

# Wrangler NEWS

Jan. 21 - Feb. 3, 2012  
Vol. 23, No. 2

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The kids at Kyrene de la Mariposa Elementary School took a jaunt around the campus, if only to enjoy a cool-weather break from their classroom.

— Photo by Mark Crudup



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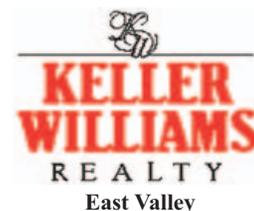
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## Kyrene Rotarian recaptures memories of trip to Finland



By Mark Crudup

**T**homas Hickey, local attorney and Rotarian, is back from a family visit to Finland with a renewed sense of friendship, plus some rekindled memories of his first trip there while he was still a teenager.

“My junior year of high school (in Anchorage, Alaska) I applied as a Rotary exchange student and was accepted,” Hickey said. “I was to go to Austria, and had taken a couple years of German, so I thought it would be a nice fit.”

Unfortunately, the Rotary Club in Austria was not sponsoring an exchange student at that time, and Hickey spent the summer thinking he

wouldn't be able to travel anywhere the following year.

“Then, in August, on my sister's wedding, I received a call from the Anchorage Rotary Club and they said, ‘Well, we have an opportunity for you to go to Finland.’”

So off he went.

At a recent meeting of the Kyrene Corridor Rotary Club meeting, of which he is a founding member, Hickey described his experience of meeting longtime friends while he was there this past December with his wife and their 6-year-old twins.

“I spent a wonderful year (in 1981) in a town that is about 250 miles north

— ROTARY, Page 9

## KC prof among group considering ways to minimize harassing behavior

Special to Wrangler News

**T**he news is shocking for parents and students. A new survey by the American Association of University Women reports that 48 percent of students in grades 7-12 have experienced some form of sexual harassment.

It's especially relevant now, following revelations at Penn State and else-where, where the abuse of children appears to have gone on within the view of university staff and students.

While what is known about the Penn State matter represents extreme behavior beyond the scope of the survey, it offers an opportunity for discussion of a likewise worrisome situation that also needs to be addressed.

Students who engage in harassing

behavior oftentimes think they are being funny, but nearly a third who are victims said such harassment made them feel sick, affected studying or made them reluctant to go to school at all, according to the survey.

It doesn't have to be this way, say Arizona State University child developmentalists who are working to change the ways that boys and girls interact and engage each other through early intervention in schools.

Professors Richard Fabes, Carol Martin, Laura Hanish and Kimberly Updegraff in ASU's School of Social and Family Dynamics are developing the Sanford Harmony Program that is designed to enhance relationships among girls and boys.

The program combines cutting-

— HARASSMENT, Page 10

# \$1 mil grant helps entrepreneur in quest to solve energy challenges

By Alison Stanton

Ever felt that you're the consummate queen of multi-tasking? Follow Kelly Herbst around for a couple of days.

As president and founder of NAVITASMAX, a renewable energy storage company at Innovations Incubator in west Chandler, Herbst spends her days learning all she can about sustainable and environmentally friendly ways to provide energy for the Earth.

As Mom to four curious children, Herbst spends her evenings striving to answer thought-provoking questions like, "Why can't we use the sun and wind to power the world all the time?"

It is questions like these, Herbst says, that inspire her to work even harder to find an answer to energy needs around the country and eventually around the globe.

"In response, I combined my observations in art, nature and science to envision a novel solution that will enable widespread deployment of renewable energy by providing a system that is efficient, inexpensive and environmentally friendly," she said.

Thanks to a \$1 million grant recently awarded to NAVITASMAX, Herbst's company may soon be one step closer to bringing real answers to her children's questions by solving some of our country's most challenging energy storage issues.

The grant was awarded from the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy for its groundbreaking energy research for energy storage.

Herbst said that ARPA-E's mission is to fund projects that will develop technologies designed to reduce the country's dependence on foreign

energy imports, minimize energy-related emissions and improve energy efficiency across the country.

"NAVITASMAX will develop a novel heat storage method for concentrating solar applications that will improve thermal energy density, or amount of heat storage, over existing systems by a factor of 10," Herbst said, adding that her company assembled a team of leading scientists, engineers, and manufacturers to help solve some of the most challenging energy storage issues.

"The project team includes Harvard University, Cornell University, Nano Terra and Barber-Nichols, and it will conduct a one-year 'proof-of-concept seedling' program that will enable low-cost efficient thermal energy storage."

Herbst said she has been fascinated for some time by the interconnectedness of science, art and nature. Upon completion of her studies toward an MBA, she went to work for a start-up company in the environmental industry.

"After having four children I became even more interested in environmental issues. I am a dreamer, an innovator," she said, adding that she and everyone at NAVITASMAX is honored to have been chosen for such a prestigious award.

"This has truly been a labor of love by everyone involved," she said.

"ARPA-E is one of the highest profile Department of Energy programs in our country," Herbst said. "Their focus is to fund highly innovative and transformational energy related technologies."

"As John F. Kennedy said, 'We need men—and women—who can dream of things that never were.' We need entrepreneurs, scientists, artists and engineers to transform their dreams into reality."

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# Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener



Coach Sam Duane Jr. discusses strategy with his players during a timeout at Corona del Sol High School's basketball game against Hamilton in the MLK Basketball Classic on Jan. 16 at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe. — Wrangler News photo by Alex Zener

## Duane Jr: 'Clicking' as a team is within reach for Aztecs

After defeating Hamilton 63-47 at the MLK Basketball Classic on Jan. 16 and Desert Vista 52-44 a week earlier, Corona's boys basketball team is doing exactly what coach Sam Duane Jr. wants it to this time of the year—starting to click.

"We are playing well but we still have room for improvement," said Duane. "We can still get better, but how we started playing recently is what we are talking about. We want to be clicking at the end. That's what it's all about."

It helps that Corona has three guards who can handle the ball and two big men to muddy up the paint in the starting lineup.

The Aztecs' main ball handlers, **Casey Benson**, **Calaen Robinson** and **Bryan Siefker**, combined for 42 of the Aztecs' 63 points against the No. 10 Hamilton Huskies. Robinson scored a team high 23 points knocking down three 3-pointers while Benson had 14, including two 3-pointers, and Seifert scored 5 points.

Robinson is quick and can put the moves on

opponents in order to drive to the basket, but it's his smooth and fluid movement in the open court that really makes him stand out.

Benson, who often shares point guard duties with both Robinson and Siefker, is a great three-point shooter and ball handler. He makes good decisions with the basketball and is someone to have on the floor at the end of the game for his free throw shooting ability alone.

Siefker, on the other hand, quietly goes about his job of doing all the little things that help make this team so successful. He plays stifling defense on the ball, rips rebounds out of the air and is always looking up court for fast break opportunities. One of his best attributes, though, is his ability to cause opponents to turn over the ball, either by creating opportunities for a steal or by sacrificing his body by drawing a charge.

When you play against Corona, though, opponents also have to grind it out in the paint against two big senior All-American football players.

**Andrus Peat**, at 6-foot-8 285 pounds, and **Avery Moss**, at 6-foot-5 235 pounds, take up a lot of space under the basket, ripping down rebounds and putting up points.

Peat is getting into better basketball shape every week and is a force to be reckoned with by any player who wants to score in the middle. He blocked at least three balls against Hamilton and grabbed five rebounds on his way to scoring 13 points.

Moss, who recently returned to basketball action after suffering a football injury, plays extremely hard with heart and touch. He used his quickness and size to grab rebounds, put up six points and play tough defense against Hamilton's front-court players, including 6-foot-11 235-pound Eric Jacobsen, who has committed, along with Robinson, to play at ASU.

Corona's X-factor may be its deep bench and senior leadership, though. Against Hamilton, the Aztecs finally had every player on the team at full force.

"Tonight is only the second game all year that

we have had the whole team together and able to play," said Duane. "We are making great strides but we can still get better now that everyone is able to practice and play."

**Elijah Hempstead** came off the bench to play significant minutes against Hamilton and helped the team by playing solid defense and grabbing some big rebounds, as did **Braden**

"We have great leadership this season," said Duane. "Every time Hamilton made a run, for instance, one of our seniors stepped up with a big play. We were able to answer Hamilton with a big play of our own which makes a huge difference in our overall confidence and ability to be successful."

The Desert Vista game Jan. 10 was

have a one point lead, 25-24, at the half. As has been typical for the Aztecs this season, they came out cranking up the defense and firing on all cylinders in the second half to outscore the Thunder 27 to 18 for the 52-44 win.

Corona had three players in double figures, with Moss leading the team with 14 points. Robinson and Benson each scored 13, Peat had 7 and Siefker 5.

The Aztecs had two home games scheduled, Jan. 17 against Marcos de Niza and Jan. 20 against Mesquite before playing at Mesquite Jan. 24. Mesquite is the only team Corona has lost to this season. The Aztecs, listed as No. 4 in Power Rankings for Division I teams behind Red Mountain, Basha and Desert Vista, are scheduled to play three home games in a row: Jan. 26 against Mountain Pointe, Jan. 27 against Hamilton and Jan. 31 against Dobson.

**Wrestling** — Corona's wrestling team had not lost a regular season match all season and was two for two in tournaments, taking first at the Southwest Showdown and Moon Valley Invitational when the team took the opportunity to go out of state to compete in a national tournament, the Clash, in Rochester, Minn., Dec. 30-31.

Although the Aztecs lost to four of the six teams they competed against, the experience was a worthwhile one.

"Our team had a great opportunity to see some of the best wrestling in the nation during the holiday break in Minnesota," said coach **Jimmy Martinez**. "I believe we came away with some great effort and knowledge of what we need to do to make improvements in order to get to the state meet."

Corona defeated an Arizona team, Ironwood Ridge, at the Clash 59-18, and the Minnesota Anoka team 35-31.

Individual results in the six matches the Aztecs competed in included a 6-0 finish for **Daniel Cartagena**; a 5-1 finish for **Ethan Tursini** and **Steven Rodriguez**; 4-2 finishes for **Matt Churchill**, **Glenn Farina** and **Jason Landrum**; and 3-3 finishes

for **Zach Walton**, **Zack Turner** and **Justin Butler**.

The Aztecs also recently took fifth place Jan. 13-14 at the 46th Annual Flowing Wells Invitational in Tucson against 38 teams that are not only some of the best in the state but also included teams from Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

This tournament is often thought to be unique because teams compete against wrestlers from different divisions which is different from the state tournament where wrestlers only compete against teams in their same division.

Corona was fifth behind Ironwood Ridge, Cibola, Sunnyside and Mesa Mountain View but ahead of Horizon, Chandler, Desert Vista and Marcos de Niza.

Notable individual results included a second place finish for Cartagena in the 138-pound class and a second place for Ladrum at 152.

Marcos de Niza had two wrestlers finish in first place at Flowing Wells: **Jesse Morales** at 132 pounds and **Adam Pavlenk** at 195 pounds.

The Aztecs had only two matches left, Jan. 18 at home against Ironwood Ridge and Mesa Mountain View and Jan. 25 at Highland before the Sectional Tournament Feb. 3 and 5. The Division I state tournament is Feb. 9-11 at Tim's Toyota Center in Prescott Valley.

**Boys Soccer** — Corona's boys soccer team had high hopes for this season after making it into the semifinals of the Tempe Diablos Soccer Classic held Dec. 5-9 before losing to Hamilton 3-1. Unfortunately, the Aztecs have not had the same results during the regular season matches after the holiday break.

After defeating Dobson 3-0 on Jan. 4, the Aztecs had lost three matches in a row heading into the Martin Luther King holiday. Regrettably, the Aztecs had to play Hamilton two times in a row, Jan. 6 and Jan. 10, losing both 0-2 before losing 0-1 at Desert Vista Jan. 12.

With only a 3-4 record as far as Power Rankings go, Corona was listed No. 36 as of Jan. 16. Corona has a slim chance of making it into the state tournament but only if they are able to win out the regular season.

The Aztecs were scheduled to play Dobson Jan. 17 at Marana High School and Jan. 19 at Mesquite before a home game against Mountain Pointe Jan. 21. The last two games of the season are scheduled at Mountain Pointe Jan. 24 and at home against Mesa Jan. 26.



Corona's wrestling team took home its second championship trophy of the season, the Southwest Showdown at Grand Canyon University, by winning eight matches to defeat Chandler in the finals. Team includes Glenn Farina, Daniel Cartagena, Matt Churchill, Zack Turner, Michael Clare, Riley Rayburn, Zack Walton, Justin Butler, Ethan Tursini, Jason Landrum, Steven Rodriguez, Brix Kronborg, Jay Tucker, Josh Caliendo.

— Photo courtesy Jim Martinez



Corona's boys soccer team started the season strong but losses in the regular season have put the team in jeopardy of not making it into the state tournament. Team includes, from left, front: Stephen Hill, Drake Brockway, Alex Madriz, Julio Madriz, Brandon Johnson, Leo Santos, Jeremy Ramsland, Cary Schwartzstein, Ed Magana, Dylan Conboy; back: Eric Castellano, Trevor Rusher, Andrew Kyroudis, Zach von Allworden, Tyler Ostler.

News photo by Alex Zener

— Wrangler

**Tennyson**, **Jesse McCain** and **Cassius Peat**. **Adam Gleave** calmly knocked down two free throws late in the game when Hamilton resorted to fouling. The Aztecs also have a core group of seniors and returning varsity players to provide the leadership needed to be a playoff contender team.

a rematch that the Thunder thought they had a good chance of winning on their home court, especially when Desert Vista got off to a quick start, leading 17-13 at the end of the first quarter.

Corona then went on to outscore DV 12 to 7 in the second quarter to

# All-day kindergarten to remain free

## Meeting will offer chance to air related funding concerns

By Mark Crudup

**K**yrene schools will continue to offer free all-day kindergarten, provided that no budget changes will be made to programs affecting the middle schools, according to a decision voted by the Kyrene Governing Board on Jan. 10.

While the action brings a conclusion to months of discussion and study, parents concerned about this and other funding issues will have a chance to share their views at a meeting with state representatives from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23.

Since June, the board has explored a variety of kindergarten options to help reduce a \$5.3 million budget deficit by about \$1.6 million. Board members agreed it was impossible to provide the state-mandated common core standards in a half-day of kindergarten, and unanimously passed a motion to keep the current free all-day kindergarten model in Kyrene schools for the 2012-13 school year.

After board member Ross Robb made a motion to fund free all-day kindergarten, newly elected board vice-president Beth Brizel offered an amendment to require majority approval of the board to make any changes to middle school.

Jeremy Calles, district interim chief financial officer, had urged board members to make the decision during the Jan. 10 meeting, especially because kindergarten orientation was due to begin Jan. 19.

Carrie Furedy, the district's assistant director of educational services, agreed that not making a decision on kindergarten on Jan. 10 would result in parents leaving the district due to not knowing what sort of kindergarten program would be offered.

"One of the reasons we do our kindergarten orientation in January is because the parents of today...are shopping for schools," Furedy said.

Today's educational climate is "not the same as when we or our children went to kindergarten," Furedy said. "Now, they have a lot of choices with our open enrollment laws, the very liberal charter school laws we have in Arizona. They have a lot of options open to them."

In order to be able to compete in the kindergarten marketplace, Furedy said the early date gives the district the opportunity to compete with other educational alternatives. Furedy added that, without a decision made on kindergarten before the Jan. 19 orientation, parents would be concerned about what

the Kyrene kindergarten program would look like.

Parents and teachers voiced their concerns over providing funding for all day kindergarten at the expense of other programs, particularly middle school.

"It's important for parents to be able to share with you their concerns, whether it's responding to a rumor or not, because our experience last year with 'specials' (special area classes) was that, by the time we became aware of the specifics, it was far too late. The train was down the track and we couldn't stop it," said Rosalie Hirano, a Kyrene parent.

"What we are trying to avoid is a similar situation with kids in middle school."

Hirano added that it would be much more helpful to provide more information on the Kyrene Web site to help residents understand what the board is proposing to cut.

Board member Ellen Shamah said it's not as simple as saying it's kindergarten versus middle school cuts. "Now, I'm hearing from a bunch of people that they don't want middle school to change," Shamah said. "The status quo is not always the best, and it has nothing to do with kindergarten...it's a separate issue."

Robb agreed, and said there are a variety of other scenarios where the district can potentially make no cuts to middle schools.

"I have a great deal of confidence that we will get through the budget process, and at least from my point of view, we will only make changes to the middle school model if the majority of the board believes they are positive changes," he said.

"Otherwise, I believe that we will look to other line items (to make up for the budget deficit)."

*During the meeting, Michelle Hirsch was re-elected governing board president and Beth Brizel was elected vice president.*

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# Rotary

From Page 4

and west of Helsinki,” he said. “It was a life-changing experience—the people, the culture the food. My entire experience was just incredible.”

Hickey and his wife decided to venture back to Finland last year on a vacation, visiting some of the friends he had made while he was there the first time.

“I sort of lost that feeling of what it was like to experience a foreign country until about five years ago, when our (Rotary) club here sponsored our first exchange student,” he said. “It rekindled thoughts of the great time I had, and prompted me to try to reconnect with those people.”

Starting in July, Hickey said he started to email the families he had stayed with, tracking down friends he hadn’t heard from since his original visit.

“Remarkably, I was able to touch base with several of my friends and all the families, and decided that we (Hickey and his wife) were going to buy the tickets,” he said.

As to their recent trip, Hickey said his kids were overjoyed to experience the culture.

“The families there welcomed us

like we were long-lost children,” he said.

Hickey said he reunited with one of the Finnish teenagers he met while there, and the now-grown friend recalled Hickey going on the basketball roster using his name.

“You had to be a resident of the town to play on this team...so we played a game, and I played under the other guy’s name,” Hickey said.

“He (the host brother) recalled that, the morning after, his name appeared in the newspaper, reporting that he scored 28 points—which would’ve been the best game he’d ever had.”

During their 10-day trip, Hickey and his family traveled to several cities by train, even stopping at the Arctic Circle, where the kids were able to go on a reindeer-led sleigh ride.

“It was funny, because they (his twin boy and girl) were wondering why they weren’t flying,” Hickey said, chuckling.

And in a Finnish tradition, Santa Claus surprised the kids on Christmas Eve, bringing presents for all.

“One of the traditions in Finland is that Santa actually comes to your house and gives gifts,” Hickey said.

“When he showed up, it was a pretty magical experience for the kids; overall, it was a great time, and I think the kids really enjoyed it.”



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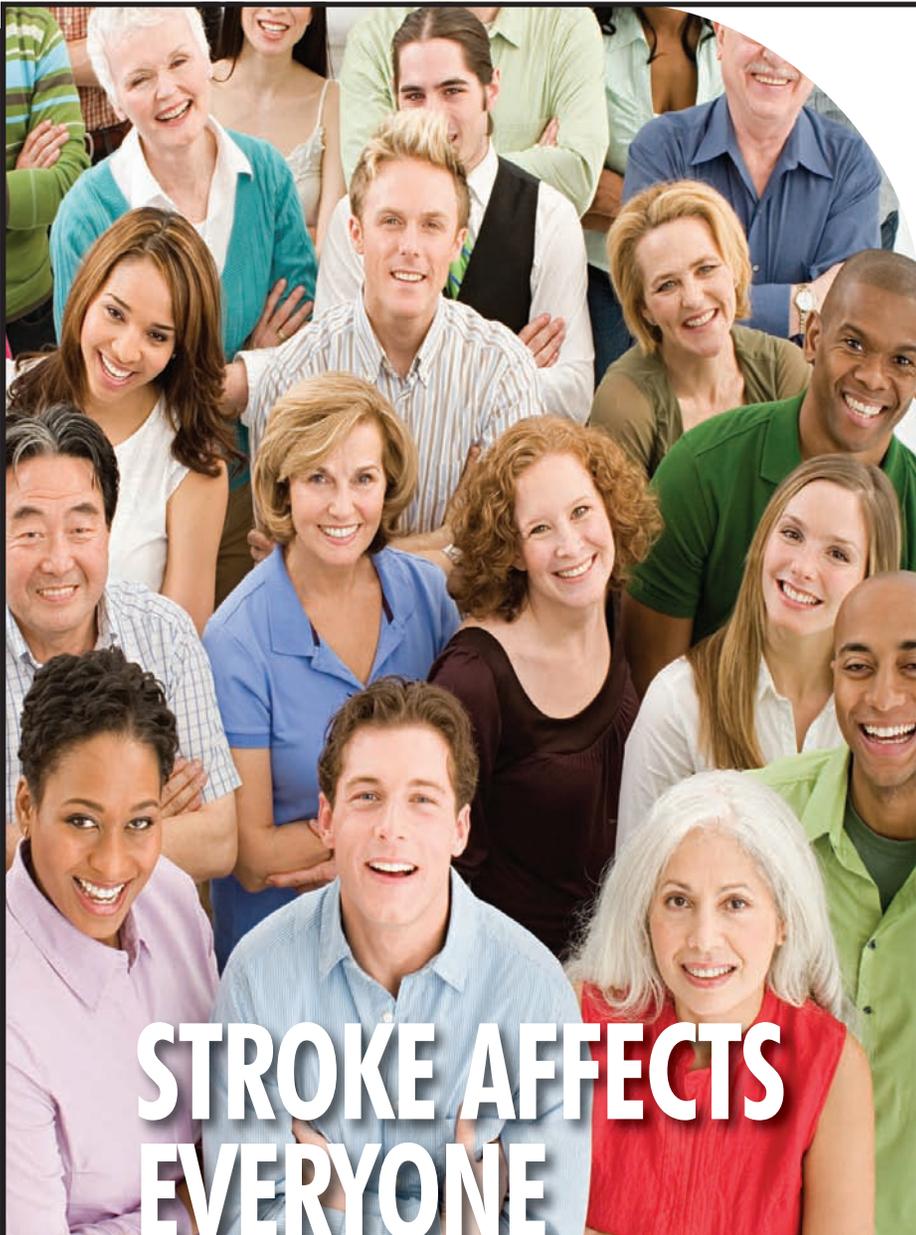
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## Harassment

From Page 4

edge research, best practices, tested curricula and training programs, and the dissemination of these to improve the ways that boys and girls think about and treat one another.

"The main goal...is to help teachers bring boys and girls together so that they have opportunities to develop the skills and experiences that form the basis for positive and respectful interactions," Hanish said.

In addition to Hanish's work with the university, she and her husband own a Chicago-style pizza restaurant in south Tempe.

The ASU work, though, is her top priority.

"We are implementing the (Sanford Harmony) program in two Kyrene elementary schools and two independent preschools in the southeast Valley.

"The program is the only one of its kind that is designed specifically to help boys and girls learn more about each other, develop positive attitudes and behaviors toward each other, and inspire mutual respect and cooperation in their everyday lives."

According to Hanish, learning new ways to handle relationships has great

long-term value.

"Being exposed to a variety of ways to work together and interact promotes flexible thinking and social problem solving," Hanish said.

"We find that when boys and girls form harmonious relationships, the learning and teaching environment is improved."

Goals of the program are to conduct comprehensive research to understand the factors that contribute to the development of negative attitudes and behaviors toward the other sex by some children and adolescents and to develop cost-effective, community-based prevention and intervention programs that promote positive relationships between boys and girls.

Hanish and the other ASU researchers are also working on testing, marketing and disseminating these programs and adapting them for use in a variety of settings.

"We have engaged in a careful process of testing the program components, refining the program components and re-testing to ensure that the program is successful," Hanish said.

"Once we are certain that it is ready, it will be made widely available."

For more information about the program visit <http://sanfordharmonyprogram.org>.

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# At new class, success breeds success

By Alison Stanton

As director of adult education for Tempe Union High School District, Vanda Salls understands that people sign up for the program for a variety of reasons.

Some are unemployed, some under-employed. Some want to improve their situation at work and qualify for a promotion. Most want to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Despite the specific reasons for enrolling, Salls said one thing is true for all of the students: they all arrive for the first day of class feeling nervous and scared.

"We recognize that all of the students have barriers that they have all overcome toward taking the first step to make their lives different," said Salls, who has worked in the field of adult education for 20-plus years.

"And we recognize that they have made a very courageous decision to come back to school."

Anyone 16 years of age and up who is not currently enrolled in a K through 12 school, who is a resident of Maricopa County and can demonstrate that they are lawfully here, is eligible for the free program, Salls said, adding that there is a nominal fee for testing.

Classes, which emphasize subjects like reading, numeracy and English acquisition, are held in locations that are easily accessible and offer four 9-week sessions, meeting twice a week.

Most students are between 25 and 44 years old, Salls said, although some are as old as 70. The biggest increase has been in students in the 16- to 21-year age range.

"The students who are much older—they are the ones who want to do this just for themselves," she said.

"But most of the time we are focused on helping under-employed and unemployed people obtain their

GED, re-enter the work force or get into the work force, or make the transition to post-secondary education or training."

Statistics support the need for programs like the one offered at TUHSD, Salls said.

"In Arizona, 17 percent of the population age 16 and older do not have a high school diploma or GED and are not enrolled in school," she said, noting that 20 percent of all high school diplomas issued in Arizona are through GED programs.

"New jobs and the modern economy require workers with higher, more advanced skills."

Students who sign up for adult education are given a pre-test to help determine where they are in their learning, and to help them set goals for the program.

"We understand that there are a whole variety of reasons why people left school, so we try to make the learning environment as comfortable as we can," Salls said.

"We offer individual instruction as much as possible, and as often as we can, we want students to have a seamless transition from their previous school to our program. You don't have to spend time as a drop-out—we can enroll you right away in the GED program."

Although the adult education program does not get a lot of publicity, Salls said the word still gets out; often from previous students who are spreading the word to others who might also need the program's services.

"Success breeds success," she said.

For more information on the adult education program, visit <https://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us>; click on Community, then Community Education, then Adult Education.

## Overcoming the fear of learning Finally, a cause to celebrate

My name is Cathy Mantovani, and I celebrated my 50th birthday this past September. My birthday was not my only cause for celebration this year.

Thanks to the Tempe Adult Education Program, I also became a high school graduate just prior to my birthday. Due to extenuating circumstances as a teenager from a broken home, I didn't graduate with the rest of my high school class, and as time went by I felt more inadequate and incapable of doing so.

I raised three children, and required all of them to graduate high school, although the fact that I had not haunted and even tormented me.

This past summer, frustrated with being unemployed, I decided I was going to overcome my fear and register for a program that could help me obtain my G.E.D.

I found the Tempe Adult Education Program online, and planned to register ASAP. When I arrived for registration, I was welcomed by a polite and helpful staff that willingly walked me through the registration process. I confessed how I was unsure as to whether I could succeed, but they encouraged and assured me—not only that I could, but that I would most definitely do so.

When I entered the classroom for the first time, it became clear to me that I was not alone in my plight. There were many others, from all walks of life, who, for one reason or another, didn't graduate either. Along with staff support, as well as the dedication and support of the classroom instructor, Tony Trujillo, and his assistant Trish Jones, I was able to overcome fears that had plagued me for over 30 years.

Just two days prior to my 50th birthday, I finally became a high school graduate.

Thank you, Tempe Adult Education Program. You turned my fear and inability into success.

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# Veterinarians emphasize importance of sterilizing pets, especially in these times

By Mark Crudup

Consider this: One pair of un-sterilized cats, together with their offspring, can result in 420,000 kittens in seven years. One pair of un-sterilized dogs, with their offspring, can result in 4,372 puppies in the same time frame.

Statistics also show that only one out of nine of these animals finds a good home, leaving the rest to suffer abandonment and/or euthanasia.

For years, pet owners have questioned whether to spay or neuter their pets. However, history and research show that there are many pros to having your pets spayed or neutered.

Whether pets are kept indoors or out, there are many health and behavioral benefits associated with spaying and neutering, says Dr. Lynn Ruoff, clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Longtime south Tempe veterinarian Dr. Thomas Gus, who operates University Animal Hospital on south Hardy Drive, agrees with the advice.

"From a behavioral standpoint, it definitely reduces the roaming behaviors and territorial aggression (in both cats and dogs)," Gus said.

The obvious benefit of spaying and neutering is population control, lowering the number of stray abandoned dogs and cats in local neighborhoods and streets.

And, unfortunately, with the struggling economy and other factors affecting residents, more and more dogs and cats are being turned over shelters or put to death, Gus said.

"The number of cats and dogs being put in shelters or euthanized has absolutely increased (compared to past years)," Gus said. "Oftentimes it's near universities, where students end up moving away after graduating and leaving their pets behind."

Gus estimates that 75 percent of dog and cat owners in the immediate area of his clinic spay or neuter their pets, not only to make them sterile but to avoid health risks as their pets grow up.

"For male dogs, (neutering) reduces the risk of prostate cancer and eliminates the risk of testicular cancer," he said.

"In female dogs, it prevents urinary tract infections and, what's probably the best advantage, is it eliminates breast cancer – taking it to almost zero probability if you spay before their first heat cycle, which is 6 to 12 months of age."

Female dogs, Gus said, are three times as likely as humans to develop breast cancer.

"As far as female cats go, you save having to put innocent animals to death," he said. "Female cats are in heat for a week every two to three weeks, so it can literally seem like they are always in heat."

Because female cats are in heat more often than dogs, a significantly larger amount of stray cats are born per year than dogs, Gus added.

Male cats that are not neutered are often much more aggressive and can increase their territory, traveling farther away from home and becoming vulnerable to other disease-carrying, stray animals.

Male dogs are less likely to mark their territory, especially inside homes.

Gus said Maricopa County Rabies Animal Control and the Humane Society are the two main organizations to which stray dogs and cats can be reported.

Other, privately funded groups have begun local rescue projects, but Gus said the problem of unspayed, unneutered pets has continued to grow.

University Animal Hospital is at 2500 S. Hardy Drive, Tempe. Phone: 480-968-9275.

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## Astronomer opens series designed to explore long-debated mysteries of solar system's origins

**P**aul Scowen sees stars, but definitely not from a bump on the head. The west Chandler resident is an associate professor in ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration, and astronomy is both his vocation and his hobby.

Scowen is on tap to open the first in a new series of regular open houses at the Tempe campus, which will include educational programs and open telescopes.

For the past decade or so, graduate students in astronomy have sponsored the series. Now the newly formed ASU Astronomy Club will add to the celestial mix with a free bi-monthly lecture series, beginning Friday, Jan. 27.

Scowen's lecture, at 7 p.m., will be followed by the free open house from 8 to 10. Scowen will speak on the topic "Star and Planet Formation Near Massive Stars: What Nebulae Can Tell Us About the Origin of the Solar System."

Said Scowen:

"For decades we have admired nebulae as interstellar signposts indicating where the most massive of stars had recently formed. However, such environments also represent an important part of the process of star and planet formation as the winds and radiation from those massive stars cause new stars to form nearby, but at the same time try to destroy them before they are done forming.

"This picture represents a snapshot of the early history of our Solar System as meteoritic evidence indicates our own Sun formed in such an environment. In this talk we will explore these environments with images from the Hubble Space Telescope and learn about how hard it is to make stars and planetary systems, and have them survive to tell the story."

The forthcoming lectures, on general astronomy topics presented in a 30-45 minute colloquium

format, will be aimed toward the public. Presenters will include club members, graduate students and sometimes faculty.

"This series will be an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about cosmology, galactic evolution and environments, the birth and death of stars, extrasolar and planetary systems, black holes, telescopes and astronomy in general," said club member and astrophysics graduate student Mark Richardson.

"By having these in the evening, we will give families the opportunity to attend together, hear an exciting presentation by an enthusiastic astronomer, and then be able to go upstairs to look through telescopes, see meteorites, enjoy a tour at the planetarium, etc.

"This will also be a great opportunity for grad students and club members to get some experience giving public lectures, and interacting with the public."

The lectures will take place in Bateman Physical Sciences Center F-174 on ASU's Tempe campus, while the open house will be on the roof of Bateman H Wing.

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### AABL ANNOUNCE OPEN TRYOUT FOR JAN. 28 AT SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Chandler, AZ.** — The AABL has scheduled its first open tryout from 1pm on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the South Mountain Community College.

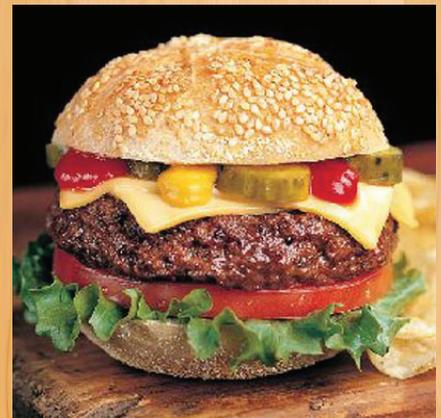
All accomplished players are invited to tryout. However, the AABL strongly suggest that prospective players have playing experience, at a minimum.

To register in advance, you can contact the AABL at (602) 793-8940, email [chandlerofficials@cox.net](mailto:chandlerofficials@cox.net), or visit [www.azabl.com](http://www.azabl.com). The registration fee is \$10.00 for players who sign up, if you show up at the tryout with league fees paid, then the tryout fee of 10.00 is waived.

Check-in begins at 12:30 p.m. and the tryout begins promptly at 1 p.m. All players will be required to sign a waiver on the day of the tryout prior to being assigned an official tryout number. Proper baseball attire is required.

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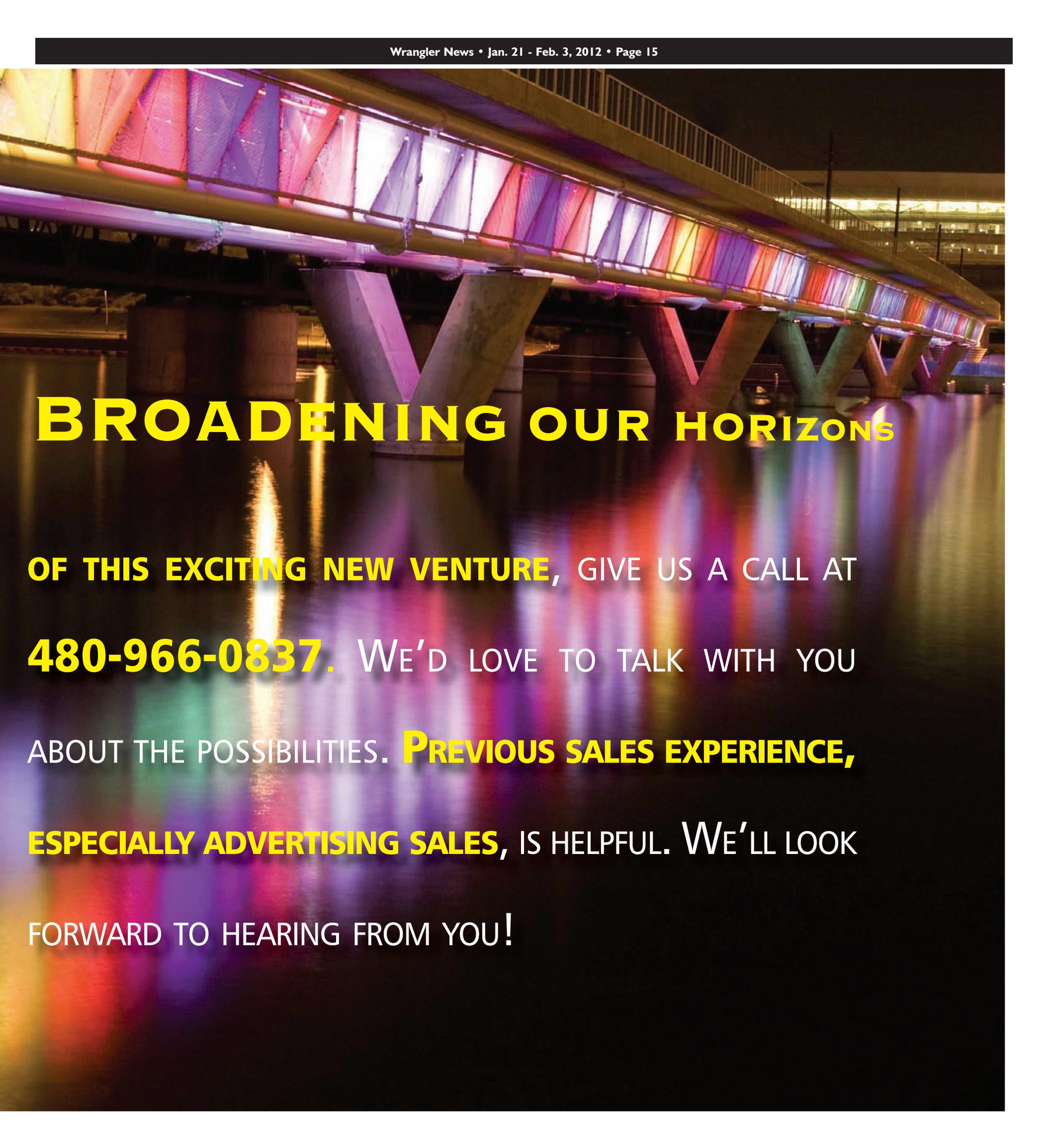
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## Coming up

**Jan. 23 — Open House at all Tempe Union High School District Schools** — Parents and students are encouraged to attend the open house at your child's designated high school. Parents will receive specific information concerning the school and will have the chance to speak with counselors and department chairs.

**Jan. 26 through Feb. 6 — Circus Vargas Comes to Arizona Mills Mall** — Circus Vargas is bringing its show back to Arizona, featuring death-defying stunts, aerial artistry, clown acts and much more. Arrive 20 minutes early for the interactive pre-show, where children of all ages are invited into the center ring for a crash course in circus skills. For tickets and show times, visit [www.circusvargas.com](http://www.circusvargas.com).

**Jan. 28, 8 to 9 a.m. — Polar Plunge** — Join in on the Polar Plunge, located at the Lakes community swimming pool, located on the east side of Lakeshore Drive, south of Baseline Road. The event, hosted by the Lakes Women's Club, the event costs \$20 per participant, with proceeds going to the Special Olympics. Information: [www.lakespolarplunge.com](http://www.lakespolarplunge.com).

**Feb. 20 — Kyrene District Schools Closed for President's Day** — Parents who are interested in enrolling their kids in the Kyrene Kids Club camps that day can call 480-783-4044.

**March 1, 6 to 10 p.m. — Taste of Kyrene** — Support the Kyrene School District through this annual event, featuring chef stations, live entertainment, a silent auction and much more. Proceeds from the event will benefit all 25 Kyrene schools. The event will take place at the Castle at Ashley Manor, located south of Loop 202 on the west side of Price Road. Information: <http://www.kyrenefoundation.org/gettinginvolved/tasteofkyrene.shtml>.

**March 3, 9 a.m. — 14th Annual MotorSports Day at Arizona Community Church** — Join this free event at Arizona Community Church, located on the northeast corner of Rural and Knox Roads, to check out 500 locally-owned classic cars, hot-rods, dragsters and more. Activities for kids include grand prix wood car races, face painting and free goodie bags. A BBQ pulled-pork sandwich lunch will also be provided. Information: 602-320-4921.

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## Ask the Expert Meeting the challenges of 2012

*Human resources consultant Fred Cooper, a south Tempe resident, offers perspectives on business- and personnel-related issues.*

As a business owner, you've got challenges—sustainability, survivability, profit and loss, staff, facilities, customer relations and service, suppliers and others who impact your business.

Whether you're a "glass half full or half empty" person, you're usually right. We all know there's enough going on in the world, politically and economically, to justify either position, belief or approach.

However, certain economic indicators—politics aside—point to improvements in employment numbers, business growth and development, and overall more positive attitudes.

So how do you best position yourself and your business to meet the coming year? Here is a list—and by no means a complete one—of things you can do to meet the challenges of 2012.

Review and update, if needed, your strategic and business plans to reflect changes that have occurred the

past year. They're both part of your roadmap to success.

Conduct a strategic review of your Human Resources programs and processes.

Recruiting—are you hiring the right people with the right experience and skills and education to do the work or are you hiring to out-of-date job descriptions because jobs have changed but the baseline recruiting document—the job description—has not?

Job duties may have evolved over time, and if you're hiring against the old job description, you may not be seeking, attracting or selecting the talent and experience you really need to get the job done.

Establish a formal "on-boarding" process to orient your new employees to the expectations of the company.

Are you paying a "market competitive/internally equitable" salary? If not and your competitor is, that's where your employees may go. Regularly conducting market-based salary surveys and pricing your jobs competitively in the market can reduce staff turnover.

— COOPER, Page 22

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# Diversions

With M.V. Moorhead

## 'Extremely Loud' gives fine acting

Despite the title, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is a mostly quiet movie, and for quite a while it keeps its emotional distance, too.

The central character, Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn), the son of a Manhattan jeweler (Tom Hanks), speaks in a direct, declarative manner, even when, a couple of times, he raises his tone in anger.

He has plenty to be angry about. Oskar's very smart and imaginative but obsessive, phobic, possibly Aspergers-afflicted.

None of this gets any better after 9/11, on the morning of which his father is at a business meeting more than a hundred flights up in the World Trade Center. This, presumably, is the meaning of the title—how New Yorkers perceived the attacks. The loss leaves Oskar even more confused and secretive, and opens a gulf between him and his gentle, shattered mother (Sandra Bullock).

Oskar's Dad would send him on fanciful "reconnaissance missions" in Central Park, designed in part to force him to interact with other people, in search of artifacts of a mythical Sixth Borough of

New York City. About a year after what Oskar refers to as "The Worst Day," the boy is snooping in his Dad's closet, and he finds a key in a small envelope with the word "Black" written on it.

Taking this as a posthumous reconnaissance mission, this strange, wounded kid ventures out into his strange, wounded city. He starts spending his Saturdays pestering people named Black throughout the Five Boroughs, sure that if he can find the lock that this key fits, it will reveal a message from his father. Really, of course, he just wants to keep his connection to his beloved departed parent alive.

I must admit that it took a while for me to respond to *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. The film is directed with precision by Steven Daldry and beautifully shot by Chris Menges, and it features another lovely, urgent score by Alexander Desplat.



M.V. Moorhead

There's no shortage of fine acting, either. But for almost the first half, the script, by Eric Roth from the novel by Jonathan Safran Foer, seems precious and self-consciously whimsical.

It's also a particularly single-minded exercise in that relentlessly pursued theme in the American narrative tradition, the Search for the Father.

For all the excellence of young Horn's performance, when the supposedly sweet-natured and sensitive Oskar ignores, even exacerbates his mother's sufferings, it becomes hard to like him, fairly or not.

But about midpoint, a character enters the story known only as The Renter, who lives with Oskar's grandmother (Zoe Caldwell) and can't or won't speak. He and Oskar take to each other, and he starts to accompany him on his Saturday quests, conversing only through cryptic scribbles in his notebook, or through the words "Yes" and "No" written in the

palms of his hands.

The Renter is played by the great Max Von Sydow, and the odd, somber rapport that he and Horn find in their scenes together makes the movie start to click. It might be too much to say that Von Sydow, with his alert, wary face, saves the movie single-handedly. But he's a big part of its salvation, and he does it without ever speaking a word.

By its final stretch, when mystery of the key was finally solved, and when Oskar's own terrible secret was cathartically revealed, I was fully drawn into the movie.

Oskar's flailing reaction to the tragedy becomes a proxy for his city's, and his country's, and if what he learns about himself and his neighbors is extremely heartbreaking, it's also incredibly uplifting.

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Arizona Mills, Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20 and other theaters Valleywide.

## 'Cut' documentary a new look at old issue

Lawn Griffiths, a retired East Valley Tribune columnist and editor, has spent the past 40 years honing his craft, all the while writing about the area's churches and issues facing modern-day religion. This article by Griffiths focuses on a topic of widespread interest and a film that brings added perspective to the discussion.

A free movie that explores one Orthodox Jew's journey as he examines the decisions surrounding circumcision will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17 at Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, 60 E. Fifth St., Tempe.

"Cut: Slicing Through the Myths of Circumcision" is a 70-minute documentary that examines the

— GRIFFITHS, Page 20

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# Mavericks show their stuff

## BV Ranchos group among 'best of best'

Story & photo by Tracy Zipay

Five members of Tempe's Buena Vista Mavericks 4-H Club were among the Arizona 4-H delegates who helped Arizona take seventh place High State at the Western National Roundup in Denver.

The Horse Classic pitted the "best of the best" 4-H'ers from 32 states and Alberta, Canada, against each other in individual and team competition in horse knowledge and presentation.

Shea Bontrager, Phoenix, a second-year member of the 4-H Horse Project club which meets in south Tempe's Buena Vista Ranchos equestrian neighborhood, took third place in the demonstration competition, with a passionate presentation on barrel racing.

Mavericks comprised three out of five members of the Horse Bowl team, which took seventh place in the event. The group includes Haley Zipay, Ahwatukee; Brittany

Gerald and Hannah Brzezinski, Chandler. They were teamed with Marie Hodges, Gilbert, and Nikki McNatt, Chandler, both members of Spirit of Queen Creek 4-H in the contest, which is best likened to a team version of "Jeopardy," featuring horse facts.

Maverick Molly Brzezinski of Chandler competed on the horse judging team. Kyia Lively, a member of Green Team 4-H in Phoenix, took fourth place in the speech competition with a talk on equine stem cell therapy.

This was the 93rd year for the Western National Roundup, which is held at the beginning of the National Western Stock Show. The theme was "Leadership Across America," with the event designed to empower the 600-plus participants to use the skills and knowledge gained during their Denver experience to return to their communities.

Delegates, who earned their standing through their performance



Members of the Horse Bowl Team show their ribbons. Group includes, from left, Maverick's Hannah Brzezinski, Haley Zipay and Brittany Gerald; Spirit of Queen Creek's Marie Hodges and Nikki McNatt.

in local and regional contests, took part in workshops, tours and social events, as well as the tough competition.

Buena Vista Mavericks members meet twice monthly for riding meetings

and to plan horse shows and educational events, conduct community service projects, business meetings and other activities.

Information: [www.bvmavericks.org](http://www.bvmavericks.org).



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## Griffiths

From Page 18

subject of male circumcision from a religious, scientific and ethical perspective. Its issues go far beyond the rites of Judaism to the wider implications of permanently altering the genitals of any non-consenting infant or minor, regardless of religion or culture.

Using both research and interview footage of rabbis, philosophers and scientists, "Cut" challenges viewers to confront their biases by asking difficult questions about the longstanding practice of the cutting away the foreskins from those too young to grant their consent.

It has been called medically unethical and a violation of a male's right to self-determination and body integrity.

Rates of circumcision have fallen to 32.5 percent in the U.S. in recent years, according to the Centers for Disease Control, through education, human rights work and loss

of insurance coverage of the procedure deemed unnecessary.

Ungar-Sargon grew up in an Orthodox Jewish household in Brookline, Mass. When he was 13, his family moved to Israel, where he lived until he was 19. He enrolled in medical school in the United Kingdom, but three years into his medical training he decided to abandon medicine and follow his dream of becoming a filmmaker. He has since earned two degrees from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. *Cut* is his first feature-length film.

The film teaches all, Jew and non-Jew, the various effects of circumcision on a baby boy.

Following the movie, the filmmaker, Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon, will be conducting a Q and A session.

While there is no charge for admission, donations will be accepted at the door.

The Phoenix chapter of the National Organization of Circumcision Information and Resource Centers, which meets regularly in Tempe, is involved in the promotion of the screening.

## Corona among schools to launch innovative pre-college program for engineering hopefuls

Corona del Sol's Katie Chance will join the elite ranks of science teachers from 20 Arizona high schools who are helping students try out their engineering skills before entering college, thanks to a successful University of Arizona academic program.

Starting in 2013, Corona will join the list of schools offering the same course, for which state universities—and many community colleges—give students three hours credit.

The UA College of Engineering introductory class, Engineering 102, is being offered at schools across Maricopa County and other parts of the state to give math- and science-savvy students hands-on experience before they fully commit to a university engineering program.

The program, ENGR 102 HS, is based on the Engineering 102 class that freshman engineering students take at UA.

Even though the course involves voluntary participation in events with sports-sounding names like Solar Oven Throw Down, it's not all fun and games. Students are required to design projects, give presentations and write reports, just like the college course.

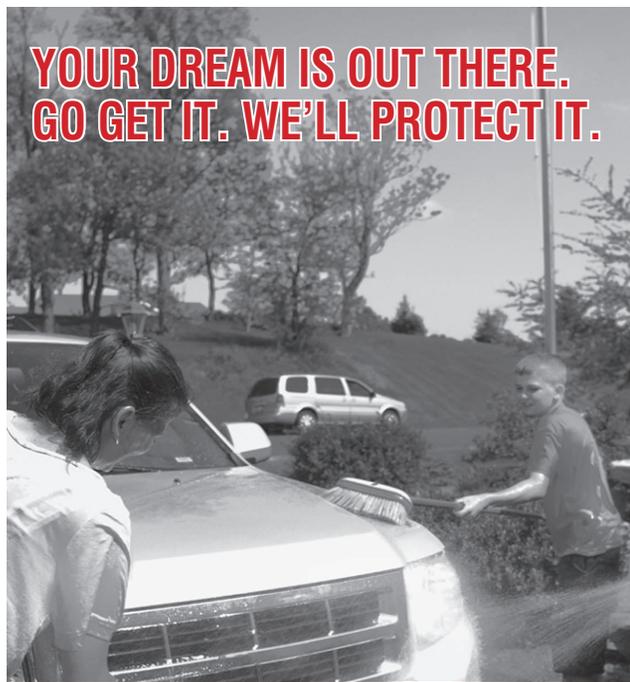
Students who might never consider investing the time and money to explore engineering as college freshmen can sample the discipline in a low-risk environment, while those who want to be engineers can take a real engineering class as a final test of their career decision, said Engineering Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jim Baygents.

The high school version of the class can give students a more in-depth and supported experience than the college-level course, said Baygents.

He noted that high school students often take the class from a teacher they know, and mostly work on projects under close supervision in class, whereas the professor is new to most of the college freshmen and they build projects with teammates outside of class.

Most 102 projects focus on engineering design through calculations, simulations, building and testing.

Projects involving rocketry, radio astronomy and solar ovens are typically offered in ENGR 102 HS courses.



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# Kyrene Corridor Briefs

## Polar Bears unite

Community members and thrill-seekers are being invited to a desert-style unified polar plunge benefiting the Tempe Special Olympics program.

The inaugural Lakes Polar Plunge will be held at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, in the community swimming pool at The Lakes of Tempe, 5501 S. Lakeshore Drive.

Polar Bear participants will jump into the “cool” pool to earn their bragging rights. Those not quite crazy enough to jump can still join in the fun by registering as a Teddy Bear.

Registration is \$20, and all Bears will enjoy yummy snacks, hot beverages, a cool T-shirt and a warm and fuzzy sense of community to start 2012 off right.

“The water will be cold, but it will warm your heart to know that you are contributing to Tempe’s Special Olympians,” said Josh Bell, senior Recreation Coordinator for Tempe’s Adapted Recreation Programs. Tempe Special Olympics sanctions the event.

To find out more and register, visit [www.LakesPolarPlunge.com](http://www.LakesPolarPlunge.com)

## Hospital quality praised

Chandler Regional Medical Center has been recognized by the nation’s hospital-accreditation authority as a top performer in the areas of quality and safety.

The 405 organizations identified as attaining such excellence represent approximately 14 percent of hospitals accredited by The Joint Commission, a nationwide hospital rating program.

Based on performance covering 22 different criteria, The Joint Commission singled out hospitals in 45 states.

Only four Arizona hospitals were on the list, and Chandler Regional Medical Center was recognized as a top performer for its care of heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia patients.

## Neighborhood grants

South Tempe residents can learn more about neighborhood grants and how to apply for them at a 6 p.m. workshop Monday, Jan. 30, at Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Would-be applicants are encouraged to attend the session,

which provides an opportunity to learn about changes to the grant application and the process; see visuals; hear about a variety of successful grant projects; and get answers to grant-related questions.

Information: 480-350-8234.

## \$60k to DUI taskforce

The Governor’s Office of Highway Safety has awarded the Chandler Police Department’s Traffic Unit a \$60,000 grant for additional DUI enforcement.

The grant will fund additional officers to focus solely on roadway-impairment detection during specified dates throughout the year.

Past dates have included St. Patrick’s Day, Cinco de Mayo, the 4th of July, Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

## Pancreatic cancer walk

Hundreds of area residents whose lives have been impacted by pancreatic cancer are expected to join forces Sunday, March 11, at the fourth annual Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk at Kiwanis Park.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths in women and men in this country.

There are no early detection methods, no adequate treatments and,

unless detected in its earliest stages, there is no cure.

In the past few years, the disease took the lives of such well-known people as Steve Jobs, Patrick Swayze, Luciano Pavarotti and Myles Brand.

Information: [kpoupore@cox.net](mailto:kpoupore@cox.net)

## CdS team earns 1st place

Members of Corona del Sol’s “We the People” government debate team, under the leadership of social studies teacher Tim Smith, received first place at a recent district-wide competition.

Students on the winning team were Hirsh Shah, Lauren Blaconi, Matt Lin and Thaminda Edirisooriya, who were due to advance to state finals earlier this month at Grand Canyon University.

## Golf deals at ‘Kenny Mac’

South Tempe golfers looking for a weekend activity the whole family can enjoy have two new programs to consider.

Golf Tempe offers Sunday Family Days and a new family tee program at both Ken McDonald and Rolling Hills golf courses.

For tee times, call Ken McDonald at 480-350-5250 or Rolling Hills at 480-350-5274. Or book online at [www.tempe.gov/golf](http://www.tempe.gov/golf).

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**2:30PM** Jeff Lenosky stunt show and autograph session

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## Cooper

From Page 17

**Evaluate** turn-over. There are significant costs in lost production, recruiting efforts and training, and loss of “intellectual property” when a new or long-term employee leaves for other employment.

**Staffing**—are you “right sized”? Under-staffing (having six do the work of 10) can be counter-productive to the effectiveness and quality of internal work

and external customer services/customer relations your company delivers.

**Establish** an “out-processing” program with exit interviews to identify systemic issues leading to departures that have an impact on an employee’s decision to stay or go. And this allows you to reclaim equipment, materials, supplies, keys, badges or other items you don’t want “out there” in former employees’ hands.

**Determine** com-

pliance with state and federal rules, regulations and requirements. Even with one employee, you are subject to several areas of state and federal law regarding hiring, record keeping, pay provisions, posters to be shown in a prominent location, etc.

Applicable rules and regulations increase in number as your staffing size increases. And claiming ignorance can lead to one agency calling in others to look at more areas— for example, that you

“didn’t know” you had to use E-Verify for all new employees does not excuse the violation and the auditing agency could also call in the Internal Revenue Service since if you didn’t know about employment law requirements, perhaps you didn’t know about various IRS requirements.

This coming year will see lots of challenges and, ideally, triumphs.

Some pre-planning, evaluation and analysis may make the difference between a successful year or one that is defining in the opposite direction.

Address questions to [frcooper@compasshrconsulting.com](mailto:frcooper@compasshrconsulting.com) or call 480-620-4603.

## Students undertake research on how city, its residents interact

**F**our students in the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University have launched a research study to assess the dynamics between Tempe’s municipal government and the city’s residents.

The relationship between government and residents can be a tenuous one at times, say the researchers, although they insist that such interaction is important for the strength and health of a city.

The ASU group is inviting participation of neighborhood associations, including in-person focus group interviews and possible follow-up.

Participation in the study is voluntary. Minimum age to become involved is 18. Responses will be anonymous and confidentiality is assured. There is no paid compensation.

Information about the project can be obtained by contacting Dr. Daniel Schugurenksy, the principal investigator, at 602-496-0450 or [dschugur@asu.edu](mailto:dschugur@asu.edu).

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## Neighborhood grants session

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Information: 480-350-8234.

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- Please bring **proof of residency** and **birth certificate**.
- \$130 cost includes jersey, hat, socks, pants, t-shirt and league poster.
- Tempe residents must live in the attendance boundaries of Fuller, Rover, Norte, Niños, Waggoner, Cielo, Manitas, or Mariposa Elementary Schools.

REGISTER ON:

**Saturday, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>**  
9:00am-Noon  
*AZ World of Baseball*  
1730 E. Elliot Rd

**Saturday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am-Noon  
*Kiwanis Ball Field*  
6111 S. All American Way

**Saturday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am-4:00pm  
*Kiwanis Ball Field*  
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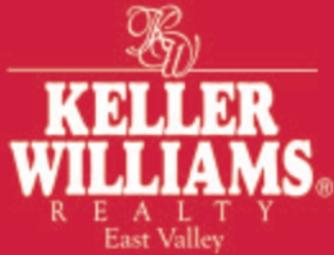
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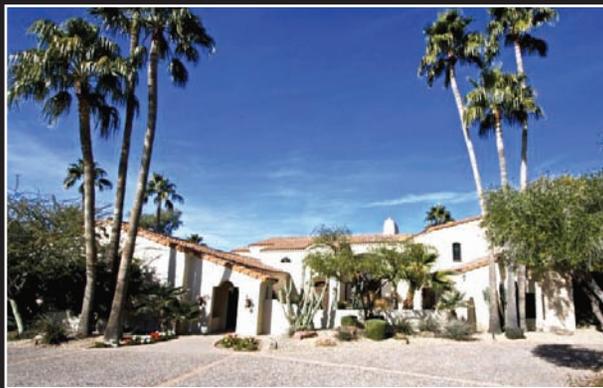
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