

Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read Local.

September 6 - 19, 2014

Vol. 25, No. 15

K to COLLEGE

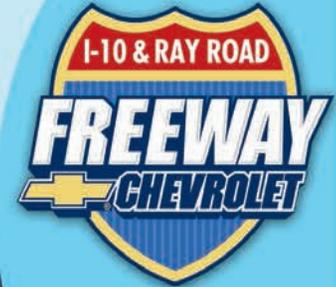
Our new Education section for schools, kids, teens & families starts on Page 14

Shaun Richards celebrates after scoring a touchdown for Marcos de Niza's Padres in their 34-17 win over Horizon. Sports, Pg. 18

— Wrangler News / Billy Hardiman



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Governing board spells out a timeline to study enrollment solutions

Demographic changes lead to review of Kyrene boundaries

By Diana Whittle

Proposed changes to attendance boundaries within the Kyrene School District will be presented during a series of upcoming forums that are designed to provide a chance for residents to react to the recommendations.

The sessions will be held at varying dates as schools throughout the district.

According to a study, completed for the Kyrene District by Applied Economics, school boundaries have not been revised for nearly 20 years, while demographics have changed significantly.

“As the population in the district ages, there are fewer school-aged children,” said Rick Brammer, the AE demographer who also is responsible for the study.

“At the same time, enrollment includes a significant influx of students from out of the district, due to Kyrene’s reputation as an excellent school district. As a result, Kyrene’s total enrollment remained relatively stable, but inequities in individual school enrollments have occurred.”

While some schools are near or at their capacity of students, there is significant capacity remaining in others.

Jeremy Calles, the chief financial officer for Kyrene, says that the recommended enrollment at most elementary schools in the district is 650, and the new boundaries will more evenly divide students.

“Currently we have a few schools with enrollment that is lower than optimal, and then there are some others that top out at 800. We would like to distribute students more equitably across school facilities based upon available capacity.”

Calles is facilitating the ongoing meetings of a School Boundary Change Task Force, a group of residents and parents who are considering the boundary change options.

Initially, the task force participants looked at possible boundary changes on the east side of I-10 in Tempe and Chandler. Now that this process is completed, the group will look at the schools on the west side of I-10 in Ahwatukee.

“The task force is driving the process and providing important insights as we consider the best way to ensure that school facilities are operating at peak efficiency and effectiveness,” said Calles.

“We also want to return to the feel of a neighborhood school and that includes having an elementary school feed into only one middle school so students can remain with their friends whenever possible.”

One of the biggest challenges in changing the boundaries will be to continue to provide safe, efficient and logical transportation routes, said Calles.

Once the Task Force finalizes its recommendations, the ideas will be taken to the

district’s Governing Board and, if adopted, be subject to a two-year grandfathering period so any changes will be made over time.

“Since we allow open enrollment of students, parents can choose to stay at their existing school even after we take away the transportation. This will cause a gradual evening of the schools’ enrollment, and any reduction in staff at larger elementary schools would most likely be handled through attrition,” said Calles.

The goal of the task force members, they say, is to make the best long-range decisions for the district. Their efforts are important, they say, as they seek to further define changes in enrollment and to better understand emerging population trends.

More parents are encouraged to join the committee for the remainder of the project.

Meetings are scheduled for Mondays, 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Kyrene District Office, 8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe.

The upcoming sessions are open to the public and are scheduled 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30 at Kyrene Middle School, 1050 E. Carver Road, Tempe; 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1 at Kyrene del Pueblo, 360 S. Twelve Oaks Blvd., Chandler; and 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2 at Kyrene Aprende, 777 N. Desert Breeze Blvd., Chandler.

For information or to volunteer, email Carol Mahoney at cmahon@kyrene.org.

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Don Carlos Humanitarian of the Year Former Tempe Mayor Giuliano to be recognized for inspirational leadership

Former Mayor Neil G. Giuliano will be honored as Tempe Community Council's 31st annual Don Carlos Humanitarian of the Year when the organization holds its 2014 awards ceremony and dinner Wednesday, Oct. 15.

The group has hosted the program since 1984 to recognize a local individual or couple for their community service in Tempe, and for inspiring others to do the same.

The award is named after Tempe's founder, Charles Trumbull Hayden, known by the Spanish pioneers as Don Carlos and recognized as Tempe's first and most-revered humanitarian.

Giuliano, this year's honoree, served as Tempe's mayor for 10 years starting in 1994, holding the record as the youngest person ever elected to the position. For six of those years, Tempe was the largest city in America with an openly gay mayor.

Giuliano served on the board of directors of the National League of Cities and, in 2003, Tempe earned the All-America City award, a coveted honor bestowed on local governments demonstrating exceptional success in problem solving.

Concurrent to his work as a public

official, Giuliano held numerous senior roles at Arizona State University, including director of federal relations and co-chair of the final presidential debate of the 2004 election. Following his term as mayor, Giuliano served as president of the Gay &



Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and executive producer of GLAAD Media Awards.

While in the position, Giuliano expanded the organization's media advocacy and anti-defamation work to include religious and faith-based communities, sports and advertising media. Under his leadership, the GLAAD Media Awards appeared for the first time on BRAVO, VH-1 and Logo television

networks.

In December 2010 Giuliano was named CEO of the San Francisco-based AIDS Foundation, one of the oldest and largest organizations of its type in the world.

Through education, advocacy and direct services for prevention and care, the foundation confronts HIV in communities most vulnerable to the disease.

Giuliano has received extensive recognition for his work in public policy and community activism. He

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was named among the "Out 100" by Out Magazine in 2005 and was invited as a distinguished lecturer to the William J. Clinton School of Public Service at the Clinton Presidential Library in 2009.

His memoir, "The Campaign Within," was published in 2012.

Giuliano received a bachelor's degree in communication and a master's in higher education from Arizona State University, where he served as student body president in the early 1980s.

He has also completed the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Advanced Program for State and Local Officials.

Giuliano joins an impressive list of other Don Carlos Humanitarian recipients, including:

Dr. William Payne, Leonard Monti Sr.; Margaret and William Kajikawa; Jinnett B. Kirk; Peggy Bryant; Eliza Carney; Naomi Harward; Mimi and Mac Bohlman; Virginia Tinsley; Betty and John Waters; Pat Hatton; Lawn Griffiths; Rudy Campbell; Bobbie and George Overby; Sue and Robert Lofgren; Carol E. Smith; Sue Searcy; Zita Johnson; Bobbie and Don Cassano; David B. Cutty; Joseph Spracale; Jane and Dick Neuheisel; Gail Fisher and Mel Kessler; Linda Spears; Pen Johnson; Sue Ringler; Catherine May and Dan Abbott; Alice and Ralph Goitia; Harry E. Mitchell; and Kerry Fetherston.

This year's awards ceremony, at SRP's PERA Club starting at 5:30 p.m., also will recognize the Kiwanis Club of Tempe's Guiding Light as Philanthropist of the Year and Gwen Hanna as the 2014 Spirit of Tempe Karma Volunteer.

A Young Humanitarian Scholar also will be recognized. Information: 480-858-2300.



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Retiring after a historical run of her own Celebrating 2½ decades, History Museum director ends a memorable career



Amy Douglass, center, receives a congratulatory plaque from Tempe City Manager Andrew Ching to signal her retirement after 26 years as administrator of Tempe History Museum. Community Services Manager Shelley Hearn looks on.

— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

By M.V. Moorhead

For Amy A. Douglass, museums have long been part of her personal history.

"I've always loved museums," confesses Douglass, who has just stepped down after many years as Manager of Tempe History Museum. "As a kid in New York, museums were a place I could go and be safe, and be in another world. The Natural History Museum was a special favorite."

The interest in humankind's remote past led Douglass to study anthropology at Wellesley, but she spent her junior year at U of A. "The Southwest...I caught the bug," she recalls. Same with archaeology, as opposed to anthropology.

"I was attracted to the fact that, in archaeology, you could study cultures over a much broader spectrum." After completing her undergrad studies at Wellesley, she went on to grad school at ASU, from which she eventually earned her Doctorate in Archaeology.

After various career paths, Douglass landed back in Tempe, and

back in the setting she loved as a kid—a museum.

For the past 26 years, Douglass has been the administrator of what was then the Tempe Historical Museum, but since 2010 has been called Tempe History Museum. Why the name change?

"There was some confusion between us the Arizona Historical Museum," says Douglass. Besides that, however, the feeling was that a less stuffy, more dynamic name was needed. "The idea being that we're a museum about history," explains Douglass.

"The museum isn't historical."

So, after two and a half decades of studying the area, can Dr. Douglass tell us something that goes beyond the relatively well-known stuff about Hayden's Ferry and the flour mills and San Pablo and Monti's, something that might actually surprise us about the history of Tempe?

She's up to the challenge: "African-Americans could not own

— RETIRING, Page 24

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Wrangler
NEWS

IN THE SWIM

Swim team members from Corona del Sol High School kick-started their annual pre-season fundraising efforts by holding a community car wash in the convenience store parking lot at Kyrene and Warner. The young swimmers accomplished exactly what was planned: Reinforcing their team-bonding skills, proving their talent for entrepreneurship, raising a healthy amount of contributions and ensuring that they'll be serious contenders when this year's competitive season rolls around. The team's first meet will be 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9 at Hamilton High School.

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



9/11 MEMORIAL

HEALING FIELD ~ SEPTEMBER 10 -13, 2014

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF TEMPE



Tempe will honor the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks at its eleventh annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park. American flags have been placed in the field representing each of the lives lost on that day. The public is invited to join neighbors, community leaders and public safety officers to experience the moving display of patriotism and unity.

Tempe Beach Park, 80 W. Rio Salado Parkway
5 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day

Free Healing Field Events and Ceremonies:

Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. - Community Concert

Thursday, Sept. 11 at 5:46 a.m. - Memorial Ceremony

Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. - Candlelight Vigil



The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Tempe Beach Park from 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13. To make an appointment, visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and use the search term "Exchange Tempe," or call 520-230-7295. Walk-in donors are welcome



Cities rally to address diversity issues Chandler, Tempe aim to strengthen dialogue

Tempe Talks, a diversity dialogue program, is seeking applicants to participate in a series of meetings which will foster community conversation about diversity issues, cultural tolerance and inclusion.

The program, which began 15 years ago, represents a collaboration of the Tempe Human Relations Commission and the city of Tempe Diversity Office.

Out of the planned dialogues are expected to come a better understanding of self, community and ways in which to improve the climate for diversity in Tempe. Applications for both teen and adult groups are being accepted.

During eight weekly discussion sessions, groups will be led by trained volunteer facilitators in discussions of diversity issues. The facilitators won't act as experts in anything but facilitation. There are no formal lectures; group participants learn from

one another.

Over the course of the discussions, the group will develop relationships and tackle more and more difficult issues. Group members will receive certificates of completion, and the teens participating will also receive letters of community service hours.

The group is scheduled to meet from 6 to 7:45 p.m. on consecutive Tuesdays at the Tempe Public Library, lower level meeting room. Dates are Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30; Oct. 14, 21 and 28; and Nov. 4.

Participants must commit to attend all eight sessions. Food and drinks are provided and there is no cost to participate.

Registration, for which a deadline of noon Tuesday, Sept. 9, is can be made online at www.tempe.gov/diversitydialogue.

Information: 480-350-8979.

Chandler police say that, in addition to being a proactive move to facilitate training and communication, their newly formed LGTB liaison committee will study recommendations for recruitment practices that ensure opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community members.

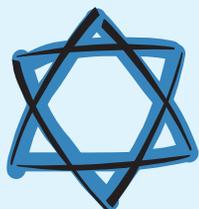
Police Chief Sean Duggan announced the committee's formation, noting that it is comprised of several sworn and civilian police employees and supervisors.

Duggan called the decision to form the committee a proactive step to facilitate training and communication that will enhance

the knowledge of the department and the community regarding issues faced by LGBT individuals.

"The committee will work to strengthen relations between Chandler PD and the LGBT community through education and communication toward the goal of ensuring Chandler remains a safe community," Duggan said.

"This work may include collaborating with the LGBT communities around services, responses, protection, treatment and communications with and by the department, and ongoing communication with community members to address issues that affect the LGBT community in Chandler."



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Tempe's emergency-services professionals offered kids a preview of what they'll be see at this year's Healing Field ceremony, planned Wednesday, Sept. 10 through Saturday, Sept. 13, at Tempe Beach Park. The 3-day observance memorializes those who perished in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. This marks the 11th year that the Exchange Club of Tempe and the city of Tempe are sponsoring the solemn remembrance. Tempe Beach Park is at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway. Healing Field is the nation's longest-running Sept. 11 tribute, during which one American flag is flown for each of the 2,996 civilians, military members and first responders who died as a result of the attacks.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 6 p.m. — Freedom Community Concert

Thursday, Sept. 11, 5:46 a.m. — Memorial Ceremony

Thursday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m. — Candlelight Vigil

The American Red Cross will host blood drives at Tempe Beach Park each day of the observance. To make an appointment, visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and use the search term "Exchange Tempe" or call 520-230-7295. Walk-in donors are welcome.

To see a special Tempe 11 segment on Healing Field, visit Tempe 11's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/tempe11video. For more information, visit www.Tempe.gov/HealingField.

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



Equine cops hoof a unique beat for Tempe

Story by M.V. Moorhead

Photos by Jill Clark



Here's a scoop for you: A half dozen or so respected members of the Tempe Police Department currently live in a shelter in Kiwanis Park. Not only are they fed with public funds—the taxpayers even buy their shoes.

OK, so it admittedly becomes less surprising if you know that the seven officers in question are Rex, Thor, Phoenix, Rio, Strider, Blitz and Titan—the horses of Tempe's Mounted Unit.

The shelter in question is the open-air stable where all reside when they aren't on duty, either helping to manage crowds downtown or representing the department at ceremonial functions, or as public-

relations ambassadors.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the unit, which boasts, along with its seven four-legged members, three full-time human officers and several reserve riders from the department itself, as well as a number of dedicated volunteers.

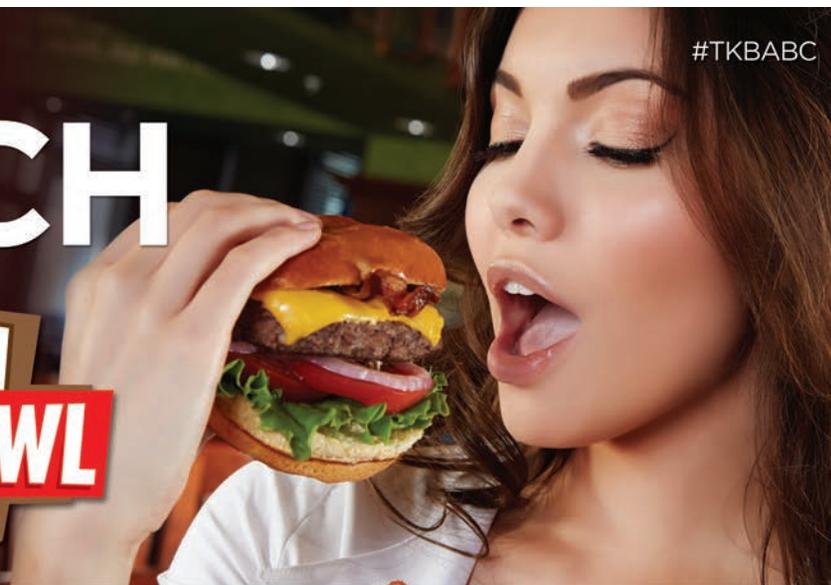
Among the latter is Jill Clark, a local airline pilot who gets her equine fix by spending as much time as she can spare helping to train and tend the animals.

"I go to the official events as the poop-scooper and photographer," says Clark proudly. But around

— EQUINE, Page 25

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K TO COLLEGE

News about schools, kids, teens & families



Aprende Middle School's choir, 190 members strong and led by Leilani Figueroa, sang the 'Star Spangled Banner' again this year at the Arizona Diamondbacks game on Aug. 27 at Chase Field. The group will perform again at 7 p.m. at Corona del Sol High School on Oct. 1, Dec. 11, Feb. 26 and May 9. Free and open to public.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

Connecting students with their futures

Retirement leads to a rewarding new career

By Michelle Hirsch

When business leaders as well as current and former students say a teacher goes above and beyond—teaches life skills not available in other classes and is an amazing mentor in many ways—it's worth finding out why.

South Tempe resident Mike Lisi has been a business-education teacher for more than a decade, although his teaching career didn't begin in his early 20s like many others.

It began after he retired from a 34 year career with SRP.

Encouraged by one of his former ASU professors to go into teaching after retirement, Lisi earned his master's degree, completed his student teaching at Corona del Sol High School and is now in his 13th year as a business education teacher in Chandler.

Lisi has an impressive list of business leaders, entrepreneurs, college representatives and corporate employees that he calls on as guest speakers for

his classes, or to conduct mock interviews, and to provide paid internships for his business-education students.

Lisi student Mackenzie Forner is an intern at SRP, working with a variety of people that develop and test software.

"I've learned valuable life skills, leadership skills, things I wouldn't learn in math or other classes," said Forner. After graduation from high school, she wants to major in business management and technology at ASU.

Tanner Sims, also a senior, agrees students get valuable skills with Lisi they don't get in any other class, and he currently works at SRP helping photographers and video specialists in a variety of areas.

Senior Joe Murphy, another SRP intern, works in the mapping department. Murphy wants to attend ASU Barrett Honors College or University of Michigan's College of Engineering, and highlights

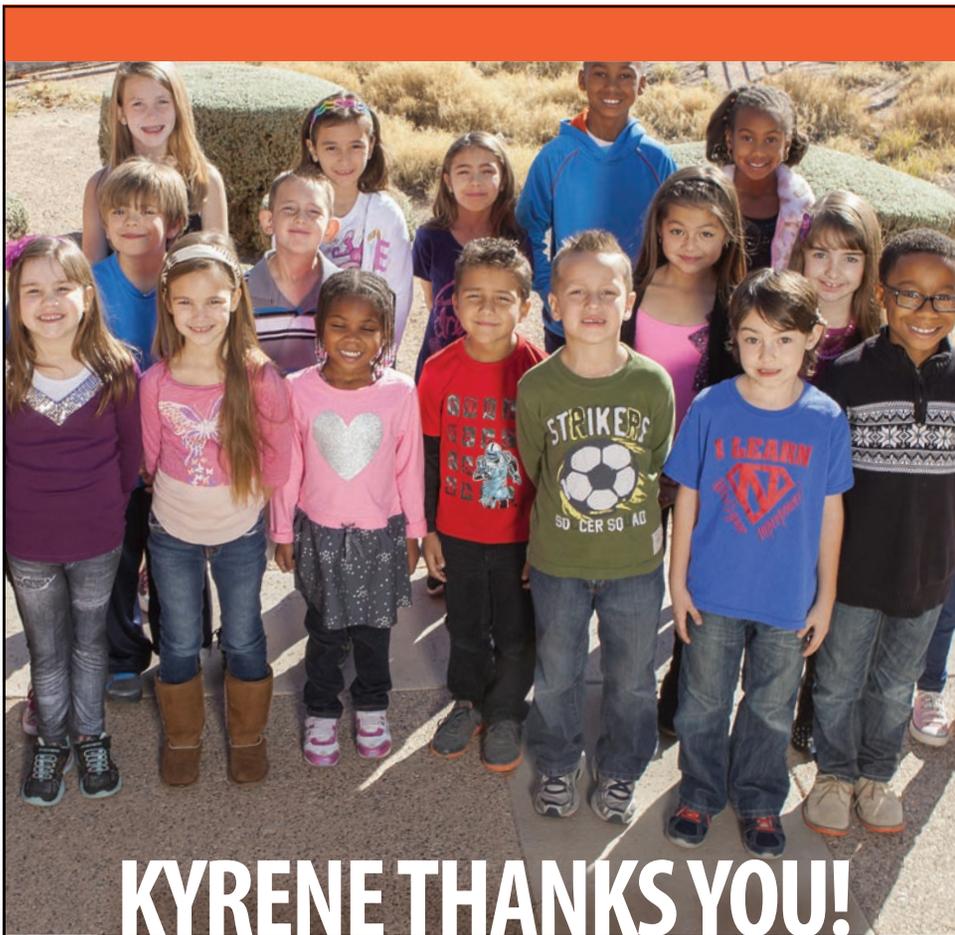
Lisi's dedication to his students for making classes interesting and students successful.

Junior Achievement Program Development Director Melissa Leasher also agrees Lisi goes above and beyond in his "sincere dedication to his students," sharing such examples as Lisi purchasing dress shirts for students with financial need so they would comply with the professional dress code required in JA.

"He also once connected us with a parent whose daughter wanted to participate in a JA student event. The parent was reluctant to allow it due to her child's special needs. In the end, we were able to accommodate her participation," says Leasher.

Lisi works with several organizations and business partners, including Target Financial Corporation, whose managers visit Lisi's class to conduct mock interviews where students receive direct feedback from hiring managers on what they

— LIFESKILLS, Page 14



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- Zoës Kitchen

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The Kyrene Parent Superintendent Council meets regularly with the Superintendent and District Staff to facilitate communication between the District and the parent community.



For sponsorship information: 480-541-1514



Lifeskills

From Page 13

did well and what they need to work on in interviews. Students also have the opportunity to observe and learn from their classmates' interviews.

Former Lisi student Lauren Tuttle says:

"We did many activities in class, from how to write a resume to holding mock interviews. I know that the practice and preparation that took place in Mr. Lisi's class gave me the confidence I needed going into my first interview.

"I feel like going into an interview I have more experience than many people my age because of all the work Mr. Lisi puts into preparing his students."

Tuttle interviewed for her first SRP intern position in high school and worked in Distribution Operations. After graduating, she interviewed for a college internship and is currently working in Human Resources as part of the Learning Technology Team at SRP.

"Mr. Lisi is a very hardworking teacher that really cares about his students," she adds. "I always enjoyed coming to his class knowing we were going to do something that would really help me prepare for the future."

Lisi's students are award winning, too. Chandler YMCA's 2013 Employee of the Year, Ryan Kimminau, is a former Lisi student.

"Mr. Lisi connects well with all his students and helps them get started in their business careers. He is an amazing teacher. His business class was fun and very educational."

In addition to working at the Chandler Y, Kimminau attends Chandler/Gilbert Community College, majoring in psychology, and says he

really appreciates the experience and skills he gained in Lisi's class.

Lisi's students have additional opportunities to participate in competitions and community service through organizations such as Future Business Leaders of America, Junior Achievement, and the Arizona Council on Economic Education — where a number have taken first place in the state in the Stock Market Game, and learned economic and financial skills that they say will benefit them throughout life.

"Working in partnership with educators like Mr. Lisi allows us to empower young people to own their economic success through programs that focus on financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship," says Melissa Leasher, Program Development Director with Junior Achievement.

Over the years many large and small businesses have worked with Lisi's students, although he says some pulled back their involvement during the recession, but those business partners that continued and returned have contributed to the success of his programs.

"Our partnership continues to thrive because Mr. Lisi values our relevant experiential programs and the positive influence that business volunteers bring to his students," says Leasher.

Businesses like Salt River Project give Lisi's students job opportunities in a variety of areas, and SRP benefits by getting an employees who have the skills needed to be successful.

Lisi credits his students for how quickly they learn, and appreciates his business partners who bring the real world job skills and opportunities to his students.

Students practice useful skills

— LIFESKILLS, Page 15

Lifeskills

From Page 14

in communication, presentations, networking, and customer service. Students learn how to handle difficult customers and practice problem-solving skills they will need on the job.

Lisi encourages his students to embrace what he teaches them, but also reminds them that it's okay to make mistakes in class because that's where they can get feedback and learn, which helps make them more successful in a real job interview or intern position.

With a popular focus on math, science and advanced placement classes, business education classes aren't always an obvious choice for students. Nonetheless, Lisi reaches out to potential students by informing them that the internships and career and life skills they can get in his class are something that will benefit them in high school and beyond as they pursue college and career opportunities.

Lisi students get jobs as part of his class, which means they get paychecks, so his students also benefit by learning personal finance skills such as opening and managing a checking account, keeping track of credit card charges and understanding how to buy a car.

In Lisi's entrepreneurship class, students have the opportunity to start a business, from strategizing a plan for an investor to pitching their experience to real entrepreneurs at Gangplank in Chandler — similar to the popular Shark Tank television show.

Peter Grossgold is a business broker who enjoys working with Lisi's aspiring entrepreneurs and

says the class "is invaluable to young people who want to be in business for themselves. My favorite class in college was Entrepreneurship at ASU. I would have loved if there was a class like this at my high school."

Former students like 19-year-old Andrew Kosednar reflect on the many things he learned from Mr. Lisi.

"He teaches skills that have real-world applications. I personally loved his class because he focused on personal finance, such as setting up a bank account. I learned about mortgages, checking accounts, and the stock market from Mr. Lisi and without his class I wouldn't have been interested in these areas.

"The business program has significantly helped my career path and without being in Mr. Lisi's class I wouldn't have pursued an accountancy degree. The business program was a stepping stone to a career path because we practiced interviewing, resume writing, and communication in small groups.

"Looking back, these activities were extremely helpful in finding a job. The most significant thing I learned from Mr. Lisi is that you need to work hard and be an ethical person if you want to go anywhere in life. Mr. Lisi is a teacher that goes the extra mile for his students and stays late almost every day to either help his students or plan for his future classes."

Whether talking with Lisi in person or to his business partners and students, it's clear he loves his second career working with students as a business education teacher, and students are having the opportunity to learn the skills and have experiences they need to succeed.

activities depends on a competitive selection process. Teens ages 13-18 who currently attend public, private, charter, parochial or home schools located in Chandler have until Sept. 12 to apply for this season's activities.

The teen engagement program, which boasts a successful history, lists an alumni class of more than 50 who have been involved with its activities in previous years, said by program sponsors to have enhanced the community by providing young people with an increased understanding and appreciation for the arts. It also has provided experiences designed to build leadership, collaboration and community-service skills.

Information: 480-782-2680 or chandlercenter.org

— Michelle Hirsch



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Workshops for teens coming to arts center

For teens hoping to forge careers in a wide assortment of performing-arts opportunities, Chandler Center for the Arts' Youth Advisory Council offers a unique hands-on experience.

Goal of the program is to provide an opportunity to meet staff and learn about operations, marketing and an abundance of career choices in the arts. YAC teens design and complete projects, build leadership skills and participate in discussions to provide their feedback and suggestions to the CCA Board. Participation in the council's

Classrooms for gifted students provide accelerated learning

By Diana Whittle

As a child, Megan Ting was known as a gifted student. She attended both Kyrene de la Mariposa and Kyrene del Pueblo schools, never imagining that someday she would return to the Kyrene district, this time as a teacher.

Today Ting teaches second grade in the gifted program at Kyrene de la Mirada in Chandler, but her youthful experience did lead her to study education in college.

"After graduating from Corona del Sol High School, I went on to earn my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Arizona and my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Arizona State University.

"Additionally, my thesis and course focus was in working with gifted children," said Ting.

"I adore teaching second grade because of the opportunity it presents to work with students at a time when their learning and independence grow in leaps and bounds. Further, our curriculum hosts a vast array of interesting subject matter that we get to spend the year exploring together."

Kyrene students who fall into the "gifted" category have been tested by the Exceptional Student Services Department and score at or above the 97th percentile on national norms in one or more of three areas—verbal (language), quantitative (math), and nonverbal (spatial) reasoning—on any test for gifted identification approved by the Arizona State Board of Education.

Mirada offers gifted classes in second through fourth grades. In a self-contained classroom, instruction in the traditional curriculum is expanded and accelerated to accommodate the needs of a gifted learner. The gifted students are grouped together all day, every day.

Students benefit from the support and challenge provided by a peer group of students with similar academic

interests and abilities.

Self-contained gifted classes follow regular class-size guidelines, and students participate in the school's regular art, music and physical education curriculum. Structures are in place, such as orientation activities, social events, buddy classes and lunches with the principal, to promote student and parent interaction with the rest of the school community.

Along with Mirada, there are self-contained gifted classes at Kyrene del Cielo and Kyrene Monte Vista.

Ting says that teaching the self-contained gifted class "is an amazing experience because it allows students to delve deeper into their learning, and explore the intricacies of each topic."

And, she noted:

"I truly enjoy the challenge of engaging such inquiring young minds and fostering an environment in which they learn to take ownership of their own learning."

The principal at Mirada, Nancy Branch, said the feedback from gifted self-contained families has been extremely positive.

"I continually hear from our parents how pleased they are with our program and how happy their children are because they are excited to be part of a classroom designed to meet the needs of gifted students," said Branch.

"Parents appreciate that their children are being challenged, and truly enjoy coming to school each day."

Branch has been in the Kyrene district for 22 years and the principal of Mirada for the last four. One of the most exciting programs, she said, involves a partnership with Intel in Chandler called "Engineering is Elementary."

"At Mirada, our gifted self-contained teachers are teaming up with Intel to bring Engineering is Elementary, an interdisciplinary program that integrates engineering into every subject.

"Our teachers have attended a teacher development workshop provided by Intel and have been meeting with Intel personnel to implement this outstanding program," said Branch.

"Our school Site-Based Council has approved using tax-credit funding to begin purchasing the Intel Engineering is Elementary kits for our school. These kits integrate with the science that is part of the Kyrene science curriculum. The interdisciplinary program allows students to work collaboratively to find solutions to real life problems."

Branch feels certain that the innovative program is sure to be a selling point for families outside the Kyrene district.

In Kyrene, testing of students for admittance to a gifted class occurs at various times throughout the school year.

Opportunities are published in school newsletters at each school and on the Kyrene district website. Parents can request that their child participate in testing by contacting their school's gifted resource teacher.

Notebook giveaway starts year's activities by Treasures for Teachers

Starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, Treasures for Teachers will host a giveaway, thanks to the Kids In Need Foundation and Target.

Each Treasures for Teachers member will receive three boxes of 100-sheet, wide-ruled, spiral notebooks for free.

Members will need to check in first and receive a ticket in order to redeem their prize.

For those currently not a member, signups can be made the day of the event, which will include eligibility for the notebook distribution.

Information: www.Treasures4Teachers.org or 480-751-1122.



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Tempe Prep seniors and AP Scholars with Honor, from left, Yegor Zenkov and Kyle Borawski-Pickard.

— Photo courtesy Karin Moffitt

AP exam standouts

Tempe Preparatory Academy students Kyle Borawski-Pickard, Yegor Zenkov and Todd Joseph Smith have been named Scholars with Honor for earning a score of at least 3.25 on four or more of the Advanced Placement exams.

The students took a variety of different AP exams, including Biology, English Language, English Literature, U.S. History, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science and Physics.

Tempe Prep recently was recognized by the Arizona Board of Regents as having the highest percentage of college graduates in the Valley, and second highest in the state.

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Sports

Aztecs, Padres start their seasons with strong showings

New coaches produce winning openers for Corona and Marcos

By Alex Zener

Photos by Billy Hardiman

Winning their first outing of the season against Buena by a score of 30-27 turned out to be huge for the Aztecs, a team that lost its first six tries last year before winning a game.

Beating a team Corona lost to last season by 15 points made it even sweeter for the Aztec players and fans.

It wasn't easy, especially with only 16 returning letter winners from last season. But new head coach **Cory**

Nenaber thinks that hard work in the off season, coupled with, team unity could lead to more wins.

"I'm hopeful we will continue to have a successful season," said Nenaber. "I know our participation numbers are way up, and our players and coaches worked really hard during the offseason. Hopefully this preparation will continue to bode well for us in future games."

What the Aztecs lack in experience could be made up in athletic ability and the desire to win as a team.

"I believe our strength will be in our team athletic ability and our ability to play together," says Nenaber.

Both of those qualities were on display when the Aztecs outscored Buena in every quarter but the fourth on four touchdowns, two two-point conversions and a safety, but it may have been an interception in the final minutes that sealed the win.

Highlights included 293 yards



Colin Freeland

rushing by senior running back **Colin Freeland**, a player Nenaber reported as having a good outing at the team camp this summer. Freeland also caught a pass for 11 yards, making his total 304 yards for the evening and eight of the Aztecs' 30 points. Six points came on a rushing touchdown and a

two-point conversion.

Another player who was said to have had a good offseason camp was junior wide receiver **Jamarree Johnson**, who did not disappoint.

—SPORTS, Page 19



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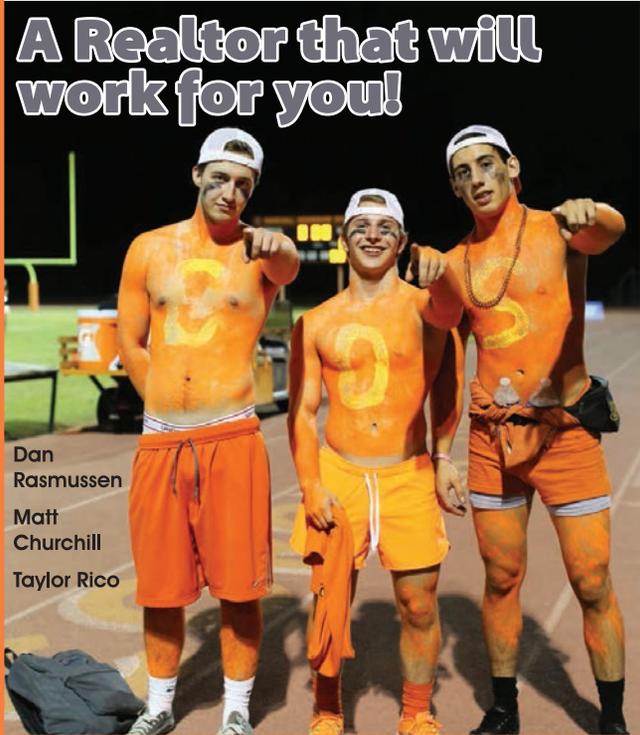
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Sports

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Johnson returned a kickoff into the end zone for one of Corona's four touchdowns.

The Aztecs scored two other touchdowns against Buena. One was a rushing score by senior quarterback **Matt Asta**, the other a 20-yard pass from Asta to tight end **Daunte' McEwan**.

Junior **Mason Carroll**, also reported by the coach as one to watch after summer camp, was credited with 46 total yards on two receptions and six times rushing the ball.

Senior **Cassius Peat**, one of Nenaber's defensive players also to watch, scored the other safety, adding two points to the total on a three-yard pass reception from Asta.

Other Aztec players contributing to the 526 total yards on offense were juniors **Hunter Olson** and **Alex**

Sheppard, along with sophomore **Cameron Brice**. On defense, senior **Tyler Stehr** was credited with two points for a safety.

Senior **Elijah Hassell** put forth a defensive effort for the team win when he had seven solo tackles and four assists for a total of 11 tackles. Junior **Alex Sheppard** led the team in tackles with 12, four solos and eight assists. Senior **Jake Dorweiler** had three solo tackles and three assists for a total of six.

Junior defensive back **Jacob Onofrio** may have prevented a potential Buena touchdown and thus saved Corona's win late in the game. Leading by only three points, 30-27, the Aztecs' defense

was being challenged when Onofrio intercepted Buena's pass close to the end zone.

"The key to our first win this season was just playing until the end, because the game went down to the

—SPORTS, Page 21



Matt Asta

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Lakeshore Music: La Voz de Tres

Sept. 27

Chilean vocalist Natalia Bernal, keyboardist Mike Eckroth and seven-string guitarist Jason Ennis blend infectious Latin rhythms and nuanced songwriting with original compositions and choice picks from the Great American Songbook.

Get information and tickets for these and other events at www.tempe.gov/tcaevents

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Sports

From Page 19

wire,” said **Cassius Peat**. “Overall, it was a good win. We played pretty well as a whole but we have a lot of improving to do.”

One of the challenges facing Corona coaches the next couple of weeks may be the kicking game. Backup quarterback junior **Austin Freese** kicked the ball off to Buena two times and defensive back **Jacob Onofrio** two times. Starting quarterback Asta punted the ball twice averaging 37.5 yards a punt. No extra point after kick was made.

The Aztecs were off on Sept. 5 but will have another home game against Skyline Sept. 12.

Hopefully the off week will give the team a chance to prepare for Skyline’s potent offense. The Coyotes scored 56 points, racking up 428 yards rushing and 239 passing yards, against St. Mary’s last week.

On Sept. 19 the Aztecs will play at Boulder Creek in Anthem. All games are

scheduled for 7 p.m.

Marcos de Niza football — It appears that the Division II’s No. 6-ranked Padres not only have a new head coach in **Sean Morin** but a new quarterback to take the helm from **Josh Eckley**, who started as a backup quarterback his sophomore



Quarterback Nazareth Greer runs the ball for a touchdown.

year and went on to be recognized as one of the best in the state his junior and senior years.

Sophomore quarterback **Nazareth Greer** has some big shoes to fill, but it appears he is off to a good start after the Padres’ 34-17 win at home over Phoenix Horizon on Aug. 29.

Rushing for two touchdowns and throwing a 72-yard pass to **Marcus Maldonado** for another, Greer’s abilities are complemented by junior running back **Avery Sanders**, who ran 73 yards for a touchdown to start the second half.

The real test may be how Greer and the Padres hold up against Chaparral, which lost big time to Saguaro, 14-41, last week and likely played with a vengeance when the two met on Sept. 5 at Chaparral.

Marcos will play Buena High School in Sierra Vista on Sept. 12.

Corona girls volleyball — Corona’s girls volleyball team, with eight returning players—all but one a starter from last year’s team—should be in the mix when the time comes for the state tournament this season.

The Lady Aztecs may still be a relative

—SPORTS, Page 27



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College Connect workshops guide students toward college

The College Connect L.I.F.T. (Learn, Investigate, Fund, Transition) workshop series continues to provide guidance on the college application process for high school students looking to attend college.

The Nov. 1 workshop, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, will focus on funding college through financial aid and scholarships, performing interactive scholarship searches and essay writing.

The final workshop is scheduled for Jan. 31.

College Connect Tempe assists young people in fulfilling their dreams of post-secondary education and provides the resources and tools necessary to navigate the college process.

The program is a collaborative partnership of the City of Tempe, Tempe Union High School District, Tempe Elementary School District, Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University, University of Advancing Technology, Mesa Community College and Rio Salado Community College.

Tempe Old Settlers Association annual gathering

For more than a century, longtime Tempe residents have gathered for an annual reunion to socialize and share memories.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, the Tempe Old Settlers Association will hold its annual celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural Road.

Guests are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. Old Settlers members must have been born in Tempe or have lived in the city for at least 30 years.

For more information, call Councilmember Joel Navarro at 480-688-9907.

Have a 'spook-tacular' good time at Tempe's 37th annual Halloween Carnival on Oct. 25

Tempe's 37th Annual Family Halloween Carnival is Saturday, Oct. 25, from 5-9 p.m. at the Kiwanis Park soccer fields, on the northeast corner of Guadalupe Road and All-America Way.

Your family will have a bewitchingly good time at this free event featuring carnival games, live entertainment, face painting, food booths, train rides, inflatables and a toddler play area.

Booths are operated by local civic groups as a fundraiser.

Tickets are 25 cents and most activities require 3-4 tickets.

Dress up and participate in the annual Halloween costume contest.

The event is presented by the Tempe Diablos. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/Halloween or call 480-350-5200.



Tempe Tardeada celebrates Hispanic heritage



All are invited to the 16th Annual Tempe Tardeada from noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, to celebrate Tempe's Hispanic roots.

This free festival will take place at the Tempe Community Center Complex, 3500 S. Rural Road.

A tardeada is a vibrant afternoon festival and social dance. Tempe's version features continuous entertainment, dancing, traditional Mexican foods, arts and crafts for children, community booths, inflatables and fun for all!

All activities are free.

In conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month, the festival's goal is to celebrate and experience the legacy of Tempe's Hispanic culture.

Among the many performers set to appear are Power Drive and Mariachi Aguila.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/tardeada or call Ginny Belousek at 480-350-8979.

Film Fare with M.V. Moorhead



Fairy-tale power fails to salvage Elvis spinoff

The Identical

The King of Rock n' Roll might only have been the Prince of Rock 'n Roll if his twin brother hadn't been stillborn.

But as Elvis followers know, Jessie Garon Presley didn't make it into the world alive. This movie wonders what might have happened if both brothers had survived, but nonetheless had been separated at birth.

Dirt-poor struggling parents (Brian Geraghty and Amanda Crew), barely able to care for one of their newborn twins in Depression-era Alabama, keep "Drexel Hemsley" but donate his brother Ryan to a kindly traveling evangelist (an oddly cast Ray Liotta!) and his wife (Ashley Judd) who are unable to have children of their own.

The Reverend promises not to tell Ryan about

— FILM, Page 24

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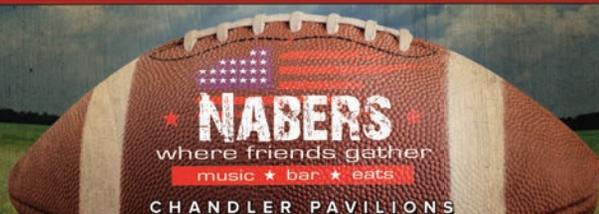
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Film

From Page 23

his origin until the biological folks have died. Drexel goes on to become a star, but Ryan's dad insists on grooming him for the ministry, even though the boy feels stirrings in his hips of a different calling when he hears roadhouse music.

People are always telling Ryan how much he resembles Drexel, and eventually he hits the road with what would now be called a tribute act, and cleans up.

There's an undeniable fairy-tale power to this premise that could have given it a Shakespearean wonder.

But *The Identical*, though it appears to have had a fairly generous budget, comes across amateurish, anachronism-riddled and inhibited.

I can't say I found it dull, but it's been a while since a movie this wince-inducingly kitschy got a wide release.

The moviemakers may themselves be Evangelicals: Ryan is the most chaste and wholesome rock-and-roller imaginable (even Ricky Nelson and Frankie Avalon were bigger bad boys than this guy). It's possible even Pat Boone was.

Commendable though his behavior may be, it misses a major source of the appeal of rock music in general and of Presley in particular.

The movie's religious interests also show up in the form of several apropos-of-nothing-much shout-outs to the state of Israel, and near the beginning, the Rev. Liotta, preaching in a revival tent, tells his flock that black and white, Jew and gentile are all the same in the eyes of God.

It's uncertain if other categories of belief or race are included under this assertion, but even so, I found myself wondering how safe saying this would be, in Alabama in 1935, even for a white preacher.

The twins are both played, as adults, by Blake Rayne, who bears a good-enough-to-get-work-in-

Vegas resemblance to the King, both physically and vocally. He's also a rather sweet and likable screen presence, and the various hairstyles inflicted on him throughout the film increase both our sympathy for him and the comedy value of the movie.

As with *That Thing You Do!*, the music is ersatz—one of the movie's many other (presumably unintentional) hilarious moments comes when the narrator (Ryan's wife, played by the cute Erin Cottrell), tells us that rock and roll may have been born the night that Ryan got up and sang in a roadhouse.

Then the song he breaks into is presciently titled "Boogie-Woogie Rock n' Roll."

The Identical is Rated PG and plays Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion 20, Tempe Marketplace and other multiplexes Valleywide.

Tempe Chamber to host 'no stress' golf outing at ASU Karsten course

Tempe Chamber of Commerce will host its 20th annual Tempe Links Classic on Friday, Sept. 12, at ASU's Karsten Golf Course.

The tournament is a modified scramble with a blind draw for teams, designed to be a fun format that encourages speedy, unintimidating play.

Participants can network and golf while socializing with friends, valued clients and other members of the business community—a "no stress" golf outing.

Information: 480-967-7891.

Retiring

From Page 6

property in Tempe until the 1960s," she replies. "The builders wouldn't show homes. An African-American family might walk into a showroom and be ignored."

This, no question about it, is something about Tempe history I hadn't heard. How did this situation end? "There was one builder, Hallcraft Homes," continues Douglass. "They were the first ones to break the mold and start selling."

It's startling to find this systematic racism so recently in the past of a community that, at least by Arizona standards, has a progressive reputation.

"It's so jarring," says Douglass, "because Tempe is so open now. But you have to remember how the community started. It was a small farming community. The college was here, but it was a small teacher's college, and it was a while before it opened things up. But by the same token, Tempe has been a very diverse community from the beginning. Hispanics were the majority here, initially. They were the ones that did a lot of the work."

After enlightening one last benighted soul about Tempe's history, what does Douglass plan to do now that she's left Tempe History Museum?

"I'm retiring," she says firmly. "I have a lot of interests that I haven't had a chance to pursue because of work, and life in general, like working with animals. I do trap, neuter and release with feral cats. And I'd like to do something for our veterans. And I'd like to travel."

And maybe somewhere in those travels, she'll visit a museum or two.

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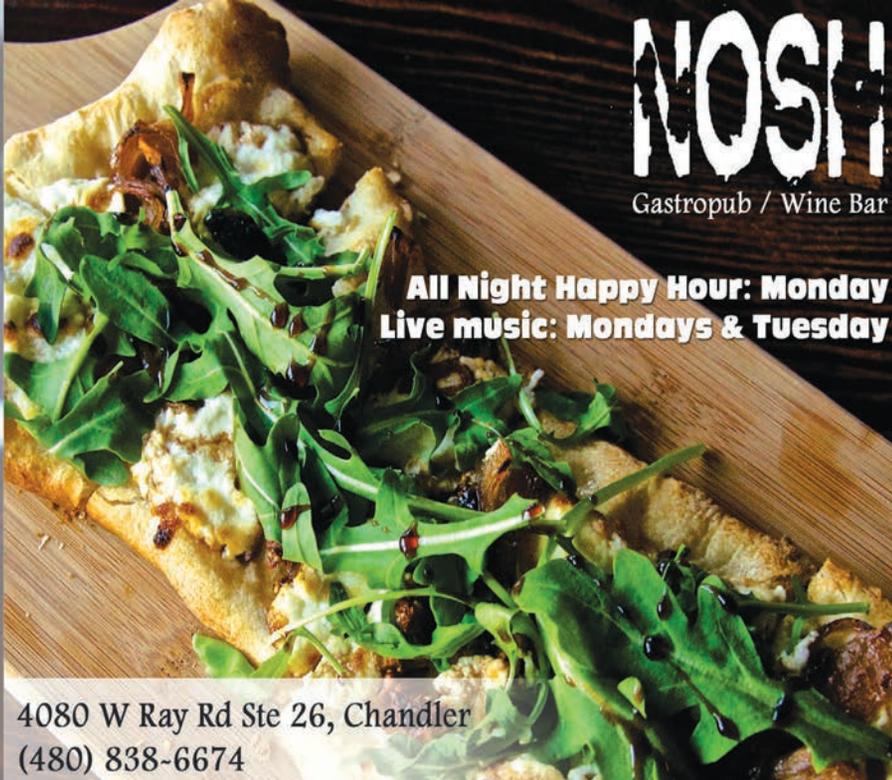
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Equine

From Page 11

Kiwanis Park she takes a more hands-on role, helping to work the horses in a nearby round pen full of equipment, which not only exercises them but provides them with the sort of stimuli that keep them sharp and prepared for their duties.

Clark also sometimes gets to ride the animals during these sessions. "We'll ride them down to Dutch Bros. Coffee and go through the drive-through," she notes.

In charge of the unit is Sgt. Heather Penner, a 15-year veteran of Tempe PD who has been a mounted officer for three years full time after five years as a reserve officer. The Valley native rode horses in high school, unlike most reserve officers, who come to the assignment with no experience.

"Friday and Saturday on Mill Avenue, that's what we call our patrol," says Penner. Weekdays are devoted to training and caring for the animals, and for special events or community outreaches.

While many police departments around the country have disbanded their mounted units for budgetary reasons, Penner sees value in Tempe's, both as an effective law-enforcement mechanism and a public-relations tool.

"Police officers aren't always approachable," Penner observes, "but for some reason, when there's an officer on a horse, people will stop and ask them questions, not just about horses but about where the best restaurant is, or when the parking meters shut

down."

She noted this reaction during her first experience riding in downtown Tempe.

"I rode with a bike officer when I first started [with the mounted unit]," she recalls, "and he said 'People are smiling at you!'"

"And they were, and they meant it. That's a great thing for an officer."

Asked about her most memorable moment as a mounted officer, Penner fondly remembers a horse's interaction with a group of schoolkids.

"The huge paint horse Rex? One day I took him to Broadmor Elementary and the kids had made their

own stick horses, and they all rode up to Rex.

That was an awesome memory."

Clark backs Penner up on this: "They are an absolute kid magnet."

On the other hand, Penner extols the intimidating power of the horses during the more serious times, "When you are needed to break up a crowd of 200 people on Mill Avenue to get to a fight where there's an injured person who needs assistance.

"Two horses can hold off 150 people, and there's no issue, no violence.

"People respect the animal."

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Jacob and Garrett Clark

It's official: Chandler Regional Medical Center has opened its new 96-bed tower, comprising a 171,000-square-foot addition and expanding the number of available patient beds to 339.

There's more room for growth, too, along with the possibility of adding additional comprehensive services.

"Chandler Regional is truly a community hospital with more than 50 years of history in the East Valley," said Tim Bricker, president and CEO of Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers, part of the Dignity Health family of hospitals.

"This new tower and the services we're able to provide as a result, exemplify the city's growth. We're proud to be expanding to serve the health care needs of our community."

The \$125 million project began in December 2011, was completed nearly two months ahead of schedule, and will add more than 200 new employees.

The five-story addition includes 96 inpatient beds, expanded surgical services with six new operating rooms, a new Intensive Care Unit with 32 beds, and an

expanded emergency department with more than 50 beds, four trauma bays, two helipads and a dedicated radiology department.

Chandler Regional opened its doors in 1961 with just 42 beds, 25 employees and 91 volunteers at what is now McQueen Road and Chandler Boulevard.

The facility moved to its current location in 1984. In 1996 the hospital received \$40 million in bonds, allowing for major expansion over the next 10 years.

Growth included a 140,000-square-foot tower along with a women's center, outpatient diagnostic imaging, dedicated emergency CT and MRI, two new labs and an additional nine-bed holding unit in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, with 12 private patient rooms featuring overnight accommodations, opened in 2012.

The hospital began operating as a Level I Trauma Center in March after being granted provisional designation by the Arizona Department of Health Services. Official designation is expected later this fall.



Amy Del Vecchio



Future Cardinal?



Annika Chung

Sports

From Page 21

young team, with some reliance on sophomores and freshmen, but most of the impact players have varsity playing experience and another club season under their belts.

"Dani Sullivan will continue to provide us a lot of offense, along with Erica Ronda and Logan Wallerstedt," said coach Ben Maxfield. "We have tremendous liberos with Alyssa Meyer, Brooke Nuneviller, Camryn Tucker and Amanda MacMurtrie all fighting for playing time."

"Lauren Forte has improved tremendously during the club season and will be a tough middle to stop," said Maxfield.

"She is currently being recruited by Top 10 schools Florida and Wisconsin."

The team also returns senior Alyson Seall, who missed last season with a torn ACL, middle blocker Hayden Warnock and outside hitter Desiree Rodriguez.

Seall, along with returning captain Meyer and the other seniors Laura Wilp and MacMurtrie, will be counted on to help lead the team on and off the court, especially the five new players.

Three of the five new players to the team are setters.

"Setters Madi Reum (10th), Abby Meyer (9th) and Isis Mitchell (9th) are all very capable of running a complex offense and feeding our hard hitters," said Maxfield.

Two more promising players are freshman.

"Freshman Brooke Nuneviller is a very skilled all-around player who is tremendously competitive and never stops believing she will win," said Maxfield. "Our other freshman, Emma West, is a 6-foot-2 right side that is very athletic and hits the ball hard."

The unique aspect of volleyball is that it is truly a team sport where every position on the court needs to buy into the team aspect to be successful. So far it appears that Corona's team has a good start.

"We have 16 girls who work hard, have great chemistry, and put the team before themselves," said Maxfield.

Corona had matches scheduled Sept. 2 at Mesa; Sept. 9 at home against Sunnyslope; and Sept. 11 at Mountain Ridge before playing at Desert Vista Sept. 15.

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The Last Word

Where our advertisers share stories they'd like our readers to hear

Great Home Giveaway Sweepstake winners... Dennis and Alberta Barrett who reside in the East Valley entered into the national Great Home Giveaway contest a couple months ago.

The Carol Royse Team at Keller Williams Realty East Valley has represented the Barrett's on the sale of their previous home and the purchase of their existing home.

After living in their home a while and making lots of upgrades, they began thinking about making a move to a newer home perhaps with a larger kitchen, or back to Hawaii where they are originally from.

They are ready for the next chapter in their lives and contacted Carol to discuss a possible move and what their new options might be.

The Barrett's were excited when they learned about the sweepstakes because they are a retired couple and this prize could help them in many ways.

When Carol and her team met with the Barrett's they went through the approval process with their previous lender Joe Conner at Homeowner's Financial in Scottsdale, who pre-approved them for a new mortgage.

Vikki, Carol's daughter and partner, showed them available homes in the East Valley that met their criteria. While looking at these homes they decided they wanted to wait a little while for the values in their current neighborhood to increase giving them more purchase money on the new home.

We believe they will be shocked and excited when they learn Wednesday they are one of the \$10,000 prize winners. We're sure we will get some smiles and tears when they see their names on the check from The Great Home Giveaway Sweepstakes.

We were excited too when the Sweepstakes contacted us to invite the Barretts to our office for the prize presentation. So we had to arrive at a creative way to get the Barretts to our office.

The Barrett's believe they are doing me a favor says Royse's Daughter Vikki. On Wednesday morning the Barrett's think they are coming to our office because Carol is getting a prestigious award with media to capture the moment.

When I called them to ask them if they could pretend that they wanted to list their home on Wednesday morning and meet Carol at the office they were excited to help out.

Alberta then hung up the phone and contacted Carol to inform her they wanted to list their home and meet her Wednesday morning.

When she called Vikki after speaking with Carol she said, "Your Mom has no idea and we are excited to see her get this award."

The Barretts truly believe they are helping us when we are helping them! It is going to be an awesome day and we know this will be impacting their lives.

We are so excited to see one of our clients win this prize.
— The Carol Royse Team



The Barretts with Royse Team's Vicki Middlebrook

46,500 . . . and counting!

Wrangler News is celebrating its 23rd year of publishing, and it's been a fascinating journey. Happily, the growth which has accompanied us during that nearly quarter of a century illustrates that news **BY** local people **ABOUT** local people remains a powerful incentive for those of us who disagree with the occasional suggestion that 'print doesn't work.' Based on nationally accepted formulas, Wrangler News reaches

46,500 prospective readers every time it's printed — quite a change from the meager 5,000 papers we delivered to homes back in 1991. We're looking forward to continuing our reign as this community's favorite newspaper, and we hope you'll join us in what we think is a deserved celebration.

(If you agree, perhaps you'll mention Wrangler News to your favorite provider of quality products or services. Businesses that support Wrangler News with their advertising support the continuation of what Phoenix magazine has called the Valley's BEST community newspaper. Thank you!)

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