

Wrangler NEWS

'The Valley's Best Community Newspaper'

April 16 - May 7, 2016 • Volume 27, No.8



Looking for ways to keep those vacationing kiddos busy for the summer? Check out our listing of activities being planned by area schools, organizations and churches. Pages 15-18



Steve's Espresso, a hangout for local coffee lovers the last dozen years, has added an expanded menu, longer hours plus cocktails for those looking for a welcome alternative to that 'other place.'

Inside



Hospital brings renown to area's kid-centric urgent care facility

Spring is upon us here in South Tempe and West Chandler, and for many families, that brings both joy and pain. As area children hop on their bikes and play outdoors, many are suffering from allergies. Others get injured or catch one of the many respiratory illnesses going around.

Theresa Murdock, an emergency room pediatrician who lives in West Chandler, has worked

at Phoenix Children's Hospital for 14 years. When PCH opened its East Valley urgent care and specialty clinic in 2012, the mother of three began putting in shifts there as well.

The rooms at the clinic are brightly painted and the atmosphere is kid friendly, helping set children's minds at ease in what might otherwise be a frightening environment.

Pointing to the specialized care little ones and youngsters receive at the East Valley site, Murdock noted that it's best to bring smaller patients to a place that's suited just for them. Children aren't miniature adults, after all.

"I always say, you bring your vacuum to the

— HOSPITAL, Page 26



Entrepreneur Michael Pollock pays tribute to one of his many passions in his corporate offices, which overflow with memorabilia.

Pollack discount cinemas a trivia lover's dream come true

By M.V. Moorhead

"Before owning and operating a movie theater, I knew very little about the movie theater business," says Michael Pollack.

Like most moviegoers he knew how to buy a ticket; he knew how to buy a box of popcorn; how to sit back and enjoy the lights and sounds of the big screen coming to life before his eyes—which amounts to limited experience

with which to run a neighborhood discount theater.

Even so, back around 2000, Pollack, a well-known area real estate developer and philanthropist, decided to try his hand as a movie exhibitor.

A decade and a half later, his theater is an East Valley institution.

Partly, of course, this is because you can still see a movie

there for just \$3—a good deal if you're going by yourself and a really good deal if you're taking a date, or maybe a family of four or five, and you'd like to buy some popcorn and drinks.

But the appeal of Tempe Cinema isn't just the price. No movie theater in the Valley is as offbeat, as much fun to visit, as

— POLLACK, Page 31

'Amazing' 13-year-old scores a save with the best play of his life

By Joyce Coronel

Nathan Boyer, a student at West Chandler's Aprende Middle School, is crazy about baseball. He's been playing since he was 3. "I love everything about it," he says with a grin.

Two years ago, after the family moved back to Arizona, Nathan played for a team coached by Isaac Wenrich, a baseball fanatic himself.

Wenrich, 26, thinks Nathan is an amazing kid. And not just because he rocks at second base. Nathan saved Wenrich's life.

A couple of weeks ago, Nathan's mom, Julie, dropped him off at Desert Breeze Park for a coaching session with Wenrich.

"We were going to do a baseball lesson and Coach Wenrich said his chest hurt," Nathan recalled. "He said he slammed some food down and thought maybe he had some indigestion."

Julie nodded in agreement. "He said that to me when he got out of the car, but when you're looking at a 26-year-old athlete, you're not thinking anything will come of that."

After Wenrich assured Julie that he was fine, she drove off. He was sitting on the big bucket of balls baseball coaches tote with them, texting



Coach W., Nathan

—AMAZING, Page 18

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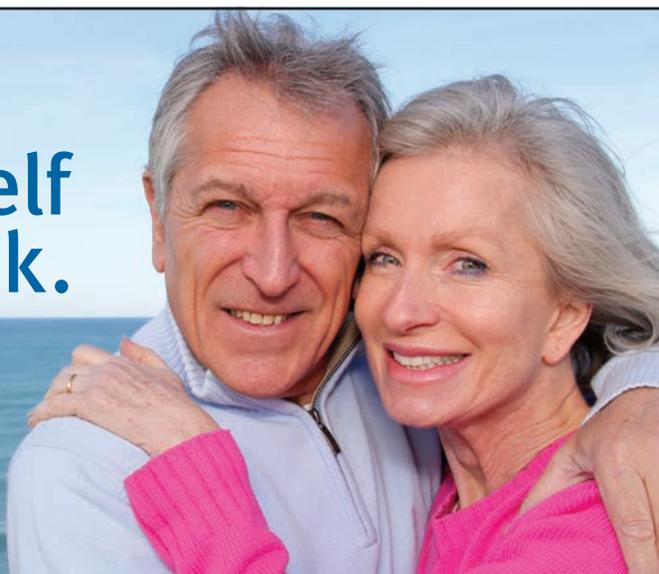
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Veteran educator offered position as Kyrene schools superintendent

Dr. Jan Vesely, a deputy/assistant superintendent in Tucson's Sunnyside School District and a veteran educator, has been offered a contract to succeed Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David Schauer, who retired following 20 years with the district.

Schauer vacated the office March 17, using accumulated vacation and other compensatory time to depart earlier than his announced June 30 formal departure.

In a statement issued April 10, Kyrene Board President Bernadette Coggins said it is anticipated that Vesely will accept the offer, terms of which will be negotiated, at an April 26 board meeting and start in the new job on July 1.

The 5-0 vote came during a special meeting April 7.

During Vesely's tenure in Tucson, she was said to have led continuous improvement of the district's Pre-K-12 curriculum, instruction, professional learning and assessment programs. Previously she held the positions of senior vice president for Pearson School Achievement Services and vice president for education services at Edison Learning.

Pearson provides contractual school-improvement guidance along with recommendations for school turnaround; Edison offers data analysis to help its clients monitor student progress and to develop strategies designed to help enhance principals' professional abilities.

Her education career includes serving as a principal and principal supervisor in the Tucson Unified School District, and teacher and department chair in the Amphitheater Unified School District, also in Tucson.

Since Schauer announced his retirement last year, the Governing Board has worked with the firm of McPherson & Jacobson L.L.C. to assist in the recruitment and vetting of candidates.

Feedback received during the hiring process, which started late last year, was used by the Board in providing context to its deliberations and discussions on which candidate would be the best fit for Kyrene, according to Coggins.

Of the 31 applications submitted, the board selected eight candidates to submit an application and provide



Dr. Jan Vesely

a short video, resume and letters of reference. Four finalists were selected and participated in interviews with the board the week of March 28.

Coggins said the board was impressed with the qualities and experience of the applicants and thanked the finalists for their interest.

She said the board is confident that Vesely has the extensive experience, skills and exceptional leadership qualities to lead Kyrene into the future.

City Council OK's plan for new fire station in S. Tempe

Tempe is moving ahead with plans to construct a fire station in a portion of city-owned Estrada Park on the east side of McClintock Drive a block north of Warner Road.

The proposal, which follows a City Council's request in 2015, is an outcome of studies showing that the station could be built in that location without seriously disrupting activities at the park.

Depending on final design, the playground and one picnic table may or may not require relocation, according to the city report.

The footprint of the new Station 7 would leave intact an existing soccer field and basketball court.

Self-driving cars cruising into Chandler as part of Google U.S. testing program

Have you seen one yet? We have. Quite a mini-eyeful, we'd say. Chandler has been selected by Google as a testing location for its self-driving-car project, the only such site in Arizona.



Four test cars already have hit the city's byways to create a detailed map of area streets as well as to learn more about driving in desert conditions.

"Residents can expect to see more as the company continues to prepare for the unveiling of its self-driving cars," said city spokeswoman Stephanie Romero.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny was elated that Chandler was selected for the summer-long test.

"Google is a perfect fit, adding to the growing list of technology companies doing business in Chandler."

After its Chandler-area start, Google's testing reportedly will expand

to other parts of the Phoenix metro area, making it the fourth location in the country to host a testing program.

Fleets are currently deployed in Mountain View, Calif.; Austin, Texas; and Kirkland, Wash. For more information on how the car works, suggests Romero, residents may visit google.com/selfdrivingcar.

Feedback from area residents on how the cars are driving is also encouraged, along with a comment about how a self-driving car might fit their own needs and lifestyle.

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Fired up Fireballs

Story and photo by Joyce Coronel

Eight young students sat on the floor in a South Tempe home, gathered around a robot they've built that will soon compete in an international contest. Nearby is a large collection of trophies they've won over the last year in various robotics competitions.

Although the students are mostly in middle school, the Atomic Fireballs, as the team has come to be known, competed in the high school division and qualified to compete in the VEX World's Competition being held in Kentucky April 21-23.

Andy Lux, their coach, said the Atomic Fireballs were one of only nine Arizona teams that advanced to the level of

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The kids worked together to build, program and drive their 18-inch cube robot around a 12-by-12-foot field in two-minute matches. This year's challenge, dubbed VEX Nothing But Net, is a game in which four robots compete two-on-two to collect and shoot four-inch diameter foam balls into fixed high and low goals.

Kian Lux, 11, said he enjoys building robots and participating in the competitions. "I like to be versatile, so say I have this robot doing another thing and I want it to throw a baseball — I can just change the robot a little bit to throw the baseball rather than picking something up," he explained.

The kids demonstrated how the robot fires balls into the red net they've got set up in the corner of the spacious family room of the Lux home.

Andy, who has a background in computer programming, said the team has exceeded his expectations for its first year.

"Beginning a VEX team is quite an investment in time, robot parts and knowledge for these kids," he said. "We decided to form a team with a long-range view — basically deciding to compete a few years beyond our age group with the goal of being more competitive down the road."

Seven team members are homeschooled, including Kaelan and Kian Lux, and the eighth attends a local middle school, Aprende.

Half the kids say they plan to be engineers when they grow up. Adriana Baniecki said she hopes to one day design a

Mars Rover with the skills she's picked up in the robotics competition.

Shale Lux, who helps coach the team, said her boys were always interested in playing with Legos when they were younger. "Robotics helps with learning to work as a team," she added.

Katerine Graunke, mother of Jeremy, 12, said her older son is studying mechanical engineering at Arizona State University. "He was just getting into robots when he was in high school," she said. "Robotics has grown exponentially in the last five years. Even this competition itself has grown."

Vex Robotics Competitions is the largest and fastest-growing educational and competitive robotics program in the world. Last year 850 teams representing 27 countries competed in the three-day event.

Throughout the 2015-2016 season, which runs from November through February, the Atomic Fireballs won eight awards, including being a two-time Excellence Award winner for best overall robot program and a two-time winner in Programming Skills.

It's the Programming Skills award that advanced the team to the World Competition in Louisville.

The team is working together to raise \$6,500 to cover entrance fees, robot shipping and spare parts, as well as some team travel expenses.

Atomic Fireballs welcomes individual donations and corporate sponsorships.

Visit the team's GoFundMe site: gofundme.com/atomicfireballs778.

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Local coffee entrepreneur pours his energy into expansion

By Diana Whittle

Loyal patrons of Steve's Espresso in Tempe know they can count on excellent, personalized service and a great cup of java, made by the epicurian French press method.

Of course, Steve's also offers all kinds of made-to-order, blended coffee drinks—lattes, espressos, cappuccinos—along with a wide selection of loose-leaf teas, homemade pastries and cookies.

It's been that way since 2004, when Steve Schmidt opened his one-of-a-kind coffee shop, on the southeast corner of Baseline and McClintock in a strip mall, across the street from the Chapman car dealership.

While in a competitive market niche, with more chain coffee stores opening in the East Valley all the time, Schmidt has managed to retain his customers and has developed a strong base of regulars.

So, he decided he wanted to expand his menu and beverage offerings to become a neighborhood bistro. And, with the support of patrons, he felt it was time to move up to the next level of service.

In fact, some of the new changes to Steve's Espresso were requested by customers.

"Some of our regulars asked if we were ever going to get a liquor license and I thought why not?" said Schmidt.

"Now on the way home, customers can stop by for a glass of their favorite wine, a beer or one of our hand-crafted cocktails."

In addition to an expanded beverage list, the new menu includes sandwiches, salads and desserts.

"All the food is prepared on site by our staff with fresh ingredients," said Schmidt, "and our roasted chicken salad has become very popular."

Schmidt earned a degree in economics and is a graduate of the renowned Thunderbird School of International Business in Glendale. He previously worked as a business consultant in the healthcare industry.

His education and business acumen serve him well, as he regularly studies his business model to

keep it interesting for him and for his customers.

“I like to constantly change things up so that we’re reaching new customers and growing to a new level,” said Schmidt.

Schmidt is a true entrepreneur at heart and enjoys the process of re-inventing his way of doing business and the décor. He made news in 2013 when he decided to discontinue offering wi-fi service. With the change, he also moved out the leather couches and replaced them with wooden tables and chairs.

To him, the new furniture built more community in the shop because “customers actually talk to one another now.”

His friendly wait staff and the relaxed atmosphere of the restaurant create a comfortable place for customers of all ages and backgrounds to linger if time allows—but, they also are sensitive to those customers in a hurry, who need to make a purchase and get out the door quickly.

Currently, Steve’s opens at 5:30 a.m. to catch early risers, along with commuters on their way to work, and remains open until 7 p.m. for drinks and a light supper. To call in an order ahead, the number is 480-777-5373.

Steve’s Espresso, 1801 W. Baseline Road, also maintains a page on Facebook.



Coffee entrepreneur Steve Schmidt with just a few of the tasty treats he offers — with an even wider selection on the way.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

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Session 2

June 14 through June 30

Session 2 Registration: March 1 through June 12

Session I	
△ Algebra 1-2	MA07A
* Algebra 1-2	MA07BM
Algebra 3-4	MA11A
Am/AZ History	SS01A
△ Art & Design	FA02A
Basic Freshman Eng	EN74A
Basic Sophomore	EN75A
Basic Junior English	EN76A
Basic Senior English	EN77A
Basic Phys. World	SC29A
Biology 1-2	SC07A
Chem Physics	SC04A
△ Comp Applications	BU20A
Earth Science	SC23A
Economics	SS04
Basic Financial Math	MA19A
Financial Math	MA48A
△ Freshman English	EN01A
Functions of Math	MA40A
Geometry	MA09A
* Geometry	MA09BM
Health Ed (On Campus)	PE26A
Health Ed (Canvas)	PE26A
Jr. English	EN34A
Phys Ed 1-2	PE06A
Phys Ed 3-4	PE07A
Pre-Calculus	MA13A
Senior English	EN42A
Sophomore English	EN06A
△ Spanish 1-2	FL20A
Spanish 3-4	FL21A
US/AZ Government	SS03
World History/Geo	SS21A

Session II	
△ Algebra 1-2	MA07B
Algebra 3-4	MA11B
AM/AZ History	SS01B
△ Art & Design	FA02B
Basic Freshman Eng	EN74B
Basic Sophomore Eng	EN75B
Basic Junior English	EN76B
Basic Senior English	EN77B
Basic Phys. World	SC29B
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△ Comp Applications	BU20B
Earth Science	SC23B
Economics	SS04
Basic Financial Math	MA19B
Financial Math	MA48B
△ Freshman English	EN01B
Functions of Math	MA40B
Geometry	MA09B
+ Health Ed (On Campus)	PE26B
+ Health Ed (Canvas)	PE26B
Jr. English	EN34B
△ Phys Ed 1-2	PE06B
Phys Ed 3-4	PE07B
Pre-Calculus	MA13B
Senior English	EN42B
Sophomore English	EN06B
△ Spanish 1-2	FL20B
Spanish 3-4	FL21B
US/AZ Government	SS03
World History/Geo	SS21B

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Sports

By Alex Zener

New head VB coach holds optimistic view

The Aztecs' boys volleyball team, with a new head coach, **Geoffrey Horewitch**, are in the midst of region play, hoping to keep their state playoff hopes alive among Division I Arizona High School teams with a 9-7 record as of April 13.

Horewitch, a Corona alumnus, has been coaching the girls junior varsity team the last two years but took over the boys varsity team this spring as well.

"It's been a great learning process for both myself and the team to adjust to my coaching style, but I think we have performed well so far this season," said Horewitch.

"We used the first tournament of the season, the Chandler Wolf Howl, to try different lineups, get our players tournament experience and evaluate each player at different positions," said Horewitch. "Midway through the season we are starting to have the ability to hang with the top teams but still have not learned how to capitalize on others' mistakes to win."

The 14 players on the roster all bring unique skills that are needed for a volleyball team to be successful including athletes who can serve, pass, hit, block and

dig the ball.

Although the ball must go over the net on the serve to start the point, the emphasis over the years has been moved away from starting each point to trying to win as many points as possible on the serve.

"We have been working on our jump serves to start the point on the offensive," said Horewitch. "**Jeff McCain, Ryan Iskandar** and **Chris Davis** are getting better at being aggressively consistent with their jump serve."

"**Antonio Guarino** and **Dion Deguzman** are our float servers," said Horewitch. "They are becoming more proficient every day in getting their serve to drop into the court."

Iskandar leads the team in ace serves with 15 aces, while Guarino and Davis both have 13; **Ryan Pike** has 10; and McCain and **Dallin Days** have 7 each.

"Ryan Pike and Dallin Days are two of the players who have improved the most since the beginning of practice, especially in their passing, serving and blocking," said Horewitch.

Although hitters often get the headlines,

— SPORTS, Page 12

CHALLENGE FC

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& Tempe area players

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- Our club currently has 55+ teams. Our coaches have advanced national coaching licenses.
- Our coaches are VOLUNTEERS. They are here for the kids, and are not motivated by training fees.
- Our rosters are limited in size to ensure quality playing time NOT bench time!
- Regional teams mean practices held on LOCAL fields.



New for 2016-2017 season
Challenge FC welcomes the new United States Soccer Federation development initiatives, which include using birth years to determine divisions.

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Academy Program

U09/2008 Girls & Boys
Mon, May 2, 5:30-7:00pm
Thurs, May 5, 5:30-7:00pm
Tues, May 10, 5:30-7:00pm

U10/2007 Girls & Boys
Mon, May 2, 5:30-7:00pm
Thurs, May 5, 5:30-7:00pm
Tues, May 10, 5:30-7:00pm

U11/2006 Girls & Boys
Tue, May 3, 5:30-7:00pm
Thurs, May 5, 5:30-7:00pm
Mon, May 9, 6:00-7:30pm

U12/2005 Girls & Boys
Mon, May 2, 5:30-7:00pm
Thurs, May 5, 7:30-9:00pm
Tues, May 10, 5:30-7:00pm

U13/2004 Girls & Boys
Tues, May 3, 5:30-7:00pm
Thurs, May 5, 7:30-9:00pm
Mon, May 9, 6:00-7:30pm

U14/2003 Girls & Boys
Mon, May 2, 7:30-9:00pm
Wed May 4, 5:30-7:00pm
Sat, May 7, 8:30-10:00am

U16+ Girls | U16/2001 Boys
Mon, May 2, 7:30-9:00pm
Wed, May 4, 7:30-9:00pm
Sat, May 7, 10:30-12:00pm

U17/2000 Boys
Tues, May 3, 7:30-9:00pm
Wed, May 4, 7:30-9:00pm
Sat, May 7, 10:30-12:00pm

U15/2002 Girls & Boys
Tues, May 3, 7:30-9:00pm
Wed May 4, 5:30-7:00pm
Sat, May 7, 8:30-10:00am

U18-U19/1999-98 Boys
Wed, May 4, 7:30-9:00pm
Wed, May 11, 6:00-7:30pm

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Registration

Tempe residents: April 18

General: April 25

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www.Tempe.gov/Brochure

480.350.5200

PLAY LEARN LIVE GROW

AZChallengeFC.org

Sports

From Page 11

it's the passers who are key to winning points.

"We have one of the best passers or libero in the state in Antonio Guarino," said Horewitch. "He can read the game so well and move into position prior to contact. He and Dion Deguzman have the ability to defend on the back row and help the team have some great ups. Ryan Iskandar is also a great passer."

Guarino leads the team with 175 digs or 3.9 digs a set. Iskandar is second with 138 digs or 3.1 digs a game. Davis, McCain and Pike are next with 96, 76 and 66 digs respectively.

The Aztecs have two main hitters who earn points by attacking or killing the ball.

Ryan Iskandar, and Jeff McCain have the ability to maneuver the ball around the court at will," said Horewitch. "They have the power to hit the ball around the block and defenders."

Iskandar leads the team in kills with 145 out of 384 attacks averaging 3.3 kills per set. McCain is second with 107 kills on 270 attacks. Pike, only a sophomore, has caught on how to attack the ball, with 61 kills on 194 attacks.

"Our hitters are developing the ability to hit out of multiple positions and setting speeds so we are doing a better job of keeping our opponents guessing."

The Aztecs have been working all

season at blocking the ball.

"We have seven players who have recorded significant blocks so far this season," said Horewitch. "McCain, Davis, Pike, Iskandar, **Connor Niemtschk**, **Austin Lange** and **Austin Dixon** are putting those blocks up consistently."

"They are starting to be able to read the opposing team's setter and hitter, plus their vertical jumping skills have helped them penetrate the net for a great block," said Horewitch.

McCain leads the team with 20 solo blocks and 26 total blocks followed by Niemtschk with 14 solo and 20 total, Iskandar with 13 solo and 19 total, Lange with 8 solo and 10 total; Pike with 10 solo and 11 total; and Dixon with 6 solo and 8 total blocks.

"Blocks are crucial in setting up our defense around them. In each game so far this season our blocking stats have been improving."

Other players helping the team win on and off the court include **Garrett Percy**, **Evan Ronda**, **Niko Zeiner** and **Andrew Lwowski**.

With only eight games left in the regular season, the Aztecs still need to focus on decreasing their own errors in a match.

"If we can force the opposing team into more uncomfortable plays and we decrease our errors, we can have a lot of success the rest of the season," said Horewitch. "The biggest thing is I want the team to stay aggressive with our play but improve our game intellect to cut down on unforced errors."



In ceremonies Wednesday, Corona seniors Marc Farina committed to the wrestling team at Colorado Mesa University; Madi Stratton signed with the lacrosse team at George Fox University in Oregon.

— Kris Cartwright for Wrangler News / kriscartwright.smugmug

The Aztecs were scheduled to play at Basha, April 14; at home against Mount View, April 18; at home against Hamilton, April 19; and at home against Chandler, April 21 before playing in the Dobson Invitational, April 22.

The last three matches of the season will be April 26 at Mountain Pointe; at home against Desert Vista, April 28; and at Campo Verde, May 3.

Tempe Girls Softball

Playing Division III softball, the Tempe girls softball team is 9-8 overall and 4-1 in Section III as of April 11 with seven games

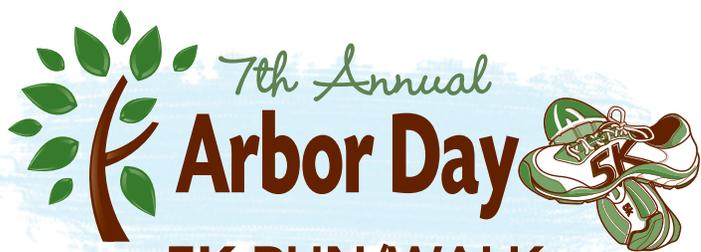
left in the season.

Leading the team in hitting percentage and RBIs is junior **Desiree Muniz**, hitting .635 with 28 runs on 40 hits and 24 RBIs so far this season.

Sophomore **Mariah Jaquez** is close behind Muniz, hitting .597 with 37 runs on 37 hits with 15 RBIs.

Dienna White had 23 RBI's, hitting .524 with 13 runs on 22 hits, while junior **Arsovena White** was close behind batting .440 with 25 run on 22 hits and 18 RBIs

Marisa Fuse, one of the team's pitchers with two wins after eight appearances, is batting .333 with 11 runs on



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19 hits. **Valeria Ramirez** has 13 runs on 16 hits with 14 RBI's.

Muniz leads all pitchers including Dienna White and **Shylean Lanza** with six wins and three losses or a 67% winning percentage after 13 appearances on the mound.

Other members of the team include **Petra Collins**, who has been at bat 37 times in 15 games, scoring 10 runs on 10 hits; **Celicity Rivas**, who started 16 of the 17 games recording 10 runs on 14 hits; **Brenda Sanchez** who has played in eight games; **Shemaiya Pasha** hitting .500 with seven runs on seven hits; and **Brittani Solarez** who has been at bat 14 times in seven games.

Sophina De Brum has played in 14 games and leads the team in stolen bases along with Jaquez, who also is the only player to hit a home run.

The Buffaloes were scheduled to play at Saguario April 14, at home against Fountain Hills April 15, against Veritas Prep at Papago Softball Complex April 20.

The last home game of the season is scheduled April 22 against Maricopa. Nine seniors will be honored at this last game, including **GG Seda, Alma Garcia, Jazmine White, Dienna White, Ramirez, De Brum, Lanza, Sanchez** and Fuse.

The last two games of the season are April 25 at Washington and April 27 at Apache Junction.

Mom-turned-teacher-turned-coach leads Seton to 8th state title

By Kody Acevedo

Karen Self wears many hats on any given day. She transitions constantly from teacher mode to coach mode to mom mode all in a matter of hours.

But it seems like she's handling her busy load just fine. While juggling her mom and teacher duties, Self has coached the Seton Catholic Preparatory girls basketball team for 24 years, leading the Lady Sentinels to eight state titles since 1996.

Their most recent title was the 2016 Division II State Championship, the team's fifth since 2010.

"This is probably the most successful team that we've ever had," Self surmises. That says a lot, considering the success Self has had during her tenure as head coach—but it's true.

After defeating Cactus Shadows 49-40 in the championship game on Feb. 29, the Lady Sentinels were ranked No. 10 in the nation by USA Today with a 31-1 record.

Then, the news of a lifetime reached Self and her girls. The team had been invited to fly to New York and participate in the 2016 Dick's Sporting Goods High School Nationals tournament. The Lady Sentinels were one of four girls basketball



Lady Sentinels gather to celebrate Seton's 8th state title under Karen Self's coaching leadership.

teams in the U.S. invited to play for a national title.

"I did not know that was even a possibility for us," Self said. "But to have the opportunity to travel to New York was really, to me, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for my team. We are just so grateful for that."

Self explained that the tournament uses the USA Today rankings and invites to top four teams to compete

in the weekend-long bracket, but not every state allows for postseason competition.

So, if the No. 1-ranked team is from a state that doesn't allow postseason play, they'll bypass that team and invite the No. 2-ranked team, and so on, until they have four teams that come from states that allow it.

Arizona allowed its teams to be

— SETON, Page 21



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Session 1 Registration: March 1 through May 15

Session 2

June 14 through June 30

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Meet Cinderella!

Chandler Center for the Arts has had its share of famous performers through the years, but this month patrons will have the opportunity to meet Cinderella in person.

That's because Ballet Etudes will bring the beloved fairytale to life April 23-24 when Cinderella, her clumsy stepsisters and a handsome prince take to the stage for matinee and evening performances.

The production features original choreography set to Sergei Prokofiev's

musical score.

Group sales are available with a 20 percent discount and backstage tours are offered following most performances.

Information: 480-782-2680 or chandlercenter.org

"Girls Night Out" ~ May 7, 2016 ~ 6-9PM

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summer camp

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Families looking for fun and wholesome diversions for their kids during summer break have a wide variety of options to choose from this year. From engaging academic enrichment programs to gymnastics and vacation Bible camps, Wrangler News provides an overview of what's in store for young people after that long-awaited last day of school.



Wrangler
News
photos

Arizona Community Church — The South-Tempe church offers fun-filled Thursdays for children as well as a unique vacation Bible school. Highlights of ACC's summer program include:

\$3 Thursdays — A.M. Session: June 9, 23, July 7 and 21 (every other Thursday): 9-11 a.m. for 4 years old and younger. Crafts, games and fun with friends. \$3 per session, fourth one is free.

P.M. Session: June 9-July 28 (every Thursday): 6-7:30 p.m. for 5-11 years old.

Thematic lessons and fun activity. Connect to God and friends through lots of fun. \$3 per session, fourth one is free.

Mobile VBS — Arizona Community church and the kids of ACC are taking the VBS to the neighborhood park in June, putting on the Armor of God and sharing the love of Jesus with the community.

Open to kids who are potty-trained up to 11 years old, the group meets 8-10 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, at Sunset Park (next to the Sunset branch library), 4700 W. Ray Road, Chandler.

Information: 480-491-2210 or azcc.org

Kyrene School District — Kyrene Kids Club offers early learners as well as school-age programs open to kids age 3 through incoming eighth-graders. Preschool kids have classes such as Fairy Tale Fun and Tinkering for Tots while incoming kindergarteners will have an opportunity to prepare for their new school experiences. Elementary students can choose from intramurals, marimba percussion,

— SUMMER CAMP, Page 16





Summer Camp

From Page 15

junior coders and a course dubbed Kids Dig Archeology. Middle schoolers have their own lineup, including baseball, mech-animation, coding and fantasy baseball stats. Kyrene is also offering a summer community theater experience for incoming fourth- through ninth-graders and after-hours care.

Information: kyrene.org or 480-783-4000

Tempe Elementary Enrichment—The summer enrichment program is for students grades K-9 and takes place at Rover Elementary, 1300 E. Watson Drive and Fees College Preparatory Middle School, 1600 E. Watson Drive, Tempe. Classes begin May 31 and run through June 23.

Highlights include:

Ocean Adventure: students explore the web of life that thrives below the sea with hands-on learning that uses reading, writing and math

**JUNE
20-24**

9am-noon

**Register: fbc-tempe.org
\$15**

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First Baptist Church of Tempe
4525 S. McClintock Dr.
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skills. Kids in grades 1-2 can take part in Readers Theater and Plays where they'll read "scripts" and use props and puppets. Middle school students can choose from reading and math jumpstart classes as well as photography, keyboarding, engineering and art. Information: tempeschools.org 480-730-7323

Tempe First Baptist Church — Sharmon Steil of Tempe First Baptist has written her own vacation Bible school program. The former Kyrene de la Mariposa teacher wanted to offer something unique in the community, she said. One of the most popular activities is returning this year at the church's "Go Big" camp as the kids take part in a live version of Hungry Hippos. Using scooters, ropes and plastic balls, campers assemble in the gym for the action. Other activities include hands-on science and learning how God wants kids to be part of The Big God Story. Information: FBC-Tempe.org or 480-839-0926

Gold Medal Gymnastics — Children ages 3 years and up will have the opportunity to experience a new theme each week of the summer camp at the Tempe location of Gold Medal Gymnastics.

From an Aloha Summer Party to Wacky Olympics and Pirates and Princesses Adventures, there are themed activities, crafts, snacks and gymnastics each day. Kids are placed into groups that are appropriate for their skill level and age and may attend half-day or whole-day sessions. Information: GoldMedalGym.com or 480-557-0006.



Chandler YMCA — The Chandler Y is offering 10 weekly camps. For kids entering grades 1-3, there's the Discovery camp where they'll engage in arts and crafts, games, sports, songs, swimming and take field trips to places like the Kiwanis wave pool and Pollack Tempe Cinemas. Kids entering grades 4-6 can be part of the Explorers camp, where they build skills and engage in projects, games and sports. Weekly fieldtrips include an Arizona Diamondbacks game and the Jolly Roger Magic Show. Information: 480-899-9622 or ValleyYMCA.org



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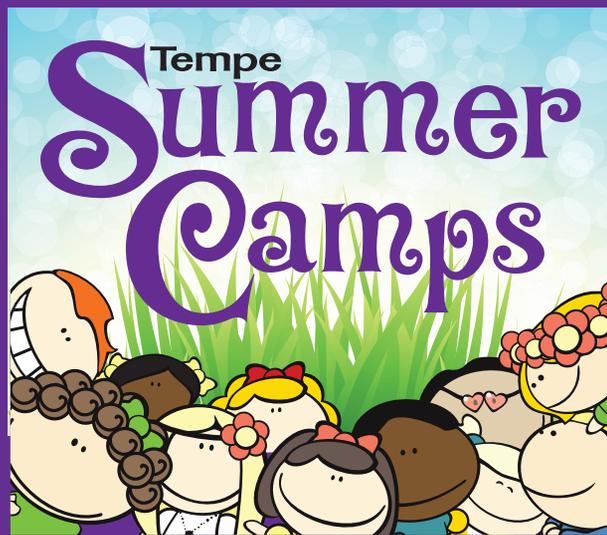
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www.tempe.gov/summercamps

Amazing

From Page 1

on his smart phone, when it happened. Nathan had just finished stretching and doing some lunges to warm up.

"He said, 'Let's get started.' And then he just fell off the bucket," Nathan recounted. "I was thinking he was joking at first, to be honest, because that's his personality."

But Wenrich wasn't kidding. He was in full cardiac arrest.

"After 30 seconds — I kept asking, 'Are you OK? Are you OK?' He wasn't responding and I thought, I need to call 911."

Having the presence of mind to keep Wenrich's phone active so the locking feature wouldn't kick in, Nathan dialed 911.

"They told me to roll him over because he was face down at the time, and that I needed to perform compressions on him," Nathan said. Two years ago, he'd learned CPR through the Boy Scouts. The 911 operator stayed on the line with Nathan, guiding him through the steps.

"This lady came over and asked if he was OK and I said I don't know."

Paramedics were less than a mile away and quickly arrived. And though

he had remained calm during the crisis, once the rescue workers showed up, Nathan said he was suddenly worried about his coach. Mom Julie rushed to the scene.

Some of the paramedics spoke with Nathan while others worked on Wenrich. Was his coach going to make it? "They said, 'He's in pretty bad shape. We're not sure.' It was a bit scary. He's one of my best friends from here—one of my first friends here."

"He's been more than a coach. He's been a real good mentor for the last year," Julie said.

Firefighters later told Julie that the outcome would have been much different if Nathan hadn't been there. Wenrich had suffered what doctors refer to as the widow-maker heart attack, involving a 100 percent blockage of the main coronary artery.

What if Wenrich had been alone at the park? What if he had been still driving on the freeway from his home in Glendale?

"It was one of those times when everything happened to fall into place. Somebody had to be there. Somebody had to act quickly," Julie said.

That somebody was a 13-year-old Boston Red Sox fan who dreams of one day being a professional baseball player. A 13-year-old who thinks the

— AMAZING, Page 19



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Kyrene Summer Academy offers endless opportunities to sharpen skills and explore new interests.

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Summer Academy Schedule

Waggoner, Sierra and Kyrene Middle School

Session I: May 31 - June 23; Session II: June 27 - July 14

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday

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Scholarships for two Corona teens come in wake of tragedy

By Jonathan Coronel

Driving around in his beat-up minivan, always wearing an infectious smile, Blake Norvell was a fixture of the Corona del Sol class of 2006. Friends and family alike remember Blake as the “glue” that held the class together with his positive, outgoing personality and high level of academic achievement.

Being a high achieving student, it is only fitting that after Blake’s sudden and unexpected death that a Smile Scholarship was established as a memorial to the bright young man with a grin that could light up the room.

For the past two years the scholarship was a single \$1,000 check awarded to a Corona student who exemplified the qualities for which Blake was so well known. This year, Blake’s family and friends were able to award scholarships to two fortunate Corona students.

“We raised money this year by reaching out to a variety of businesses, from skydiving to paintball companies. Most importantly, one of Blake’s close friends, Chris Pham, recently wrote a book and dedicated the first \$10,000 in sales to our scholarship foundation,” Blake’s mother, Stephanie Norvell, said.

The annual stipend is available to Corona students who have a minimum 3.0 GPA. In addition to the GPA requirement, applicants must write answers to prompts asking them anything from their future life goals to the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to them.

This year’s winners are Savannah Levos and Jisung Woo. Savannah plans to attend Chandler-



Recipients of Smile Scholarship with Blake Norvell's mother and sister during awards presentation.

Gilbert Community College for a year before transferring to ASU to pursue her goal of becoming a music therapist and sign language interpreter.

Jisung is currently deciding between attending Thunderbird School of Global Management or W.P. Carey at ASU to study marketing.

This was the first year that Stephanie Norvell was able to surprise each student with an oversized \$1,000 check during class.

“At first I didn’t realize what was going on. But then it dawned on me what was happening and I got so happy and excited!” Savannah says cheerily.

Jisung was busy studying for a Spanish test when he was suddenly startled with the news of his accomplishment.

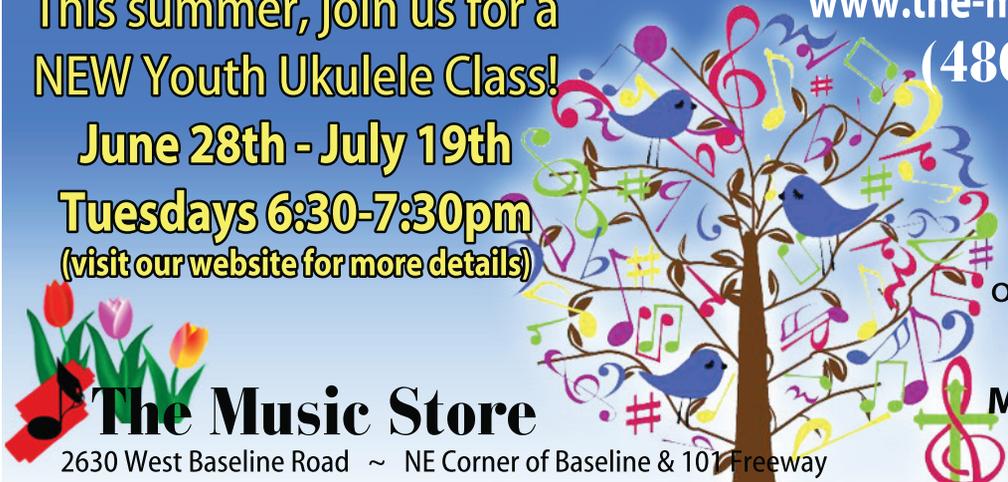
“I had no idea I was going to win this. It was a really great surprise,” he said.

Norvell says with the help of Pham’s sizeable donation, and with plans for another big fundraiser on Thanksgiving this year, she sees the scholarship sticking around for quite some time.

That’s sure to put a smile on Corona students’ faces, and Blake Norvell is no doubt smiling from on high, as well.

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Amazing

From Page 18

world of Wenrich, who is chasing his own dream, playing in the independent baseball league.

“My husband and I are in awe of what happened and how composed Nathan was through such a traumatic situation,” Julie said. “Isaac’s number one fan was with him.”

The Boyers visited Wenrich at Chandler Regional Hospital a few days after the incident that nearly stole a life.

Wenrich says he’s grateful for Nathan’s quick thinking—grateful to God for a second chance at living.

“For a kid of 13 to know CPR or to remember CPR — you just don’t see that nowadays. I’m very lucky to be alive,” Wenrich said.

He stops to consider how the hours of coaching Nathan led to a remarkable outcome.

“I never really understood how much of an impact I made on someone’s life, but when they turn around and save your life, it really registers. You’ve done something in their life that has inspired them or has kept them thinking clearly. “The Lord kept me alive for who knows what reason. And Nate? He’s amazing to me.”

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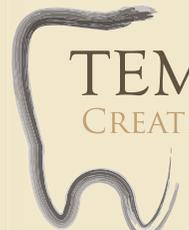
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Seton

From Page 13
eligible for postseason play last season.

Juniors Jenn and LeeAnne Wirth are twin sisters who play together under Coach Self. They were part of the 2014 State Championship team as freshmen and are now leaders of the Lady Sentinels, with Jenn serving as one of the team's co-captains. Both said the team was completely shocked when they discovered they qualified for a trip to the Big Apple.

"When it was finally confirmed that we were going, it was so surreal because none of us could actually comprehend it. It just didn't seem real," Jenn said. "But it was such an amazing opportunity, so I'm really happy that it all worked out."

The Lady Sentinels faced Jacksonville Ribault in the second semifinal on April 1 at New York's Christ the King High. But after a hard-fought game, Seton Catholic dropped the game 49-41.

Still, the Lady Sentinels remain grateful for the opportunity. Talk to anyone on the team and they'll say the weekend was full of positives, despite the loss.

"I felt like we played a pretty solid game [in New York]," Self said. "[Ribault] averaged 70 points per game. We held them to 49. So, I took a lot away from that as far as we can compete at the highest level. We also will return all of our starters, and they are only going to get better and now they know, 'Okay, that's the level we need to get to.'"

One of those returners is sophomore captain Sarah Barcello, who was azcentral sports' Big Schools Player of the Year. She scored eight points in the game, going 3 for 14 from the field and sinking 2 of 8 3-pointers.

"It was an unbelievable trip," Barcello said. "It was a great thing to be apart of. We were really excited and ready for the opportunity."

Even though the stage was larger than usual, Barcello said the team tried not to let the glory of the occasion get into their heads too much.

"It was just like every other game. We focused on our game and our goals for that game," Barcello said.

Despite the loss, it was a season that came full-circle for the Lady Sentinel compared to the 2015 campaign. Last season, Seton Catholic lost the state championship to Maricopa in a heartbreaking 49-52 loss.

LeeAnne Wirth said the biggest difference this season was leadership on the team.

"Last year, one of our problems was our starters were all very young," LeeAnne said. "So, we didn't really have the leadership that we needed. We had good team chemistry, but this year I think everyone was a great leader out there and talked together well."

Stronger leadership was something Self and the coaching staff focused on during the off-season. Self said the girls began training for the 2016 season the moment they lost the 2015 state championship.

"They spent all summer training super hard," Self said. "Our weight room does not have air conditioning, our gym does not have air conditioning, so they spent a lot of time either coming in at six in the morning to avoid the heat or they just worked out in the heat."

The hard work and determination definitely paid off. Their New York trip was not only an opportunity, but a reward, Self said.

"[The season] was very inspirational to us," Self said. "I feel like everyone is inspired to achieve more. "Our main goal is just to get better and to give everything we have each time we step out onto the court in order to benefit the team," LeeAnne Wirth said.

It looks like they have done just that.



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What you need to know before draining your swimming pool

Ready to do some work on your pool? Before you start pumping out the water, you need to make sure that you are meeting the City's pool draining requirements.

- All pool and spa water discharges must be maintained on private property or in a sanitary sewer cleanout on private property. It is no longer acceptable to discharge pool water into the roadway or alley. Pipes that are "hard plumbed" to discharge off property (i.e. to the street) are considered "a direct connection to the storm drain" and are prohibited.
- During general maintenance, when backwashing your pool, drainage into the

sewer cleanout is not necessary as long as the discharge is maintained on your private property.

- No permit is needed prior to draining your pool. You are not required to contact the City of



Chandler when you are refilling your pool, but residents should be aware of the rise in their utility bill due to the large consumption of water.

The City does not give discounts when refilling your pool.

If you have any additional pool drainage questions, please call 782-3507.

Designing Our Desert: Farmers and Ranchers to Digital Frontiers

Come help the Chandler Historical Society celebrate the City's defining milestones from the past, while exploring what is on the horizon, during the annual Chandler Historical Society Luncheon on Friday May 20. The luncheon's keynote speaker will be Dr. Craig Barrett, retired Intel CEO and chairman of the Board. Chandler is a community that is evolving and growing at an amazing pace. The perseverance of pioneering families and the entrepreneurial spirit of Dr. A.J. Chandler live on today in a community that is at the forefront of industry and filled with rich and diverse cultures. Once an agricultural center for cotton, sugar beets and dairies, Chandler is now the Southwest's Silicon Valley for high tech giants and startups. The luncheon will be held at the Crown Plaza San Marcos Resort, starting at 11:30 a.m. Space is limited, and an RSVP is required via chandlermuseum.org. Proceeds will support history and educational programs and exhibits at the Chandler Museum.



Celebration Plaza: nomination deadline April 30

Each year, the City of Chandler inducts one or more honorees into Celebration

Plaza, a monument honoring service organizations and a select group of residents, living or deceased, for their civic leadership, public outreach, personal service and commitment to the community. Celebration Plaza is a permanent water feature and plaque wall near the center of Tumbleweed Park, located on the southwest corner of McQueen and Germann roads. Previous inductees include Eddie Basha, Jr., Coy Payne, Jerry Brooks, Henry Salinas, Officer Robert J. Nielsen, Chandler Service Club, and others. The Chandler Museum is currently accepting nominations from the

public for individuals and organizations that have made significant and enduring contributions to the community. The nominating criteria and form is online at chandleraz.gov/celebrationplaza. Forms also are available at all Chandler libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, Chandler Museum and City Hall. There is no fee to submit nominations, which are due Saturday April 30.



CinePark outdoor movie series debuts in May



Tumbleweed Park will host the City's first CinePark Movie Series on three consecutive Fridays in May. The free family fun begins at 6 p.m., and the movies start promptly at 8 p.m.

- May 6 – Inside Out
- May 13 – Goosebumps
- May 20 – Minions

Tumbleweed Park is on the southwest corner of Germann and McQueen roads.

EVENTS

APRIL

- 21, 28 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 21 Easy Irrigation Troubleshooting & Repair Workshop, City Hall, 782-3580
- 23 Our Stories Speaker Series - Pens and Paintbrushes: The Legacy of Early Women in the Arts, Sunset Library, 782-2751

MAY

- 1 Chandler Symphony, Center for the Arts, 899-3447

- 5, 12, 19, 26 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 7 Registration for Summer Recreation classes begins for residents, 782-2640
- 9, 23 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 10 Saving Your Trees from Monsoon Damage Landscaping Workshop, City Hall, 782-3580
- 11 Most Connected Community Forum, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-2701
- 12, 26 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 13 Registration for Summer Recreation classes begins for non-residents, 782-2640

- 20 Chandler Historical Society Luncheon, Crowne Plaza San Marcos, 782-2717
- 20 Chandler Art Walk, Downtown Chandler, 855-3539
- 21 Trashion Fashion Show, Chandler Fashion Center, 782-3525
- 21 Our Stories Speaker Series - Frank Lloyd Wright and a New Vision for Chandler, Downtown Library, 782-2751
- 25 TEDx: Creating the Experience, Downtown Library, 782-2800
- 30 Memorial Day – City Offices Closed

For event details, visit chandleraz.gov or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 782-2735.

Father-daughter punk duo freaks out the scene

By Chase Kamp

Sugar Skull Explosion is a loud, playful and unrestrained new punk band consisting of a long-time Valley musician and his highly inspired daughter. The fanciful duo even operates under superhero aliases: The nine-year-old E-Skull plays drums and takes lead vocals while her dad, 31-year-old J-Skull, joins her on guitar.

They've been turning heads at local rock shows around the Valley and are set to play FiftyOne West Venue in Tempe on June 4.

The band's four-song EP, available on their Bandcamp.com page, contains the primitive ooze of early garage rock and the kind of splashing freak-outs that punks of all ages could appreciate. Though highly volatile, the family band is fueled by pure youth expression.

It was E-Skull, after all, who expressed the desire to join forces after seeing one of her favorite bands, Sacramento pop-punk duo Dog Party, at all-ages art venue Trunk Space in Phoenix. J-Skull has been performing there for years, most often in his alternative rap project Hug of War, and E-Skull has attended many of these and other shows at the treasured venue.

She had already recorded songs on Garageband software under her solo moniker, Cherry Blossom Puppet. But then she picked up the drums last summer, and enlisted her dad on guitar. From there, they worked side-by-side to construct a set list and play their debut show at Trunk Space.

The ease of going from observer to participant in mere months is a big reason why J-Skull was drawn to punk music when he was young, and why he's thrilled to see his daughter carry the torch.

"If you emulate Taylor Swift, there's a disconnect—it's a lot less accessible," J-Skull said. "The great thing about punk is that the space between audience and performer is so much smaller."

E-Skull is an avid punk listener, citing female-fronted punk mainstays like Sleater-Kinney and Blondie, spastic Japanese noise-punk weirdos Melt-Banana, and viral pop-metal sensations Babymetal as her favorites.

This influence shows on the short, spazzy song "Exquisite Castle", whose dynamics turn on a dime. E-Skull sings with rapt fervor: "My mind is a dungeon / nothing functions / forever in my exquisite castle."

The harrowing song "Nightmare" has the duo trading call-and-response shouts full of horror imagery.

The end result is raw, and clearly a bit spooky: The two are admirers of *The Addams Family*, early Tim Burton films and *Monster High*. But the manic music is also refreshing. E-Skull is clearly leading the charge, making music entirely her own that doesn't try to emulate typical kid music fare.

"I don't think anything we make is any more morbid than a horror show that would be on Nickelodeon," J-Skull said. "I think trying to sell kids the idea that Barbie should be a role model is way scarier than anything we do."

When she's not rocking with her dad or focusing on school, E-Skull enjoys reading comic books, learning the language and culture of France, and photojournalism, which she plans to pursue after attending college.

However, she has no plans to stop making music. "Ever since I was six I have planned on being a performer for the rest of my life," she said.

She is currently taking singing lessons, she said, but her dad is the one who shows her cool new things on the drums. The two are even planning to collaborate on a Sugar Skull Explosion comic book.

It's like that unconventional takeoff on some familiarly orthodox words of guidance: The family that plays together, slays together.



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The April 19th Women in Business Luncheon looks at changes in today's workplace. Multi-cultural, multi-generational, and multi-amenities take center stage in the work place.



Chandler Chamber Young Executive Series was at the Perch in downtown Chandler. Photo by Michael Lynn Jr.

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2016 Chandler Chamber Community Award Nominations Now Being Accepted



Download nomination forms for the 2016 Chandler Chamber Community Awards at chandlerchamber.com. Nominations must be in by April 29th



The Wake Up Chandler morning mixer was held at the Pregnancy Care Center where connections were made



Attendees of all ages enjoyed the March Women in Business luncheon with Fit Method's Felicia Romero

Save the date

April 21

Business After Business—Explore Downtown

Join the Chandler Chamber in a downtown Chandler scavenger hunt! It all starts at First Credit Union located at 25 S. Arizona Place, Chandler, AZ 85225 and ends at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Resort. Register at chandlerchamber.com

April 26

Coffee with the Mayor

Sit down with Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and let's talk business!

8 am to 9 am

Chamber Offices

25 S Arizona Place, Chandler, AZ 85225



Over 500 kids took part in the Mayor's Ostrich Festival Fun Run.

Tempe now a home base for curling's U.S. expansion



Members of Coyotes Curling Club hone their skills at Tempe ice rink.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

By Kody Acevedo

There are certain things in this world that naturally go to together: peanut butter and jelly, ketchup and fries, a pillow and a blanket, even maroon and gold.

Okay, maybe the last one is a little biased. But there's something growing in the Valley that's quietly making its mark in the Arizona desert: Curling.

Yes, that's right—the Winter Olympic sport that a majority of folks watch when they can't sleep late at night. Fact is, though, ice sports

are slowly growing in Arizona popularity. It's not the combination you'd expect: desert and ice, that is.

But after all, they say opposites do attract. Hockey, of course, has become part of the new mainstream, with the Arizona Coyotes and now the Arizona State men's ice hockey team, but curling hasn't caught on yet in the national spotlight.

If you talk to the folks at Coyotes Curling Club in Tempe, however, it's a simple question: Why not?

"I've seen more hockey rinks go up and

more kids talking about playing hockey, and so now with our curling, I definitely think ice sports are picking up here," said Karen Tait, former president and now a co-chair on the Organizing Committee of the Coyotes Curling Club.

Tait was essential in bringing the club into existence in 2003. The original club operated at the Ice Den in Scottsdale. Curlers were given only a couple of hours of ice time every Saturday.

Back then, there was almost no interest in curling in Arizona. After the 2002 Olympics, however, the popularity

began to rise, Tait said.

"So we put out the word to as many as we could and 160 people showed up the first day so we knew there was real potential," he said.

The club, not affiliated with the Arizona Coyotes, operated in Scottsdale until 2014 when the owners purchased their current building in Tempe.

They took an old tennis-ball warehouse and converted it into what it is today: A curling-only facility that operates seven days a week.

"A lot of money had to be raised. Then we searched and searched for the right place and building. Once we found this one, we converted all of this ourselves," Tait said.

The renovation included a state-of-the-art curling ice rink, team locker rooms, a pro shop and, of course, a bar for its members.

"So, it's really grown in two years since we've moved here. We have our own ice. We can curl day and nights and weekends," Tait said.

The popularity has grown so much that the club was awarded to host the 2016 USA Curling Mixed National Championship.

The weeklong tournament consists of 10 teams from different regions of the United States, including Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan and Alaska to name a few. The winner will go on to represent the US at the World Curling Championship in Kazan, Russia.

Carol Ann Naso is a member of team Arizona. She started curling in a small town in British Columbia in 1974. She moved to Arizona in 1984.

Following the 2002 Olympics, she happened to come across a learn-to-curl ad at the Ice Den in Scottsdale. She's been a part of Coyotes Curling ever since.

"Here we are two years into [our new building] and holding national events," Naso said. "It's fantastic. It's really grown."

Much of the Coyote Curling Club's success is credited to snowbirds who visit during the winter time, something that Naso echoed.

"We are very blessed in this area because we have a lot of winter visitors who know curling. So they come and join us and our membership boosts when they are here from about October to April," Naso said.

With the added tourism comes a flurry of added curling talent, which helps the local Arizona team improve their game.

"Our level of play has increased. We've gotten better from those people who play all the time and then come here and play with us," Naso said.

It seems almost a win-win for all the parties involved. Arizona sees better competition and the visitors enjoy the warmer temperatures,

something Stephanie Senneker from team Michigan agreed with.

"It's a little weird to come here and curl, but in a good way," Senneker said. "It's nice to walk outside and have it be 80 degrees and sunny, but it's a little odd. I didn't have to pack any winter clothes which was weird."

It's a trend that's not only taking place in Arizona, but in Florida as well. Jacksonville hosted the Men's and Women's Championship earlier this year.

"There is definitely growing popularity in the southern states," Senneker said.

"There are clubs popping up that play on hockey ice just to get out there and curl, but you get a big push every four years after the Olympics."

That's certainly something the Coyotes Curling Club will look forward to in 2018. More importantly, they have the facility to welcome new members on a constant basis, something their club lacked for so long in Scottsdale.

"Back then, we had a core, but we couldn't really get any bigger. We could teach, but we couldn't play," Tait said.

For Tait and the Coyotes, it's just about come full circle. From their two hours a week in a shared facility, to hosting a national championship event with all eyes in the curling industry on them.

The USA Curling Mixed National Championship ran through April 9, with events happening daily.

"It's amazing and it's a little bit surreal for me. We really took a flying leap and hoped that we could make it work and it's thriving," Naso said.





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The youngest of patients are the focal point at Phoenix Children's Hospital's specialty and urgent care clinic in the East Valley. Inset: Theresa Murdock, MD, a PCH physician who resides in West Chandler.

Photo credits: Above—PCH; Below: Wrangler News

Hospital

From Page 1

vacuum shop. It's way faster than to bring it to a small-engine shop," Murdock said. "It's better if you go to a pediatric facility because we're all trained in pediatrics."

As for waiting hours upon hours at the emergency room, Murdock recommends bringing kids to a facility of lesser intensity. "If they're not that sick, it's best to go to an urgent care," she said.

Remember though, she added, antibiotics won't cure viruses. "For just a regular cough and a little congestion, antibiotics don't make viruses better, so don't get frustrated waiting five hours at the E.R.," Murdock said.

Having seen her share of children's injuries over the years in her line of work, Murdock offered a few tips for parents.

"I think with the little ones, everybody comes to me with a laceration from their coffee table. So either pad it or just move it out of the house until they're not toddling around," Murdock said. "Your kids are going to run and play. Get a bike helmet. There are so many kids that fall off their bikes and hit their head."

Reflecting on her work at the clinic, Murdock said she enjoys the fact that the doctors, nurses and other staff all specialize in treating children. She's also glad when kids respond quickly to



treatment or when they're relieved that getting stitches doesn't hurt.

"Sometimes the kids are in so much respiratory distress," Murdock said.

"We give them a breathing treatment with epinephrine and they get better and get to go home and don't have to be transported downtown.

"Some of the lacerations, the kids are so scared. We have a topical medicine and it numbs the area so you don't have to inject it. They can't believe it doesn't hurt."

PCH's East Valley Clinic, located at 5131 E. Southern Ave. in Mesa, boasts an array of specialists, including cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, pulmonology and neurology.

Information: phoenixchildrens.org

— By Joyce Coronel

Special-needs teens get a boost to independence

Story & photo Joyce Coronel

The transition from life as a high school student to adulthood is fraught with challenges. For kids with special needs, the path can be even steeper.

In an effort to help special needs students and their parents through the transition, the Tempe Union High School District and Mesa public schools partnered to present a 2016 Transition Expo at Compadre Academy.

More than 35 organizations that serve individuals with disabilities were on hand at the event, including representatives of local colleges and universities, government agencies and various non-profits.

Rebecca Hatch was there with her son Geoffrey, 15. "We came to start learning what our options are for transition, Rebecca said. "He's on the autism spectrum."

"High-functioning," Geoffrey interjected.

"He's done some different therapies and vocational rehab," Rebecca added.

"They put us on track to come here and start learning what other options we have as he gets older and moves out of high school."

Brittany Coons was there with the parent of another teenage boy with autism, 17-year-old Kai. Coons has worked with Kai for five years and said she found the expo offered interesting information.

Joan, Kai's mother, said she was there to check out "the different opportunities that are out there, what resources and support systems are available. There are a lot of things out there I wasn't aware of."

Her dream is for Kai to pursue a higher education and gain more independence.

That's where a woman named Angel Guy can make a difference. Guy, a disability-access consultant at Arizona State University, was at the expo to represent the university's disability resource center. She said that more than 2,500 special-needs students attend ASU.

"K through 12 is typically driven by parents and teachers, and while they're planning to have the student engaged at this point, once they get to college they're really in the driver's seat," Guy said. "We work together



Staff from ASU Disability Resource Center discuss how incoming students can benefit from services.

with the student to come up with the accommodations that they need for that semester based on their classes."

Guy demonstrated a smart-pen students can use to help with note-taking. "The pen literally interacts with the paper," Guy said. "Let's say you're typing a list in class, and maybe you get distracted. In addition to notetaking, you layer this in so you're still engaged in the process, but if you miss some information, you can literally touch your pen on the notebook—it's recording the lecture—and it will go back to that spot."

Rene Speltz, an instructor and job coach at The Centers for Habilitation in Tempe, was at the expo to promote the work that TCH does to empower the disabled.

"They learn life skills and work skills," Speltz said.

Some of what she teaches include communication, how to have a strong interview, money management, budgeting, career building and resume building. Then there's the potential for internships at Medtronic, a medical device company.

"Medtronic is very supportive of kids with disabilities and they're a wonderful company to work for," Speltz said. "They make the kids feel like they belong; that they don't have a disability and that they're special to them."

TUHSD special education director William Santiago was enthused about the expo and its potential for assisting students and their families.

"The transition is critical to the success of these young adults and their post-high school plans," Santiago said.

"We want to empower our students with the knowledge of what services are available to them."

Diversions . . .

With M.V. Moorhead

The Arc & Sprout Film Festival — Showcasing films about, starring, and in some cases made by people with intellectual and development disabilities, this 2nd annual fest, presented by The Arc of Arizona and Chandler-Gilbert Arc, can be taken in all in one day.

Around three dozen short films, which range from documentaries to comedies to dramas to animation, will be shown throughout Friday, April 22, at Pollack Tempe Cinemas, 1825 E. Elliot Road in Tempe.

The touring program is a production of Sprout, a New York-based organization “dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities grow through challenging, creative and fun experiences that enhance socialization, self-confidence and inclusion.”

Participants in the festival’s films include people with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, Fragile X syndrome and other diagnoses.

As the festival’s promoters point out, they aren’t professional actors impersonating disabled people, as so often in Hollywood productions.

The films, which are family-friendly and range in length from 2 to 17 minutes, are screened over three showtimes—9:30 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.

Each of these showings is followed by a Q&A with Anthony DiSalvo, Sprout’s founder and director. Single screening admissions are \$5; \$4 for groups of 10 or more. An all-day pass is just \$12.

Opening this weekend

The Jungle Book—Disney’s 1967 version of The Jungle Book is probably my favorite of that studio’s animated features.

This is partly sentimentality—it’s the first movie to which I can remember being taken, when I was four or five years old.

But it’s also looser, lighter, funnier than a lot of Disney fare, with bright primary colors, wonderful voice acting and a couple of catchy big band numbers.

It was hard to imagine that this same charm could be captured in live action.

But Disney’s new version of Kipling’s tales of Mowgli the wolf-raised “Man-Cub,” featuring a live actor as Mowgli and CGI as his animal co-stars, takes a different approach, and finds unexpected grit and emotional range. Directed by Jon Favreau from a script by Justin Marks, the film uses bits of Kipling’s language and gets across some of his near-peerless storytelling panache (bits of his icky colonialist presumption inevitably creep in here and there, too).

As before, young Mowgli (Neel Sethi) is menaced by the scarred tiger Shere Khan (voiced by Idris Elba), who bears him a grudge.

It’s decided that the black panther Bagheera (Ben Kingsley) will return Mowgli to the “Man Village,” and episodic adventures ensue.

He’s befriended by the leisure-loving bear Baloo (Bill Murray) and threatened by the python Kaa (Scarlett Johansson) and the primate King Louis (Christopher Walken), here presented much like Kurtz in *Apocalypse Now*, before he and Shere Khan have their big confrontation.

It’s an odd hybrid, with the Brit actors declaiming high

drama alongside Murray’s Chicago-accented shtick, but mostly it works.

There are a few missteps, the most glaring, for me, being the decision to allow Murray and Walken to perform their character’s songs from the 1967 film. Both are great performers in their own right, but musically Murray is no Phil Harris and Walken is no Louis Prima, and they seem to know it—their numbers feel halfhearted, almost sheepish.

Parents of smaller kids—and anyone sensitive to animal suffering—should be aware that the film is violent at times, especially by kid-movie standards, and that a couple of characters are killed in the course of the story. As the saying goes, it’s a jungle out there.

The Jungle Book is rated PG plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.



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Briefly

Chandler names municipal services chief

Chandler Acting City Manager Marsha Reed announced that John Knudson has been selected as the City's new Municipal Utilities Director, replacing Dave Siegel who retired in October 2015.

Knudson has worked for Chandler's Municipal Utilities Department for 13 years, serving as the Utilities Engineering Manager for the past five years.

He has implemented the department's capital improvement program and managed over \$900 million in construction projects since joining the city.

Run benefits Trees for Tempe

Tempe is providing an opportunity for residents, businesses and runners to get involved in the Trees for Tempe program and help replenish Tempe's urban forest with the 7th Annual Arbor Day 5K.

Presented by SRP and Arizona 811, 2016 Arbor Day 5K will be held at 6:15 p.m. Friday, April 29, at Kiwanis Park. All proceeds will go to benefit the Trees for Tempe program, aimed to help keep Tempe green.

The course will lead runners and walkers on a scenic loop throughout Kiwanis Park, and participants are encouraged to bring their dogs on leashes and children in strollers for this family-friendly event. Students from the city of Tempe's Kid Zone Running Clubs will also be supporting the cause by running with their teammates in the Arbor Day 5K.

Advance registration fee is \$20 through April 28 and \$25 the day of the event. the importance of calling 811 before any digging project. Information & registration: www.ArborDay5K.com.

Spracale Education Awards Dinner

The 25th anniversary of the Tempe Impact Education Foundation will be celebrated 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 6, at the Doubletree Hilton, 2100 S. Priest Drive, Tempe.

The event, Giving to Tempe Children, will include presentation of the Joseph P. Spracale Commitment to Education Award, honoring an employee of the Tempe Elementary School District for significant contributions.

This year's award will go to Laura Hauer, executive director of human resources for the district.

Also to be presented will be the Ralph and Carla Lingerfelt Commitment to the Community Award.

The recognition goes to an honoree who has made a major contribution to the community, with a heavy emphasis affecting the boys and girls in our schools and the community.

Ralph was a teacher and principal in the Tempe Elementary District for 35 years. Carla traveled the same path both as a teacher and then a principal. Both continued to support the boys and girls in the district well after their retirement. This award will be presented to the Assistance League of the East Valley.

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Wrangler News is printed on partially recycled newsprint with ink made from 98 percent soy content.

Pollack

From Page 1

Tempe Cinema, regardless of what's playing.

The lobby of Tempe Cinema is a rotating mini-museum of wacky pop-culture exhibits, where visitors can see full sized figures of superheroes, aliens, Tolkien warriors or The Blues Brothers.

"I am always trying to add to the ambience by acquiring new pieces, changing out existing displays, and adding new characters brought to life by today's cinematographers," said Pollack.

These figures are the tip of the iceberg of Pollack's immense museum of three-dimensional advertising figures, housed, along with collections of antique slot machines and other fascinating artifacts, in several private galleries in his Mesa offices. This jaw-dropping collection must surely be among the finest of its kind in the world.

During the holiday season there's also a light show—"We hired a lighting designer who had done some work for Disney. There's half a million lights, with animations everywhere." Santa hangs out in the lobby, available for photos.

Because of this showmanship, Tempe Cinema has the sort of colorful, crazy atmosphere that makes movie going magical, especially for a kid. It makes for an antidote to the dreary functionality of many discount theaters, or even to the slick décor of many first-run houses.

"It's all about an experience, it's all about fun," explains Pollack. "It's all about making people feel like they're home."

It's become something of a second home for Pollack and his wife Cheryl, too, who often spend their weekends watching movies or interacting with visitors.

"Now I do know how to sell you a ticket," says Pollack, "and I can make popcorn. I've gotten pretty good at it."

There was already a discount theater in the strip mall on the southeast corner of McClintock and Elliot back when Pollack first acquired the property.

"We were buying the shopping center, and while we were in escrow, we found out that the theater was about to close."

Pollack's first lesson in the movie theater business is that movie theaters have sloped floors. "With 25,000 feet of sloped floors, you have a situation. What are you going to do with it?"

To level the floors would have required pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into a property for which, as Pollack notes, "I might still not have had a tenant."

Pollack got creative.

"One night I had an idea. It seemed like a great idea—downhill bowling! The next morning it didn't seem like such a good idea."



A man of widely ranging talents and interests, Pollock can hold forth at a set of drums as enjoyably as he can in the hallways and byways of his corporate offices in Mesa. Despite the seeming extravagance of his enterprises, Pollock insists that 'none of my projects are about the money. It's about making a positive difference in the community.'

In the end, he says, especially after hearing from local people who didn't want to see the theater close, Pollack decided to take a deep breath and try to run it himself, and Pollack Tempe Cinemas was born, or rather re-born.

More recently it's gone through yet another re-vitalization. In 2014 Pollack invested about a million dollars in new digital projectors, new seats and other upgrades.

"I don't believe we should ever sacrifice quality for price," says Pollack.

"I'm going to give the visitors to my theater quality in everything for less."

Even though Pollack Tempe Cinema isn't, in itself, Pollack's most lucrative business venture, its continued operation has business advantages, providing an anchor for a plaza that has become a lively destination, with businesses ranging from a top-notch Mexican restaurant (La Casa de Juana) to a comic book store, Thai and Italian food, desserts, etc., and more.

"If I had to rely on the movie income from the theater to eat, I'd be very thin," admits Pollack, a San Jose native who specializes in refurbishing run-down old strip malls into snazzy new properties. "But none of my projects are about the money. It's about making a positive difference in the community."





Prime Tempe Opportunity



Welcome to Taylor House, a historic home located in the heart of Tempe. 3300 square foot with 6 bedrooms, 3 baths and detached 2+ car garage situated on 35,000+ lot zoned R1-6. Bring your imagination and envision the possibilities. Near light rail, Tempe Marketplace, ASU with easy freeway access. Expand your vision to the opportunities that exist for this property

Rare Find!

Nearly 1.5 acres in highly desirable South Tempe neighborhood!! Single level, 3 bed, 2 bath home with rock fireplace and galley kitchen. Shed/barn in back with stalls for horses. This is country living in the city! This is perfect for any animal lover, a home based business, or a fabulous new custom home! The possibilities are endless!!



Villagio



Perfect Setting for your College Bound Student. Dual Master Suites, Granite Island Kitchen with Cherry Wood Cabinets, Stainless Appliances, Fresh Paint, Neutral Tones, Custom Window Coverings and Upgraded Lighting, Security System, Washer, Dryer & Fridge Included! Private Patio that Backs to green belt. Garage, Great Tempe location near ASU, Cubs Spring Training, Tempe Marketplace and Freeways!

Custom Lot

Discover prestigious Vasaro, a gated custom community in Chandler. The slightly over 1/2 acre lot is ready for your single-level custom dream home. Community offers parks with ramadas, playgrounds, walkways, sand volleyball and basketball courts. Great Chandler Unified School District. Close to the 202.



South Tempe Beauty



4 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths await in this Tempe beauty. This beautiful move-in ready home has soaring ceilings, skylights and plantation shutters throughout. The kitchen features breakfast bar, custom cabinets and a center island. Large master suite has extra-large shower, soaking tub, spacious walk-in closet and private exit to backyard. Newer A/C and roof, sparkling pool, ramada and above ground spa.

Walk to ASU

Location, location, location! 3 bed, 2 bath almost 1700 sq. ft with guest quarters. Rare irrigated lot, new paint inside and out, new carpet, indoor laundry room and blocks from ASU, Mill Avenue, Tempe Town Lake and Four Peaks Brewery. 4th bedroom is guest quarters with separate entrance and wet bar. Large storage shed/workshop, mature landscaping, good sized yard and no HOA!



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