

# Wrangler NEWS

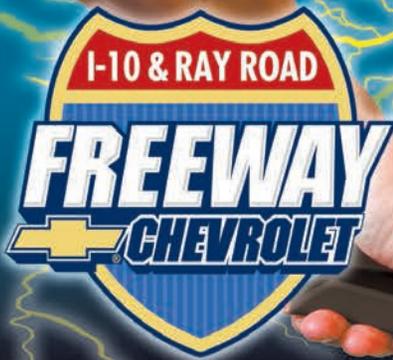
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**For the fourth year in a row, the Tempe Lakes community hosted its annual Polar Plunge, a cool way to generate funding for adapted physical education programs provided by schools and service agencies citywide. This year's event, which was granted a welcome reprieve from normally frigid temps, raised \$8,500 in contributions, more than ever before.**

**Wrangler News photo  
by Billy Hardiman  
(More photos, Page 27)**



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## Commentary

### Unifying' our schools: Does Kyrene fit the mold?

There's no disputing the long-held belief that consolidating school districts can often eliminate administrative overhead and lead to potential savings in a multitude of ways.

Among the more than 200 districts scattered around Arizona, unification would indeed seem to make sense. Smaller districts that struggle now could find that merger with a single, unified district likely would result in vast improvements, from reduced costs to better education to improved retention of teachers.

But not all of our state's school districts are created equal, Kyrene being one that, overall, is

doing just fine, thank you.

If you doubt that Kyrene schools play a vital role in our south Tempe and west Chandler neighborhoods, think of people you know who have picked this area because of the historic quality of its educational system.

Think of real estate ads you see in this newspaper and others that almost always proclaim "in the desirable Kyrene School District" as a factor worth top billing.

With a new governor facing enormous budget challenges, it only makes sense to pose school unification (again!) as a potential solution. And why not?

By reducing the number of crossing guards, school nurses, bus drivers, security officers and others identified recently by the Arizona Education Assn. as possible targets of cuts, state coffers could indeed see improvement in their dwindling stockpile of funding for other state needs.

But should the specter of school unification rise again, as it last did a decade ago, we urge our readers to keep an eye on any related conversation and consider how such a plan might affect those of us who have located here so that the Kyrene Corridor could provide a solid geographic and socio-economic foundation for our home.

Certainly we understand the need for our state's leaders to take a long, hard look at how to manage a troubling shortfall of funding for all kinds of operational expenses in the coming few years. It's a challenge not cut out for those who may be weak on resolve.

But with the value of our Kyrene neighborhoods at stake, coupled with the proven contribution that Kyrene schools have made to producing a new generation of kids who will be ready for our technology-certain future, it would seem disingenuous to weaken one of the advantages that have brought us to where we are today.

## Care center draws questions

By Michelle Hirsch

Meeting with residents near a proposed Tally Ho Farms Residential Care Village at Rural and Warner Roads in Tempe, planners outlined details of the proposed facility and answered questions from those who have expressed concerns over how it might affect their neighborhood tranquility.

A member of the development team, Jay Kentera, described the project as an assisted-living and memory-care facility with 100 beds. Each dwelling would feature a sitting room and bathroom, with staffing that would include professional, 24/7 caregivers; nursing care; an activities director; management staff; and 24-hour on-site security.

A number of projects have been proposed and rejected for the site over the years, but the parcel has remained undeveloped. It has been owned by the Torres family since 1966.

The new development team says the proposed project would bring a neighborhood solution with low impact to a location where elderly neighbors and family could remain close.

Residents agreed it's time to find a solution for the vacant parcel, but had questions about increased traffic; parking-lot lighting reflecting into neighboring properties; adjacent neighbors' privacy being impacted by 2-story buildings; negative impact on nearby property values; anticipated noise at all hours from responding paramedic/911 calls; and concerns about the property becoming a drug rehab facility if the original intent were to be unsuccessful.

The development team said its studies show that the project would not increase traffic through the residential streets, with 97 percent of the traffic flow in and out of the center occurring during off-peak hours (10 a.m.-3 p.m.).

At the community meeting, the team couldn't answer specifically about the frequency of expected paramedic/911 calls, but agreed to find out the anticipated number and report back.

Since the Jan. 7 meeting, Kentera has met with residents of Tally Ho 2, indicating the meeting went well with an amount of good input, adding a follow-up

subcommittee meeting will be planned soon.

Kentera also reported the company has received data from the Tempe Fire Department on emergency-response calls for a similar care village in Tempe. Based on that data, 1.88 calls per month could be anticipated for the proposed Warner/Rural roads facility.

The team also reported market analysis shows an area need for 1,200-plus beds for this type of elder care and, coupled with Tempe residents' desires to keep elderly family close, the risk for failure is low.

Some residents expressed a concern that the project could lead to a "slippery slope" of developers coming into the neighborhood, buying their neighbors' large 2.5-acre lots and turning them into residential care facilities.

The team suggested that scenario isn't likely, as current neighbors would have to agree to sell, and any such project would have to comply with zoning and deed restrictions, as well as going through the city's design review and permit process.

Residents' suggestions included adding a turn median on Warner Road to facilitate traffic and neighborhood access, and for residents to work together on reasonable compromises.

"We have an opportunity here to have a committee with reasonable people, discuss pros and cons, to have reasonable discussions, and to reach reasonable compromises," said longtime area resident Larry Kelly.

The development team reminded residents that the corner has been vacant for years, and many previous proposals didn't suit the site or the neighborhood.

Planners noted they want to work with neighbors to address concerns, and that this project is a community-based solution that would look like custom homes to complement the neighborhood.

Of importance, say planners, would be the facility's ability to allow elderly neighbors and family to remain closer together.

The proposed project will continue through the public process of development plan review and use permitting, and impacted residents will be notified of future public meetings.

## Briefly . . .

### Tempe appoints History Museum director

Brenda Abney recently journeyed from the colder climates of the Great Northwest to the balmy heat of the Sonoran Desert to become manager of the Tempe History Museum. Abney, with 20 years experience, previously was director of Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center in Washington state.

She has been curator, senior curator and director at museums in Alaska, Oregon and Washington prior to coming to Arizona. Her expertise is with museum management as well as public programming, collections and exhibitions.

Said Abney:

"The Tempe History Museum already has a great track record for helping our community celebrate and preserve its culture and history. Our Tempe Sound exhibition is a good example of that. We collected hundreds of artifacts from the community and compiled them in a way that tells the real music history of our city.

"Because the community came to us with its music memorabilia we were able to create a collection that is unique to Tempe."

Abney plans to meet with community groups to assemble ideas for the museum. She can be reached via email to [museum@tempe.gov](mailto:museum@tempe.gov).

### Women's League's 'Comedy for a Cause'

Come and laugh for a good cause. Join the East Valley Women's League on Friday, Feb. 27, as members present Comedy for a Cause at Villa Siena, 809 W. Elliot Road, Gilbert.

Comedian Mike James headlines the evening, which includes cocktails, dinner, auctions and raffles to benefit the league's charities.

EVWL is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tickets are available online at [EVWL.org](http://EVWL.org)

### Towering drills tap state's deepest aquifer

Contractors are using deep-earth drills to tap into a reserve water well 1,500 feet below the surface adjacent to the Wells Fargo branch on McClintock Drive just north of Warner Road. The aquifer, said to be largest in the state, is expected to yield water that can supplement Tempe's existing resources.

Traffic restrictions were expected to be eased soon. Drilling could take up to a year.

## Why buying insurance online may not be best choice for all

A recent cover story in the business section of the New York Times suggests that Internet purchasing has come crashing down on yet another industry: auto insurance.

The article points out that other types of consumer policies, namely those purchased by homeowners and small-business entrepreneurs, are likewise undergoing a switch to online.

The news comes as no surprise to longtime Tempe insurance agent Mary Contreras, who has been affiliated with State Farm Insurance Co. for more than 20 years.

"The environment is changing," she acknowledges. "We all realize that the Internet is becoming part of our industry."

But with the reality of change comes Contreras' concerns that online insurance policies don't necessarily ensure a desired outcome when it's time to file a claim.

First, she points out, recommendations made by bricks-and-mortar agents are backed by their company's errors-and-omissions coverage. Decisions made by clients who deal with live agents are thus "doubly insured."

Contreras also notes that dealing with a conventional insurance agent offers the added advantage of having someone who can help navigate the complexities of addressing each client's needs rather than a one-size-fits-all policy that might be purchased online with no individualized guidance from a trained agent who is familiar with the local environment.

"The local agent has a better chance of knowing each client's situation and having that person's bottom line in mind instead of the merely transactional nature of an Internet purchase," she said.

Contreras cites the case of a policy owner she knows who purchased coverage online for a 40-year-old home without realizing that sewer and drain failure should be added.

When a water line broke, the online policy didn't have that coverage and the policy owner had to pay for the repairs out of pocket.

"These are parts of a policy that aren't included automatically when a client buys online," Contreras says. "An agent would have been much more likely to have told her that."

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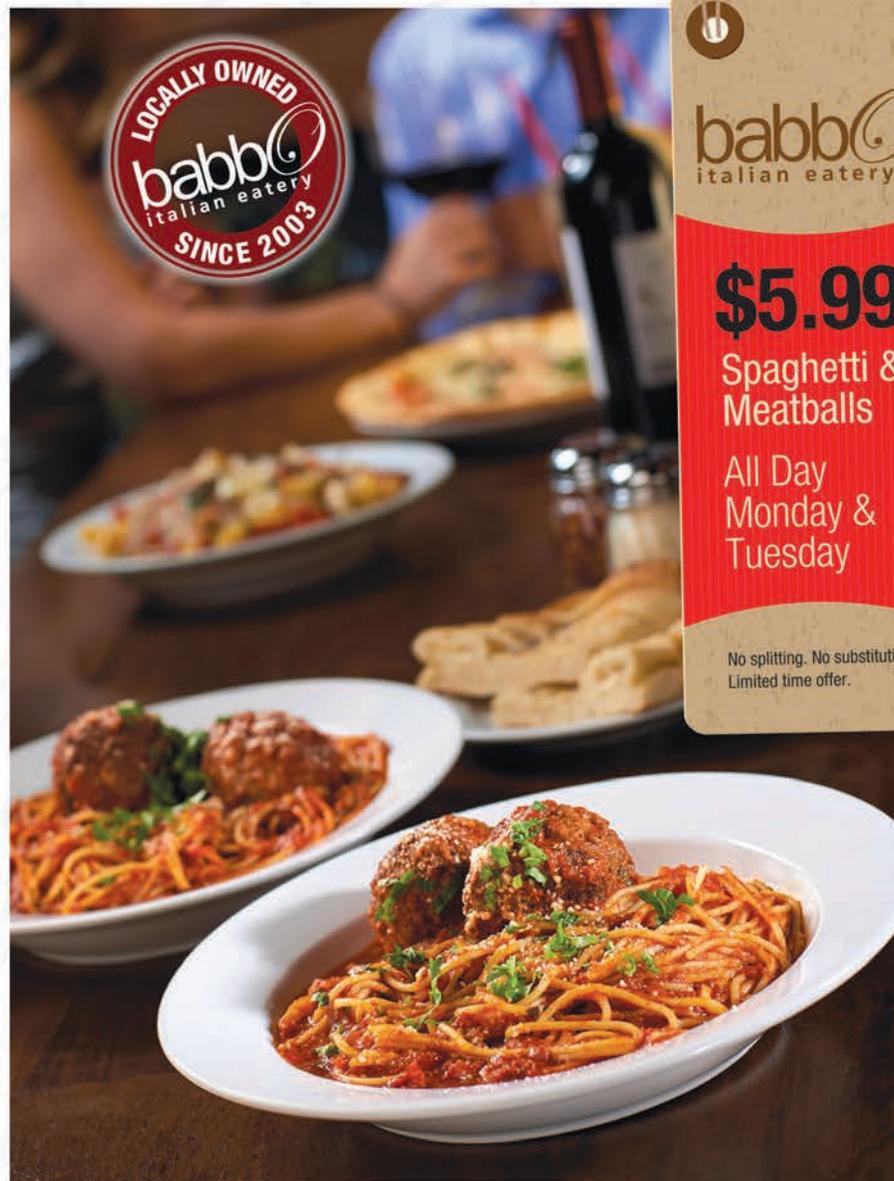
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# Blended learning: Education by inspiration

Story by Michelle Hirsch

Photos by Billy Hardiman

**W**ith an alphabet soup of such terms as blended learning, flipped classrooms, one-to-one devices, critical thinking, connected math, achievement gap, PARCC assessments, brain breaks, STEM, STEAM, STEAMD—whoa!

It seems one has to go back to school just to understand how students are learning in 2015.

Primavera Blended Learning Center in Chandler is helping make sense of the soup by implementing a combination of classroom support and online learning for 6th-12th grade students enrolled in its online middle- and high-schools.

“Students who attend the Blended Learning Center have online courses,” said Tempe resident Keiraj Gillis, a freshman English teacher for Primavera.

“And (the center) is designed to supplement the material presented online, with a strong focus on STEM.”

STEM is the education acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, with curriculum that includes project-based activities to encourage student engagement, critical thinking and real world problem-solving.

Gillis explained that many students enroll in online school to escape bullying or traditional-school anxiety, or to better deal with other social issues while completing their secondary education.

“The Blended Learning Center (offers) the ability to socialize with other students who miss that element of a traditional brick-and-mortar school,” said Gillis.

“One of our areas of focus is not to just help students

develop academically but also personally, acquiring life skills and to communicate effectively,” added Gillis.

Primavera has partnered with notMYkid.org, whose mission is to “empower and educate youth, families and communities with the knowledge and courage to identify and prevent negative youth behavior.”

Gillis said that Primavera will be hosting free notMykid workshops each month on topics such as anti-bullying, substance abuse, Internet safety and eating disorders—all aimed at providing support and information for parents as well as students.

Dr. Kevin Thrasher, who is the school’s executive director, said Primavera’s teaching philosophy parallels his own. “Building programs that inspire students to learn is my passion.”

Instructor Gillis suggested that, even without enrolling, Primavera workshops can provide a window

for those other than current class members to not only gain valuable insight into topical issues but better understand the school’s approach to learning.

“While the BLC programs are reserved for enrolled students, the workshop events are open

to the public, and the director wants them to know they can take advantage of the useful information that is provided.”



*Instructor Keiraj Gillis gives an online student an opportunity for one-on-one learning.*



Celebrants included, from left, Tempe Assistant Chief of Police Angel Carbajal; Taylor Bingold; Blaze Baggs (Larry's son); Officer Larry Baggs; Wendy Baggs; and Tempe Chief of Police Tom Ryff.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary Schools' Public Information Office

## Surprise kudos honor Tempe officer for his career keeping school campuses safe

Connolly Middle School's campus resource officer got a standing ovation at a recent school assembly—a well-deserved round of applause, as it turned out.

Officer Larry Baggs was selected as the Law Related School Resource Officer of the Year by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education.

Connolly's assembly was planned as a surprise, and guests included members of the Tempe Police Department, resource officers from nearby Tempe schools, Tempe Elementary School District administrators and Baggs' family.

Baggs is an ASU graduate who has been with the Tempe Police Department for 29 years, nine of those serving as a resource officer.

He was a detective for 17 years, including over 10 years as investigating homicides, with extensive training in instruction of law enforcement topics.

Baggs' expertise is such that he served as an instructor for the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy for 12 years.

He also was an in-house instructor for Tempe PD years on a variety of law enforcement topics, and has been a guest speaker in university and community college classes.

As an SRO, Baggs has consistently exceeded the 180-hour requirement, usually exceeding 250 hours.

His supervisors report he had an average of less than 5 percent "off campus" time during his tenure as an SRO.

Baggs is currently on staff of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education's LRE Academy as a

facilitator/instructor.

He attended a seminar in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 2009 to be a trainer of "Representative Democracy in America."

He has exceeded the requirements for training through the LRE Academy almost every year.

In his previous assignment, at McKemy Middle School, Baggs was recommended as a model officer for possible mentoring of new SROs, and McKemy was recommended as a model site.

Outside his law enforcement involvement, Baggs has served as a counselor for Boy Scouts; coached Little League; appeared as a speaker at Girl Scout meetings; and assisted with the Tempe All Stars Program, which is a citizenship-based after school program.

He is an active participant each year in Tempe's Youth Town Hall, bringing middle and high school students, along with SROs and JPOs and district Superintendents to discuss relevant issues that teens face in the Tempe community. The groups present their findings and recommendations to Tempe government officials.

Another program in which he participates is Tempe Coalition, which a city-based program that focuses on drug prevention and awareness.

In 2013, Baggs received the Life Saving Award from the Tempe Police Department and an Excellence Award from Tempe Elementary District #3 for saving the life of a Connolly student during school hours. He also received the 2013 MLK Diversity Award for his work at Connolly.

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At Corona del Sol High School, excuses for getting to the campus late can meet tough resistance from attendance-office enforcers like Mary Bradshaw.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

## Being on time for class helps build good habits for future

By Michelle Hirsch

“I’m late, I’m late—for a very important date. No time to say hello, goodbye. I’m late; I’m late; I’m late!” exclaims White Rabbit in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*.

Apparently there are numerous “White Rabbits” running around town. One survey showed that 15 percent of people in the U.S. are consistently late to work or school.

In 2012, several parents in a Virginia school district were criminally charged with making their children habitually tardy for school. One parent faced nearly \$5,000 in fines for repeated offenses.

While no one in our local-area school districts has suggested arresting parents for making their children late for school, there are some good reasons for making sure students arrive on time.

“Not only does every minute count in order to maximize the learning experience,” said Sean McDonald, principal at Marcos de Niza High School, “but our ultimate goal is to prepare students for success in life after high school. Whether they choose college or a career, there will be an expectation that they be on time.”

Some parents may argue that their children are doing well in school and, therefore, being tardy causes no serious academic or behavioral concerns for the child. However, educators note, those parents should consider the effects that being late has on not

— TARDY, Page 10



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# Discovering their super powers

Article by M.V. Moorhead • Photos by Billy Hardiman



On a recent Saturday, the downstairs of the Tempe Public Library looked like it was packed not only with readers but with characters from the shelves.

Superheroes, aliens, sword-wielding warriors and zombie hunters prowled the , seeing and being seen.

The occasion was not some inter-dimensional warp which deposited dozens of denizens of comics and sci-fi yarns and role-playing games in one place at one time. It was, rather, a preview of Phoenix Comicon, which hits the Phoenix Convention Center later this year.

“Discover Your Inner Geek” trumpet the promos for the Con, but many of the visitors at Tempe’s mini-Con looked like they were already very well in touch with said Geek, and that said Geek was by no means just Inner.

Once one had passed the “Prop Check Station” near the entrance—presumably to ensure that none of the props were more dangerous reality than thrilling fantasy—it was possible, in any given circuit or two through the festivities, to see “cosplay” revelers spectacularly decked out as Alice, of Wonderland fame; as Merida, the heroine of Disney’s Brave; and as Toothless from How to Train Your Dragon.

There were Jedi Knights from the Star Wars universe and scarily convincing anti-zombie commandos from Resident Evil.

I was also particularly intrigued to see a guy dressed as The Flash, in a re-creation of the DC Comics hero’s original costume from the ‘40s, complete with winged metal helmet.

Manning tables were recruiters

from the Royal Manticoran Navy, an entity which exists in the “Honor Harrington” sci-fi books of David Weber, but apparently not only there.

Not far away were medieval re-enactors demonstrating their chops on the spinning wheel ,and other skills.

Improbable group photos of all of these heroes and villains were being taken in front of a Comicon backdrop, and weaving his way in, around and among all of the above was none other than Darth Vader himself. Somehow, in this setting, the Dark Lord gave off a friendly, avuncular vibe.

Go to [phoenixcomicon.com](http://phoenixcomicon.com) for details on the coming event downtown. Go to [tempe.gov](http://tempe.gov) for library information.

# Tardy

From Page 8

only their child but on other students and teachers, such as teaching and learning disruptions, missing important instructions or announcements and instilling poor time-management skills that could affect a child's future school performance and job success.

"It's important for parents to help us avoid instructional interruptions by having their children at school on time each day," said Gina Taylor, assistant superintendent for instructional services in the Kyrene Elementary School District.

"Being on time is also a way to teach them that

school is important."

Parents should consider that getting their child late to school has consequences beyond embarrassment or a tardy mark.

When students arrive late, it takes time to check in at the front office; they miss important announcements or assignment instructions, disturb the learning of other students and cause distractions.

It's important for the child's optimal learning to be present and ready at the start of a class, say school officials.

Most students can learn to take responsibility for planning for school the night before by gathering their homework and any other supplies they need in their backpack, planning their breakfast, packing a lunch, setting their own alarm, setting aside

sufficient time to get ready, knowing their bus schedule or what time they need to leave the house to walk or bike to school.

When parents give their child the responsibility to be accountable for their time, those children develop the skills to be on time, and that can benefit their academic and career success, say experts.

There are also the social or professional benefits of arriving early for a class or event, such as meeting other classmates or attendees, finding a good seat at an outside venue, getting handouts before they run out and reducing anxiety.

Students are often late because parents control their schedule and transportation. Regardless of the reasons or excuses, most who are chronically late, or cause their children to be late, are first to admit they want to be on-time.

Students may learn in class that the planet Mars spins a bit more slowly than Earth (a day on Mars is about 30 minutes longer than on Earth). But until there are neighborhoods on Mars, schools ask that parents do their best to manage a more timely schedule here on Earth—and help break the White Rabbit habit.

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7 The Midtown Men. . . . . 7:30pm  
4 Stars From The Original Cast Of Jersey Boys

8 Of Legends and Lovers: Doc and Kate . . . . . 3pm

14 Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana: The Soul of Flamenco . . . 7:30pm

21 An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin . . . . . 7:30pm

22 The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra . . . . . 3pm

**MARCH 2015**

1 Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway . . 2:30pm

7 Cesar Millan Live! . . . . . 7:30pm

8 Michael Londra's Celtic Fire . . . . . 2:30pm

20 Garibaldi . . . . . 7:30pm

28 Paul Williams . . . . . 7:30pm



## Rotarians: Building collaboratively

Kyrene Corridor Rotarians joined members of other local and Valleywide Rotary Clubs to build a house with Habitat for Humanity. As a result of the clubs' combined efforts, the home's interior is now ready to paint and the lot prepared for landscaping. The finished project will be dedicated Feb. 21. Participating clubs included ASU Rotaract, Camelback-Crossroads, Rio Salado, Tempe Downtown and the Kyrene unit, which organized the project.

— Photo courtesy Harry Short, Kyrene Rotary president

## Tempe students find their love of reading energized as members of MCC book club

By Diana Whittle

East Valley residents love to read. If you doubt that assumption, take note of the growing participation in book clubs sponsored by Mesa Community College.

For Tempe resident Anna Warner, who was born in Holland, being involved with a book club gives her a group of people to practice speaking English with.

"I loved Book Club and I plan to attend again this semester," said Warner. "I liked the discussions and the club helped me improve my English," said Warner. "The instructor is very nice, and I found everyone to be very friendly."

Kevin Johaneck is another book club member. He's also from Tempe and an elementary education major, who agrees with Warner by noting that he "had an awesome experience with fellow book lovers."

"I've always liked to read," said Johaneck, "but I don't have a lot of friends who read; so this is a good opportunity to share thoughts with others about the same book. Plus, everyone who was there wanted to be there."

This semester the club at MCC's

Southern and Dobson campus will be reading Jennifer Finney Boylan's funny and revealing memoir "She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders." Boylan's narrative of her own transition process. It's a book about growing up feeling wrong in your own body, and finding a way to fix it.

MCC Book Clubs are comprised of a mix of students, faculty, staff and community members. Kate Mohler, a faculty member of MCC's English Department, said the clubs are a great community-building activity.

"We always have an interesting and very diverse group of people," said Mohler.

"Our members gain insight into current events, social trends and different cultures by engaging in thought-provoking discussions."

MCC's Southern and Dobson Book Club will meet on Thursday, Feb. 4 to hold a raffle to give away copies of *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, and again on Wednesday, March 4 and Wednesday, April 8 to discuss and debate its content.

Large-group meetings of the club meet from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m. in the Southwest Reading Room in the Library at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa.

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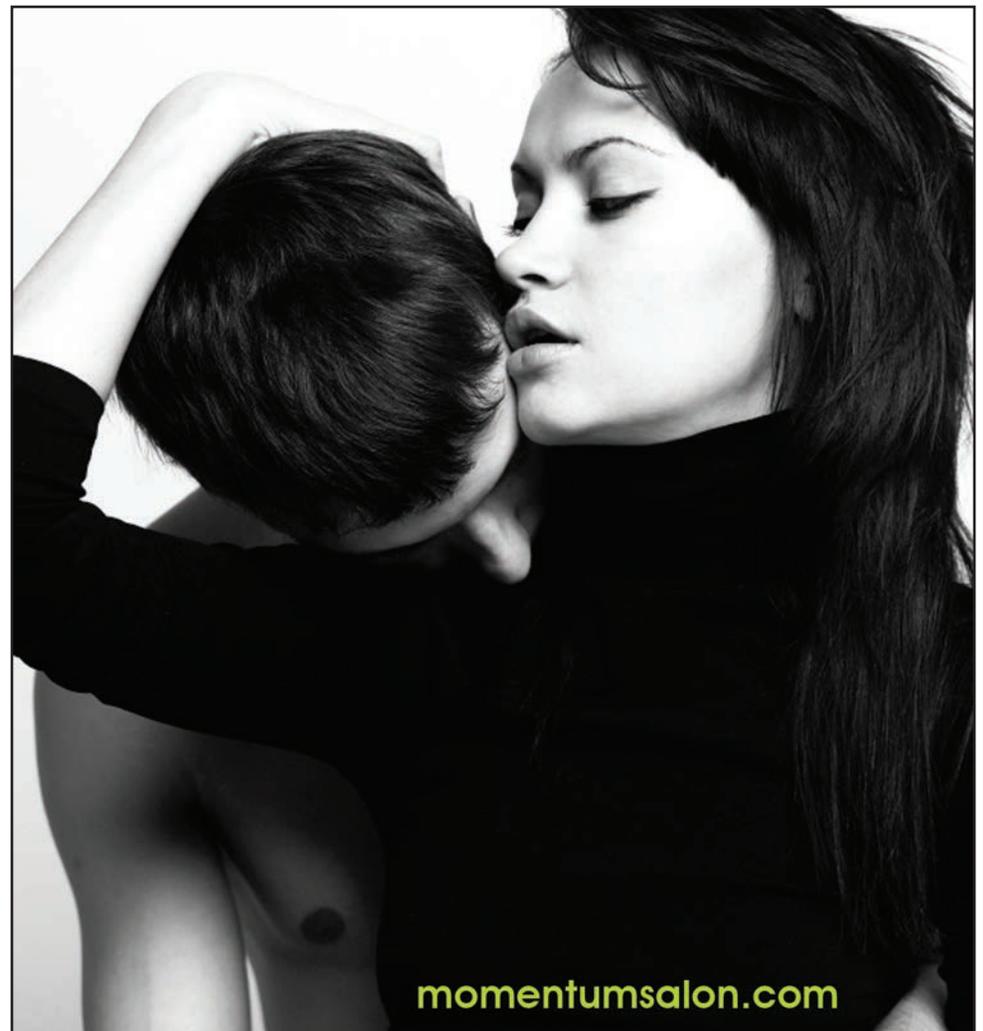
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## Hurry: Time for resolutions is running out

By Michelle Hirsch

Community leaders and recognized trend-setters aren't immune from the ritual of making New Year's resolutions, and ours are no exception.

Tempe Vice Mayor Corey Woods notes two new goals for 2015: develop a more regular workout schedule and get involved in a Spanish-language immersion program.

Chandler Councilmember Nora Ellen also has some ideas for the year, provided they're not just window dressing to satisfy the customary proddings.

"My life is often an evolving adventure, so I don't enjoy making New Year's resolutions that may seem irrelevant after a month or two.

"I always have both real estate and city goals and dreams in my mind, and some on paper. I am very good at reaching these, and this is where I am successful throughout the year."

Dr. Kenneth Baca, superintendent of the Tempe Union High School District, took a more existential approach to the challenge, offering:

"I believe every day is an

opportunity to resolve to be a good and honest person who works hard to improve the lives of others."

Dr. David Schauer, superintendent of the Kyrene School District, said he looks forward to 2015, with the goal to push a 21st century vision for education and encourage innovative thinking and actions.

Personally, Schauer said, he'll continue "to be true to myself and not distracted by others who would like me to be someone different."

Tempe Elementary Superintendent Christine Busch said she always makes both personal and professional New Year's resolutions, and this year was no exception:

On the professional side, "To focus on additional ways of building more bridges of common understanding in the community."

Personally? "To eat more vegetables."

For those of us who haven't yet considered what we'd like to see, feel or do in 2015, there are still a few days left. So get going. Or, of course, put the job aside 'til 2016.

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# Diversions . . .

## 19th annual Jewish filmfest to focus on U.S. show biz icons

By M.V. Moorhead

The logo this year is a pretzel shaped like the Star of David, and the motto promises “Great Films, with a little Jewish flavor.”

But while the 19th annual Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival, which runs Feb. 8 through 22, offers its usual variety of American and foreign works, fiction and documentary, drama and comedy and sometimes a blend of both, the signature “flavor” of this year’s festival seems to be that of the iconic Jewish figures in American show business.

On the schedule this year, for instance, is *Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did For Love*, a portrait of the musical genius behind “The Way We Were” and *A Chorus Line*, one of that tiny category of artists known as EGOTs, for having won an Emmy, a Grammy an Oscar and a Tony.

Dori Berinstein’s film plays at

7 p.m. on February 15 at Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, one of Festival’s three venues (the others are Harkins Camelview and Harkins Arrowhead).

There’s also a documentary about an insufficiently recognized influence in the modern stand-up comedy era. *Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story* chronicles the Canadian actor, director, writer, Johnny Carson guest (and guest host) and all-around wiseacre who shook up network watchdogs in the ‘60s and ‘70s and was one of the great definers of what a hip comedian looked and sounded like in that era.

The film plays at 3 p.m. Feb. 8 at Arrowhead and 3 p.m. Feb. 11 at Camelview.

Finally, there’s *Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem*. This documentary is about the great entertainer who appeared movie classics from *My Fair Lady* to *The*

*African Queen*, on Broadway as the original Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* and on TV in everything from *The Twilight Zone* to *All in the Family* to *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, but is probably best known for holding the record number of performances as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Bikel, now 90, is scheduled to appear at the screening at Harkins Camelview on Feb. 15, but alas, according to the Festival’s website this special event is already sold out.

Not that this year is all showbiz, all the time.

Another highlight of this year’s Festival is *Above and Beyond*, a documentary about American WWII fighter pilots who volunteered for service in the Israeli War for Independence in the late ‘40s. Directed by Roberta Grossman and produced

by Nancy Spielberg (Stephen’s younger sister), the film plays at Chandler at 3 p.m. February 8.

Nor is it all documentaries this year. Also on the schedule is *24 Days*, from rance, an account of the 2006 kidnapping of Ilan Hamidi.

Other selections this year include *Bethlehem*, a 2013 Israeli drama—that country’s entry for best foreign-language Oscar; a romantic drama, *5 to 7*; and a French romantic comedy, *It Happened in Saint-Tropez*. Playing at Camelview on Feb. 9 is *The Last Mentsch*, a road trip drama about an elderly man who, having long denied his Jewish identity, must return to his birthplace in Hungary to re-establish it so that he can be buried in a Jewish cemetery, while *For a Woman (Pour une Femme)* by Diane Kurys of *Entre Nous* fame, plays at Chandler on Feb 8. Details: gpjff.org.



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## Final session in free college planning series

College Connect continues its free Learn, Investigate, Fund, Transition, or L.I.F.T., workshop series from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Tempe Public Library.

"Transition" is the topic for this final workshop in the series.

It's not necessary to have attended previous workshops, and attendees will be provided information and dates for what previously has been known as College Goal Sunday.

Those who bring their 2013 and 2014 tax records can receive assistance completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms, the first essential step in receiving college financial aid.

College Connect workshops have provided guidance on different topics, including funding options for college, essay writing, FAFSA form completion, college resources and more. Students attending each workshop are entered in a drawing to

win one of five \$250 scholarships.

The city of Tempe has partnered with Tempe Union High School District, Tempe Elementary School District, ASU, Grand Canyon University, Mesa Community College, Rio Salado College and the University of Advancing Technology to create College Connect, a community-based program designed to assist young people who want to pursue a post-secondary education.

Workshop attendees will receive a flash drive provided by the city of Tempe and its educational partners that includes valuable college information, tips and resources to help students get the information they need to obtain a post-secondary education.

More information on College Connect or to reserve a spot in the free workshop:

[www.CollegeConnectTempe.org](http://www.CollegeConnectTempe.org)

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# Dancing her way to a dream

Story by Michelle Hirsch  
Photos by Billy Hardiman

“A year ago I was petrified going into this—starting a new business and not having any idea whether it would work or not, or whether I would lose my shirt in the process,” recalls Mary Wall.

“I anticipated huge losses the first year, and that didn’t happen.”

The longtime south Tempe resident launched Wall-2-Wall Dance Center as a place for teens and adults to combine their interest in dance and fitness, reminding all comers that it’s “Never-2-Late to learn to dance.”

The studio is nestled between two motorcycle shops, and that suits Wall just fine.

In fact, life as a small-time entrepreneur suits her just fine. “It is an incredible feeling,” said Wall, “that this is going to work; this is something I can do.”

Starting a new business isn’t without its challenges, she knows. Wall had to figure out which classes would bring customers in, adjust class schedules and pricing, and figure out where advertising worked and where it didn’t.

At first, she thought the wider variety of classes she offered the better, although she has found that her tap classes are most popular and has added more.

Although initially she concentrated on marketing to ASU students (her studio is in north Tempe), she admits she misjudged her audience.

“I do really well with beginning middle-aged or older people who have never danced before — that’s where the Never-2-Late classes come in, and they can take it slower,” said Wall.

As to those who show an interest in classes, some have danced before, perhaps many years ago, but

there are others who haven’t danced at all.

One dance student said she wants to stay in Wall’s Tap 1 program “forever” because she doesn’t want to try anything harder, and Wall says that’s okay.

“Some people try it for a few weeks and decide it’s not for them, but they are happy they had a place to try dance as an adult,” adds Wall.

“I’ll advise new customers not to buy tap shoes at first—they can be expensive,” Wall said. “I let them try it in sneakers to get an idea of the coordination.”

Another student who took her Never-2-Late class was blind, Wall recalls.

“I would let her feel my leg, and I’d manipulate her foot in the direction it needed to go. She was just having a good time, and said it was a great form of exercise and a way to get out of the house,” Wall said.

To start her business, Wall didn’t just tap across a dance floor. She had years of business experience under her belt when opportunity met determination last year.

Wall studied theater arts, dance and singing in college, hoping to become an actress. It didn’t take long to realize that the odds of making a living as an actress were slim, so she took a job at the college box office and added theater



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management to her degree work.

That experience led to a job at an 18,000-seat arena that was beginning to license the software for what would eventually become Ticketmaster.

Wall accepted an offer to open a Ticketmaster office in Los Angeles, and her dream of being an actress was re-ignited, tied to the idea that she would now have a good day job while pursuing a career in acting.

Wall's dream was extinguished again after she met her husband-to-be, Scott, at Ticketmaster and they began traveling to set up Ticketmaster offices in NYC.

After a few years, burned out on work travel and ready to settle down, the two married and settled in Tempe to start a family and raise two children.

Wall recalls that her daughter, Teagan, now 25 and a doctoral student at California Institute of Technology, has enjoyed dance since she was 10 years old at Marilyn

Bostic's Ballet Center in The Lakes. Wall helped her friend Bostic develop the center's tap program.

Several years later Wall got a call from Mesa Community College to take over teaching tap classes for a teacher who had to leave before the end of the semester, and she's been teaching there for 12 years.

Teagan recalls her mom talking for years about wanting to have her own dance studio and ideas for how she would run it.

When she had the opportunity to take over the lease for a dance studio that was going out of business in her current location, she knew she had to jump in with both tap shoes.

"I talked about it for years and years, and thought, 'OK, this is it. If I don't do it now, I'm never doing it, I'll never have this opportunity again.' So we cashed in our investments to make this happen," said Wall.

Starting small at first, renovating one room of the

studio dance floor, adding new mirrors, a few coats of paint, saving lots of money buying ASU surplus lobby chairs and a desk instead of new furnishing, and with encouragement from family and friends, Wall recently celebrated her successful 1-year business anniversary with dance students, friends and family—and cake and balloons.

As any smart business woman would, Wall has sought the wisdom and advice of other successful business women, and she continues to adjust her business model to what works best. Whether it's Fierce Funk, Hip Hop, Zumba or her increasingly popular tap classes, she says she'll continue to bring in different teachers for variety and offer weekend workshops.

Ultimately, she says, she wants her place to be a spot tap dancers from around the country think of when they're in the area.

Wall is now dancing her way into year two, reminding teens and adults that it's never-2-late to learn to dance or pursue one's dreams.

Information: Wall-2-Wall Dance Studio, 480-317-3000, www.w2wdance.com

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Reporting by Alex Zener • Photos by Billy Hardiman



Valley Christian senior Madeline Brown checks out her aim after scoring a goal in a pregame practice before the matchup with Horizon Honors. VC won the contest 4-1.

The Valley Christian girls soccer team defeated Horizon Honors 4-1 at home Jan. 3. Senior **Madeline Brown**, the leading goal scorer on the team with 19 or 1.1 a game, took only five shots on goal but was able to score two goals, while fellow seniors **Ashlyn Gross** and **Lona Fitzgerald** each scored one.

Junior **Sophia Ames** and freshman **Hannah Best** each took shots at Horizon Honors'



Lona Fitzgerald

goalkeeper but was unable to score.

Fitzgerald was credited with two assists, while **Keara Schromm** had one.

Freshman goalkeeper **Audrey Brown** only allowed only one goal while saving six attacks by the Eagles' strikers.

**Corona boys basketball** — The Aztecs took their show on the road this past week, playing on the big stage at the Springfield Hoopball Classic Jan. 17, in Springfield, Mass.

The team did not disappoint, with an impressive 60-57 overtime win against local favorite Putnam Vo Tech in a packed gym while playing on the national level at the biggest venue in Corona's history.

Corona (17-1), ranked No. 1 in Arizona and No. 18 by Maxpreps.com's Xcellent 25 Writers' Poll, led most of the way except for a couple of lapses in

the fourth quarter when the Beavers were able to pull ahead and could almost smell victory until Corona's freshman phenom **Marvin Bagley III** hit two free throws to tie the score with seconds to go and force an overtime.

Junior guard **Tyrell Henderson** got a chance to prove once again why he's in the starting lineup when he swished a trey after receiving a pass from **Alex Barcello** to put the game away with less than three seconds to play.

Senior wing **Dane Kuiper**, chosen as one of American Family Insurance ALL-USA Arizona boys basketball performers of the week, proved how valuable he is to this relatively young Aztec team by earning the MVP award, tallying 17 points in addition to his three rebounds, four assists, excellent defense and leadership abilities.

# Sports

From Page 18

Earlier in the week, Jan. 12, the Aztecs took on Division II Champions Shadow Mountain in a home game streamed live on AIA365.com.

The Aztecs seemed to come out sluggish while the Matadors were all fired up, taking an early 2-6 and then 7-13 lead raining threes, especially from Craig Randall, who ended up hitting 6 out of 10 three-point attempts, and Jeffrey Rhymes, who made 3 out of 5 attempts.

Corona seemed to realize in the second quarter that the Matadors were out to win and outscored Shadow Mountain 21-17 to get a bit of an edge heading into halftime up 38-33.

Bagley, also recognized as one of American Family Insurance ALL-USA Arizona boys basketball performers of the week, had a monster game with 19 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks, but it may have been **Saben Lee** who sparked the Aztecs by coming off the bench to hustle for loose balls, steal errant passes and drive down the lane dishing off to his teammates.

After returning from Mass., the Aztecs were

scheduled to square off against Chandler at home Jan. 20 and then play at Basha on Jan. 22.

Corona is scheduled at Desert Mountain Jan. 26 before meeting the No. 2 state and Division I-ranked Desert Vista Thunder at home on Jan. 27.

The Thunder currently has an identical 17-1 record. Corona's one-point 65-64 loss was to California's Sierra Canyon on Jan. 3 at the Hoophall West in Scottsdale.

Desert Vista's only defeat was also a one-point, 52-51, loss to Loyola Academy out of Illinois at the VisitMesa.com Basketball Challenge on Dec. 30.

Desert Vista and Corona have a competitive history, but this year the three-time defending state champions are giving it their best shot. You can count on the Thunder to be motivated and fired up to beat the Aztecs.

**Aztec wrestling — Marc Farina** scored 32 team points for his championship win in the 48th Flowing Wells Invitational wrestling tournament, held Jan. 16-17 in Tucson, to help Corona take 4th place with 154.5 points behind Mesa Mountain View, Sunnyside and Chandler.

Farina, 22-2 on the season and wrestling at 140 lbs. in the toughest tournament in the state, defeated Preston Ford (Desert Mountain) by major



Alex Barcello



Aztecs get pumped in a pre-game ritual.

—SPORTS, Page 21



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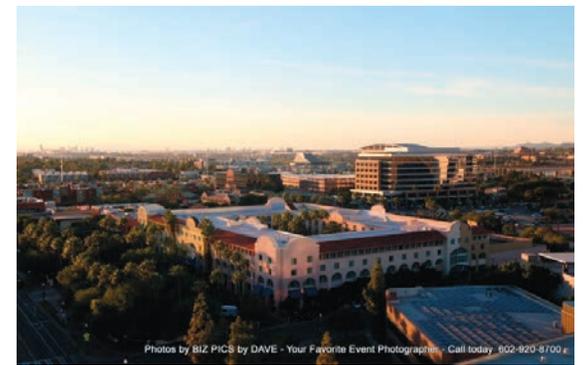
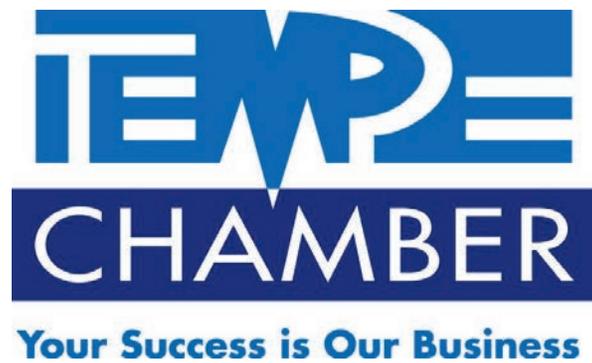
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The Tempe Chamber of Commerce presents State of the District with Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Join our audience of community, educational, political and civic leaders as the Congresswoman provides an update on federal issues and shares her vision for the future of our district, state and country.

Kyrsten Sinema was re-elected in November 2014 as the U.S. Representative for Arizona's 9th congressional district. A member of the Democratic Party, she has served in both chambers of the Arizona legislature, being elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2005, and the Arizona Senate in 2011.

The breakfast event will be held at the Conference Center @ Rio Salado College, 2323 W. 14th St. Registration opens at 9 a.m. and follows with breakfast and Sinema's address.

Advance registration is required at [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org) or by calling (480) 967-7891. Seating is very limited. Please RSVP promptly to guarantee your spot. Once the event has sold out, no additional guests can be accommodated. We regret that no walk-ins will be permitted to enter the event.

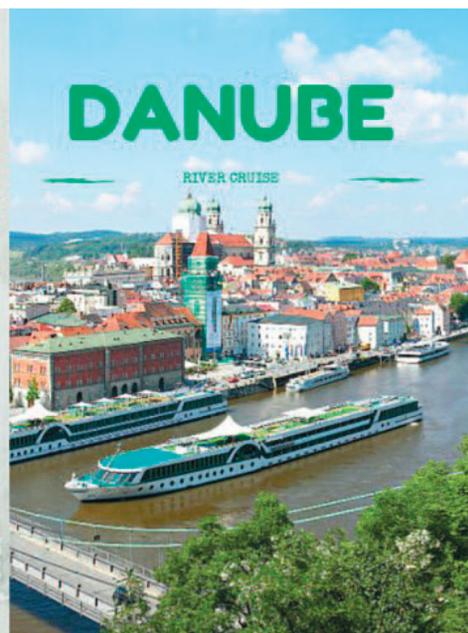
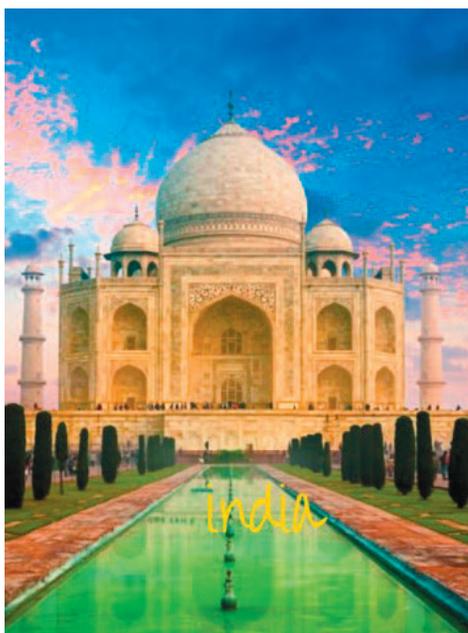
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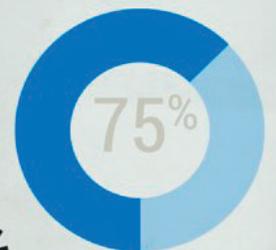
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# Sports

From Page 19

decision, 18-7, in the second round after receiving a bye in the first.

Farina advanced in the brackets to face off against and defeat by major decision, 15-7, Catalina's Benny Castro, before winning by fall his match against Queen Creek's Matt Saba in 1:48 in the quarterfinals.

He then won by decision, 6-3, over Ironwood Ridge's Kyle Taylor in the semifinals before winning a close match by an 8-7 decision over **Ryan Sondrup**, from Marcos de Niza, in the finals.

Three other Corona wrestlers came through to place in the top six in their weight category and add substantial points to the Aztecs' overall total.

**Ryan Spadafore**, in the 162-lb. weight class, placed third, adding 26 team points. Spadafore, 30-6, won by a fall all of his matches in the tournament until he lost in the semifinals to Weston Taylor of Mesa Mountain View.

**Taylor Rico**, 28-8, wrestling at 172 lbs., took fourth place, earning for his team 19.50 points, while **Chris Diego Fill**, 25-8, placed sixth at 154 lbs., earning 15.50 points for the Aztecs.

Other Aztec wrestlers participating at the Flowing Wells Invitational and earning points toward Corona's fourth place team finish were **Camron Upshur** (115-lbs.), **Ryan Farina** (128 lbs.) and **Johnny Waddell** (222 lbs.), with each scoring 10.0

points. **Nick Ruffalo** (184 lbs.) and **Chris Moore** (197 lbs.) had 8.0 points each, while **Matt Churchill** (134 lbs.) earned 6.0 points. **Javien Hunter** (122 lbs.) earned 5.50 points and **Hunter Carmona** (147 lbs.) 4 points. **Justin Sorenson** (108 lbs.) wrestled for the Aztecs as well.

Additionally, the Aztec wrestling team participated in two tournaments over the holiday break leading up to the Flowing Wells Invitational, where they placed second in both Moon Valley and Mile High Challenge.

On Dec. 19-20, Corona participated in the Moon Valley Invitational, where Marc Farina won the 138 lb. individual championship for the second straight year, according to coach **Jim Martinez**.

Rico took second place, Spadafore third, Ryan Farina fourth and Carmona fifth. Waddell finished in eighth place.

At the Mile High Challenge held Jan. 2-3 at the Prescott Valley Event Center, the Aztecs barely missed first place, scoring 161.5 points to Chandler's 162.5.

Highlights included a third place finish for both Marc Farina and Carmona while Ryan Farina, Fill and Rico came in fourth and Moore finished in fifth place.

These three tournaments gave the Aztecs some excellent experience against competitive wrestlers and provided examples of what to expect so the individual wrestlers can mentally and physically prepare for the section tournament in February.

"The team has shown tremendous growth since the beginning of the season," said Martinez. "We didn't start the year with seasoned veterans, but,

they are over-achievers and exceeding expectations and their talent level."

"I'm very proud of their effort to date, and look forward to their continued improvement heading into sections and state."

The Aztecs, with a 10-5 regular season record at press time, were scheduled to participate against Desert Ridge and Westwood, Jan. 20 before ending the regular season at Highland High School in a meet against two very tough competitive teams, Chandler and Highland, Jan. 29.

**Marcos de Niza wrestling** — The Padres had 11 wrestlers compete at the Flowing Wells Invitational Jan. 16-17, where **Ryan Sondrup** (36-2) scored a team high 30 points for his second place finish in the 140-lbs. weight category, helping Marcos earn 96.5 points and earn 18th place among the 38 teams who participate.

**Adam Baca** (20-4) was the second Padre to finish in the top six, earning 11 team points for his sixth place at 287 lbs.

All 11 of the Padres earned points for the team including **Alejandro Torres** (147 lbs.) with 11 points, **Gerardo Gayosso** (108 lbs.) with 8.5 points; **Kendrick Relf** (172 lbs.) with 8.0 points, **Robert Johnson** (222 lbs.) and **Samuel Johnson** (134 lbs.) with 7.0 points each, **Carnell Dargan** (129 lbs.) 6.0 points, **Edward Hercel** (197 lbs.) with 4.0 points, and **Marcus Green** (184 lbs.) 4.0 points.

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## Voices

# Memories of early Tempe fade as redevelopment advances

By Bill Richardson

One of the last vestiges of old Tempe has disappeared. Monti's La Casa Vieja has closed. A high-rise hotel will now tower over the property, and questions about the "old house's" future are unclear.

Lots of things about the Tempe of the past are missed, but progress won't allow fond memories to get in the way of development.

From luxury to downright schlock, Tempe has become a mix of development projects.

Giant cranes are everywhere in Tempe's city center. High-rise apartment complexes are popping up throughout the city wherever there's enough dirt to build. Dirt in Tempe is a hot commodity and there's no place else to go but up.

With high density, though, comes a new kind of Tempe.

As recently as last June, ASU's *State Press*

newspaper reported that a ranking city official said: "We were not prepared as a police department in Tempe for these high-rise apartment complexes."

We're looking at the new Tempe that has been described as a little town with big-city problems, especially when it comes to crime in the areas of increased density.

A report by Indiana University Public Policy Institute tells us:

"Land use matters when it comes to predicting violent crime rates. Rates of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault are generally higher in areas with high-density residential developments and commercial property, and generally lower in areas characterized by industry, parks and schools." (<http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/13030.html>).

In a recent KPHO-TV story, we were told Tempe

has had to resort to bringing in officers from other cities on weekends in an attempt to get a handle on its continual crime problems. One out-of-town police sergeant drafted to come to Tempe's aid told KPHO reporters, "There's all sorts of craziness that you'll see here."

Tempe already struggles with an extra-high crime rate and the accompanying costs associated with crime and policing in the areas where density is increasing.

Is Tempe prepared for the big leagues of growth, development and the accompanying quality-of-life issues that come with a much denser and vertical Tempe?

Good or bad, the closing of Monti's is the line in the sand that's now been crossed, and there's no going back when it comes to what Tempe used to be and where's it going.

*Bill Richardson, a retired master police officer in Mesa, lives in Tempe and can be reached via email by writing [bill.richardson@cox.net](mailto:bill.richardson@cox.net).*



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# Thanks for the memories

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



Newcomers and oldtimers alike got a chance to share memories of their Kyrene schooldays at an alumni mixer at the Main Event entertainment venue. Festivities were preceded by a request to former students to provide an update of their lives post-Kyrene.

Said Kyrene spokeswoman Rosalie Hirano: 'We'd like to track their successes, both academically and professionally, and celebrate them as appropriate.' She said the district also hopes to invite former students who now have their own families to continue the legacy by selecting Kyrene schools for their children.

Among those sharing memories, top, were Marian Lober, 82, and Irene Groves, 92, both remembered as the Hanger sisters during their Kyrene days.



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# Out & about in the 'hood

a photo odyssey by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



**Miss Arizona shows off her winning wave**

The Arizona Diamondbacks hosted their annual Most Valuable Partner Awards in the auditorium at Wild Horse Pass, tapping into the red carpet theme that has become a distinctive backdrop for each year's ceremony. This year's surprises, noted D-backs communications manager Katie Krause, were a late-night talk-show-type atmosphere, presided over by Derrick Hall and accompanied by a full-blown studio orchestra. Chip Hale, Paul Goldschmidt, Mark Trumbo, Aaron Hill, Bronson Arroyo and Tony La Russa served as guests, participating in skits, handing out awards and playing games on stage. Noted Krause: 'It was a unique way to recognize our top partners in the community.' **Presiding, above: Luis Gonzalez, former Miss Arizona Debbie Castaldo.**



**Awards and their recipients were:**

Luis Gonzalez Community Champion Award (presented by D-backs Legend Luis Gonzalez) – **Chase**; Brand Integration Award (Presented by D-backs Manager Chip Hale) – **Coors Light**; D-backs Ambassador Award (Presented by D-backs Special Assistant to the President CEO JJ Putz) – **Smile Generation**; Marketing Activation Award (Presented by D-backs General Manager Dave Stewart) – **Jack in the Box**; Fan Choice Award – **Taco Bell**; Rookie of the Year Award (Presented by D-backs players Bronson Arroyo, Aaron Hill and Mark Trumbo) – **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers**; Lifetime Achievement Award (Presented by D-backs Chief Baseball Officer Tony La Russa) – **Circle K**; MVP Award: Silver Slugger (Presented by D-backs first baseman Paul Goldschmidt) – **Safelite**; and MVP Award: Gold Glove (Presented by D-backs first baseman Paul Goldschmidt) – **Fry's Food Stores**

## A spectator's advice for Polar Plunge participants: **Chill**





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### Gated Custom Home

Basement home on gorgeous private 19,000+ sq ft cul de sac lot. Master suite plus Jack & Jill bedrooms on main level. Stunning remodeled kitchen w/ granite counters, stone backsplash, induction cooktop, convection ovens, built in fridge, convenient pot filler and huge pantry. Romantic master with fireplace. Huge walk-out basement with 3 bedrooms, wetbar and fireplace. Pool, pond and built in BBQ and so much more.



### New to Market



Rare find! Sharp 5 bedroom, 3 full bath South Tempe home with 3 car garage and pool!! Home is move-in ready. Newer roof, large lot and low HOA. Located in the well-known Kyrene School District. Excellent location close to grade school, community park, ASU and Chandler Mall. Mid \$300's

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