Wrangler NEWS

Kyrene Corridor Edition
July 31 - August 13, 2010
Vol. 21, No. 15

'The Valley's Best Community Newspaper'
Phoenix Magazine 2007

A popular and award-winning educator returns to familiar turf: Nancy Branch takes over as principal at Kyrene de la Mirada Elementary School *Story, Page 10* • *Photo by Mark Crudup*

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Inside this issue: News you can use about your Kyrene Schools, back cover

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Kyrene mansion plan may face opposition from area neighbors

Plans to turn the multi-million-dollar Kyrene mansion into a high-end conference and special-events venue may face an uphill battle once residents of three nearby affluent neighborhoods mount what could be a strenuous opposition campaign.

News of the long-anticipated sale of the property for $3.6 million, drastically below its original $10 million asking price, spread quickly to residents of one luxury community, Trovita, prompting concerns about traffic, parking, alcohol and other presumed uses that some neighbors reportedly feel could be incompatible with their luxury environs.

The mansion in question occupies a 10.5-acre site on Kyrene Road, next to property that once was owned by developer Conley Wolfswinkel.

In his high-flying days, Wolfswinkel hosted elite parties at the Tudor-style residence, including at least one event that featured a memorable performance by the Beach Boys.

The adjacent and recently unoccupied property next door, at 1220 N. Kyrene Road, Chandler, made headlines when its former owner was reported to have connections to Internet pornography.

It was in the news again in December 2009 when intruders set off a burglar alarm in the middle of the night. Police apprehended three suspects who officers said they found inside looting the place.

More recently, the sale of that property by Maritime Savings Bank to Earl N. and Shelly T. Goodman, which closed escrow June 11, followed another buyer's failed attempt several weeks earlier to purchase the property for use as a "very, very exclusive" substance-abuse rehab center for no more than 15 wealthy clients at a time,

— MANSION, Page 25

Charges result in changes to school financial policies

Kyrene school officials have upgraded the district's financial oversight procedures as a result of a onetime principal at Kyrene del Cielo Elementary School in Chandler being indicted on charges of theft and fraudulent schemes.

Janet Thor is accused of diverting $54,000 in funds donated by parent groups and businesses into her own personal bank accounts. Thor resigned last year after the district began investigating possible irregularities in the school's finances. The indictment was announced July 27.

Kelly Alexander, the district's director of community education, said that new policies will require that any future discovery of unauthorized bank accounts be investigated as potential fraud.

The revelation of such an account came to light after it was discovered by the school's assistant principal and reported to district finance officials.

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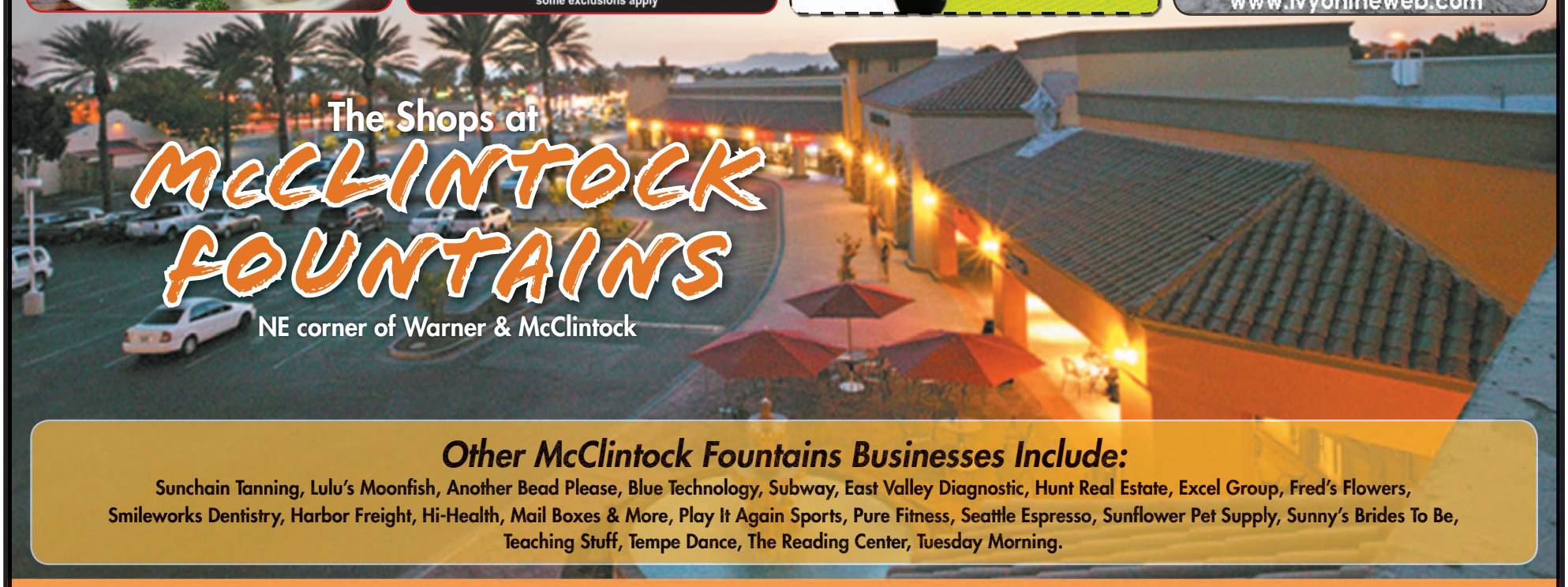

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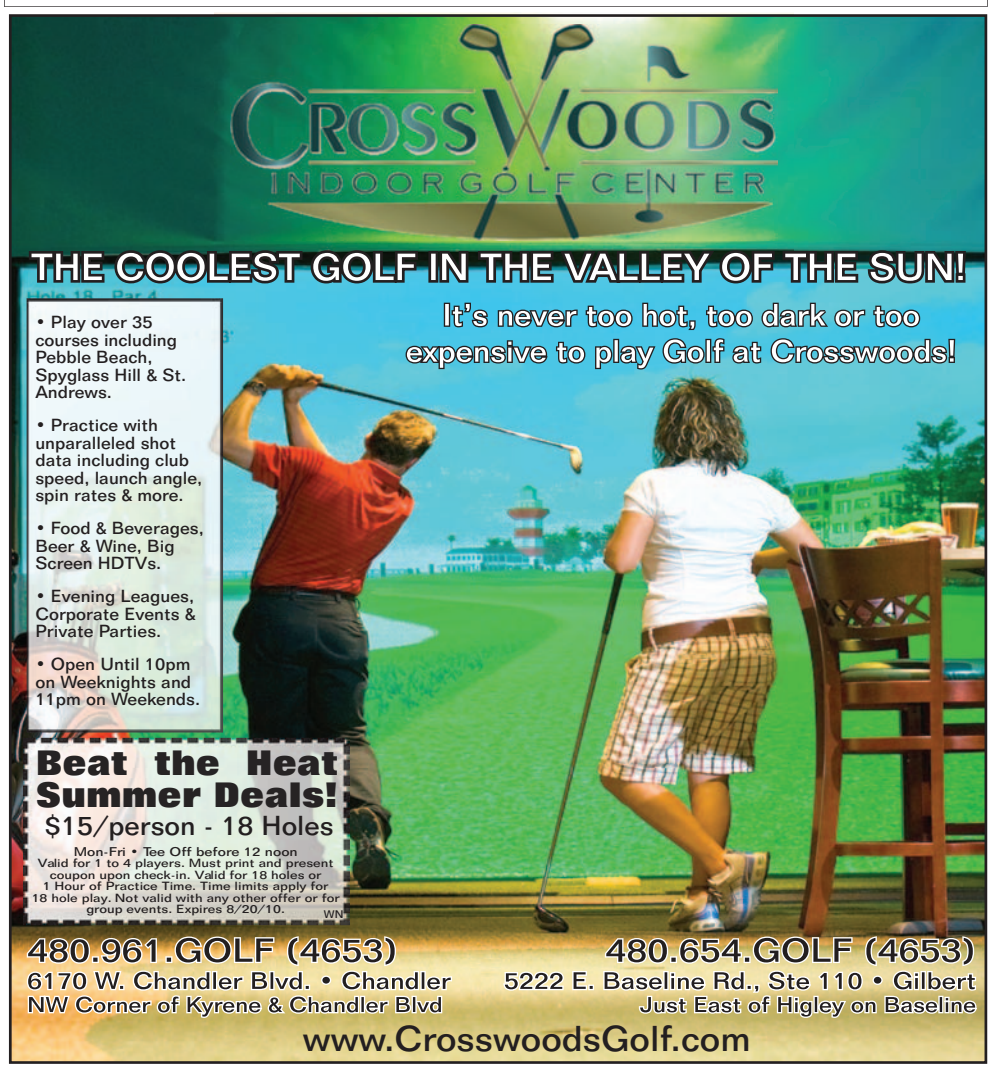

Our Kyrene Corridor, in pictures

Peek-a-boo

Hard to tell what this inquisitive critter had in mind when he dropped by Dave and Lourdes Kline's back yard in Circle G Ranches, but there didn't seem to be any mistaking the notion that he was sniffing out a free meal. The couple said they hustled their dogs inside and used a pool pole to shoo the visitor away, out the back gate and into the night to find a new home.

— Photo courtesy Dave Kline

Rotary prez

Incoming president Machel Considine takes the gavel from departing president Kyle Maki during ceremonies marking annual changing of the guard at Rotary Club of the Kyrene Corridor. Club meets at noon Mondays at Kobe Japanese Steakhouse at Elliot and Hardy, Tempe.

— Wrangler News photo

Schools vow to preserve art, music, PE despite budget cuts

By Mark Crudup

With budgetary constraints hitting local schools, parents have been anxiously waiting to see what's in store for their kids.

For school administrators, prioritizing classes considered most important to students' education is the biggest cliff-hanger.

So, as the new school year unfolds, Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David Schauer is confronted with ensuring that the interests of parents and administrators stay in balance, looking for opportunities wherever they exist to keep programs like art, music and physical education alive as mandatory elements of the district's curriculum.

"One of the things that we believe in Kyrene, and I personally believe, is that those programs are not add-ons and they're not optional," Schauer said. "I see them as an integral part of the students' education."

Parents have expressed concerns over their children losing the opportunity to have art and fitness classes, he said.

"There is some anxiety – there's a track record in education where, when the budget is tight, those classes go by the wayside," Schauer said.

"We may have to make cuts, but they will be across the board in everything. We wouldn't want to single out any particular program."

In line with parents' concerns about cuts in art and music classes, Schauer said he looks forward to further exposing students to the arts through new methods.

"If you're studying a certain time of history in class, you should also have the art and music that went along with that history," he said. "They really need to be integrated in that way."

An art masterpiece program has continued in some of the Kyrene schools for a number of years, involving parent volunteers who work with faculty to educate the students about various artists.

"Parents have also been interested in exposing kids to instrumental music," Schauer said. "We start this in the sixth grade, but we hope to expand it to younger students."

In addition to parents' anxiety over art classes, there has been a growing concern among many over the state of the physical-education system.

"I hear a lot from parents about this issue," he said. "The community, in general, is very supportive of physical education, as well as the art programs."

Last year, a well-known author came to the Kyrene district to address a new way of adding fitness to the school day: bringing exercise into the classrooms.

"He got us really excited about it because physical movement is tied directly to achievement," Schauer said, noting that the district already has some principals who are particularly interested in movement education.

In the future, students may take a break during regular class time for formalized movement exercises. Also, students on exercise balls could be a routine part of future classrooms, he said.

"Kids may not be in chairs behind desks – they may be sitting on one of those exercise balls," Schauer said. "There also may be different desk setups, so kids can stand up while doing their work."

Regarding the future of classrooms, the whole concept of standardized lessons is slowly becoming part of the past.

"I don't think the future classroom is going to look like what we are used to; it's not going to be classrooms of 30 desks in rows," he said. "We're going to have more independent delivery mechanisms through technology."

A new center, to be known as L-Tech, is being developed at Kyrene Middle School. The "learning to excel center" could be the prototype for future classrooms, Schauer said.

Students will receive more independent learning strategies that incorporate both online and traditional, one-on-one instruction.

"I think online courses are really being perfected," he said. "It's much more interactive."

In August, 42 new teachers will be educating students in the Kyrene School District, Schauer said.

"In the spring, we did a reduction of force, so we had to give notices to about 80 teachers," he said.

"Through our enrollment and staffing process, we were able to offer every one of them a position, and hire an additional 42 teachers.

"We're celebrating today."

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Aug. 4 deadline for PD volunteers

Applications are due by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, for residents interested in applying for the Chandler Police Department's "Volunteers In Policing Services" program.

Volunteers are being recruited for the department's Motorist Assist volunteer team, who are trained to respond to stranded motorists, accident scenes and other non-criminal calls for service. Volunteers can issue citations for parking violations as well as assist with vehicle lockouts, found- property calls and perform neighborhood patrols.

A training academy will run for six weeks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting Sept. 14, with one Saturday class Oct. 2.

After graduation, each volunteer will receive 50 hours of hands-on field training.

Interested applicants must be at least 21 years of age, posses a valid Arizona driver's license and successfully complete a background investigation.

Information: Melanie Slate, Community Outreach Coordinator, 480-782-4909 or www.chandlerpd.com.

4-year-olds can enroll in Tempe kindergarten

Children who didn't quite make the Sept. 1 deadline for turning five still have an opportunity to attend kindergarten at schools in the Tempe Elementary District.

Parents with ready 4-year-olds can register to place their kids in kindergarten for free. Four-year-olds turning five between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 are welcome to start kindergarten in fall 2010, provided they pass a free "readiness screening" administered at the schools.

Parents should be sure to remember to bring their child with them if they choose to enroll.

During the screening, parents answer a short questionnaire and the child completes age-appropriate tasks, according to Monica Allread, the Tempe Elementary District's public information coordinator.

Parents can visit their school of choice to enroll from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The first day of school is Aug. 10.

Tempe Y's after-school program to unveil new array of services

Focus on childcare moving toward a stronger emphasis on character building

By Jeremy Banks

Tempe's Family YMCA, on South Rural Road, each year moves toward a goal of expanding its after-school program and making it a more educational and enjoyable experience for the kids.

In its latest iteration, the program focuses on children 5-12 years of age. It runs Monday through Friday, from school dismissal until 6 p.m.

With a five-student minimum, bus service is available for participants at Norte, Niños, Waggoner, Pueblo, Paloma, Aprende, Fees, Fuller and Rover schools.

YMCA Operations Director Lance Gray said the program, which has been in existence for 12 years, now includes a gym and a reading and learning center.

"We have 16 laptops, so they do have Internet access (at the facility)," he said.

The education center, Gray said, gives students an advantage, allowing the kids to finish school, come to the Y and do their homework.

By the time 6 p.m. arrives and they go home, the kids' homework is finished and they have an opportunity to spend more time with their families.

This year, participating kids will also have a chance to engage in some physical activity. Swimming, dancing and foosball are just some of the activities offered with the program, Gray said.

"They get to do a little bit of exercise," he said. "It's really a unique experience for kids."

Gray said other benefits are the YMCA's staff of experienced teachers and the facility's unique atmosphere. There are only few places students can go after school where they would have such a diverse choice of activities, Gray said.

Kids like the wellness center, the education center and the social aspect of the YMCA after-school program, according to Gray.

During the regular school hours, social and educational activities are generally separated, Gray noted. The after-school program, however, gives kids an opportunity have both at the same time.

"The YMCA is a little different than being in a cafeteria or a classroom," he said. "The kids really have fun. It's a unique experience overall, educational and social."

Gray, who has been a part of the program for seven years, said parents like seeing the effect the program has on their children.

"They really like it because the kids want to go there," Gray said. "We offer a unique experience."

The unique experience he speaks of has helped increase the after-school program's popularity.

"We've had as many as 150 kids after school," he said.

Cost of the after-school program is $220, however scholarships are available and parents can apply by filling out a form at the YMCA.

"We want to make sure no one is turned away," he said. So far this year, $238,000 has been raised via donations.

The Y would like to eventually see the after-school program also offer character development courses, part of a goal to not only entertain and educate, but develop as well.

"That's one goal, to shift from childcare to character (building)," he said.

"We're looking (to build) a great, positive experience.

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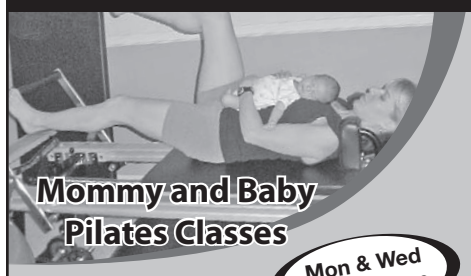

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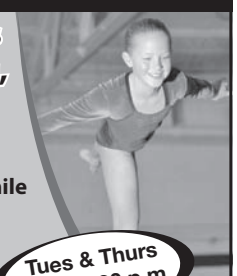

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Diversions

A guide to what's entertaining in and around the Kyrene Corridor

'Despicable Me'
Continues to charm as one of summer's 'bright spots'

By M.V. Moorhead

Superheroes are absent from *Despicable Me*; the super villains appear to operate with impunity. In this movie's world, the activities of the big leagues of villainy seem almost like some sort of conceptual art: The focus is on stealing major world landmarks.

In the opening minutes, for instance, we learn that the Great Pyramid at Giza has been kyped.

This charming and truly funny computer-animated effort from Universal, which has made more than a $160 million at the box office in the three weeks it has been running, is one of the bright spots of this summer's so far mostly unappealing blockbuster season.

The "Me" in *Despicable Me* is Gru, a tall fellow with a bald dome, a leering, long-nosed face and a down-in-the-throat Eastern European accent (provided by Steve Carell). He lives in a handsome, if forbidding, suburban house sitting atop a palatial underground laboratory.

It's run by Dr. Nefario (Russell Brand) and staffed by hundred of Minions, cheerful little guys resembling ambulatory yellow Tic Tacs in dungarees, some with one goggled eye and some with two, who chatter and giggle energetically in an unidentifiable patois.

On the whole, Gru doesn't seem to have it so bad, but he's nagged by feelings of inadequacy common to middle-aged men: His career has fallen short of his ambitions.

Sure, he's stolen the Statue of Liberty, but only the small one, from Las Vegas. Plus, he never received the approval he craved from his brusque, dismissive mother (Julie Andrews). The Pyramid caper, performed by an insufferable up-and-coming super villain who calls himself Vector (Jason Segel), makes Gru desperate to top it.

So he decides on a pretty grand gesture: Stealing

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'Despicable'

From Page 8

the moon right out of the sky.

When Gru sees three cute little orphan girls out selling cookies, it occurs to him that he can use them to solve a snag in his scheme ("Light bulb," he says out loud, with a sinister smile, when he gets an idea). So he adopts the lot of them—temporarily, he thinks—and you can see where the movie is heading from there.

Gru quickly learns that parenting three girls requires as much energy and resourcefulness as stealing the moon.

This charming and truly funny computer-animated effort from Universal, which took in a triumphant $60 million at the box office its first weekend, is one of the bright spots of this summer's so far mostly unappealing blockbuster season.

Despicable Me is loaded with visually inventive, often riotous gags. The plot is preposterous but wildly imaginative—the stealing-the-moon bit is worthy of Voltaire—and the sentimental side of the story is sweet but not sticky.

Want to know one of the best things about this movie, though? It's *short*. It's not skimpy short, it's just not needlessly overextended in the manner of so many blockbusters.

A friend of mine theorizes that with ticket prices so high, studios feel that they have to give us plenty of length, to create the sense that they're giving us bang for our buck. *Despicable Me* demonstrates that if this is indeed the theory, it's misguided—this movie covers everything from multigenerational parent-child dynamics to the purloining of celestial objects, all at 51 minutes shorter than *Sex in the City 2*.

"Despicable Me" plays at Harkins Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion Center, Tempe Marketplace and AMC Ahwatukee, as well as other theaters Valleywide.

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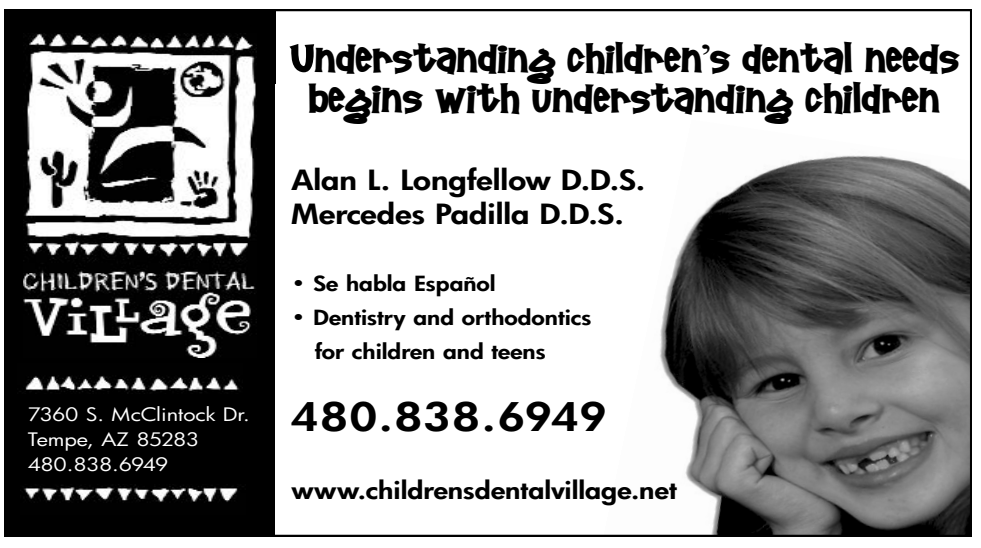

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Mirada's new principal revisits familiar turf

COVER STORY

An award-winning Kyrene Corridor educator will be the new principal of Kyrene de la Mirada Elementary School this year.

Nancy Branch, who has been involved with the Kyrene School District for more than 19 years, will take the lead at Mirada at a time when schools district- and nation-wide face some formidable challenges.

"Nancy is an award-winning principal, and she is well-respected," said Dr. David Schauer, superintendent of the Kyrene School District. "To have her back is just a huge advantage; we're very excited."

After spending last year working with schools in Chandler, Branch said she was asked to consider returning to the Kyrene district as Mirada's principal.

"Kyrene had been an important part of my life for 19 years, and I was honored to be welcomed back into the Kyrene family and community," Branch said.

Branch began her teaching career in Kyrene in 1990, spending 10 years as a classroom teacher, one year as a teacher on special assignment in the Career Ladder Department and one more year as assistant principal of Kyrene de Milenio elementary.

"I enjoyed engaging in leadership roles and began to recognize that I had leadership qualities that I could use to impact an entire school community," she said. She pursued and earned a master's degree in administration and supervision from University of Phoenix in 1999.

In 2001, Branch became assistant principal of Milenio, and the following year was named principal. She remained in that position for the next seven years.

"During the time I was there, I had the honor and joy of working with and leading a compassionate and dedicated staff to improve student achievement and to create a safe, caring learning community," Branch said.

"I am very proud of all we accomplished together as a staff."

Branch is currently working at full speed to prepare for the upcoming year at Mirada. The school year begins Aug. 9.

Branch said she hopes to develop strong professional relationships at Mirada, while adapting to current changes in education.

"Helping others adapt to change without losing sight of what really matters will be an important part of my job," she said.

With current funding constraints facing all Arizona schools, Branch said Mirada's budget has been hard hit despite the passage of Proposition 100.

"We will be faced with finding solutions to meet all student and school needs with limited dollars," she said.

Although Mirada has seen a decline in enrollment over the past few years, Branch hopes to create a more engaging educational environment for local parents.

"As a staff, we must create (a setting) that will draw and attract new families to Mirada," she said.

"There will be new challenges, but with each comes the opportunity to grow and improve."

— Mark Crudup

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Travel update: A novel solution to airline baggage charges

Two area locations of The UPS Store can help ease air travelers' burdens this summer with a variety of luggage-shipping alternatives, including a new luggage box that takes the place of a suitcase, to help reduce hassles of long lines, security searches and increasing baggage fees.

"Not having to carry a suitcase while traveling is a great convenience," said Walt Guy, owner of UPS Stores at 315 W. Elliot Road and 7650 S. McClintock Drive.

"Even better is luggage awaiting your arrival at a destination or hotel," he said. "You can ship your luggage as is; place it in a box for shipment, or purchase a luggage box, eliminating the need for a suitcase altogether."

When shipped UPS Ground service, the luggage box is competitively priced with the airlines' baggage fees, Guy said, especially when compared to the major airlines, many of which are charging well over $100 for comparable baggage.

Additionally, members of the Automobile Association of America can receive a 15 percent discount off the full retail price of The UPS Store-eligible products and services and five percent off domestic U.S. UPS shipping costs.

The new luggage box comes as the AAA predicts an increase in summer travel this year.

The process also allows travelers to easily track shipments with UPS mobile apps for cell phones, PDAs or other web-enabled wireless devices or receive e-mail shipment notification.

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'Proactive' approach best to maintain a trouble-free roof

By Jeremy Banks

With the monsoon season finally under way, there are a few things one can do to ensure a strong roof and keep leaks at a minimum.

James DeVore, owner of Shamrock Roofing, a company based in Tempe, said being proactive and not reactive is one of the most important strategies to keep in mind. He said always pay attention to the roof and check on a consistent basis.

Some homeowners don't check often enough and, when the time comes for roof work, there is extensive damage, DeVore said. Routinely paying attention to the condition of the roof can save money and reduce the chances of major damage.

"They usually think about that too late," DeVore said. "The problem with the roof in general is, for a lot of people, it's out of sight, out of mind. When you get into roofs, that's totally the case. Some people don't see (damage occurring). They don't think about it."

DeVore said some wait too long and in the end find themselves paying more for roof work. In this case, the term "better late than never" does not apply.

DeVore said clearing any debris from the roof also helps preserve it.

"One thing you can do is allow the water to escape the roof cleanly," he said. "When there's stuff on the roof it creates a dam. It (makes water flow horizontally, instead of vertically) and water can go into your house."

According to the Tempe Fire Department, several Tempe homes and businesses with flat roofs experience collapses each year that result in thousands of dollars of damage. Replacing a roof after such damage can cost $7,500-$11,000, DeVore said.

DeVore said another thing one can do is check the closets, bathrooms, pantries and garage for leaks. He said leaks can go undetected for a long time in spaces such as these.

"Because when you get in there, you normally don't look up," he said. "They might have had a small rain where it's leaking and there's also an

— ROOFS, Page 13

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Roofs

From Page 12

opportunity for mold."

DeVore, a licensed and insured contractor, has a considerable amount of experience. He has been in the roofing business for 26 years and works in neighborhoods all over the Valley. He said he enjoys the physical aspect, but visiting different neighborhoods and meeting different people is his favorite part of the job.

"I've enjoyed being in neighborhoods," he said. "You get to meet a lot of people. (The thrill is) being out in the elements. I like that as opposed to being indoors. It's kind of a unique job. It's different than a lot of other jobs."

He said he enjoys the challenge of dissecting problems and correcting them. Every day holds a new obstacle, a new problem to solve.

DeVore said he constantly encourages his customers to be proactive and take precautionary measures. He said one of the most important parts of a home is its roof. It's the covering of the home, and individuals should do whatever they can to protect it.

"Don't forget about the thing that's protecting everything you own," he said. "(A damaged roof) is like your money in a bank that doesn't have a good lock on it."

Business security issues topic of Chamber workshops

Safety and security issues facing today's businesses will be the focus of a series of workshops planned by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

In classes starting Aug. 6, instructors will discuss ways to reduce exposure to physical and computer-based dangers, reduce or eliminate liability from lawsuits, help ensure the privacy of corporate proprietary information and give employees guidance on playing a proactive role in forming a front line against dangerous and expensive threats to safety and profitability.

Individual sessions take place 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Fridays Aug. 6, 13, 20 and Sept. 3, at the University of Phoenix, 4635 E. Elwood St., Phoenix.

A series pass is available for $50 to Tempe Chamber members or $80 to the public. RSVPs are also accepted for individual sessions at a reduced rate. Advance registration is required.

Classes are limited to 25 people per session.

Dates and topics include:

Aug. 6—Workplace Safety Seminar with Tod Davis of SCF Arizona; *Aug. 13*—Computer and Internet Security with Morrison Maierle Systems; *Aug. 20*—Personal and Corporate Identity Theft Protection with Tami Nealy of LifeLock; *Sept. 3*—Presentation by Arizona Attorney General's Office and National Association for Information Destruction Inc.

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IKEA in south Tempe joins Arts of Arizona for a showcase of recycled materials that have been utilized by at-risk youth to create professional-quality 'junk' art.

Art of at-risk kids on display at IKEA

IKEA's Kyrene Corridor location will be the site of a free back-to-school exhibit being held in collaboration with Arts of Arizona, a 17-year-old non-profit that works toward building self-esteem and sparking the creative spirit in at-risk youth.

The youths live in more than 100 group homes and shelters across the Valley, and IKEA's Tempe store showcases them with its Creating a Better Everyday Life for the Many Exhibit that runs now through the end of the year.

The program, created specifically for the local store, features artwork by participants in Free Arts' Junk Art Professional Artist Series.

Working with recycled materials and discarded items from the IKEA store, teaching artist Shari Keith gave each participant an opportunity to explore the artistic potential of non-traditional art materials.

The environmentally friendly project is designed to demonstrate the benefits of recycling, reusing and reducing and that art can be created from many different types of materials. Free Arts youth are taught that they can create using items at hand and not need to purchase expensive art materials.

The purpose of Creating a Better Everyday Life for the Many project was to encourage youth to use their imaginations, to explore materials in a way that many had not done before, and to see potential in items that were deemed useless. Project sponsors say the project serves as a visual reminder that junk can truly become treasure.

Auditions Aug. 2-3 for comedy coming to Tempe Little Theatre this fall

Auditions for the comedy *The Kitchen Witches*, being performed in September and October at Tempe Little Theatre, will be held at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 2 and 3.

Two women ages 50-60 and one man aged 20-30 are needed, as well as are performers for two non-speaking roles.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. These are open auditions and no appointments will be given.

People interested in auditioning should bring a photo and resume if available.

Auditions will be held at the Tempe Performing Arts Center, 132 E. Sixth St.

The Kitchen Witches is the story of Isobel Lomax and Dolly Biddle, two "mature" cable-access cooking show hostesses who have hated each other for 30 years, ever since Stephen Biddle dated one and married the other.

Isobel makes a surprise appearance on the final episode of "Baking with Babcha," hosted by Dolly.

Sparks fly between the two cooks, delighting TV viewers, and a new cooking show featuring both is born.

Dolly's son and the show's producer, quickly becomes mired in the middle of these two incompatible cooking divas.

Show dates are Sept. 17, 18, 24, 25; Oct. 1, 2 at 8 p.m.; Sept.19, 25, 26; Oct. 2, 3 at 2 p.m.; and Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

All performances will be held at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Parkway at Tempe Town Lake.

Ticket prices are $20 for adults, $18 for seniors (55-plus) and students. Tickets go on sale Aug. 24. Reservations can be made by calling the TCA box office at 480-350-2822 or by visiting the theater's website at www.tempe.gov/TCA.

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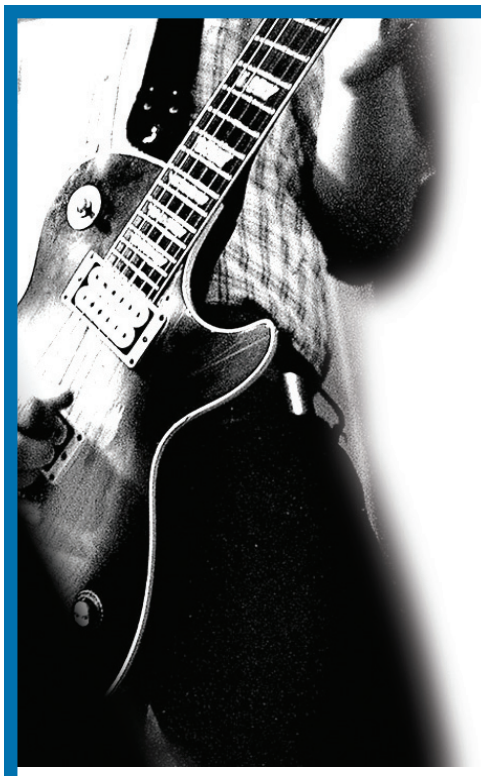

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Advanced-math classes won't count in new GPA policy

By Preslie Hirsch

Students will be affected by a recent change in how grades are transferred to Tempe Union High Schools when a student takes an advanced math class in middle school.

Scheduled to take place in the 2015 school year, the new policy states that students' GPA (grade point average) received while taking algebra 1-2 and/or geometry in middle school will not be included in calculating their high school class rank or GPA.

Students who pass these classes will receive a "P" (pass) for their high school transcript, and the letter grade earned for their middle school transcript.

The fundamental reason for this change is to "level the playing field," according to Susan Edwards, Corona del Sol principal and former Marcos de Niza registrar. And by doing so, it levels it in more than one way.

"I've always thought it was giving some students an advantage," Edwards said. "If you excelled in language arts, you don't get ahead—only if you excelled in math."

CdS registrar Holly Secor agrees.

"If you're good at math, you could earn more rank points, thus giving you an advantage to becoming valedictorian," Secor said.

Secor also raises another point.

"We want to be fair to students coming from all over; not just Tempe or Kyrene Elementary. Students come from out of state, and they weren't given the opportunity to start high school ahead," Secor said.

Secor also points out that it's not the rank points that matter most.

"Universities look to the level of math completed," Secor said.

Eduarda Schroder is the parent of a seventh grader at Kyrene Aprende, and disagrees with Secor.

"Most merit-based scholarships look at your GPA. So, it is in the interest of a serious student to be in a system that allows hard work in middle school to be reflected in the GPA in high school," Schroder said.

Schroder is a member The Parent Network, a group of parents from Tempe Union High School,

— GPA, Page 17

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GPA

From Page 16

Tempe Elementary and Kyrene Elementary districts, working to keep parents informed of changes to the districts and schools. On their online blog, the site owners posted the following example of how this system will now work:

"So, let's say, a student enters high school, with credit but no grades for Algebra 1-2 and Geometry. These 2 credits would help fulfill the AIMS requirement of 4 units of Math and then regarding the GPA requirement, GPA would be calculated on 14 classes instead of 16."

The AIMS requirement Schroder refers to is the AIMS Scholarship, a four-year tuition waiver at ASU, NAU or U of A if the student meets class and GPA requirements.

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Tempe Elementary Schools

School starts August 10th!

How to enroll:
Visit your school of choice between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To enroll, you will need to bring:
1. Your child's certified birth certificate
2. Your child's documented immunization record
3. Two verifications of address

City of Tempe Page

August 2010

Tempe remembers Sept. 11

Healing Field, the Valley's largest and longest-running Sept. 11 tribute event, returns to Tempe Beach Park the weekend of Sept.11-12.

The field consists of nearly 3,000 American flags – one for every person who perished in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The memorial is open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the park, located at the northwest corner of Rio Salado Parkway and Mill Avenue near Tempe Town Lake.

Join community leaders, public safety personnel and Valley residents for a brief commemoration, including the reading of the names of the first responders who died on Sept. 11, 2001, on Saturday, Sept. 11, at 5:40 a.m. A candlelight vigil also will occur at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11. United Blood Services will be conducting an on-site blood drive from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 11 and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 12. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/events/healingfield.

Tempe celebrates renovated library

Tempe Public Library renovations are now complete – just in time for the new school year! Join us for a free celebration on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library, 3500 S. Rural Road. The event will feature entertainment, tours and activities throughout the library for all ages.

Did you know that Tempe is home to the largest children's library in the United States? The new 18,800-square-foot youth library has edged out the Thomas Hughes Children's Library in Chicago. It features a giant cactus, a flowing stream of books, a family computing area, two toy areas and more.

Other cool spots in the renovated library include a new Teen Center, an improved Computer Commons and areas for quiet study.

In May 2006, Tempe voters authorized the sale of bonds for the $8 million renovation. Tempe's Capital Improvement Program budget is separate from the city's General Fund operating budget; bonds are repaid through secondary property taxes. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/library or call 480-350-5500.

Prostate walk at Kiwanis Park

Join City Councilmember Mark Mitchell and his father, prostate cancer survivor and Congressman Harry Mitchell, for the second annual Walk for POP at the city's Kiwanis Park on Saturday, Sept. 25.

The walk celebrates prostate cancer survivors and honors those who have lost their lives to the disease.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the two-mile fun walk starts at 8:30 a.m.

The first 100 men that register for the walk will receive a free prostate cancer screening inside the mobile screening unit at the event.

Music, food and entertainment will be in the vendor's village. Proceeds benefit "POP," the Prostate On-site Project, a nonprofit foundation.

For more information and to register, visit www.prostatecheckup.com or call 480-964-3013.

Tempe goes Back to School

This month, Tempe begins a coordinated awareness campaign to welcome students of all ages back to the city for another year of learning and experiencing all the community has to offer.

The city is reaching out to elementary and high school families, as well as college students, with tips on everything from pedestrian and bike safety to resources available at community centers and the Tempe Public Library.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/backtoschool.

Tempe Tardeada

Save the date for the Tempe Tardeada Hispanic Heritage Festival on Sunday, Oct. 10, from noon to 8 p.m. Dancing, music, children's activities and food will highlight this annual event at the Tempe Community complex, 3500 S. Rural Rd.

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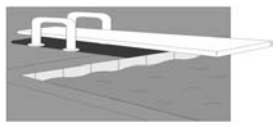
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Service Directory

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Cabinetry/Counters — Oakcraft cabinets by Wilson Laminates Oakcraft quality at a great price. www.oakcraftinc.com Laminate counters $12.50 ft. installed.Local Dealer: Wilson Laminates www.wilsonlaminates.com 4/17/10

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Electrical — Iron Core Electric. We do residential and commercial electrical work ranging from additional circuits, service changeouts, troubleshooting, to small Commercial Tenant Improvements. Honest reliable to make you feel comfortable. Licensed-Bonded-Insured ROC198028, ROC242123 Call Jesse 480-235-2498 9/25/10

Electrical— Electrical services including Residential/Commercial Troubleshooting, Data, Cable, Phone, New circuits, Fans, Can lighting and more. Reasonable rates and On time service. Call Simon (480) 818-2101 for your free estimate. Visit us on the Web @ www.smkelectric.net. Licensed, Bonded and Insured. ROC 243593. *See the ad for SMK Electric elsewhere in this issue.*

Exterminating — Scorpions can be kept out of the home! Is your exterminating ineffective? Are you fearful of being stung? Call to learn how to keep scorpions out of your home. 480-820-7325. www.sealoutscorpions.com *See our ad in the Guide to Neighborhood Services*

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Garage Door—Honest Garage Door Service - Repairs and Installations of Garage Doors and Openers. Same Day 1 Hour Service. Available Weekends and Evenings at NO Extra Charge. $39.95 Service Call (waived with most repairs / installations). Call 480-204-8765. (24/7). Not a licensed contractor. 6/12/10

Gates/Fencing—Custom Fences and Gates, Ornamental Iron Fabrication, We offer all types of fences, view fence, pool fence and others, 4x6 iron wood combo gate $289, www.customfenceandgates.com, licensed, bonded, insured, ROC#230087, 602-254-8379 *See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.*

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. Clean, neat and dependable. 25 years experience. Not a licensed contractor - Make your list and call Ron 480-233-1834 or 480-736-1599. *See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.*

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Handyman — One Stop Handyman Services. Hi folks, we do it all. Plumbing, electrical, tile, flooring, carpentry, drywall, window and door replacement, kitchen and bathroom make-overs. Over 20 years experience. Small jobs welcomed. Call Scott at (480)225-3284. 7/31

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Lake draining won't halt Kush Run

Kyrene Corridor residents will join a throng of participants expected to attend the 19th annual Frank Kush Family Fun Run & Walk, designed as an affordable family-oriented event promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

The event, which benefits Arizona youth groups through the Frank Kush Youth Foundation, returns to Tempe Town Lake on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Event officials say lack of water at the lake won't interfere with this year's event.

Open to all ages will be a 5K run, 5K walk, 1-mile fun run, 1-mile walk, and the popular dog walk. There also will be a health fair with information, screening stations and martial arts demonstrations.

Each school or youth group that pre-registers 50 or more participants, including staff and parents, will receive a $250 donation from the Kush Foundation to purchase physical activity equipment. Groups with 75 participants receive $350 donations.

"This is for all ages; non-competitive runners and walkers are welcome as well as competitive runners."

Advance registration fees are $10 for adults, $5 for children 16 and under. A $20 family package accommodates four family members, with $5 for each additional child. Participants receive a race T-shirt, and children who run or walk the 5K or 1-mile event receive medals. Dogs are given ribbons.

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Wrangler News

Making a big community a little bit smaller.

Publisher: Kyle Maki • **Contributing Writers:** Mark Crudup, Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead, Jeremy Banks, Preslie Hirsch
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Mansion

From Page 2

according to one source.

Jeff Lucas, a longtime Kyrene Corridor Realtor who has followed developments at the property for several years, said he fears any plan to remake it as a special-events center could meet with legal obstacles.

Experience shows that a similar event- and conference-center on Price Road in west Chandler, known as Ashley Manor, tends to attract the kind of large crowds, nighttime noise, cars and alcohol use that nearby residents near the Kyrene property likely would find objectionable.

"There's a reasonable concern that any such usage also would have an impact on property values in Trovita which, like many other neighborhoods, has been affected by diminished prices during the current downturn," Lucas said.

Although the current agricultural zoning adjacent to the mansion, juxtaposed with commercial zoning at Knox and Kyrene roads, might allow the project to proceed with only a use permit, residents still could object to an application for a liquor license, which probably would be needed for any type of commercial special-events enterprise to be successful, said Lucas.

Based on usage that would seem to be best for both the property and the neighborhood, Lucas said, an exclusive rehabilitation center for well-heeled clients, as originally proposed, might well have been a better choice.

— Don Kirkland

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Kyrene Corridor Sports

Corona's Class of '09: Where are they now?

By Alex Zener

Corona del Sol's class of 2009 has several star athletes, including members of the school's 2009 baseball team who won the State 5A-I Championship.

Several members of this bumper crop of athletes went on to play at the college level.

Here's how some of these fared playing at the next level.

Michael Felton and **Brock Abbadini** played together at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, an NCAA Division II school located in Weatherford, Okla. SWOSU is part of the Lone Star Athletic Conference.

Felton had an exceptional freshman season for the Bulldogs, garnering multiple school and conference post-season awards in a number of categories. He was named the league's top freshman and also captured first-team honors as the league selection at second base. He became the first SWOSU player to earn a first team honor since the league combined its two divisions in 2008.

Felton's dazzling statistics tell the story. He not only is ranked as the 2010 NCAA Division II's third-leading hitter with a .495 average (92 hits in 186 at bats) but his .495 batting average was the highest single season record for any player in LSC history.

He shattered the previous LSC mark (.488) for single-season batting average, a record that had stood since 1997, and set a SWOSU single-season record besting the previous record (.452) set in 1977.

Felton set his second single-season record for the Bulldogs with the most hits (92), bettering the previous record (87) set by Jeff Deckard in 1987. He also led the team in runs batted in (50), doubles (18), total bases (123), and on-base percentage (.546). He was second in runs scored (51), total plate appearances (217) and hit three home runs.

In addition, Felton had a 35-game consecutive hitting streak which is also believed to be a school record. He played in all 50 games, starting in 49 of them. He had 113 fielding assists and 22 double plays as second baseman for the Bulldogs.

Felton's post-season honors continued when he was selected to the first-team of the 2010 Daktronics All-South Central Region Baseball Team, a selection that will advance him for nomination to the Daktronics All-American ballot later this summer.

He was one of 35 players recognized as finalists for the Tino Martinez, the annual award given to the top NCAA Division II player in the nation. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs and the LSC, Felton is not returning to SWOSU this fall. Felton missed his family and friends, and the weather was hard for him to get used to, so he moved back to Arizona.

"Next year I'm going to Gateway Community College," said Felton "After I finish the year, I will look to go to the best place for me. It could be a D-II or D-I school or maybe even the draft. It all depends on the year and how everything goes."

Abbadini, a 6' 4" left-handed pitcher, had a solid season with the Bulldogs with a 7.79 ER. He appeared in 19 games and tied with two other pitchers to lead the team in wins with four each.

No word yet about whether Abbadini will be returning to SWOSU.

Ryan Moore and **Tyler Giannonatti** chose Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., to showcase their baseball talents.

Moore, a standout athlete at Corona, had a successful freshman season for the Wildcats in the outfield and up at bat. The 5'11" Moore played in 45 out of the total 59 games starting in two. He had a solid batting average of .464 with 13 hits out of 28 times at bat. Altogether he had 10 runs, two doubles and 13 RBI's.

Moore, one of best at stealing bases at Corona with 21 steals on 22 attempts overall, continued his prowess at Kansas State, stealing nine bases on nine attempts his first year.

Giannonatti, a right-handed pitcher for the Wildcats, also had a solid freshman campaign. He pitched in 14 games earning a 6.27 ERA and is given credit for winning two games.

Two other 2009 Corona graduates did well their freshman season playing at the next level: **Lexie Schroeder** and **Nicole Coggins**.

Schroeder, a two-star athlete at Corona, chose to play volleyball over soccer at Northern Arizona, where she not only played the libero or defensive specialist position but was a scholar athlete studying nursing.

Schroeder continued her competitive spirit at NAU, playing in 23 of 27 matches with 10 starts. She played defense for the Lumberjacks, finishing the season with 2.09 digs per game, which placed her third on the team in digs per game. She had a season high 14 digs against Sacramento State on Sept. 24.

In addition, Schroeder was awarded two academic awards: a 2009-10 Golden Eagle Scholar Athlete Award Recipient, given to honor athletes who maintain high levels of scholastic achievement while performing with distinction in the university's athletic programs.

Schroeder was also one of seven student-athletes from the NAU volleyball team to be placed on the Big Sky Conference's All-Academic team.

To be eligible for consideration for this award, she needed to participate in at least half of the team's competitions and achieve at least a 3.2 GPA.

In addition, Northern Arizona's volleyball team recently received the American Volleyball Coaches Association (WBCA) Team Academic Award for the second straight year when they turned in a cumulative grade point average of 3.40 for the academic year. Schroeder was one of the team's student-athletes to help the team win this award.

Nicole Coggins played in 28 games her freshman year as a wing on Denison University's girls basketball team. She totaled eight steals in an average of 10 minutes per game to earn a total of 50 points most of them through three-point shooting. Denison is in the North Coast Athletic Conference.

Butters update

Another standout Corona athlete from the class of 2009, **Zeric Butters**, graduated May 28 from Salisbury Prep, in Salisbury, Conn.,where he collected first honors each semester. He reported to the West Point Military Academy on June 28. He is currently attending the West Point Boot camp, fondly referred to by the cadets as "The Beast."

Zeric Butters, fourth from left, back, with other cadets at West Point boot camp.

Butters played football and lacrosse while at Corona. Like other first-year athletic recruits to West Point, he attended a prep school on the East Coast, where he also played lacrosse.

Classes are scheduled to start Aug. 16 when Butters will also continue to train as the West Point lacrosse goalie.

A team to watch

It appears two Corona basketball players started getting the Aztec basketball team noticed during the summer leagues.

Rumor has it that senior guard **Calaen Robinson**, who has further developed his left-handed play, and senior big man **Avery Moss**, with his improved offense and defense, have given others the impression that the Aztecs may be one of the teams to watch in the 5A-I league this next season along with Mesa Mountain View and Mountain Pointe.

Complaints prompt action by TUHSD governing board

TUHSD officials were expected last week to determine Coach Zane Zamenski's future at Corona del Sol High School after a group of parents and students said he made repeated inappropriate remarks during campus football training sessions.

Zamenski has been assigned to home pending an investigation into the complaints.

As many as 28 interviews, including a number of Corona students, reportedly have been conducted since a July 14 school board meeting at which a display of opposition to Zamenski's alleged behavior prompted the board to place him on temporary home leave.

Also following the meeting, the district's Human Relations Department and its director of athletics launched their own investigation into the matter, and were said early last week to be considering options to recommend to the board on July 29.

The board would have the decision on what penalty, if any, should be imposed on Zamensky.

The school district's director of communications, Linda Littell, said Zamenski did not participate in the usual pre-season football camp that started last week, which probably meant that he would not receive the normal stipend that goes with coaching assignments.

All in the family

A new chapter unfolds in trio's athletic legacy

Story & photos by Jake Novy

TJ (front), Casey and Holly Benson work out at south Tempe's Fast Athlete training facility. The trio teams up for support in fulfilling long-term athletic goals.

TJ, Holly and Casey Benson have been around athletics their whole lives and have taken different paths to get to where they are today.

The family trio, a pair of Corona del Sol graduates and an incoming Aztec freshman, have gone through many of the same experiences together, yet all find themselves going in completely different directions as their futures unfold.

TJ, a 2004 Corona graduate, recently signed on to play professional basketball in Rio de Janeiro with the expansion Tijuca Tenis Clube.

The 24-year-old earned a number of accolades as a senior in the Orange and Gold, taking home 1st Team All-Region, Honorable Mention All-State and All-City Team award, which led him to Mesa Community College to play ball.

After two years there, including a one-year medical redshirt, TJ transferred to Weber State in Ogden, Utah, where he spent another three years trying to master his craft.

Luck once again wasn't on his side as he broke his foot, causing yet another medical redshirt.

He then transferred to Grand Canyon University, reconnecting with former friend and at the time Arizona State assistant Russ Pennell, who landed the head coaching position with the Antelopes.

TJ thrived his last season at GCU, earning 2nd Team All-Pacific West honors. His luck had seemed to turn and an unexpected opportunity came knocking shortly after his basketball career had looked to be coming to an end.

One of his teammates was being recruited for the Brazilian startup squad, and one thing led to another with TJ being offered a contract. He jumped on the opportunity and signed on the dotted line, which will have him in Rio de Janeiro from Aug. 15 through Dec. 15.

"I'm definitely excited, TJ said.

"I wouldn't say I'm nervous yet; it will probably kick in within the next couple weeks, but right now I'm just more excited with the fact that I'm going to be a professional basketball player."

Travel costs, living expenses and a little extra will be given to TJ as he kicks off his career as a professional player.

"I'm getting paid to play basketball," he says.

"It's been a goal of mine since starting college and is a dream-come-true."

The contract is guaranteed for only one season. However, with a solid performance, TJ may have to improve on his Portuguese and expect an extended stay to build on his basketball career in Brazil when another league starts in January.

TJ isn't the only avowed athlete in the family. After playing soccer at Oregon State University, TJ's sister Holly played for the semi-pro Women's Premier League with the AZ Rush and Phoenix Del Sol. She was a part of the 2006 state championship team at Corona.

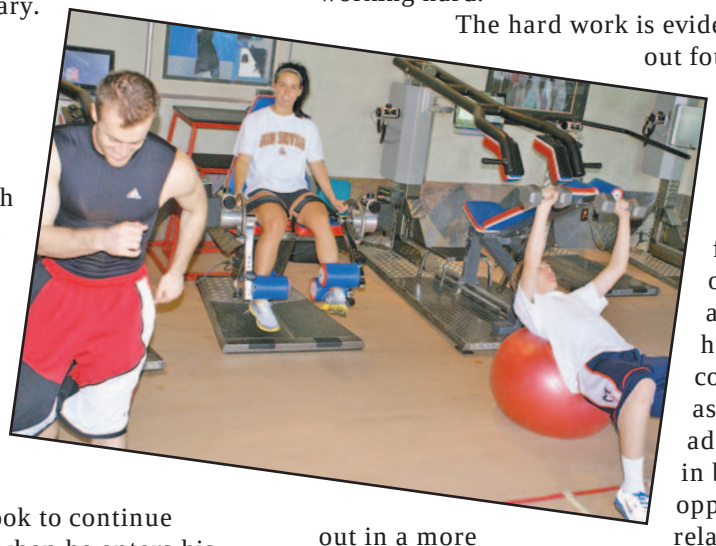
Holly, academically a senior who has two years of athletic eligibility remaining, now attends Arizona State University.

Little brother Casey will look to continue the Benson legacy at Corona when he enters his freshman year next month. He was part of the undefeated squad at Kyrene Middle School and has been participating with the Corona varsity team during summer play. There is definitely a difference in play coming from middle school to the high school game.

"Everyone's a lot bigger and stronger," Casey says. "It's way more competitive."

He has followed his brother's experiences and says he will look to duplicate TJ's success with the ultimate goal of playing Division One basketball after high school.

"Just stay positive," TJ has told his little brother. "It's not going to be easy; be humble and always keep working hard."



The hard work is evident as the trio works out four times a week at Tempe's Fast Athlete at Warner and Kyrene to stay sharp.

The training facility owned and operated by Josh and Lara Clark gives high school and college kids, as well as fitness-conscious adults looking to get in better shape, the opportunity to work out in a more relaxed environment, but still with the benefit of top-of-the-line equipment.

The Benson trio has accomplished a lot together athletically and now embarks on the next chapter of their journey heading into the future—and a bright one, at that.

Kyrene

The Kyrene School District Community Newsletter • Fall 2010

KyreneSchoolDistrict

communicates

School Calendar 2010-11

August 2010
- 4 Meet the Teacher - Middle Schools
- 5 Meet the Teacher - Elementary Schools
- 9 First day of classes for students
  FREE Immunization Clinic (District Office)

September 2010
- 6 Labor Day: Student/Staff Holiday

October 2010
- 8 End of 1st quarter
- 11 Fall break begins
- 15 Fall break ends
- 18 Staff Development Day (Schools closed)

November 2010
- 11 Veterans Day: Student/Staff Holiday
- 12 Schools Closed
- 25 Thanksgiving: Student/Staff Holiday
- 26 Thanksgiving: Student/Staff Holiday

December 2010
- 17 End of 2nd quarter
- 20 First day of Winter break

January 2011
- 3 School Resumes
- 17 Martin Luther King Day: Student/Staff Holiday

February 2011
- 21 Presidents Day: Student/Staff Holiday

March 2011
- 11 End of 3rd quarter
- 14 Spring break begins
- 18 Spring break ends

April 2011
- 22 Schools closed

May 2011
- 26 End of 4th quarter
- 26 Last day for students
- 27 Last day for teachers

Kyrene Governing Board Members

Ross Robb, President

Michelle Hirsch, Vice President

Patrick McGill, Member

Ellen Shamah, Member

Rae Waters, Member

Kyrene provides quality schools and a well-rounded education

David K. Schauer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Many of us have recently experienced the most difficult economics of our lifetimes. Some of us have lost jobs, homes, income and/or know people who have had this happen to them. In spite of this troubling news, The Kyrene School District continues to provide a high quality education in one of the best school districts in Arizona.

Quality education and schools

Quality schools are a source of pride and strongly contribute to the stability and prosperity of this community. We know families specifically chose to move to this area because of our school district's reputation and we intend to live up to those expectations.

When traveling around the 135 square mile district and seeing the state of the art facilities and resources available for all of our students, it is clear that this is a prime example of public education at its best.

We continue to make upgrades to all facilities and ensure that programs are providing continuous progress and growth for every student.

Strong support for students

We have a strong Kyrene Foundation that provides support for schools and a Family Resource Center that distributes food, clothing, personal products and referrals for assistance families need. We believe in doing what it takes to ensure all students have what they need to be successful.

Providing P.E. and Fine Arts

Though the recent challenges caused by state funding reductions for education have been difficult, we have not wavered in our support for physical education and fine arts. We believe these learning experiences are not options but integral and critical components of a well-rounded education.

We feel fortunate to have strong community support and do not take for granted that this is earned through trust, transparency and good communication.

Kyrene will continue to seek the most effective strategies to reach our community in order to maintain and increase confidence and support for the important work we do. ■

Keep updated on schools

As a community member or parent, you can stay up to date on what's happening in your public school district by signing up for our E-newsletters at www.kyrene.org. You can choose to receive district-wide info or one of our 25 schools newsletters now sent via email. The website has information on budget, after-school programs and videos of every Kyrene Governing Board meeting. ■

College Bound Dual Language Academy

Languages are best learned at an early age. The dual language program provides kindergarten students with instruction in both English and Spanish.

Innovative programs

Kyrene is proud of 120 years of educational excellence. This tradition continues as we debut innovative academies which include Leadership, College Preparatory, and College Bound Dual Language.

We also offer the CASA Vida program for home-schooled students and the Montessori and Bienvenidos programs for ages 3-5.

For enrollment information call 480-783-4175. ■

New board members to be elected Nov 2, 2010

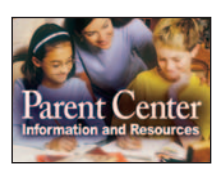
On November 2, 2010 voters will be asked to select two new Governing Board members. For more information on the Kyrene School District Governing Board, visit www.kyrene.org/gb

On June 22, 2010, the Kyrene Governing Board called for a continuation of the Capital Override and a Bond authorization to be considered by the voters on the November 2nd election.

During the week of September 27, 2010, all Kyrene voters will receive an informational pamphlet from the Maricopa County Elections Office that will explain the background and rationale for the election items.

For information on these ballot items, visit www.kyrene.org/budget ■

Parent Center



Parents are encouraged to sign up for Parent Center (link off Kyrene.org) which includes bus routes and lunch menus plus middle school student grades. Parents new to the system must request an activation code from the school office. ■