

# SCOTTSDALE REPUBLIC

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## Dude ranch gets support from council

City Council advances a rezoning request for Reata Ranch. Developer Taber Anderson wants to build as many as 330 guest ranches, homes in north Scottsdale.

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## 'Phoenix Lights' showing marks 15th anniversary

It was March 13, 1997, when still-unexplained bright lights were sighted over the Valley. A special screening of "Phoenix Lights" will keep the discussion alive.

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Jack Alford, 19, practices on a mechanical bull at his Scottsdale home for the Parada del Sol's bull-riding competition in his first year competing as a professional. CHERYL EVANS/THE REPUBLIC

# YOUNG BUCKS

The Young Guns bull-riding competition brings new life to the sport at Scottsdale's Parada del Sol Rodeo, which starts Friday at WestWorld. **PAGE 3**

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## City advances rezoning request for dude ranch

By Beth Duckett  
The Republic | azcentral.com

Plans for a north Scottsdale guest ranch made headway this week when the Scottsdale City Council signed off on rezoning and other requests, paving the way for the dude ranch that supporters said will help revive the city's Western image.

Developer Taber Anderson wants to build as many as 330 guest ranches and homes on 220 acres along Dynamite Road between 128th and 136th streets.

Reata Ranch's units would be divided up among guest resort rooms, casitas and single-family homes.

Early plans envision horse stables, cookout areas, hiking trails and luxury camping sites built to the backdrop of the city's McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

"This is a unique development and unique project, which is great for our city," said Councilman Dennis Robbins. "I think the project as proposed is much better than what is currently platted but there."

for more open space, low building heights and minimal lighting to maintain the area's signature dark skies.

Even so, supporters and critics have clashed over the project's scope and plans, which are in the preliminary phase.

Opponents feared the project is too dense and fails to address drainage and other issues at the rural site, which is southeast of Dynamite Boulevard and 128th Street.

"Most everyone likes the idea of a Western guest ranch, and nobody wants Scottsdale to be Western with horses and cowboys more than me, but the city shouldn't approve a concept, especially when it results in a zoning change that represents a major increase in density in a rural area," said resident Howard Myers.

The request should have been a major General Plan amendment, a process that would have required more review and oversight, Myers said.

Littlefield argued that the development, which is touted as a resort, is actu-

ally a "high density housing development with a resort on the front."

Proponents, who included Arizona's official historian, Marshall Trimble, and former Councilwoman Marg Nelsen, praised the project's capacity to bolster tourism and restore the city's image as "the West's Most Western Town."

Zoning attorney John Berry, who is representing Anderson, said it is "rare" for a project to draw so many supporters, who outnumbered critics at the podium.

The project must pass through Scottsdale's Development Review Board, with public hearings along the way, he said.

In other action Tuesday, the council voted to continue a discussion on funding and other topics related to the \$33 million expansion of the Tony Nelsen Equestrian Center at WestWorld.

Turned down Councilwoman Lisa Borowsky's request to reconsider a vote for a roundabout at Hayden Road and Northsight Drive, The City Council authorized the roundabout in January.

### NEXT MEETING

What: Scottsdale City Council

When: 4 p.m. Tuesday

Where: City Hall Kiva, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd.

Agenda: [scottsdaleaz.gov/council](http://scottsdaleaz.gov/council)

Mayor Jim Lane called the ranch "a good thing for Scottsdale overall, whether it is our Western heritage, equestrian (heritage) or frankly continuing our community as a resort community."

After nearly three hours of public testimony Tuesday, the council voted 6-1 in favor of Anderson's requests, which included a non-major General Plan amendment, rezoning and height and density stipulations. Councilman Bob Littlefield dissented.

The project is in the city's Dynamite Foothills Character Area, which calls