

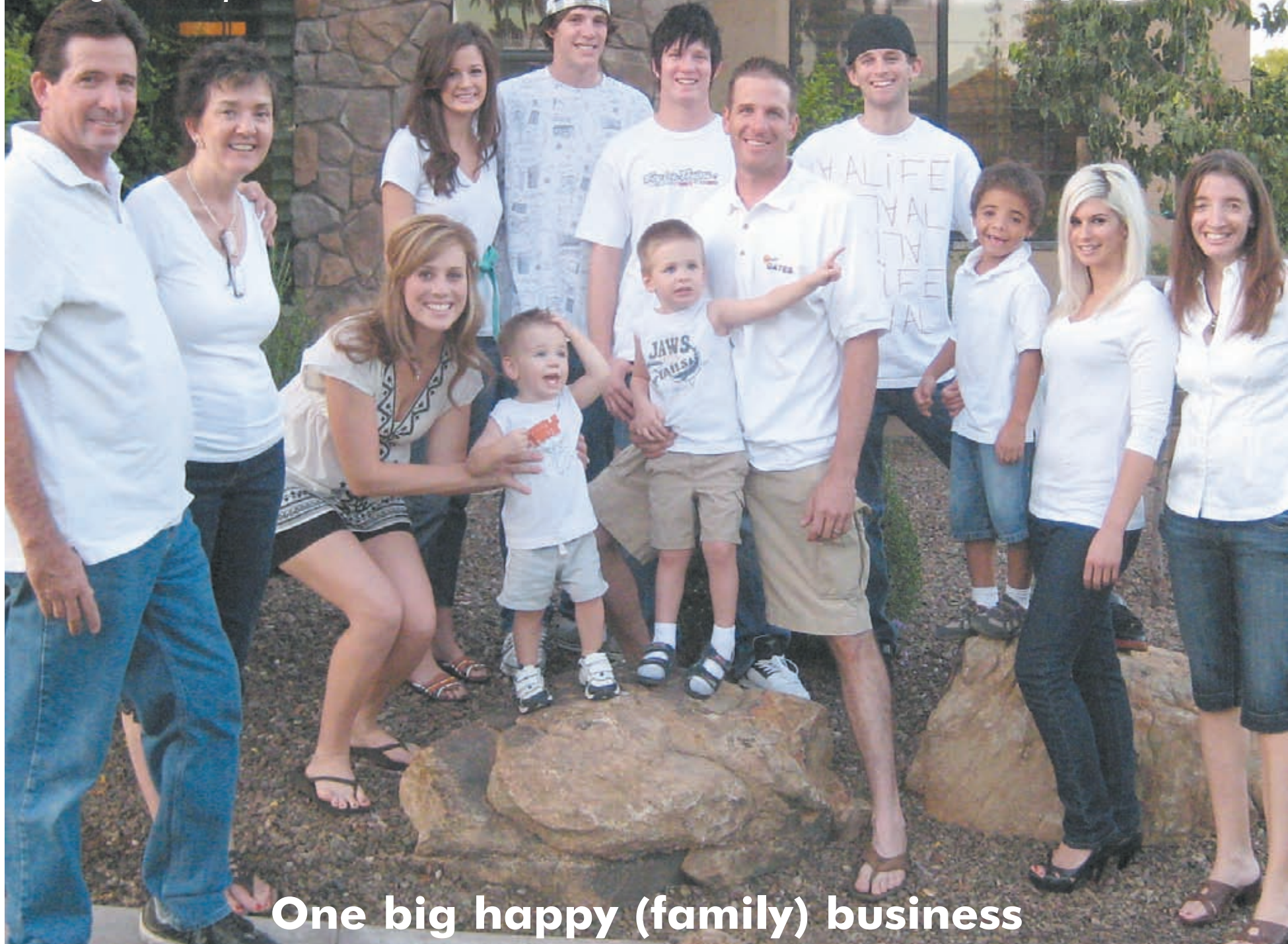
Wrangler

NEWS

Kyrene Corridor Edition

Nov. 7 - 20 • Vol. 20, No. 22

Serving South Tempe & West Chandler since 1991



One big happy (family) business

Bob McPeters' fence business was built on pride, workmanship and support from a family that's as committed to the job as he is. The hours are long, says McPeters, but the rewards are great. 'We're busy all the time.'

Wrangler News photo by Tracy Doren • Story by Jeremy Banks, Page 8

Pesky roof rats are back, and don't let those cute faces fool you

First-person report by Alex Zener

Are you getting your house ready for those guests who typically start arriving as soon as the weather cools down? Here's one you might not have been expecting: Those gnawing, worrisome and always unwelcome critters who'd love to spend some time in your warm attic this winter: roof rats.

If you haven't heard yet, they've raised their nasty heads again in our south Tempe and west Chandler neighborhoods. And if you don't have them now, you likely will, because they're reported to be on the move throughout the East Valley.

How did they get here? Roof rats love to eat the wires under your car's hood, so some theorize they arrived in a car from some other part of the Valley. Others think they traveled here on block fences, power, telephone and cable lines, tree to tree and through oleander bushes.

Regardless of how these annoying creatures got here, experts say that homeowners need to act now because this is the time of year roof rats love to move inside to find their preferred nesting places in the warmer upper levels of your house and garage.

Residents of Estate La Colina held a homeowners meeting Oct. 24 at Estrada Park to discuss ways to keep the roof rat infestation from taking over. Barry Pacey, known



Resident Mark Zener with anti-roof rat arsenal he purchased to combat the latest invasion.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex Zener

as the Roof Rat Man of the Arcadia neighborhood where roof rats were first discovered in 2001, estimated our area neighborhoods are infested on a scale of 5 to 6 out of 10.

What this means is that we may be facing a problem that could take years to control unless everyone works together to eradicate these pesky, plague-carrying vermin. The good news is that if neighbors work now to get the rats under control, the infestation can be minimized. The bad news is that once roof rats have been detected in an area, residents have to remain forever vigilant because they will never totally disappear.

Pacey and his fellow Arcadians went public about their ongoing battle with roof rats troubling this once-stylish part of Scottsdale in 2001. Since then, he has devoted a major part of his life to limiting the damage created and infestation of these roof rats that originated in Southeast Asia and typically live along the coastal regions in the United States. The Phoenix area roof rats were probably brought here from California, Pacey suggests.

The roof rat measures anywhere from 13-18 inches, including its tail, and weighs 5-9 ounces. Roof rats prefer to live four feet or more off the ground. They are dark

— RATS, Page 12

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Troubled economic waters pose just another challenge for new Kyrene CFO

By Slim Smith

When the orders were handed out prior to the maiden voyage of the Titanic, it's unlikely that any particular significance was given to the title of "Officer in Charge of Lifeboats."

Likewise, when Karin Smith moved from her position as communications director to the finance department of the Kyrene School District three years ago, it is doubtful that anyone could have fully appreciated the gravity her new role would soon assume.

"When I started the job of director of business services in 2006, the only time the budget was discussed at governing board meetings was when the budget was proposed, when it was adopted and when we gave the annual report," Smith said.

"Now, the budget is a big part of just about every governing board meeting."

Such are the times. The national recession, along with the state's economic meltdown, continue to have grave implications for school districts throughout the state.

With the underlying uncertainty of state funding, Smith has spent most of her time in the district's financial department negotiating troubled waters.

Fortunately for the district, all indications suggest that she is equal to the task.

On Nov. 10, the governing board is expected to formally approve Smith, 34, as the district's Chief Financial Operations Officer. Smith succeeds Terry Tatterfield, who retired on Nov. 2.

The Kyrene School District, which serves K-8 students, operates 19 elementary schools and six middle schools in Tempe, Chandler, Phoenix and Guadalupe. The district employs roughly 2,500 teachers, administrators and support staff and serves an enrollment of more than 18,000. The annual budget is approximately \$220 million.

When Smith arrived in district's finance department in 2006, she seemed an unconventional choice. She had little formal training in business. Until then,

— KYRENE, Page 5

Karin Smith, named the Kyrene School District's new chief financial operations officer, is determined to prevent economic challenges from damaging the district's reputation for excellence.

— Wrangler News photo by Tracy Doren





Multi-purpose Recycling Day Green Day Challenge

**Saturday, November 14, 2009
7 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



Tempe Household Products Collection Center
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E-WASTE
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CFO

From Page 4

she had worked eight years in the district in a variety of other capacities – including community relations, grant-writing and communications. Her academic training to that point, which included two masters degrees, was not oriented toward a career in finance.

“My background and education had always been in the social-services part,” Smith said. “I would never have imagined being a CFO when I began in the district.”

Even so, Smith soon found that she had both appetite and aptitude for the work. She has since earned a third M.B.A., this one to help her better understand the world of finance.

She also believes her prior jobs outside of the Finance Department have provided context for the job she now performs.

“I think those jobs have really helped me understand the needs of the students,” Smith said.

“I think that’s just as important in my job now as it was back then, maybe even more important.”

The Kyrene School District has long enjoyed an enviable reputation, but even in that admirable quality exists a challenge: The better the reputation, the higher the expectations.

“The district has established a foundation that we are the best and want to continue to remain the best,” Smith said. “That’s the challenge we face, to continue to provide the best opportunity for our students even with fewer resources. That will be our challenge and my responsibility as CFO.”

Statement from Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David Schauer:

“The Support Services Division is diverse and complex. When Mr. (Terry) Tatterfield retired, it was important to find the most qualified person for this key position.

“After a fair, rigorous and comprehensive process, Karin Smith was selected to serve in this role. Karin’s educational background and knowledge of the school district will position her well for the important work that takes place in the Support Services Division.

“I am excited about her selection and know she will continue to serve Kyrene well.”

Newest Goodwill finds a welcome reception at site of former Robb & Stucky

Story & photo
by Geri Koeppel

Eva Schwartz combed through the racks at the new Goodwill store at Warner and Kyrene roads on a recent Monday, arms full of deals like a pair of DKNY jeans for \$12.99. She said she hardly ever shops at department stores anymore.

“If I absolutely can’t find something in the discount stores, I go, but I try not to make a habit of it,” the Ahwatukee woman said. “Why should we?”

Why indeed, when Goodwill has everything from resale clothing to housewares to electronics at drastically lower prices than they sell for when new. Some items still



Store manager Taylor Harper says shoppers think it’s the nicest store of all.

have the tags on them; many bear designer labels.

“At this store, we get a lot of Prada, Coach and Liz Claiborne...Louis Vuitton,” said Goodwill employee Stephen Wright.

On a recent Saturday, he related, a professional football player donated a new Jordan two-piece tracksuit worth more than \$100 and 10 pairs of never-worn Nikes that would retail for \$180 each.

This Goodwill, which opened Oct. 16, is Tempe’s third, joining one at Southern Avenue and McClintock Drive and another at

— GOODWILL, Page 6

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Goodwill

From Page 5

Guadalupe and Rural roads.

The store occupies 25,000 square feet, a typical size, said Chandra Stewart, Goodwill of Central Arizona's director of marketing. Of that, the retail area occupies about 20,000 square feet; the rest houses the production, or sorting, area.

About 4,000 new items hit the shelves daily, and merchandise is reduced to half-off after it's been out two weeks (\$1 after three weeks), ensuring a rotating inventory.

The space had been vacant since the Robb & Stucky clearance center closed earlier this year, and Stewart said neighboring businesses were happy to see a new store there.

No residents showed up to complain during the city's permitting process, either, as they have in other locations. Also, Stewart noted, Goodwill has made an effort to foster, well, good will in the communities where its stores operate.

"Over the past six years, we've renovated or remodeled all of our stores so they're consistent in look," Stewart said. "They're clean; they're organized by color."

Store manager Taylor Harper said he's had good feedback, particularly on this location.

"The majority of the shoppers who come in tell us this is the nicest Goodwill they've been to," he said.

The new store employs 31 people and saw 8,200 paying customers in its first two weeks. In the metro area, Goodwill's 42 locations generate revenue of more than \$60 million a year, making it one of the Valley's major economic drivers.

The Central Arizona chapter, which opened in 1947, is part of Rockford, Md.-based Goodwill Industries, a non profit founded in 1902 in Boston, Mass. Worldwide,

the organization's mission is to give all individuals equal opportunity through the power of work. Ninety cents of each dollar is used for human service programs, such as job training and preparing special needs students in high schools to transition to the working world.

Some "competing" donation locations, such as privately operated bins in parking lots, or resale stores such as Savers, represent for-profit entities. Partly due to the proliferation of such locations and partly to the economy, Stewart said, donations are down this year, and that's their lifeblood.

"When they shop at Goodwill or donate to Goodwill, they're essentially engaging in community service," she said.

But customer counts are increasing, reports Stewart. The largest demographic of Goodwill shopper is female, 25 to 54, with an income of \$50,000 or more. Most have children.

"Now we're finding we're welcoming more shoppers from a broader spectrum of households because of the economy, because people are realizing resale is a great way to stay on a budget and stretch their money," Stewart said.

"You can't control the price of gas, but you can control how much you spend on clothing."

Address: 575 W. Warner Road, Tempe, in the Home Depot shopping center. **Hours:** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. **Deals:** 50 percent off everything every other Saturday (this month, Nov. 7 and 21); 25 percent off Tuesdays for age 55 and older; 25 percent off Sundays with student I.D.

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Walkathon inspired by desire to advance learning in India

By Jeremy Banks

Arjun Chandrasekhar doesn't like being a spectator. He loves being in the action and making an impact. It's the reason Chandrasekhar helped start the Asha for Education Kids Chapter Walkathon.

The walkathon raises money for the education of underprivileged youth in India. The first such event was held in 2004.

At 7 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, the event will mark its sixth straight year with a kickoff at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. Chandrasekhar said every year the walkathon continues to thrive and improve. And, he added, the impact grows with every successful year.

"We hope to raise money for children in India to help them get an education. And every year we have this walkathon to help raise money," he said. "I've been to India a lot of times. That's part of my cultural heritage.

"In the United States you see every day how important education is and why America is so successful. People who are educated are able to come up with creative and innovative ideas."

During his trips to India, Chandrasekhar says, he witnessed firsthand what children there are up against. He said he wanted to help, in part by giving youth some of the tools they need to

succeed in the future.

"Some of the conditions are horrible. There are so many underprivileged children, and they just don't have an access to education," he said.

"When such a large part of your population isn't educated, it's hard for your society to come up with innovative ideas for advancement," he said.

"I've seen a lot of the problems over there, and this really meant a lot to me and the same with all my friends and peers. We decided to try and help out."

The first year of the walkathon was exciting and eye-opening, Chandrasekhar said. With no experience, he and other volunteers for Asha for Education did most of their promotion by feel. They spread the word the best way they could and hoped it would work when the walkathon began. The turnout was encouraging.

"The first was pretty interesting. We got a decent amount of people," Chandrasekhar said. "We came into it with a lot of enthusiasm but there were a lot of things that we underestimated, just how much work it was going to take. We ended up having to scramble for a lot of things. It was a learning experience for us.

"Overall I think we did a great job with that. It was a lot of fun.

During the first year, Chandrasekhar said the group learned how to collect

donations and organize. Naturally, they've gotten better with more experience. Chandrasekhar said the experience has helped attract more people, raise more donations and make the walkathon an even better experience.

"We really know what we are doing. We got a lot of our things done early," he said. "We got it done quickly. We knew how to publicize and we were able to do things like put fliers at local community centers."

Chandrasekhar said he also uses e-mail and advertising to publicize the event. Attendance has increased each year.

The effort hasn't gone unnoticed. In 2007, Asha for Education Kids Chapter won the Presidential Community Service Award. Chandrasekhar said he had no idea something like that could happen.

"It was really surprised. I didn't know

'In the United States you see every day how important education is and why America is so successful. People who are educated are able to come up with creative and innovative ideas.'

we were eligible for this award," he said.

"I was kind of surprised but I was happy with what we've done."

Chandrasekhar said he's hoping the walkathon can continue the trend—improving and producing more and more each year.

"We'd like to raise as much money as possible. Every year we try to raise more money than the last year," he said. "We want to educate people as much as possible.



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Work ethic, pride (and a big family) built modern success story

COVER STORY

By Jeremy Banks

Thirty-two years ago, scared but determined, Bob McPeters set out to build a company based on hard work and customer satisfaction.

Today, as owner of Sunset Fence and Gates in south Tempe, McPeters believes he has accomplished his goal.

Sunset, a family-owned company, specializes in new gates and fences, modifications and iron accents for residential as well as commercial clients.

Family, as it turns out, has been a key to McPeters' success. His seven children, four boys and three girls, plus a daughter in law, all graduates of Kyrene schools and Corona del Sol High School, play a role in the company's operation.

McPeters, who grew up in Tempe,

began his masonry career at 18.

He began doing fences and gates for his neighbors, and soon his work was in demand.

"All my neighbors started hiring me because they all wanted fences," he said.

Five years later, at 23, armed with a mixer, a pickup and a dump truck, McPeters opened his own business.

"It's scary going on your own," he said. "Going on your own was just really different, because you're depending on yourself and not your boss."

McPeters wanted to choose a name for his company that fit perfectly. He chose Sunset Fence and Gates because he enjoyed sunsets, and the name fit the image of Arizona.

Over the years, McPeters learned the ins and outs of business and construction. Now the company is

running well and able to separate itself from the others.

"We have a high standard of quality with our block walls," he said. "We give 10-year guarantees and lifetime guarantees. First class or no class is our motto."

McPeters said his philosophy is making customers happy and feeling satisfied at all costs.

"Pride and workmanship, another happy customer. There are so many people that are afraid of contracts and contractors," McPeters said. "I tell them 'if you're not smiling when we're done, don't pay me.'"

"That gives them a sense of relief. It's important for us to make a customer happy."

So far that approach has worked. He said he receives letters from customers, thanking him for the work. Most of his jobs, he said, are from referrals.

"We get it done sooner than most people. We stay in business by making people happy. That's our job," he said—"quality material and quality service on time at a fair price. We have stacks of

thank-you notes."

The company, McPeters said, is sought after because of its quality of work and the speed in which it finishes.

"I know no one who can tear out the wood fence, dig footing and put up a block wall in 48 hours," he said.


"I know of no one who can work that fast and guarantee it for so long."

The business projects a good working environment, McPeters said—mostly because it's staffed almost entirely by family members. They work well together and enjoy spending time around each other.

"We laugh at each other's jokes. We get to see each other more," McPeters said. "It just works out. We all wear the hats that fit us."

McPeters' daughter Amy, 34, and daughter in law Valerie, 30, do the office work. His sons, Shawn, 38, Ryan, 22, Derek, 24, and Joel, 20, also work at the company, as does daughter Drew, 22. Yet another daughter, Ashley, 18, graduated from Corona this year and will be leaving the company,

— FAMILY, Page 9



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Family

From Page 8

at least temporarily, to attend college in California. McPeters does the organizing and training.

"It's a well-oiled machine," McPeters said.

The hours are long, but enjoyable, he said.

"We're busy all of the time. Sometimes 12, 14 hours a day," he said.

McPeters said Sunset Fence and Gates makes an impact by donating walls to churches and different organizations.

"We're giving back to the community," he said.

McPeters believes Sunset Fence and Gates has flourished because it has given so much. He's hoping there's more to give and more to receive.

"We're here to stay," he said.

Information:
(480) 838-2870.

Holidays getting an early start in Downtown Chandler

Eileen Brill Wagner has this message for west Chandler residents: No matter where you've come from or how long you've been here, when you're in Historic Downtown Chandler you'll feel like you're home for the holidays.

Wagner, executive director of Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, says that the merchants' cooperative will launch three consecutive Saturdays of free holiday happenings on Nov. 28.

New this year will be a World of Trees competition, with local nonprofits decorating trees in the stores with a country or international theme. Visitors can vote on their favorite tree, and the winning nonprofits will get prizes.

There also will be skating in the parking lot on the south end of Dr.

A.J. Chandler Park from 1 to 9 p.m. The rink is of an eco-friendly polymer construction that children and adults skate on with regular ice skates, provided to participants at no charge.

Skaters can get a ticket at the rink for their assigned session.

A Russian Father Frost, along with his granddaughter, the Snow Maiden, will be on the rink and in the streets, giving out candy.

Also, back by popular

demand are the Dickens Carolers, who will stroll the streets and perform from 3-6 p.m.

For the kids, holiday crafts activities and storytelling will take place at downtown shops from 1 to 5 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the annual Tumbleweed Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights will run from 4 to 9:30 p.m.

The following week, on Saturday, Dec. 12, a "Holiday Marketplace" will

be staged along downtown streets, with vendors selling holiday-oriented gifts and downtown merchants offering specials.

The Dickens Carolers will perform from 3 to 5 p.m.

All activities will be free of charge with the donation of a canned-goods item that will help those

less fortunate this holiday season.

Sponsors of the events are Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, the city of Chandler, Achen-Gardner, MakPro and J2 Engineering and Environmental Design.

Information: 480-855-3539 or www.downtownchandler.org

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25th holiday boutique set at Dayspring

Dayspring Preschool and Kindergarten will hold its 25th annual holiday boutique at Dayspring United Methodist Church Thursday, Nov. 12, through Saturday, Nov. 14.

More than 50 vendors specializing in homemade and handcrafted gifts will participate. Items will include original handcrafted jewelry and tableware, stoneware and pottery, hand-painted and embellished clothing, home and holiday decor, personalized artwork and embroidery, candles and potpourris, children's specialty items and more.

A raffle with prizes such as dinners at local

restaurants, family-oriented outing passes, and more will also be available.

The event benefits Dayspring Preschool and Kindergarten, a non-profit school and community outreach ministry of Dayspring United Methodist Church.

Proceeds will be used to purchase classroom materials, make improvements to the playground, provide funds for staff development, provide enrichment activities for students and other educational items. A portion of the proceeds will provide financial aid for families in need.

Hours are 6-9 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and 9-4 Saturday.
Dayspring is at 1365 E. Elliot Road, Tempe.

Information technology focus of Nov. 12 Chamber seminar

An information technology workshop for small business will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Chandler Chamber of Commerce.

The program, part of the chamber's Technology Corner Lunch Seminar series, will focus on domain and email setup, business applications, computer support options, virus protection and more.

The program will be presented by Steve Jaramillo and Ed Garay of Catalyst Computer Technologies LLC.

Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Register online at www.chandlerchamber.com and click events calendar or call (480) 963-4571 for more information.

The workshop will be staged at chamber offices, 25 S. Arizona Place, Suite 201, Chandler.

Charity League to host session

National Charity League will hold an informational meeting at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at Arizona Community Church.

Mothers and daughters of 6th-9th graders can learn more about NCL and have the opportunity to become a part of this philanthropic organization.

Currently members of the East Valley NCL chapter include girls from KMS, Aprende, Pueblo and Corona del Sol.

Information: Cristy Cole, 480-775-6808 or Cristy.Cole@yahoo.com.



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City survey seeking Tempe residents' input on quality of service

A quick-to-complete survey has been mailed to 2,400 randomly selected residents of Tempe soliciting their thoughts on topics ranging from parks and streets to police and fire service.

A self-addressed, stamped envelope will be provided to return the responses.

Some residents may receive a telephone call reminding them to complete the survey. Results remain completely confidential, and the city of Tempe will not be informed which residents received or completed surveys.

Survey questions deal with the level of satisfaction residents have with police, fire, parks, public works, recreation classes, communication and other topics. ETC Institute will compile and present the results to the mayor and city council after the surveys are tallied.

The survey takes an estimated 10 minutes to complete, and residents are asked to mail it to ETC Institute, of Olathe, Kan., the company that administers the survey for Tempe.

For questions, residents are asked to call Community Relations Manager Shelley Hearn at 480-350-8906.

Tempe now on Facebook

Tempe has launched a Facebook page to help keep residents in the know about events and news related to parks and recreation.

Internet visitors can connect with the page by searching for Tempe Parks and Recreation and becoming a fan. Fans can utilize the page to see photos, newsletters, discussion questions and more.

Parks and Recreation encourages fans to offer feedback, suggestions and ideas via Facebook by posting to the wall and commenting on posts.

In addition to the Parks and Recreation Facebook page, Tempe can also be found on Twitter at @Tempegov.

Go to www.tempe.gov/newsroom for a full list of Tempe's social media tools. Visit the Facebook page for Tempe Parks and Recreation by visiting www.facebook.com/Information: (480) 350-5200.

Scouts gift sale Nov. 6-7

Tempe Boy Scout Troop 697 is having its annual fundraiser from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday Nov. 6, and from 7 to 3 on Saturday Nov. 7, at St. James Church at the southeast corner of Warner and Rural roads.

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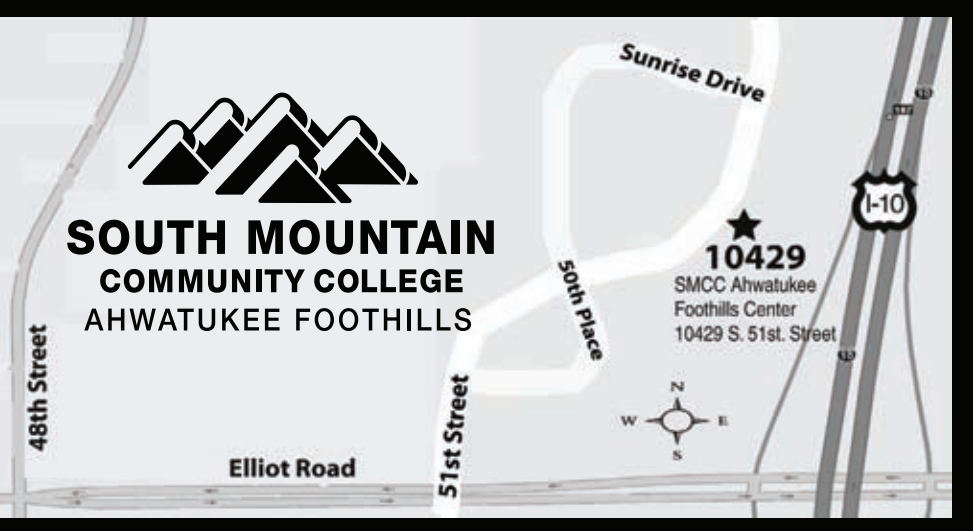
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Rats

From Page 2

brown to black, slender, and as a neighbor advised, "really cute."

Paceley agrees, though reservedly.

"They are cute with little bright eyes, little whiskers, little ears," he said. "But when that cute animal is chewing up your alarm system or dying somewhere in your wall and you have to pay someone to tear out your drywall to get rid

of the odor, then the cuteness fades really fast."

In order for Kyrene Corridor neighborhoods to control this roof rat infestation on a long-term basis, every homeowner needs to take these four basic steps to implement measures to rid their property of roof rats.

Inspect your property for possible signs of roof rats. Look for citrus that is hollowed out, along with cylindrical droppings, gnaw marks on your house or trees, live or dead rats and rodent odors.

"I first realized I had roof rats when I was enjoying a moonlit night in my back yard under one of my citrus trees," said Mark Zener. "Little pieces of something started to fall all around me. A roof rat was sitting on a branch

over my head eating one of my blood oranges and could care less if I was sitting right below him."

Also inspect your attic and garage for signs of roof rat invasion. If you store a motorhome or boat on your property, also check to see if roof rats are living there and gnawing on the hoses and wiring. Roof rats will gnaw on anything to keep their front teeth from growing too long.

Roof rats can squeeze through a hole the size of a quarter. Usually you can tell if your attic has been invaded by checking your insulation for nesting. Also look for gnawing on any exposed wiring. Many times people first realize they have roof rats when they hear them at night in

— RATS, Page 13



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Rats

From Page 12

their attic or garage.

"It sounded like someone was dancing on my ceiling," said one person at the La Colina meeting.

"I heard them trying to get into my chimney," said another neighbor.

Inspecting your property will give you a better idea of the extent of your roof rat population and the routes these rats take on your property. You will need to intercept the roof rats with traps and non-toxic bait near these routes. Finding the routes roof rats take will influence where you place your bait and live traps.

Clean up your property by getting rid of anything that will keep rats from flourishing in your neighborhood. Roof rats need food, water and easy access to a cozy nesting site. You can reduce or remove them from your property by taking the following steps:

1. Clean up outside nesting places like woodpiles, palm trees and dense vegetation, especially Oleanders which provide a safe refuge and an ideal path of travel.

2. Promptly pick up any fallen fruit from citrus trees and pick your citrus crops immediately and completely. Citrus is a roof rat's main source of water in the Arizona heat. Some experts suggest you completely pick your citrus now even if it is green because roof rats will still eat the fruit.

3. Do not leave pet food out, especially overnight. Roof rats typically eat fresh fruit, plant materials, nuts and seeds, vegetables and tree bark. Bird feed is a feast for them. Their favorite is cat food when they can find it.

4. Keep all garbage containers tightly covered and pick up any dog droppings every day.

5. Store bulk food in sealed, rat-proof containers that may be in your garage or outside.

6. Check for standing water from irrigation or sprinklers. Do not leave pet water dishes outside at night. Roof rats need four ounces of water a day to survive if they don't get moisture from citrus fruit.

Your goal in cleaning up your property is to take away nesting places. By removing possible food sources you are taking away easy access to tasty meals so roof rats are more attracted to your baited traps.

"I have not caught one roof rat in my traps," said one La Colina homeowner. "I now realize they didn't need to go near my traps because the rats had an entire tree full of citrus to pick from."

Seal your house from invasion before it gets any colder by covering any holes half an inch or larger with quarter-inch or smaller steel mesh, or fill them in with cement. Make it impossible for them to enter by inspecting and repairing air vents. Check to make sure you don't have roof rats in your attic first because a dead rat can really smell up the entire house.

Reduce your roof rat population with snap traps and/or bait traps. Roof rats aren't that bright but they are smart

enough to be wary of traps, so you need place your traps in their path of travel and be patient. Bait your snap traps with peanut butter or cat foot tied on with a little dental floss. Place the trap inside a shoe box with a small hole, about two inches in diameter, in one of the bottom corners. Place this shoe box in one of the roof rats' primary areas and tape the lid closed.

It is better to use this type of trap if you find roof rats in your attic because you can properly dispose of them and not have to suffer the smell of a dead rat. Check the trap about every other day and dispose of dead rats in a plastic bag. Traps can be purchased for under \$3 each and used over and over again.

You can also purchase for around \$5, or make yourself, a cylinder-type trap out of PVC pipe, to use bait to control roof rats. Roof rat bait can be purchased for less than \$5 and comes in a big rectangular bar that can be broken into four large squares and placed inside the trap.

It takes about 3-5 days for the bait to work once the rat has eaten it. This type of trap has a small hole at one end so

— RATS, Page 14

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---	---

Saturday, Dec. 12

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Rats

From Page 13

cats and other animals cannot get in.

It is recommended that you use duct tape to fasten this type of bait trap on the top of your block walls or mount them horizontally in a citrus tree. Extensions are included to help you hang this trap in your tree. You will need to check your traps regularly to make sure they still contains a large-sized piece of bait.

Call an exterminator if you are unable to do or prefer not to take steps to get rid of roof rats yourself. Calls to several pest control companies provided quotes anywhere from \$1,000 to \$4,000,

depending on the amount of roof rat infestation.

Some people swear that cats are the best method to get rid of roof rats. Others have used something called a Rat Zapper that zaps rats dead using battery-powered electricity. You use cat or dog food for bait. When the Zapper shows you have killed a rat, you take it over to the garbage can and dump it out. No touch, no fuss, or so the ad claims. You can find the Rat Zappers on eBay, Amazon.com and from other Internet sources for about \$40 each.

More information and detailed help can be found at Paceley's, the Roof Rat Man, website <http://www.roofrat.net/>. You can also contact him if you would like him to appear at a meeting in your neighborhood.

Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

Aztecs' Baker-Slama grabs pair of back-to-back wins

• Varsity Football
Page 30

Corona del Sol High School's boys cross country team emerged as runner-up to Mesa Mountain View in the Central Region meet held Oct. 29 in Gilbert.

Corona senior **Garrett Baker-Slama** had the fastest time of the day, running the 5K race in 16:02.00 and taking home the gold medal with a first-place finish.

Baker-Slama had a monster two weeks in

October, winning both the Tempe City Meet held Oct. 21 and this regional meet a week later.

Also receiving medals for the Aztecs in the Central region meet were senior **Matt Whitlatch** in fifth place, and junior **Jared Hirschl** who took seventh. Other Aztec runners contributing to this second place Central Region finish were freshman **Jake Whitney** who took 13th; senior **Wade Hooke**, 15th; junior **Daniel Wrapp**, 18th;

and senior **Dylan Barr**, who was 24th out of 48 runners.

On Oct. 21, the Aztecs competed in the Tempe City Meet at Chandler's Desert Breeze Park against old Central Region rivals Desert Vista, Mountain Pointe and the three other Tempe Union high schools, Marcos de Niza, McClintock and Tempe.

Baker-Slama ran extremely well in the City meet. Throughout most of the course he ran side by side with McClintock senior Carlos Roa.

With 200 meters left to the finish line, **Baker-Slama** pulled away to cross the finish line first with a time of 16:26.7.

Corona junior **Jared Hirschl** had one of his best finishes this season, coming in third in 16:35.5. Rounding out the medalists for Corona was **Matt Whitlatch**

— NOTEBOOK, Page 15



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Notebook

From Page 14

finishing in eighth place.

The 5A-I state cross country meet was due to be held Nov. 7 at the Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix.

Girl's Cross Country

Corona's girls cross country team seems to be peaking at the right time, evidenced by a second place finish in the Central Region cross country meet Oct. 29 at Freestone Park in Gilbert.

The Lady Aztecs finished Central Region runner-ups to a very strong Gilbert Highland team with their consistent top finisher, **Danica Ganje**, running the course in 19:19 and taking a fifth place medal.

Corona junior **Ellen Dunn** had a phenomenal day at the regional meet, shattering her previous best time by over 30 seconds and crossing the finish line with a 20:10.00 time, second for the Lady Aztecs and 11th overall.

Next to cross the finish line for the Lady Aztecs were **Sydney Buck**, 15th; **Christina Freeman**, 17th; **Dani Lemieux**, right behind her at 18th; and **Katie Huch**, 23rd. **Tori Papp** was 30th out of 47 girls who ran the Central Region 5K race.

The Lady Aztecs also finished second at the Tempe City Meet Oct. 21 at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler. **Ganje**, once again, was the first runner from Corona to cross the finish line, running across in eighth place with a 20:22.3 time.

The Lady Aztecs had three runners finish one

right after the other when **Buck** took 11th place in 20:40.6, **Freeman** 12th in 20:41.0 and **Dunn** 13th in 20:42.1.

Following close on their heels were **Huch** in 16th place in 21:00.2 and **Lemieux** 17th in 21:13.6. Rounding out the runners for Corona, in 24th place, was freshman **Hallie Swenson**.

The 5A-I state cross country meet was scheduled to be held Nov. 7 at the Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix.

Corona Swim/Dive Teams

Corona's swim and dive team had nine girls and 11 boys unofficially qualify for the 5A-I state tournament scheduled at Kino Aquatics Center Nov.

6-7. The official qualifications were not scheduled to be announced until after the *Wrangler News* deadline.

Senior **Julie Vandeberg** and juniors **Taylor Thorn** and **Emily Lewandowski** each qualified for two individual swimming events, **Vandeberg** in the Girls 50 Freestyle and the 100 Butterfly, **Thorn** in the Girls 200 IM and the 100 Backstroke. **Lewandowski** will compete in the 200 IM and 100 Breaststroke.

Other qualifiers for the girls team include three juniors: **Heidi Liou** in the 200 IM, **Amanda Watts** in the 100 Backstroke and **Erin Maloney** in the 100 Breaststroke.

— NOTEBOOK, Page 16



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Notebook

From Page 15

Corona's girls team also qualified to swim in three relay races including the 200 Medley, the 200 Freestyle and the 400 Freestyle.

The Aztec boys team qualified swimmers in six events. All but one qualifying swimmer are seniors on the team. Three seniors and one junior qualified

in two individual events each.

Seniors **Bryan Liu**, **Ryan Telep** and **Alex Lampis-Slaughter** all qualified in two events each, which is the most individual events in which a swimmer can compete in the state meet.

Liu qualified with the third fastest time in the 100 Backstroke and the fourth fastest time in the 100 Butterfly. **Telep** qualified in both the 200 IM, where he had the fourth fastest qualifying time, and 100 Backstroke. **Lampis-Slaughter** made it into the 200 and 500 Freestyle.

Junior **Clay Meschke** qualified in both the 200 IM and the 100 Backstroke. Senior **Connor Rawls** had the eighth fastest qualifying time in the 500 Freestyle and qualified as an alternate in the 200 Freestyle. Another senior swimmer, **Gavin Haws**, qualified to swim the 100 Butterfly with the ninth fastest time.

The boys team also qualified to swim in three relay races: The 200 Medley, the 200 Freestyle and the 400 Freestyle.

Central region swimmers had their last chance to qualify for the state meet during a region meet held Oct. 30-31 at Kino Aquatics Center.

Heidi Liu placed second in 2:16.11 and **Taylor Thorn** was fourth in the Girls 200 IM. **Thorn** also finished second in the 100 Backstroke in 1:04.12.

Julie Vandenberg touched the wall in second place in the 100 Butterfly in 1:03.12 and took a third place finish in the 50 Free with a time of 25.67. **Emily Lewandowski** was third at 1:11.82 in the 100 Breaststroke.

In the Central region boys events, **Bryan Liu** was second and **Gavin Haws** third in the 100 Butterfly. **Connor Rawls** touched the wall in first place with **Alex Lampis-Slaughter** coming in second in the 500 Freestyle.

Bryan Liu was first, **Ryan Telep** third and **Clay Meschke** fourth in the 100 Backstroke for the Aztecs.

Girls Golf

Corona's girls golf team gained momentum heading into the Central Region tournament,

— NOTEBOOK, Page 17



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Notebook

From Page 16

scheduled Nov. 3-4, and the 5A-I state tournament coming up Nov. 9-10 by winning the last of the scheduled tri-team tournaments held Oct. 21 at Ken McDonald Golf Course against Desert Mountain and Centennial.

In addition to defeating Desert Mountain and Centennial, the Lady Aztecs finished first, second and third in the three previous regular season tri-team high school tournaments. Altogether, the Lady Aztecs beat 12 teams in tri-team golf tournaments and lost to only eight other teams throughout the season.

Corona came in first on Oct. 5 with a team score of 158 over Desert Ridge 184 and Gilbert 220. **Dana Finkelstein** was the only Lady Aztec medalist in this tournament.

On Sept. 30, the Lady Aztecs finished second with score of 196, while Chaparral won with 163 and Westview was third with 215. **Finkelstein** was again the only medalist for Corona's team.

Corona couldn't seem to find the cup in their match on Sept. 28 and came in third with a score of 172 against Hamilton and Highland. Hamilton won with 151; Highland was second with 164.

Earlier in the season the Lady Aztecs won the City Tournament by two strokes without a single medalist. They also beat Desert Vista and Mountain Pointe on Sept. 21 with a 159 score while the other schools had 167 and 174 respectively.

Projected to finish third in the state tournament at the beginning of the season, the Lady Aztecs planned to focus during the Central Region tournament Nov. 3-4 and keep playing strong down the stretch throughout the state tournament Nov. 9-10 to realize their goal.

Badminton

Corona's 2009 badminton team made it into this year's state 5A-I tournament as the No. 10 seed after losing all but one starter from last year's state championship team.

Brittany Messer, the lone returning player and only senior on this year's team, led the Lady Aztecs to an 8-6 record.

The Aztecs faced No. 7 Mesa Red Mountain in the first round of the state tournament Oct. 31 on the Lion's home court.

Red Mountain defeated Corona 5-1 before moving on to lose in the second round to No. 2 seed Millennium High School 5-1.

This season's varsity team, in addition to Messer, consisted of two juniors, **Rikki Gurule** and **Christine Tang**, and three sophomores, **Alexis Emerson**, **Rachel Gur-Arie** and **Nicole Schwalbe**.

The experience these young players received playing this year should bode well for next season's team.

Freshman Football

Corona's freshman football team ended the season with a big win over Marcos de Niza Oct. 28 after losing tough games against Basha and Desert Vista, scoring 49 points and compiling a 5-4 record.

The Aztecs scored 218 points to their opponent's 229 in their first season playing football. The team had several standouts players, including **Beau Sitton** who compiled 10 touchdowns, and **James Contes**, who ran into the end zone for another four touchdowns.

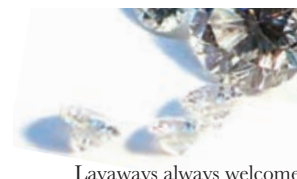
Dylan Huch was 22 of 26 on point-after kicks. **Evan Kinney** was instrumental in scoring, playing quarterback, and **Aaron Simons** was huge as Corona's offensive and defensive lineman.

Playing both defense and offense on the freshman team were the Riley twins. **Rick Riley** played tight end and middle linebacker compiling 23 catches and one touchdown on offense and an interception and two quarterback sacks on defense.

Ryan Riley played quarterback and cornerback scoring five offensive touchdowns and on defense four interceptions returning two for touchdowns.

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Members of East Valley Sol helped raise more than \$75,000 for needy causes at the group's fourth annual Fiesta del Sol. Members from left, bottom row: Jennifer Reid, Brian Reid (kneeling), Karen Dunham (leaning in middle); middle row: Julie Buturla, Debbie Dell 'Amico, Tom Dunham, April Conti, Julie Vasquez, Danielle Farrer, Shawna Reeves; back row: Scott Alden, Buck Bandura, Sara Bandura, Robert Buturla, Brian Dell 'Amico, Jared Conti, Tim Vasquez and Nick Farrer.

— Story & photo by Alex Zener

E.V. Sol scores again in its latest round of fund-raising

East Valley Sol has done it again. The non profit foundation, started in 2006 by a group of former baseball players from Corona del Sol High School's 1993 state champion team, has raised more than \$75,000 at this year's fund-raising events.

The money has gone to various East Valley charities and was used to help restore the Tempe Family YMCA's family locker room. Although EV Sol didn't reach this year's goal of \$100,000, according to a spokesman, the members say they couldn't be happier.

In October, more than \$50,000 was raised when 500 people attended the group's Fiesta del Sol event at Tempe Diablo Stadium.

Another \$25,000 was raised in the organization's Old Balls Golf Tournament, and its Bowl for the Sol event raised enough to purchase more than 300 backpacks filled with school supplies for Children First Academy.

This year, the founders were able to experience the benefits of their efforts first hand when the recipient of East Valley Sol's first fund-raiser, Brooke Alden, was not only able to walk but qualified as the No. 2 golfer on her high school team for the state golf tournament.

When Brooke was diagnosed with bone cancer in her leg three years ago, members of her dad's high school team founded East Valley Sol to raise \$70,000 to pay for an expandable, adjustable prosthesis to be placed in her left leg.

After complications and two more operations, 14-year-old Brooke was able to start walking in December, and hasn't looked back.

Brooke's father, **Scott Alden**, was a member of Corona's 1993 state championship baseball team.

With more than 500 people turning out at Tempe Diablo stadium for this year's Fiesta, members noted it was apparent there are people that care about others who need help in their community.

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City of Tempe *Page*

November-December 2009



Tempe budget community forums in November

Tempe community members are invited to attend either of two forums in November to learn about the city's projected 2010-2011 fiscal year budget deficit, and about the work currently going on to resolve the issue while continuing to provide high-quality services.

The forums are scheduled for: Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.; and Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Tempe Police South Substation auditorium, 8201 S. Hardy Drive.

For more information on the 2010-11 budget, as well as a feedback form that community members can submit online, visit www.tempe.gov/budgetplan.

For those without computer access, hardcopy feedback forms will be available at the forums.

Tempe takes home Valley Forward awards

The City of Tempe's transportation program, Tempe in Motion, claimed three honors at Valley Forward's 29th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards. Held Sept. 12 in Scottsdale, the ceremony recognized the sustainability initiatives of public and private projects from private homes to commercial buildings to public spaces.

The Tempe Transportation Center won two prestigious Crescordia awards. The only project to receive multiple first place honors, the Transportation Center was recognized in the building and structures category, as well as for its green roof and plaza.

Tempe was also recognized as a partner, along with Phoenix and Mesa, in the METRO Light Rail project, which won the Best of Show award.

Valley Forward received a record number of entries in this year's competition. For more information on the Tempe Transportation Center, call 480-350-2775 or visit www.tempe.gov/greenprograms.



Ironman Arizona is Nov. 22

Come to Tempe Town Lake to cheer on more than 2,000 athletes as they test their endurance in one of the most grueling events in the world of sports.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, the Ford Ironman Arizona will take place in Tempe and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

This exciting triathlon features a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon.

Athletes have 17 hours to complete the event, from 7 a.m. to midnight.

Visit www.ironmanarizona.com and www.tempe.gov/tim for more information on the event, activities and access.

Winter registration for parks and cultural activities

Whether you are looking to improve your athletic ability, learn a new language or express your talents, the City of Tempe has the class for you! Our winter lineup features hundreds of programs available for all ages and interests.

Classes are held at convenient times and locations. Join a quality program for an affordable price! On Dec. 4, the Winter Tempe Opportunities brochure can be picked up at city facilities and will be available online at www.tempe.gov/brochure.

For more information, call 480-350-5200 or visit www.tempe.gov/rec.

Counseling services available for individuals, couples, families

The City of Tempe offers low-cost, professional counseling services to residents who do not have health insurance or AHCCCS. Services are provided by the city's Social Services Division, located on the second floor of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

The division has been providing counseling for individuals, couples and families for more than 20 years. Counseling services address depression, anxiety, stress, parent/child issues, partner relationship problems, sexual abuse, grief, trauma, domestic violence, substance abuse and other emotional and behavioral issues. The city's therapists are Arizona licensed and Master's level counselors. Services are available in

English and Spanish.

Fees range from \$5 to \$40 per session based on family size and income. Counseling is strictly confidential. For more information or to make an appointment, call 480-350-5400.

Tempe Festival of the Arts

It wouldn't be autumn in Tempe without the Fall Tempe Festival of the Arts. This year, the free event is taking place Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Mill Avenue District. Find unique and affordable holiday gifts – straight from the more than 450 artists to you!

Select from fine arts and crafts, woodwork, ceramics, photography, clothing, jewelry and more. Kids activities and fun festival food also will be available.

For more information, visit www.tempefestivalofthearts.com.

Visit: www.tempe.gov/newsroom and follow us on Twitter and Facebook

Economic Impact of Tempe Town Lake improves quality of life for all of Tempe

Wrangler News Special Report

The beauty and fun that Tempe Town Lake brings is more than simply enjoyable. Town Lake makes significant economic impact that positively impacts Tempe’s abilities to provide services to residents.

Town Lake has conservatively generated about \$415 million. The initial cost to build Town Lake was \$44 million. Not a bad return on investment.

Here’s the breakout of returned monies:

Special Events: \$118,209,483
Development: \$283,257,800
Taxes & Assessments: \$13,206,968
TOTAL: \$414,674,251

“Funds generated by events and development in our Mill + Lake District make it possible for Tempe residents to enjoy a greater quality of life. Not only does this area provide recreation and world class entertainment, it also brings new businesses, jobs and tourism dollars,” said Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman.

Hotels in Tempe and neighboring cities fill when events such as the PF Chang’s Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon and Ironman Arizona come to town. Restaurants on Mill Avenue, in downtown Scottsdale and in other areas enjoy tourist traffic. Many of these events bring people from around the world to compete or enjoy themselves. Some are televised on major networks many times or offer streaming video on websites, showcasing Tempe to the entire country and beyond.

It isn’t just events that have brought money to this area. The creation of Tempe Town Lake allowed Tempe to develop about five miles of once blighted shoreline while adding a vibrant destination to the city’s core. This attraction not only was a beacon for new development on the lakefront, but it provided value to downtown Tempe as well. Concerts sold more tickets and restaurants more dinners. Land values went up, along with new high rises.

New developments brought new companies and new jobs for both Tempe residents and those who lived in the

Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area. Companies such as Lifelock, MedAire, Smith Barney and others came to Tempe.

Urban Land Institute named Town Lake cross streets Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway one of the Hottest Intersections in Arizona for development and also named it an inaugural Smart Growth winner. *US News and World Reports* named Tempe as one of the Top 10 Places to Find a Tech Job and both *BusinessWeek* and *Entrepreneur* named Tempe the Best Place to Start a New Business. The companies and developments at Town Lake were part of the reason for those designations.

Town Lake Develops into Business Hub

When creating Town Lake, the City of Tempe planned for it to be a tool to improve the city’s economy. The construction of the lake itself removed about one seventh of Tempe’s land from the floodplain and allowed developers to build.

As developments such as Hayden Ferry Lakeside, Riverside Office Plaza and Rio West opened, dozens of new companies ranging from Fortune 500 to mom and pop businesses moved to what is now some of Arizona’s most highly sought after real estate. Some of these include:

KPMG; Fidelity National Title; Monster; GoDaddy; Segway; McCarthy Construction; SunCor; Lifelock; Medaire; DAVIS; Off Madison Avenue; and Romancing the Bean.

Approximately 5,000 people work in the buildings around Tempe Town Lake, not including those in the Papago Park Center or other nearby developments. About 1 million sq ft of commercial space was built at Tempe Town Lake, with more to come. About 1,000 condominiums and apartments offer living opportunities on the lake’s shores.

Developing Interest in Tempe

Investment in Tempe Town Lake started before the lake was even built. SunCor began planning its Hayden Ferry Lakeside project while the lake was under construction and just two years after the lake was filled, started to build.

Since that time, several other developments have gone from the drawing board to reality, including: Hayden Ferry Lakeside commercial buildings; Hayden Ferry Lakeside Edgewater and Bridgeview Condominiums; Grigio; Northshore; Papago Gateway Center; Riverside Office Plaza; aloft Hotel; and Playa del Norte shops.

Many other developments are in the planning stages. These would include commercial, residential and multi-use projects with varying timelines for completion.

The Mill Avenue Connection

No other city in Arizona has the unique combination of assets that Tempe has in its Mill + Lake District. Framed by Arizona State University to the south, Mill Avenue in the middle and Tempe Town Lake to the north, this area has a vibe all its own. Restaurants such as House of Tricks, Café Boa and La Bocca are filled with students and faculty fresh from class or the research

Economic Impact of Town Lake

Special Event Attendance				
Year	Total	Resident	Outside Maricopa County	Valleywide
2001	191,600	28,740	9,580	153,280
2002	236,200	35,430	11,810	188,960
2003	354,050	53,107	17,703	283,240
2004	468,050	70,207	23,403	374,440
2005	396,800	59,520	19,840	317,440
2006	463,350	69,503	23,167	370,680
2007	352,650	52,897	17,633	282,120
2008	453,080	67,962	22,654	362,464
2009	555,860	83,379	27,793	444,688
Total Visitors:	3,471,640	520,745	173,583	2,777,312
Economic Impact *	\$7,811,175		\$27,078,948	\$83,319,360
Total Event Impact				\$118,209,483

Development	Construction Value*
Hayden Ferry Lakeside Commercial Buildings 1 + 2 and parking garage	\$85,918,900
Hayden Ferry Lakeside Edgewater and Bridgeview	\$59,638,700
Grigio	\$59,638,700
Northshore	\$20,698,200
Papago Gateway Center	\$51,177,000
Riverside Office Plaza	\$10,559,000
Rio West	\$13,713,300
aloft Hotel	\$7,260,600
Playa del Norte (In n Out Burger & Retail/Restaurant/Office Bldg)	\$1,650,000
Sale of Land:	
South Bank (formerly Pier 202)	\$42,000,000
Total Development	\$283,257,800

Rio Salado Area Taxes & Assessments	
Tempe Rio Salado Sales Revenue	\$387,715,221
Tempe Rio Salado Hotel Revenue	\$92,214,779
Tempe Sales Tax Rate	1.80%
Sales Tax Collected in Rio Salado	\$6,978,874
Bed Tax Collected in Rio Salado	\$1,659,866
Primary Property Taxes collected in Rio Salado	\$656,642
Rio Salado CFD O&M Assessments	\$2,400,214
Rio Salado CFD Capital Assessments	\$1,511,372
Total Tempe Rio Salado Tax & Assessment Revenue	\$13,206,968
Total Economic Impact*	\$414,674,251
Total Cost of Tempe Town Lake (as of fiscal year 2009)	\$261,409,935

lab, workers from technology and finance companies, as well as rowers who finished their paddling on the lake and people attending concerts at ASU Gammage or MADCAP Theater.

The blending of business leaders, students, tourists and residents create a daily atmosphere unlike any other.

This collaboration of urban shopping, culture and outdoor activity makes Tempe an attractive destination for more than 4 million people each year.

Papago Park Connection

To the north of Tempe Town Lake lies one of the largest parks in the country, Papago Park. This desert wonder offers unique rock formations, parks, and opportunities to be involved with preserving history, such as the O’Connor House and the Eisendrath House, now becoming part of the Carl Hayden Campus for Sustainability. The Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt ends at Tempe Town Lake, adding many additional miles of green space for those visiting. Connecting these regions provides for many enjoyable experiences and a taste of old and new Arizona alike.

City of Tempe Infrastructure at Tempe Town Lake

The City of Tempe has also invested in Town Lake beyond simply providing a lake, bringing the total amount spent on Tempe Town Lake to \$261,409,935. Some of this money came in the form of grants from others.

Since opening, Tempe has built: Splash Playground at Tempe Beach Park; Luis Gonzales Field; Town Lake Marina; Tempe Center for the Arts; Tempe Beach Park (renovations); Parks and pathways along Town Lake; and Habitat areas at the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt and at both ends of the lake.

Tempe has plans for many public facilities. These include:

Welcome Center and Boat House; Veterans Memorial; West Pedestrian Bridge; Arts Related Development next to the Tempe Center for the Arts; and a public plaza in the space between the two Mill Avenue bridges.

Tempe Town Lake has proved itself to be an excellent investment in Tempe and will continue to propel the city forward in years to come.

Observations . . . by Kyle Maki

'Phantom' proves perfect intro for newbie theater-goer

By Kyle Maki

When it comes to the performing arts, I'm about as green as it gets.

Over the years I've managed to see only a handful of performances, nothing on the level of a Broadway show. With the exception of a brief stint in a performing arts class that fit my schedule at ASU, I've never been to Gammage Auditorium.

Although I haven't been particularly proactive in seeking live performances to attend, I do have an appreciation for those who can perform freely on stage, and I've always felt that some pleasure must come from viewing any live show.

So when I was extended an invitation to attend a media-night showing of *The Phantom of the Opera* on behalf of *Wrangler News*, I had to accept, and admittedly was even a little excited.

Even a novice spectator like myself has to recognize the acclaim surrounding Phantom. After all, it is the longest-running show in Broadway history. Worldwide, Phantom

has been performed more than 65,000 times before 100 million viewers in 27 countries. So I figure there's no reason for me to be left out.

My lack of experience was again displayed when I briefly panicked after glancing at my tickets and noticing the seat numbers of 49 and 51 for my guest and myself. Of course, the term continental seating was previously absent from my vocabulary. I was pleased to be informed that the two seats were, in fact, next to each other.

Glancing around the auditorium, it appeared as though there was a capacity crowd. I can't imagine the crowds letting up during the next couple weeks of shows. (Phantom performs at Gammage through Sunday, Nov. 22.)

The show started shortly after we were seated and it was immediately apparent that this was not only different from anything I'd seen before, but different from what I had imagined. The stage and sets were realistic and detailed. The costumes were extravagant and endless. I was really taken by the impact of the signature Phantom music

that filled the room and the use of fog and lighting features to set the scene. I was truly captivated by the story and excited to see the ending unfold, yet in no hurry to leave and pleased to have enjoyed the ride.

As the performance culminated and the actors were applauded during the curtain call, I began to fully appreciate the sophistication of the audience and how their applause would pick up for larger roles or extraordinary performances.

Then I found myself surprisingly filled with emotion when the main three characters (The Phantom, Christine and Raoul) received a standing ovation. I think it was just a good feeling to see a great performance and a sophisticated crowd show their appreciation. I could only imagine the rush that the actors must feel.

We exited the auditorium and meandered around the back toward our overflow parking structure (hint: show up early).

That's when I came across another element previously not experienced by me: the stage door.

We hung around briefly to see the cast's friends, family and adoring fans meet them for praise and photos. I have to admit that I found myself a little star-struck to be standing at arm's length with some of the main characters, now in street clothes only minutes after the show.

It was a perfect ending to my first Gammage experience. I can't wait to do it again.



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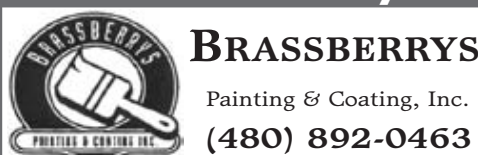


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Real Estate

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Bonfire raises \$3,000, 12,600 cans of food Helping others remains top goal



Corona del Sol High School's student council consistently shows its interest in helping others, a commitment most recently demonstrated by the school's bonfire fund-raiser held Oct. 26.

Say its planners: This year's council-sponsored event once again proved a remarkable success.

The program resulted in the

donation of 12,600 cans of food and presentation of a check for \$3,000 to the St. Vincent DePaul food bank.

Vice principal Jim Bell said special thanks were due.

"Recognition goes to **Ben Forbes** and **Aaron Gilbert** for their tireless efforts and their continued focus on making this a better place to live."

— Alex Zener

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More Sports Notebook

Aztecs keep playoff hopes alive with third straight win

The Corona del Sol varsity football team scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns and blocked Dobson's point-after kick to win their third straight game in spectacular fashion and keep their playoff hopes alive with a 23-22 victory Thursday night, Oct. 29, in front of an energized home crowd at Hascall Henshaw Stadium.

The Aztecs, in this televised game, scored 10 points in the second quarter, but it was the 13 points scored in the last 11 minutes of the game that led to their Central region victory over Dobson and a 4-5, 2-3 (Central Region) record.

Although neither team could get anything going in the first quarter, the Aztecs lead 10-3 at halftime after Dylan Harris made a 28-yard field goal and Billy Johnson intercepted Dobson quarterback Justin Bailey's pass to set up Corona's first touchdown of the game.

Michael Lange took a hand-off from quarterback Chase Cartwright to rush 10 yards and score his first touchdown of the game. Harris's point-after-kick put the Aztecs up 10-0. Dobson's Austin Emily's 33-yard field goal ended the half Corona up 10-3.

In the second half, Dobson scored two straight touchdowns before the Aztecs, down 6 points and seeing their playoff hopes evaporate, rallied to score two touchdowns with 11 minutes left in the fourth quarter to win the game.

The Mustang's leading rusher, Terrance Martin, burned the Aztecs for 165 of his game high 198 yards and two touchdowns in the second half. His first TD came with 6:03 left in the third quarter to tie the game at 10-10.

Dobson took the lead 16-10 in the fourth quarter when quarterback Bailey scored on a 7-yard touchdown run. The Aztecs blocked the Mustang's point after kick which proved to be a difference maker at the end of the game.

The lead changed four times in the fourth quarter when the Aztecs answered scoring drives by the Mustangs. The Aztecs marched down the field 61 yards on their next possession capped off by **Lange's** second touchdown of the game on a 9-yard run. **Harris'** point-after kick put the Aztecs up 17-16. **Lange** ended the game with 84 yards rushing.

Martin's second touchdown, with less than three minutes left in the game, put the Mustangs up 22-17. A two-point conversion pass failed and Corona got the ball back with less than three minutes to play trailing by five points.

"As much as I don't want to admit it, when Dobson scored late, I had a little doubt, but one of my receivers, **Jordan Parsons** came up to me, grabbed me by the face, and said, 'Moments like these are what make legends. We need your leadership and composure now more than ever,'" said Corona quarterback **Chase Cartwright**.

"Sure enough, six plays later, we score a touchdown, then our defense stepped up big time, and it was another win for the Aztecs."

The Aztecs started their last drive of the game on their own 34-yard line at the 2:50 mark. The Aztecs drove the ball 66 yards in six plays to win their fourth game of the season.

First, quarterback Cartwright completed at 23-yard pass to **Austin Crothers**. **Cartwright** then ran the ball 28-yards before running out of bounds to stop the clock. Third, sophomore running back **Dominic Mecurio** ran nine of his game high 110 yards rushing for the night. **Cartwright** completed a 7-yard pass in the fourth play of this series before **Mecurio's** 11-yard run took the Aztecs down to Dobson's 2-yard line.

In the sixth play, **Tre Chambers** came in for **Mecurio**, who was shaken up on the previous play,



Tre Chambers rushes to score the Aztecs' winning touchdown vs. Dobson High.

— Photo by Kris Cartwright

to clinch the win by rushing 2 yards for Corona's final touchdown with 57.6 seconds left in the game. The Aztec's two-point conversion pass was dropped however CdS still took the lead for good at 23-22.

Dobson got the ball back with less than a minute to play but was unable to convert a first down when the Aztecs turned up their defense. Brothers, **Todd** and **Andrus Peat**, ended any chance the Mustangs had of scoring with a fourth-down quarterback sack.

Corona finished the game with 19 to Dobson's 14 first downs, 231 to 225 yards rushing and 87 to 66 passing yards. **Billy Johnson** caught four passes for 32 yards to lead all receivers but **Crothers** caught one pass for 23 yards in the final drive of the game and **Alan Stitt** snagged one out of the air for another 13 yards.

Corona's defense made some outstanding plays when the Aztecs needed a stop or had to have the ball back. The Aztecs intercepted three of the Mustang's passes including one by **Sione Letoi** where he was able to run 30 yards before being tackled. **Stitt** and **Johnson** each had one interception.

Although both Corona and Dobson fumbled the ball two times each, only the Mustangs had two fumbles recovered by the Aztecs. **Stitt** recover one fumble while **Andrus Peat** recovered the second one. The defense made total 52 tackles in the Dobson game led by **Kyle Benson** with 9 and **Stitt** and **Mecurio** with 8 each. **Mark Kinney** contributed four solo tackles for the defense.

Although **Cartwright** was only able to complete three passes in the first three quarters, he was 6 for 6 when the chips were down and the Aztecs really needed completions in the fourth quarter.

The Aztecs may have used their unexpected victory over then fifth-ranked Chandler Basha, Oct. 23, to give them the confidence they needed to keep their playoff hopes alive against Dobson a week later.

Basha Game Highlights—Oct. 23

The Aztecs were able to rally, after being down nine points early in the first quarter in their game against the Basha Bears, Oct. 23, to defeat the then ranked No. 5 team.

Corona was down 9-0 in the first quarter against Basha after the Aztecs fumbled a handoff on their first possession

of the game. Basha recovered at Corona's 12 yard line and scored a touchdown on the Bear's first play from scrimmage. Basha scored on their next possession too with a 28-yard field goal.

Once the Aztecs got the ball back, **Cartwright** found Corona's leading receiver, **Billy Johnson**, for a 62-yard pass and the Aztec's first touchdown. **Harris** made the point after kick bringing the Aztecs within two with 5:11 left in the first quarter. **Johnson** intercepted a Bear's pass a few plays later to give the Aztecs a chance to put more points on the board. **Harris** did just that with a 37-yard field goal to put the Aztecs up 10-9 on the first play of the second quarter.

Corona's **Sione Letoi** picked off another Basha pass in the second period setting up a 2-yard touchdown run by **Michael Lange** that gave the Aztecs a 17-9 lead at the half.

Basha came out of half time scoring a touchdown after driving down the field 80 yards in 10 plays. The Bears two-point conversion was successful to tie the score 17-17 with 8:29 left in the third quarter.

The Bears received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, one of 12 penalties they received in the game, which gave Corona great field position on their first possession of the third quarter. The Aztecs started

on their own 44 and drove the ball 56 yards in six plays to score their third touchdown on a 3-yard pass from Cartwright to senior tight end **Sebastian Bernal**. With 6:24 to go in the third quarter, Corona was up 24-17.

Basha was unable to cut into Corona's lead until the Bears scored a touchdown with 28 seconds left in the game and bring them within three points at 27-24. The Bears had a chance to tie or win after they recovered an onside kick but Corona's defense sacked the Bear's quarterback for an 8-yard loss with the clock running down.

The final score was Corona 27, Basha 24, in a game where Basha lead in every category except points. Basha had 21 first downs to 9 for Corona, 133 rushing yards to 17, 283 passing yards to 181, and 125 penalty yards to 65 for Corona.

Cartwright completed 12 for 21 attempts and 143 yards passing. **Johnson** was the leading receiver at 127 yards. **Kyle Benson** led the Aztecs in tackles with 16. The next closest was **Letoi** with eight total tackles. The Aztecs recorded four sacks: **Zac Jubie** had three and **Todd Peat** one.

Corona still has a chance to make it into the playoffs because two teams ahead of them in the power point rankings, Laveen Cesar Chavez and Tucson Salpointe, are ineligible for postseason play. Winning three straight games after the Aztec's 1-5 start has given them control over their own destiny.

"We have really come together and have played with passion and emotion, but we're also having lots of fun," said Corona quarterback **Cartwright**. "Next Friday against Highland is just another football game, 48 minutes of hard work that can define our season. We are hoping to come out on top. One more writes our ticket to the post season."

The Aztecs had one last regular season game at Highland, Nov. 6, to keep their state playoff hopes alive. Corona was ranked No. 19 while Highland was No. 21 in power point rankings with a 2-7 record. The Hawks had lost four straight games heading into this season finale against Corona and was having their worst season in years.

— Alex Zener

Vols strive to keep teens in school

Economy raising dropout rate

By Alex Zener

Residents looking for a worthy cause in their own community are being encouraged to consider volunteering for Communities in Schools of Tempe and Kyrene, an organization whose reality-based goal is to help keep local teens in school.

Both volunteers and financial donations are being sought for the organization's recently opened Teen Resource Center on the Evans Compadre campus at Baseline and College in Tempe.

The center was launched in response to what school administrators say they

Union High School District was opening a second alternative high school, we asked Principal Sean McDonald if we could have a room to provide basic items to students free of charge so that this would not be a barrier to attending school," said Stonefeld.

The center is set up like a store, but everything is free for students who attend any Tempe Union high school or Kyrene or Tempe Elementary middle school.

"We are working on opening a small food market soon," said center manager Nancy Berg. "We want to stock ready-to-eat products that kids can take right out of the package or just microwave."

Tempe teens are free to come to the center any time it's open, which currently is 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is not open evening or weekends because the school is not open.

"When they arrive, they sign in, giving us their name and school," said Berg. "After they 'shop,' we check them out and log their items."

Teens who have shopped at the center must be spreading the word because the volunteers say they've been getting busy lately.

"As far as success, the numbers speak for themselves," said Berg. "The last three days we were open, we serviced 27, 26 and 31 students. The teens think the center is very cool."

TRC needs adult volunteers to help run it smoothly, as well as donations and money to restock personal items, as well as clothing donations.

Donated items can be dropped off at Evans/Compadre Academy at 4525 S. College (just north of Baseline) any time during regular school hours.

To make a monetary donation or volunteer, contact Lynette Stonefeld at 480-858-2316.

More information about this newest project of the Communities in Schools of Tempe and Kyrene can be found at www.tempe.gov/TCC/CIS/TeenResourceCenterFlyer.pdf



Lynette Stonefeld and Nancy Berg ready supplies for arrival of teens.

— Photo by Alex Zener

hear over and over again, especially in this economy:

"We opened the Teen Resource Center because we kept hearing about students who weren't coming to school because they didn't have shoes or clothes," said **Lynette Stonefeld**, the program's director.

The center has been open since August and is run completely by volunteers. Everything is donated, including cash that recently allowed the purchase of underwear, socks and hygiene items.

"When we learned that the Tempe

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