

# Wrangler NEWS



## REVISITING HISTORY: A close-up look at the Mormon trek

Adult and teen volunteers gathered for a modern-day reenactment of the grueling mid-1800s journey by nearly 70,000 men, women and children from Illinois to a newfound home in the rugged West. The revisit, staged near the Mogollon Rim, became an educational and eye-opening experience for all.

Story & more photos, Page 16.

Photo courtesy Todd Smith

Jan. 12 - 25, 2013 • Vol. 24, No. 1  
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**Tempe - Wingfoot**

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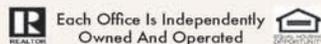
**Tempe - Raintree**

3 Bedrooms / 2 Bath, 2,800 sf - Perhaps the nicest homes in Tempe in this price range. Nothing to do but move in & enjoy!. 4" Custom Marble counters in kitchen. Wood floors, tile & upgraded carpet. Beautiful living room with shutters, formal dining & comfortable family room with fireplace. This home has been stylishly updated with the finest iron custom iron doors front & back. Remodeled bath with stone shower, separate tub, upgraded counters, cabinets & stone floors. Professionally added bonus room in back of home is fantastic for extra living space looking to the spectacular back yard. Pool, outdoor kitchen, Sante Fe fireplace. Resort style backyard & front courtyard are charming and peaceful. This home is a true showplace. Offered at \$545,000



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**Abundant perks plus a spot on 'Inc.'s top 5,000 list help W. Chandler firm bank on its future in the financial industry**



DBSI Inc. CEO John W. Smith in the west Chandler-based company 'think tank.'

— Wrangler News photo by Chase Kamp

**By Chase Kamp**

**Y**ou may think your job has plenty of benefits, but we'd venture a guess it's nothing like the perks the employees get at DBSI.

A humble installer of banking equipment 15 years ago, the blossoming west Chandler-based company offers a mind-spinning array of services to help bank and credit union branches improve their efficiency in virtually every aspect of business, from construction to software.

The firm's success has spawned not only an enviable reputation but a staff whose loyalty and growth is among the highest in the country.

All this despite Arizona's construction industry woes and the struggle of national banks in the face of the economic downturn.

Last year, *Inc.* magazine acknowledged the company with two honors: a spot on its Inc. 5000 roster of fast-growing privately held U.S. companies and the Hire Power Award for 44 percent employee growth from 2008-2011.

In addition to being construction specialists, DBSI provides software technology, equipment, facilities maintenance services and support for retail bank and credit union branches—everything from cash dispensers to carpet swatches.

CEO John W. Smith said this comprehensive approach is why DBSI

has risen above the recession and acquired 80 new customers this year.

"A bank would have to hire 20 to 25 different companies to do what we do," he said. "No one can take it from design all the way to technical support."

According to Smith, the construction aspect constitutes nearly half of DBSI's business.

Nina Christensen, who oversees the company's marketing initiatives with the no-nonsense title "Director of Demand Creation," said the company prides itself on continued growth in a turbulent sector.

"For us to say that we're growing in an area where that particular industry has been hurting is tremendous," Christensen said.

The company's expansive, contemporary Chandler office and development facilities allow clients to examine every aspect of their branch presentation and maintenance.

They often start in the company's ideation center, where prototype ATMs, advanced security vaults and other technologies are on display. The company's spacious design laboratory recreates the interior of a bank branch and shows companies the face of their display brand before it goes to market.

A unique aspect of DBSI is its adherence to being "solution agnostic," Smith said.

"We don't own or have exclusive agreements with any technology providers. We just go out and find

what's proven, what's tangible, and suggest those to our customers."

DBSI employees not only enjoy idea-centric facilities but are also offered the opportunity to freely pitch and develop ideas for management with the promise of shared profits.

"We look for everybody to provide their input," Smith said.

"Every person is a part of DBSI."

He said there's no lack of fun, either. The office boasts a golf simulator and a two-story fire pole for clients.

Employees even launch an occasional

impromptu Nerf-gun battle.

The aim of the company is branch transformation, Smith explained.

He said the myriad ATM networks and more than 100,000 bank branches in the U.S. constitute 65 percent of banks' operating costs.

"In their mind, they've got to make customers visit them, run them more efficiently, and differentiate," he said.

"We think of ourselves of making efficient, profitable branches that create a uniquely smarter experience."

## Kyrene adopts strict new policy requiring ID for all school entry

By Diana Whittle

The shooting tragedy in Newtown, Conn., left school districts shaken to the core, but motivated to review and tighten security measures — and to reassure anxious parents.

Following the trend of school districts across the nation, at the first board meeting of 2013, the Kyrene School District reported that its administrators also enhanced policies and adopted new ones.

Superintendent Dr. David Schauer outlined a list of changed procedures, which became effective Jan. 7 and apply to visitors at each school in the district:

- All visitors will be required to check in at the front desk.
- All visitors will need to hand over a photo I.D. and be issued a visitor's badge.
- Employees and vendors must show their badge or will be required to follow the visitor procedure.
- Visitors will not be allowed beyond the office doors without signing in, providing a photo ID, getting a visitor's badge and being given permission to enter the school.
- When leaving the school, visitors will return through the office, sign out and retrieve their photo I.D.

He also explained some additional measures that not all other districts have in place.

"Kyrene eliminated free-standing portable classrooms, removed the outside door access to classrooms, and installed the virtual video fence at all schools, where cameras operate 24 hours- a-day to act as a deterrent for unauthorized activity."

Schauer added:

"It is also important for parents to know that, for many years, our schools have followed a comprehensive crisis plan that requires practice lockdowns and fire drills on a regular schedule. Our district-wide crisis plan is frequently reviewed by a district crisis team that works closely with all local

law enforcement and municipal emergency agencies.

"Parents should understand that any such change or perceived inconvenience is to provide the safest environment possible for our students and staff."

While the district administrators work on the school environment, mental health professionals, such as the National Association for School Psychologists, offer tips for talking with children about the shootings, and about violence in general.

The organization's documents emphasize reassuring children that they are safe, making time to talk with children and keeping explanations developmentally appropriate.

More information on school safety, violence, prevention, children's trauma reactions and crisis responses, can be found at: [www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)

Although many experts recommend parents turn off the television and try to shield their children from the non-stop news about the shootings, it's nearly impossible in the Internet era to create a media-free bubble.

Common Sense Media has information about how to help children put news in perspective, with tips specific for various age groups.

"No matter how old your kid is, threatening or upsetting news can affect them emotionally," the website explains.

See more advice at <http://www.common SenseMedia.org/advice-for-parents/explaining-news-our-kids>

And, finally, since violence is frequent in video games, in movies and on television, an on-line article, "How To Talk To Kids About Tragedies In The Media," offers some thoughts on coping with a steady stream of images that may be disturbing.

Find this at: <http://childdevelopmentinfo.com/parenting/talk-to-kids-media-violence.shtml>



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# Diversions . . .



Matt Damon and John Krasinski star in Director Gus Van Sant's great-looking film production of 'Promised Land,' now showing at east Valley theaters.

## 'Promised Land'

**'Fracking' premise digs deep into environmental controversy but film eventually runs out of gas**

By M.V. Moorhead

A small town in southwestern Pennsylvania is the setting of *Promised Land*. It's not exactly flowing with milk and honey—it's a broke, fading farm community. But it's sitting on oceans of natural gas, so two corporate agents, Steve (Matt Damon) and Sue (Frances MacDormand) descend on the all-too-eager locals, offering what seems like a fortune in return for drilling rights.

Said rights, in this case, mean hydraulic fracturing or "fracking," extremely deep drilling aided by the injection of chemically enriched water, in order to release gas from beneath otherwise impenetrable rock.

It's a highly controversial technique, on the one hand suspected of polluting water tables—sometimes resulting in flammable water!—killing crops and livestock, and other environmental blight, but prized on the other hand for its promise of increased freedom from foreign oil.

A local schoolteacher (Hal Holbrook) raises concerns at a town meeting, and Steve and Sue's deal—and Steve's big promotion—are endangered.

Their headache is increased by Dustin (John Krasinski), an engaging fellow who shows up in town with tales of fracking's horrors, to which the townies, much to Steve and Sue's fury, are clearly listening.

Scripted by Damon and Krasinski from a story by Dave Eggers, and directed by Gus Van Sant, *Promised Land* is a great-looking movie. Rather than focusing on the economic bleakness of the town, the cinematographer, Linus Sandgren, emphasizes the verdant beauty of the Pennsylvania countryside, suggesting what these people stand to lose in return for corporate chump change.

Van Sant's touch is low-key and, as always, tinged with good-natured comedy, as is the acting, especially in the familiar bickering affection between Steve and Sue.

There's also an agreeable love interest for Damon—and maybe Krasinski as well—in the form of Rosemarie DeWitt as an attractive elementary school teacher, smiling with amusement at what a sitting duck she is for these out-of-town boys.

Also built into the material is a plot twist, and while it's fairly cunning, I couldn't decide if it helped or hindered the movie.

Something weakens it, in any case: it's watchable and inoffensive, but somehow it doesn't deliver. While fracking is certainly made to seem reckless, the movie doesn't work up that much of a lather about it, and it makes the point that if it isn't natural gas, it's going to be oil or coal (the idea of decreased consumption is dismissed).

The real point, though, seems to be that the people who do this sort of unsavory work for energy (or tobacco, or pharmaceutical, or whatever) companies aren't moustache-twirling villains; they're likable folks trying to get ahead.

Anyone who found this surprising

would have to be naïve—and if they drive a gasoline-powered car or buy a fast-food hamburger, or for that matter type a movie review on a computer plugged into an electric socket, they'd have to be hypocritical, as well.

Still, there's a difference, even if it's only a slight difference, between using pernicious or questionable technology because it's most of what's viably available and actually participating in perpetuating that status quo.

Steve and Sue are pleasant, even endearing, but that doesn't mean they aren't doing what they're doing, and Damon, Krasinski and Van Sant can't seem to find a way to confront this dramatically without turning *Promised Land* sanctimonious.

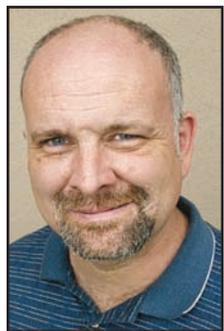
So they don't quite confront it. They just let the gas leak out of the movie, with a mild, unconvincing sigh.

## Kid flicks dominate our '10 Best' recommendations for 2012

*Editor's note: In the spirit of full disclosure, we'd like our readers to know that the opinions offered recently by our film editor may be influenced in part by the presence in his household—and at occasional screenings—of a newly adopted daughter, age 10, who we're sure provides a view that's somewhat less hirsute, shall we say, than that of her dad. No arguments, though, when a Disney film comes to town.*

By M.V. Moorhead

Along with the usual bushels of dreck, 2012 brought some really remarkable movies. Below, by tradition, are the 10 I found most rewarding.



Mark Moorhead

You may notice that a high number—almost half of them—are movies aimed at children; another one has a child as its heroine, and yet another is a love story between two preteens. This phenomenon is

due in large part, no doubt, to my availability for screenings often being dependent on my ability to take a ten-year-old along with me.

But even if I had been able to get to *Django Unchained* or *Zero Dark Thirty* or *The Silver Linings Playbook* in time to consider them for this list, I doubt that all of the kidflicks would have been muscled out. It was just an unusually strong year for the genre,

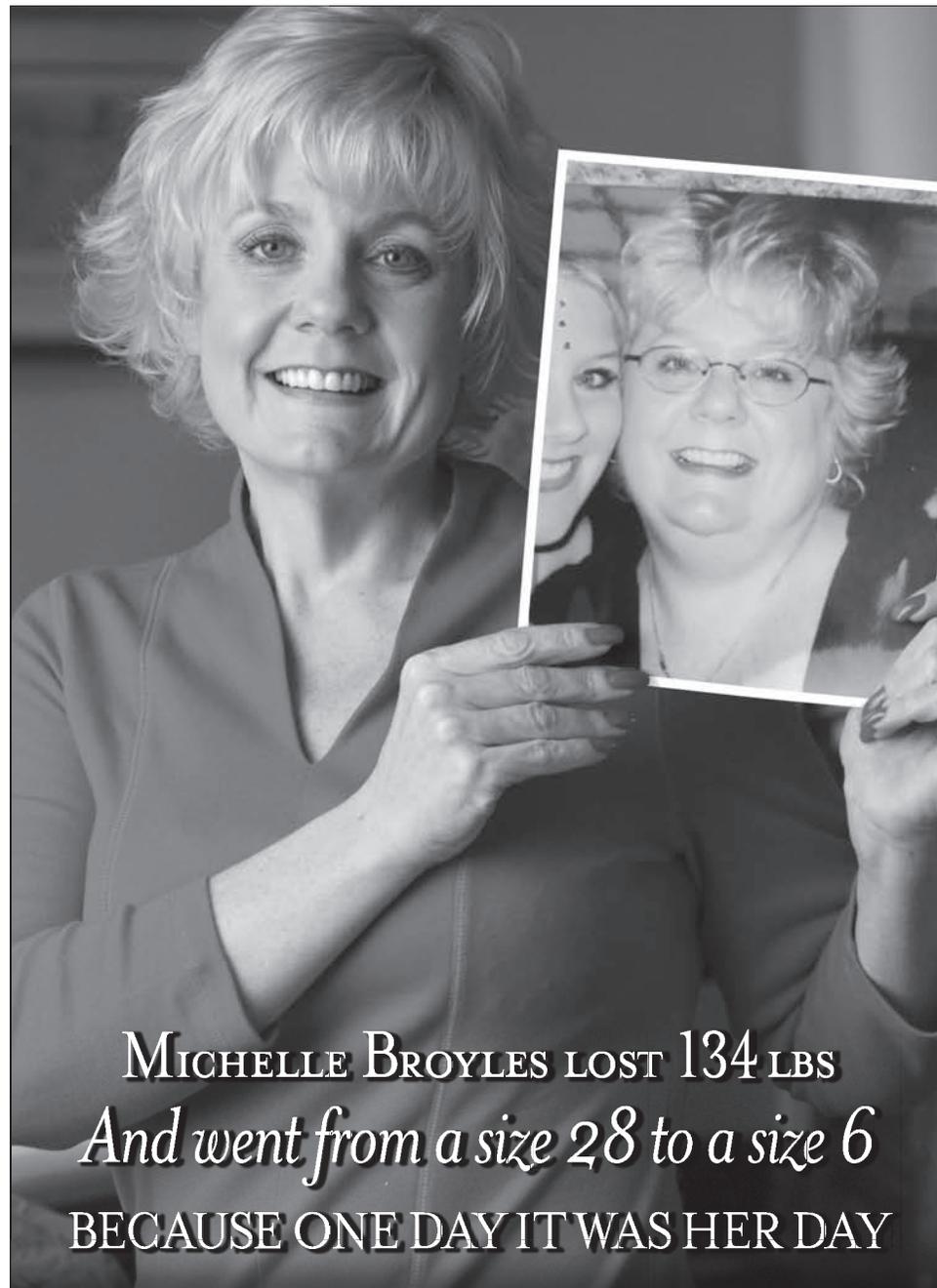
and the issues underlying many of them weren't just kid stuff.

*Lincoln*—Spielberg's direction has the iconic power of the great silents, Tony Kushner's dialogue is majestic, and so is the acting of Daniel Day-Lewis, among others. The movie is uneven in spots, but unforgettable.

*Beasts of the Southern Wild*—Set in a community outside the levee in Louisiana, Benh Zeitlin's debut feature is magical realism that feels like a documentary. Quvenzhané Wallis is electrifyingly good as Hushpuppy, the neglected little girl at the center of the story, as is Dwight Henry as her ill father. Also, the musical score was the year's most soul-stirring.

*The Sessions*—The story of the poet and essayist Mark O'Brien, who spent most of his life in an iron lung after childhood polio, and his decision to work with a sex surrogate, may sound like a depressing assignment. But Ben Lewin's movie is bright, warm and funny, and features knockout performances by John Hawkes as O'Brien, Helen Hunt as the surrogate, and William H. Macy as O'Brien's sympathetic priest, among others.

*Argo*—Ben Affleck directed and starred in this top-notch spy thriller, juiced-up from the true story of the rescue of six American embassy workers from Tehran in 1979. If Affleck wasn't the fashionable figure of ridicule that for some reason he is, then on the



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# Sports . . . with Alex Zener



Corona's undefeated wrestling team were champions of the Moon Valley Tournament held over the winter break. Team includes, from left, front: Coach Jim Martinez, Ryan Farina, Ethan Tursini, Kort Turner, Michael Clare, Coach Caliendo, Coach Turner; rear: Coach Richards, Alex Carrillo, Glenn Farina, Zach Walton, Ryan Spadafore, Bridger Barket, Matt Churchill, Marc Farina, Josh Caliendo, David Dinh, Brix Kronborg, Colton Winstead, Chris Moore, Johnny Waddell, Evan Solomon, Ian Caryl, Kyle Hausmann. — Photo courtesy Jim Martinez

## Aztec wrestlers pin their hopes on a state tourney victory in February

The Aztecs, expected to be one of the strongest teams in the state tournament in February, continued their dominance by winning the Moon Valley Invitational Dec. 22 and defeating their closest competitors, Camp Verde, by 53 points, Dobson by 111 points, Coconino by 125 points and Desert Vista by 129 points.

Corona, undefeated in Arizona meets, earned, as a team, 583 points despite not having entrants in the 182- and 286-pound weight classes. Altogether, the Aztecs placed 11 out of 12 wrestlers competing in the tournament.

Four wrestlers earned Moon Valley individual championships: **Glenn Farina** in the 138-pound weight class, **Zach Walton** (145 pounds), **Colton Winstead** (152 pounds) and **Ethan Tursini** (160 pounds).

“**Colton Winstead** has really come into his own this year, losing only one in-state match so far,” said coach **Jim Martinez**.

“Although his success is not a surprise, his recent victories should help motivate him to work harder in practice to get prepared mentally because he could be a serious threat in the 152-pound weight class at state.”

**Bridger Barker**, at 170 pounds, lost his only match so far this season in an overtime decision to take second place at Moon Valley.

“Freshman **Bridger Barker**, with his strength, precision and determination, is quickly becoming a serious contender for the state tournament,” said Martinez.

“Ethan Tursini, Bridger’s workout partner, has had a tremendously positive impact on his conditioning

and technique development. Bridger’s opponents soon realize he is not only strong but prepared to grind, mistake free, for six minutes to win his matches.”

Other Aztecs who placed at Moon Valley include **Matt Churchill** (120 pounds) who placed third; **Alex Carrillo** (106 pounds) sixth; **Brix Kronborg** (195 pounds) sixth; **Marc Farina** (126 pounds) seventh. **Kort Turner** (132 pounds) and **Josh Caliendo** (220 pounds) each placed eighth.

Some of the Aztecs also competed out of state at The Clash Dec. 28-31 in Rochester, Minn., where one wrestler was undefeated and two others did well.

“Junior **Ethan Tursini** went undefeated (6-0) at The Clash against some very good competition at 160 pounds,” said Martinez. “His record to date is 30-0, including solid wins at The Clash against top three

ranked wrestlers in their respective state rankings. Ethan is wrestling like a man on a mission to leave no doubt who is the best wrestler in his weight class.”

“**Zach Walton** was 5-1 at The Clash and is 25-2 so far this season,” said Martinez.

“After losing to Robbie Mathers in the 2012 State Championship, Zach has worked hard to gain some size, to go with his quickness and technique, in order to compete at 145 pounds.”

“**Glenn Farina**, who lost only two matches at The Clash, has posted a 24-4 record,” said Martinez.

“He lost to the defending Minnesota state champion in a last-second reversal, and then to a two-time state champion from South Dakota.”

The Aztecs continued their undefeated season by defeating Perry in a dual meet Jan. 5, 44-21.

Carrillo, Marc Farina and **Ryan Spadafore** (138 pounds) earned six points each toward the team score by pinning their opponents.

Other Corona wrestlers who won their matches included **Ryan Farina** (113 pounds) and **Michael Clare** (182 pounds).

“One of the nicest surprises this season is the success of junior **Michael Clare**,” said Martinez.

“He has a 17-4 record after his win against Jeff Arredondo of Perry whose only other losses were to Basha’s Trey Ronayne and Alex Bambic, the two-time defending state champion from Desert Vista.”

The Aztecs hoped to continue their undefeated winning streak at Mesa Jan. 9 before meeting Desert Vista at home Jan. 16.

They are then scheduled to compete in the highly competitive Flowing Wells Tournament Jan. 18-19. After that, the Aztecs have their last dual match at Hamilton on Jan. 24 before the Sectional Tournament Feb. 2

**Corona Boys Basketball** — Corona’s basketball team (11-2), currently ranked No. 1 by Maxpreps.com and No. 2, behind Mesa by the Republic, was tested at the Mesa Holiday Shootout playing against some highly competitive teams but emerged more confident in their ability to defend, play well together and compete against the best in-state teams the rest of the season.

The Aztecs defeated Canada’s Waterloo Collegiate Institute, Gilbert Christian, and Pinnacle, a team some consider to be a state-champion contender, to face off against the only other team with a 3-0 record, Pacific Hills from the Las Angeles area, in the finals.

“I thought we played very well throughout the tournament, only losing to Pacific Hills, an extremely

talented team out of California, 63-58,” said coach Sam Duane Jr.

“Pacific Hills really challenged us with their athleticism and perimeter play but I still think we played well against them the first half before some fatigue set in during the second half.”

“Pacific Hills should be as good a team as any in-state team we will face the rest of the year.”

Junior **Casey Benson** was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Mesa Holiday Shootout even though Corona lost to Pacific Hills.

“Casey just was Casey, hitting his shots when open, hitting the open man when he was not,” said Duane. “He played solid defense and took care of the ball, made great decisions all tournament long, and shot the ball extremely well.”

“My teammates really played a huge part in me receiving this recognition,” said Benson.

“I’m mostly happy we were able to improve our team chemistry and get better playing together as a unit

Sophomore **Cassius Peat** was named to the All-Tournament team as well.

“I think the key for Cassius’ success on the court is that he has gotten into basketball shape and adjusted more to the pace of the game after playing football during the fall,” said Duane. “He is much more active. When he is active offensively and on the boards, he can play at a high level.”

“Cassius really stepped up during the Mesa tournament giving us an inside presence,” said Corona guard **Bryan Siefker**. “It seemed as if whenever we needed an inside basket he delivered.”

Siefker, the team’s top defender, always finds a way to help his team on both the defensive and offensive end while **Braden Tennyson** made some big three’s for the team.

The team goal of winning throughout the rest of the regular season was still in tact Jan. 4 when they defeated Mountain Point at home 61-54. The Aztecs were scheduled to play at home against Desert Vista, always a highly competitive game both with the players and the fans, at home Jan. 8.

The Aztecs winning streak has a good chance of continuing since the only currently ranked Division I teams they are scheduled to play include No. 9 Dobson on Jan. 29 and No. 10 Marcos de Niza, Jan. 15 and Jan. 31, the rest of the regular season.

**Marcos de Niza Boys Basketball** — The Padres had a good holiday break as well, defeating Phoenix Horizon 81-53 in the

championship game to win the Horizon Holiday Hoops Invitational. Currently at 11-3, Marcos de Niza moved into the rankings at a No. 10 spot on the Republic’s rankings and No. 7 at Maxpreps.com.

Senior left-handed guard **Richaud Gittens** leads the Padres in several categories including points per game at 19 points.

Other players contributing significantly to the team’s success include seniors **Devin White**, **Stefan Tellis** and **Luke Lamb**, juniors **Dom Krane**, **Kelsey Trevino**, **Anthony Varela** and **Tyler Lazenby** and sophomore **Sean Wood**.

The Padres appear to have a relatively easy schedule until they square off against Corona on Jan. 15 at home.

They are then again scheduled Jan. 31, this time at Corona. Their final game should also be very competitive. They will play the currently No. 1 ranked team, Mesa High School, at Mesa, Feb. 2.

**Corona Girls Basketball** — The Lady Aztecs went 3-2 at the Prescott Invitational, defeating Copper Canyon 59-35, Paradise Valley 42-37 and Sabino 41-39.

“We were without three starters for this tournament but some other players embraced their new roles and stepped up including **Ali Becker** and **Brenna Bjodvedt**,” said coach **Andrew Strom**. “**Taylor Kalmer**, who averages close to 20 points a game, and **Vicky Sanford** also played very well.”

Upcoming games include a home game against Marcos de Niza on Jan. 15, away at Chandler Jan. 17 and at home against Mesquite Jan. 18.

**Corona Girls Soccer** — Corona’s girls soccer team made it all the way to the quarterfinals of the Arizona Showcase Soccer Tournament held over the winter break before losing to Desert Vista 2-0, “We played a number of tight games but found ways to win against a pair of tough teams,” said coach **Matt Smith**.

“We beat Sahuaro 2-1 when **Steph Petre** scored a game winner and then **Paige Monroe** kicked in the winning score to defeat Chaparral 1-0.”

“**Liz Cheney** and **Maddie Wolf** had exceptional tournaments on defense,”

Corona was scheduled to play Mesquite two times and O’Connor all at home before getting a chance for redemption against rival Desert Vista Jan. 10.

Next the Lady Aztecs will face off against Dobson at home Jan. 15, Mesquite again Jan. 17 at Mesquite and then Mountain Pointe at home Jan. 18.



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## Still time to share ideas online as city starts work on its 2013 budget

West Chandler residents have a few more days to complete an online survey that will help guide planning for the city's upcoming budget priorities.

The city's Budget Office is conducting an online survey of residents to help plan for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Results will be presented to the City Council for consideration as part of the budget development process.

Part of the process to date has involved a review by Chandler management of the programs and services the city provides to residents, businesses and organizations that serve the community.

City staff compiled a list of these services and categorized them into major areas that taxpayers may want their municipal government to provide.

- A Safe Community;
- A Healthy and Attractive; Community;
- A Community with Effective Transportation;
- A Community with Sustainable Economic Health; and

• A Community with Cultural, Parks and Recreation Opportunities. The online survey asks participants to score the relative importance of several programs within each of the categories.

Another section asks respondents to score several proposed Capital Improvement Projects in a range of "Very Important" to "Not Important."

For those without access to a computer, paper copies are available at the Chandler City Hall front desk; Chandler libraries, including the Sunset branch at Ray and Rural roads; downtown Community Center and Tumbleweed Recreation Center.

The public will have other opportunities in the coming months to share thoughts about the proposed budget prior to planned adoption of the budget in June.

Public meeting details are still being finalized and will be publicized at a later date.

For the latest updates, visit [www.chandleraz.gov/budget](http://www.chandleraz.gov/budget) or call the Budget Office at 480-782-2252.

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## Citizens Police Academy launches its latest 13-week class series on Feb. 6

Applications for the next Citizens Police Academy, which runs 13 weeks Feb. 6 through April 24, are now being accepted by Chandler PD.

Classes are held from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at the department's main station, 250 E. Chicago St. Applicants must be 18 years old and either work, live or attend school in the city of Chandler.

A basic background check is required.

The academy gives participants a look inside the day-to-day operations of the department, and describes the guidelines that determine how officers

function.

Academy participants will be introduced to topics on media and the law, firearms training, gang awareness, patrol functions, K-9 functions, criminal investigations, school violence, traffic law, and use of force. Instruction in police procedures and theory is combined with practical, hands-on scenarios from officers in their respective fields.

Applications are available online at [chandlerpd.com/community/citizens-academy](http://chandlerpd.com/community/citizens-academy).

Information: Crime Prevention Unit: 480-782-4521.



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## Expo a link to green-theme ideals

Tempe businesses and organizations are coming together to make the world a more beautiful and sustainable place beginning Friday, Jan. 18, with Green Revolution.

The event is part of a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian that will run at the Tempe Center for the Arts Gallery through May 25. It engages visitors by addressing critical environmental issues concerning the local community.

A one-day only Green Business Expo happens 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, to help people find products and services that can incorporate green ideals into their lives.

Details: [www.tempe.gov/tcagreen](http://www.tempe.gov/tcagreen)

The expo has similarity to Green Summit, a highly regarded, green-themed event organized in 2008 by then-ASU student Chris Samilla, who is now a marketing executive with a solar energy firm in San Francisco.

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## Diversions

From Page 7

basis of this film and *The Town* in 2010, he would already be acclaimed as the best director in this genre since at least Costa-Gavras, if not Hitchcock himself.

*The Secret World of Arietty*—Tiny people live in bourgeois comfort under the floorboards of a human house, appropriating tiny amounts of what they need from their unwitting hosts. This version of *The Borrowers*, imported by Disney from Japan's Studio Ghibli, is a work of delicate enchantment, alternating between quiet comedy and poignancy.

*Moonrise Kingdom*—Set in Rhode Island in the '60s, Wes Anderson's odd comedy is about a romance between two preteens and how it throws a coastal island community into a tizzy. There's a misstep here and there, but overall this is Anderson's best film since *Rushmore*.

*Jiro Dreams of Sushi*—This documentary about a master sushi chef in Tokyo would be just a rarefied and elegant specimen of food porn, if it weren't leavened with humor and fascinating psychology. There's even a bit of environmental consciousness to it.

*Frankenweenie*—Tim Burton's stop-motion feature remake of his own live-action short from the '80s was neglected by audiences partly because it was black-and-white. But it's a really delightful mixture of the '30s Frankenstein pictures with the Boy And His Dog theme. It's out this month on video; check it out.

*The Pirates! Band of Misfits*—Give me a break; I love the already-obsolete art of stop-motion animation, and the fact there were two stop-motion features this year does my heart good. This piece of Brit silliness from Aardman Studios gave me as many (intentional) laughs as anything I saw this year.

*Wreck-It Ralph*—Though it's another animated feature for kids,

this story of an arcade-game villain who goes AWOL in an attempt to become a good guy can take its place with the best movies about trying to find yourself. John C. Reilly and Sarah Silverman give wonderful voice to the leads.

A few runners-up and slightly underrated near-misses:

*Killer Joe*, *Brave*, *Safety Not Guaranteed*, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, *Beauty is Embarrassing*, *ParaNorman*, *Rise of the Guardians*, *Big Miracle*, *Hotel Transylvania*, *Marley*, *Dark Shadows*, *Trouble With the Curve*, *Chimpanzee*, *Mirror Mirror*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (and its excellent accompanying Simpsons short *The Longest Daycare*), *Skyfall*, *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*, and an honorable mention for the splendid documentary *Paul Williams: Still Alive*, which might have cracked the Top Ten if it wasn't a 2011 release, but which played Tempe's Valley Art in July.



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### Tempe Little League Fever ... Catch IT!!!

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[www.tempesouth.com](http://www.tempesouth.com)

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## Tempe mayor, council to host Jan. 25 legislative visit

Tempe residents have been invited to join Mayor Mark Mitchell and the Tempe City Council on Wednesday, Jan. 25, to meet local-area legislators, learn about the city's legislative program and tour the Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate.

The event will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in offices of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, 1820 W. Washington St., Phoenix.

Participants will be invited to share stories of their neighborhoods and find out how the legislative agenda may impact the local community.

Public transportation is available via bus or light rail.

Those planning to attend should contact the Neighborhood Services Division by Jan. 20 at 480-350-8234 or email: [neighborhoods@tempe.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@tempe.gov).

## Help from city coordinator for new business ventures

Entrepreneurs hoping to launch small- and medium-sized businesses in Tempe now have an advocate to help them wend their way through the processes that sometimes can seem murky or forbidding.

Tempe has hired Dee Dee Kimbrell in the newly established position of business project coordinator. She will serve as the point person from the time a business enters the city's development process, working with economic

development, planning/signs and building safety to help ensure a seamless transition through city processes. The position will monitor the process and work with the business or property owner to establish a timeline to meet their needs.

Businesses and property owners who are planning on purchasing or improving an existing building should contact Kimbrell at 480-350-8081 or [deedee\\_kimbrell@tempe.gov](mailto:deedee_kimbrell@tempe.gov).

## Free workshops focus on private-school tax credit benefits

Bethany Christian School will host no-cost tuition tax-credit workshops for parents and guardians of children kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested in learning how they can receive scholarships to help pay for

private school tuition.

Programs are Jan. 16, 24 and 31; Feb. 12, 15, 21 and 26.

The school is at 6304 S. Price Road, Tempe.

Information: 480-752-8993.

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# Retracing history

Teen and adult volunteers got a first-hand look at the arduous journey endured by their Mormon forebears.

Story by  
Lynn Johnson

Photos by  
Todd Smith

Stuart Olmstead, of Chandler, enjoys solo time under a juniper tree. The youth were encouraged to spend quiet time recording in their trek journals.



*Editor's note: A group of Mormon teens and adults from Tempe and Chandler spent three days last fall reliving some of the rigors and joys experienced in the mid-1800s by the hardy souls who braved the unknown to make new lives for their families out West. The new adventure—and what the volunteers learned from it—are recounted in a two-part series, starting in this issue.*

**T**oday's typical teen may not think that giving up electronics, sleeping on hard ground and experiencing extreme weather is the ideal way to spend fall break.

But more than 80 young volunteers and 60 like-minded adults from Tempe South Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints decided to step back in time to experience travel by handcart, at the same time learning more about their pioneer ancestors who helped settle the West.

The modern-day reenactment of the grueling Mormon trek took place near the Mogollon Rim during October when many of the students were on a brief respite from classes.

"We wanted them to remember those who made so many sacrifices in order for this generation to have the freedoms and opportunities that they do," said Paul Thomas, stake president and ecclesiastical leader of all who participated.

"And I think we accomplished that goal."

Over a year in the planning, the three-day adventure focused on giving teenagers a "pioneer experience" in a compressed amount of time. The site was a Forest Service road off Arizona Highway 260, near the community of Forest Lakes.

Teams of adult volunteers were organized to obtain handcarts, prepare meals, handle medical emergencies and maintain ham radio communication.

Photographers and videographers documented each activity. A special group of men worked behind the scenes as "wranglers," also functioning as actors (dressing as Native Americans, mountain men or bandits) to enhance the experience. They had warm fires waiting for the tired pioneers each night they rolled into camp, and helped set up tarps as shelters.

To prepare for their trek experience, the participants were encouraged to learn about the 10 Mormon handcart companies that crossed the plains to Salt Lake City between 1856 and 1860. Each of these companies faced hardship and a few deaths. The exceptions were the Willie and Martin

companies, which were composed of British and Scandinavian emigrants. They traveled by ship from Liverpool to Boston in May 1856, then by rail to Iowa City, the most western train depot.

Outfitted with handcarts, they finally began their exodus to Utah in late July. Leaving near the end of summer would prove deadly as they became trapped in the Rockies by early October snowstorms. More than 200 men, women and children from those two handcart companies are buried in shallow graves along the trail, mostly in what is now Wyoming.



Handcarts were popular with European immigrants who could not afford the more expensive covered wagons and oxen teams. But handcarts meant limited cargo space and weight. Each pioneer could bring personal possessions weighing no more than 17 pounds. They could not even haul sufficient food for the journey, and so every handcart company experienced hunger and severe rationing.

When the Martin handcart company ran desperately low on supplies, four ounces of flour was the daily ration of food for one adult. It would be mixed with a little water and eaten as paste. Almost 150 years later, the modern trek participants carried with them a reminder of those early emigrants—a small bag with four ounces of flour that was kept in their possession at all times.

**Day 1** — On the first day of the re-enactment, teens and adults met early at the Tempe stake center wearing pioneer clothing. This included hats and vests or

suspenders for the men and long dresses and bonnets for the women. No electronics were allowed and personal belongings had to be kept to a minimum.

Each youth was assigned to a family that included a "ma and pa" married couple. Efforts were made to mix the teens into various groups so they could make new friends. Each group (or family) then traveled two hours to the trek site, where they would assemble their handcarts, load them, eat lunch and begin their 21-mile journey. Eleven handcarts and eleven "families" were now far removed from civilization.

Fourteen-year-old Sydney Gregson of Chandler was nervous, not knowing what to expect.

"I thought about it and decided that I needed to do this, and I came to the conclusion that I'm going to do it good."

The company covered 13 miles the first day.

Anjanette Ludwig, a Tempe mother of four young children, volunteered to be a "big sister" for one of the handcart families. Anjanette's great-great-grandmother, Sarah Hunter Woodruff, was a real-life handcart pioneer. "As we began our journey, I walked for her," said Anjanette, "and it changed me."

Chris Erskine, a dentist and father of four, had a similar experience. "I had ancestors that were part of those Mormon pioneers who were driven out of Illinois and Missouri. My thoughts were of them as we pushed our cart. I am so grateful for my pioneer heritage."

Along the way, the trekkers encountered "Indians" who gave the hungry families beef jerky in exchange for trinkets that the youths had earned prior to the trek. Historically, say Mormon record keepers, the Native American tribes were friendly to the pioneers and often provided them with much-needed food.

Later in the first day, when the group thought they had found a good place to camp, an angry mob (a.k.a. the wranglers) forced them to leave their land and move on. The gunfire of course used blanks, but the sore muscles were real.

The group would have to travel another two miles before they found a suitable campsite.

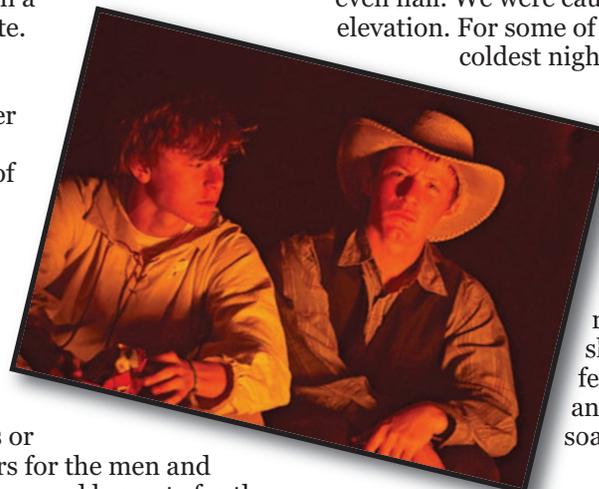
Trek organizers Dale and Shelly Heward knew in advance that they might face bad weather.

"But we thought this might add to the authenticity of the experience," said Dale.

"Little did we know we would give these Valley kids an experience that included thunder, lightning, rain—even hail. We were caught in a storm at 7,000 feet elevation. For some of these kids, it was probably the coldest night they had ever experienced."

"It rained all night the first night," added Rob Haws, of Chandler, who with his wife volunteered to be "ma and pa" for one of the handcart families.

"I very much undervalued plastic. We endured intense rain beating against our shelters. Most stayed dry, but a few awoke to find themselves and everything they owned soaking wet."



*Next issue: Kyle Lott, 15, a sophomore at Corona del Sol High School, woke up cold on Day 2 of the trek, only to fall into a mud puddle while pulling a handcart up a steep incline. But the enthusiasm and high spirits of his fellow team members convinced him it wasn't as bad as he'd thought. "After all," he said, "I couldn't let the girls outdo me."*

Clockwise from upper left:

Tempe and Chandler youth struggle to get up "Rocky Ridge," re-enacting an actual hill that handcart pioneers struggled with over 150 years ago.

Tyler Charters and Price Barrett, of Chandler, chat around a campfire at the end of a hard day.

Hailey Myers wears a bonnet and pioneer dress. Many of the female trekkers had greater appreciation for pioneer women who walked over 1,000 miles in long dresses and petticoats.





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## U.S. citizenship reinforces long-held hopes for parents, as well

For Judy Salinas, Friday, Jan. 11, was special not only because it represented a long-sought milestone for her but the prospect of a new life for her parents.

Salinas, 29, was among the several hundred applicants granted U.S. citizenship at ceremonies in the federal courthouse in Phoenix, the first such swearing-in event of its kind for the new year.

Having lived in the Valley from the time she was four, Salinas has been striving for citizenship for the last seven years, all the while focusing on what it would mean not just for her but for her parents.

"Over those years, my dad would work anywhere he could to provide for our family," said Salinas, who is married to an enrollment manager at Grand Canyon University.

He was born in the U.S. and the couple have two children.

Salinas said her brother, a criminal justice major and a corrections officer, plans to be next to gain citizenship.

While the move represents a major turn in the two siblings' lives, Salinas says it's even more significant for her mother and father.

"My grandfather is a legal resident but because the law is complicated, he

couldn't petition for my dad—his son—because my dad is married, of course," said Salinas.

Her new status as a U.S. citizen will help overcome that barrier, Salinas said.

Now on the staff of the Contreras State Farm Agency in south Tempe, Salinas coordinates relationships with the agency's large Spanish-speaking clientele and handles a range of other client duties.

She attended Glendale High School and Grand Canyon University, where she was a psychology major. Previous jobs included a stint as a teacher's assistant.

Once her citizenship is official, Salinas says the next step is the one she's been waiting for:

"The day after I get sworn in we can petition for my parents' legal status," she said.

As to her feelings about this important day and how it impacts the lives of her entire family, Salinas says she can hardly believe how far the journey has taken all those involved.

"I'm just amazed at what we have come through as a family. Now, to be able to accomplish this and be able to help them, it's a real honor."

— Don Kirkland

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# Ms. Senior AZ credits 'sense of humor' with ability to stay young

By Sally Mesarosh

She's smart, she's funny and she represented Arizona last year in the National Ms. Senior America Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J.

Pat Thielen-Warren, crowned Ms. Senior Arizona last March, didn't bring home the national title, but she reports she had a terrific time meeting the 50 other contestants who are 60 years of age and older.

"It was a good experience, Thielen-Warren said.

"I was completely flabbergasted to even win the state pageant. But to know that I was representing the Arizona senior community at a national pageant, I was so puffed up with pride, you wouldn't believe it. That was good enough for me."

Thielen-Warren works as general manager of the Twin Palms Hotel in Tempe. It's a job she's loved for the past 16 years.

At the time of this interview she was preparing to welcome the Broadway cast of *The Adams Family* to Twin Palms. The hotel sits across from Grady

Gammage Auditorium on Apache Boulevard and draws cast members from many of the shows.

"It's such fun," Thielen-Warren said. "The show people stay here and I think that's what keeps me young, being around all these young people. I also have a lot of students from ASU who work for me and we have some fun."

A few of Thielen-Warren's favorite guests include Jo Anne Worley from the '60s show *Laugh-In* and Larry Gatlin of the Gatlin Brothers singing group.

In addition to her job, Thielen-Warren is well known in Tempe for her tireless volunteer work.

She is on the Tempe Tourism board of directors, Tempe Leadership board and the Fiesta Bowl Committee. She is also a retired Chamber of Commerce board member.

Thielen-Warren said she approaches all these activities with what she considers her God-given talent: a sense of humor.

"You can do a good job and be professional and still enjoy your work,"

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Pat Theilen-Warren: Then ...



... and now

"I said, that walk cost my daddy \$20,000. Everyone didn't have the opportunity I had to go to finishing school and learn social graces."

Theilen-Warren said she has no plans to slow down or retire.

"I don't know what I would do with myself," she said. "I'm one of those terrible Type A personalities. I will continue to volunteer and be part of the community."

Theilen-Warren notes that she's seen many changes in Tempe over the past 20 years.

"The thing that has changed Tempe the most is Tempe Town Lake," Theilen-Warren said.

"Being on the Tempe Tourism Board, tourism is close to my heart. Tempe needs a convention center. As big as we are now, as much as we've grown, we have so many national events now that come to Tempe—we could get more of them if we had a place to house them."

She said that with as much as Tempe has grown, it still has that small-town community feel.

"Everybody knows everybody and everybody pitches in," said Theilen-Warren, who can be seen driving her 1920s Mercedes roadster in city parades.

"So many people volunteer, it's just amazing. People who live here really care about the city and they do everything they can to make sure it stays a rich, vibrant city."

*The organization that sponsors the Ms. Senior Arizona Pageant is the Cameo Club. Members do volunteer work for various local charities. To obtain tickets to the Cameo Ball on Jan. 26, call 602-788-9556. For more information on Theilen-Warren's Finishing School for over-60s, email Pat at pattheilen@hotmail.com.*

Theilen-Warren said.

"My father was a barber. I don't know if he was a very good barber, but he stayed busy all the time because he told jokes the whole time he was cutting hair.

"His philosophy of life was, 'Always look for humor in every situation. There's no situation that can't be fixed with a good attitude and a really big hammer.'"

Theilen-Warren grew up in the South and was sent to finishing school in Memphis. She worked as a model in the '60s, appearing in hair-styling ads for Vidal Sassoon and others. She gained much experience with make-up, modeling, manners and public speaking, which she says helped her in the Ms. Senior Arizona Pageant.

She said she'd like to find a way to pass on her knowledge, so she's starting a finishing school for seniors who are interested in entering the pageant.

"Someone told me, I love the way you walk," Theilen-Warren said.



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# Parenting-after-divorce issues studied in ASU research project

*Editor's note: An article by contributor Chase Kamp in the Dec. 1-14 issue of Wrangler News explored the tragedy of abusive behavior through the eyes of a mother whose daughter was slain by a boyfriend in 2008. This piece, by Sarah Auffret, delves into ASU's research focused on another issue of vital concern to parents and their children.*

By Sarah Auffret

Arizona State University researchers have developed a parenting-after-divorce program that has been found to substantially reduce behavior problems, mental health disorders and substance abuse among children whose parents have divorced.

They are now offering the program free to divorced or separated parents.

The program is available in several counties in Arizona, with 147 parents in Maricopa and Pima counties already participating.

ASU hopes to have about 1,000 parents participate over the next two years.

Over a million children experience the divorce of their parents each year, said Irwin Sandler and Sharlene Wolchik, psychology professors who are co-directors of this research at ASU's Arizona Prevention Research Center.

While most children adapt well following divorce, they are at increased risk for a range of problems including mental health problems, substance abuse and poor school achievement.

Working since 1992, the two developed the New Beginnings Program, a parenting-after-divorce skill building program teaching positive parenting skills that can help parents build strong families following divorce.

They found that divorcing parents who take the program have children who experience fewer serious behavior and emotional problems, higher grades, higher self-esteem, less drug and alcohol use and less early sexual activity.

Their research showed that the improvements in children's behavior were due to the parenting skills taught in the program.

Parents who participated in the program were more warm and affectionate and used more effective discipline. They also reported feeling less depressed.

In follow-up interviews, parents and children were still experiencing major benefits from taking part in the relatively short program, six and 15 years later.

"It shows that the quality of parenting can be taught in relatively brief skill-focused programs," said Sandler.

"Parenting is a teachable skill which can make a substantial difference in the lives of children, and the changes can last and even grow over time.

"During a divorce parents are often very stressed and preoccupied, making it more difficult to parent well. In the program they learn effective listening, positive discipline methods and the importance of spending fun time with family and focused time with each child. It leads to more positive interactions and an increased sense of security for the child.

"We hope parents will think about how they can help their children adjust following a divorce, and call us to learn

whether they are eligible for the program."

The program is part of an evaluation funded by the National Institutes of Health and is presented in collaboration with family courts and social service agencies. The program is free of charge, in return for parents participating in an evaluation of the program.

Parents must agree to be randomly assigned to sessions lasting either two weeks or 10 weeks. Both versions of the program cover the same topics, but the longer version provides more opportunities to practice the skills presented in the program. Separate groups are offered for mothers and fathers.

Parents also must agree to participate in three telephone interviews as part of the evaluation.

To be eligible, parents must be divorced or separated from a spouse or domestic partner during the past two years, have children between the ages of 3 and 18, have a minimal level of regular contact with the children and not be remarried.

Parents who are interested in participating can call toll-free 855-531-0851 or visit <http://nbpdivorce.org>.

*Sarah Auffret is a media relations specialist at Arizona State University*

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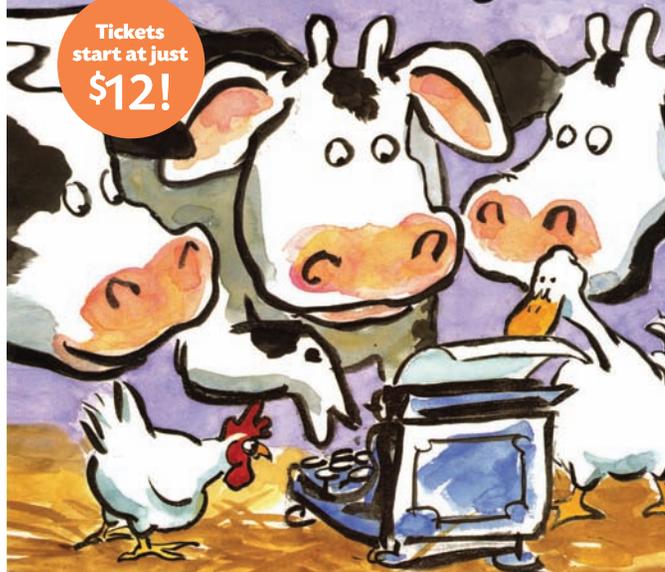
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## Ask the Doctor Baby bump ahead? Some insight for Expecting Mothers

Pregnancy for families  
expanding in 2013

**O**n the eve of January as the clock strikes midnight, kisses are exchanged, resolutions are made and new beginnings are imminent.

For some, new beginnings in 2013 may also include a new family addition.

According to Stephen Frausto, M.D., FACOG, an obstetrician and gynecologist on the medical staff at Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, New Year's moms have additional reasons to be comforted by the chapters ahead as he answers questions for moms-to-be in 2013.

"We've made huge medical advances, and expecting moms, parents and families have a vast amount of recourses at their disposal."

### What's your number one tip for the nine-month journey? — Hydration.

Aim for two liters of liquids, preferably water, per day.

Avoid soft drinks, since they work like diuretics, stealing more water from the body than they provide.

You can also make your own refreshing drink by adding a few lemon and cucumber slices to a pitcher of cool water.

By keeping your body constantly hydrated, you'll help to avoid the discomfort of pregnancy-related swelling.

**They say pregnancy is like eating for two. How can moms monitor their eating habits?** — The trick is to calorie count the right

way. Just because you're eating for two doesn't mean it's wise to overindulge. Additional caloric intake begins at around 300 calories within the first trimester, 350 in the second, and 500 as you get closer to your due date.

If carrying twins or other multiples caloric needs will be higher so always follow the advice of your medical provider. Another thing to keep in mind is that your baby's developing immune system is also much more sensitive than that of an adult.

When possible, eat organic and locally grown foods. Remember that a banana is better than a banana split and fresh green beans are better than frozen beans.

**Is morning sickness inevitable?** — Morning sickness can start as early as six weeks into pregnancy and usually dissipates by week 12. Anything from certain

scents to foods can trigger nausea.

Try eating and drinking foods with ginger – gingerbread, gingersnaps or hot water or tea infused with a thin slice of ginger. And remember when you never wanted to take naps when you were younger?

Take that rain-check now.

Lower blood pressure, lower blood sugar and increased blood volume may have you wanting to shut your eyes at any moment. Try to get at least eight hours of sleep each night and you'll wake to a world of difference. If your nausea is severe, ask your doctor about prescription medication that may be able to help you.

**What additional challenges do moms face living in the Arizona heat and how can they be avoided?** — Depending upon when your nine months mark



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700 W. Rio Salado Parkway ~ 480-350-5681 ~ [www.tempe.gov/TCAEvents](http://www.tempe.gov/TCAEvents) ~ Tickets: 480-350-2822 ~ [tca.ticketforce.com](http://tca.ticketforce.com)

## Exhibition celebrates GREEN, sparks citywide REVOLUTION

Tempe is one of the lucky few to play host to **GREEN REVOLUTION**, an eco-friendly, green-themed exhibition that engages visitors by addressing critical environmental issues concerning the local community. Admission is free.

Events kick off with a free Gallery Opening from 7-9 p.m. on Jan. 18 at the Gallery at TCA. The exhibition continues through May 25. Individuals are invited to attend the Green Business Expo from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Jan. 19 and Family Art Workshops from Noon-2 p.m. on Feb. 16, March 9, April 20 and May 25. All events are free.

Additional events are scheduled at Tempe History Museum, Tempe Public Library, ASU Art Museum and more. For a schedule, visit [www.tempe.gov/TCA Green](http://www.tempe.gov/TCA Green).

This version of **GREEN REVOLUTION** is based on an exhibition originally created by the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry and its Black Creativity Council and is made available by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.



### Showing at TCA

- Jan. 12 – Desert Dance Theatre: *The Gathering*
- Jan. 18 – Class Clowns Comedy
- Jan. 19 – Lakeshore Jazz Series: The New West Guitar Trio
- Jan. 19 – Perfectly Imperfect Dance Company: *Found*
- Jan. 20-March 3 – Childsplay: *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*
- Jan. 22 – Performance with a View: ASU Jazz Combos
- Jan. 22 – A conversation with ASU President Michael Crow
- Jan. 25-26 – CONDER/dance: Breaking Ground 2013: Contemporary Dance and Film Festival
- Jan. 27 – Carnival Brazil: Miss Gay Arizona USofA
- Feb. 1, 15 & 22 – Tempe Comedy Concert Series
- Feb. 2 – International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella West Quarterfinal
- Feb. 8 – The Hits @TCA: The Piano Man - The music of Billy Joel & Elton John
- Feb. 8 – Bully Mammoth sketch comedy
- Feb. 9 – Lakeshore Jazz Series: Eddie Daniels & Roger Kellaway
- Feb. 9 – Sherri Shepherd Comedy Show
- Feb. 10 – Sonoran Chamber Music Series: Ridge Trio



New West Guitar Trio



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Schedule is subject to change ~ updates: [www.tempe.gov/TCAEvents](http://www.tempe.gov/TCAEvents)

the calendar, odds are that many will endure pregnancy during the summer months. And as if baby bearing wasn't enough, living in Arizona brings its own set of challenges but I suggest staying indoors as much as possible. Swimming can also keep you cool, take pressure off of your overworked joints and provide a good source of exercise during your pregnancy.

Remember to protect your skin too. Chloasma, also known as "pregnancy mask", is a tan or dark skin discoloration common in pregnancy, which usually appears on the upper cheek, nose, lips, upper lip and/or forehead, and is caused by hormonal changes and sun exposure.

Always wear sunscreen and invest in a wide-brimmed sun hat.

*Stephen Frausto, M.D., is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist on the medical staff at Tempe St. Luke's Hospital.*

*This information is provided by Tempe St. Luke's as general information only and is not intended to replace the advice of a physician.*



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## Wrangler NEWS

Published since 1991 by Newslink LLC  
Don Kirkland, President

**Publisher/General Manager:** Carmel Bonitatibus  
**Contributing Writers:** Alex Zener, Diana Whittle, Sally Mesarosh, M.V. Moorhead, Alison Stanton

**Advertising Consultants:** Patrick Bonitatibus, Brandy Williams

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Wrangler News is printed on partially recycled newsprint with ink made from 98% soy content

Printed by The Arizona Daily Star. For print quotes contact Chuck Morales, production manager, at 520-573-4463 or John Lundgren, print operations manager, at 520-573-4469.

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