is particularly interested in

the science of teaching children; learning how it affects their cognitive thinking and physical abilities.

"A lot of times, the kids are far more capable than parents think they are," Bob said.

Lessons are \$75 a week. For more information about the school, visit [www.hubbardswim.com](http://www.hubbardswim.com), or call 602-971-4044.



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