

Wrangler NEWS

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For Ryne Davenport and all the other young competitors taking part in the Ultimate Challenge at Aprende Middle School, catching an airborne saucer proved trickier than many might have thought. 'Ultimate,' however, didn't refer to the skill involved but to the requirement that the event's name not infringe on the copyrighted trademark of that other familiar flying disc. That didn't matter much to the participating kids, though. To them it was indeed the 'ultimate' of challenges.

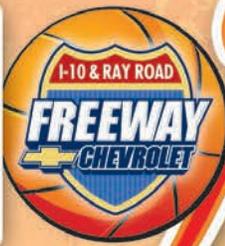
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Photo by Billy Hardiman
Wrangler News



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Boundary changes could affect 2 Kyrene schools plus dual language program

By Diana Whittle

After an absence of several months, members of the Kyrene School Boundary Change Task Force have resumed meeting to continue their evaluation of enrollment trends and boundaries affecting the 25 schools in the district.

Over the recent fiscal year, task force participants considered boundary changes on the east side of Interstate 10 in Tempe and Chandler.

Now, the group plans to review schools on the west side of I-10, including those in the south Tempe and west Chandler area, said Jeremy Calles, chief financial officer for the district, who is leading the staff's efforts on the project.

One school that is under consideration for a boundary change is Kyrene de las Manitas, 1201 W. Courtney Lane.

"Manitas is the only Kyrene school that has students on both sides of a major freeway," said Calles. "Recent multi-family and single-family developments, within the Manitas boundary, have opened up the opportunity to reassess the Manitas boundary."

"The committee will continue to look at Manitas and bring forward a recommendation after all possibilities have been analyzed."

Any changes that are made will improve the district's limited resources, such as facilities and transportation, and should yield a greater sense of community, according to Calles.

"We hope to utilize our school facilities more efficiently by balancing enrollment among schools and also to have students at each elementary school

only feed into one middle school," said Calles.

Another school of specific concern is Kyrene de los Niños, which currently offers the dual language program as one of its academic options.

Due to the popularity of the program, however, Niños is at enrollment capacity, so the program could be moved to Kyrene del Norte in the upcoming school year.

A move to Norte for the dual language program would offer an expanded drop-off and pick-up area and resolve some of the traffic flow challenges at Niños, officials said. There also would be the possibility of adding classroom space in the future at Norte.

"Creating a 'super boundary' for students at Norte and Niños is being considered by the Kyrene Boundary committee members for implementation in 2016-17," said Calles.

"At that time, families living in the area would be able to decide which of the two programs or schools they want their incoming kindergartener to attend."

A super boundary is when a district combines the borders for multiple schools and offers transportation to both schools. It is the opposite concept of a magnet school, explained Calles.

"At a magnet school, a program is so popular that a district knows they can fill the school without providing transportation, so the school has no boundary."

Calles says that the dual language program is popular enough to be a magnet school.

"But, the benefit is so great that we want more Kyrene families to be able to take advantage of it."

"The super boundary will allow us to fill up the majority of the seats with Kyrene families, prior to offering the open seats to out-of-district families who may drive their students to the school," said Calles."

School administrators feel the proposed change to Norte from Niños warrant creating a planning committee, which will begin to meet soon. This committee will include Norte and Niños teachers and parents, who district officials feel can provide multiple perspectives on the best way to transition the Norte students to Niños and the dual language program to Norte.

Discussions will include transportation of students to school, timing of the transition, planning for staffing, special education plan, and the super boundary that would incorporate both schools.

An online link is available to submit questions and feedback about the proposed change. Listed under Norte/Niños transition on the district's home page, click on the link *Provide Feedback* and you will be taken to a brief, three-question survey.

In addition, an open public forum is planned for 6 p.m. Thursday, April 2, in the library at Norte, 1331 E. Redfield Road, Tempe.

The Kyrene Boundary Task Force meetings are open to the public without an RSVP. Members of the Kyrene community are encouraged to attend and to participate in the boundary review process. The meetings are on Mondays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and are scheduled for the following dates: April 6, April 27 and May 18.

All meetings take place at the district's offices, 8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe.

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Navarro session will focus on Tempe parks, resident communication strategies

Tempe councilmember Joel Navarro will host the next gathering in his Java with Joel series from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, March 28, in the Tempe Public Library's Connections Café.

Residents are invited to bring ideas and questions about anything, but two topics for particular focus will be homelessness in city parks and communication with community members.

Information: www.tempe.gov/navarro.

The Tempe Police Department is looking for people interested in investing time and energy in their community.

Working with City Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage, the department has expanded its volunteer program to include providing extra security patrols at neighborhood parks.

This volunteer team works with Tempe police officers by providing motorist services and spending time in and around neighborhood parks.

The aim is to ensure parks remain safe so they can be enjoyed by everyone.

Current volunteers will be ready to train others who want to step into a role designed to foster positive interactions among residents, visitors and guests.

Volunteers are already spending time around neighborhood parks, but more are needed, say officials. Training, equipment and a vehicle are provided. The department can work around most schedules of available time.

Information: www.tempe.gov/police. Click "Volunteers in Policing" or call 480-350-8780.

Arts center to host Starbright talent fest

Chandler Center for the Arts will host Starbright Foundation's 4th annual Arizona's Got Talent show on Saturday, March 21.

Proceeds will help the organization its efforts to better the lives of children caught in abusive situations.

Representatives from Chandler PD will be on hand to provide kid-safety fingerprinting at no charge.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for family-friendly activities in the lobby, including a silent auction, raffles and games.

The talent show starts at 6:30.

Tickets, at \$17 and \$22, can be purchased at www.chandlercenter.org/

performance.

Children and young adults will volunteer their time and artistic gifts to help children in need.

Singer and 9-year-old cystic fibrosis survivor Brianna Collichio will travel from New York to lend her voice to the fundraiser.

"This show was created by children who wanted to make a difference in their community.

They all have incredible talents, but to use those talents to change the lives of children who are hurting and to provide hope is simply beautiful," said Lori Regnier, Starbright Foundation vice president.

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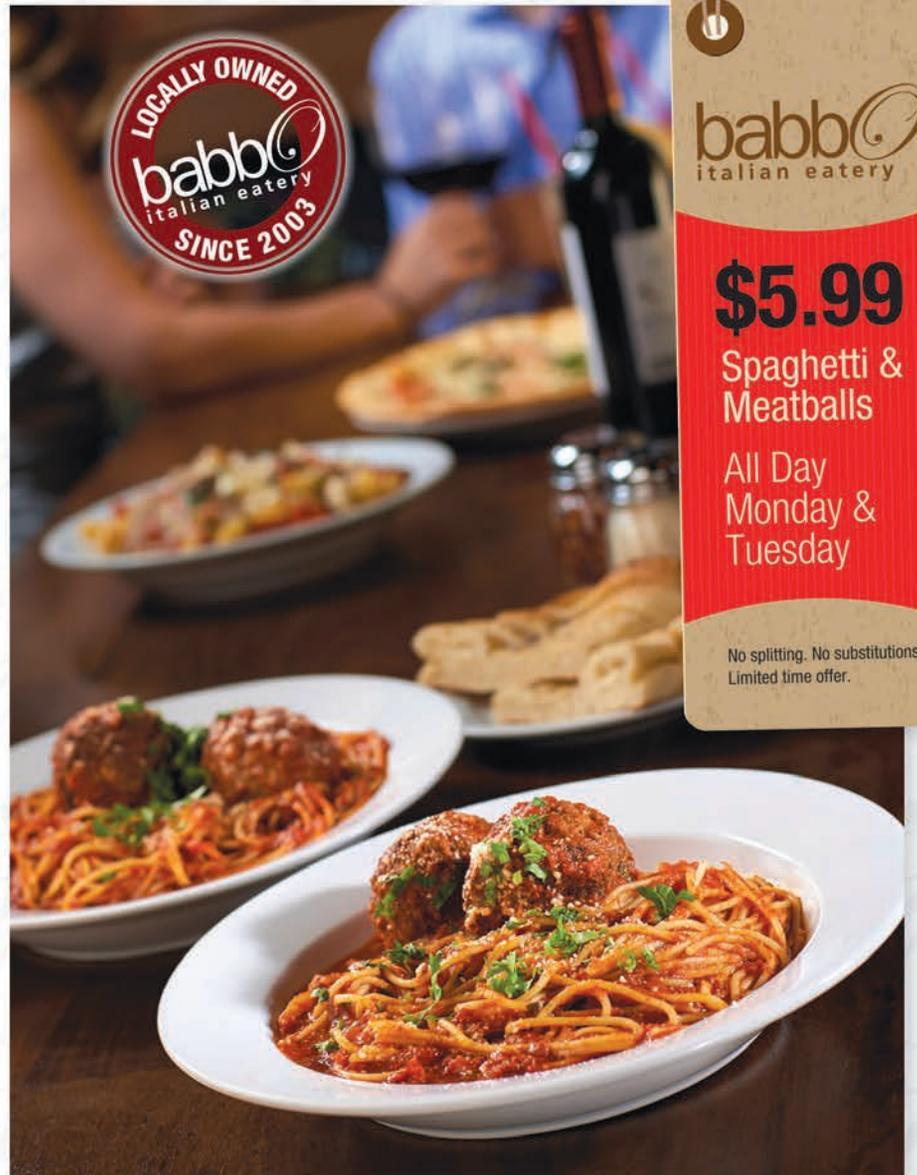
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Noted Arizona author Jance wows an admiring throng at Tempe library



Story & photo by Joyce Coronel

Members of the audience sat on the edge of their seats, utterly entranced as Arizona author J.A. Jance provided her adoring fans a glimpse into the life of the woman who has written dozens of *New York Times* best-selling books.

"How many of you have been to one of my book signings before?" she queried the group at her appearance at the Tempe Public Library. Most all raised their hands. Clearly, she was among friends.

Jance was in town to promote "Cold Betrayal," the 11th in her Ali Reynolds mystery series.

"Did any of you come here expecting to have a literary event?" Jance asked, arching a brow.

"Good luck with that!" she chuckled.

Literary fiction, Jance explained, "is where not much happens to people you don't like very much." And, she announced, there would be no reading of selections from her latest tome, "the latest in the popular mystery series."

"Sitting up here and reading to people who are perfectly capable of reading on their own seems like a fool's errand," she proclaimed. At 70, Jance

sits, rather than stands, as she tells her audience how her own life is woven into the stories she writes.

Describing herself as a one-time "fire-breathing feminist," Jance grew up in Bisbee. The third child in a large family, she attended Greenway School in Tucson, where she had the good fortune to be assigned to Mrs. Spangler's second-grade classroom with its vast collection of books awaiting students who finished their work.

Jance discovered the Wizard of Oz tales. Fascinated by Frank Baum, the author of the series, she decided right then that she would someday be an author herself. As fate would have it, she didn't pen her first book until she was 41. Jance is a prolific author who has produced several series of books during the last 30 years. The twists and turns of her own life loom large.

In 1962, during her senior year of high school, for example, she spearheaded a petition drive to force the administration to allow a pregnant classmate named Linda the right to participate in the graduation ceremony. The school superintendent called her parents and told them Jance would be given a scholarship to the University of Arizona provided that she stop passing the petition. That's when the future author made an important decision.

"There were seven kids in our family, and that scholarship was the only way I could attend the U of A. Had I not, I certainly wouldn't be sitting with you now," Jance said. Linda did not graduate but her boyfriend did.

"I'm still ticked about that, by the way," Jance said.

The incident influences her writing decades later as readers of the Ali Reynolds books are treated to plot lines involving scholarships.

Jance said she regularly gets mail from fans who don't hold back when it comes to sharing their opinions about her work.

"A woman wrote, 'Why do you put all that scholarship junk in the books? It has nothing to with the plot.' Guess what? That scholarship stuff has a lot to do with me. I write the books and I get to put what I want in the books!"

It's that person behind the dozens of books that patrons of the Tempe Public Library heard from at the March 11 book signing, one of 19 Arizona appearances this spring during a 44-stop book tour of four Western states.

Jance is a prolific author, and her colorful life has imbued her books with a flavor readers find irresistible. There's always an Arizona connection.

Some of the pain in her own life flavors her writing. Jance still remembers a creative-writing professor back in the 1960s who would not allow her to take his class.

Girls become teachers or nurses, not writers, he told her. Jance said she ended up marrying a man who was allowed into the creative writing program at the university.

"Don't make mystery writers mad," Jance told the crowd. A character who turns out to be a killer in one of Jance's books happens to be... a creative

writing professor.

Her first marriage disintegrated in the face of her husband's alcoholism.

"He imitated Faulkner and Hemingway by drinking too much and writing too little," Jance said.

"He told me shortly after 1968 that there was only one writer in the family and it would be him."

Jance coped by writing poetry on sheets of paper at the kitchen table during the night. Eventually, the marriage fell apart.

"I divorced him because I needed to save my life," Jance said. The man died of chronic alcoholism in 1983.

"After the Fire," a book of poetry and prose, tells the story of some of the darkest times in the author's life.

Before her debut as an author, Jance spent two years as a high school English teacher in Tucson and five years as a librarian in Sells on the Papago, now Tohono O'odham, reservation. The Walker books — she's just completed the fifth installment in the series — highlight the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Kris Baxter, the public information officer for the Tempe Public Library, said Jance drew a large crowd when she spoke at the "Writers on Writers" series the library presents to aspiring authors.

Jance asked if she could return when she launched her next book.

"We were absolutely thrilled," said Baxter. "She has a number of character series that people just absolutely love. We'll probably bring her back in another six months."

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Child victims helped by Assistance League's March 28 fashion show, luncheon, boutique

A group of women from the east Valley have been working for the past year to plan a fashion show, luncheon and boutique, knowing their efforts will help clothe almost 7,000 schoolchildren next year.

Assistance League of East Valley provides new clothing, shoes and hygiene kits for children each year through fundraising events, donations and proceeds from their Chandler thrift shop.

The group's 23rd annual fashion show and luncheon will be at noon Saturday, March 28, at the Arizona Grand Resort, with a vendor boutique opening at 9 a.m. Boutique items will include custom-designed jewelry, apparel, handbags, home décor, linens and glassware.

Kay Fisher of Tempe is chairperson for the event, Passport to Paris, which will feature fashions from Dillard's. A silent auction will include gift baskets as well as sports tickets, Gammage tickets, a resort stay and trips.

Tickets, at \$75, are available at

www.assistanceleagueeastvalley.org.

Elementary school children from Kyrene, Tempe and other area districts receive clothing from the organization after being recommended by family resource officers at their schools.

Last year, the group also provided local police and fire departments with 3,500 assault-survivor kits containing clothing and personal-care items for victims of trauma, and teddy bears for child victims. The members also hold monthly birthday parties at an adult care center, provide supplemental materials to teachers and award scholarships.

The Assistance League thrift shop, located at the southwest corner of Arizona Avenue and Warner, carries boutique and everyday apparel, books, housewares, crafts, small appliances, fabric, toys and children's clothing.

Assistance League of East Valley is part of a national nonprofit Assistance League that carries out community-based philanthropic projects.

— Sarah Auffret

Five from Kyrene schools will compete in statewide geographic bee March 27 at ASU

Five Kyrene students will participate in the state Geographic Bee, scheduled March 27 at Arizona State University.

Brian Hebert (Aprende); Trent Lindstrom (Pueblo); Miguel Carrillo (Akimel-A-al); Ethan Kirkeeng (Altadena); and Lawrence Rhoads (Kyrene Middle School) qualified for the event, which challenges students' geographic knowledge.

The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark

student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography.

Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible to compete.

The winner of the Arizona Geographic Bee will advance to the national competition May 11-13 at the National Geographic Society's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

It will be televised at 8 p.m. May 15 on the National Geographic Channel and NG Wild.

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Arizona Army National Guard Capt. Jerett Burman assists Pvt. Ryan McDanel with the M2 .50 caliber machine gun during weapons live-fire training at Yuma Proving Ground. Burman, a West Chandler resident, is the commander of the 856th Military Police Company, which was conducting weapons familiarization and a convoy live-fire exercise during its March drill.

— U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Brian A. Barbour

March winds down with college prep workshop, opening day at wave pool

Weekend Waves — Catch a wave this spring at the Kiwanis Recreation Center's indoor wave pool.

Waves will roll from 1-5 p.m. the opening days of the season, Saturday, March 21 and 28.

Weekend waves will run Saturday and Sunday during the same hours throughout April and May.

Bring the entire family and enjoy a wild afternoon of fun in the water. General admission is \$5 for ages 2-12, \$7 for ages 13 and older.

Visit www.tempe.gov/waves for more information and other activities at Kiwanis.

College Connect — The College Connect Tempe program will host a free college prep workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 28 at the

Tempe Public Library.

Students and their parents can attend the program, which is designed to help juniors get the most out of their senior year and make a smooth transition from high school to college.

Workshop topics will include preparing senior year checklists and timelines; summer opportunities; researching colleges; and SAT/ACT test prep.

College Connect was created through a partnership between the city of Tempe, ASU, Grand Canyon University, Mesa Community College, Rio Salado College, Tempe Elementary School District, Tempe Union High School District and the University of Advancing Technology.

Information, reservations: www.CollegeConnectTempe.org



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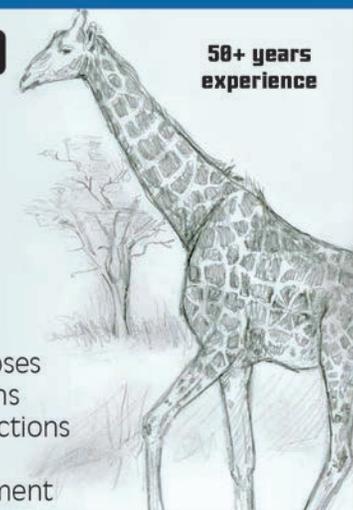
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Tempe, West Chandler libraries For kids, opening the book on summer reading

By Joyce Coronel

As temperatures continue to climb and the final day of the school year rapidly approaches, the daunting question looms: What to do with the kids all summer?

Turns out your local library has a helpful solution to such summertime dilemmas.

Both the Tempe Public Library and Chandler's Sunset Library offer summer reading programs that make reading fun — and rewarding. Children log their reading achievements by pages read or minutes spent reading in order to earn prizes.

Phyllis Saunders of the Sunset branch library said it's crucial for children to read because that's the best way for them to learn.

"The idea for the reading program is to make it fun and exciting for kids to read all summer long" so that they enjoy themselves and want to return to the library, Saunders said.

The fun at the Sunset branch kicks off in June with the theme "Every Hero Has a Story," featuring a five-week super-hero summer camp.

Participants will make super-hero costumes, learn about their super powers and several other activities that illustrate the let's-be-a-hero theme.

"Every hero has a story and that doesn't just mean Batman and Superman," Saunders said. "It's all the heroes in our community: the police department, the fire department, our teachers and our nurses."

The summer reading program kicks off June 1

at the Tempe Public Library with a party that will feature face painting and a photo booth for snapping pictures with props on loan from the library.

"Arizona Rick, the Magical Balloon-Making Cowboy," will tell stories, play games and perform magic tricks.

"He's really good," said Sherry Warren, manager of the library.

Kids read 20 pages to earn one point and earn a coupon for Chipotle Mexican Grill once they've accumulated 250 points. At 500 points, they receive a free book.

And, just as at Chandler's Sunset Library, if they're too young to read on their own, parents can read to them.

Warren said the idea is to encourage adults to do some reading of their own, too, so there's a reading program just for them.

"Reading together as family—that's huge," Warren emphasized.

"The adults do the same thing. They access the site, put in how many minutes they've read to get a free book, and they get coupons. It's just a fun thing for every age group," Warren said.

So what's the best way to get kids to cut down on screen time and encourage them to read more? Both Saunders and Warren offered words of advice.

"I would say that the best way to get your kids to read is to give them something they're going to love to read," Saunders said.

"If we make reading a chore, no one wants to do that. Go to your local library and say to your librarian, 'Give me ideas, what will be fun for my child to read?' We can book the book in your child's hands that they're going to love. And that's the key. No one wants to read something boring."

Warren offered a similar take.

"I think that during the summer children should read whatever they want to and that parents should give them some leeway.

"So they take one hard book and five easier books — that way, they keep the wonder of reading alive," Warren said.

Children who read over the long days and nights of summer have an easier time of it when the new school year begins.

"We found that if they read over the summer they are more able to go right into the next grade without having to back swim to try to catch up again," Warren said.

Saunders added that children who observe their parents practicing what they preach are more likely to engage in reading.

"We want to see the whole family reading together because that's how you're showing your kids that reading is fun," Saunders said.

For more information . . . Tempe Public Library, Tempe.gov/library, 480-350-5500; Sunset Library, chandlerlibrary.org, 480-782-2800

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Sophia Collins (right) poses with her favorite characters.

Tempe partnered with the Arizona SciTech Festival to present the 4th annual Geeks' Night Out at Tempe City Hall. Enthusiasts and geeks of all ages could 'Discover the Science' at the free, family-friendly event. On display were a variety of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics projects and activities hosted by students

from Tempe elementary, middle and high schools, as well as colleges and universities, community organizations and representatives of the local business sector. Music and entertainment, along with the annual Phoenix Comicon costume parade and contest, also was featured.

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Ashley Newman shows off dated computers

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Photos: Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News



Jennifer and Elizabeth Lopez from Brisas engineer paper bridges

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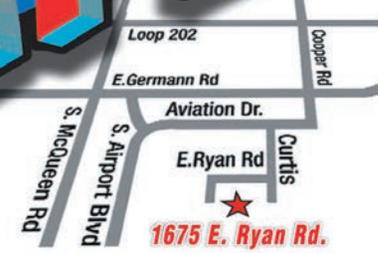
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Diversions . . .

Tempe director takes the stage in Phoenix filmfest

By M.V. Moorhead

Running from March 26 to April 2 at Harkins Scottsdale 101, this year's Phoenix Film Festival features movies from all over the world.

That includes right here in Tempe.

Playing Saturday afternoon and again on Tuesday evening is *1/10 of a Second*, a sports documentary made by Kurt Kubicek of Tempe-based Kubicek/Rock productions. The director describes it as a chronicle of "the rise, fall and redemption of the oldest professional motorcycle racer in the U.S.," said protagonist being Johnny Rock Page.

"I'm not a gearhead," says Kubicek, on what drew him to Page as a subject. "It was more about the story...[Page] didn't seem like a guy who had built a multi-million-dollar company, and who had also gone 210 miles per hour on two wheels."

Intriguing though Page may be, it's possible that his story is only a bit more interesting than Kubicek's own. The native of the Chicago suburbs was formerly a golf professional, playing in college and later working in PGA management.

"I used to spend winters out here," he says, by way of explaining how he settled in Tempe. A few years ago he and some friends produced a short fiction film, and he went on to attend the New York Film Academy in Burbank.

He's directed music videos for bands like Dr. Manhattan, but *1/10 of a Second* is his first documentary.

Of the festival's other highlights this year, perhaps the most high-profile is the opening-night feature, *Danny Collins*. In this drama, the feature directing debut of screenwriter Dan Fogelman, Al Pacino plays an aging rock star whose life is shaken when he

learns of an undelivered letter from John Lennon.

The supporting cast includes Jennifer Garner, Annette Bening, Bobby Cannavale and Christopher Plummer.

Pacino can also be seen, along with Holly Hunter, on Friday night (March 27) in a drama called *Manglehorn*, and director David Gordon Green will be in attendance. Also on the festival's bill is *While We're Young*, the latest from Noah Baumbach, as part of a retrospective of the writer-director's work entitled *Growing Up Baumbach*.

Along with the screenings, of course, the Festival includes plenty of good old fashioned partying and schmoozing. "On Friday night, we have our Industry Night," says Executive Director Jason Carney. "It's the biggest industry event of the year for the local film industry. Then at our Saturday (March 28) party, we have this band coming over from L.A.

called Rio, a tribute band to Duran Duran."

There are also film-related activities for kids from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday (March 28).

PFF also hosts this year's International Horror and Sci-Fi Festival, helmed by Andrea Beesley.

Highlights of this year's shudderfest include the long-titled documentary *Lost Soul: The Doomed Journey of Richard Stanley's Island of Dr. Moreau*, a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the terrible 1996 version of the Wells novel, and a shocker in the style of the Italian *giallo* psychothrillers called *The Editor*.

"We've assembled a good variety of films," concludes Carney.

"I know it's a cliché to say that there's a little something for everybody, but there really is."

Go to www.phoenixfilmfestival.com for details.

— MORE Diversions, Page 14

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The Scene . . . with Chase Kamp

Charitable Chandler emo music fan builds an online community

In only about six months, a niche Facebook group called Non-Denominational Emo has raised hundreds of dollars for charitable organizations and connected emo music fans across the globe.

Its founder, 23-year-old west Chandler resident Craig Lindholm, simply wanted to create an open platform to discuss a subgenre of rock music with a tenuous definition.

Hundreds of musicians, poets and designers from the NDE group sent music and artwork after Lindholm posted a modest request for contributions to a charity benefit compilation.

"I was blown away by the talent level," Lindholm said, who received everything from hopeful bedroom recordings to glossy tracks from established emo

bands like Aviator and The Hotelier.

Thus far, the six-volume compilation posted on the group's Bandcamp.com page only months ago has raised about \$500 to benefit the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

Yet the spark that ignited this effort was something of an accident.

Lindholm became a father last summer and began browsing Facebook to find groups for new dads. He discovered a group called Twinkle Daddies, made for fans of the emo subgenre involving "twinkle"-style electric guitar playing, which had nothing at all to do with parenting.

"I didn't know emo was a thing," Lindholm admits. "Out of curiosity I started listening to the



NDE's diversity is evidenced by the involvement of such groups as Valley-based Papertowns.

bands."

A longtime fan of pop punk, he said he found solace in the emotionally unrestrained style of emo.

"I've always had a sadness about the way of the world," he said, "and music has kept me going."

He joined several other emo fan groups but disliked the trash talk, acrimonious one-upsmanship and, most discouraging of all, the narrow parameters enforced for "authentic" emo music.

While it is widely accepted that the genre name originated with aggressive yet lyrically vulnerable "emotional hardcore" punk bands from the 1990s like Braid and Mineral, the tag has been applied quite liberally after being adopted into common rock discourse.

A metalcore band with a wistful lead singer could be emo, as could an acoustic folkie who uses a certain high-pitched inflection or romantically fraught lyrics.

Lindholm founded Non-Denominational Emo to embrace this big tent. If an artist says the music they make is emo, Lindholm sees no reason to browbeat them over it.

"They're doing it because they love it," he said.

The sonic diversity of NDE is evident even just among the Arizona bands on the compilations. Tempe's Sundressed contributed a song featuring uplifting chord progressions and to-the-heavens gang vocals, while Phoenix's Papertowns delivered a morose track with desolate guitar leads and downtrodden screams.

The group has amassed nearly 1,300 members since its launch last September and Lindholm has big plans. In addition to more charity compilations and a crowd-sourced cookbook, he is currently partnering with the MSM Music Festival in Indiana to showcase NDE bands, and he hopes to solidify the group as a non-profit organization once he completes his accounting degree.

But for now, bands are forming, setting up tours, securing studio time and building fan bases, all under the NDE umbrella.

"There's a mutual understanding that if you meet someone in the group, they're going to be a very chill person to work with," Lindholm said.

Emo hair-splitting is also at a minimum. An NDE member recently posted a song by legendarily fraught and heartbroken British pop band The Smiths.

"Can we agree they were the first emo band?" the poster had asked, before immediately backpedaling.

"Actually, that is going to be a really annoying conversation," they recanted.



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Drs. Roxane Huber, left, and Stacy Tracy have created an environment that combines advanced technology with an at-home feeling.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

By Joyce Coronel

From the moment you walk in the door, it's clear that Tempe Smile Design is more like a visit to a friend's home than a dental office.

There's a scented candle flickering, for one thing. Then there's the refrigerator stocked with ice cold water bottles and the generous array of coffee flavors to sip while awaiting treatment.

Dr. Stacy Tracy and Dr. Roxane Huber, the two women dentists who run the place, want their office to feel more like home than a clinic. They've been in practice together nine years.

Stacked stone and rich brown and olive hues as well as plush carpeting lend a soothing atmosphere to the Tempe office.

"Having an all-female office is huge," Tracy said.

"Men expect women dentists are going to be more

gentle. It's the hand thing — our hands are a lot smaller overall than men."

The entire staff wears color-coordinated scrubs. "People feel freaked out with the white coat," Tracy chuckled.

There are no eerie strains of Muzak playing in the background at Tempe Smile Design either. Instead, patients get to choose from entertainment options.

"While we are doing a patient's treatment, they can watch movies or television or listen to whatever music they want to listen to," Huber said.

"They don't have to listen to the sounds of our instruments."

Almost everybody opts for entertainment, including NetFlix and Pandora Radio.

"It works great with kids," Tracy said.

"I had a 5-year-old in yesterday and she didn't even feel it when I gave her the shot."

Some of their patients come with baggage, Tracy noted. They've long dreaded a visit to the dentist and feel mortified about the state of their teeth. Nicole Sartain can relate to that.

"I pretty much didn't go to the dentist between the ages of 15 and 22. I was just horrified and my family didn't have insurance," Sartain said.

Ten years ago, a boyfriend finally managed to convince her to seek care. Sartain turned to Tracy.

"I was so embarrassed. I was crying when they did the exam but she was very reassuring and told me, 'It's not as bad as it seems,'" Sartain said.

"The laundry list was really long but she tackled one thing at a time."

Even though she now lives in Fountain Hills, Sartain makes the drive to Tempe in order to

Sports . . . Aztecs face perennial foe



Sam Schultz: Clearing 6'6": High hopes for a successful season.

By Alex Zener
Photos by Billy Hardiman

Corona's boys track team hopes to defend its DI State Championship this spring, returning 120 competitors out of the current 200 participating in track and field this season. But heavy competition may await from perennial favorite Desert Vista.

"Our goal this season is to repeat on the boys side and to return to the top three for the girls team," said head coach **Tim Kelly**.

"The kids worked so hard in the preseason and had such a great attitude that the girls team is also pushing to get the team to another level and shoot for a championship as well."

Last year's team was special, according to Kelly, but this year's has its own personality and identity which have made them fun to coach.

"There is an air of excitement about what we think we can do this season," said Kelly. "We have a strong team this year with so many contributors in so many of the areas and events."

Both teams have done well in the first two major

meets with the boys team finishing second to Desert Vista at the Aztec Invitational held at Corona on March 6 and taking first place at the Husky Invitation held at Horizon High School March 14.

On the boys team, Kelly expects great things from several athletes including **Marcus Wheeler, Alex Hart, Andrew Eversden, Slade Summers, Colt Sample and Tyler Thompson** in the distance events.

So far so good for Wheeler, who took first in the 3200 meters while Hart was fourth at the Aztec Invitational. Wheeler also finished fourth in the same meet at 1600 meters, while **Graham Eversden** placed fifth in the 800 meters.

At the Husky Invitational, Wheeler stayed true to form taking both the 1600 meters and the 3200 meters just ahead of Aldo Marquez from Gila Ridge in both events.

In the shorter distances or sprinting events, Kelly has targeted **Jalen Bryant, Jamaree Johnson and Sascha Delzeph** to perform well as the season progresses.

Bryant has been the top finisher for Corona in the

100 meters, including taking sixth place in both the Aztec and Husky Invitational while **Joshua Onwordi** placed second in the 200 meters at the Husky Invitational.

Brothers **Diego and Carlos Parra** along with **Tyler Stehr and Austin Hornbaker** were predicted by Kelly to run the hurdles for Corona.

Stehr recorded the fastest time in the 300 meter hurdles at both the Aztec and Husky Invitational, while Carlos Parra came in sixth at the Aztec and eighth at Husky.

In the 110 meter hurdles, Stehr again led the Aztec hurdlers, finishing in third place while Parra was eighth and Hornbaker 10th at the Aztec Invitational and all three finished in the top five at the Husky.

Corona has steadily improved in the field events over the past few years, according to Kelly.

Athletes predicted by Kelly to continue earning points for the Aztecs include **Mitch Warnock, Hunter Sample, Dakota Summers** in the long and triple jump, **Akash Patel, Matt Fick, Pat Bjotvedt** and **Tanner Millyard** in the discus and shot put events, while **Sam Schultz, Onwordi** and

e DV as season unfolds

Collin Freeland prove Corona has expanded its competitiveness in the high jump and pole vault events.

Schultz has led the way by taking first place in the high jump, clearing 6'6" at the Aztec Invitational and 6'7" at the Husky Invitational.

Summers jumped 42-02 in the triple jump finals to take second at the Husky Invitational, while Tanner Millyard hit 42-11 in the shot put.

Corona has always been strong in the 4x800 relay and it continued that tradition when **Daniel Bish**, Eversden, **Colt Sample** and **Jamaree Johnson** won at the Aztec Invitational.

Newcomers to the boys team expected to help Corona improve over the season include **Josh Whitney**, **Sean Freeland**, **Griffin Monfette-Baker** and **Adam Knuff**.

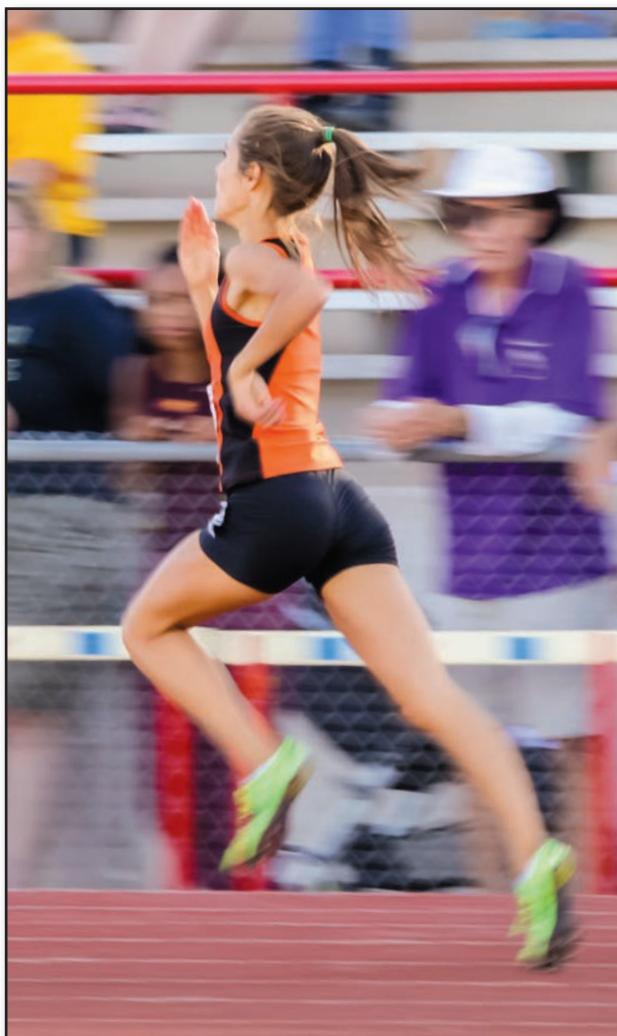
The girls team started the season by placing fourth at the Aztec invitational and fifth at the Husky.

The girls team should expect to see points won and improvement over the season from **Alexis Artiaga**, **Sydney Bussler**, **McKenzie Harder**, **Kelly Naumann** and **Amberly Ricks** in the distance races and **Melissa Hayhust**, **Matty Holly**, **Jackie Martin**, **Renee Clary**, **Izzy Cartegena**, **Simone Firestone**, **Brook Frahm** and **Kylie McClosky** in the shorter races and hurdles according to Kelly.

Martin did not disappoint by starting the season, taking second in the 100 meters at the Husky Invitational and third in the 400 meters at the Aztec Invitational, while Clary crossed the finish line in the 800 meters race second at the Husky and third at the Aztec Invitational.

Naumann, perhaps Corona's most experienced distance runner, placed first in the 3200 meters at the Husky and took third in the same event at the Aztec Invitational. Naumann ran the 1600 meters for a second place finish at the Aztec as well.

Lauren Hightower and **Maggie Reid** will participate for Corona in the jumping events while



Jackie Martin

Emily Ferreira is competing in the throwing events.

Newcomers that Kelly is expecting to give Corona their best effort over the season are **Anna-Isabelle Peracini** and **Riley** and **Josie Wright**.

Both Peracini and Josie Wright showed they belonged on the team when both finished in the top six places in the pole vault event at the Aztec and Husky invitionals.

"We have a great group of seniors and juniors committed to carrying on the winning tradition we have tried to establish over the past few year," said Kelly. "In addition, we have sophomores and freshmen fitting into roles and getting better every week. Many will be participating on varsity before the season is over."

"Our goals include continuing to build commitment, character and champions on and off the track, winning the City meet for both the boys and girls teams and giving the kids a great experience."

The Aztecs were scheduled to participate in a freshman/JV dual meet at Desert Vista on March 17 before the highly competitive Chandler Rotary meet March 20-21.

Marcos de Niza Track — The Padres 4x100 relay team of **Malique Sharp**, **Marcus Maldonado**, **Shaun Richards** and **Carter Lindsay** took third place with a time of 43.61 at the Aztec Invitational on March 6.

Teammate **Marcus Naisant** tied for ninth after clearing 5'10" in the high jump event.

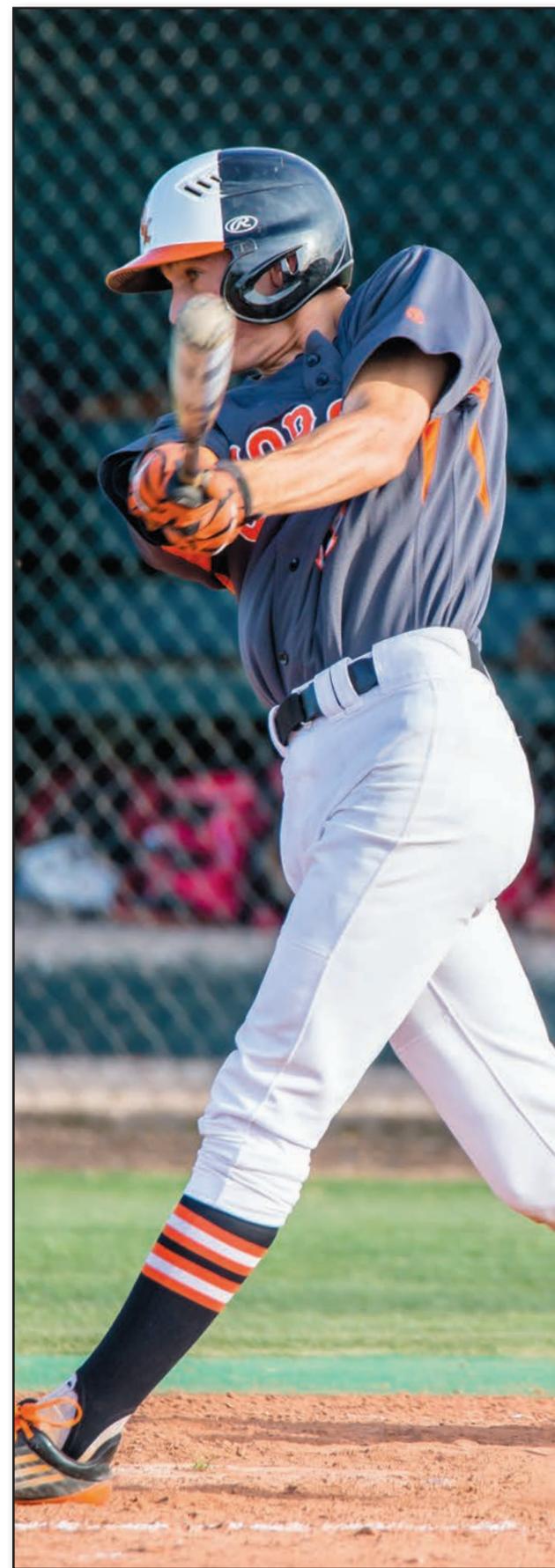
Corona Baseball — The Aztecs are off to a great start this season winning seven out of their first eight games scoring 77 runs to their opponents 21 after going 18-11 last season.

Tenth-year head coach **Dave Webb** feels pitching is his team's greatest strength, especially since Corona is returning three pitchers with experience from last season's team—**Matt Asta**, **Connor McCord** and **Eric Schwalbe**.

Asta, the key relief pitcher last year, according to Webb, also starts as catcher while McCord, who will anchor the number two starter spot and hit second in the lineup, also plays first base.

"Schwalbe will be the ace pitcher this year," said Webb. "He had a 1.4 era in 44 innings pitched last year and has signed with South Mountain Community College for next season."

Starting in center outfield for the Aztecs is junior



Ryan Novis

Ryan Novis who gained varsity experience when he started about half of the games last year according to Webb.

Senior **Damon DeVirgilio**, a tough gritty player, according to Webb, is the starter at second base again this season.

Sports

From Page 17

Other seniors on the team include **Sawyer Bessler, Matt Weston, Thomas Dawson, Kyle Coggins** and **Atreya Tadepalli**.

Tadepalli, a left-handed pitcher for the Aztecs is in line to be one of Corona's graduating valedictorians



Atreya Tadepalli

according to Webb.

Junior **Price Barrett** is expected by Webb to contribute to the team success in the infield.

Other juniors on the team include **David Minder, Liam Stills** and **Austin Treese**.

Quinn Flanagan, a hard-throwing right-handed pitcher with a huge upside to his game, according to Webb, is one of the seven sophomores on this season's team as is **Chase Hamilton**, who is expected to play shortstop.

The Aztecs' weakness this season may be its youth, according to Webb, who has five additional sophomores on the team: **Brandon Bracy, Jacob Goodwin, Gehrig Sanchez, Jacob Clemens** and **Christian Slater**.

Corona was expected to play at Red Mountain March 21, in the Arizona High School Invitational March 23-25, against Chaparral March 28 and round out the month against Mesquite on March 31.

Marcos de Niza Baseball

— The Padres, 3-6, are led by junior **Giovanni Nieves** who is hitting .474 while at bat 19 times, getting nine runs scored on nine hits with four RBIs and two homeruns. He has been getting on base 62% of the time he has been up to bat.

He is followed by **Max L'Heureux**, hitting .458 with four runs on 11 hits and seven RBIs, and

Robert Ramos hitting .409 with seven runs on nine hits with four RBIs.

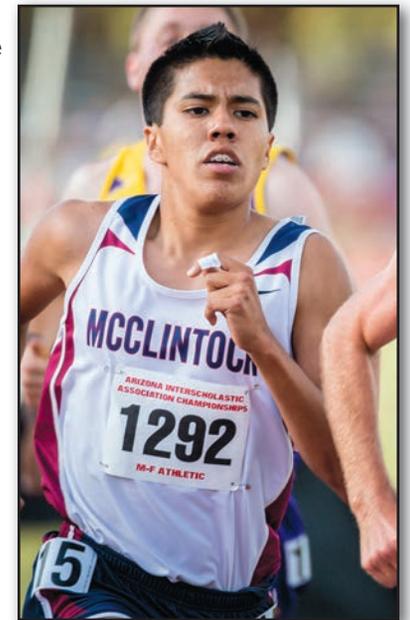
Freshman **Nick Leach** is seven for seven in stolen base attempts and is leading the team, while **Qudar Njuguna** has struck out eight batters pitching in seven innings followed by **Drew Johnson**, who has struck out six batters in only three innings.

The Padres were scheduled to play at Maricopa on March 17, at home against Campo Verde on March 18 and at Saguro on March 20.

The next two games are scheduled March 23 at Coronado and March 24 at McClintock before two home games, March 26 against South Mountain and March 30 against Higley.

McClintock

Track — Emmanuel Hidalgo competed for the Chargers at the Aztec Invitational in the distance running events, taking fourth place in the 800 meters and fifth place in the 1600 meters races.



Emmanuel Hidalgo

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Dentists

From Page 15

continue under Tracy's care.

"I'm really happy with her. I won't go anywhere else," Sartain said. Still, it's more than just comfort Stacy and Huber offer. They've also got high-tech tools to offer: lasers.

"The main benefit with the laser is you can do surgical procedures without a scalpel and without stitches," Huber said.

They use a hard-tissue laser for certain surgeries that require removal of bone. "There's less swelling, pain and discomfort and faster recovery with the laser," Huber said.

Before having the laser, they had to use a drill and bur for procedures.

"The laser is quieter — it's not loud like the drill," Tracy said.

Helping patients feel better about their smile is one of the dentists' primary aims.

"We think people feel better if their teeth are nice," Tracy said. And whether it's fixing broken teeth or using Invisalign braces to straighten them, the two dentists say their practice is an artistic endeavor.

"It's fixing what's broken but it is artistry," Huber said. "You have to have an eye for it," Stacy added.

"We want them to walk out of here being proud to smile again."



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Race proceeds benefit the Trees for Tempe program. By participating in the 5K you can help reconstruct Tempe's urban forest.

MORE: ArborDay5K.com

City, zoo launch waste collaborative

Animals, trash bins and dinner — what could they possibly have in common?

The city of Tempe and Phoenix Zoo have joined forces to help close the zoo's green-waste loop with a new recycling partnership. Tempe's solid-waste team will collect a significant portion of the zoo's tree trimmings, turning the material into nutrient-rich compost, thus keeping it out of the landfill.

"The Phoenix Zoo, part of the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation, is proud to be partnering with Tempe to help reduce the amount of waste going into local landfills," said Bert Castro, president and CEO of the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation and Phoenix Zoo.

Tempe Solid Waste Manager Tony Miano had similar praise for the venture.

"Tempe is committed to building community partnerships that will help close the recycling loop through our Green Organics program," he said.

The city's collaboration with Phoenix Zoo is an example of how thinking outside the box can have a significant environmental impact."

Tempe and zoo staff estimate 20 tons of green organics will be collected

and diverted from the landfill each month, which is equivalent to reducing 17 metric tons of emissions—the equivalent to 45 cars being kept off the road. More than 140 barrels of oil are saved in the process, studies show.

Many of the animals at the zoo already receive the advantage of portions of Tempe's green material before it is composted.

Zoo officials make regular trips to the city's compost yard to search for fresh items that comply with standards of the zoo's browse program.

The reclaimed materials are brought back to the zoo and used to help feed some of the animals or to provide bedding and nesting material.

Along with composting and reducing waste, the zoo has been able to save more than 20 million gallons of water over the last two years through water conservation efforts, zoo officials said.

Many of the zoo's newly constructed buildings also utilize renewable or recycled materials.

Information about the zoo's green initiatives and on what's needed to begin "going green" in your own home is available at phoenixzoo.org/green-initiatives.

— *Melissa Quillard*

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An 'Ultimate' challenge



Cover Story

It was, in a word, the “Ultimate” opportunity for 300-plus kids in area-wide Kyrene schools to compete in a sport that requires no more than a quick wrist and an agile step. It was the annual Ultimate challenge — spinning a round, plastic disc once universally referred to (like Kleenex and Jello) by its best-known name, the Frisbee. Marketed for many years by Wham-o after being invented in the 1950s by Fred Morrison, the ubiquitous saucer became a household word until, as its name proliferated, its trademark came under threat. Thus was born the “Ultimate” challenge, along with a way for kids to turn a toy into what may become, as has the UK’s rugby, our national sport of choice. Heading up this year’s contests was coach Gavin Martin, assisted by Terri Rodriguez. Next up in the schedule of not-so-rough-and-tumble contests: Capture the Flag. On your marks, get set...

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



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- Food, Drinks, Arts & Crafts Fair
- Beer & Wine Garden sponsored by the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership at the Main Stage
4:30-9:30 pm on Friday and Noon-9:30 pm on Sat.
- New Orleans Square presented by the Arizona Classic Jazz Society
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Realtor family takes to the airwaves as part of strategy to create better-informed buyers, sellers

Carol Royse and her adult children, Vikki Middlebrook and Tim Evans, put on their headphones and leaned into the microphones. “The Real Estate Radio Arizona Show” was seconds away.

Airing Saturday mornings at 9 on 1510 AM “Money Radio,” the new weekly program is hosted by a family-owned business that’s been helping other families navigate the intricacies of home buying and selling for more than 20 years.

“We are absolutely passionate about bringing high-quality service to buyers and sellers throughout Arizona. It’s why I have my adult children involved with me and even other family members,” Royse said.

The radio show, she added, is an effort to provide education about the local real estate market.

“So much of the information that you read — it’s national information, so it doesn’t really apply (to this area),” Royse said.

During the March 14 broadcast, for example, Middlebrook reported on an uptick in luxury home sales.

“Most people think that, ‘Oh, the luxury market is dead,’ but when Vikki brings information like that, it’s absolutely factual about our Maricopa County real estate market,” Royse said.

“And when the luxury market is moving, the other markets are also moving,” Middlebrook chimed in.

The new, hour-long radio program also features appearances by such guests as Mary Contreras, whose State Farm Insurance agency in south Tempe has been part of the local scene for over 20 years.

Calling herself a longtime friend and admirer of Royse’s business acumen, Contreras offered some of her own thoughts on how to make the most of home ownership.

Among her top pieces of advice: Insofar as insurance is concerned, go with higher deductibles, since the average homeowner makes claims only about once every 18 years.

“Higher deductibles will reduce your annual cost of insurance,” Contreras told listeners.

On a definitely more modest scale, she added, it’s advisable to replace the hoses on washing machines every three years—something she says many people may not know and that could prevent catastrophic water damage inside the home.

The weekly show, broadcast from Money Radio’s studio in north Scottsdale, features a variety of guests such as Jake Ulrich and Joe Arsenault, founders of Arbor Retirement Solutions, who offered financial planning tips on the same program.

As the minutes in the hour-long show ticked along, it began to feel like those offering counsel were simply old friends getting together, not the often-heard “experts” offering advice from afar to an unseen, unknown audience. And that, as it turns out,



Carol Royse, left, daughter Vikki.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

is for good reason.

The Royse team has been in business so long that they have been involved with three generations of some families. They’ve even sold the same homes multiple times.

“Home buying should be a joy. And that’s the key,” son Evans said.

Royse agreed, adding her own view:

“It’s not just another sale for us. It’s a family—it’s a relationship.” Again, Evans was quick to expand the thought. “It’s one house at a time and one relationship at a time. That’s what this business was built on.”

Concluded Royse: “We want our buyers and sellers to have a great feeling all the way through the transaction, and we’re very committed to customer service.” More info: carolroyse.com; marycontreras.com

— By Joyce Coronel

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APS and Good Works Auto Repair Receive Business Excellence Awards

On Thursday, February 26, members of the business community gathered at the Embassy Suites in Tempe to honor companies who have a proven record of success and growth, community involvement, dedication to employees, leadership, reliability and commitment to customer service at the first annual Beacon Awards.

Good Works Auto Repair was named the Small Business of the Year and APS was named the Large Business of the Year.

The other finalists for the Business Excellence Awards were: here on the corner, University Animal Hospital, JE Dunn Construction and TruWest Credit Union.

The Beacon Awards also introduced the Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year award, which was presented to All About Compression. The two runner-up finalists for the award were Biostress Imagery and Ping! Development.

For more information about the Beacon Awards and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.tempechamber.org.

Community Members Recognized for Spirit and Leadership

Pat Warren, pictured right with Mayor Mark Mitchell, was presented with the Spirit of Tempe Award by Tempe Chamber of Commerce in February, 2015. The award recognizes lifetime achievements of service, dedication and contribution to the community and honors hard work and strong commitment to improving the quality of life in Tempe.



Tempe Leadership presented its highest honor, the Outstanding Community Leader Award, to Mike Jennings, pictured left with Hollie Costello, at the Tempe Chamber of Commerce's Beacon Awards. The award is an annual distinction awarded to Tempe Leadership graduates that have displayed outstanding leadership in the Tempe community.



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Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell shares his perspective on the social and economic climate of Tempe at this special luncheon. He will discuss the present business environment and share his vision for the growth and future of the city. The public and business community are welcome to attend.



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— Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary School District

Commentary: Tempe voters pave the way for 1-to-1 computer initiative

By Kristine Jennings

The benefits of a supportive community come in many forms...or bytes. Thanks to Tempe voters approving a capital budget override in 2014, Tempe Elementary middle school students will begin a one-to-one computer initiative this fall.

The program will provide Chromebooks to all incoming sixth-grade students for the 2015-2016 school year and to each sixth grade class in subsequent years. This includes students at Connolly Middle School, Fees College Prep, Gililand Middle School, Laird School, and Ward Traditional Academy.

Tempe Academy of International Studies students

have been using Chromebooks since the school opened in 2013.

Ten classrooms across the district have been piloting the program since January. Approximately 200 Chromebooks have been used to study subjects like math, science, social studies, and English language arts.

A special education class is also piloting the program. When school starts in August, more than 1,200 Chromebooks will be used by students in every class throughout the day.

Teachers say they're excited about the learning opportunities the Chromebooks offer.

— OVERRIDE , Page 27



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News & notes

Longtime Tempe residents Craig Roth, Cody Roth and Caily Watt will open **Elements Massage** in The College Park shopping center at the northwest corner of Baseline and Rural roads. Elements is offering pre-opening special rates for those who book before the grand opening on March 28. Information: 480-397-0701

One Stop Fitness of Tempe will be hosting Dance (Cardio) Night-out on Saturday, April 4 from 7 to 9 p.m.. A drop-in fee of \$5 will allow you to try out some new moves to add to your cardio routines. One Stop Fitness is located at the northwest corner of Elliot and McClintock. Information: 1stop-fitness.com or 480-831-7867

Are you looking for ways to communicate better with your child? Do you want to know more about teen drug trends or how to help an anxious child? Would your child like to learn what their personality style is?

Maybe enjoy popcorn and a movie or explore LEGO robotics?

These are just a few of the offerings for adults and kids at the Spring 2015 **Kyrene Parent Summit** scheduled for Thursday, March 26 from 4:45 to 8 p.m. at Centennial Middle School, 13808 S. 36th St., Phoenix.

The evening will provide an opportunity to attend two class offerings of your choice and for your child, choice of childcare or class/activity options. Cost to attend is only \$5 per adult, and it includes dinner, a vendor fair and your class offerings/childcare.

Registration and more information is available at Eventbrite—Kyrene Parent Summit.

Tempe Center for the Arts will be the host site for a healthcare job fair from noon to 2 p.m. Monday, April 13.

The event is being held in response from statistics released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which say that healthcare support jobs will see the biggest growth, 28.1 percent, through 2022.

The next largest group, with 21.5 percent growth projected, includes healthcare practitioners and technical occupations

Among support jobs predicted for growth are home health aides, psychiatric aides, nursing assistants, orderlies, pharmacy aides, phlebotomists and medical-equipment preparers.

Among practitioners and those in technical occupations, the growth projection includes doctors, nurses and dentists; physical, occupational, radiation, recreational, speech and respiratory therapists; veterinarians and vet technicians; medical records and health-information technicians; genetic counselors; athletic trainers; and occupational health and safety specialists
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Override

From Page 25

"I've noticed the Chromebooks have had a very positive impact in the classroom," said Daron

Gonzales, sixth grade teacher at Gililland. "The students are a lot more engaged; they are excited to use them every day.

"It's something they are very familiar with so they aren't afraid to use them."

Preparation for the program has been ongoing, and includes extensive teacher training. Every teacher who works with sixth graders has the opportunity to attend a half-day training on Chromebook features, including how to use Google Drive, Google Sheets, Google Calendar, presentation tools, add-ons and more.

The training provides teachers the time to develop skills and increase confidence and competency before all students have the devices this fall.

"The Chromebooks are easy to use – and fast," said Kori Platts, science teacher at Connolly.

"The level of student motivation has increased task engagement and work completion. Even when students don't know what to do or how to do it, they don't give up. They are willing to figure it out. The ability to problem solve so easily has given them

confidence."

"Chromebooks have allowed my students and I to create a completely paperless classroom," said eanna Springer, English language learning teacher at Connolly.

"We use many digital resources, including the online HRW textbook, Edmodo, Google, Wixie, as well as the NewsELA website. I am amazed at what my students are able to accomplish every day."

Students will use their Google accounts to work together on assignments in all areas of the curriculum, with tools offered through Google Apps for Education.

"One of the many benefits of using Chromebooks is collaboration," said Michelle Polito, English language arts and science teacher at Laird School.

"In writing, students can peer edit easily by sharing their work using Google Docs. I am able to see what feedback the students are giving each other. In science, students are able to work efficiently at the same time in the same slide presentation.

"They can assign each other different slides to work on and check their group members' work. I can also have students share documents or slide presentations with me and I can see the history of the document. This allows me to track progress and make sure students are using their time effectively."

Another aspect of the initiative includes extra support for teachers in the classroom.

Middle schools will have an education technology integration coach on-site to provide guidance and technical assistance on Chromebook use.

Coaches will guide the implementation of the program and support eachers in the development of integrating technology within their lessons, including modeling, providing on-site training, offering catalog classes, and developing lesson plans.

The ultimate goal of this program is to equip students with 21st century skills in order to be college and career ready.

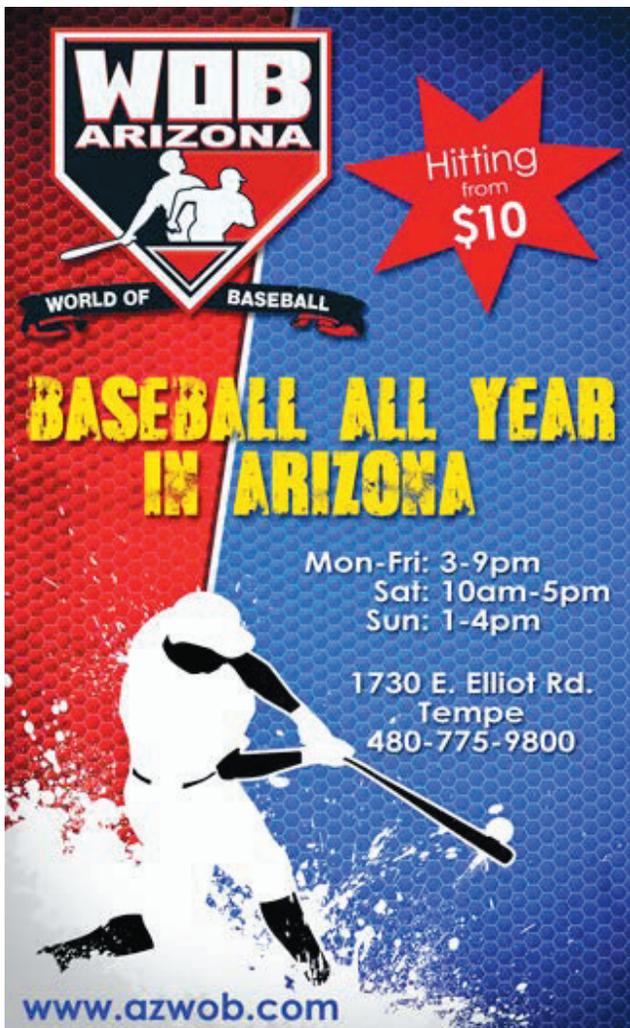
"I am very excited about this opportunity," said Jennifer Kaupke, educational technology instructional coach.

"I feel the students and staff will be challenged and inspired with the thought of lessons and learning taking on a whole new dimension."

Cindy Inman, educational technology professional development specialist, clearly sees this type of learning extending beyond the middle school years.

"Higher level thinking skills can be accomplished through Chromebook technology, and students will be able to use these skills and benefit from them for the rest of their lives."

Kristine Jennings is marketing coordinator in the Community Affairs and Marketing department of Tempe Elementary School District No. 3.



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The Last Word

Reflections on public education in Arizona

By Ross Robb

The results are in on another budget season in Arizona and it seems that there were again more losers than winners.

The guiding principle of 'living within our means' prevailed. While this seems like a prudent 2015-2016 budget strategy, I wonder how much longer we can rely on an Arizona economy built on 'limited means' before the consequences of this strategy become irreparable?

As someone who is very familiar with all the varieties of public education operating in Arizona, I am troubled by the economic direction our state is headed as I search for any evidence that Arizona's economic fortunes can or will ever significantly improve.

My specific concern is rooted in the relationship between student success, an educated workforce and our long term economic prosperity. What can we do?



We need an Arizona Economic Plan that is based in Education — If we are to live within our means and those means are primarily derived from tax revenues, how will we ever increase those revenues with an undereducated

and non-competitive work force? Nice weather and low corporate tax rates are only some of the factors that attract business and economic benefit to Arizona. During the recent recession, in addition to cutting expenses, we prudently used limited cash

reserves in the Kyrene district to subsidize our decreasing revenues in an attempt to maintain educational quality. Now, even in an improving economic environment, reserves are depleted and there is no sign of meaningful increased funding on the horizon.

We must dispel myths about Public Education that distract us from the real issues — In public education the majority of the annual operating budget is spent on people. The balance of the budget is spent on facilities, utilities, transportation and supplies.

When we cut budgets in education, as we have in recent years, we are almost always talking about cutting people which results in larger class sizes (less individualized attention for students), fewer program sections (a narrower educational experience) and lesser student achievement outcomes.

The outcry that we must spend more money 'in the classroom' to improve public education is no longer valid. Budget cuts over the past several years have taken excesses out of the system.

I wonder how many of those who cry for more money in the classroom really understand the duties of the people that provide 'outside the classroom' services and how these individuals serve students and promote achievement.

The Public Education Community in Arizona must stand together and make their case — The ongoing budgetary arguments of those who seek to save funding for their own sector of Arizona public education (Higher Ed vs.

Traditional K-12 vs. Charters) take the spotlight off of the greater crisis.

There is a K-20 crisis in this state that is evidenced by static student achievement, by a socio-economic based achievement gap, by the increasing cost of post-secondary education and by a salary structure that does not promote the attraction and retention of career teachers.

Until all in public education stand together and make our case in a compelling manner for adequate funding, we will all lose. The environment where we compete among ourselves for budgetary public education 'crumbs' does not advance us, it diminishes us.

Arizona is a state of huge advantages that we are not fully realizing. An educated and innovative workforce stands between the Arizona we are and the Arizona we can be.

Until all Arizonans can come together and conceive and implement a plan that provides greater financial means, we are doomed to a future of diminishing means, diminishing expectations and diminishing results.

Being Americans and being Arizonans no longer assures success. Now is the time to stand together to build a strong economic foundation for Arizona and it starts with a long-lasting commitment to all students served by Arizona public education.

— Ross Robb is president of the Kyrene School District Governing Board.



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