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Many Valley businesses go back to bartering basics



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MESA, AZ -- Get lunch without using cash.

"Their food is awesome," said Mark Vanderwalker.

He is sitting at Silke's in Mesa as he enjoys his chicken sandwich.

Vanderwalker won't have to pay any cash for his food, he traded for lunch.

"I sell carpet and tile and get trade credits with the other members of the trade exchange and

then use them how I want," said Vanderwalker.

If a member shops at Elements of Home in Mesa, Vanderwalker gets trade credits for something else.

"I have my yard maintenance on trade. I just had my windows tinted at my house," said Vanderwalker.

He belongs to the Arizona Trade Exchange, which started in 1999 and now has 550 members.

"They can use those trade credits in their bank accounts to buy services from any other member of the exchange," said Vice President Paul Richardson.

The trading isn't only a benefit for the owners of the businesses, employees sometimes get benefits also.

"We get a lot more customers coming in, so our business is better and our tips are better," said Sue Crawford who works at Silke's.

Bartering keeping business booming.

Get more information about the Arizona Trade Exchange [here](#).

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