For family of athletes, brotherly vision became a reality

Even as No. 2 in the hierarchy of sons, Ryan Flood, left, became a star among a family of aspiring athletes, edging out his brother Nathan in the competition for soccer stardom.

By Kody Acevedo

Nathan Flood can still remember the moment he realized his little brother was a better soccer player than he was.

Nathan was a junior in high school, playing in a California tournament for his club soccer team, when an unusual moment happened.

The soccer scouts, who were originally there to watch Nathan and his teammates, became distracted. There was something more interesting, more appealing to their eyes than the players on the field.

It was Ryan—Nathan’s youngest brother, who had barely started middle school around that time.

“Ryan came out on the field at half time, and I’d say about 50 percent of the scouts that were out there came over and asked our coach about him instead of us,” Nathan said.

“It was that moment that Nathan, now 24, knew his little brother Ryan, now 18, would far surpass his level of soccer skills.

“It kind of just solidified all the feelings I had about him as a soccer player. I always knew he was way better.”

Ryan didn’t do anything special that day. He just kicked the ball around and took a couple of shots at the goal. But everyone, including Nathan and the scouts, saw something special that day.

Nathan has moved on from his soccer days, but Ryan is a senior at Corona del Sol High School and is still turning heads when he steps out on the field.

The 6-foot-2, 165-pound Aztec has helped lead Corona to the number-one spot in the Arizona Conference 6A hierarchy.

Suicide prevention advocate driven by family legacy: Paving the way to a more hopeful future

Story and photo by Joyce Coronel

For Kariana Blanchard, the early childhood coordinator at Tempe’s Arizona Community Church, the topic of suicide is deeply personal. She grew up hearing that her grandmother’s sister and mother’s stepbrother both took their own lives.

“That was all that was ever said—that they committed suicide,” Blanchard said. “And I...

— Continues in this issue’s FAITH section, Pg. 14

GROWING, Page 8

25-plus years, and we're growing again . . .

Many of our longtime readers — including those who still call us The Warner Wrangler — recall the days of our modest launch in 1990, when friends and family helped deliver those first editions to a few hundred driveways bordering Warner Road in Tempe.

As the years went by, we expanded both north and south, adding new Tempe and West Chandler neighborhoods and delivering to a readership that had grown to what we calculated was in the range of 45,000, where it has remained ever since.

In the 27 years since our birth as an entirely neighborhood-focused newspaper, other publications have come along, most presuming to cover Tempe and environs in their entirety.

Those, however, turned out to be short-lived endeavors that apparently didn’t reach profitability in the prescribed time frame, and so the notion of one publication being “Tempe’s (or West Chandler’s) only newspaper” never really caught hold. (Apologies, of course, to the Tempe Daily News, which for many years actually was “Tempe’s only...

— GROWING, Page 8

Kariana Blanchard is helping parents and students understand suicide and how to prevent it.
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Education news

How effects of Prop. 206 will be felt by area schools

Commentary by Diana Whittle

For minimum wage employees, the recent passage of Prop. 206 represents an increase from $8.05 to $10 an hour, hopefully to put more jingle in workers’ pockets.

But to employers, particularly those on a tight budget like small business owners and school districts, the pay raise means a deep and unexpected hit to their operating expenses. In the worst case scenario, some employers may resort to layoffs or reducing employees’ hours.

The Kyrene School District employs a large and diverse workforce of more than 2,000, so they felt the need to form an internal committee to consider options for equitable compensation—particularly among part-time employees, who received the extra pay hike, and other full-time people whose salary stayed the same, according to a presentation to the Governing Board given by district officials Dr. Mark Knight and Jeremy Calles. “It’s called salary compression because the bottom of the salary range was eliminated,” explained Calles, chief financial officer for the district.

“Most of the minimum wage jobs were students or other minors with limited work experience. Now due to Prop 206 the youth can earn the same pay as some adults with more experience.”

A few examples of job classifications that could be impacted are mail couriers, custodians and field maintenance workers. Calles explained that contracts to supply goods and services to the district also are likely to cost more due to the rise in wages.

“In the case of our food service vendor, their labor costs may increase 10 percent or more due to higher wages, and that cost will be passed along to their customers.”

Another facet to the new law is the requirement for employers to provide paid sick leave, even to part-time or temporary employees. So, to be in compliance with Prop. 206, even substitute teachers will benefit by earning one hour of leave for every 30 hours worked.

Calles mentioned that a possible
— Continued on facing page
solution would be to use a third-party employer, similar to an employment agency, to hire substitutes and other temporary employees.

Most voters who supported Prop. 206 could not anticipate the negative side effects this initiative would cause.

Initially, the pleas for a living wage made by retail-store and fast-food workers sounded reasonable—that is until you look at the total costs including the sick time, which could be called the unintended consequence.

Yet, unlike bills proposed and passed at the state legislature, there was no independent review, hearings or public comment process of the initiative language to inform voters of these inevitable problems.

Now, even if voters wanted these issues fixed, Prop. 206 can’t be modified because Arizona initiatives are bound by the strictest voter protection law in the country. Once a measure is passed at the ballot, it can’t be changed unless it is sent back to the voters, and that can’t happen for two years.

So as Calles heads into budget season, he has another line item to add—higher wages that increase each January by 50 cents an hour until 2020. After that date, the rate of pay will be determined annually by the Consumer Price Index.

It’s something of a bitter pill for school district officials who have weathered tough fiscal times and balanced the budget—only to face the increased labor costs of Prop. 206.

New governing board members list priorities for their terms

The Kyrene School District greeted the New Year with a new line-up on its Governing Board.

Two new members, Michael Myrick and Michelle Fahy—both elected in November—were officially sworn into their four-year roles as board members, while newly re-elected member John King was tapped to be the board’s president and current member Kristin Middleton was chosen to serve as vice-president.

The five members of the district’s Governing Board play a critical role in forming and approving policies, which guide the operation of the district. It’s important to note that Governing Board members are publicly elected, similar to city council members, but serve the community as volunteers without compensation.

Each member of the Governing Board is elected to serve a four-year term. Every two years, either two or three positions are filled during the November general election. Board candidates must reside within the district boundaries for one year prior to being elected to office. Arizona law does not limit the number of terms a member may serve on a school board.

Board member Michael Myrick was joined for the brief swearing-in ceremony by his wife and three children, all of whom attend Kyrene schools—his oldest is a son in seventh grade at Pueblo Middle School; another son is in fifth grade; and a daughter in second grade, both at Mariposa. Myrick was raised in the East Valley and graduated from Corona del Sol High School.

He has a strong record of community service in Tempe and says he believes, as a parent with school-age children, he can bring a unique insight to his governing board service.

“I have fresh ideas and I particularly understand the challenges administered in Special Ed Services because I have had personal experience and understand areas where Kyrene can improve,” said Myrick.

“All parents have a choice where to send their students for their education and my family chooses Kyrene. I want all families to seek Kyrene as the best option for their child’s education.”

The second newly elected board member, Michelle Fahy, has one daughter who went to Kyrene schools from kindergarten through eighth grade. She is now a junior at Corona del Sol. Fahy is certified as a special education teacher and a reading specialist. “I am an experienced educator who understands our district, our community, our children, and their needs,” said Fahy. “I will work hard for every student, parent, teacher and resident.”

She is employed by Tempe Union High Schools as the Instructional Technology Coordinator, which allows her to encourage and create continuity for students between learning in the Kyrene district and then in high school.

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She also has served the community as a volunteer in several roles in the Kyrene district. “I am passionate about continuing Kyrene’s strong reputation of quality schools,” said Fahy.

“Quality schools bring businesses and jobs, which will strengthen our community for our children and the future.”
Vinny Mirizio, director of business development for Companion Hospice, didn’t always work with families facing the death of a loved one. A successful businessman, he retired at 40 only to be called on to become the executive director of the Tempe YMCA, now known simply as the Tempe Y.

“I thought that would be my last job,” Mirizio said. It wasn’t to be. After the Y, there was a stint with a local hospital before a hospice company out of Oklahoma hired him. From there, he jumped to Companion Hospice, an Orange County-based company that serves 3,800 patients.

“It’s a family-owned company,” Mirizio said. “Our philosophy is treat every patient as if they are your family. That’s how we work and it’s gone very well.”

And just like family, no one is turned away. If a prospective patient doesn’t have money and doesn’t qualify for Medicare—hospice is a covered Medicare benefit—Companion will still treat them.

“If you do not have Medicare, we take you non-funded, and that cost can be anywhere from as low as $400 to as high as $45,000.”

At press time, Companion had 11 non-funded patients being cared for.

“…”Veny Mirizio, director of business development for Companion Hospice, and Cassie Stalberger, R.N., share a moment of concern for one of the organization’s clients.

**Onetime YMCA chief switches from kids to adults on the way to life's final transition**

Story and photo by Joyce Coronel

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“We had a woman who had never seen her grandchildren. We bought airline tickets for them to fly in and say goodbye,” Mirizio said. “We had a woman when we first opened who was on her way here from Russia. She had a stroke on the plane.”

Without Medicare and without funds, Companion was there as she breathed her last. Not many hospice companies are willing to do the same. “And that’s not right because everyone deserves dignity when they die,” Mirizio added.
He knows all too well how hard it can be for a family to come to terms with the demise of a loved one. In a matter of three months, he lost his father, his mother and his father-in-law.

“It was kind of tough,” he said of the experience. After all his success in the business world and the numerous boards he’s sat on through the years, the Tempe Diablo said it is his work with hospice patients and families that has been most meaningful.

“You’re dealing with people at the most critical point in their life, whether it’s the daughter dealing with her parents dying or the wife dealing with a husband dying,” Mirizio said.

“Relationships have to be built quickly.”

Part of his work involves helping families understand the importance of the spiritual aspect of their loved one’s journey.

Like other hospice companies, Companion has chaplains who visit patients and families. The body-mind-soul connection is at the forefront of what Companion does.

“I helped a young man whose mother was brought up Jewish. He had no desire to see a rabbi—they had stopped practicing their Jewish faith years and years ago.”

Mirizio told him having a rabbi stop by might be helpful because that was honoring his mother’s beliefs. It was much the same with a woman who was Catholic, he said.

The son told Mirizio the woman was no longer Catholic. She hadn’t spoken or moved for four days, but when the priest came to give her the last rites, she began to pray the Our Father along with him.

“I’ve seen tremendous, miraculous things happen,” Mirizio said of the encounter.

Sadly, many people don’t receive hospice care until the last few days of their lives. Physicians often don’t have the relationships they once had with patients and their families and might not broach the subject of death. Some seem to feel that a referral to hospice indicates failure.

“The worst thing in the world is to continue to over-treat,” Mirizio said. “Hospice is a form of treatment—it’s a path along that medical path of life.”

He remembers overhearing one physician who wanted to urge a 96-year-old patient to continue treatment, in spite of the fact it wouldn’t change the course of his illness.

“Would you do that to your father?” Mirizio asked the doctor. The patient was referred to hospice.

“Three days later, the doctor goes and sees him. The guy’s laughing and talking, because they removed all his meds. He was going to die. The doctor said, ‘I told you he isn’t going to die.’ I said, ‘He is going to die, but he’s not dying now.’

“Sometimes people just want to live, but they want to live at their pace and with what they need. It’s not what you need. And that man did pass exactly seven days later, with his family around him.”

Mirizio said Companion Hospice also works to help families and loved ones understand the dying process.

“Hospice in not just for the patient alone. It’s for the patient and those who love the patient, because a lot of times you’re not ready to say goodbye. We try to educate you and get you to that point.”

Information: companionhospice.org
Growing

From Page 1

newspaper” until its demise in 1980, leaving a legacy of exceptional local coverage spanning almost 100 years. The Chandler Arizonan, which served West Chandler, was sold in the late 1970s.

So fast forward to what has emerged as an increasingly held view that Wrangler News, that little maverick startup that began landing on a few driveways 25-plus years ago, holds the image, if not altogether the exact reality, of being “Tempe’s only newspaper.”

Oh, sure, there are others that lay claim to that title and in fact may have offices or news racks or some sort of nominal presence in our so-called Kyrene Corridor communities. But none has stuck so steadfastly to its roots, always upholding the promise of its first edition’s Page One headline: “A first—news with a neighborhood flavor”—as determinedly as we have.

Now, although that has remained our mantra for all these years, we think it’s time to broaden the reach of Wrangler News—to tell the stories of our schools, our churches, our businesses, our families—to the entirety of our two cities, not just the limited neighborhoods mostly south of the Superstition Freeway.

Starting with our February issues, we will offer a much wider range of Tempe and Chandler availability so that all in our community will be able to share in the same news, photos and feature stories their south Tempe and west Chandler neighbors have been receiving for almost three decades.

Somehow, the idea of being our area’s “only newspaper” sounds pretty good to us. We hope you’ll agree and that you’ll continue to be with us as we expand our composite ranks of 45,000 avid readers to an even larger number. We’ll keep you posted as we move toward that goal.

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Insurance agent’s trip to Russia a wakeup call to risks of cybercrime

If you think your cybercrime worries have reached their peak, don’t be too quick to send your digital bodyguards on an extended vacation. The reality of criminal intrusions from people and places around the world isn’t going away any time soon.

Just ask Mary Contreras of Tempe. Contreras is the longtime owner of a State Farm insurance agency that handles claims resulting from identity theft and the criminal use of forged or stolen credit cards.

Additionally, she spent a week in Russia last year where her own laptop may have been compromised. “This cyberthreat epidemic is a new panic situation,” said Contreras, who is advising clients to establish or update their digital defenses.

“There will be a point in time when it becomes readily evident that there are risks in what people believe to be some of the most bulletproof protections,” and by then it may be too late to recover losses without agonizing months—and sometimes years—of trying to pick up the pieces of whatever electronic mischief has been perpetrated.

While a $25 annual homeowners-policy add-on may seem an unnecessary extravagance, the economic damage that typically follows a cybercrime hit makes such an addition extremely valuable in the weeks, months, sometimes even years, that follow, she said.

In Contreras’ own case, her trip to Russia as part of a U.S. businesswomen’s delegation was well organized and seemingly worry-free. Until, that is, she found out that the laptop she took with her may have been compromised and its contents copied or altered.

“When State Farm learned I had taken the computer with me, they wanted me to turn it over to their security people when I got home,” she said. A thorough digital scan turned up no provable signs of intrusion, she said, and the laptop eventually was returned to her.

However, because the many-headed hydra of cybercrime seems continually to morph into new and even more worrisome intrusions involving our daily lives, Contreras offers a list of do’s and don’ts that Wrangler News shares with its readers, to wit:

- Use strong passwords and change them regularly
- Look out for email attachments and Internet download modules
- Install and use a firewall
- Remove unused software and user accounts; clean out everything on replaced equipment
- Establish physical access controls for all software
- Create backups for important files, folders and software
- Keep a high level of awareness regarding potential phishing emails that don’t look quite right
- Use unique passwords for each online service you use
- Don’t write passwords down or share them; if you do need to keep a record, put it in a locked place

There are many protective strategies you can employ to guard against cybercrime. Contreras maintains a portfolio of ideas to help with specific situations.

Information: Contreras State Farm Agency, 480-775-7788.
First Person: Bob Robson

Change of venue, same get-it-done ethic as always

By Dick Foreman

A massive Diet Coke is clutched in his hands. I am convinced there must be some secret sauce in that massive drink; Bob Robson is tireless.

During his years at the legislature, he was often seen sipping that barrel of juice in the capitol mall which was, in my view, highly unusual. The Capitol Mall, the area between the House and the Senate, is no-man’s land. It’s where lobbyists buttonhole members for their last-minute, desperation causes. Members generally do not like that.

So here’s what one needs to understand: Bob Robson loved the mall. Robson owned the mall.

As Rules Chairman and House Speaker Pro Tem, Robson was leadership. He was a skilled veteran of the legislative wars. He tackled cyber-security issues before it was cool; he took on child pornography when nobody wanted a bill with that kind of karma on their resume.

He was also one of the principal legislators who brought the multi-billion-dollar bio science research component to our state universities and largely brokered the Mayo Clinic state land trust deal.

And, last November, after a total of 22 years in elective office, he was defeated in his bid for re-election. Perhaps he was a just a bit too pragmatic for us.

But Robson doesn’t leave office with a whimper. This is the same man who, while enjoying lunch with his family with just two weeks left in his term on the Chandler City Council, was confronted by a woman complaining about her rusty trash receptacle. Robson made a call to Public Works and got it replaced that afternoon. A month later, he ran across the woman’s husband. The husband told Robson that his wife had passed away, but that she took great solace that her complaint had affected city hall and that she had gotten herself a new trashcan.

Robson claims that story as one of his finest achievements.

“Government should work for the people,” he says simply, adding, not even wistfully, “It’s not only the big things...”

Today, the Diet Coke has become clear water colored with cranberry juice or those tasty drops that turn an ordinary glass of water into hummingbird food.

He still loves ice cream, and as the only member of the legislature to have had a freezer in his office with ice cream sandwiches, I guess lobbyists will just have to buy their own from now on.

You see, Robson actually paid for every one of those sandwiches he gave out.

The man has more energy than ever, is still uninhibited by politics, political bosses, or any special interest. As he puts it, “Dumpsters and traffic lights are my specialty.”

And, I would add, properly funded schools, universities, community colleges and veterans’ services, just to name a few.

Alas, there’s still plenty to do for a practical, problem solver like Bob Robson.

Dick Foreman, a longtime Tempe resident, is president and CEO of Arizona Business Coalition and former communications director for Southwest Gas.
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-Abbey Green, Kyrene Parent

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Kyrene District Office
8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe AZ, 85284
Grace Community marks a half century of commitment

Fifty years ago this month, on a frosty Sunday morning, it was standing-room-only inside a small church on the outskirts of Tempe. That’s when 355 souls gathered for the first-ever service at Grace Community Church.

Ken Seegren, coordinator of men’s ministries at the church, wasn’t there, but he’s heard all about it.

“The whole thing started out in a very amazing way,” Seegren said. “They didn’t buy enough chairs for the first service.” From its humble beginnings as the brainchild of two childhood friends and their wives, Grace Community Church has mushroomed into a large congregation with buildings that sprawl across 18 acres.

Seegren and his wife met at the church’s singles group in the late 1970s and have been members of Grace ever since. “Our passion is that people find the church warm and welcoming to everyone,” he said. “That’s what we desire to reach out to people here.”

Founded by the late Pastor Guy Davidson and his wife Martha plus former Tempe Mayor Elmer Bradley and his wife Ellen, the non-denominational Grace Community Church has flourished even as secularism in the culture has advanced. In addition to groups for men, women, children, and young adults, Grace also boasts a ministry for the disabled and for senior citizens. There’s also a pre-K to 8 school, Grace Academy, founded in 1975 and situated on the church campus.

“For a church to stay vibrant, lots of things are necessary,” Seegren said. “Our church has adapted and adjusted through the years.” That might be an understatement. Grace’s flourishing has driven the congregation to build three sanctuaries, each one larger than the last. By 1972, its larger sanctuary held 1,000; today’s, built in 1981, seats 1,600. There’s also a full-size gymnasium with a basketball court. The Connection Center boasts a multi-media library and cozy coffee shop, perfect for gathering with friends or for fellowship groups.

“Our middle name is ‘community’ and so we are a church that desires to reach out and provide a sense of community for the people who call Grace their home,” Seegren said, a view emphasized by lead pastor, Des Wadsworth.

The native of Australia who grew up in England came aboard the church in the summer of 2015.

“Today, Grace is a church becoming increasingly outward focused—where every generation matters and where we’re placing a priority on the next generation,” Wadsworth said. “We’re a community of people here for the community of Tempe, a church where everyone from every walk of life is welcome. Even from its earliest days, Grace has also been driven to reach beyond Tempe and into the developing world, to places like India, where they’ve planted numerous churches. During the weeklong 50th anniversary celebration, that zeal to spread the Gospel was on display in an interactive museum the church set up in one of its former sanctuaries. Tables spread throughout the room held photographs and memorabilia from earlier times, including a tribute to the church’s global outreach program.

“There’s a whole world out there that needs to hear about Jesus,” Seegren said as he guided Wrangler News through the exhibits where Bob Beck stood reminiscing about earlier times at Grace. “He’s belonged to the church for almost 40 years and said his fondest memory is an experience he had at Camp Grace in the 1970s. The church owned a camp in the Pinetop area back then. “My greatest memory was going to a men’s retreat there in 1978,” Beck said. “That’s when I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior.”

“There are people all throughout the community who have been touched by Grace through the years,” Seegren said.

That includes Mayor of Tempe Mark Mitchell who attended preschool at Grace. Mitchell videotaped a greeting for the 50th anniversary celebration and declared Sunday, Jan. 8, Grace Community Church Day.

“The City of Tempe honors Grace Community Church for its significant and positive impact for good in Tempe during the past 50 years,” the proclamation read in part.

A weeklong celebration of Grace’s half-century anniversary was packed with everything from a Throwback Thursday party to a pancake breakfast and “fiesta of faith.” Amid it all was the sense of connectedness Grace is known for in Tempe.

“People make friendships here that last a lifetime” Seegren said. “Some of our adult Sunday-school classes have been together for 30 or 40 years.”
Changes loom for burgeoning congregation at St. Andrew’s

With more than 6,000 registered families, growing by another 250 families each year, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church is one of the more dynamic congregations in Chandler. It’s also the second largest Catholic parish in the greater Phoenix area.

The Rev. Robert Aliunzi, who became pastor of St. Andrew’s a little over a year ago, recently gave his State of the Parish address in which he laid out what he sees as the future of the faith community.

At its core, he said, that future is inextricably interwoven with evangelization and the formation of disciples. He also touched on one of the more painful topics for Catholics: the mass exodus of so many Millennials.

“I have heard over and over again as a pastor from many of our parishioners here ... that, sadly, many of you carry the huge burden of children and grandchildren who have abandoned the faith,” Rev. Aliunzi said. Many parents, he said, blame themselves for their children’s lack of faith.

“But the fact is that the rules have all changed. We no longer have the cultural props we had before, and the social current has turned against us,” Rev. Aliunzi said.

“Those who enter the sanctuary of the mission-style church have noted the large sculpture of the resurrected Christ mounted to the right of the altar, an uncommon sight in a Catholic church.

One of the universals in a Catholic church over the centuries and across the world is the presence of a large crucifix front and center.

“The resurrection is mightily important, but without the crucifixion we do not have a resurrection,” Marcotte said. “As Catholics, we celebrate the paradox ... Our faith is stronger because we recognize that through death we experience everlasting life.”

The parish, he noted, is one of the few Catholic churches around that does not have a crucifix.

All that will change soon. The parish will undergo renovation sometime this summer. Not everyone is happy though, and some have expressed their concerns to Rev. Aliunzi. They wonder if the funds spent on renovations might not be better utilized to feed the poor.

In a Jan. 8 letter to the parish, Rev. Aliunzi noted that the parish is already “doing a fantastic job of that in Haiti and in Africa.”

St. Andrew’s has an outreach program to both impoverished areas as well as robust outreach programs in Chandler.

“As an individual, I know what being poor means,” Rev. Aliunzi wrote. The Ugandan native was orphaned at an early age and was the youngest of 10 children who struggled to survive.

In his letter to parishioners, he also cited the biblical passage of the woman at Bethany whom the disciples criticized for anointing Jesus’ feet with expensive perfume—perfume that could have been sold, with the proceeds going to the poor.

Citing the late pontiff John Paul II, the Rev. Aliunzi wrote, “The church fears no extravagance, devoting the best of her resources to expressing her wonder and adoration” for the Eucharist.

— Joyce Coronel
Foundation for Suicide Prevention established a chapter in Arizona, Blanchard got involved. “I volunteer as much as I can to get the prevention side out there, to get the conversation rolling. What signs did I as a Sunday school teacher miss?” Blanchard muses. “It may have just been something he kept so private that there wasn’t anything to see. But I want to be aware and I want to make sure my children are aware.”

As part of her commitment to help educate the community and prevent further tragedies, Blanchard recently presented “More Than Sad” at Arizona Community Church. A parent information meeting was held first, and student sessions took place later in the week. The program was developed for middle school, junior high and high school students and the AFSP is trying, Blanchard said, to get it into more school districts.

Through video presentations and materials, students learn to identify depression in themselves and others. They also learn that no one—not the jocks, not the “perfect” students—no one is immune from its scourge.

The fact that the program is being presented in a church setting offers a unique opportunity, Blanchard added. The Christian community needs to understand that suicide has to do with mental illness, not lack of faith. “Years ago, it was, ‘Oh, suicide. I guess they didn’t believe.’ No. That isn’t true. And we have to stop saying that so that people will get help,” Blanchard said.

The stigma grew up realizing how many questions that left for the loved ones.”

Later, as an adult, Blanchard had a little boy in her Sunday school class named Preston. When he was in seventh grade, he too, took his own life. “Ever since then, that really ignited a passion in me.” After the American

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Suicide

From Page 14

surrounding mental illness and suicide is something she’s hoping the More Than Sad presentations will help change.

“They’re finding with research that 90 percent of the people who attempt or who are successful in suicide, that it’s a treatable mental illness.”

Part of overcoming the stigma is changing the language.

Instead of referring to someone as having “committed suicide,” the new phrase the prevention community is using is “death by suicide.” That alone might move the conversation in a different direction. “If in fact this was a mental illness, it was an untreated mental illness. That’s no different than cancer or diabetes,” Blanchard said.

The Corona community has been hit in recent years with a rash of suicides, something Blanchard is painfully aware of.

“We have been very connected with Corona and the Corona community and our goal right now is to get on the front end,” Blanchard said.

“Let’s be there for them in their time of crisis and grief, but let’s get there before so that we don’t have the crisis and the grief.”

The beauty of having the More Than Sad program at ACC, Blanchard said, is the ability to share the information in light of the Gospel.

“You can get help, and please seek help, but let me tell you about my friend Jesus who will turn your world around in heartbeat,” Blanchard said.

“I’m very excited.”

A boost for area charities as Mission del Sol finalizes plans for its Feb. 4 ‘Super Flea’ sale

You know those skinny jeans at the back of your closet and Aunt Gertrude’s silver candlesticks that you haven’t polished—or used—for the last 20 years?

Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church in Tempe wants them. For good.

And that good extends to charities like Habitat for Humanity, Maggie’s Place, Save the Family, Fresh Start, Paz de Cristo and many more organizations that build hope and save lives.

The church’s annual “Super Flea” sale, which began in the late 1980s, raises thousands of dollars for area charities and, in the process, helps build friendships and camaraderie within the church community.

Jan Spence has been volunteering at the Super Flea for the last four or five years. “I like old stuff,” she laughed. “I’m retired now so I have more time.”

And it takes quite a bit of time to get the Super Flea underway—80 volunteers log hundreds of hours to make the event a success. “We get so many volunteers who do this out of the goodness of their hearts,” said Janie Parks, who helps pull off the church’s extravaganza each year.

There’s the collecting and sorting and tagging. Some of the stuff is more valuable, Spence said. Take for example Aunt Gertrude’s candlesticks. They’ll be placed in the indoor boutique.

“We try to make it more like a second-hand store,” Spence said. “Instead of letting things go for a nickel or so, we try to get a little more.” Whatever doesn’t get purchased is then taken to a consignment store.

“Last year, we got $150,” Spence said of the higher-end merchandise.

From clothing to books and toys and even electronics, the annual sale offers the chance to snag a few bargains and do a lot of good in the process.

Finding a Better Way: First Baptist Church of Tempe Offers Community a Path Through the Wilderness

Commentary by Dr. Roger Ball

As a pastor, I’m confronted with stories of trial and tribulation on a daily basis. Recently, a young man asked for prayer after being fired from work due to an ongoing conflict and anger issues with a co-worker.

Anger and conflict has become mainstream, and no one is immune to its effects.

Anger, anxiety, depression or substance abuse all can derail someone’s life and destroy dreams. These issues occur in the rich, the poor, at family gatherings and sporting events, and in marriages. If not properly resolved, unhealthy attitudes and actions can lead to unemployment, health problems, financial loss and more.

Dealing with any of these challenges can be extremely frustrating and take a great deal of time and effort.

Finding purposeful and meaningful resources to address those means the difference between finding hope and healing and living in a state of desperation.

At FBC Tempe, we care for hurting people in many intentional and effective ways. For adults we offer a variety of classes on topics such as conflict and anger, substance abuse support groups as well as a compassion group for those impacted by HIV.

We have an active ministry for both men and women which include Bible studies, social outings and retreats.

There are summer camps for children that build various skills as well as a variety of creative learning activities for kids on Sunday mornings and throughout the year.

For those affected by homelessness we offer meals, and for parents with special-needs children we provide a safe, caring environment for them to learn about God’s love on Sunday mornings.

We offer compassion projects like Walk to Bethlehem, cleaning homes for single parent families and enhance McClintock Drive by trash collection between Baseline and Southern.

We invite you to join us on Sunday for authentic, Jesus-centered worship or try any of our other activities throughout the week.

For more information on who we are and what we do, log on to fbc-tempe.org or call 480-899-0926.

Pastor Dr. Roger Ball is lead pastor of Tempe First Baptist Church and an associate professor of leadership and ministry at Phoenix Seminary.
**Brothers**

From Page 1

Rankings, ahead of Phoenix Brophy Prep, with 22 goals and 20 assists on the season, according to Max Preps.

Nathan is the eldest of the Flood brothers. The middle brother, Kody, 22, was also an established athlete.

Nathan believes the reason Ryan became such a talented player was because he always had to keep up with the older boys.

“Of the reasons he’s gotten this far is that he’s been around my other brother and I for so long, trying to keep up with us because we were both so much older than he is, that the competitiveness in him kind of forced him to be a lot better than he would have been otherwise.”

Nathan was a member of the 2010 Corona State Championship team and played for a short time at Mesa Community College.

But anywhere he went, there was Ryan. Sitting on the sideline, developing his passion for the game that now fuels his success.

“He was always around. Everyone knew him,” Nathan said.

Now, it’s Nathan who watches in awe of his little brother, who not long ago stole the spotlight at that California tournament and never gave it back.

“I’m extremely happy and proud of him. He’s worked really, really hard to get where he is. So, I’m happy that everything is working out for him the way he’d hoped,” Nathan said.

Ryan is considered Division II eligible and is working toward a professional soccer career.

“I know his goal ultimately is to play professionally and make money that way, so I hope that works out for him,” Nathan said.

“If not, I hope he can find something like coaching or physical training that will put him close enough to the game that will make him happy.

“He loves the game more than anyone I’ve ever seen. The dedication—and the time he’s put into this game and how much of his life he’s spent doing it—I’ve never seen anyone that in love with the sport.”

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**CdS Aztec soccer girls ‘starting to hit their peak’**

Corona girls soccer standouts, from left, Jordan Freese, Olivia Nguyen, Skylar Byrnes — Photos by Kris Cartwright for Wrangler News. For more, visit kriscartwright.smugmug.com

Corona’s girls soccer team, with a current 11-5 record, has won six out of the last seven matches and appears to have a good chance to improve on its No. 9 ranking, with three games left in the regular season.

“I think we are just starting to hit our peak and we could be a threat in the playoffs,” said coach [Matt Smith]. “Solid leadership by a big senior class will help us finish strong.”

The Aztecs have shown they have the offensive ability to put up the points by outscoring their opponents, with 82 goals compared to 15 by their foes.

“We have been getting great offensive production from juniors [Olivia Nguyen], [Abby Robertson] and [Skylar Byrnes],” said Smith. “Olivia is an incredibly talented player in breaking down and beating defenders. She has had an exceptional season.”

Nguyen leads Corona’s team with 21 goals, 15 assists and 46 shots on goal, followed by Byrnes with 14 goals, eight assists and 36 shots on goal.

In fact, Nguyen was No. 5 on Corona’s all-time scoring list with 127 points heading into the Desert Ridge game on Jan. 13, according to Smith.

The top four on the all-time scoring list are [Brittany Cole] with 225 points; [Patti Reed] with 144 points; [Courtney Mayers] with 136 points; and [Alexa Daituoto] with 129 points.

Byrnes was named player of the game in the Aztecs’ 5-2 win over Desert Ridge on Jan. 13. It was the sixth time this season she was picked as the player of the game.

“Skylar had 11 shots on goal, making two goals including the game winner,” said Smith. “A huge performance.”

“[Abby Robertson] has also been having a big season with eight goals and 12 assists,” said Smith.

The defense has only allowed 15 goals so far this season, and in six matches opponents were held to zero goals.

“Defensively, our outside backs [Emily Ramsland] and [Laney Gordon] have been exceptional defensively, in addition to contributing into the attack,” said Smith. “The return of [Nikki Hooy] to centerback after an injury that kept her out in November and December has been tremendous.”

Goalkeeper [Jordan Freese] has played all but 14 minutes in the first 16 matches, guarding the Aztecs’ goals this season, where she had recorded 104 saves or an average of 6.5 saves a game.

“Jordan has done a great job in goal for us this season,” said Smith. “She is an incredibly athletic keeper who has five or six saves so far this year that are as good as any I’ve witnessed in my career at Corona.”

Corona’s girls soccer team has three matches left in the regular season to improve on their No. 9 ranking before the 6A Conference Play-In Tournament starts Jan. 26.

The top eight teams get a bye until the second round. The No. 9 to 24 ranked teams play in this Conference Play-In Tournament to determine which teams will match up against the top eight in the 6A state playoffs. These will be the 16 teams that play in the first round of the state tournament starting at the high seed Feb. 1.

Corona had a game against No. 12 ranked Gilbert on Jan. 17 and then was scheduled to play at No. 11-ranked Mountain Pointe on Jan. 20, next at home against No. 1 ranked Desert Vista on Jan. 24.

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**Corona Wrestlers**

The Aztecs brought home the championship trophy from the 51st Annual Flowing Wells Wrestling Invitational Jan. 14.

“For the first time in school history, the Aztecs are the Flowing Wells Champions,” said coach Jimmy Martinez.

“Winning individual championships are [Zack Kvavle], [Jacob Garcia], [Vinny Dolce] and [Brandon Koneeny],” said Martinez. “Hunter...”

— SPORTS, Page 23
The upcoming 2017 high school football season will mean a little more to the Marcos de Niza Padres. It was announced this month that Marcos was awarded a $100,000 grant to refurbish its football field.

The grant came from the NFL Foundation/LISC Grassroots Program, a partnership between the NFL Foundation and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the nation’s leading community development support organization.

According to the NFL Foundation’s website, the goal of the program is to provide non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields.

NFL teams’ contributions fuel this program. The Arizona Cardinals have included the NFL Grassroots Program as one of their community relations initiatives.

“We’re blessed to have community partners such as the Arizona Cardinals and the NFL that are able to give back to our great students and coaches,” Marcos de Niza principal Sean McDonald said. “It was a very nice way to start off the new year.”

According to McDonald, Marcos de Niza went through the process of applying for this grant two years ago.

At the time, Mountain Pointe High School’s Karl Kiefer Stadium had just been renovated as part of the Cardinals’ Neighborhood Heroes program.

Marcos is now the second Tempe Union high school football field to benefit from the Cardinals’ generosity. “It’s overwhelming really. The students are very excited. The seniors are a little bit jealous, you know because they will be graduating, but as alumni they’re very excited to see it and be a part of it.”

The grant will go toward the field itself: the grass, the sprinklers, the end zones, etc.

McDonald said he believes it’s been at least 20-25 years since any major refurbishments have been done to the field.

The project is expected to be completed over the summer and the field should be ready for the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

“We have a great following. The kids and the alumni come out. The stands are full and I can only imagine that following will increase,” McDonald said. “The level of excitement is going to increase as well. What football does for the school year is it starts off the school year on a very good note. That really drives what the year is going to be like.”

Marcos de Niza is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony prior to the first home game of 2017. “We’re a little bit old school: That look good, feel good, play good mentality. That has to do with the field as well.”
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Editor’s note: Linda Arters, a longtime Tempe/Chandler public relations professional, emailed the following announcement for our consideration. We publish such content as space permits, and encourage readers to submit obituaries and/or remembrances for consideration.

It is with great sadness we announce that our director and friend, Kari Young, passed on from this life Christmas morning while surrounded by her husband Bill and her daughters, Shauna and Chris.

Kari served as the director of Arizona Adopt a Greyhound Inc. for 16 years. She steered AAGI through the closing of Phoenix Greyhound Park and the Tucson track closing. Through her long involvement in the greyhound community at large and her reputation as an individual with “sterling integrity,” she set up an arrangement with a California adoption group enabling us to continue our work helping greyhounds in need of homes.

About a year ago, Kari set up a team responsible for a variety of functions, including events, fostering, adoptions, nails, administration, etc. None of that will change, we can assure you. With the help and support of wonderful people like you, AAGI will continue to do good work finding forever homes for retired greyhounds for many years to come. AAGI will continue in service to the hounds as Kari intended it should.

Kari received a double lung transplant 3 years ago. She lived the years following to the fullest, serving her church, running her Joy to the Pets business and caring for greyhounds. May the memory of her life and her enthusiasm deepen your appreciation for life today.

Services were held Jan. 14. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Arizona Adopt A Greyhound Organization on Kari's behalf. Cards may be addressed to Bill Young, 5060 W. Chicago Circle S., Chandler 85226 or AAGI, P.O. Box 63033, Phoenix 85082.

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Today this West Chandler neighborhood boasts an aquatic center and park, but in the early 1940s, a scant distance from Nozomi Park, a dark chapter was written—one that only recently has been brought into the light for examination, and, it is to be hoped, to remain a lesson in humanity and justice.

Not far from the splashing in today’s pool and young athletes tossing softballs stood one of the 10 notorious relocation camps that held Japanese-Americans during World War II. About 13,000 people were interned at what was then known as the Gila River Relocation Center. From May 1942 until February 1946, Japanese men, women and children lived in harsh desert conditions in Spartan barracks surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. At the time, it was an area so remote that guard towers were thought unnecessary.

Christine Wilkinson, senior vice president and secretary of Arizona State University, is well-acquainted with the history. Her grandparents, the Akimotos, along with their daughter Jane, were interned in Camp Amache in Colorado. Wilkinson, alongside members of the Japanese American Citizens League and Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, will be on hand at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 when the Nozomi Park Kiosk dedication takes place. The memorial honors those Japanese-Americans who were held at the Gila River internment camp during World War II, a few miles from the park.

“With so many individuals who were directly impacted now deceased, it is important to find ways in which to remember how decisions in difficult times can impact thousands of innocent people in very negative ways,” Wilkinson told Wrangler News. “Hopefully, through informative and educational efforts such as this dedication, more thought will be used in future decisions based on race, religion or other profiling factors.”

Ironically, Wilkinson’s father, Bill Kajikawa, was one of the 18,000 Japanese-Americans who formed their own regiment and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army.

The 442nd was highly decorated and known for its valor. Wilkinson said her father mentioned his service overseas only on one occasion.

“He group was one of those that helped open one of the concentration camps,” Wilkinson said. “It was like skeletons walking out—people not able to make it even a few yards.”

Kajikawa passed away in 2010.
Mayor to deliver Annual State of the City Address Jan. 31

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny will deliver his annual State of the City Address on Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the City Council Chambers. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a light reception in the Chamber foyer, followed by the Mayor’s remarks at approximately 6:45 p.m. This year’s theme will focus on the emergence of car technology in Chandler, with Fortune Magazine calling it “the country’s hottest new city for autos” in an article published in 2016. Chandler is home to many companies developing automotive technology including Waymo (formerly the Google self-driving car project), General Motors Innovation Center, Intel, Microchip, Garmin, Local Motors and others.

“We feel Chandler was a great choice for Waymo to continue to test and develop this new technology,” Mayor Tibshraeny said. “These automotive tech companies further diversify Chandler’s robust employment base, allowing us to remain economically strong. And it makes sense to concentrate this research here in Chandler, further cementing our reputation as the Innovation and Technology Hub of the Southwest.”

The Mayor also will discuss the City’s fiscal position, new capital projects on the horizon, neighborhoods and public safety, as well as some new programs that will be announced that evening.

The Chandler City Council Chambers are located at 88 E. Chicago St., adjacent to City Hall. The event is free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

Wartime history and culture program

The Chandler Public Library series, America in Times of Conflict, continues in January with speakers and a film that explore our country’s history and culture during wartime. Many local stories bring this history close to home and include:

Monday, Jan. 23, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Film + Forum - The Day the Earth Stood Still
Senior Center, 202 E. Boston St.

In this 1951 film, an alien visits earth to bring a warning about the dangers of atomic power. Dr. Michael Rubinoff from the ASU Center for Film, Media and Popular Culture will lead a discussion following the film about America’s anxieties during the Cold War era, when “the bomb” was on everyone’s mind.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m. to noon
The Morenci Nine: Small Town Arizona and the Vietnam War
Downtown Library, 22 S. Delaware St.

ASU professor and author Dr. Kyle Longley shares the story of nine young men who left the Arizona desert mining camp of Morenci in 1966 to serve their country in the far-flung jungles of Vietnam. Ultimately, only three survived and each battled survivor’s guilt, difficult re-entries into civilian life and traumas from experiencing war.

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon
From Gila River to Iwo Jima: The Untold Story of Ira Hayes
Basha Library, 5990 S. Val Vista Dr.

Learn the untold story of Ira Hamilton Hayes, a Pima (Akimel O’odham) Native American and elite U.S. Marine who was one of the six servicemen immortalized in the iconic photograph of the Iwo Jima flag raising during World War II. Presented by retired Major Urban Giff, a member of the Ira Hayes American Legion Post 84.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m. to noon
Japanese Internment: When Some Americans Looked Like the Enemy
Downtown Library, 22 S. Delaware St.

Chandler Museum Director Jody Crago will discuss how Japanese immigrants came to America and why, and what led up to the Japanese internment camps of World War II. Go behind the barbed wire fences to understand the experiences of neighbors and friends who suddenly looked like the enemy to many Americans because of the war.

Daddy & Daughter Valentine’s Dance

Fathers and their special little girls can create some special memories at the City’s annual Daddy & Daughter Valentine’s Dance being held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at the Snedigar Recreation Center or Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Chandler Community Center. Sign up at chandleraz.gov/registration. Information, call 480-782-2641.
2017 State of the City

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny
and the Chandler City Council
Invite You to Attend the Annual State of the City Address

6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017
Chandler City Hall, Council Chambers
175 S. Arizona Ave., Chandler, Arizona
A light reception begins at 6 p.m. with remarks at 6:45 p.m.
Carmona finished in second place, while Bryce Nickel and Jacob Featherman finished in fifth place and Diego Fill finished in sixth.”

Just the week before, the Aztec wrestlers took second place at the Peoria Tournament of Champions.

“We were the highest-ranked Arizona team in the tournament, finishing behind Northview of California,” said Martinez.

Corona had six wrestlers place in the top six. Dolce and Konecny won individual titles. Garcia, Carmona and Fill finished in third place, while Cole Bernstein took fourth place and Kavle was sixth.

**Marcos de Niza Boys Basketball**

When Mason Stark pulls up behind the three-point line to put up a shot, the odds of the basketball going through the hoop and the Padres getting three points is almost 50 percent. Stark, so far this season, has attempted 96 three-point shots and made 45 or 47 percent.

Ask anyone who has watched the Marcos de Niza boys basketball team play this season and they will tell you that the Padres like to shoot three pointers. As a team, they have attempted 376 three pointers and made 129 or 34 percent of them.

The ability to hit three pointers was evident in the Padres game at Prescott Jan. 13 when they made 13 three-pointers and defeated the Badgers 90-66.

Marcos started strong, outscoring Prescott 23-9 in the first quarter when Stark hit three of his four 3-pointers. Stark would end the game with 26 points to lead all scorers.

Jamari Robinson put up 17 points, Zurell Livingston, 16, and Tyson Union had 11 points. DaShawn Ray scored 7 points, Lovonne Brunson 5, Torren Union 4, and both Orion Bryant and Gaige Hale each scored 2 points.

Tyson Union made three of the 13 3-pointers as did Robinson while Livingstone scored two and Ray scored one.

The Padres outrebounded the Badgers 29-25 with Stark and Ray leading the team with seven rebounds each.

Union lead the team in assists with eight while Ray dished out five.

The Padres with an 11-8 overall record were scheduled to play at home against Higley on Jan 17 and against Casa Grande Jan. 19 before playing at Seton Catholic on Jan. 24.

On Jan. 26, they will play at home against cross-town rival Tempe, then have another home game the next night against Youngker.

The last home game will be Jan. 31 against St. Mary’s. The Padres will then play their last regular season game Feb. 2 at Higley.

**Tempe H.S. Defensive End Commits to UCLA**

My-King Johnson, who played defensive end on Tempe’s football team, verbally committed to UCLA on Jan. 6.

Johnson, who received offers from Arizona State, Arizona, Oregon and USC, to name a few, was the leading tackler, with 89 total tackles, far outdistancing himself with 21.5 of the team’s 46.5 quarterback sacks.

**McClintock’s New Football Coach**

Corbin Smith was expected to be approved by the Tempe Union School District Governing Board as the Chargers’ new head football coach at their Jan. 18 meeting.

Smith, the son of previous University of Arizona head coach Larry Smith, has more than 17 years of coaching experience, ranging from college, University of Missouri, Arkansas State University, Mesa Community College, to high school at Gilbert’s Mesquite High.

He has been involved in football from the time he was a youngster watching his dad to his experience as a college quarterback and special-teams player at USC and University of Iowa.

Although it will be his first experience as a head coach, Smith has been a quarterback coach, offensive coordinator, tight ends coach, wide receivers coach, special teams coordinator, assistant head coach, defensive line, defensive backs and linebackers coach.

Smith, who is the founder and president of the Larry Smith Coaching Academy, which hosts coaching clinics all around the United States to educate youth football coaches on the safety and fundamentals, is currently working on a Master’s Degree in Special Education and is a special education teacher at Mesquite.

Smith will be the third head coach in five years at McClintock, succeeding Spencer Waggoner.
Last summer, Colin Bauer and his family moved from Pennsylvania to Arizona, but his beloved guitars wouldn’t be arriving for another few months. Itching to somehow participate in his new scene, Bauer founded Warped Your Records, aiming to help his friends release cassette tapes and stave off boredom.

In the short time since, the label has cultivated an impressive discography of 22 releases, encompassing adored local acts alongside the disparate sounds of Canadian noise rock and Los Angeles rap-funk. Though there is a fun-loving, casual air to the label’s aesthetic and operation, the participants are serious where it counts.

“I like to call myself the voiceless voice of the voiceless,” Bauer laughs. He sees the work of releasing small batches of hand-assembled tapes for fledgling bands simply as a way to honor the efforts of artists with positive goals.

“I’ll release anything made by nice people,” he said. “I don’t need to release this music because it’s the greatest thing ever, it’s because the artists are the greatest thing ever.”

The most prolific act in the Warped Your Records roster is The Expos, a fuzzy and effervescent pop-punk project that has released four full-length albums on the label. The band’s inexhaustible mastermind is Aaron Ponzo, a 17-year-old high school senior from Chandler who self-records his material at home with occasional guest spots from the Warped inner-circle.

On Jan. 6, Warped Your Records will host an album release show for The Expos, as well as Bauer’s project Closet Goth, at Trunk Space in Phoenix. Available on cassette and lathe-cut vinyl, the new Expos record, Joy, finds Ponzo exploring the most pressing topics of suburban youth.

“Soda, love, dogs,” Ponzo said flatly. “That’s basically it.”

He also accomplishes this task in record time: the album has 18 songs but clocks in at just over six minutes. A live Expos show often involves Ponzo, his long blonde hair draped aside his guitar, frosting his light voice and tender lyrics upon a massively loud brick of distorted guitar.

Unsurprisingly, he grew up listening to classic rock and still goes deep with Rush, Thin Lizzy and Lynyrd Skynyrd. Yet the clearest influence on his songwriting prowess is contemplative indie rock like Dear Nora, the project of subtle Pacific Northwest singer Katy Davidson. One of the brisk, buzzy tracks on the new Expos album is titled “Dear-Nora.png”.


Ponzo insists on using the original Warped Your Records logo, which of course is a spoof on the emblem of the Vans Warped Tour, the annual legacy pop-punk festival.

“We like making each other laugh with the artwork,” Bauer said. “Whenever he sends me art, there’s always a random dog in there.”

Of course, there could very well be legal ramifications for naming a band after a former Major League Baseball franchise and plastering its tapes with Luis Gonzalez’s likeness. But Ponzo and Bauer aren’t taking that seriously—they look forward to someday getting a cease-and-desist letter.

“I hope it happens,” Ponzo laughs.

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Music Scene . . . by Chase Kamp

Warped Your Records promotes gleeful rock from Chandler and beyond

Last summer, Colin Bauer and his family moved from Pennsylvania to Arizona, but his beloved guitars wouldn’t be arriving for another few months. Itching to somehow participate in his new scene, Bauer founded Warped Your Records, aiming to help his friends release cassette tapes and stave off boredom.

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Immediately noticeable is the visual aesthetic of prankish yet affectionate cut-and-paste collage that Expos and Warped Your Records share.


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“I hope it happens,” Ponzo laughs.
1950s-era birth of McDonald's burger empire shines light on Ray Kroc's successes, foibles

Near the beginning of this chronicle history of the McDonald's empire, we get a look at the hamburger stand in San Bernardino, Calif., that started the chain.

It’s 1954, and a long line of customers are waiting for a burger, fries and a Coke.

We’re seeing it through the eyes of Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton), the underachieving Midwestern milkshake-machine salesman who’s seen hundreds of dreary drive-ins, diners and dives and knows he’s stumbled onto something big here.

Some might see this scene as the thrilling origin of a great American success story. Others might see it as the chilling start of a sci-fi horror film, like the moment the zombies or the alien pods start to spread soul-less conformity—Invasion of the Franchise People.

It’s both, of course. Kroc, a hustler who’s never found quite the right hustle, talks his way into a job franchising the chain on behalf of the brothers Maurice “Mac” McDonald (John Carroll Lynch) and Dick McDonald (Nick Offerman), New Hampshire natives who had gone West in search of fortune.

According to The Founder, the sweet, conciliatory Mac and the quiet, wary purist Dick were just trying to run a good quality, profitable burger joint, but with the system he had developed—limited menu, choreographically precise preparation, ridiculously speedy service—Dick had essentially invented fast food.

The film tells how Kroc turned this concept into a third locus for American communities, alongside the city hall and the church—Keaton gets a ripe speech describing Kroc’s vision of the Golden Arches taking their place alongside the flag and the cross in towns across America.

Within a few years, he’s on his way to realizing this, and he’s also at war with Mac and Dick, who are still in control of the brand and slow to approve any of Kroc’s innovations.

The director is John Lee Hancock of The Rookie and The Blind Side, working from a script by Robert D. Siegel, the former Onion writer who scripted The Wrestler.

There are lines and moments that hit a sour note in terms of period—the phrase “family friendly” somehow didn’t sound like 1954 to me, for instance. But I liked how conflicted Hancock and Siegel seem about their protagonist—an admirable entrepreneur and a selfish, hubristic S.O.B. at the same time.

About midpoint, Kroc, who’s not too happily married, falls in love at first sight with the wife (Linda Cardellini) of a man with whom he’s doing business.

The tension between the Norman Rockwell wholesomeness of Hancock’s style and the complex and unsavory sexual and economic subtext makes the scene really uncomfortable—and really interesting.

It’s doubtful that any of this would anywhere near the same charge without Michael Keaton. He deploys his usual manic star persona, the jumpy guy who turns his bouncing-off-the-walls patter into a constant, disarming self-parody.

But here he shades it to a character that’s not altogether likable, and he’s no less vibrant and riveting for that.
‘Cookies for Cops’ delivers sweet treats in show of unity

Against a backdrop of the nation’s racial tensions, seventh- and eighth-grade boys from the Pollack Chabad Center baked chocolate chip cookies to show their appreciation for the Chandler Police Department, then delivered the goodies to grateful officers.

Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker
Briefly . . .

Polar Bears: We Want You

Here's the perfect opportunity to make an incredibly rewarding splash: The annual Polar Bear Plunge at The Tempe Lakes. Proceeds benefit adapted-recreation programs, providing recreational and social opportunities for individuals with special needs.

The sixth annual event returns at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, to The Lakes of Tempe, 5501 S. Lakeshore Drive. Participants will earn bragging rights by jumping into the frigid community pool for a desert-style dip. Those not quite daring enough to jump can still join in the fun as Teddy Bears.

Entry fee is $20 for either Teddy or Polar Bear and includes a cool long-sleeve T-shirt, hot beverages and snacks. Registration available at www.LakesPolarPlunge.com or the morning of the event. Check-in on day of registration begins at 8 a.m.; plunging starts at 9. Registration increases to $25 on the day of the event.

Last year, nearly 150 Polar Bears jumped into the pool, with another 100 cheering them on.

Paddleboard yoga at Nozomi Park

Need a break from your current exercise regimen? Consider supplementing that tired-out gym routine with paddleboard yoga, a yoga-fitness fusion that involves practicing classic yoga poses while floating on a paddleboard.

Whether a beginner or an avid yogi, this "yoga with a splash" has been called an unforgettable workout that increases balance, coordination and overall body strength. No prior yoga or paddleboarding experience is necessary, but participants must be at least 16 years old and able to swim.

The instructor will take each client's favorite yoga moves, like the classic downward-facing dog, and put them on the water for a low impact, core strengthening exercise.

Certified instructors will provide the boards and instruction that focuses on building strength, balance and mental harmony; a combination that leaves the participant centered and more fit.

Registration for West Chandler residents and their statewide neighbors opens at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, and Friday, Feb. 10, for non-residents.

One-hour classes will begin in March at Nozomi Aquatic Center, 250 S. Kyrene Road, and Desert Oasis Aquatic Center, 1400 W. Summit Place.

Registration fees are $20 for residents, $27 for non-residents. Fees due to the instructor are $70 (resident) and $95 (non-resident).

Information: chandleraz.gov/aquatics or 480-782-2750.

Teens promote leadership skills

The Corona del Sol KEY Club is helping to charter a new K-Kids Club at Kyrene Traditional Academy. At meetings, members make crafts for the patients at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, such as puffy paint socks or fleece blankets. The goal of the club is to foster a leadership and service from a young age, and help elementary school age children develop empathy for others.

School's lunchtime veggie bar foretells a persimmony future

Connie Allen, the physical education teacher at Mariposa School in Tempe, noticed when she would walk through the lunchroom that students’ diets were not exactly exemplary. Chips, cookies and not-so-healthy foods caught her eye.

Now, as part of a wider commitment to helping students live a healthier lifestyle, “Eat Well Wednesdays” has become a weekly feature at the K-5th grade Kyrene school.

On a recent Wednesday morning, Wrangler News was on the scene to get the story about the renewed focus on students’ health. While some already were busy eating their lunch, others lined up for a salad bar that featured fresh broccoli, carrots, cucumbers and persimmons.

Yes, persimmons.

“They have all these assortments of vegetables and fruits at the salad bar, and things they don’t usually eat,” Allen said. “We are encouraging them to pick something different.”

For those adventurous enough to do so, prizes await at the school’s Better Bites store, where children can redeem coupons for “eating the rainbow.” In other words, filling their plates with the many colorful shades of fruits and vegetables and then crunching away on them.

One boy, a fourth-grader, held a plate loaded with broccoli, carrots and whole grain bread. He said his parents encouraged him to make healthy choices. “I need to grow more and my parents always told me that I have to eat my vegetables if I want to grow.”

His friend, a girl named Emmy, said much the same. “I want to be able to grow and stay healthy. It makes me feel better and more energized,” she said, adding that she also enjoys P.E.

It’s all part of the Fitness for Life program at Mariposa.

“We really believe in the whole child,” Allen said. It’s not just about teaching the brain, but seeing the entire person. The school, she said, touts a saying that, “We’re smart and fit.” Four times a year they celebrate a Wellness Week that includes every child and staff member.

“We have all these activities we’re all focusing on and it’s not just one classroom or a grade level. It’s unified and it’s beautiful,” Allen said.

“It really makes kids—when they see their teachers and the staff and all the other kids doing it—it really puts healthy living in the spotlight and showcases it.”

The program also meets all the national standards, Allen said. That’s a good thing because, according to the Children’s Action Alliance, an Arizona children’s advocacy organization, the state’s obesity rate for young children rose above the national average back in 2000, peaking at 14.6 percent in 2008 and falling only slightly since then.

Programs like the one at Mariposa are working to help children lead a healthier lifestyle in the hope that kids won’t suffer some of the cardiovascular and other diseases that until now were the domain of the middle-aged and elderly.

For example, on a Friday before Halloween last year, when children—and adults—would be expected to load up on sweet treats, Mariposa students had something else going for them: Get Fit Friday, featuring a pumpkin walk.

Said Allen:

“Research has shown that movement helps the brain to get more focused. So that’s the beauty of these activity breaks. Plus all the messages about eating healthy, staying active. This is just a great program.”

— Joyce Coronel
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Queen Creek Road
between Price and Dobson
Wonderful 2bd+den/2ba Trova model is waiting for you in the Active Adult Community at Oakwood Country Club. Clean, well maintained home with new carpet and fresh paint throughout. Spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings and plantation shutters in this move-in ready home. Den could be formal living or dining room. Kitchen has gas, pantry and grand island open to breakfast and family room. Large laundry with washer dryer, cabinets and utility sink. Family room features transom windows and media built ins. Low maintenance desert yard with extended tiled patio. Yard backs to walking trails and nearby lake.

Absolutely gorgeous home in Chandler! Soaring ceilings and neutral flooring throughout. Great room has cozy stacked stone fireplace and media niche. Kitchen is complete with center island, breakfast bar, a plethora of custom cabinets, and stainless steel appliances. Master suite downstairs has wood flooring with ceiling fan and private exit to backyard. Upgraded bath, Spacious walk in closet Large loft, junior master suite, plus 2 additional bedrooms and a bathroom. Oversized backyard features a covered patio with sparkling pebble tech pool, lush green grass, and plenty of room for entertaining.

Beautiful remodel in highly sought after S. Tempe neighborhood. New Upgraded 12 x 24 Porcelain tile, Berber patterned carpet, granite slab counters, refinished cabinets throughout, New two-tone interior paint, complete exterior repaint. Spacious kitchen with island, breakfast bar, and new SS appliances. Open Great Room floor plan with LOTS of windows and soaring ceilings create a beautiful light, airy home. Spacious Master Suite offers dual sinks in bath and large walk-in closet. N/S lot with room for pool. This home is move in ready!

Stunning, Remodeled custom home in highly sought after equestrian neighborhood. New wood floors throughout, all bathrooms and kitchen beautifully remodeled, stunning quartz countertops and more. Guest suite with private entrance and garage perfect for a game room, in-law suite, home office or studio. Large workshop for the hobby enthusiast or the ideal "man cave" Amazing backyard has all the features you’ve dreamed of, newly updated pebbletec pool, large vegetable garden, RV gate, mature landscaping and a darling play house for the kids. You want to see this one!! Priced to sell $749,000 MLS # 5458142

Fabulous home tucked on a corner lot in Prestiges Pecan Grove neighborhood. Remodeled with the utmost care. Master suite with his/her closets, custom vanities and beautiful jacs’s walk in shower. A children’s wing of 3 bedrooms with Jack & Jill set up. Oversized Family room with bar for family gatherings or entertaining. Chef’s delight kitchen with SS appliances, new cabinetry, new granite countertops, new lighting and a magnificent walk-in pantry. Walk-out Basement with Full Bath and Lots of Storage! Backyard with Italian grotto setting, heated pool/Spa, fireplace, 2 built in bar areas and a huge yard with plenty of room to roam. $934,000 MLS 5485936

Central ASU Location

3 Bed 2.5 Bath Townhome, New paint, carpet and NEW s/s appliances. Lots of extra parking. Fantastic Townhouse with contemporary NEW interior palette, beautiful tile floor, private patio, plush NEW carpet, window blinds, and ceiling fans. Charming kitchen features stylish laminate counters and wood cabinetry. 3 Generous size bedrooms with plenty of closets. Community Pool! Close to Light Rail, Orbit Route, and ASU. This is a must see, move-in ready Home that will NOT disappoint. Perfect for college student or as an investment!!

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