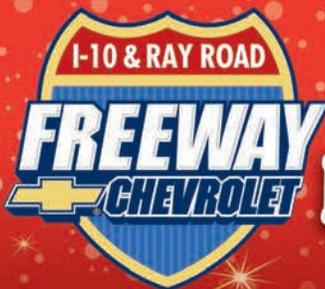


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Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman



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LS



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60 mos.⁽²⁾

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Chandler

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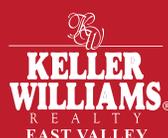
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West Chandler input sought Survey seeks budget guidance

Chandler's Budget Office is conducting an online survey of west Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors to help develop the city's budgetary priorities for the upcoming 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The survey is at www.chandleraz.gov/budget or in printed form at the Sunset branch library, as well as other Chandler locations.

Completed surveys can be submitted through Jan. 24.

The results will be presented to the city manager, along with Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and the members of the Chandler City Council, for their consideration as part of the budget development process.

The new fiscal year starts July 1. Chandler Budget Manager Gregory Westrum said that city officials are assessing a variety of economic factors as work begins on next year's budget.

In recent months, reports show that Chandler has been one of the leading communities in Arizona for new businesses and job creation.

Sales tax revenues have also increased, and Chandler has benefited

from "slow but steady" improvement in the state and national economies, according to Westrum.

Meanwhile, part of the budget formulation process to date has been an ongoing review by Chandler management of the programs and services the city provides to residents, businesses and organizations.

Members of the city management team say they are continuing to search for ways to achieve even greater efficiency savings than those already implemented in recent years.

The online Citizen Budget Survey provides residents with an opportunity to share their opinions during the budget review process, said Westrum.

This year's survey solicits feedback on program and service priorities and capital-project priorities for the city.

For those without access to a computer, paper copies of the survey are available at the Chandler City Hall front desk, as well as at the Sunset branch and other Chandler libraries, downtown Community Center and Tumbleweed Recreation Center.

The public will have several other

opportunities in the coming months to share thoughts about the proposed budget with city leaders and staff prior to the adoption of the budget in June.

In late February or early March, "Budget Connect," an online budget forum, will make it possible for

residents and others to ask questions and offer input.

Details on this event and other public budget hearings will be on the city's Website when they are available, or by calling the Budget Office at 480-782-2252 for the latest updates.

Valley Christian H.S. project launched Will add sports complex to campus

Valley Christian High School has announced the early stages of an athletics booster club stadium project to create a state-of-the-art field house and athletic performance complex at the school's football field.

Greg Haagsma, athletic director; Jeff Rutledge, head football coach; and Bryan Winfrey, director of communications, presented the basics of the project and initial renderings at the school's annual football banquet Dec. 15 at San Marcos Resort in Chandler.

The renderings are not finalized, according to Winfrey, but the tentative plan would create a field house at the site of the football field, including a 5,300-square-foot sports performance room, team theater, new press box, locker room, training room and other

amenities and features for student athletes and the community.

The facility will also provide an opportunity to recognize the school's football alumni and tradition, Winfrey said.

Valley Christian is also in the process of developing the southeast corner of Galveston and 56th streets for a softball facility.

The project is the first phase of the school's campaign to continue to develop the 16-year-old campus.

Additional phases will include the building of a worship and performing arts center, additional classroom buildings and renovation and expansion of the gym.

Information: Troy Thelen, tthelen@vchsaz.org or 480-705-8888.

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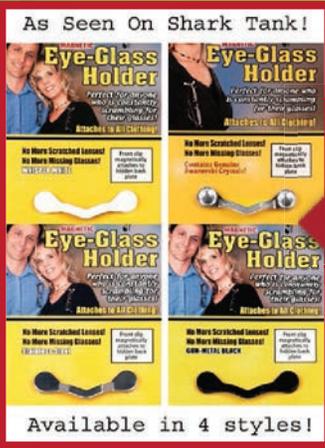
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Exp. 12/31/13

\$5,000 scholarship plus a trip to D.C. Teen's initiative yields pleasant surprise

By Diana Whittle

In an age of rising tuition costs, Johnny Coronel is every parent's dream of a college-bound student: He initiated his own search for funds, and struck pay dirt.

While navigating the Internet for clues to available scholarships, Coronel, a senior at Corona del Sol High School, landed on the website for Arizona's Department of Education, where he discovered a link to a U.S. Senate Youth Program.

With a strong interest in politics and history, he realized he might have found the right match.

Each delegate receives a \$5,000 scholarship that can be applied to any U.S. college, as well as an all-expenses-paid, week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

Coronel applied for the program and recently learned he is one of only two students selected who will represent Arizona as a delegate at the 52nd annual Washington Week program, March 8 -15. The other is from the Pinetop/Lakeside area.

This will be the second trip Coronel has made to the D.C. area; his first was in 2008.

"Up until that point, I wasn't much interested in politics, but making the trip to the capital awakened my interest in following the news. Since then I have read many history and political science books."

Coronel hopes to attend ASU next fall and plans to major in political science. He is anxious to learn more about the federal government, and hopes the upcoming trip will help him to shape his career.

"I am not sure whether or not I want to be a politician or a teacher, but I know that the trip will give me exposure to people that I see all the time in the news."

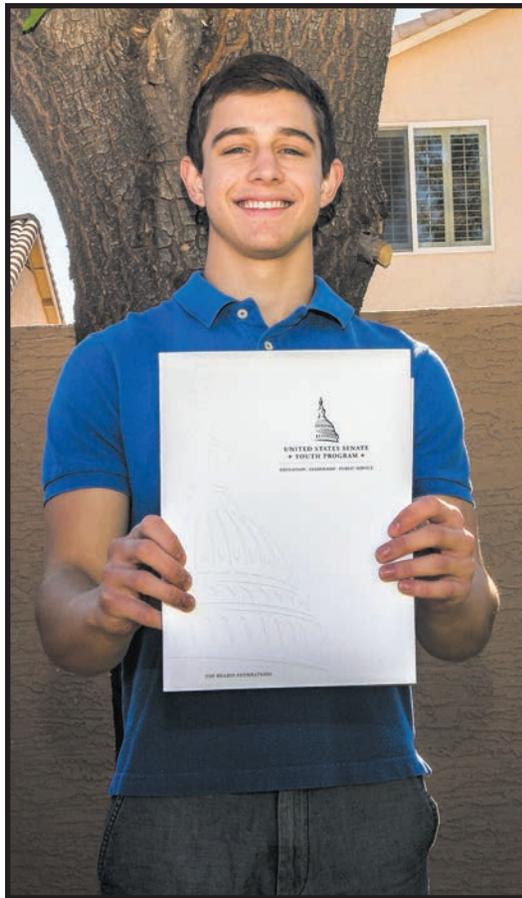
While in D.C., Coronel says the schedule will be jam-packed with classes, viewing sessions of Congress and the U.S. Senate, and visiting the Pentagon. The high point will be a luncheon where the students have a chance to meet the senators in person.

The Senate Youth Program was established in 1962 as a way for students to gain inside exposure to the inner workings of government, and to be able to watch their elected officials in action. It is sponsored by the U.S. Senate and funded and administered by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Coronel has lived in Tempe his whole life. He is the fourth of five brothers who range from 14 to 25.

His father is an immigrant from Venezuela who came to the U.S. to attend ASU, where he majored in engineering and met Johnny's mother, Joyce, a political science major who now is a reporter for the *Catholic News Sun*.

"Johnny has worked really hard to be where he's at, and I am extremely proud of him for looking for the scholarships," said



— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

his mother.

"Of my five sons, he is the most goal driven. I remember a few years back, I came into his room and found a list he made of his 100 life goals, which I thought was pretty impressive."

The student delegates must score high on a written test and undergo an interview process. Another requirement is that the students demonstrate leadership through serving in an elected capacity for their student body or in a club. Coronel is a vice president of Corona's Red Kettle Club that works with the Salvation Army to raise money for families in need.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates rank academically in the top of their class.

After their week in D.C., many continue to excel, often developing impressive qualities directed toward public service.

For example, notable alumni of the Senate Youth Program include Karl Rove, former adviser to President Bush, and the current governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie.

Whatever path Coronel chooses in the future, he is planning on absorbing all he can in D.C.

"I am excited to learn more about the inner workings of our government because our system is the best anywhere," said Coronel.

"I do appreciate all the people who have helped me get to the place where I can take advantage of this opportunity."

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Valley Metro hosted a Teens in Need holiday drive at Tempe Marketplace, seeking donations of personal gift items for clients of Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, which serves homeless teens Valley-wide. Valley Metro partners with Tumbleweed to provide needed supplies and a safe haven at its 28 light rail stations.

— Photo courtesy Valley Metro

Options listed for convenient disposal of Christmas trees in Chandler, Tempe

Chandler

There are several options for residents this season to dispose of their Christmas trees.

Christmas tree recycling will begin Dec. 26 and continue until Jan. 17.

Curbside Christmas tree collection will take place on regularly scheduled recycle days.

Make sure to place your tree outside before 6 a.m. on that day. Trees are chipped and reused in park landscaping projects.

For safety, remove tree stands, nails, ornaments, garland and lights, and do not place tree in a bag.

There will also be several tree drop-off locations, as listed on the city Website, www.chandleraz.gov/content/13-14TreeDrop-OffMap.pdf.

Live potted Christmas trees can also be donated for replanting at city parks by dropping them off at the city's community center or scheduling a pickup by calling 480-782-2745.

Information: 480-782-3510.

Tempe

Residents may place Christmas trees out for collection during their scheduled week for green-waste collection.

Christmas trees also can be dropped off at the Household Products Collection Center, 1320 E. University Drive, and the parking lot west of Kiwanis Park Recreation Center, 6111 W. All-America Way, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Both locations will accept Christmas trees through Jan. 27.

Before dropping off any Christmas trees, remove tree stands and nails, ornaments, lights, garland, and tinsel.

Christmas trees without ornaments, lights, garlands and tinsel will be chipped and recycled into compost materials.

Residents should not place Christmas trees in garbage containers.

This takes the space needed for household garbage and creates spillage when the containers are emptied.

For more information call 480-350-4311.



KID POWER — Resource students from Kyrene del Sureño Elementary School presented their semester project to a welcoming, supportive crowd, including the students' families, a contingent of fellow students and special guests, including district superintendent Dr. David Schauer; principal Dr. Marianne Lescher, who developed the project; and district science coordinator Monica Crowder. The students' assignment required them to act as make-believe civil engineers sent by a likewise imaginary World Health Organization to create a sustainable water system in the very real African country of Djibouti. The students were divided into small groups, each charged with relating its water and waste treatment plans to the country's 'president,' a role played by Schauer. All who attended the exercise agreed it laid the framework for continuing a worthwhile concept of interactive education.

— Wrangler News photo by Chelsea Martin

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The Aztecs are boasting a veteran squad that includes six wrestlers with state experience, and 11 total returning from last season's third-place team. Team includes, front: Glenn Farina, Ryan Farina, Matt Churchill, Marc Farina. Middle: Michael Clare, Ethan Tursini, Bridger Barker, Ryan Spadafore, Chris Moore; Back: Darius Ryan, Brix Kronberg, Colton Winstead, Taylor Rico. Details, Page 11.

— Photo courtesy Jim Martinez

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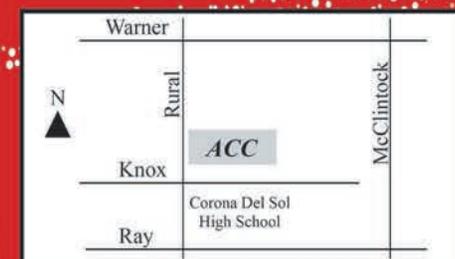
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Third state championship beckons Corona hoops squad

All the pieces may be in place for the MaxPreps No. 19 nationally ranked Aztecs to win their third state championship, but as head coach **Sam Duane Jr.** knows, every game will be a challenge for the two-time defending state champions.

"We are excited about this season because we have a chance to be very good," said Duane. "We have a lot of the pieces but now we have to make them all fit."

To begin with, they have one key piece, experience, with seven returning players, two of them starters who have played in big games, **Casey Benson** and **Cassius Peat**.

Senior point guard Benson, named Big School Player of the Year last season, has played varsity since his freshman year and is a crucial piece for another championship run.

"Casey's role on our team has changed every year," said Duane. "One thing that won't change is how much we are counting on his leadership role. He is a great leader, and we need that."

"Casey will not be relied upon to score as much as last year, and I think that will make him much fresher down the stretch this season," said Duane. "He is a great player and he will do what he needs each night to help us win."

Junior power forward Peat, also on the team since his freshman year, is another significant piece.

"Cassius has been on two championship teams. He brings a wealth of experience in knowing what it takes to win," said Duane. "He is an outstanding rebounder who is difficult to guard because he

can post up and he can play on the perimeter. His contributions will be big for us this year."

Corona's chances at "3-peating" were no doubt improved with the addition of two quality basketball players who transferred during the last school year.

Junior Alaska-transfer **Dane Kuiper**, a 6-foot-7 wing, can play the perimeter and in the paint as well.

"Dane is a great athlete who can defend and score for us," said Duane. "If he gets hot from long range, like he did against Shadow Mountain, he is capable of consistently scoring in double digits."

Another huge piece, figuratively and size-wise, was added when 6-foot-9, 230-pound senior center **Connor MacDougall** was cleared just before the season started by the AIA to play.

"Connor, who has committed to play at ASU next year, brings a whole new presence to our lineup, both offensively and defensively," said Duane.

Add five additional returning players from last season's team, **Jarrett Givens**, **Russ Davis**, **Tyrell Henderson**, **Logan Dubek** and **Vance Arnold**, and the Aztecs have an experienced as well as deep team.

"We have our sixth man, Jarrett Givens, back and then Russ Davis, who had a productive off-season," said Duane. "Both are good players who have a chance to play at the next level. They will give us a lot of options on the court and will be able to help us as team leaders as well."

"Tyrell Henderson should be able to supply us with great fire power this year," said Duane. "Vance Arnold will add to our experience once he recovers from his broken foot and returns to action."

Adding additional depth and firepower off the bench will be freshman **Alex Barcello**, who Duane is expecting to supply quality minutes, and juniors **Isiah Bolden**, **Sam Shultz**, **Tanner Millyard**, **Trevor Davies** and **Brett Erspamer**.

"Depth is our biggest strength," said Duane. "Guys will need to understand that they will, at times, have to sacrifice for the team. We will only be as good as every guy on the team."

So far this season they have been a sound team with a 6-0 record after defeating Shadow Mountain 84-75 to win the Hoophall West Invitational on Dec. 14.

The team will be participating in two events during the winter break. The VisitMesa.com Tournament will be held Dec. 26-31 at Mountain View and then the Aztecs will travel to Henderson, Nev., to play against Findlay College Prep on Jan. 4.

"The holiday break will be a real challenge for us in the VisitMesa.com tournament where we will face many strong teams including St. John Bosco out of LA and Jefferson from New York," said Duane. "Then we have Finley Prep, the No. 1 team in America."

"By the time we get back to school, Jan. 6, we will have played the best of the best and really found out a lot about our team."

As anyone close to the program can tell you, the goal is to be peaking at the end of the season in time for the state tournament where they will most likely meet up with Pinnacle, Mesa Mountain View, Gilbert and Cesar Chavez.

"Our goal is to get better every day and to make

— HOOPS, Page 11

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Hoops

From Page 9

all the pieces fit so by the end of the season we can be a very good team. Our guys need to buy into it and understand we can only do this as a team.”

So far, Duane has been happy with the progress the Aztecs have made towards that long-term goal.

“The team is working hard every day and what is really great is how unselfish they are on the court,” said Duane.

“We are starting to put the pieces together for a potentially great basketball team.”

Corona wrestling — The Aztecs, who return six wrestlers with state-tournament experience, along with five more from last year’s varsity team, have started the season strong, sporting a 9-2 record heading into their first winter break tournament at Moon Valley Dec. 20-21.

“We have a strong line-up of varsity-experienced wrestlers,” said coach **Jim Martinez**. “Leading the team are our two defending state champions, seniors **Glenn Farina** (138-lb. weight class) and **Ethan Tursini** (160-lb. weight class).”

“Sophomore **Bridger Barker**, who placed third at state last year, is wrestling in the 182-pound class and then we have our fifth place finisher last season, senior **Colton Winstead**, at 152 lbs.”

Juniors **Matt Churchill** (132 lbs.) and **Chris Moore** (220 lbs.), who both qualified and wrestled at state, are back this season.

Add returning varsity-experienced wrestlers **Ryan Farina** (113 lbs.) and **Marc Farina** (126 lbs.) both sophomores, junior **Ryan Spadafore** (145 lbs.)

and seniors **Michael Clare** (195 lbs.) and **Darius Ryan** (HWT) and Corona has a veteran squad that should dominate most of their competition this season.

Filling out the roster and competing for match time are sophomore **Javien Hunter** (106 lbs.), freshman **Cole Bernstein** (120 lbs.), senior **Omar Aguirre** (126 lbs.), **Riley Rayburn** (152 lbs.), senior **Seamus McDonald** (160 lbs.) and junior **Taylor Rico** (170 lbs.).

The Aztecs only losses, so far, have been to Mesa Mountain View on Nov. 27 and then they lost to Cibola in the Skyhawk Classic which dropped them into third place as a team.

“We had two wrestlers win championships at the Skyhawk Classic,” said Martinez. “Mark Farina at 126 lbs. and Bridger Barker at 182 lbs took first place and we brought home the trophy for third place.”

“Marc Farina had an outstanding performance at the Skyhawk Classic,” said Martinez. “In his championship run, he went 9-0 and pinned or won by technical fall in all of his matches except the finals. In the finals, he won 13-0.”

The Aztecs will be competing in their second holiday break tournament when they travel to Corona, Calif., to compete in the Shark Tank Invitational Jan. 3-4.

“I have to recognize our freshman team who is currently a perfect 4-0 after matches at Gilbert and Mesquite,” said Martinez. “Seven freshman wrestlers, **Justin Sorenson** (106 lbs), **Hunter Carmona** (132 lbs), **Diego Fill** (145 lbs), **Carlos Parra-Cihak** (152 lbs), **Nick Ruffalo** (170 lbs), **Jake Featherman** (195 lbs) and **Dylan Conner** (285 lbs) are undefeated.”



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- Dec. 27 - 7:30 p.m. - Gert the Joke Lady; 9:30 p.m. - Tony Vicich
- Jan. 3 - 7:30 p.m. - Class Clowns Comedy
- Jan. 10 - 7:30 p.m. - Colleen Purtle
- Jan. 11 - 7:30 p.m. - Bob Kubota
- Jan. 17 - 7:30 p.m. - Travis Thurman
- Jan. 24 - 7:30 p.m. - Amy Blackwell



Dec. 21 - 7:30 p.m.

Lakeshore Music:
Phoenix Boys Choir,
“The Spirit of Christmas”

Dec. 28 - 8 p.m.

Bully Mammoth: “There is No Christmas in Space”

Jan. 4 - 7:30 p.m.

Oracle Piano Society: “Picture Rachmaninoff”

Jan. 8 - 7:30 p.m.

Arizona Wind Symphony: Bandscriptions

Jan. 10-11 - 7:30 p.m.

Desert Dance Theater: Genesis Dance Project 2014

Jan. 17 - 7:30 p.m.

Lakeshore Music: Karla Bonoff with Nina Gerber

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Wife's passing doesn't stop growth of a family Christmas tradition

By Chelsea Martin

A tradition begins long before we realize. For Corona del Sol teacher Scott Foster, it began 23 years ago when he purchased his first paint-by-number piece at a Michael's craft store.

Little did he know that someday his casual hobby would develop into a miraculous talent of painting, purchasing, and engineering an incredible Christmas village. Each year, Foster would paint numerous pieces, which led to a growing collection of village items.

Between Michael's, eBay and Foster's generous friends donating their own collections, his small village became a masterpiece.

"I started the village when I was single, met my wife Jovonne, and then she started painting the pieces and helping me," Foster said.

"She was the reason we started the open house. She said, 'This is wonderful, people need to see this.'"

This is the first time in three years that Foster has been able to set up the village. The first year he put a halt to the Christmas occurrence when he wife passed away. The following years he was unable due to an unfortunate flood and a move.

This year he was determined to complete the Christmas tradition, and began setting up the village on Labor Day weekend.

The village consumes the entirety of Foster's 1,400-square-foot basement, including an additional bedroom with a Disney-themed village. The sizable village sits comfortably below countless stars and clouds dangling from the ceiling. "It's very relaxing and enjoyable to set it up, despite how long it takes," Foster said.

"It's a nice break." Foster invites his coworkers, families, neighbors and friends to an open house to showcase the village and provide food and drink, including wassail, traditional hot apple cider. Unfortunately, the village is not open to the public.

"People have fun when they see the village," Foster said. "When I'm down there I like to ask people if they've seen certain things, like, 'Have you found the McDonald's yet? Or the Starbucks?' Everyone gets all excited trying to find everything."

With a little creativity and a touch of inspiration, Foster created a tradition that brings happiness to all who surround him. "I put a lot of thought and detail into the village because I really want it to put people in the holiday spirit," Foster said. "People make an annual pilgrimage to see it because it truly is spectacular."

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Diversions . . . With M.V. Moorhead

Opening this weekend . . .

Saving Mr. Banks — It's 1961, and P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) doesn't want to sell the movie rights to her novel *Mary Poppins* to Walt Disney (Tom Hanks). She's afraid he'll vulgarize it with music, animation and sentimentality.

This movie, directed by John Lee Hooker, dramatizes how Disney and his cronies succeeded in wearing the prickly, exasperating Travers down, so that they could, indeed, vulgarize her book into a sentimental, partly animated musical.

Thompson is superb, as usual, as the impossible woman, but Hanks steals the picture with a delightful—and probably appalling whitewashed—portrayal of the drawling, relentlessly genial Disney.

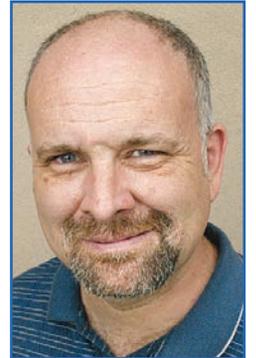
With its terrific acting and its loving period detail—we get not only early-'60s Hollywood but also early-20th-Century Australia, as we learn the author's sad backstory—this is a highly enjoyable movie.

It's also, being a Disney picture, a rather unbecoming piece of company propaganda: Its message is that once

you sign your soul over to Uncle Walt, your life will become a wonderful world of color.

Vulgarization is salvation.

Inside Llewyn Davis — The latest from the Coen Brothers is also set against the backdrop of early-'60s show business—this time the folkie scene in New York. Llewyn, stunningly played by Oscar Isaac, is a performance in the Village clubs.



M.V. Moorhead

He sings and plays traditional folk songs beautifully, but he's a chronic screw-up, basically homeless, sleeping on other people's couches after gigs, impregnating women—including, possibly, the wife (Carey Mulligan) of his best friend (Justin Timberlake)—and even losing his benefactor's cat on the streets. His

— DIVERSIONS, Page 27

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Helping hands

Helping others is just one of many holiday-season themes. Friends and area residents gathered at the Kirt and Susan Hamm residence to collect unwrapped toys, at the same time enjoying each other's company, light snacks and holiday cheer. Guests included, from left, Nan Hamlin, Julie Mitchell, Heather Woody, Susan Hamm, Cindy Irish, Cathy Deliseo and Debbie Houk.

— Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright



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Rush

From Page 16

fee is \$30 an hour for each assistant's services.

"My house looked so beautiful," Poulos said. "She just transformed my whole house into a Christmas room. I couldn't have done it better. It took off a lot of stress."

Poulos first contacted Burnside when health problems prevented her from keeping her house as organized as she likes.

"I'm a bone marrow transplant patient and I get tired easily, so I can't do a lot of what Anessa has done for me," Poulos said. "And I have a 7-year-old and I have a 16-year-old; my 16-year-old is special-needs. I have a lot on my plate."

"She put my house in order, starting from one room to another. All my rooms have a place for everything."

Another client who relies on Ask Anessa for holiday-related help each year is Angela Patten, co-owner with her husband, Chris, of the Tempe real estate firm The Patten Team.

"My husband and I run a multimillion-dollar business, and I'm eight months pregnant," said Patten, who spoke on the phone as she left a soccer tournament with her 9-year-old daughter.

Each year, Burnside and her team order calendars, address and sign holiday cards and buy



A last-minute rush for Anessa Burnside, left. Busier than usual? Just ask.

and personalize holiday ornaments for 100 Patten Team clients, delivering them with a company newsletter to each person's home. They also handle the family's personal Christmas cards.

"It's just one less thing for me to do," Patten said. "It's so much stress off my shoulders. I give her a million things to do, and she does it quickly."

She also appreciates that Burnside looks for bargains.

"I'm focused on price simply because I'm a person that budgets and likes to see things fall in line," said Burnside, whose mother rewarded her

coupon-clipping as a little girl by splitting the savings with her. "It was free money," she said.

One of her proudest moments this year involved Black Friday bargains on two Razor scooters with light-up wheels. With a limited number of door-buster items offered, she warned her client:

"No promises, because I wasn't going to (shop) Thanksgiving evening."

Instead, she hit the stores after midnight and wasn't surprised to find the popular electric scooters had sold out.

"As I was in Target, it must have been about 2 a.m., I heard on the walkie-talkie of the one the Target associates:

'We have two scooter go-backs to come pick from upfront.' So I literally stopped the gentleman and said: 'I'm sorry. Did you just say you have two of the Black Friday Razor scooters as

go-backs?' " At his affirmative response, she scooped them up. "That made my entire shopping trip."

And the holidays provide plenty of leftover business: returning gifts, taking down Christmas trees and holiday lights, and organizing all the decorations.

"It goes much quicker for us, because we are able to just pull down the ornaments without reminiscing every time we look at an ornament," she said. "It's a business for us."

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Briefs

Chandler rule won't affect youth homes

Editor's note: Just as writer Georgia Swing's article on New Horizon Group Homes went to press in our last issue, it was determined that a vote by the Chandler City Council might become a cause for concern among the organization's operators. The following update addresses that issue.

A recent change in Chandler's rules governing the city's 152 licensed group homes will not affect the four New Horizon Youth Homes operating there now.

That's according to David de la Torre, principal planner with the city of Chandler.

The Chandler City Council last month approved a maximum limit of five residents per group home and requiring such homes to be at least 1,200 feet—two blocks—apart.

New Horizon obtained city use permits for homes of up to seven people and, as long as the homes operate continuously, the permits will be grandfathered in, said de la Torre.

In addition, group homes that serve disabled individuals can apply for a "reasonable accommodation" exception to the five-person maximum. New Horizon Youth Homes clients have been diagnosed with mental illnesses and some have drug addictions, according to staff, and mental illness and addiction fall under the definition of disabilities,

said de la Torre.

Chandler City Planner Erik Swanson, who processes use-permit applications from group homes, said he's familiar with New Horizons Youth Homes.

"They are a good neighbor in the sense that they maintain their property and people aren't really aware they're there," he said.

"We've never had an issue with them."

Summit School launches parenting series

Summit School of Ahwatukee will launch a free, 10-session series exploring the concept of nurturing parenting, an approach now internationally recognized for enhancing self worth, empathy, discipline and empowerment.

Area residents can join the thousands of families worldwide who have experienced the series, conducted by New Directions Institute in partnership with Summit.

The program focuses on parents, expecting parents, grandparents and caregivers of children ages birth to age five.

Two-hour sessions on consecutive Tuesdays starting Jan. 21 offer discussion, video clips and stimulating activities designed to help parents learn and apply the information. Additionally, each session includes creative make-and-take projects and gifts for participating. Complimentary childcare is provided. Registration is required, as class size is limited.

Workshops are scheduled 9:30-11:30 a.m. through April 1, with no classes March 11.

Information/registration: andrea.benkel@summitschoolaz.org or 480-403-9500.

Jan. 23 kindergarten orientation at Kyrene

The Kyrene School District has invited parents of kindergarten-age children to mark their calendars for the 2014-2015 Kindergarten Orientation at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23.

The event is for children who will turn five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2014.

Each school's principal and kindergarten teachers will offer information about kindergarten. Parents can use e-Link to locate which school their child will attend.

Families which do not live within Kyrene boundaries but are interested in having their child attend a Kyrene school should complete an Open Enrollment application.

Applications for the 2014-15 school year will be available on Jan. 6.

Children who do not make the Sept. 1 birthday cutoff date can consider other Kyrene programs for 4- and 5-year-olds, including Early Learning Centers, Spanish Immersion, Preschool and Kyrene Kids Club programs. Information: 480-541-1516.

Vols sought for CdS academic competition

More than 200 volunteers are needed for the 2014 Arizona Region IV Academic Decathlon Competition, being hosted Friday, Jan. 31-Saturday, Feb. 1 at Corona del Sol High School.

The event will showcase 220 or more students from 25 Arizona high schools, competing in groups including language and literature, science and speech, among others. The competition will culminate in a Super Quiz Relay on Saturday. Information: 480-839,0292, ext. 3845.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and the Chandler City Council

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Game on at the Tumbleweed Rec Center! Each week will feature a different sporting event with a chance to win prizes for competing. TRC day pass fees apply.

Teen Nights at the Senior Center | Every Friday, 6-10 p.m.

Tired of just hanging around? Stop by the Senior Center on Friday nights for pool, video games, crafts and more! All for free.

Teen Talent Competition | January 10, 6 - 9 p.m.

Support your friends and local teens! Chandler Teens are taking center stage at Chandler Center for the Arts as they sing, dance and perform. Admission is \$5.

Jr. High Dance | January 17, 6:30-9 p.m.

Calling all Chandler 6th, 7th and 8th graders! It's time to bust a move at the Community Center's Jr. High Dance. Admission is \$5 (\$8 for non-resident).



Know the latest information and find out more at www.chandleraz.gov/teens.

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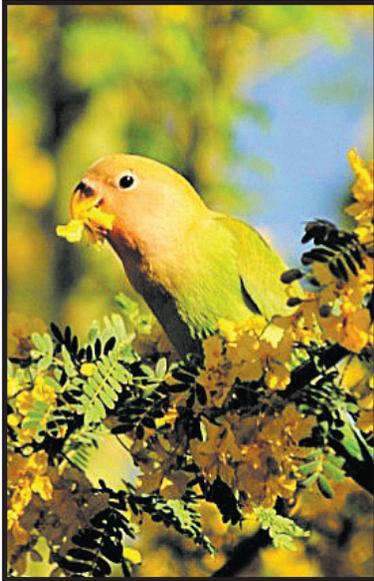
BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Story and photos by Mary Fritsche

A small flock of Rosy-faced Lovebirds is adding color and charm to our local landscape. These affectionate birds are a type of parrot and are popular as pets.

According to Phoenix-area urban legend, a local aviary owner released a small flock of lovebirds about 25 years ago, and their numbers have been increasing ever since.

Although the birds (sometimes called Peach-faced Lovebirds) are natives of southwestern Africa, they thrive in our urban desert climate; the Valley hosts the only feral population of lovebirds in the US.

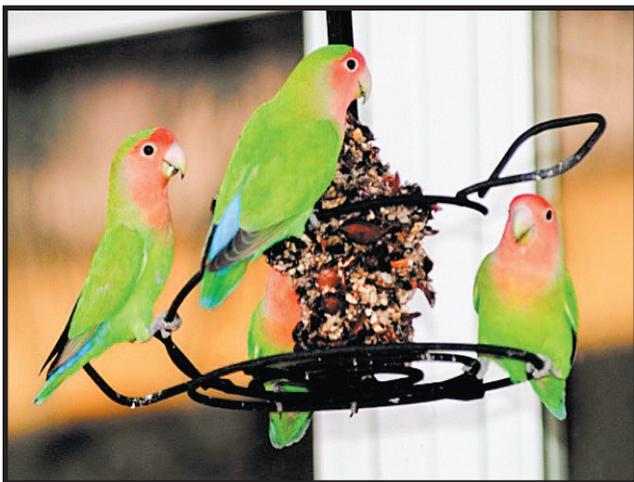


Lovebird couples usually mate for life and are often seen perching side-by-side and engaging in displays of affection.

They are quite prolific—a pair of lovebirds can produce as many as 15 chicks each year.

Experts estimate there are 2,500 lovebirds in the Phoenix area.

Several years ago, lovebirds reached the Kyrene Corridor and began gracing our backyard bird feeders.



Rosy-faced Lovebirds are social birds and communicate by 'squawking.' Here they're eating a variety of fruits and seeds at local bird feeder.



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A naturopathic physician shares tips to avoid the pitfalls of holiday indulging

Common sense provides basis for sensible eating, year-round

By Alison Stanton

Plates of Christmas cookies, adorned with festive colorful sprinkles. Tall glasses of eggnog, with or without added rum. Platters of delicious hors d'oeuvres, dips and other gastronomical delights.

These are just a few of the wide variety of wonderful foods and beverages that are typically part of the holiday season. And for many people, they are the types of things that can cause weight gain this month, as well as a strong resolve to lose it beginning on Jan. 1, 2014.

Dr. Lisa Maturo, a naturopathic physician at Maturo Medical Weight and Wellness in south Tempe, said that when it comes to avoiding tipping the scales during the holiday season, she suggests that people try a variety of tips and tricks.

"From the perspective of my practice, common sense has a lot to do with what naturopathic medicine is about, and so I have a lot of practical ideas that can help people avoid overeating."

One key approach, Maturo said, is to prepare before heading out the door to go to a party, where calorie-laden and tempting foods and drinks are sure to be part of the menu.

"I recommend that people do several things before going to a party, including having a high-protein or high-fiber snack. They should also drink 8 to 10 ounces of water before they go—these things

will help to suppress the appetite a bit before they even leave the house," she said.

"If they go in armed with their appetite already under control, it is easier to avoid the foods while they are there."

Because alcohol acts as an appetite stimulant, Maturo also suggests that people limit their intake as much as they can, so they can stay on track.

For an added boost, Maturo said, natural supplements and remedies can also work well to help prevent holiday weight gain.

For example, a carbohydrate blocker called phaseolamine—a natural extract of the kidney bean—can help to block the absorption of starchy foods like potatoes and breads.

To help prevent weight gain due to high-fat holiday foods, a fat blocker called chitosan can be effective, Maturo said.

"It works by binding high-fat foods before they get absorbed into the intestines," she said, adding that chitosan is one of her favorite supplements, and is sold under different brand names.

"I usually tell people if they are going to a lot of holiday parties that they can do some buffering and damage control with these supplements."

As for those who are resolving to lose weight in the new year, Maturo said she typically recommends a 3-week short-term cleansing program to get her

patients off to a good and fast start.

"The advantages of a cleansing program are that it can give pretty quick and substantial results, and it can help to reverse some of the damage that has been done," she said.

"The cleanse typically includes protein shakes, meal replacements, and a higher-fiber, lower-calorie diet that will give people a good jump start."

Because certain thyroid issues can impact weight gain, Maturo said she also recommends checking her patients' thyroids, as well as possibly their hormone levels.

"Hormone balancing is definitely important when it comes to healthy weight maintenance," she said.

Once the short-term cleanse is over, Maturo said the next step is to encourage her patients to move into a more healthy lifestyle approach that will help them lose the remainder of the weight.

"Education and nutrition come next," she said.

"I try to leave impression that this is just the beginning of a healthy lifestyle change."

Maturo Medical Weight and Wellness is at 5801 S. McClintock Drive, Suite 105, in Tempe.

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Barrow neurology unit helps advance brain-injury prevention for young athletes

Chandler Regional hosts Institute's satellite office

For decades, the devastating effects of repeated concussions on the health of professional athletes was a well-kept secret—until it exploded into a national controversy.

As investigative journalists reported scientific evidence of the long-term impact of head injuries on NFL players, the focus soon shifted to high school athletes.

How could their health and safety be protected?

An interactive, online training was developed in part by Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, with a satellite office opened last year at Chandler Regional Medical Center.

Arizona was an early adopter of protection for high school athletes. In 2011, the state legislature passed a law requiring coaches to remove high school athletes from play if they even so much as suspect a concussion. The law requires that the athlete obtain written clearance from a medical professional, like a physician or athletic trainer, in order to return to the sport.

State legislators also called for preventive measures that would make it mandatory for high school coaches, students and parents to complete concussion-education programs. To comply with the law, the Arizona Interscholastic Association deemed that every high school athlete in the state must



Neurologist Dr. Javier Cárdenas

complete Barrow Brainbook.

But the real brains behind Barrow Brainbook belong to Arizona State University educational technology doctoral student Robert Christopherson of Tempe.

"Over 180,000 high school athletes in the state of Arizona have benefitted from the knowledge of Robert Christopherson," said Dr. Javier Cárdenas, neurologist and brain injury expert who is director of St. Joseph's B.R.A.I.N.S. Clinic.

"Robert's expertise in educational technology is the primary reason Barrow Brainbook has not only successfully taught high school athletes about

concussion dangers, but has become the most successful concussion education program in the country."

When he began his research, Christopherson noticed immediately that most available concussion education programs targeted coaches and parents, but few addressed the athletes themselves. From the start, he said the directive from Cárdenas was empowering youth to assess the situation and be part of the decision-making process.

Today, Barrow Brainbook remains the only concussion education program in the nation directed at high school athletes.

To engage the young athletes, Christopherson considered social media for two reasons. First, research showed that student behavior online and in classrooms was becoming increasingly similar. Second, it was important to deliver concussion instruction close to where the head injuries happen.

Teaching the athletes on the football field was not an option, so the researcher had to come up with an equally effective venue.

"So we decided to make a pseudo-Facebook," he explained.

"We created an environment that looks like Facebook, has a lot of the same social network interactions and includes characters that represent those people who influence the athletes most - peers, role models including NFL players and college athletes, and doctors."

The flights are booked.
Swimsuits are packed.



Swimming with Santa

Friday, Dec. 27 & Saturday, Dec. 28 from 1 - 5 p.m.

1 - 3 p.m. visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, 3 - 5 p.m. waves continue at the Kiwanis Recreation Center

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December 5, 5:30-7pm
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ages 5 thru 16

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chandleramerican.com

Happy Holidays from all of us at Wrangler News

If you're thinking about last-minute Christmas gifts and need some ideas, look no further.

Here are a few of our favorite local businesses that are offering gift cards and special deals for you or your loved ones this holiday season:

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ONE MORE HOLIDAY NOTE: Our next issue will be published Jan. 11. **Deadline for advertising and news/feature content will be noon Friday, Jan. 3.**

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Tempe's Mill Ave. the place to be on New Year's Eve



The new year is coming up, and those in the mood to celebrate can ring in 2014 with the Circle K New Year's Eve Block Party on Mill Avenue.

Planners say downtown Tempe will be transformed into one big New Year's Eve party from University Drive to Third Street.

Ten bands, three high-energy dance floors, a family fun zone and more will be on tap.

It's also where Arizona's biggest New Year's Eve kiss happens at midnight, featuring 10,000 Hershey's Kisses, fireworks and confetti cannons.

A special added display will offer a colorful sneak peek at 2014 with a round of fireworks.

This year, the Walter Project brings synchronized lights, music and the world's largest VW Baja bug to the KISS Kalliope Dance Club.

Whole Foods Tempe will help visitors Eat the Rainbow with a special kids area powered by Radio Disney.

Visitors also can have a turn on the ferris wheel or take a ride down a super slide for breathtaking views of downtown Tempe.

Bands will include Jared and the Mill, Cold Shott and the Hurricane Horns, plus others — a full list is available at www.blockpartyonmill.com

Tickets can be obtained at the same Website, as well as for a discount at participating Circle K stores and, for Tempe residents, at city of Tempe facilities.

Cover story *From pg. 1*

Kids from Kyrene schools showed up en masse for a gift wrapping party to benefit their less fortunate counterparts, tapping into the generosity of local FedEx employees, who collected the toy-, clothing- and personal-item contributions as part of an area-wide campaign during recent weeks.

Among the wrappers, shown on the cover of this issue of Wrangler News, were, from left, Bell Volrath, Ally Nash, Sophie Budge and Alexa Hayden.

The Kyrene Foundation and Kyrene Family Resource Center partner each year on the project. This year, more than 1,200 Kyrene children benefitted from the campaign.

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Our next issue of Wrangler News, Saturday, Jan. 11, will go to print on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Deadline for advertising and article/photo content is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3. Enjoy the Holidays!

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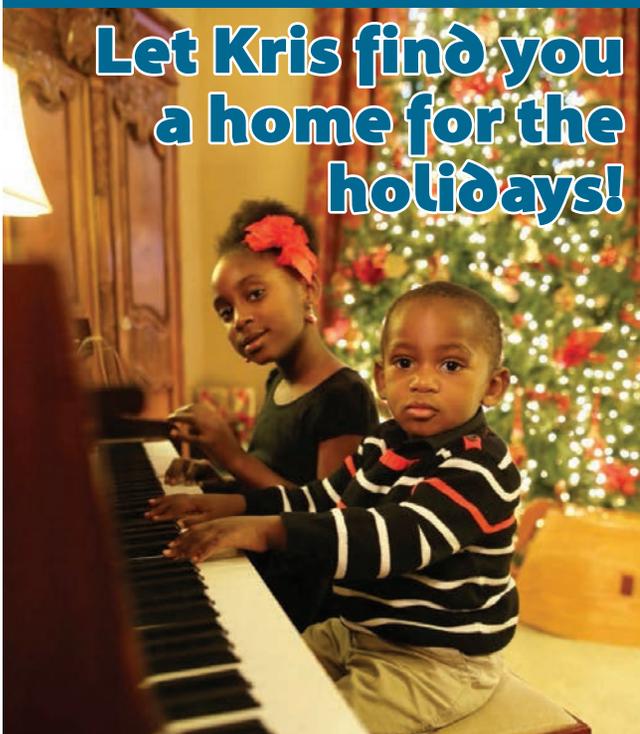
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The holiday season was evident everywhere Wrangler News photographer Billy Hardiman looked, including at Arizona Community Church, right, where Maryellen Hawkinson hung ornaments; a tree lot on Warner Road east of Rural, which attracted the usual crowd of eager families; and an array of brightly decorated homes conveying the spirit of the season. To all, the profusion of lights and their message of good will seemed to say Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.



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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Year-end tax credit donations prove beneficial for schools, contributors

By Diana Whittle

A tax credit donation, before the end of the year, is at the top of the holiday wish list of area school district administrators.

The Arizona Tax Credit Program allows any taxpayer in the state to donate to a school of their choice to receive a dollar-for-dollar credit.

The donor does not have to have a child enrolled in school.

Donations collected in previous years have yielded a significant amount of money that must be used for extra-curricular activities, such as music and arts, after-school clubs or character-education programs.

Character Education Programs at a minimum must teach kids at least six of the following traits: truthfulness, responsibility, compassion, diligence, sincerity, trustworthiness, respect, attentiveness, obedience, orderliness, forgiveness, virtue, fairness, caring, citizenship and integrity.

Among districts benefitting from tax-credit contributions are Kyrene Elementary, Tempe Elementary and Tempe Union High School.

"Our community has given significant support through tax credits raising \$1,922,462 in 2012," said Jeremy Calles, chief financial officer for the Kyrene district.

"This was down just slightly from 2011, \$1,957,513, but Kyrene is one of the best-supported districts through tax credits when compared on a per pupil basis."

Principal Spencer Fallgatter from Kyrene de la Mariposa said his school relies heavily on tax credit donations to support field trips for students to the state

capitol, the Arizona Science Museum and the Sonora Desert Museum.

"We feel fortunate that the community is willing to provide this extra support," said Fallgatter. "Our students benefit with great programs, assemblies and after-school activities including our choir the Stellar Singers."

Although schools and district offices are closed for the winter break, both Kyrene Elementary and Tempe Union High School districts have volunteers to staff their offices during scheduled times for last minute donations.

The Kyrene District office is located at 8700 S. Kyrene Road.

"We appreciate the community's generosity, and the Kyrene District office will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to serve those who have a little more holiday spirit that they would like to put to good use," said Kelly Alexander, Kyrene's director of community education and outreach services.

The Tempe Union High School District Office, at 500 W. Guadalupe Road, also will be open for donations on Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"In 2012, our district collected \$990,442.94 in tax credit donations," said Linda Littell, executive director of community relations for TUHSD.

"Volunteers will be available on New Year's Eve to collect those last-minute tax credit donations, and refreshments will be served."

As to the Tempe Elementary district, donations totalling \$317,394.75 were received last year, providing

— TAX CREDIT, Page 27

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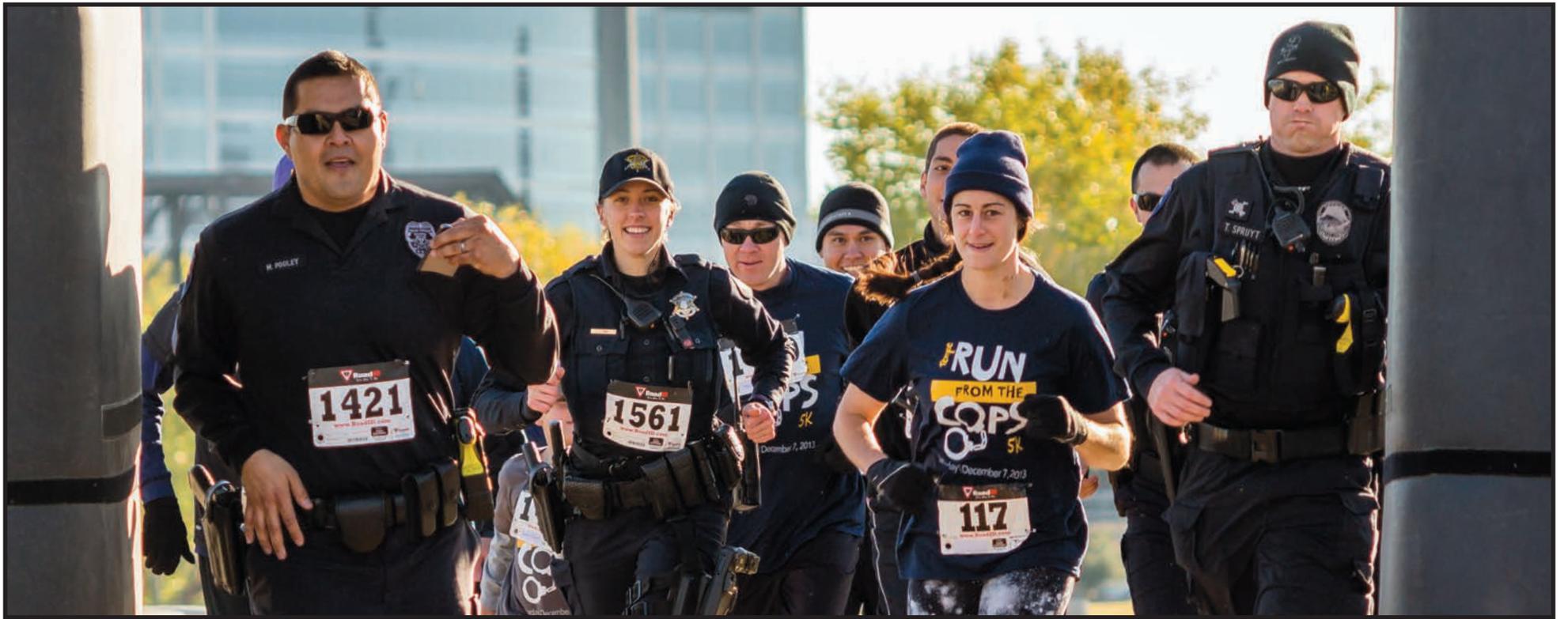
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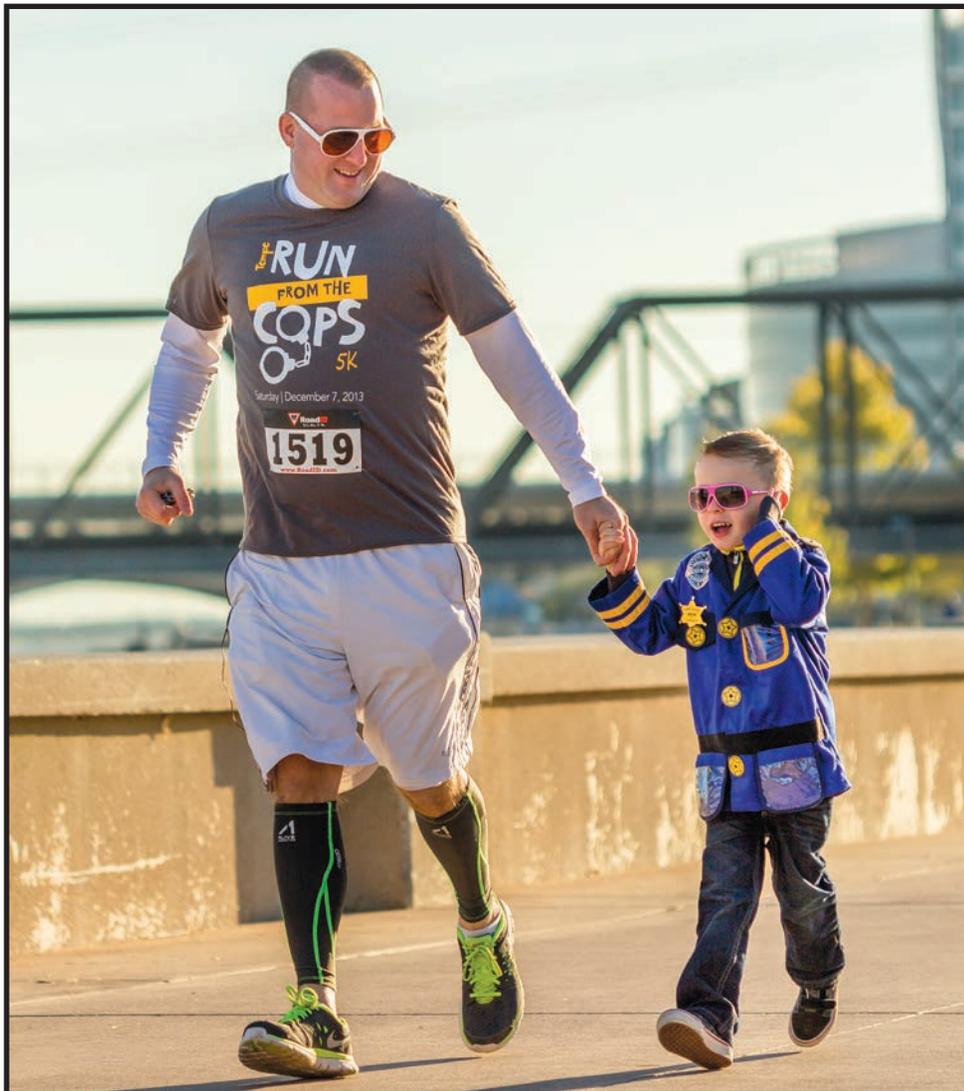
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RUN, HERE COME THE COPS — Usually not a good idea, we admit, but this Run From the Cops resulted not only in a great family outing but a successful fundraiser for the Tempe Police Foundation, a charitable cause we all believe in and support. The 5K run/walk around Tempe Town Lake, with an accompanying ½K ‘Fuzz Run’ for the kids, attracted nearly 450 participants.

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



Diversions

From Page 14

blundering odyssey from New York to Chicago and back is infuriating to watch—it's as if the Coens are deliberately trying to see how annoyed they can make us with a protagonist and still keep rooting for him.

I almost began to wonder if they were trying to make people hate folk music (more than most do already).

But I, at least, did keep rooting for Llewyn, and while it's far from the Coen's best work the movie, with its weird humor and unpredictable twists, has stuck in my head since I've seen it.

Walking With Dinosaurs

3-D—This feature was made using the same techniques as the popular BBC series aired in the U.S. on the Discovery Channel: majestic live settings (Alaska and New Zealand) into which computer-generated, more or less scientifically-accurate dinosaurs

are added, creating the sense of a live nature documentary about the extinct beasts.

Unlike the documentaries, however, this movie adds corny voice-over dialogue to turn the story into a kids-friendly adventure.

The story follows a young Pachyrhinosaurus, called Patchi, who has a distinguishing hole in his frill, through his perilous, predator-filled migrations, his conflict with his brother Scowler, his love for a pretty she-dino called Juniper, and his eventual rise through the herd hierarchy.

Justin Long provides the voice of Patchi, and the narration and commentary is provided by John Leguizamo as the bird that rides on his back.

The blend of kidflick dramatics with the occasional harshness of the paleontological accuracy creates an odd effect, but the movie is great to look at—even some of the 3D effects are worthwhile—and the young audiences seem to respond to it.



Tax credit

From Page 25

increased educational opportunities to students. Money was used for after-school enrichment clubs, after-school tutoring, field trips to support classroom curriculum, science excursions, student leadership training, after-school intramurals and athletics.

For last minute donations, the district office at 3205 S. Rural Road will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 480-730-7131 for more information.

To make a donation online, visit the district's website at www.tempeschools.org/taxcredit.

The tax credit program allows a

maximum donation of \$200 for a single filer and \$400 for a married couple.

Kyrene's Alexander said her district is particularly appreciative of the tax-credit contributions.

"In Kyrene we believe in educating the whole child, and tax credits are key to supporting that goal since their use is limited to providing opportunities that enrich the educational experience," she said.

"These additional areas are vital to the development of our youth, but can sometimes be neglected since their connection to test scores is indirect."

Although the donations can be made in person, they can also be made online by credit card.

For the Kyrene District, visit www.kyrene.org; for Tempe Union, visit www.tuhsd.k12.az.us.

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Employment

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Employment — **KYRENE IS NOW HIRING. SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED.** FULL TIME – 30 Hrs. /per Wk. GREAT BENEFITS. Starting Salary \$13.88 - \$17.39. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GO TO: Kyrene.org. 12/13

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Employment — **MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST: The Chandler Chamber of Commerce** has an immediate opening for an innovative and creative Marketing/Communications Specialist who is passionate about the business community. This position will be responsible for performing a wide variety of marketing and communication functions in order to promote the Chamber's programs and membership. Writing press releases, blogs and other promotional materials; all media relations; strong emphasis on social media; website management experience; CRM experience; representing the Chamber at outside networking events and trade shows; and assisting in developing and implementing brand identification for the Chamber are the primary activities of this position. Minimum requirements are a Bachelor's degree in marketing, communications, journalism or a related field and at least three year's marketing/communication, graphic design, news/social media experience and/or non-profit a plus.

Qualified candidates should submit 1. A complete job application online at www.chandlerchamber.com 2. a cover letter (including salary requirements), 3. Resume 4. Tweet @ChandlerChamber with the hashtag (#ChandlerChamber) and why you want to work for the Chandler Chamber. Send all information to terri@chandlerchamber.com. This is a full-time salaried position with benefits including health, dental, vision, life insurance, short and long term disability, paid holidays and vacation. Deadline for submissions is January 3, 2013 at 4pm. No telephone calls please.

Employment — **Full-time driver wanted for fast-paced logistics company. Must be self motivated and able to multi task. Experience not necessary, will train the right person. Fax resume and salary requirements to fredwilliams8791@gmail.com or sms 801-613-2188** 1/14

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For Sale — 1981 Datsun pick-up truck. Fully equipped, 181K. Make offer. 480-838-3071 12/13

Service Directory

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Doors — Southwest Door Refinishing. Doors/Refinishing, repainting, repairs, locks changed. RV/Yard Gates/Maintenance free composite wood slat replacement, for metal frame gates, refinishing, repainting. Small Carpentry and Painting jobs. Experienced and reliable. Quality workmanship and materials. Featuring quality Dunn Edwards products. Free estimates. Not a licensed contractor. 480-947-3878 www.saveyourdoors.com 1/14

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Handyman — Dave's Handyman Service. 602-295-3991. "Ask us if we can do it." Electrical, plumbing, doors & windows, drywall, painting, home remodeling. Lic. # 169409ROC.

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Landscaping — Greg's Landscaping - Free Estimates. Landscape design and installation. Sprinkler/irrigation and repair, landscape cleanup and hauling, tree trimming. 480-962-4167, or 623-523-2282 (Cell). 6/14

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Painting — Village Painting – Interior/Exterior painting, drywall repair with texture matching, custom faux finishes, and cabinets. Small jobs also welcome. (ROC#069679) CALL (480) 814-1588.

Painting — DZ Paint, Drywall & Wall Covering – A painting company with quality painters and affordable prices. Whether it's your home or your office, you name it, we'll paint it. Accent walls, garage floors, interior and exterior, commercial and residential. Give us a call for a free estimate. Licensed and Bonded. ROC #240852. Daniel 480-326-0851. 12/14

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Plumbing — Cure All Plumbing- For all your plumbing needs. Water heaters, softeners, faucets, fixtures, drain and sewer cleaning, backflow and sprinkler service. Commercial/Residential ROC#204797 Free estimates 480-895-9838.

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

Pool Care — Arizona Oasis Pool Service & Repair. LLC. Weekly service, full service or chemicals only, repairs, pumps & filters. Insured, dependable & trustworthy, references available. Professional family owned business. 480-694-1518.

Remodeling — JAK Construction Inc. – Specializing in all phases of construction. Rain gutters, Downspouts, Aluminum and Vinyl siding, AZ rooms, replacement windows & doors, overhang trims/eaves. We love small jobs! Call (480) 820-8711. Licensed, bonded and insured. ROC #112275.

Remodeling — English Building Company, LLC, General Contractor, Your Neighborhood Contractor, Remodeling, Additions, Kitchens, Bathrooms, See Project Pictures and Customer references online at www.englishbuilding.net, Tempe Native.. Licensed, Bonded, Insured ROC 189470 Call today for a free estimate 480-603-8813

Remodeling — Custom Remodeling Specialist. Whole house remodels, kitchens, baths, bedrooms, counters & cabinets, tile & carpet, garages, offices, patios, room additions and much more. John C. Erickson – owner. Over 20 years experience. Licensed (/ROC#171687), bonded & insured. JCE Company, LLC. 480-200-9037.

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Roofing — Roofing specialist, 30 years experience, shingles, tile, shakes, flat roofs, leak repair and wood replacement. Free estimates. No Job too small. Licensed exempt, References available. Call Chuck 480-251-7886. 12/13

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Window Cleaning — Call Fish Window Cleaning to make your windows sparkle. Windows interior and exterior. Screens, sun screens, tracks, sills, light fixtures, chandeliers, mirrors and ceiling fans. Call 480-962-4688. BBB accredited, fully insured. 6/14

Personal Services

Personalized Services — Weekly pool service, cleaning, pet sitting (cats only), and house checking/caretaking while you are out of town. Honest and reliable, long term references available. Carter Frey (602)-705-6128 or (480)-963-7677 4/14

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Piano lessons — Piano lessons by Sandra. 15 years experience. 2 recitals per year. Will come to your home. Have worked with many area residents, please ask for referrals! Call Sandra at (480) 406- 0138. 2/14

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Pet Services — Pet Sitting. Have your pet pampered and cared for in the convenience of YOUR home. Bonded, insured. Member Pet Sitters International. References Available. Call Janice with Mrs. Doolittle, 831-9388. 2/15

Pet Services — Pooper Scooper. Hate that poop? Love your pup! Call Mrs. Doolittle and she'll clean it up. Bonded and insured. 480-831-9388. 2/15

Cindy the Critter Sitter: East Valley Pet Sitting — Cindy the Critter Sitter will take care of your furry babies like you would with in-home visits--daily, overnight, or live-in--walks, playtime, or quiet companionship. Pet transport also available. Bonded & insured, dog and cat CPR and first aid certified, member of Pet Sitters International. Call Cindy at 480-580-6981. 12/13

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Organizers of Corona del Sol's Red Kettle campaign met to plan their weekend effort at Fry's Marketplace. Planning group included, from left, Manali Chavan, Natasha Burrell, Johnathan Coronel, Braedon O'Meara and Dakota Perez. The group collected a grand total of \$1,380.91 during the day from generous members of the Tempe community. All proceeds from the adopted kettle will stay in Tempe to benefit those in need and support programs offered by The Salvation Army.
— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

It's been a great year at Wrangler News. Thanks for your continuing and loyal support. Happy Holidays!

Don, Tracy, Chelsea, Billy

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The Last Word

School chiefs express their gratitude for community support of our kids

By Dr. David Schauer & Dr. Kenneth Baca

The long road to success is over. Kyrene experienced a clear election victory for both the continuation of our Maintenance and Operations Override and our second ballot question to Lease, Sell or



David Schauer

Exchange Real Property (our vacant land).

This is a strong vote of confidence and message of support from our

community. The voters spoke and continue to agree that keeping Kyrene schools strong is an important priority.

The Kyrene School District is committed to maintaining community support by ensuring all Kyrene students have exceptional learning experiences each and every day.

During this election, I saw citizens

come together in bi-partisan support for our students. Education is not about politics but about the future of our children.

Business leaders, lawmakers, teachers and parents worked on the common purpose of continuing to invest in our schools.

These citizens understand that support for education provides a huge return on investment. I am proud to be a member of the Kyrene community where we continue to work together to provide the best quality of education possible to the children we serve.

Once again, congratulations to all of us—especially our students!

Dr. David Schauer is the superintendent of the Kyrene School District.

The ending of one year and the beginning of another allows us to reflect on where we have been, where we are and where we hope to be. It is also a time to reflect on the many gifts that we have been given.

During this joyous season, I would like to thank the Tempe community for its support of our recent M&O Override election. Your support will allow Tempe Union to continue its mission of Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

We do not take lightly that you have entrusted us with your tax dollars. Tempe Union will continue to invest the majority (85 percent) of those funds supporting the best instructional programs while providing extra-curricular programs (3 percent) that keep our students occupied before and after school, and continue to maintain state of the art facilities (12 percent) that our community deserves.

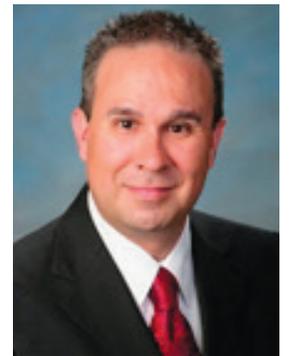
I would also like to thank the Tempe Union community for its support of our teachers and support staff throughout the year.

Our staff works hard to ensure that students are prepared for college and careers.

Tempe Union teachers and staff are not only the best and brightest of any school district (public, private or charter), but they are some of the most caring individuals you will find. I often hear stories from parents of

teachers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, helping their child who struggled through the social aspects of high school. I witness many staff members who sacrifice time away from their family to attend an athletic competition, a musical performance or an evening event because one of their students is participating and/or being recognized.

On behalf of the Tempe Union Governing Board, I would like to thank the many parents



Kenneth Baca

who sacrifice to ensure their children have a life that will be better than their own. Thank you taking an active part in your child's education and trusting their future to us.

Yes, we have been given many gifts. It is our duty to nurture those gifts so that we may give back to others. Thank you, Tempe Union community.

May your holidays be filled with joy, love and peace.

Dr. Kenneth Baca is the superintendent of the Tempe Union High School District.



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Don't Miss This Dream Home



Gorgeous 6-bedroom, 6-bath custom home with basement in Tempe's desirable Circle G Ranch. Step into elegance! Pecan wood floors, cedar doors, gourmet kitchen with large granite island and breakfast bar. Split master bedroom with sitting area. Outside is an oasis with waterfall and play pool, spa, misting system, kiva fireplace, and built-in BBQ. Insulated RV garage stores all your toys.

Pecan Grove Estates

This tri-level home is located in the coveted Pecan Grove Estates. Move-in ready with vaulted ceilings and updated flooring. Eat-in kitchen with island and connecting formal dining room for parties and guests. Full finished basement features a family entertainment room. Custom play pool with waterfall and fire pit. Custom built-in shelves and desk in office. Located in Tempe's best school district - Waggoner Elementary, Kyrene Middle School and Corona del Sol high school.



Lush Horse Property



Rambling Spanish home updated with charm and character. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths on huge lot. Wonderful horse property in exclusive Buena Vista Equestrian Community. Quality horse amenities including steel piping, stalls and 4 lush pastures. Perfect country setting in the city! Community offers community pool and park, lighted arena and trails.

Coming Soon-Immaculate Home Close to ASU

This 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with a pool is spotless and move-in ready. Close to ASU with an open floorplan. Formal living and family rooms are ready for entertaining. Over-sized backyard for family gatherings or just for fun! 2-car garage with a shaded driveway complete this perfect home.



Warner Ranch Beauty



This heavenly home has a popular UDC Ritz floor plan with 4 bedrooms and 2½ baths. Upgraded with tile floors in all the right places. Well-maintained kitchen offers a granite island. Large, formal living and dining rooms with cozy family room and fireplace - even a wet bar. Plantation shutters, Pella windows, Roll-a-Shield, and surround sound both inside and out make this house move-in ready. It backs up to the greenbelt for extra privacy.

Exclusive -Through Agnews Only!

Elegant living without the hassle of a high maintenance yard! This 2-bedroom, 2-bath home with granite countertops, tile throughout and elegant wood shutters, spacious family room and an open floor plan with lots of possibilities make this the ideal place for families, entertaining or both. Beautiful shady courtyard off front is an added benefit. Worry-free home in a great Tempe neighborhood. You can't get much better than this!



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