

Wrangler NEWS



Former Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano appeared with police and firefighters on the steps of Tempe City Hall to stress the importance of a 'yes' vote on a 2/10ths of 1 percent sales tax increase that city voters will decide on when they go to the polls

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Wrangler News photo by Mark Moorehead

Kyrene Corridor Edition
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Former Mayor Giuliani aiming to galvanize support for Prop. 401 Would ensure continued quality of Tempe services

By Mark Moorehead

Tempe residents would be less safe and fire-response times longer if voters fail to approve a two-tenths of one percent increase in Tempe's sales tax on May 18.

That warning came from Rich Woerth, president of Tempe Fire Fighters, and Jeff McHenry, president of Tempe Police Officers Assn., during a news conference held April 13 on the steps of Tempe City Hall.

Former Mayor Neil Giuliano, who is chairing a citywide campaign on behalf of Prop. 401, the enabling measure, headlined the event.

An \$8 million decrease in sales tax revenue will require the city of Tempe to make drastic cuts across the board, including elimination of 37 patrol officers and 12 fire fighters, public-safety officials have noted.

McHenry proudly pointed out that, with a fully staffed police department, Tempe witnessed a sharp decrease in crime in 2009.

"Robberies were down 28 percent, burglaries down 18 percent and auto thefts dropped by 66 percent," said McHenry. However, the 37 proposed staff reductions if the measure fails will mean cuts in Crime Prevention, Gang Squad, Anti-Narcotics and

Traffic Safety divisions, he noted.

At the Fire Department, the First Response Dive team that routinely responds to water-related emergency calls at Tempe Town Lake would be eliminated, along with a complete engine company.

"If you cut one engine company, our response time is going to go up and the level of service is going to be diminished. Right now we're looking at a 10 percent cut in the direct services to our citizens in 911 calls," said Woerth.

And, he said, "We've been fiscally responsible, taking probably some of the biggest cuts around the state and have agreed to voluntarily to take another 2 percent cut in wages and benefits to help the city and help the citizens of Tempe."

Tempe officials insist that the sales tax increase would be only a short-term remedy. If Prop. 401 passes the Tempe sales tax would be increased from 1.8 percent to 2.0 percent and expire in four years.

"And by then sales tax revenue in Tempe will have returned to normal levels," said Giuliano, who is chairing a Keep Tempe First Committee.

Giuliano is leading the charge to galvanize support for

the passage of Prop. 401 and is confident the residents of Tempe will pass the measure.

In an interview prior to the news conference, Giuliano said: "Tempeans very much appreciate and enjoy a great level of service, and the temporary Tempe city sales tax increase will allow us to get through these next few years and maintain most of the level of service we already have, including public safety, without having to make any additional cuts to programs and services Tempe residents currently enjoy."

Mary Ann Miller, president and CEO of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, also supports the temporary tax increase.

"The business community traditionally doesn't like general tax increases, but extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures," she said.

"We have looked at this very carefully and the city, under the leadership of the council and city manager, has massaged their budget as much as possible; they have streamlined and put together so many ideas for cutting costs, but it is not enough, unfortunately. "On behalf of the Tempe Chamber and business community, we fully support this tax increase," Miller said.



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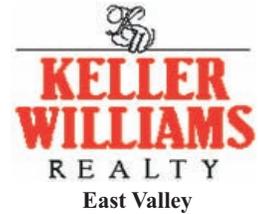
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West Chandler residents share ideas on neighborhood issues Concerns expressed over feral cats at Desert Breeze Park

By Jeremy Banks

Chandler community members and the Neighborhood Advisory Committee came together Tuesday at the Sunset Library to discuss matters and concerns.

Made up of mostly west Chandler residents, the crowd was small but the goal for the evening was achieved in a big way.

Neighborhood Advisory Committee member Bill Donaldson said the meeting was effective. It gave the committee an opportunity hear the community's concerns and provide them with some feedback.

Early in the meeting, community members broke up into groups of five and came up with questions and concerns to present to the committee. When finished, a representative from each group spoke and talked about topics the group found to be most important to the Chandler community.

Chandler residents wanted to know what could be done about certain issues in the community such as graffiti, foreclosures, neighborhood cleanliness, break-ins, traffic calming,

pedestrian access to shopping, feral cats and weeds.

After the issues were presented, the committee gave feedback and will also look into finding a way to address the concerns.

Greg Pekau, a Neighborhood Advisory Committee member, said the meetings help a great deal. The NAC holds community meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings rotate monthly between the NAC office and a public building.

"It (provides) incredible insight into the real problem. It allows us who represent our own neighborhoods to have a viewpoint," Pekau said. "It allows us to work with staff. Mostly the staff is incredible. They do so much to improve the services and the commitment to the citizens of the city. It allows us to get it on the table and move people down the path of resolution."

The NAC now knows the issues and are taking steps to resolve them, Pekau said. "It allows us to understand what the issues are. What we've learned is a lot of things are just about

communication," he said. "At one of our tables we were talking about that. The more we understand what the issues are, the more we can help point people to do what they can to help resolve the problem."

Without an avenue for communication, Donaldson said, the NCA would not be able to make as much progress. It would find itself guessing instead of reacting.

"I think otherwise (without hearing the public's thoughts) we'd be kind of stuck with our grant guidelines and programs, and some of the things we concentrate on specifically," he said. "So whenever we hear this feedback it gives us points of need and points of other services that are available in the city that people that don't necessarily know how to get to. I think that helps."

The community members had an opportunity to share their thoughts and the committee had a chance to learn and get a feel for what Chandler citizens wanted to see done. Donaldson, who is a 21-year Chandler resident, said the meeting was informative on both ends.

"If you're just a normal Joe you can get pointed in the right direction to the services," he said. "And having as many staff members as we have here, they're either aware of what department handles it or they'll definitely find out and get back to the person. I think that's a lot better than 'Who do I call at City Hall?'"

And, he added:

"That's why we're doing it (holding meetings) in different areas. Different areas of the city are different. Some of these neighborhoods are older. Some are newer. Some of them are homeowner associations. Some are traditional neighborhoods. So we tend to get different perspectives."

The biggest surprise of the night, Donaldson said, was an issue with Desert Breeze Park.

"The feral cats in Desert Breeze Park and all the feces that is in the playground," he said. "I didn't know that and my kids had played in that playground for a long time."

At the end of the night, Donaldson said he believes progress had been made.

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Childsplay's production of kids favorite 'Big Friendly Giant' due for May 1-23 run at Tempe Center for the Arts

Childsplay's production of Roald Dahl's modern fairy tale, "The Big Friendly Giant," will run May 1-23 at the Tempe Center for the Arts.

The production will be held at 1 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through May 23.

"The Big Friendly Giant" was adapted by playwright David Wood from Dahl's original book.

Dahl's first children's book, James and the Giant Peach, was followed by an unbroken string of bestselling titles, including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory among others.

Childsplay's artistic director and founder David Saar is the director of this production.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for children, students and seniors.

In addition, \$12 discount tickets are available during the Target Storybook Preview event held at 4 p.m. on April 25.

Information: 480-350-2822, www.childsplayaz.org/boxoffice

Enforcement aimed at high-accident intersections

Kyrene Corridor motorists will want to be aware of a special-enforcement detail initiated by the Tempe Police Department and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

The program remains in effect through Sunday, April 25.

The department is providing additional officers for enhanced enforcement patrols at high-accident intersections, as well as commercial-vehicle,

impaired-driving and school-zone enforcement.

The program was launched to help reduce collisions by taking proactive enforcement prior to the collisions to prevent them, according to Sgt. Dale Hoobler of the police department's traffic bureau.

Among the top 10 accident-frequency intersections in Tempe are Priest and Elliot, Rural and

Baseline, Rural and University, Broadway and McClintock and Rural and Southern.

Installation of photo-radar cameras at Warner and Rural, McClintock and Guadalupe and Arizona Mills Circle and Baseline has helped to reduce the number of accidents at those intersections, which had been listed on previous years' top 10 lists, according to Hoobler.

Final date nearing for return of 2010 census forms

The city of Tempe is reminding residents to be sure they're counted in the 2010 U.S. Census in order to help provide an array of essential city services.

Residents who mail the survey back by Monday, April 19, can avoid having Census workers knock on their door to complete the counting effort.

The 10-question Census survey – the shortest ever – was mailed to all Tempe households during March.

The form is easy to fill out and is strictly confidential.

Each household is asked to respond with how many people are living in the residence at that time.

Citizenship is not a consideration and, by law, individual Census responses must remain confidential.

Tempe needs all residents to be counted because the federal government uses population figures provided by the Census

to distribute funds for everything from schools and roads to public safety and human services.

Every person who responds means \$1,250 for vital community programs in Tempe.

Additionally, a substantial portion of Tempe's General Fund revenue comes from state shared revenues, which are allocated based on Census population figures.

Information: www.2010.census.gov or 480-350-8846.

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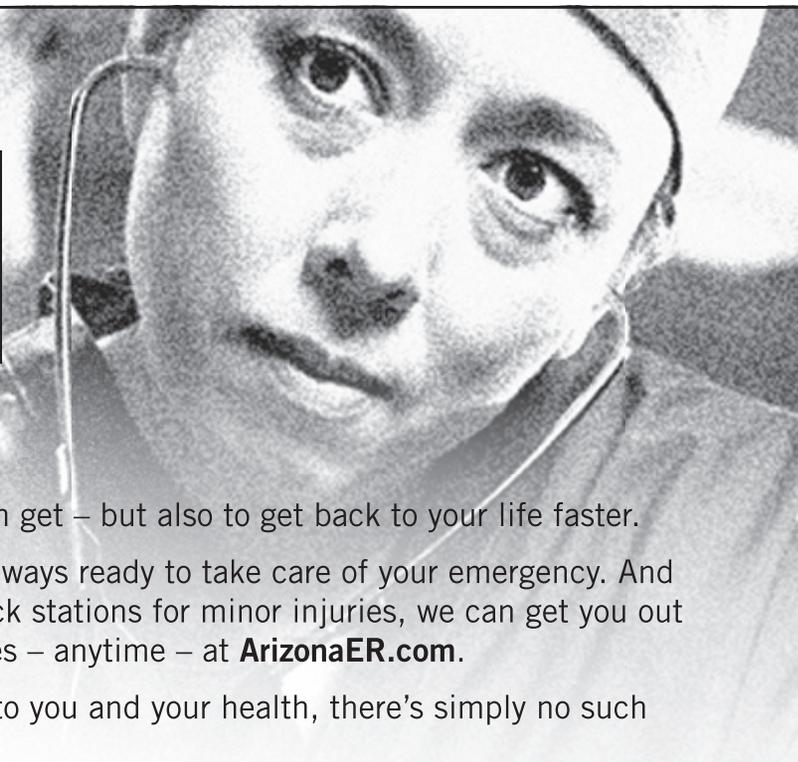
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Chandler launches E-billing for city utility payments

In an effort to enhance its online services, Chandler has instituted a new paperless billing option that offers customers the convenience of having e-mail notification that their utility bills are ready to be viewed on the city's Web site.

City officials say that delivering bills through e-mail offers greater convenience, enhances security, helps reduce clutter and is environmentally friendly.

Additionally, offering an e-billing option is expected to save the city thousands of dollars each year in printing, postage, labor and equipment costs associated with paper billing.

City water, sewer and solid waste collection customers already have the ability to pay their monthly statements online.

E-billing is the next step that will enable customers to view their statement and make payments with the city electronically, from the comfort of their own home or wherever they have a secure internet connection, while reducing their environmental impact.

"We are witnessing a cultural shift as people become more accustomed to communicating and doing business electronically," said Chandler Utility Service Business Manager Jim Crocker.

"In recent years, more and more of our customers

have asked for a paperless bill option, and we are pleased that we can now provide this service."

Crocker said the convenience factor is magnified when customers combine the city's e-billing service with either online bill pay using a credit card or through the SurePay option, which automatically deducts the charges from their checking account.

"They can save the cost of a stamp and a trip to the mailbox, simplify their record keeping, and support conservation when they use our e-services," he said.

To sign up for e-billing, customers go to www.chandleraz.gov/utilitybill and access the online Utility Bill Payment system.

Customers are required to have an account number and address to log into their account. Once logged in, Electronic Billing Status can be updated to activate e-billing.

For the first billing cycle after customers sign up for e-billing they will receive both a paper copy and an e-mail notification that confirms their registration and includes a link to the online Utility Bill Payment system where they can view their bill.

The second month only the e-mail notification is sent to notify the customer that their bill is ready to be viewed online.

Commentary Youth share their ideas

By Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn

On April 1 more than 60 students from local high schools gathered to discuss some pretty tough issues. At a Town Hall sponsored by the Mayor's Youth Commission, those young people dialogued on topics that include Education, Health and Wellness, Teen Drug Use and Teen Pregnancy.

The commission is an advisory group to the Mayor and Council with the objectives of providing service to the city, developing personal leadership skills and most importantly – giving the youth of Chandler a voice in the community. Last year, the Town Hall focused on Mall Loitering, Teen Drinking and Driving, and High School Dropouts.

This year, nearly 30 students participated, which means there is a growing interest in the Town Hall that will hopefully continue to develop in the coming years.

During the Town Hall, students break into discussion groups, talk about the specific issue they have been assigned, and identify community concerns and potential solutions. Then, they brainstorm a viable plan for action.

Last year's discussion on high school drop outs is a good example. Dialogue within the group began by identifying contributing factors that lead to dropping out of high school. The identified factors included academic pressure, lack of family support, low expectations from teachers and family, students feeling disconnected, and students unable to handle real life stresses. Available resources were discussed and identified as possible recommendations to address high school dropouts.

Final proposals included updating school curriculum, reformatting teacher training and intervention.

The report was delivered to the Council and school administrators for follow up.

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Plans readied for best, worst outcomes Kyrene studying post-election strategies

Financial planners for the Kyrene School District have implemented a comprehensive budget-development process that takes into account the best and worst outcomes of a May 18 vote on Proposition 100, the state's proposed 1 cent sales tax increase.

The process being developed by District Superintendent Dr. David Schauer and Chief Financial Officer Karin Smith, with Governing Board direction, includes various stakeholder groups including the board itself, the District Leadership Council, the K-8 Program Committee, the Parent-Superintendent Council, district staff and community members.

The key workgroup is the District Leadership Council, which includes department leaders, regional principals, teacher representatives and support-staff representatives.

Based on state-approved budget plans, it is now clear that Kyrene must have two budget plans for the 2010-2011 school year, according to Smith.

Proposition 100 is a proposal to raise the sales tax by 1 percent and will be voted on state-wide on May 18.

Absentee ballots are due to be mailed on April 22. The last day to register to vote is April 19, and the last day to request an absentee ballot is May 7.

If the measure passes, additional funding reductions to education should be minimal,

according to Smith.

If the measure does not pass, officials say there will more substantial reductions that will require unprecedented budget reduction strategies for Kyrene and other school districts across the state.

Plan A, to be adopted if the measure passes, would require Kyrene to absorb its approximate \$6 million deficit.

The district budget can be balanced by pre-payments, use of reserves and increased efficiencies in staffing and other areas, according to CFO Smith.

The majority of teachers subjected to board-authorized reduction in force will be recalled.

Plan B, which is being readied in case the measure fails, calls for much more drastic measures that would double the deficit to approximately \$11.8 million.

In addition to the strategies used for Plan A, class sizes averages would be increased by as many as three students.

A reduction in force affecting approximately 70 teachers would be implemented and remain in place, and compensation for all employees would be reduced by as much as 5 percent.

Additional information is available at the school district's website, www.kyrene.org/budget.

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Kyrene Corridor Briefs Chandler Regional volunteers honored

Hundreds of volunteers serving at Chandler Regional Medical Center will be recognized during Volunteer Appreciation Week.

This year's theme is "Volunteers – Our Good

Fortune."

"Each year our volunteers continue to amaze us with their generosity and desire to care for patients and their families," said Patty White, the hospital's president and CEO.

"Currently we have

nearly 300 active volunteers not only donating their time to patients and families but to our specialty programs making them a huge success."

Volunteers serve in more than 86 percent of the departments in

the medical centers and at CHW urgent care centers in Ahwatukee and other neighboring communities.

Last year, volunteers contributed more than 109,575 hours, sharing their "gift of time" with patients, family members and staff.

CHW's volunteers are responsible for some of the best community programs, including the Spina Bifida Bike Rally. This year, the CHW East Valley Volunteer Board made a contribution of \$160,912 to support such programs.

Volunteers range from high school and college students to adults and seniors.

Information: 480-728-3308 or -7187.

Event to welcome Aprende families

Kyrene Aprende Middle School is hosting a Showcase Night for incoming sixth graders and their parents from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22.

Families will be greeted by the principal and parent-teacher members, as well as Aprende cheerleaders.

An opportunity will be offered to meet sixth-grade teachers from each student's core curriculum plus teachers from orchestra, band, choir, art, multi-media, theater, Spanish and family and consumer-sciences classes.

Mariposa will open 2000 time capsule

A time capsule that was planted in May 2000 at Kyrene de la Mariposa Elementary School will be unearthed at 1:30 p.m. May 7 during a brief assembly and ceremony.

Students who compiled and buried the time capsule were in fifth grade at the time and graduated from Corona del Sol High School in 2007, and are college juniors now if they continued their education.

The school has invited any student who participated in the fifth grade event to attend the ceremony, and to contact the school if they would like to be involved in it.

Dr. Marianne Lescher, the school's principal, is planning the event.



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A 'Way Out' nature lesson

Students in Janice Rubocki's fourth-grade class at C.I. Waggoner Elementary School met award-winning author Jennifer Ward, who started her teaching career in Tucson. Having always loved nature, she was inspired to write a book about the desert, resulting in her latest publication, 'Way Out in the Desert.'

Car wash will raise funds for Sister City delegates

To help 32 students offset the costs of traveling abroad as ambassadors for the Tempe Sister City program, a carwash is being held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Speedy Quick Stop gas station on the northwest corner of McClintock and Elliot.

Later this summer, the students' families will host international delegates from the corresponding cities.

Funds raised at the car wash and other activities will help cover the expenses of hosting the international delegates here in Tempe and providing them with

educational and enriching activities, including camping and hiking in the Grand Canyon, a Disneyland trip, visits to Tempe City Hall, ASU and other locations.

The Tempe Sister Cities program has been sending student delegates abroad for more than 30 years. This year, the 32 seniors-to-be will be participating in a four-to six-week exchange with students from Skopje, Macedonia; Regensburg, Germany; Lower Hutt, New Zealand; ZhenJiang, China; Beaulieu Sur Mer, France; Carlow, Ireland; Cuenca, Equador; and Trollhättan, Sweden.

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Finds ASU campus more to her liking

Despite Vassar's revered stature, CdS grad says Ivy League college's small size made her feel 'claustrophobic'

By Sarah Auffret

Malvika Sinha made what some would consider a surprising change early in her college career. She transferred to ASU from Vassar midway through her freshman year after realizing Vassar wasn't a good fit.

Having graduated from Corona del Sol High School, she dreamed of attending a school on the East Coast.

But she says she was unprepared for how the small campus made her feel and how limited she felt her opportunities were.

"Although I had amazing professors and friends, it was too small, and I felt claustrophobic," says the global studies major.

"There were barely any extracurricular opportunities that fit my interests, and student involvement was really low. After talking to an ASU professor in Barrett, the honors college, I transferred in January 2008, and I am absolutely sure I made the right decision."

Now, as a junior, she's taking international law classes at the ASU College of Law, and she is immersed in an independent study of international courts around the world and how they deal with victims of genocide and other war crimes. She has received research funding to study victim outreach programs around the world. Next summer she hopes to go to Cambodia and The Hague to study their war-crimes courts.

"There are so many resources here for students who want to get involved



Corona del Sol graduate Malvika Sinha transferred from Vassar to ASU, and is appreciating the change.

academically," says Sinha. Sinha says she especially liked studying abroad on the Barrett France program, living in Paris for a month and using the city as her classroom.

One of her favorite classes has been the freshman core course at Barrett, the Human Event.

"It is one of the best classes I have taken so far in college," said Sinha. "I had a wonderful professor, and the class was smaller than even some of my Vassar classes. I got everything I could possibly want out of that class: engaged students, a writing-intensive seminar, and a professor who went out of his way to help his students. The class was extremely challenging, but I got so much out of it."

Sinha now acts as a tutor in the Barrett Writing Center, working with other students to hone their research and writing skills.

— Sarah Auffret is assistant director of ASU media relations.



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MOVIES in the PARK is a FREE movie series Friday evenings at Kiwanis Park. Showtime begins at dusk. Next up is Chuck Jones Animation: An Evening of Laughter on April 16, Up on April 23 and Monsters vs Aliens on April 30. Movies play weekly through May 21. For more info call 480-350-5200 or visit tempe.gov/events.

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Screen Gems

'Island' signals rebirth of Garcia's career future

Andy Garcia has been around movies since the mid-'80s, playing gangsters, cops and other steely tough guys. My wife has always had a strong aversion to his work, and while I liked some of his early roles, in *The Untouchables*, for instance, he's never been a special favorite of mine, either.

There's something generic and unexciting about the Mr. Cool persona Garcia offered in so many films. He's like a bland knockoff of the Brando/Pacino/DeNiro school: the look, the voice, the manner are all there, but somehow the passion we get from these other actors seems either absent or forced from Garcia.

Garcia's starring role in the comedy *City Island*, which he also co-produced, seems to have liberated the actor from his uncomfortably held pose, however, at least for one movie.

The ingenious premise of the film, which is well worth the drive from the Kyrene Corridor to Harkins Camelview in Scottsdale, allows him to play an ordinary guy, comically cowed, and to gently spoof the kind of ethnic-tough-guy stereotyping that allowed him an acting career to begin with, and which has largely defined the parameters of that career.

Written and directed by Raymond De Felitta (son of the late, interesting novelist and filmmaker Frank De Felitta), *City Island* is set in the fascinating Bronx beach neighborhood of the title.

Garcia plays Vince Rizzo, a prison guard (or, as he prefers, a Corrections Officer) whose one-night-

Diversions

with M.V. Moorhead
A guide to what's entertaining
in the Kyrene Corridor

a-week absence from his high-strung family, under pretext of a poker game, hides a dark and shameful secret: He longs to be an actor, and is sneaking off to a class.

His prickly, perplexed, percolatingly sexy wife Joyce (Julianna Margulies) is sure he's having an affair.

He has a potentially scarier secret, too—a son from an ill-advised relationship before he was married. When the grown kid, Tony (Steven Strait), shows up as an inmate in Vince's prison, he gets him sprung to his custody and brings him home, telling his family by way of explanation only that he knew the boy's mother.

The other people in Vince's life have secrets of their own, however.

His daughter Vivian (played by Garcia's lovely real-life daughter Dominik Garcia-Lorido) pretends to be away at college, but she's lost her scholarship, and is working as a stripper. His wiseguy teenage

son Vince Jr. (the terrific Ezra Miller) is a budding fetishist.

Vince's acting-class partner and career adviser (Emily Mortimer) has a mysterious side, and even his curmudgeonly acting teacher (a fine brief turn by Alan Arkin) is glimpsed in a moment of stinging vulnerability.

That's the theme of *City Island*: That family life is almost inevitably conducted through a web of lies, poses and concealments. Played just a touch more heavily, and it easily could be an Arthur Miller tragedy, but De Felitta isn't beating his breast over the Rizzo's deceptions. He finds them a cause for relaxed, unhurried amusement. The best scenes in the film are the family-group sequences, in which sarcasm and squabbling keep bubbling up during the attempts at friendly conversation.

It's a reflexive self-defense mechanism, and while the constant snapping has clearly taken a long-term toll on the Rizzos' psyches, it's also clear that they don't really mean anything personal by it. The film could use more of these scenes.

You can feel the audience responding to the hum of the comedic ensemble work, and when the characters break into smaller groups some of the power is dispersed. But even if it's not quite a knockout, *City Island* is an Andy Garcia movie that even my wife would like, I think.

Good luck talking her into going, though.

Rated PG-13 for sexual content, smoking and language.

Leno's lack of comedic growth fails to offend a stalwart fan base

Commentary

By M.V. Moorhead

Earlier this week *The New York Times* reported that Jay Leno was back in first place, ratings-wise, in network late-night.

This may not be the proudest moment in the history of the American TV-viewing public. But it's quite an achievement for Leno, coming less



M.V. Moorhead

than three months since the departure of his ill-fated replacement on *The Tonight Show*, Conan O'Brien, a likable and genial fellow and a brilliant writer of and performer in sketch comedy who's never really seemed at ease as an interviewer.

It's strange to remember it now, but in the early '80s Jay Leno was the hip cutting edge of stand-up comedy. I was in college at the time, and an insufferably enthusiastic fan of *Late Night* with David Letterman on NBC.

When Leno was Letterman's guest, as he was pretty frequently in those days, it was a special occasion that I'd make a particular effort to see. I cut short a trip to Toronto with my girlfriend in 1984 because I had tickets to see Leno perform at the Warner Theatre in my hometown of Erie, Pa., and was crushed when the show was cancelled.

Leno, who at the time was a close friend of, and acknowledged influence on, Letterman, brought an irascible, cutting-through-the-nonsense tone to his often topical jokes that you didn't see anywhere else. He was convulsively funny. It's rare to spot more than a glimmer of this young wiseguy in the well-groomed, smiling man who now cracks safe, obvious, not-very-funny jokes in an unctuous, eager-to-please manner as the host of that TV institution *The Tonight Show*.

If you compare pre-*Tonight Show* Leno with post-*Tonight Show* Leno, it's almost impossible not to reach the conclusion that what you've seen is the most spectacular sell-out in modern show-business history, a deliberate, two-decade long act of dumbing-down and emasculating an authentic comedic talent—maybe even a genius—in order to repackaging him as unthreatening and easily palatable for the masses.

About a decade ago I spent a little over a year as a publicist for a major comedy club, driving many of the top stand-ups in America around to radio and TV interviews, and (in private conversation of course; they weren't likely to commit career suicide by saying so publicly) the sneering contempt in which they held Leno for his phoniness and opportunism knew few bounds. Even allowing for the envy and spite to which stand-up comedians tend, severe even by show-business standards, I found it unlikely that there could be no truth in this at all.

As you probably remember, Leno ended up with the *Tonight Show* job—traditionally the most prestigious in American comedy—after a bitter struggle with David Letterman's camp, when Johnny

Carson retired in 1992.

As you certainly remember unless you were in locked in an attic somewhere a few months ago, Leno is now back because of NBC's rather unceremonious dumping of O'Brien after a 7-month run at the desk. O'Brien will now host a late-night show on TBS starting in November.

It's all been one more chapter in the dramatic and sometimes ungracious history of *The Tonight Show*, a program once synonymous with the gold standard of show-biz graciousness.

Despite the talent of the various hosts involved in these power struggles, none of them could hope to bring the same old-school class that Carson did to the show. Carson's persona was one-of-a-kind—somehow both unpretentious and sophisticated, both middle-American and West Coast hip, and it's hard to imagine anyone ever approaching it.

Letterman comes closest (Carson reportedly agreed, and would have preferred Letterman as his successor), but Letterman's Midwestern everyman routine is complicated by his unconcealed neuroses. He's arguably funnier than Carson was at times, but his company isn't the same simple pleasure. Nobody's is.

Still, I once saw clips of *Carson's Cellar*, an early show that Carson hosted on a local L.A. station in the early '50s, doing sketches about as odd and scrappy as those of Letterman's early days, and far less funny. Somehow Carson, Letterman and O'Brien all managed (with varying degrees of success) to let their styles mature with their audiences, while Leno's style has amounted to a lucrative insult, to which the public refuses to take offense.



Physician's practice relies on an 'integrative' approach to medicine Giving broader focus to women's health issues

Story and photo by Geri Koeppel

Conventional medicine can do a lot of good, but for some patients, it only treats the symptoms and not the causes of their ailments.

To be fair, in a 10-minute office visit, it's challenging for physicians to see the whole picture. That's why Dr. Heidi Rula recently opened an integrative medicine practice for women.

Her Integrative Care for Women office is on Dobson Road just south of Guadalupe Road. It's for people who haven't found answers or results with traditional medical practices. She uses complementary therapies, including herbal treatments, acupuncture and natural hormone therapy, as long as there's evidence of efficacy and it's safe.

"We're going to expand our horizons and say, 'there's more than one way to healing,'" Rula said. "We need more tools to help people in their path to healing."

She makes it clear that she's not a replacement for a primary-care doctor, but rather communicates with them and specialists in order to make sure all practitioners see the complete picture of a patient's health.

"Usually, when people come in, they don't have just one thing wrong," Rula said. "There's usually an underlying process that affects all systems."

She compared it to a spider web: When one thing in the body is shifted, it affects others. A specialist will try to manage one facet and tends not to look at the others. Rula's job is to look at a patient holistically and with different "lenses," as she puts it.

Her initial consultation runs more than an hour and asks "what can we do to improve the patient's health?" rather than deciding which pill to give. She looks at mental and physical health, nutrition, environmental exposures, stress levels (which are "huge in terms of disease," she said) and imbalances.

At many traditional medical practices, Rula added, doctors run a panel of tests, and if nothing looks unusual, they tell patients to get more rest and reduce stress. Some even tell patients that their complaint is "in their head."

Rula digs deeper on a biochemical and physiological level and even looks at genetics. Patients fill out a 20-page medical intake form with their entire medical history.

"We usually work initially with some form of diet," Rula said. Patients might eat more fruits and vegetables and less processed food, or they might need a gluten-free diet.

Rula is an M.D. who graduated from

— MEDICINE, Page 14

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ADHD Social Dyslexia Learning Anxieties Differences

Medicine

From Page 13

the University of Arizona's medical school and is certified in family practice. After supporting her mother through a fatal bout of colon cancer from 2001 to 2004, she said, "I really felt conventional medicine was falling short of delivering the care needed." She thought there was a better answer than giving harsh medicines with difficult side effects.

She completed a fellowship in 2007 at U of A's integrated medicine program, where she trained under founding director Dr. Andrew Weil and Dr. Tieraona Low Dog. It's the leading integrative medicine training center in the world, with practitioners around the globe.

The two-year online fellowship began in 2002 and trains physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. The first graduating class had 30 students; since then, 500 have graduated. It now accepts 130 students a year.

The field is growing, said Dr. Low Dog, partly because consumers are asking for broader answers, especially for chronic disease.

"People want doctors who know about nutrition, supplements, mind-body connections," she said. "They want complementary and conventional medicine."

Donna Higinbotham of Phoenix is one. She had digestive issues, but her doctor couldn't find anything wrong and tried to treat the symptoms. She sought out Rula to help her find out why her body was reacting the way it was. Rula recommended natural enzymes and other remedies.

"She really listens to what I'm telling her, listens to what I'm feeling, and then comes up with a course of action," Higinbotham said. "It's not a pre-determined course."

Continuing education is especially important in integrative medicine, Rula said, because there are so many more options for diagnosis and treatment.

"For every healer, it's a lifelong learning process," she said. "You don't go to school and you're done. It's a constant struggle to find more and more answers."

Integrative Care for Women

Where: Inside Advanced Surgical Associates, 2945 S. Dobson Road, Mesa. *Hours:* By appointment
Information: 480-444-9035.

Charity League recruiting teens

East Valley chapter of National Charity League has launched a membership drive for girls entering seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th grades.

The campaign remains open through May 8.

NCL is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences.

About 75 percent of the local chapter's membership is from Kyrene, Aprende and Pueblo middle schools and Corona del Sol High School.

Information: cristycole@yahoo.com

Kiwanis Park race benefits autism

An inaugural "Race for Higher Education" will be held at the north soccer fields of Kiwanis Park in Tempe starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 18.

The event is sponsored by Umbrella NPO, a non-profit committed to raising money for higher education scholarships for students with Asperger's syndrome or autism.

Registration fee is \$17 for each adult, \$7 for each child, which includes a race t-shirt.

Information: tyler@umbrellanpo.com

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Hope abounds that EV Sol's 'Old Balls' golf tourney can raise \$25-50k for area youth programs

East Valley Sol will be holding another event to generate funding for charitable causes with its sixth annual Old Balls Golf Tournament Saturday, April 24, at Ahwatukee Country Club.

"We hope to raise \$25,000 to \$50,000 this year to help families in need, Little Leagues and other youth sports organizations," said **Tim Vasquez**, one of the founding members.

"Money will also go towards buying backpacks and school supplies and to adopt families for Christmas."

The event is a reason to have fun for a good cause even if you don't golf.

"This golf tournament is unlike any other," said Vasquez.

"It is a party on a golf course. We have gimmick holes, loud music, even a heckler on a microphone that cracks jokes while you tee off. This tournament is a blast, and it is all for a great cause."

There's yet more.

"We offer admission to our 'party hole,' where we serve beer and Someburros' carne asada tacos so people can hang out, get some sun, listen to music and watch the golfers," said Vasquez.

Although the tournament has sold out in the past two years, there are still several foursomes open to anyone who wants to come out and have a good time. Single golfers are \$100 and a foursome is \$375. Check-in is 11:30 with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

— Alex Zener



Members of Kyrene Corridor charitable group East Valley Sol gather during Fiesta del Sol, which, like the group's coming golf tournament, raises funds for area youth programs. EV Sol group founders include, from left, Brian Reid, Nick Farrer, Buck Bandura, Shawn Morris and Tim Vasquez.

— Wrangler News photo by David Stone

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'Typical' ninth grader proves he's not so typical at the piano keyboard

By Slim Smith

Joey Chang just may be the most accomplished 14-year-old pianist in the world. Such a claim might be heady stuff for your typical ninth-grader, but this young man has learned to take such accolades in stride.

After all, he was also considered the most accomplished 10-year-old pianist in the world and then the top 11-year-old and — well, you get the picture.

Joey's amazing talent will be on display May 18 as part of the Tempe Center for the Arts "Performance with a View" series. His solo performance is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at the Lakeside Room at the TCA.

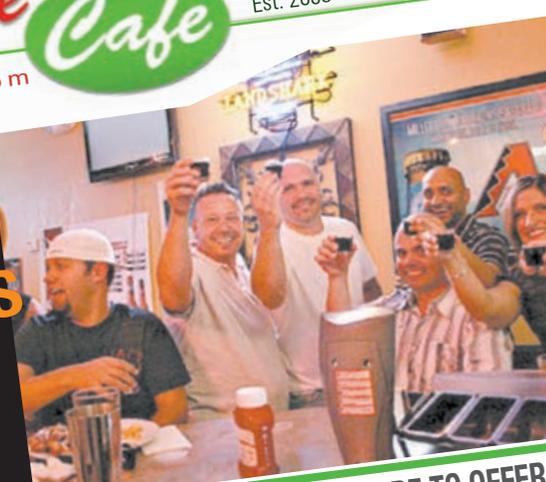
Although being hailed as a musical prodigy is something he finds flattering, Joey says the music itself is what drives him.

"Obviously, the recognition is important because of the opportunities it can create," he says. "But I've

— PRODIGY, Page 17

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Prodigy

From Page 16

always loved the music. That's what matters most."

Joey, who lives with his family in south Tempe, first began playing at age 4 after watching his older sister play. Even then, his aptitude was obvious. His parents enrolled him in private lessons at age 5. At age 7, he appeared as a junior composer in a national competition. At age 10, he was a featured soloist at an international recital.

Last summer, he won the prestigious Jacob Flier International Piano competition. At 13, he was the youngest winner in the competition's history.

Somewhere along the line, piano went from being something he enjoyed to a life's work.

"I guess I began to think about the

piano as a career when I was about 10," he says. "Hopefully, I'll be able to have a good concert career and it will be something where I can make a living off of it by doing concerts and recitals. That's my goal."

Also a gifted student, Joey was accelerated to ninth grade last fall, attending Peggy Payne Academy at McClintock High School in Tempe. He hopes to study piano in college, most likely at a prominent school such as Julliard or Curtis.

He also plays cello and swims, which he says are important.

"It really gives me a break," says Joey. "I practice piano at least two hours a day and more would be great, but I do have to balance my schedule. I think swimming and playing the cello really help me relax, too."

"I find that it refreshes me so that when I am practicing on the piano, I have the concentration and focus that I need."

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Teen undertakes ambitious effort to plant 250 saguaros

Scouts join project at historic Tempe home

Next week, Christopher Gill will begin his leadership service project as he pursues goal of becoming an Eagle Scout.

But Christopher may be an old man before he'll be able to see the full impact of his efforts.

At 1 p.m. on Friday, April 23, the Kyrene Corridor teen will oversee an effort to plant 250 saguaro cacti on the grounds of the historic Eisendrath House in Tempe.

Saguaros have a notoriously slow growth rate, especially in the first years. Typically, a saguaro doesn't reach a foot in height until it is about 15 years old. In 40 to 50 years, it generally reaches a height of 10 feet and won't develop "arms" until it is about 75 years old.

So Christopher's Eagle Scout project may be something only his grandchildren can appreciate in its ultimate beauty.

Christopher will be joined at the planting by Richard Stokes, a retired

engineer who grew the cacti from seed in his back yard. Members of Boy Scout Troop 7 will also assist in the planting.

Eisendrath House is located at 2000 N. College Drive, just north of Curry Road.

The project is a boost to Christopher's efforts to restore the property. Built in 1929, the Eisendrath House has been vacant for more than 20 years and had fallen into severe disrepair over the years.

The city of Tempe acquired the house and its property in 2002 and has been working on restoration of it ever since.

The Rio Salado Foundation will be raising \$3.2 million in an effort to restore the home to its original splendor.

Christopher's project will certainly enhance those efforts, even if he's an old-timer before he can "look up" to his contribution.

— Slim Smith



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PAIR FIND THEIR FRIENDSHIP STRONGER AFTER LAUNCHING A BUSINESS TOGETHER

WOMEN'S UPSCALE RESALE STORE FINALLY BECAME REALITY AFTER THEY GAVE BIRTH TO THE IDEA 8 YEARS AGO

BY SLIM SMITH

Ivy Boutique has been open for about two months now. But the idea began almost eight years ago.

That's how long Gemma Wilson and Chris Rockwell have been friends.

The two women met through a mutual connection, got to know each other better by being part of the same book club and soon became fast friends.

Ivy Boutique, a women's upscale re-sale store located in the McClintock Fountains Shopping Center, opened on Feb. 18, a few months later than the co-owners originally planned and years after they first began to talk about being business partners.

"I think she talked it from almost the start of our friendship," says Wilson.

"She said, 'when you decide you want to do something, let me know,'" Rockwell recalls.

About seven months ago, the women moved

from talking about opening a business to actively pursuing that goal.

Much like the store itself, Ivy Boutique is unique, a hybrid between a consignment shop and a typical re-sale store, featuring elements common to both.

Rockwell, who studied both fashion design and art in college, functions as the boutique's primary purchaser. Wilson, whose background includes running her own marketing research company, handles most of the business side of the operation, including marketing and advertising.

Unlike consignment stores, Ivy Boutique buys its merchandise up front. Ivy will pay you 50 percent of their selling price on an Ivy gift card for an in-store purchase to be used at any time, or 30 percent of their selling price on the spot in cash.

Typically, Ivy retails an item for up to 85 percent below retail prices.

So far, Wilson and Rockwell have been pleased with the reception they've received.

"Things have gone really well," Wilson said. "Everyone has been so nice—the customers, the other business owners here. It's been very encouraging."

The women wondered if working together might change the nature of their friendship. But they've found that, if anything, they've grown even closer.

"It's amazing, really," Rockwell says. "We've found that we are on the same page on just about everything."

A point of emphasis for the store is to provide

— BOUTIQUE, Page 19



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Boutique

From Page 18

customers with high quality women's apparel – including purses and shoes – at a great price.

"We are very selective, in the sense that we want gently used, well-cared-for merchandise," Rockwell says.

The women also take great care in to making their store comfortable and pleasant.

"We're not going to overload the racks or crowd things," Wilson said. "We want it to be a place that women enjoy shopping."

Encouraged by the reception they have received, the women also want to reach out to the community. One of the ways they are doing this is by working with My Sister's Place, a charity that helps domestic-abuse victims.

In addition to donating clothing items, Ivy Boutique also sets aside on Saturday each month in which 10 percent of all sales goes directly to the charity.

Although the current economic woes did not factor into the women's plans for opening the store, the those realities do play to the store's strengths.

"I've always been a big fan of re-sale stores," Wilson says. "Why pay those retail prices if you can get the same thing so much cheaper. But I think now that's especially true."

Rockwell says there is another compelling reason to shop at re-sale stores.

"It's not only good for your pocketbook, it's good for the environment," she says. "We have to get away from throwing away perfectly good things, and that includes clothes."

Ivy Boutique — 1840 E. Warner Road, Suite 124.

Phone: 480-897-1200. **On the Web:** ivyontheweb.com



Chris Rockwell, left, and Gemma Wilson say business has remained good during current economic times, even though they planned their store long before the slump.

— Photo by Slim Smith

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Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

Boys, girls track team scores a first-place win at Basha Relays; full schedule remains with major meets extending into May

Corona del Sol High School's girls and boys track team took home first place out of 12 teams at the 5th Annual Basha Relays held April 1.



Alex Zener

Corona's combined team score of 131 points put them ahead of two other Central region foes that placed second and third—Highland with 116.5 points and Mesquite with 106.

Capturing team points from Corona's girls team were sophomore **Megan Benson**, who won the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 15.64, and junior **Sarah Williams**, who came in

sixth. Another first place finish was had by junior **Ellen Dunn** in the 1600 meter run while **Christina Freeman** finished seventh in the same event. **Kristen Mahler** came in fourth in

the 100 meter dash.

For the boys team, Corona junior **Nick Siefker** also took first place in the 110 meter while sophomore **Daniel Samans** came in seventh. Also finishing in first place was **Garrett Baker-Slama** in the 1600 meter run. **Daniel Wrapp** took fourth in the same race.

In the mixed high jump relay, the Aztecs took third place when **Siefker** jumped 6-00 even and **Marcel Towns** tied for fourth place after jumping 5-10. **Lauren Milovich** had the third highest jump for the girl competitors at 4-08 to take 24th place.

Corona also qualified in two events for the 5A-I state tournament at the Sun Angel Classic held at ASU April 8 and 10. **Garrett Baker-Slama** won the 1600 with a personal-record time of 4:23:45 qualifying him for the 5A-I state track meet in May.

The girls 4 x 100 relay team of **Kendal Flegenheimer**, **Benson**, **Mahler** and **Milovich** also qualified for the state track

tournament with a time of 49.61, which was good enough for a fourth place finish at the Sun Angel Classic.

Corona's boys and girls track teams have a busy schedule the rest of the month with several big meets, including the Queen Creek Invitational April 16, the Mesa Hohokam Invitational at Westwood April 23, and the Freshman Showcase at Desert Vista April 24.

The City Meets are on April 28-30. The Frosh/JV City Meet is on April 28-29 and the Varsity City Meet is April 29-30.

The region meet will be May 4, 5 and 7 at Mesa Mountain View with the state meet the following week.

Baseball

The Aztec baseball team was on a two-game winning streak in the Central region after defeating Basha and Dobson before losing to

— NOTEBOOK, Page 29

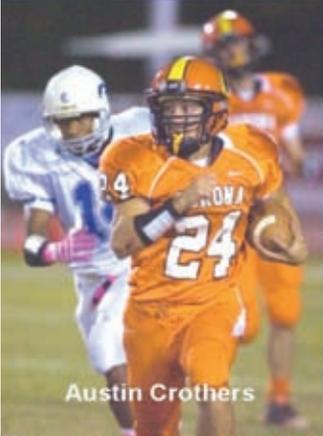


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Corona del Sol senior puts her school break to good use Venture helps improve health of kids in Rocky Point



Clinic in Puerto Peñasco benefits from spring-break visit by church group from Kyrene Corridor.

By Jeremy Banks

During spring break many teenagers are looking to have some fun and relax. Jennifer Linn, on the other hand, looks forward to making a difference.

Linn, a Corona del Sol senior, has traveled to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, on a humanitarian project for her church, New Birth Church of Mexico, since she was in eighth grade.

"We always set up a dental and sometimes medical clinic for the people. We basically help them

check out their teeth, if they have any problems, for the teenagers," Linn said.

"For the little kids we have an art class for them. We help them make bracelets and necklaces. We also play soccer and interact with them, to show them people do care."

Every year impacts Linn in a different way, she says. Her first year was an exciting learning experience, she said.

"It was amazing."

Linn's exemplary volunteer efforts has earned her the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award. The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was presented by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President

— HUMANITARIAN, Page 22

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Humanitarian

From Page 21

Obama.

Although the national recognition is nice, Linn says the biggest reward comes from the knowledge that the little things in life can often have the biggest impact. During her first year in the project, called The New Birth Mexican Mission, she decided to bring her violin along for the trip. She played for an elderly man.

"We later learned he's never heard music in his

entire life," she said. "It brought tears to his eyes. Emotionally it hit us."

This year she helped paint houses and worked with kids in an art class. In previous years she has done other things such as help build a second-floor wall in a building. Every year, every trip, is different and challenging.

"Every year there are certain aspects that affect our lives," she said.

Linn said one event helped her decide to make a difference and join the humanitarian project. While she was in seventh grade, a friend of hers traveled to Puerto Peñasco with the church. Her friend returned and talked with others about the trip. Linn got

excited and motivated.

"It affected me personally," she said.

Linn has always been a person with a passion for helping people. It's in her nature and, of course, a mission such as this one was a good fit.

Puerto Peñasco, better known as Rocky Point, is part of the Altar Desert, one of the driest and hottest of the larger Sonora Desert. Because of the lack of water, the area had no permanent settlements until the 1920s.

It's a city with unpaved roads and less-than-stellar housing. But what it lacks in scenery, it more than makes up for in personality. Linn said over the years she has been able to meet many interesting and special people. They're always willing to offer a smile and love good conversation.

"It's a good experience for me," she said.

"Every time I learn something new from my past experience."

Helping individuals and making an impact has become a passion, Linn said. Her life may take her in many different directions, but she said she will always find her way back to one of the things she loves the most.

"No matter what I do with my life in the future I want to be able to go back to third-world countries and help the children specifically," she said.

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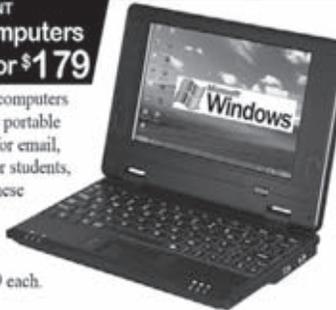
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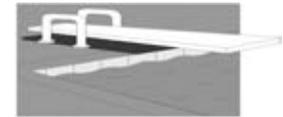
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Gates/Fencing—Sunset Fence, Inc. Raise your existing block wall to increase privacy and home value, or replace existing wood or concrete panel fences with a Sunset Fence block wall, serving the East Valley since 1977, licensed, bonded and insured. www.sunsetfence.com, 480-838-2870 See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*

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Handyman — Dave's Handyman Service. 602-295-3991. "Ask us if we can do it." Electrical, plumbing, doors & windows, drywall, painting, home remodeling. Lic. #169409ROC. See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

Handyman — Honey-Do Handyman – General Repair and Maintenance. Electrical, home entertainment hookups, plumbing, install ceiling fans, fixtures, phone jacks and most repair jobs.

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paper removal and installation, epoxy coating and painting, licensed+bonded+insured roc# 208062 and 208063, call 602-790-5073, chadandsonpainting@gmail.com. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — Village Painting – Interior/Exterior painting, drywall repair with texture matching, custom faux finishes, and cabinets. Small jobs also welcome. (ROC#069679) CALL (480) 814-1588. Visa/Mastercard See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — L. Hardy Painting. Interior/Exterior painting, drywall, drywall repair and texture coating. Free estimate. Call 480-963-2498. Lic. #34/137206. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — DZ Paint – A painting company with quality painters and affordable prices. Whether it's your home or your office, you name it, we'll paint it. Accent walls, garage floors, interior and exterior, commercial and residential. Give us a call for a free estimate. Licensed and Bonded. ROC #191520 (commercial), ROC #191519 (residential). Daniel 480-326-0851. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — Vic's Painting We use Dunn Edwards Paints. Interior/Exterior Specialist. Experienced. Clean. Honest. Quality/ Guaranteed. Not a licensed contractor. References available. Free Estimates. Call 480-820-5797 or 480-710-0034 Today! Visa/Master Card accepted. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

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Painting — Decorative Artist- Catherine Rene Designs specializing in murals, trompe l'oeil, stenciling, faux finishes and fine art. Check out my work www.catherinerenedesigns.com or www.SassyInTheUSA.Etsy.com Call Cathy at 602-525-3928. 5/11

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Plumbing — City-wide Plumbing & Service Co. Slab leak repairs, electronic leak detection, water heaters, RO systems & water softeners. Free estimates. 480-966-8795. www.citywideplumbing.us. Contractor's lic. #C-37 064 954 & L-37 086 764. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

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Notebook

From Page 20

Highland 3-7 on April 9 despite homeruns from **Kyle Jorgensen** and **Chris Gammon**. The Aztecs currently have a 12-8 record, tied with Mesquite for third place with 3-3 region record and are No. 19 in power rankings entering the last part of the season.

On April 6, Corona scored 13 runs on 15 hits while allowing Basha eight hits but only three runs. Nine of the 11 Corona batters scored runs. **Jorgensen, Greg Ryan, Anthony Cipressi and Gammon** all scored two runs while **Brian Lambert, Trevor Allen, Brett Spradling, Aaron Siple** and **Tyler Garcia** each had one run.

Starting pitcher **Heath Dwyer** pitched over three innings against the Bears allowing seven hits and three runs while relief pitcher **Tyler Garcia** finished the game with only one hit, no runs, and four strikeouts.

The Aztecs played at Mesquite on April 13, were home against Mesa Mountain View April 14 and at Gilbert April 16. Up next will be contests at home against non-region Ironwood April 20 and Desert Vista April 22 before finishing off the regular season playing against Central region foes. Corona plays at home

against Basha April 23, at Dobson April 27 and a last home game on April 28 against Highland.

Boys Tennis

Corona's boys tennis team is ranked No. 2 behind Brophy with a 13-3 regular season record and will start the 5A-I state team tournament April 19 in an attempt to get back to the finals for another shot at the state championship.

The Aztecs, who lost in 2009 to Brophy 5-4 as the No. 1 seed, have a great chance to play in the 2010 finals. If the current power rankings stand, they should start off by playing April 19 at home against the No. 15 seed which will be either North or Alhambra since both are tied for 14th place with a 9-5 record. All matches are scheduled to start at 12:30 p.m.

The team tournament continues April 21, at the highest seed, and then moves on to the Paseo Racquet Center in Glendale April 26 and 27.

The 5A-I state singles and doubles matches are scheduled to start April 23 at Scottsdale Ranch Park, 10400 E. Via Linda in Scottsdale. Winners would then play April 24 at Gene Autry Sports Complex, 4125 E. McKellips in Mesa. The semi-finals and finals, April 30 and May 1, will be played at Paseo Racquet Center in Glendale.

Current Aztec doubles partners **Kyle Ogren** and **Alex Lawson** won the 2009 state 5A-I

championship doubles match as the No. 2 seed and are predicted to go far in the tournament this season, too.

The 5A-I state singles matches will be at the same dates and locations as the doubles matches. Corona's **Daniel Larsson** came into last year's tournament unseeded and made it to the quarterfinals before being knocked off the No. 1 seed and eventual champion Andy Nguyen of Mountain Pointe.

Girls Tennis

Corona's girls tennis team is ranked No. 5 in the power rankings with a 10-4 record behind Xavier, Mesa Mountain View, Red Mountain and Salpointe. The Lady Aztecs also want to make it back to the finals. In 2009, coming in as the No. 2 seed, they lost in the finals to No. 1 ranked Salpointe.

The Lady Aztecs dominated several of their matches this season including the Tempe City Tournament and is hoping for a great state tournament showing.

Corona's girls team should face the No. 12 seed, Mountain Ridge, on April 19 at home. The team tournament will continue at the highest seed April 21 and then move to Paseo Racquet Center April 26 and April 27 for the final matches.

—NOTEBOOK, Page 31

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The Lady Aztecs tennis team dominated the Tempe City Tournament, winning the championship for the fourth year in a row. Team includes, from left, Maia Castiglione, Roopa Krishnaswamy, Kelsey Lawson, Coach Carol Sandvig, Lauren Hacker, Drew Blasco, Yonit Upart.

— Photo contributed by Kathy Hacker



Corona del Sol's boys volleyball team took home a second place trophy from the Antelope Classic March 26-27 at Grand Canyon University. Front: Charlie Hualde; second row, from left: Blake Pendleton, Chad Moritz, Gavin Haws, Austin Peck, Scott Burdick, Alex Davis, coach Brynne Evans; back row: Jake Nuneviller, Riley Heywood, assistant coach Brandon Lake, Andrew Bollard, Kyle Niemtschk, Peter Rueckle, assistant coach Clay Webb, assistant coach Richard Estes.

— Photo contributed by Todd Davis



Corona's baseball team will be defending its 5A-1 state championship trophy next month.

— Photo by Alex Zener



The Corona del Sol boys tennis team won Tempe's City Tournament for the third consecutive year. Team includes, from left, Coach Rick Wanta, Thaminda Edirisooriya, Daniel Larsson, David Choi, Alex Lawson, Kyle Ogren, Cole Libera.

— Photo contributed by Pam Ogren



Corona's softball team has a strong tradition of making it into the state tournament. Bottom, from left: Kaitlyn Nunez, Kaylynn George, Katie Tripp, Liz Deem, Taylor Tometich, Nicole Giannonatti, Madison Edwards. Middle: Tayloe Eno, Alexa Nenaber, Katie Koponen, Abby Spiel, Mary Spiel, McKenna Isenberg. Top, Brittany Messer, Katie Jeffers.

— Photo by Alex Zener



Aztec volleyball swings into action.

— Photo contributed by Kris Cartwright



Lady Aztec softball players talk about their strategy against the next batter.

— Photo contributed by Kris Cartwright

Notebook

From Page 29

Corona's **Kelsey Lawson** on the 5A-I singles last season as the No. 1 seed and could easily repeat. **Lauren Hacker** entered the 2009 state 5A-I tournament unseeded and made it into the second round last year before losing. She could go farther into the tournament this season.

The singles and doubles matches for the girls team will be the same as the boys matches starting at April 23 at Scottsdale Ranch Park, then April 24 at Gene Autry Sports Complex.

The tournament will finish up April 30 and May 1 at Paseo Racquet Center.

Corona alumni

Three former Corona athletes are leaving their mark playing at the next level, **TJ Benson** and **Brad Carroll** on the basketball court, **Laura Bohning** on the softball field.

Benson and **Carroll** both played basketball at Corona, both received college scholarships to play basketball out of state, and both chose to return and help resurrect Grand Canyon University's men's basketball program that had no coach and no returning players from the previous season.

The Antelopes finished the 2009-10 season 16-16, winning 10 of their final 13 games including seven in a row.

It was a great accomplishment for a team that had 10 freshman and sophomores on the team.

Benson was playing at Weber State with one year of eligibility left and Carroll had been one year at the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee before coming back to Arizona. Both made the Second Team All-Conference for the Pac West Conference this season at Grand Canyon.

The decision was made easier when Grand Canyon hired former University of Arizona and Arizona State University assistant coach Russ Pennell. Both players went from a division I school to a division II school which required neither to sit out a season.

As a sixth-year senior due to two

red-shirt seasons, Benson said he wanted more than Weber State could offer during his last season.

"I wanted the opportunity to play the 30-plus minutes and the possibility of starting at point guard that Coach Pennell talked about," said Benson. "I also wanted to play in front of my family who were not able to make it to Utah very often to see me play."

Carroll, who actually sat out last year, was ready to get back to school and play basketball again. He's majoring in business and still has three years of eligibility left.

Benson, who already has a BS in Business Administration from Weber State and worked on a MBA in marketing at Grand Canyon, wants to continue playing basketball.

"Right now, I'm trying to continue playing basketball professionally overseas," said Benson. "I'm in the beginning stages, but hopefully it will work out."

Laura Bohning, a 2009 Corona graduate and Lady Aztec softball player, is going to school and playing softball at St. Louis University. At Corona she was the defensive MVP and was named to the First Team All-Region her last two seasons. Academically, Bohning was a member of the National Honor Society, ranked in the top 10 percent of her graduating class and was a four-time recipient of her school's Scholar-Athlete Award.

She continued her softball and academic career as a valuable team member at St. Louis University.

Bohning, as a freshman softball utility player for St. Louis, has played in 33 of the 36 games, and has been significant in at least two wins for the Billikens.

On March 20 against Western Michigan and March 23 against Memphis, Bohning made headlines. Against Western Michigan, her hit at the bottom of the eighth inning scored the Billikens' only run to win the game during the Billiken Invitational

Bohning also came through against Memphis on March 23 by hitting a two-run homer at the bottom of the ninth to give St. Louis a 5-4 win.

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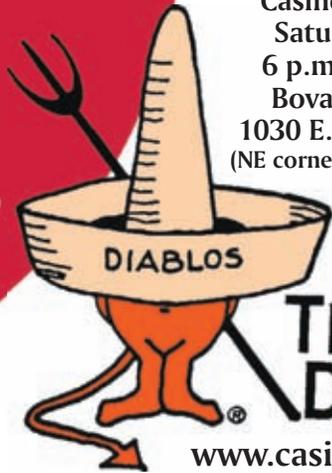
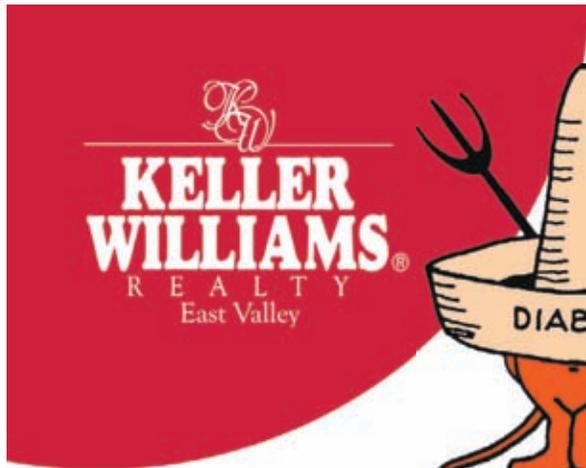
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