

# Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read Local.

October 1 - 14, 2016 • Volume 27, No.19

## Shining light on the darkness of mental illness

By Joyce Coronel

We may be a modern society awash in digital technology and high-tech medicine, but there's still a pervasive stigma when it comes to mental illness.

Two Chandler police officers decided to do something about it. They organized a free, daylong event aimed at bringing issues like mental illness, addiction and suicide out of the shadows and into the light.

For those who've anguished over the struggles of a loved one's troubled life, it couldn't come soon enough.

Officers Melissa Lotz and Loranda Tibble, the driving force behind "A Focus on Understanding and Hope," held at Chandler Center for the Arts, said their goal was to create awareness and help individuals and their families find resources and support.

More than 45 organizations took part in the affair,

— STIGMA, Page 26

## Oct. 1 gig celebrates return of Tempe's own rock 'n roll legend

By Chase Kamp

Veteran songwriter Roger Clyne is one of Tempe's most enduring rock 'n roll exports and perhaps the city's best showman. Along with Robin Wilson of Gin Blossoms, he was a major figure in the city's '90s alt rock heyday, and as the leader of Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers, he's crafted clever desert-country narratives chased with rock bombast and south-of-the-border Mariachi accoutrements.

The band will return to the Valley to perform their distinctly southwestern jams at San Tan Brewery Oktoberfest in Chandler on Oct. 1, which, while not exactly resembling German polka, can still fit in nicely with sausages and sauerkraut.

Clyne, calling during a pit stop in Omaha,

— CLYNE, Page 11



Corona's girls cross country team finished third at the Ojo Rojo Invitational at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler. Sports, Page 23



The Chandler Art Walk attracts art and music lovers—and a few etherial beings—to the downtown area for an evening of amusement. Page 7



A juicy, melty cheeseburger and golden fries helped patrons at Mac's Broiler and Tap celebrate National Cheeseburger Day. Page 20

What's Inside



Silver medalist Sam Dorman returned to Marcos de Niza, his high school alma mater, to keep a promise he made to share his experience with students and staff, who cheered him on at the 2016 Rio Olympics. More photos, Page 31

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

## 'No kids have been injured — ever' Tempe Elementary, Kyrene among top scorers for school-bus safety

*Editor's note: An in-depth media investigation uncovered worrisome issues with Arizona school buses—a concern we felt might be shared by Wrangler News readers. Contributing writer Joyce Coronel took a look at the safety records of the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene school districts. Here is what she found:*

In the wake of an *Arizona Republic* exposé that revealed shocking safety failures in some Arizona school buses, parents of students in the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene school districts can breathe easy.

"No kids have been injured, ever," said Jessica Palmer, director of transportation and safety for Tempe Elementary.

"Never, ever. Safety is our number one priority."

Eric Nethercutt, transportation director for Kyrene, offered similar counsel. He said that in the four years he's been at the helm, there have been no serious accidents and no students hurt.

The *Republic* provided a searchable data base with listings of school districts throughout the state. In South Phoenix, the Roosevelt district scored a 73 percent failure, the highest in Maricopa County.

By contrast, Tempe Elementary and Kyrene scored a stellar 1 and 2 percent respectively.

"When we do the driver refresher course every year, we really drive home that this is someone's precious cargo—this is someone's life, and treat these kids as if they are your own," Palmer said.

"I think that puts it in perspective when you're dealing with other people's children—it's the most

— BUSES, Page 12

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## MCC reaches out to first-generation minority applicants

By Diana Whittle

Last year, the U.S. Census Bureau confirmed that kids nearing school age are part of a majority-minority population segment.

According to the government's statistics, in 2014 there were more than 20 million children under 5 years old living in the U.S.; 50.2 percent of them were minorities.

Parents, who identify their child as white with Hispanic origin are the largest minority, making up 22 percent of the total 19.9 million children under age 5, followed by African-American children, who make up 15 percent.

In the Valley, enrollment in the Maricopa Community College system is not quite at the minority-majority level, but the percentages are not far behind, says Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, director of public outreach for the community college district.

She is currently working in the East Valley, with Mesa Community College, on initiatives to attract more Hispanic students to seek higher education.

At MCC, the enrollment of Hispanic students is currently at 23 percent, and officials anticipate the number will exceed 25 percent soon, perhaps even during this school year.

This growth would trigger some positives for MCC, including becoming a "Hispanic-Serving Institution," which is an official designation by the federal government and would allow the college to be eligible for additional federal funding to serve minority students.

Receiving the HIS designation demonstrates that, as an institution of higher education, MCC has an enrollment of undergraduate, full-time-equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic at the end of the award year," said Villanueva-Saucedo, who was in Washington, D.C. to attend a conference by the non profit "Excelencia in Education."

Additionally, she said:

"Excelencia in Education accelerates Latino students' success in higher education by providing data-driven analysis of the educational status of Latinos, and by promoting education policies and institutional practices that support their academic achievement."

The organization, founded in 2004, has become a resource on the status of Latino educational achievement, and a major change agent for influencing policy at all levels, while also being a widely recognized advocate for expanding evidence-based practices to accelerate Latino student success in higher education.

"Excelencia is also building a network of results-oriented educators and policymakers to address the U.S. economy's need for a highly educated workforce and for civic leadership, particularly in the Hispanic community," said Villanueva-Saucedo.

Locally, her concerns are to pave the way for

# Hispanic

From Page 4

Hispanic families to aspire to higher education and to provide the support at MCC, and other community colleges, for them to understand the process, which may come naturally to other ethnic groups.

"If you have no family members or other role models who have sought out higher education, just the application process can be daunting. We want to support Hispanic families so they have a greater opportunity to succeed and to graduate."

With no other roadmap to guide them, many Hispanics may come to the community college with no supportive networks and little preparation, which can lead them to drop out, researchers say.

"My goal is to help MCC staff to develop the internal processes to help retain students and for them to continue to reach their educational goals," said Villanueva-Saucedo.

"Many of the students enrolled in community college intend to transfer to obtain a four-year degree, so we

need to support them in graduating to the next level."

Villanueva-Saucedo's office is located in Tempe and, while she's worked nearly 11 years to establish relationships at all the community colleges, she has a special fondness for Mesa because it's her hometown. She also is a liaison with the Mesa Unified School District.

"I was born and raised in Mesa, graduated from Seton Catholic High School, and then obtained both my bachelor's and master's degrees at ASU."

She says that that the Mesa schools provide the perfect pipeline for Hispanic students to continue their education at MCC.

"Their enrollment is already a minority-majority," said Villanueva-Saucedo, "because their statistics report 54 percent of students identify themselves as a minority and of that total, 42.4 percent are Hispanic."

In the Tempe Elementary school district—the trend is similar. Of 12,000 students enrolled, 53 percent are classified as Hispanic, reports Christine Trujillo, director of strategic partnership and innovation.

## Among 15 U.S. 'Afterschool Ambassadors' Tempe Kid Zone's Jeremy King named

A key shaper of Tempe's Kid Zone enrichment program has been selected to serve as a 2016-17 Afterschool Ambassador, one of 15 leaders from across the U.S. chosen for the honor by Washington, D.C.-based Afterschool Alliance.

The announcement of Jeremy King's appointment to the prestigious group came from Jodi Grant, the national group's executive director.

King and the other designees will continue directing or supporting their local afterschool program while also serving a one-year Afterschool Ambassador term, which involves organizing public events, communicating with elected officials and policy makers, and in other ways growing support for afterschool programs.

"We are thrilled that Jeremy will serve this year," said Grant.

"He is a dedicated champion for quality afterschool and summer learning programs. I know he will mobilize business, community and faith leaders, lawmakers, educators, parents and others to increase resources for afterschool programs, which keep students safe, inspire them to learn and help working families."

Said King:

"I am delighted to support the Afterschool Alliance's work to increase resources for afterschool programs, here

and around the country.

"In my 20 years working in this field, I've witnessed firsthand the many ways that afterschool programs give students opportunities to explore their interests and discover their passions, while giving parents the peace of mind that comes with knowing their children are safe and supervised, with engaging, educational activities, during the afternoons.

"I look forward to raising awareness and support for the out-of-school-time opportunities all students need."

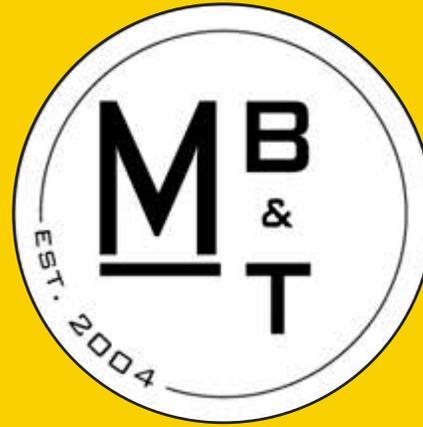
The Kid Zone Before and After School Enrichment Program serves 3,000 youth annually at 17 elementary school sites in the Tempe and Kyrene school districts.

The program complements classroom curriculum through hands-on, experiential learning in a safe and fun environment.

Topics include science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, nutrition education, community gardening, homework help, sports and fine arts.

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's annual rally for afterschool, to be held this year on Oct. 20.

Last year, 1 million people participated in some 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events across the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide.



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# I-HELP salutes those who have changed their lives for the better

## Annual First Crush outreach will raise funds to support housing, meals, jobs for Tempe's most vulnerable

Homeless for years, literally living in an orchard, "Ron" tried a variety of jobs that were mostly temporary. He was frequently laid off, adding to the difficulty of trying to restore some element of normalcy to his life.

At one point, Ron's identification documents and food stamps were stolen and used by someone else until they expired.

Ron joined Tempe Community Action Agency's I-HELP program a year ago and shortly after began volunteering at the organization's Food Pantry.

"I wanted to do something and give back to the people that were helping me," said Ron.

Now, Ron and others served by I-HELP will be feted at the organization's annual fund-raiser, First Crush, on Friday, Oct. 21 at AZ Heritage Center at Papago Park.

This evening under the stars features a combination of wine and beer from Four Peaks Brewing Company, along with foods from M Culinary Concepts, Casino Arizona, Snooze and Whole Foods. Live entertainment, a raffle and a silent auction are also planned.

While the event typically is a way for Tempe dignitaries, residents and corporate supporters to mix and mingle, TCAA Director Deborah Arteaga says it's an opportunity to raise vital funds for programs that have a positive impact on the most vulnerable members of the community.

One such program that will benefit from this

year's gala is the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, which provides Tempe's only homeless lodging service.

I-HELP not only provides a nightly meal and shelter 365 days a year, it also offers case management services that link homeless participants with the training and resources they need to regain their financial independence.

Ron is a good example of I-HELP's impact, notes Arteaga. On Monday through Friday, his days at the center, Ron volunteers in the pantry from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or until all of the work for the day is completed.

Through the support and encouragement that he received from TCAA and I-HELP, Ron is now employed full-time at Aramark and is saving to afford permanent housing. His current job, however, is not a permanent position, so he's still at risk financially and is working with his TCAA case manager to find stable, permanent employment.

According to the case worker, Ron's performance at the pantry demonstrates his work ethic and has helped strengthen his employment qualifications. TCAA also helped Ron secure health insurance benefits.

Notes Arteaga: The word "homeless" can often seem impersonal; a label applied to people of all ages and backgrounds. But each person enrolled in I-HELP is an individual with a unique set of circumstances who needs help regaining his/her footing in society. To help make a difference in the

life of someone like Ron, tickets to First Crush are on sale now at early-bird prices of \$100 per person. Information and tickets: [tempeaction.org/first-crush-tickets-2016/](http://tempeaction.org/first-crush-tickets-2016/).

### Resident input sought on future planning for Tempe's Ken McDonald Golf Course

Tempe has asked residents what they think the future should hold for the clubhouse at Ken McDonald Golf Course.

A public workshop, planned at Tempe History Museum, was scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29. At that session the public was to be able to offer views on topics from the restaurant to parking to the pro shop.

Also up for discussion: ideas about the type of event venue or community space that might be developed there.

The Sept. 29 session is being followed by an opportunity to offer online comments through Oct. 9.

City planners reportedly are in the early stages of issuing a call for ideas that could involve a public/private partnership to renovate the clubhouse.

More information, along with the online response form, are available at [tempe.gov/golftempe](http://tempe.gov/golftempe). Phone: Melissa Quillard, public works supervisor, at 480-350-8399.



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Guests at last year's Chandler Art Walk couldn't ignore the opportunity to scare up bit of creepy memorabilia in the form of a hauntingly entertaining family photo.

## Zombie Walk promises a frightfully fun stage for pre-Halloween art apocalypse

By Karli Ragan

If the sounds of shuffling feet and the munching of human brains don't deter you, Oct. 21 promises to offer a frightfully good prospect for fun.

No, you won't have wandered accidentally onto the set of the latest Transylvania sequel—you'll be at Downtown Chandler's third annual Zombie Walk, a celebratory environment scared up to showcase the upcoming Third Friday Chandler Art Walk.

In addition to the usual monthly gathering of over 35 local artisans displaying and selling their works at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park and along San Marcos Place, guests will find quite a range of happily zombified activities.

Attendees are encouraged to "reanimate" themselves before attending the event by wearing dilapidated clothing fit for a zombie traveling the Phoenix desert.

Free zombie face-painting, provided

by The Studio Academy of Beauty, will be available for the duration of the event, from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

In addition, a photographer has agreed to brave the apocalypse, and will provide complimentary photos to guests and zombies alike.

Members of the local band Gillwire will provide live (the designation is strictly coincidental) music from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

"We're excited to welcome back the popular Zombie Walk for the third time," said Deanne Fenton, event coordinator.

"Last year's event was rained out, and we knew it was a bummer for many, so we're really looking forward to this year's event."

Information: [downtownchandler.org](http://downtownchandler.org).

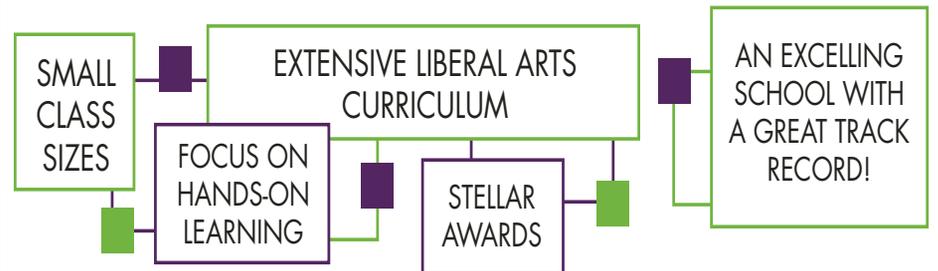
*Karli Ragan is marketing and events manager for the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership.*

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# Music, food (don't forget the beer) on tap for 2016 Oktoberfest gala

Four Peaks Oktoberfest is approaching fast, and it's time to start planning for the festival fun that runs for three days at Tempe Town Lake starting Friday, Oct. 7.

For many, say planners, it's about the beer and the music. But for others, the food is where it's at. After all, where else can you so easily try a different cuisine at each meal?

Here's a preview of some of the mouth-watering food options available this year—all subject to change as the event's schedule receives its final touches.

- **Affogotto Food Truck:** Try a swirl of creamy soft serve ice cream topped with espresso;
- **Honey Bears BBQ:** Pork, Chicken and Peach Cobbler, coming right up with all the fixin's;
- **Tempe Sister Cities:** As tradition dictates, volunteers will host an authentic German menu;
- **Island Noodles:** Wok-fried Soba noodles for a "taste of the islands." (For health-conscious visitors, there's

also a lighter side—with no dairy or nuts in any of the recipes;

- **Fry Bread Inc: The Works** is a meal itself, with ground beef, cheese, lettuce and beans. Looking for something sweet? Try the traditional powdered sugar, chocolate delight or cinnamon & sugar fry bread varieties;

• **Tee's Concessions:** Two words—Lobster mac & cheese. That in itself can be enough to draw hungry passersby into a food dream world.

And if lobster isn't for you, Bacon Mac and Pork Mac, along with Philly Cheesesteaks and Garlic Fries, provide a sampling of everything a fair foodie could want, and more;

• **Street Tacos/Showtime Concessions:** No festival foodland would be complete without street tacos and nachos. This is the spot to grab both. Grilled steak and chicken tacos, "walking" tacos and a special treat called pizza-box nachos are also there for the asking;

• **The Egg Roll Booth:** Pick up some handmade (and homemade)

egg rolls. However, that isn't all that's to be found at this foodie booth. Traditional Chinese fare is definitely a hot commodity at this location, with potstickers, orange chicken and teriyaki skewers.

• **Velmar Foods-Arizona Gold:** It wouldn't be an Arizona foodie stop without a little taste of the Southwest. Two kinds of Chimichangas—Beans & Cheese, Chicken Green Chili—and so many other great tastes to tickle the taste buds.

• **Mustache Pretzels:** Do you like pretzels? Delicious, hand-rolled pretzels, both snack- and full-size available.

Flavors include Original, Cinnamon Sugar and Nut'stache (salted caramel plus nuts). Dipping sauces available as well.

No matter what sort of food you like, from sweet to spicy and everything in between, there's something available for everyone.

Details: [www.FourpeaksOktoberfest.com](http://www.FourpeaksOktoberfest.com).



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# Briefly . . .

## MCC Empty Bowls aids homeless, hungry

Mesa Community College will host one of several Empty Bowls art charity events, proceeds from which benefit local charities helping to fight hunger and food insecurity.

The college, in collaboration with local businesses, schools and community groups, offers Empty Bowls as a way to garner support for a national movement to feed the hungry and homeless.

For a minimum \$10 donation patrons may select a one-of-a-kind ceramic bowl handcrafted by a local artist and dine on a simple meal.

Proceeds from the event—10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 26—will benefit Paz de Cristo Community Center, which provides anti-hunger and empowerment support for the East Valley's homeless, unemployed, working poor and their families.

Mesa Community College is at 1833 W. Southern Ave. at Dobson Road in Mesa.

## St. Andrew's schedules 'Unique Boutique'

St. Andrew's The Apostle Catholic Church will present its 26th annual Unique Boutique Nov. 10-13. Nov. 10 will be Preview Dinner Night, catered by Carrabba's at 6 p.m.

Dinner tickets, at \$10, are sold after Mass on Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 15 through Nov. 6. No dinner tickets will be available at the door.

Boutique hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13. More than 60 vendors are expected to participate with handmade crafts; food also will be available. Raffle baskets—tickets \$1 each or six for \$5—will be sold on all three days, with the winner selected on Sunday.

The church is at 3450 W. Ray Road, Chandler.

## Tour de Fat coming to Tempe Oct. 1

New Belgium Brewing's Tour de Fat, a traveling celebration of all things bike, is wrapping up the 2016 tour in Tempe on Saturday, Oct. 1. Tour de Fat

will take place in Tempe Beach Park, offering a day of eclectic entertainment, a costumed bike ride, a game show, car-for-bike swap, fashion showdown, great music and, of course, plenty of New Belgium beer.

To maintain crowd size and the intimacy of Tempe's Tour de Fat experience, this year's stop will require a \$10 ticket.

Donations and proceeds from beer and merchandise sales will go to Tempe-area non-profits.

## Arizona Ave. speed limit drops to 30 mph

The speed limit on Arizona Avenue has been revised to 30 mph from 35 mph between Chandler Boulevard and Frye Road in downtown Chandler.

Traffic studies indicate that Arizona Avenue has seen a reduction in speeds along that section of the roadway since it was reconstructed in 2010 due to the road design, on-street parking and dense landscaping.

The 30 mph limit represents the speeds for the majority of traffic on this half-mile section of roadway, traffic officials said.

New speed-limit signs are now in place, and flags above the signs are installed to alert drivers to the change.

The sections of Arizona Avenue north of Chandler Boulevard and south of Frye Road continue to have a 35 mph speed limit.

## Fuller Elementary a U.S. Blue Ribbon honoree

U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. has announced that Fuller Elementary School has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School.

Fuller is one among 279 public and 50 private schools receiving the honor.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are public and non-public elementary, middle and high schools that are producing outstanding results for all students.

They are selected on the basis of having demonstrated consistent excellence and making progress in closing gaps in student achievement.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools recognition program is part of a larger U. S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about effective school leadership and promising instructional practices.

Fuller Elementary was one of five outstanding public schools that Arizona nominated for an "Exemplary High Performing Schools" performance award.

Fuller became eligible for the award by being among the top 15 percent of schools in the state when ranked on the performance of all students who participated in the most recently administered state assessments in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics.

"The Fuller staff, students, parents and community members are so deserving of this prestigious award," said Tempe District Superintendent Christine Busch.

"I am very proud of their tireless work in creating an innovative, engaging and inspiring learning environment in which every child is succeeding."

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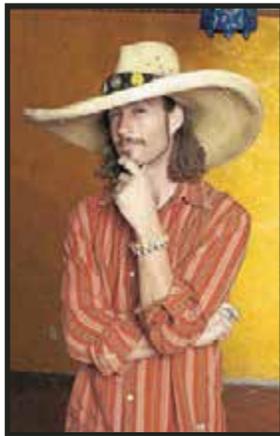
# Clyne

From Page 1

Nebraska, said that he and the crew were looking forward to the gig, which also affords them a week of much-needed rest between tour legs. "It's going to be nice to get our heels on our home soil," he said, alluding to the fact that he, his wife Alisa and their children Otis, Ruston and Lily still maintain a residence here. Clyne's trajectory started by leading Tempe alt-rockers The Refreshments to fame in 1996 on the back of "Banditos," a playful radio staple most known for the chorus:

"Everybody knows / that the world is full of stupid people," later writing the jaunty opening theme to the widely syndicated animated comedy *King of the Hill*.

After some acrimonious major label dealings, Clyne joined Refreshments drummer Paul "P.H." Naffah to form Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers in 1999, and they haven't looked back after seven albums.



That is, until now.

The group kicked off a tour this year in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Refreshments' debut album *Fizzy Fuzzy Big & Buzzy*, their mainstream breakthrough, performing the entire album top to bottom on many dates.

Serving up as many as 200 performances a year, Clyne said he labors carefully over the set list every night. Yet this anniversary tour has the group playing songs that had gone untouched for years, something refreshing for everyone in the room.

"They're so old, they're new again," Clyne said. "It's fun for me. I'm having a nostalgia trip with the fans."

It's not only the honed regional flavor of Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers that has earned them a virulent fan base of rockers and country folks: it's the band's ability to throw a good party.

Clyne charms audiences with emphatic drinking tales, both American and Mexican, and they ring especially true at Circus Mexicus, the band's annual music festival in Rocky Point, Mexico that draws thousands. Clyne's well-reviewed signature tequila, Mexican Moonshine, also adds plenty of good-time credibility.

So, of course, an Oktoberfest gig sits fine with Clyne, a massive fan of San Tan Brewery and the local microbrew beer scene.

"It's true craft," he said. "I'm loving it. People are making beer with such care and individual creativity."

He said San Tan Brewery sells the most Mexican Moonshine margaritas in the Valley, sounding almost breathless describing one of their signature cocktails that combines his 100% agave spirit with their HopShock IPA. "It's seductive," he said.

Beyond the anniversary tour and microbrews, the band aims to release a new album by spring of next year. "In the midst of looking back 20 years, we're still looking forward," Clyne said. "Time flies when you're having fun, and it flew. We hope to get another 20 years with our audience."



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\*Valid for Oct & Nov classes only. Valid online only. Offer expires Oct 23, 2016.



# Buses

From Page 1

important thing.”

And while other districts sometimes have to call on mechanics to drive buses, that’s not the case in either Tempe Elementary or Kyrene. It takes about eight to nine weeks to train and certify new drivers, and both districts are looking to hire more.

For now, Palmer is herself driving a school bus twice a day until new drivers are certified by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

“When I drive my personal route every day, I treat these kids, all 55 of them who sit behind me, like they’re my own,” Palmer said.

She emphasized that Tempe’s buses undergo twice-daily inspections while in use throughout the school year. The fleet is comprised of 79 buses, including 13 spares.

“If there’s any sort of infraction, whether it’s a light or the air brakes, we (take the bus out of service). We’re not taking any chances of something happening,” Palmer said.

“If a bus is not safe, it just doesn’t go out—period.” It’s a responsibility the mechanics in the district’s yard take to heart. “They know that these are special packages that we deliver

every day,” Palmer said. If it has a cracked windshield or other issues, “it won’t pass a pre-trip inspection, so it just doesn’t go out. That’s why we have spare buses.”

Nethercutt said much the same, adding that of Kyrene’s 130 buses, 110 are propane-fueled and have seatbelts. The district has 100 routes and 102 drivers.

“Student safety is our number one priority. We drive 6,000 kids twice a day, and we drive 1.5 million miles a year,” Nethercutt said. Before they go out on a route, drivers check brake lights, turn blinkers, emergency lighting and tires. He also pointed to the monthly, quarterly and yearly preventive maintenance on the buses.

“We perform maintenance at the scheduled intervals to ensure that buses are in good repair because, like I said, student safety is our number one goal.”

Both Palmer and Nethercutt stated that buses in their districts have been involved in minor accidents, but that no students were injured.

“Mostly it’s just people clipping our mirrors, so it’s nothing on our drivers’ part. We’ve had a few people hit the back of our buses when we stop at railroad tracks,” Palmer said.

“Almost always, it is another person driving a car,” Nethercutt said.



School bus safety is a top priority in Tempe Elementary and Kyrene school districts. Their safety records provide more than ample proof. - Tempe Elementary Schools Community Affairs

## Fall Break schedule

**Kyrene** elementary and middle schools will be closed according to the following schedule from now through the first two weeks of December:  
 Sept. 30 — Teacher Day (district office open);  
 Oct. 3-7 — Fall Break (district office closes at noon);  
 Oct. 10 — Staff Development Day (district office closed);  
 Nov. 11 — Veterans Day (district office closed);

Nov. 24-25 — Thanksgiving holiday (district office closed);  
 Dec. 16 — Teacher Day (district office open).

**Tempe Elementary** schools will be closed according to the following schedule from now through the end of November:  
 Oct. 3-7 — Fall Break (District office open);  
 Nov. 23-25 — Thanksgiving Break

**Tempe Union High School District**  
 Oct. 3-7 — Fall Break (District office open)

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Volunteers and students at Kyrene de los Niños School sort through donations.

## Donations sought as family resource center adds one Saturday per month

By Diana Whittle

Throughout the year, local families have been able to rely on an abundant offering of good will from the staff at Tempe's Family Resource Center. In dire situations, an emergency helping hand could even be counted on.

In both cases, however, helping hands were extended as long as the call for help didn't arise unexpectedly on a weekend.

Now, according to the center's coordinator, hours are being expanded to include one Saturday a month in response to families who say it was difficult to obtain the essentials distributed at the center because the center was open the same hours that working families were on their jobs.

Located on the campus of Kyrene de los Niños Elementary School, the center is a longtime undertaking of the not for profit Kyrene Foundation, the district's fundraising and community support arm.

"At the Kyrene Family Resource Center, we are always listening to our families, and take their comments and suggestions to heart," said Program Coordinator Sylvia Lopez.

"We were being told how difficult it is for some families to come in during the week, as they were transitioning into the workforce and still needed our assistance. We are always willing to help our families obtain the resources that they need and being open on a Saturday is a resource that we were told is needed."

It may just be one extra day a month, but Lopez says the positive response to being open on a Saturday has been overwhelmingly positive.

In order to staff the center on a

weekend, Lopez relies on volunteers such as Tera McDonald, a kindergarten teacher at Kyrene de las Manitas school. "Tera organizes all of the volunteers and sacrifices her Saturday to be here for our families. She knows the needs of our families and is phenomenal in bringing together volunteers that range from students and teachers to community members," explained Lopez.

The resource center is always accepting donations, as the families receive the donated resources at no cost.

Lopez says that there is a long list of items that the center can use.

"These would include new or gently used school-appropriate clothing and shoes for children up to 8th grade; new unopened packages of socks and underwear; small household and hygiene items including shampoo and hair conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

At this moment the Kyrene Family Resource Center is getting ready for the holidays and is collecting food donations such as canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, french-fried onions, canned yams or sweet potatoes, bags of marshmallows, stuffing, mashed potatoes, turkey gravy, corn bread or biscuit mixes, cranberry sauce and non-perishable dessert and cake mixes.

Donations can be dropped off at the resource center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays or Thursdays.

The Kyrene Family Resource Center, a joint effort between the Kyrene School District and the foundation, offers needy families access to resources to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter,

medical or legal support, resource referrals, scholarships and after-school programs.

The resource center is open to any family with a student enrolled in the Kyrene district.

The program's mission is "removing barriers to learning," as well as providing the resources that support that mission.

Lopez says that any family that could use assistance is welcome at

the Kyrene Family Resource Center. "There are no income requirements nor appointments needed during our open hours."

The center is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Thursdays until 6).

Saturdays scheduled for opening during the remainder of this year are Oct. 15 and Nov. 12. Niños school, where the family resource center is located is at 1330 E. Dava Drive, Tempe.



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#### Committed to Kyrene.

In preparation to serve, Eshe has attended School Board meetings, visited and volunteered in Kyrene Schools; met with administrators, current and former board members, teachers and parents.

[eshepickett.com](http://eshepickett.com)

Paid for by Eshe for Kyrene Schools

# Diversions . . .

Written and compiled by M.V. Moorhead

## Starpower plus a new spin make 'Magnificent Seven' a worthy entry

**The Magnificent Seven** — In Rose Creek, some years after the Civil war, poor farmers hire a gunslinging warrant officer to defend them against the mining kingpin who's trying to run them off.

The gunslinger scrapes together six comrades, and they try to prepare the town for the attack of the mining man's goons.

This variation—it's only a remake in its broadest outlines—of the 1960 guy-movie classic from John Sturges (itself a reworking of Kurosawa's 1954 Seven Samurai) has an entirely ersatz atmosphere.

It feels like something staged daily for tourists at Old Tucson Studios, except that, like Lawrence Kasdan's 1984 Silverado, it's full of big-name actors.

Scene after scene (almost every scene, really) recalls some earlier western. A surprising number, starting from the opening town meeting in the church, bring to mind Blazing Saddles—there's even a "beans scene," though it lacks audible flatulence. There are nods to Kurosawa, too, notably a major borrow from Throne of Blood.

None of which is to say that this Magnificent Seven isn't entertaining from beginning to end.

Director Antoine Fuqua evokes the tidy, almost abstracted flavor of the genre at its most allegorically suggestive, and he gets terrific performances from his stars.

Denzel Washington plays the gunslinger, roughly the equivalent of the Yul Brynner role in the earlier film.

Chris Pratt is the wisecracking



Saturday, October 29 • 7:30pm

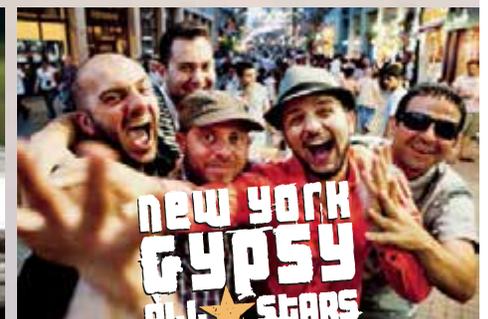
### SIMPLY THREE

Saturday, November 12  
3pm & 7:30pm

Saturday, November 19  
7:30pm



### LETTERS HOME



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— DIVERSIONS, Page 19

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Oct. 14	The Good Dinosaur	PG
Oct. 21	Angry Birds	PG
Oct. 28	Monsters University	G

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Be sure to dress up and participate in the annual Halloween costume contest.

Admission to the Family Halloween Carnival is free.

Most activities require 3 to 4 tickets. Tickets can be purchased for 25 cents a piece.

480-350-5200  
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Friday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
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LIL JON

10 PM  
FRIDAY



WHISKEY'S QUICKER

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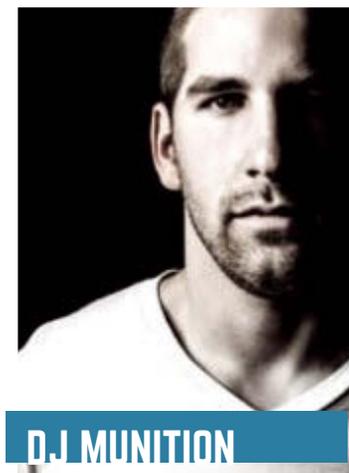
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## SUNDAY 9 OKTOBER

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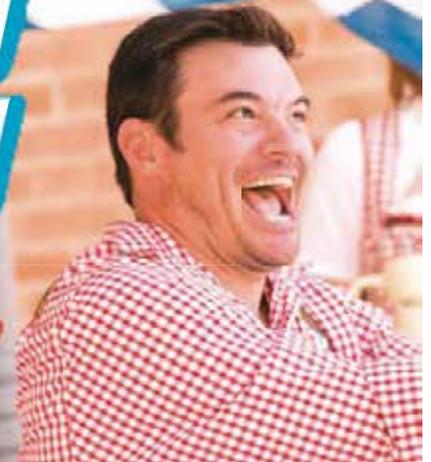


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# Diversions

From Page 14

cardsharp, Ethan Hawke is a desiccated, war-shattered Southern gentleman, Byung-hun Lee is his knife-slinging traveling companion. Manuel Garcia-Rulfo plays a Mexican fugitive, Vincent D'Onofrio is a shaggy tracker, and Martin Sensmeier rounds out the Seven as an outcast Comanche.

Washington is poised and commanding, an authoritative axis around which the other six revolve. It would be easy to miss how quietly skilled he is, because his costars are so flashy—Pratt a likable wisecracker, Hawke shaky and soul-wounded, Garcia-Rulfo bright-eyed and vulpine, Peter Sarsgaard a study in twitchy mannerism as the creepy miner boss.

Lee and Sensmeier are less developed, but both of them are physically impressive.

The only truly original characterization, however, is D'Onofrio, his voice croaky from disuse, his manner oddly guileless.

If I had a quibble with the movie—on its own corny terms—it's that I was disappointed that Washington's character had an old score to settle with the villain.

Part of what was touching about the 1960 version is that Brynner and his cronies came to care about the locals, without the need for any backstory.

**Storks** — Last weekend we had Bridget Jones belatedly expecting a baby; this weekend we have a saga of the avians traditionally in charge of delivering it. Like Arthur Christmas a few years back, this is another animated film that derives its comedy from literalizing a folklore motif—probably, in this case, a cover story to avoid telling kids where babies come from.

The birds have a history in Warner Brothers animation. In the Looney Tunes of the '40s and '50s, the stork (voiced by Mel Blanc) was depicted as a bleary-eyed, hiccupping drunk, presumably having been unable to decline offers of cheer from delighted new parents, and the result was mis-delivered babies.

In the new film, from Warner Animation Group, the birds have shifted their delivery operations away from babies to consumer items, a la Amazon.com.

The movie follows the quest of an up-and-coming stork, Junior (voiced by Andy Samberg) and Tulip (Katie Crowne), a human who grew up among the storks when she went undelivered to her family, to deliver a baby unintentionally produced at the request of a boy who wants a little brother.

It's a surreptitious delivery, as Junior knows that word of the screw-up would endanger the promotion he's been promised by the corporate honcho stork (Kelsey Grammer).

Even though the story obeys, through Tulip, the standard animated kidflick trope of the misfit struggling to fit in, the adventures which ensue are quite off-the-wall and hard to summarize.

Probably the funniest element of the film is the wolf pack—the Alpha and Beta are hilariously voiced by Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele—able to organize itself into bridges and boats even more ambitious structures. As she flees, Tulip notes that she never saw this behavior in the nature shows.

Storks is so stuffed with peculiar ideas that some of them inevitably misfire.

There's a sense of equating babies with consumer



products and procreation with acquisition that feels a little unsavory, even though it's probably unintentional.

But overall this is one of the more unpredictable and funnier animated features in a while.

There's a Lego short subject before the movie, by the way, a martial arts spoof called *The Master* in which the title character (voiced by Jackie Chan) clashes with a chicken. It's good for a chuckle.

*The Magnificent Seven* is rated PG-13, and *Storks* is rated PG.

Both play at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20, Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.

Correction: In our Sept. 17 edition, we incorrectly identified Luis Ruiz as overseeing Tempe Center for the Arts' artistic vision and direction. With the hiring the center's new Artistic Director, Ralph Remington, those duties will be under the guidance of Mr. Remington, programming. He is responsible for the "what" and "why" of the center's artistic direction. Mr. Ruiz is responsible for the "how" of accomplishing that vision. He oversees the operational side of the business.

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Tempe celebrated PARKing Day by taking over all of the parking spaces on Mill Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets. The observance is part of an annual worldwide event held on the third Friday in September that encourages people to transform metered parking spots into temporary public parks. A variety of parks were on display, including the city's newest re-purposed roll-off "Parklet," a permanent bike version, a low-water use landscaped park and a green park. Once the parks were built, it was time to enjoy them. Activities included events from corn hole, giant Jenga and lawn Yahtzee, plus relaxing and reading e-books checked out from the Tempe Public Library.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

## Swim team faces a rare dilemma: Too much water

By Richard Geraffo

You'd think a swim meet couldn't have too much water. Apparently that's not always the case, something the Marcos de Niza Boys and Girls swim teams discovered when they traveled to Westwood High School in Mesa to take on the Warriors. It was their fourth meet of the year.

Due to rain and booming claps of thunder, the two schools weren't able to compete, as the weather became unsafe for swimming after only two races.

The meet was called and no official score was posted, but this didn't faze Padres men's head coach Bart Baumler's enthusiasm, as he was supremely confident in his team's ability.

"All of my freshmen and sophomores love swimming; they make practice every day and they're improving on a daily basis."

Baumler is focused on the future of his team because of the number of young swimmers he has available to him. "My swimmers are very good," he said.

The women's team also recently lost most of its senior swimmers, according to Padres women's head coach Mick Wojciechowicz.

"Our girls team is kind of small; we lost a lot of seniors last year," said Wojciechowicz.

"We actually don't have any girls senior swimmers, so we have a much smaller team and this will be a developing year for us." While losing most of its varsity swimmers from last year, the entire Marcos swimming program is young and has a bright future ahead.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing them next year," Baumler said.

Coach Wojciechowicz spoke highly of one of his star swimmers, Ellie Young. Young is only a sophomore at Marcos but has already exceeded expectations as a butterfly swimmer.

"In the fist dual meet, she already made provisional times in the 100 meter butterfly," said Wojciechowicz.

These times technically don't count until an invitational, but the times Young posted would have qualified her for the state meet, according to Wojciechowicz.

Young is still realizing her potential and has a lot of room to grow.

Said Wojciechowicz:

"She is really impressive, and we just need to get some more girls out next year, and keep building off of that."

Richard Geraffo is a student at ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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## BRANCHING OUT WITH SRP



## HEALTHY FORESTS ARE IMPORTANT TO SRP — AND YOU.

*By Bruce Hallin*

Why should we care about the health of Arizona's forests? Forests in northern Arizona are the lifeblood of SRP's water supply. The runoff from rain and snow that fall on these forests flows downstream, filling reservoirs on the Salt and Verde rivers. From there, it is delivered to the Valley for us to use.

Unfortunately, our forests today are unhealthy and overgrown, and without action, catastrophic fires are almost a certainty. Over the past century, fire suppression and other activities have greatly altered the health of Arizona's forests. These crowded forests are highly susceptible to beetle infestation, drought and fire. Catastrophic wildfires negatively impact the infrastructure of immediate communities and the economic benefits of recreation as well as fish and wildlife. And runoff from fire-scarred areas drains into SRP's reservoirs and brings with it ash and debris. This waste settles at the base of the dams, reducing reservoir capacity and affecting water quality.

That's why SRP offers programs like Trees for Change, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation, to improve the health of our forests. By supporting these forest restoration efforts, SRP is helping to protect our water supply from the harmful effects of wildfires. You can help too!

**Coming up next in this series: Find out how healthy forests improve our water supply.**

*Bruce Hallin is Director of Water Supply at SRP.*



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# Sports

With Alex Zener

## Aztecs net top honors in state VBall finals

Corona's girls volleyball team, at the Westwood Tournament of Champions on Sept. 17, went undefeated in eight matches, losing only two sets in the process, to play against the state's No. 1 ranked team the championship finals.

The Aztecs defeated the Hamilton Huskies in this prestigious tournament 25-20, 22-25, 16-14 to take home the championship trophy.

The Aztecs, 17-1 so far this season, are ranked No. 4 in the state and recently moved up to No. 17 in the Xcellent 25 Writers Poll. Corona is poised to be one of the contenders when the 6A state championships are played in early Nov.

"We have a good level of experience on varsity, which has really helped us be successful so far this season," said head coach Ben Maxfield. "We are able to remain calm in a stressful situation because we have been there before."

Corona has lost only one match, and that to Hamilton earlier in the season when they were playing without their kill leader, junior Brooke Nuneviller.

Nuneviller, one of the six returning starters out of 11 returning players, has compiled, as of Sept. 26, 149 kills averaging over four kills a set hitting .342 while playing in 37 of the teams 49 sets.

"Brook is a very smart player," says Maxfield. "She can see the court very well and scores a lot of points for us in a lot of different ways."

Contributing to the Aztecs' success is the fact that they have a number of outstanding offensive weapons in three other hitters who have all had over 100 kills each this season.

Senior middle blocker Lauren Forte is hitting a team high .443 with 114 kills on 194 attempts, or 2.6 kills per set. On top of that, Forte, at 6-foot-4, is the leading blocker on the team with 13 solo and 37 assists for a total of 50 blocks or over one block per set.

"Lauren is very tough for blockers to stop when we set the ball high enough for her," said Maxfield. "Her hitting presence in the middle really opens up the net for our pin hitters, plus her size alone forces our opponent hitters to adjust how they hit. Which has a tendency to result in hitting errors."

Forte's presence was most likely felt in Corona's latest match against Desert Vista when the Thunder had twice as many hitting errors, at 24, compared to the Aztecs' 12. Forte was also a presence at the net with five blocks against the Thunder. Two consecutive blocks in the third set helped cement Corona's three straight set win, 25-12, 25-10, 25-15 over Desert Vista.

Fellow senior outside hitter Erica Ronda does not only attack the ball with over 115 kills or 2.5 kills per set; she also plays back row where she has been credited with 135 digs or close to three digs a set. In addition, Ronda is currently tied for second with Nuneviller for service aces, with 20 each.

"Erica has a variety of hits and shots that keep the opposing defenses off balance," said Maxfield.

The last hitter on Corona's team with over 100 kills so far this season is the 6-foot-2 junior opposite hitter Emma



Corona's girls cross country team took third place at the annual Ojo Rojo Invitational Cross Country meet. Team includes, front row, from left: Riley Wright, Renee Payne; top row, from left: Kristina Phillips, Mia Da Rosa, Andelina Thomas, Mackenzie Burgess, Bella Sarno, Abby Cordiak, Cybelle Cozart.

— Photo by Andy Wylde for Wrangler News

West, who is averaging 2.2 kills a set.

"Emma is very versatile in where she can hit from," said Maxfield. "She brings a lot of power to her hitting and has worked hard on developing her placement shots."

West is the third leading blocker on the team, with 32 total blocks. But 5-foot-9 senior middle blocker Jessica Murphy is second on the team with 39 total blocks.

Murphy had five blocking assists in Corona's big championship win at the Westwood Tournament of Champions recently against Hamilton.

Corona not only has a variety of good players on offense; their success is directly tied to their defense, setting and serving abilities.

Senior Libero Camryn Tucker is the leading digger on the team, with over 190 digs on the season averaging close to four digs a set.

"Camryn is the anchor in our back row," said Maxfield. "She reads where the ball is going to go very well and consistently digs a nice high ball to the middle of the court so we can run a great transition offense."

Tucker may not be able to hit the ball playing in the back row only; she is credited with being partly responsible for 125 points by starting the play with a good serve. Tucker, who has had the most serve attempts of anyone on the team, has gotten in 95% of her 196 serve attempts.

"Camryn is one of our more consistent servers who does a great job at hitting spot areas both short and deep," said Maxfield.

Senior Madi Reum plays defense in addition to setting the ball, earning 4.5 assists a set.

"Madi takes pride in playing defense first and keeps a lot of ball in play that most setters would not," said Maxfield. "When setting, she sets a nice, fast ball to the outsides which allows our hitters to beat the middle blockers."

Junior Abby Meyer has a slight lead on Reum in assists with 277 or close to six assists per game as a setter but she is also a great server and is currently leading the team in

aces at 27.

"As a setter, Abby does a great job exploiting matchups and getting the ball to our hot hitters," said Maxfield. "Abby also is one of our better servers. She has a tough, flat serve which makes it hard for our opponents to consistently pass."

Other members of the team who contribute on and off the court to Corona's success are seniors Brooke O'Meara, Logan Wallerstedt, Keelan Nelson and juniors Isis Mitchell, Lexi Vlcek and Allie Wade.

Corona was scheduled to play two away games this week, Sept. 27 at Highland and Sept. 28 at Desert Ridge, before facing Sacred Heart in the Nike Tournament of Champions on Sept. 30.

With only six regular season games left after the Nike Tournament of Champions to determine the 6A state championship seeding, the Aztecs will most likely face some challenges for position within their own section. What can't be denied is that this 17-1 record has the team energized and focused on winning straight through to the finals.

Up next, after taking a break in matches for fall break, the team will play at Desert Vista Oct. 11, at home against Desert Ridge Oct. 18, at home against Gilbert Oct. 19 and at Gilbert Oct. 20.

### Cross Country

Corona's boys varsity team won the Ojo Rojo Lions Invitational at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler for the second year in a row with Liam Kovatch crossing the finish line in second place and Slade Sumners in fourth. Rounding out the top five spots for the Aztecs were Tyler Thompson, 15th place; Josh Whitney, 16th; and Joel Wadsworth 17th.

Corona's girls team finished third with sophomore Mackenzie Burgess taking 21st place out of 111 runners. Senior Renee Payne and junior Riley Wright were just one

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**It wasn't only a takeaway from one of Saturday Night Live's beloved bits between John Belushi and Dan Akrold but a call to modern-day aficionados of Mac's Broiler and Tap, which celebrated National Cheeseburger Day with a tasty tribute to the American classic.**

Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

**SRP OKs clean-power agreement**  
Solar power plant aims to reduce carbon footprint

A structure originally conceived by Tempe-based First Solar Inc. in east Mesa and now owned by Apple will give Salt River Project customers in Tempe and West Chandler a new way reducing the carbon footprint attributed to electric power, thanks to an agreement approved by SRP's board of directors.

The board recently signed an agreement to purchase the energy produced from Apple's new 50-megawatt photovoltaic solar power plant.

SRP was part of an Arizona team that worked with Apple to locate in the East Valley in 2014, and later built an interconnection near the facility to help facilitate the construction of the Bonnybrooke PV solar plant.

Apple has completed construction, and is finalizing the commissioning of a large-scale solar array, so that clean power can feed into SRP's grid that supports Apple.

"SRP is committed to working with our customers like Apple to meet their

energy needs with the accelerated development of renewable resources, such as solar and geothermal, without increasing costs to our other customers," said SRP General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Mark Bonsall.

"This opportunity is not only economical, but a powerful demonstration of how SRP can be a catalyst for economic development in the Valley."

By purchasing the output of the Bonnybrooke plant, SRP will reduce the carbon footprint of the fossil fuel resources that serve its more than 1 million customers in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Terms of the 25-year Purchase Power Agreement support new renewable energy and development in Arizona, but do not impact other SRP ratepayers as the energy is purchased by SRP at a wholesale market rate.

Apple will retain all of the environmental attributes generated from the solar plant.

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# City of Tempe Page



## Neighborhood libraries grow love of reading

Tempe's new Neighborhood Libraries program was explored and recommended by Councilmembers Kolby Granville and David Schapira, and later approved by the full City Council. The program encourages residents to share their love of reading with neighbors by building book storage units on their properties. The city is offering rebates of up to \$300 to homeowners and non-profit organizations for the cost of purchasing, installing and registering a Neighborhood Library. Participants are responsible for stocking their own libraries, which must remain in place for a minimum of five years.

For information and an application, visit [www.tempe.gov/NeighborhoodLibraries](http://www.tempe.gov/NeighborhoodLibraries)

## All aboard!



The new Trains of Tempe exhibit rolls into the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave., from this November through September 2017.

The 1,200-square-foot exhibit examines the history of trains in Tempe and surrounding communities from the earliest efforts to bring rail service to the area, to modern endeavors in mass

transportation, including light rail and streetcar.

Train aficionados of all ages can enjoy this interactive experience created through the use of artifacts and archival materials, photographs and video.

The exhibit opens at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, with live music, activities and refreshments. Admission is free. For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/museum](http://www.tempe.gov/museum).

## Zero Waste Day is Nov. 12

Still hanging onto that old TV? Recycle it for free at Tempe's Zero Waste Day. Residents can drop off the items that cannot go in their blue bins and the city will ensure they get properly recycled.

Free recycled paint will be available for residents, and the city will accept donations of non-perishable food items for the Tempe Community Action Agency.

It's all happening Saturday, Nov. 12, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Tempe Fire Training Facility, 1340 E. University Dr.

Visit [www.tempe.gov/zerowaste](http://www.tempe.gov/zerowaste) for a list of acceptable items and to learn more about how these items are recycled at Tempe's Household Products Collection Center.

## College Connect helps students navigate path to success

Young people wondering what to do after high school, whether college is the right choice and wondering how to pay for it all are getting helpful answers from Tempe's ongoing College Connect program.

Join any of these free College Connect workshops from 10 a.m. to noon on upcoming Saturdays (Nov.

19, Feb. 4, April 8) to find answers.

These free workshops, focused on different topics each time, are held at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

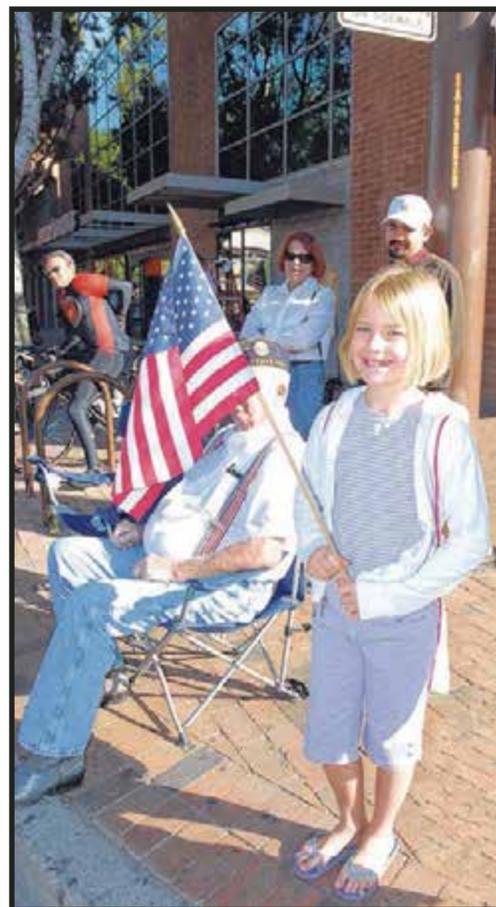
Day-of registration opens at 9:30 a.m.

Students attending the workshops will be entered in a drawing to win one of five \$250 scholarships.

For more information and to register for the workshops, visit [www.CollegeConnectTempe.com](http://www.CollegeConnectTempe.com).

## Veterans Day Parade is Nov. 11

All community members are invited to the annual Veterans Day Parade along Mill Avenue. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at ASU Gammage and travel north to Tempe Beach Park. Join in the patriotic fun of this hometown tradition!



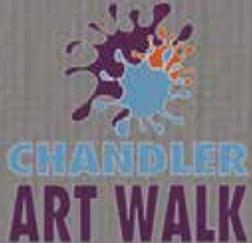


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**CHANDLER ART WALK**

**Oct. 21 Zombie Walk**

**6-9:30 p.m.**

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Officer Ariel Werther talked with conference-goers. — Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

## Stigma

From Page 1

including Aurora Behavioral Health, Awakening Recovery and the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention.

So how much of police interaction with the community is fueled by substance abuse or mental health issues?

“We were dealing with so many issues last year, either PTSD or mental health-related—that’s why we came up with the idea,” Lotz said. “It’s out there. It’s big, and people need to recognize it.”

Tibble concurred.

“We’d definitely say an overwhelmingly high number. The average citizen, whatever the number is—I think they would be shocked.”

According to the Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition, suicide is a leading cause of death in Arizona, with about 800 people taking their lives each year in the state. And as numerous news outlets have reported, there’s also an ongoing crisis involving opiate addiction and overdose.

Arizona ranks second in the nation for deaths from drug overdose.

“We would go out on calls all the time where people had family members who told us they felt so hopeless,” Tibble said.

“They don’t know how to help their family members who were coping with a mental illness. We didn’t really have the resources available to us and we didn’t know what was out there.”

Both officers wanted to get more training in order to help stem the tide.

“We went to a weeklong training to find resources and what we could do to help people and we came back from that with eyes wide open,” Tibble said.

Last year, they put on an event that gathered 25 exhibitors and a guest speaker. This year, the community gathering grew exponentially, with

an array of speakers in three halls and dozens of exhibitors. Speakers addressed everything from what substance abuse looks like, to finding hope in the midst of addiction, to overdose prevention, trauma and readjustment for veterans and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Police officers who attended received training credit hours.

“We want people to know where to start to get resources. Once people start accepting it, it almost seems like it’s easier to ask for help,” Tibble said. “There is help available and there are so many resources that people just don’t know about.”

In terms of overcoming stigma, Tibble said that one of the hurdles is the common perception that people suffering from mental illness are likely to pose an extreme danger to others. When Wrangler News brought up the 2011 Tucson shooting by a man with a mental illness who killed six and critically injured U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, Tibble had this to say:

“A lot of times people assume or think that if you have a mental illness that you’re going to do something drastically big, like the examples you gave. And that’s a very small percentage of people.”

Mental illness covers a wide range of conditions, she said. “There are so many people that suffer with this. Just because you have an addiction or a mental illness does not mean by any means that you’re a bad person.”

Valley Hope, which operates an addiction treatment facility in Chandler, held a march that ended at the doors of the Chandler Center for the Arts just prior to the event organized by Lotz and Tibble.

According to Valley Hope’s website, the march was held “to create awareness around recovery and inspire Champions of Hope within our community.”



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# Sports

From Page 23

off Burgess placing in 23rd and 24th place respectively.

Sophomore runners Abigail Cordiak, finishing in 35th place and Cybelle Cozart, 44th, rounded out the top five runners for Corona. Other Corona racers included Bella Sarno, Kristina Phillips, Mia Da Rosa and Adelina Thomas.

"I was very pleased with how the girls performed at the Ojo Rojo Invitational," said Ari Rodriguez.

"It was a great team effort where almost every girl on the team ran personal bests."

In the 3-Mile Non-Varsity event at the Doug Conley Invitational held at Shalimar Country Club in Tempe on Sept. 24, Corona's boys team placed first with 85 points.

McClintock's team was ninth, Tempe's team was 20th and Marcos de Niza's team was 43rd out of 44 schools that competed.

The Aztecs top five runners in this non-varsity event were Kyle Swindler who came in second with a time of 16:47, Anthony Sarno, 12th place, Daniel Bish, 18th, Andrew Ferreira, 19th and Zachary Johnson was 45th

out of 605 runners who competed.

Corona's boys team placed fourth in the 3-Mile Elite event out of 24 schools at the Doug Conley where Summers was the top Aztec runner finishing in 8th place out of 165 runners with a time of 15:27.

Summers was followed by teammates Kovatch in 15th place and Lincoln Johnston in 37th. Whitney, Wadsworth and Thompson once again finished in tandem this time 54th, 55th and 56th respectively.

The top five finishers for McClintock's runners in this non-varsity run were Torren Baker finishing in 22nd place, Nathaniel Talkalai, 50th, Casey Brown, 56th, Jack Cleveland, 64th and Arauk Mohamed was 138th.

Also finishing the race for the Chargers was Jose Sabas, Carter Vierra, Graydon Sharp, Liam Huggins and Angel Plascencia.

The Buffaloes' top runner in the non-varsity event was senior Nathan Zurn who finished 30th out of 605 runners. The rest of Tempe's top five runners in order of their finish include Alejandro Briseno, Chris Bajarno, Javier Romero and Jaxen Davis.

Tempe's girls team competed in both the 3-Mile Non-Varsity and the 3-Mile Invitational event.

Asli Burnham-Walker, finishing 86 out of 371 runners, was the top finisher in the non-varsity event for Tempe followed by Olivia Romo-Nieto, Brittany Perez, Madie Damasco and Daniella Chavira.

In the 3-Mile Invitational, junior Danyella Miranda finished seventh out of 126 runners from 24 schools. She was followed by teammates, Rubi Aguilera in 60th place, Karely Flores Garcia, Brenda Juarez, Jasmine Neal and Haile Sechrist-Gauntt.

Marcos de Niza had five runners in the 3-Mile Non-Varsity event finish the race. Xavier Newell was the first Padre to cross the finish lined followed in order of their finish were Jonah Ortiz, Sebastian Shuell, Ethan Storment and Pierce Hammock.

The Padres top finisher in the 3-Mile Invitational event at the Doug Conley was senior Kepano Ream followed by Orion Hunter, Kekona Ream, Miguel Calderon, Samuel Lumbra, Jack Hill and Jayden Pahona.

Marcos had seven runners from the girls team compete in the 3-Mile Invitational at the Doug Conley. The top finisher was sophomore Maureen

Juarez.

She was followed in order of finish by Katy Meyers, Taylor Delgado,

Anna Bell, Mackenzie White, Carlie Liko and Brianna Etsitty.



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# Home town hero

Olympic diver Sam Dorman's return to Marcos de Niza High School was just in time for the school's homecoming pep rally, where students and faculty cheered for the silver medalist's visit to his alma mater.

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