

# Wrangler NEWS

Feb. 4 - 17, 2012  
Vol. 23, No. 3

*Making a big  
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## Blending cultures & friendships

Jayde Ellenby and Naja Andrews, students at Desert Garden Montessori School, learned more about their differing backgrounds during the school's annual multi-cultural day.

— *Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup*

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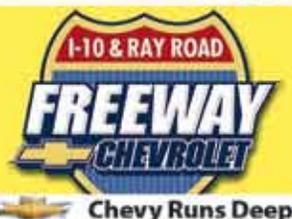


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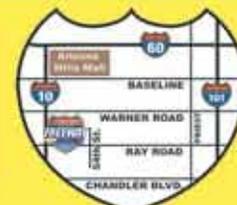
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# Awareness Day opens a path to tolerance

## CdS Unity Club addresses issues of image, prejudice, teen suicide



Student members of Unity Club at Corona del Sol High School discuss ways to minimize bullying, maximize tolerance.

— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup

By Daniel Rasmussen

In the small gym at Corona del Sol High School, 60 students gathered for one reason: to learn tolerance from one another.

The occasion is known as Awareness Day, a bi-annual event organized by the school's Unity Club to raise awareness of prejudices, self-image, gender issues and teen suicide.

For the past 14 years, generations of students have gathered here for the same reason, and have left more accepting of one another. It known as a place for students from all backgrounds to come and feel encouraged, to share their thoughts and feelings. It's a place where judgment is not an option.

It's the vision of high school seldom represented on television and in the movies.

Even though Awareness Day has a rich past, Corona biology teacher and Unity Club founder Jan O'Malley sees it as more relevant than ever.

"Teen problems seem to have increased due to family issues, socioeconomic issues, and the change in the U.S. as a whole," she says. "Some of our adult leaders have not been very good role models for our youth. I want Corona to be a safe and understanding community, and that is why we continue to have

— DIVERSITY, Page 18

**Good News! Banks are encouraging homeowners who are struggling or behind in their mortgage payments, relief through Short Sale programs.**

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## Commentary

# 'A proud moment'

By Jay Tibshraeny

January 25 was a historic day for Chandler. It marked the first time a sitting president of the United States visited our community. It was impressive to have the leader of the free world choose Chandler as a backdrop to showcase American ingenuity and free enterprise.

I was proud to represent our city that day as I greeted the president at Intel's Ocotillo campus in south Chandler.



Jay Tibshraeny

The FAB 42 microchip plant is one of the largest construction projects in the world, and I suspect most all of Chandler has witnessed the towering crane that is on site.

That particular piece of equipment is the largest land-based crane in the world, and served as a fitting background for this event.

Regardless of one's political affiliation, it was an honor to have President Barack Obama spend time in Chandler discussing the great alliance we have built with Intel. It was a great moment when the president said, "I'm here because the factory that's being built behind me is an example of an America that is within our reach, an America that attracts the next generation of good manufacturing jobs."

Intel is an outstanding business partner. The new plant alone has created thousands of construction jobs and will employ 1,000 well-paying and sustainable jobs. But this did not

happen by accident.

This City Council, as well as past councils and city staff, have worked hard to ensure Intel's presence has been a positive one for our community. We have worked not just with Intel but with Chandler-Gilbert Community College and our state universities to see that a dedicated and trained workforce is at hand to accommodate the skilled positions that Intel and other high-tech employers in Chandler demand.

People throughout our great country are talking about the need for job development and for keeping jobs here in America. The president and the members of Congress are talking about plants like this and the role they play in a stable economy. Good.

By shining the spotlight on Intel and Chandler, we are focusing on what really matters. It is good for the country and good for Chandler.

January 25 was a day I will not soon forget. Speaking with the president about our community, about Intel, and about mutual acquaintances like my friend Gabby Giffords, was truly an honor.

It may have taken 100 years, but I suspect that future presidents will make similar treks to our city, now that the rest of the country understands the magnitude of the success we have attained here in Chandler.

Finally, I want to thank the employees of Intel and our city staff who worked diligently to organize the President's visit on such short notice. In just a few days, they coordinated a major undertaking that went smoothly and showcased our community well.

Our community can be proud of this moment.

— Jay Tibshraeny is the mayor of Chandler.

## Public's input sought on design for Tempe streetcar project; work to start in 2013

Tempe residents are being invited to review and comment on urban design guidelines, or UDGs, for a Tempe streetcar project and any future such projects in the region.

UDGs are documents that will provide future project designers with guidelines for how the streetcar stops should look, including concepts for seating, lighting, platform paving, canopies and other elements.

The meeting will be held 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. Fifth St.

Tempe Streetcar will run between Rio Salado Parkway and Southern Avenue in the Mill Avenue corridor. Thirteen stop locations along the 2.6-mile line have been identified and were shared with the public and Tempe City Council in fall 2011.

The project will be built using a mix of regional Proposition 400 funds and federal grant dollars by 2016.

Design will begin later this fall; construction starts in 2013.

Information: (602) 744-5552 or ckahn@metrolightrail.org

## Dignity: Not just a name but a promise

Catholic Healthcare West, a respected member of the Valley's hospital network for more than 25 years and the parent of Chandler Regional Hospital, has changed its name to Dignity Health.

Patty White, Chandler Regional's chief executive officer, said the change is consistent with the hospital's longtime mission.

"The word 'dignity' perfectly defines what our organization stands for: Showing respect for all people by providing excellent care," she said.

That means, in addition to other factors, utilizing the most advanced medical technology, said White.

"It means clinical expertise, by way of the nation's top doctors and nurses. It means working closely with our patients so they can lead healthy, meaningful lives.

"And, of course, it means doing all of this with compassion—the type of compassion that includes finding ways to deliver high quality care at the lowest possible cost, so it's accessible to all."

If that sounds familiar, White says, it's because Chandler Regional is still the same organization it's always been: Not-for-profit and rooted in the Catholic tradition from which its mission, vision and values were born.

However, as a result of changes to the hospital's governance structure, which are being implemented along with the new name, Dignity Health is not an

official ministry of the Catholic Church, White noted.

She said the new structure and name enable the organization to grow nationally, while preserving the identity and integrity of both its Catholic and non-Catholic hospitals.

The organization's Catholic hospitals will continue to be Catholic, directly sponsored by their founding congregations and adhering to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. Dignity Health's non-Catholic hospitals will continue to be non-Catholic, adhering to the Statement of Common Values.

This new structure positions Chandler Regional for growth and for success in a reformed health care environment, according to White.

Sisters representing the sponsoring congregations that have guided the organization since its founding will continue to serve on the Dignity Board of Directors, and the congregations will continue to directly sponsor the Catholic hospitals.

Furthermore, said White, Chandler Regional Medical Center will continue to be non-Catholic, and its operations, policies and procedures will not be impacted. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, Chandler Regional's East Valley partner, will continue to be Catholic, directly sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, White said.



## Firefighters' camp stresses value of fitness

Several dozen Tempe firefighters will take time out on Saturday, Feb. 4, to conduct a youth fitness camp for kids ages 6 to 14.

The free event will be held at Tempe Beach Park from noon to 1 p.m.

The program is designed to teach kids and parents fun and effective ways to exercise with minimal equipment while raising awareness of youth obesity.

After organizing the kids into groups based on their age and size, they'll be assigned a coach. Coaches will be off-duty Tempe firefighters of Local 493 with backgrounds in athletics and personal training.

The coaches will teach each group age-appropriate exercises, drills and games. Parents are encouraged to attend and to talk with coaches about how to implement any newly learned skills at home.

Each child will be given a backpack with information on healthy eating and exercise habits.

The Tempe Firefighters Youth Fitness Camp was created to fight what experts call a rapidly increasing youth obesity epidemic.

The majority of Tempe firefighters already volunteer as youth group leaders, coaches and instructors. They provide the necessary funding and staffing.

Information: [www.TempeFirefighters.com](http://www.TempeFirefighters.com)

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# Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener



Marcos de Niza boys soccer team, 12-0 heading into the Division II state tournament, was scheduled to play as the No. 3 seed against No. 14 Washington, in the first round Jan. 31, at Marcos. Bottom row: Trevor Know, Danny Molina, Sam Steele, Tim Lagunas, Moses Chacon, Jose Segura, Dillon Moore. Top row: David Leng, Michael Reddington, Nick Palomares, Cody Spielberg, Conner Buckley, Brian Drew, Naveed Khosraviani, Abdirahman Aden, Callan Little, Victor Sanchez, Dara Farhadi. — Photo courtesy Haley Edington

## 12-0 season propels Marcos soccer toward state title

By Alex Zener

After repeatedly being knocked out of the running, the Marcos de Niza boys soccer team is fighting back for a spot in the Division II state championship game for the first time in 20 years.

This current group of players with head coach **Daryl Chavez**, who is a banker by day, finished the regular season undefeated at 12-0 by believing in themselves and playing for each other according to the team in unison.

The team now has a chance to do something that another Padre boys soccer team has not been able to do in recent years: bring home a championship trophy. The school previously garnered three consecutive championships, winning its last one in 1992.

"It was the best feeling in the world when we finished 12-0 in the regular season and (became) the champs of our section," said **Moses Chacon**, backup goalkeeper for the Padres. "Being in this position with the chance to go all the way...is a great feeling."

The Marcos team, consisting of 11 seniors, five juniors and one freshman, has fought hard all season

for this chance by outscoring their opponents 30 goals to 12 and amassing five shutouts with the help of goalkeeper **Victor Sanchez** who also had 68 saves in the regular season.

The 30 goals have been spread out among five players, with team co-captains **Connor Buckley** and **Danny Molina** scoring nine each and **Jose Segura** following closely with seven. The only freshman on the team, **Callan Little**, had three, while **Nick Palomares** had two.

"Callan is unique on our team because he's the first freshman to score a hat-trick for a Marcos soccer team in years," said Buckley.

Players who do not score goals are credited with points in soccer for assists, which are offensive passes that lead directly to a goal. Leading in assists for the Padres are Segura and Buckley with six each, along with several other players, including seniors **Naveed Khosraviani**, Molina and Palomares, and juniors **Cody Spielberg**, **Abdirahman Aden** and Little.

The Padres soccer team has several good mid-field and defensive players who help the goal keeper defend their goal including co-captain **Michael Reddington**, **Trevor Knox** and **Brian Drew**.

"Reddington along with Molina and Sanchez, our goalie, are key players crucial to our team's run for the state championship," said Buckley. "A possible sign of good luck is that Victor Sanchez, has the same last name as our school's old principal, whom our stadium is named after."

Drew was designated by the team as one of the key players whose contribution didn't always show up on the stat sheets but is important to the team's success because he "gets inside the head of the opposing players."

Other members contributing on and off the field are seniors **Tim Lagunas**, **Dillon Moore**, **David Ieng** and junior **Sam Steele**.

Another detail not prominently entered in the record books but memorable to this team is the fact that, to accomplish its goal of going undefeated in the regular season, this Padres team had to win its first and last two games in overtime with penalty kicks.

Marcos defeated Millennium Dec. 1, with an official score of 3-2, which actually was won 4-3 in penalty kicks. The same was true for the Padres game Jan. 24 against McClintock and Jan. 26 at Higley.

This Padres team is determined that all the time

and effort they put into going undefeated in the regular season will not go to waste during the state tournament.

“Going undefeated was a good moment,” said **Dillon Moore**, “but it won’t mean anything to us if we don’t go all the way and win state.”

The Padres were scheduled to play in the first round of the state tournament Jan. 31 as the No. 3 seed against No. 14 Washington on the Padres’ home field.

Should they emerge as winners in the first round, the Padres, still with home field advantage, would play the winner of the match between No. 6 Catalina Foothills and No. 11 Independence at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4.

The next match, if the Padres continue to win, would be the semifinals played at Paradise Valley High School, at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. The finals are scheduled to take place at Camp Verde High School at 1 p.m. Feb. 11.

## Aztecs in high gear after series of tough matchups

The Aztecs were ridden hard and hung up wet, so to speak, the week of Jan. 23, when they had to play three opponents who entered the game hoping to settle the score.

Playing Mesquite, Mountain Pointe and Hamilton in the span of four days put the Aztecs to the test, but they emerged unscathed and victorious.

“I think we have done what we needed to do these past few weeks to win games,” said coach Sam Duane Jr.

“Last week, with those three big games, was a tough week for us, but we survived.”

Corona actually ended up playing Mesquite back to back—the first game at home Jan. 20 and the second at Mesquite Jan. 24.

The Aztecs, currently ranked No. 1 in the power ranking, were ready to avenge their only loss of the season in their game Jan. 20 against Mesquite. The Aztecs scored their first three baskets to go up 7-0 in the first two minutes on a trey from **Calaen Robinson**, and baskets from **Andrus Peat** and **Casey Benson**.

The Aztecs continued to put on a high-octane show for the packed house, which included lots of footage for the highlight reel, ranging from Benson scoring two treys in the final three seconds of the first half to Andrus Peat’s four blocks to Benson’s lob pass for a Robinson dunk to start the third quarter.

**Avery Moss** and Andrus Peat played their usual hard ball in the paint, scoring seven and eight points respectively, while **Bryan Siefker** played with his usual stealth defense and contributed eight points.

Corona went deep into the bench to get contributions from **Jesse McCain**, **Braden Tennyson** and **Cassius Peat**.

McCain came in when Moss picked up his second foul and immediately contributed by taking a charge, causing the Wildcats a turnover.

Tennyson swished a big three when the Aztecs needed a basket in the second quarter and then went on to score on two more baskets to put up eight points.

Cassius Peat entered the game and the Corona students start chanting “basketball freshman” over and over again while he contributed nine points to

the cause.

Altogether, the Aztecs led by as much as 20 points at one point and ended defeating Mesquite 76-58.

On their second consecutive game against Mesquite, Jan. 24, the Aztecs once again got off to a good start, leading at the end of the first quarter 24-14. But Mesquite wouldn’t go quietly, getting within six points in the third quarter before ultimately going down in a tight match toward the end to the Aztecs 71-64. Robinson led with 17 points while both Benson and Moss contributed 16 each.

Corona also beat Mountain Pointe 61-46 in a non-league game at home Jan. 26 to end up with a 21-1 record heading into the Aztecs’ third game that week, the one that may have tested their mettle the most so far this season.

The game Jan. 27 against the Hamilton Huskies could probably be characterized as a low-scoring battle won in the trenches with players banging bodies trying to fight for position on every shot, particularly by Moss and Andrus Peat and ASU-bound 6-foot-11 235-pound Eric Jacobson of the Huskies.

“I think Andrus and Avery definitely give us a physical presence under the basket against Hamilton,” said Duane, “but we are going to need contributions from everyone on the team as the state tournament approaches.”

Hamilton came out playing with a vengeance, outscoring the Aztecs 17-11 in the first quarter. As a matter of fact, the Huskies led until a basket by Tennyson tied the score at 28 apiece heading into the half.

In addition to baskets scored by the starters, Corona received an extra boost off the bench when McCain scored two free throws halfway through the second quarter.

Corona’s team was either tied or behind Hamilton until 6:20 left to play in the fourth quarter when they took a two-point lead, 42-40, on a basket by Benson. The Aztecs played keep-away in the final 1:37, leading 46-45. Hamilton resorted to fouling, where there were four for four at the line, including two big free throws by **Adam Gleeve**, at the end to hold on for a 50-47 win.

“This team knows what it takes to win and how to win close games,” said coach Duane. “They have gained a lot of experience playing in big games for the past two to three years, which I think was a factor in our last win over Hamilton.”

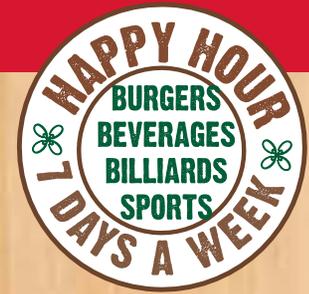
Corona had only three games left in the regular season on senior night, Jan. 31, at home against Dobson; Feb. 2 at Marcos de Niza; and Feb. 3 at McClintock before the state tournament.

The Aztecs have proven they have the basketball physical skills.

The state tournament will determine if they have they have the mental toughness to win the first state championship in boys basketball for Corona since 1994.

“It is all about the mental game now that the tournament is approaching,” said Duane. “Teams that are able to put the team first and are mentally ready are the teams that advance in the tournament.”

If the state tournament started tomorrow, Corona would be the No. 1 seed and square off in the first round against Pinnacle at home but the seeds will not be determined for until after Feb. 5.



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# Corona, Marcos athletes honored at All City banquet

## Corona del Sol

Corona had seven athletes honored at the Tempe All City Association Fall Sports Banquet held Jan. 30 at the Tempe Sheridan.

**Zack Hamm, Avery Moss and Andrus Peat** were given awards for football by head coach **Tom Joseph**.

"All three were instrumental to our success this season," said Joseph. "They are all tremendous young men and a pleasure to coach."

Moss and Peat, both current members of Corona's No. 1 ranked basketball team, will play collegiate football next fall. Moss has already committed to Nebraska while Peat was scheduled to announce his decision between USC, Stanford and Nebraska on National Letter on Intent Day, Feb. 1. Hamm, only a junior, was the leading tackler on Corona's team this season.

**Jamie Burt, Haley Kesteloot and Kasey Kiefer** received awards from head coach **Ben Maxfield** for their contribution to Corona's volleyball team's 28-13 record this season.

"Haley was a tremendous leader both on and off the court during her four years on Varsity," said Maxfield. "Her exceptional defensive skills will be greatly missed."

Kesteloot, as the team's libero, averaged over three digs per game for the team and a total of 20 aces this season.

"Jamie led our team in hitting this year," continued Maxfield. "She is one of those rare players that can be goofy one second, and totally focused the next one."

Burt, as the opposite hitter, was one of the top kill leaders on the team with a total of 229 kills averaging over 2.2 kills a game.

"We still have Kasey for another year," stated Maxfield. "She is developing into a powerful outside hitter, and she is

an extremely coachable player."

Kiefer, one of the team's outside hitter, played in 102 games averaging over 2.5 kills per game.

**Chloe Hacker** was recognized for her diving prowess winning her second Division I state diving championship for Corona this year as only a sophomore.

"Chloe came back this season focused, prepared mentally and in top condition," said heading swimming coach **Ron Musgrave**. "Our diving coach, **Lije Arnold**, thought Chloe seemed to have developed a new "grace in flight" which in turn allowed her to add more degrees of difficulty in her dive selections this year. We are blessed to have such a truly gifted student athlete in our program."

## Marcos de Niza

Marcos had five football players receive recognition for their achievements on the football field at the Tempe All City Association's Fall Sports banquet.

Head coach **Roy Lopez** presented the awards to **Rashad Baker-Walker, Paul Elvira, Giovann Gomez-Makel, Adam Pavlenko and Tommy Thornton**.

Senior Baker-Walker, a 5-foot-11 223 pound defensive lineman averaged over eight tackles and almost one sack a game with 97 total tackles for the season.

Junior Elvira, a 6-foot-1 wide receiver had four rushing touchdowns, 774 receiving yards averaging over 9 yards per carry and 65 yards a game.

Senior Gomez-Makel, a 5-foot-8 defensive back had a total of 74 tackles averaging over six tackles a game and was named player of the week Sept. 11, 2011 for two picks, one for a touchdown and one tackle for a loss.

Senior Pavlenko, a 5-foot-11 linebacker averaging over

nine tackles and 2.5 points per game with four rushing touchdowns has committed to Iowa State.

Senior quarterback Thornton, at 6-foot-3 207 pounds, has committed to the University of Wyoming. He averaged almost 200 pass yards per game amassing a total of 2368 passing yards with 20 passing touchdowns and rushed for 768 yards during the season.

— Alex Zener



Corona del Sol honorees



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# Tempe, McClintock athletes honored at All City banquet

*Editor's note: McClintock High School and Tempe High School each had one athlete honored at the Tempe All City Association Fall Sports Banquet held Jan. 30 at the Tempe Sheraton.*

By Clayton Klapper

## TEMPE HIGH — Greg Mills, Junior, Offensive Line, All City Offensive Line



Greg Mills' play on the offensive line helped lead the Tempe Buffaloes to 169 rushing yards per game, including 221 yards rushing in their final game of the season against Maricopa.

He was selected All City for his aggressive and intelligent style of play on the line.

His dominating play on the field and his leadership off the field make him a blessing for any football team to have on their roster.

Only a junior, Mills will return for one more

season of football under Coach Brian Walker.

**Comments from Tempe Buffaloes Coach Brian Walker** — "I am extremely blessed to have had the opportunity to coach Greg for the past couple years.

He has been a consummate leader both on and off the field. He has volunteered at many community worthy events throughout the Tempe community, as well as achieving a 3.8 core GPA in the classroom. Greg is a two-year letter winner for us and I am waiting to see his continued growth this upcoming season.

It's going to be a blessing to have him back next year. His leadership alone both on the field and off the field is going to mean so much to this program."

## MCCLINTOCK HIGH — Joseph Wells — Senior, Wide Receiver/Defensive back, All City Defensive Back

Joseph Wells was selected All City as a defensive back representing the McClintock Chargers, but he was a star on all sides of the football.

He played receiver and kick returner, and led with explosive plays like two touchdown receptions in the third quarter of the first game of the season to defeat Tempe High 47-14.

He also returned an impressive 100 yard kickoff return for a touchdown on the opening play against Marcos de Niza in October.

Wells is still undecided on his choice of college.

**Comments from McClintock Chargers Coach Matthew Lewis** — "I don't know if it's so much what football will do for him; it's more what Joe will give to wherever he decides to be a part of.



What I've learned is that as much as he has helped and was a leader on this team, he's going to bring more to the table to

whatever he chooses to do next and that's really the blessing. He was for all intensive purposes the MVP of our entire team.

If you looked at our defense, offense and special teams he was the MVP of each of those areas. The character, the work ethic and the fact that he was always supportive of a new coaching staff had the greatest impact in terms of his leadership."

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# Tempe elections stay on non-partisan course

## A close-up view of those who want to be city's new mayor

*Editor's note: Linda Wegener, a south Tempe resident and onetime candidate for the Arizona State Legislature, offers an introduction to the candidates seeking election as Tempe mayor, along with an overview of what these individuals might bring to the city during their four-year term.*

Tempe's early election for mayor and City Council begins Feb. 16. This election, unlike those of some Arizona cities, is non-partisan. Some may try to bring partisan politics to the election, but most Tempe citizens prefer to resist the temptation of polarizing politics.

This non-partisan approach has induced three remarkable people to place themselves in that tough campaign environment.

Because, in my opinion, the three candidates are exceptional Tempe citizens, I felt compelled to write this column. First, it is important to realize that all three candidates have had a longtime association with Tempe as players in the Tempe business community, and all three have been active volunteers in Tempe non-profit and charity organizations.

All three have devoted many years to civic club membership. From working with each candidate on various civic projects, I have observed unique strengths for each. The candidate descriptions are listed alphabetically and are not in any preferential order, so as to be as objective as possible.

**Mark Mitchell** grew up living with Tempe government. He and his wife, Debbie, chose Tempe to educate and raise their family. Mark has worked for many years in a Tempe business that is known to give back to the community.

He has a big heart and cares a great deal about the citizens of Tempe, and currently serves as a member of the City Council. Because of Mark's approachable personality, he always discusses Tempe issues in a polite, knowledgeable and respectful manner.

**Michael Monti** has had a considerable presence in the Tempe business community and a lengthy interest in Tempe municipal affairs. He is a lawyer by training and is known for his long-running restaurant business.

Michael has an incredible intellect, and one's vocabulary can take a few leaps forward simply by being with him. He runs a meeting professionally and efficiently. His ability to maintain his composure under pressure is notable. Michael also lives with his family in Tempe.

**Linda Spears** is likewise a longtime Tempe businessperson with her CPA practice, and has previously served on the Tempe City Council. She has the gift of understanding accounting practices and the complexity of financial matters.

Linda is a doer and believes in developing community events that get neighbors interacting

toward common goals. Her idea of a Fantasy of Lights Parade and a community Easter Egg Hunt seemed like an insurmountable challenge when I first heard about it.

Somehow she organized a remarkable volunteer force to get it done, and done well. Linda also rose to the challenge of raising the teenage children of a friend who died of cancer.

Yes, Tempe is lucky to have such remarkable individuals running for office. I hope each Tempe resident takes the time to get to know the candidates by visiting their websites and watching their debates on Channel 11.

The candidates need dollars and community gatherings. Get involved, and enjoy a non-partisan Tempe campaign.

We are a fortunate community, indeed!

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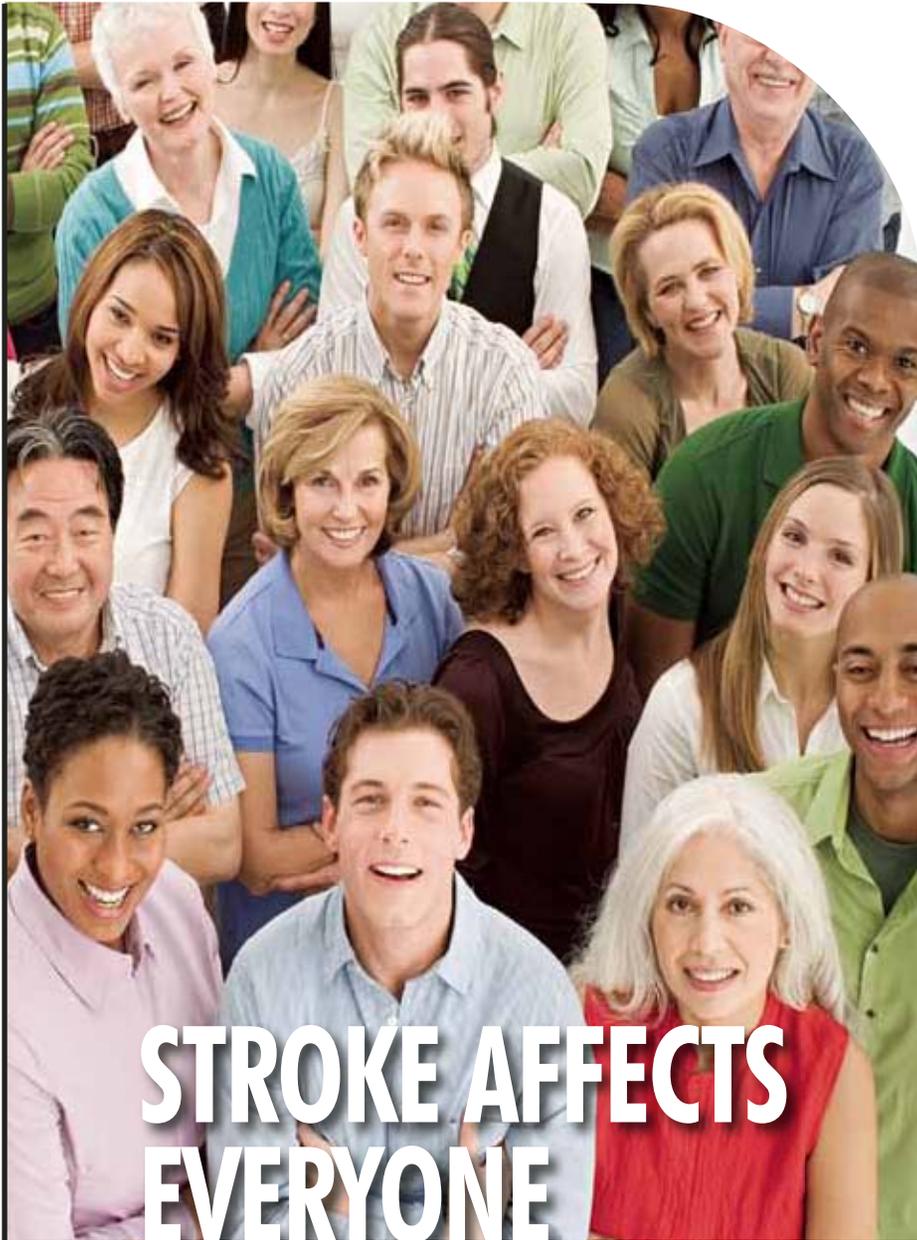
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## Cielo 1st-grade teacher among nine receiving national board certification

By Mark Crudup

Longtime Kyrene del Cielo teacher Susan Bryant is one of nine Kyrene professionals this year to receive National Teacher Board Certification.

"It took about year, although it can take up to three years to get your certification," Bryant said.



Susan Bryant

Bryant has been a first-grade teacher at Cielo for 20-plus years, and plans on staying there for the remainder of her career.

Kyrene Governing Board members honored all nine teachers who received their national certification during the last board meeting.

"I think what is really good about getting your certification is you analyze what you're doing as a teacher," Bryant said. "It kind of affirms what you do."

Bryant said the application process was a worthwhile experience, allowing her to evaluate what her role is in the classroom.

"It definitely keeps you current with the educational research," Bryant said. "It deepened my knowledge and skills, and enhanced my understanding of the teaching process."

Bryant said she compiled videos of her classroom and students for her application.

"You submit a portfolio, and I compiled two 15-minute videos for mine," she said.

"One focused on math and science and how you integrate those, and one was on social studies and how you build a classroom community."

The certification lasts for 10 years and takes the place of other states' qualifications to become a teacher, Bryant said.

"It was a worthwhile experience and I received a lot of support from Kyrene," she said.

"I definitely encourage other teachers to apply for their national certification."

Other Kyrene teachers who received certification this year are Emily Mazer, Greg Broberg, Amy Dean, Chris Huch, Heather Proseus, Joselyn Taylor, Marcia Middleton and Tonia Muhs.

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# Peat picks Stanford; others also sign

By Alex Zener

Brother Todd Jr. and fellow football and basketball teammate Avery Moss will have to do without Andrus Peat at Nebraska next year.

The 6-foot-7, 290-pound offensive tackle has chosen to be one of Stanford University's 16 national recruits, surprising experts who were predicting he would choose the Cornhuskers.

After receiving more than 30 scholarship offers, Andrus had narrowed his choice to Nebraska, USC and Stanford before announcing his final decision live on nationally televised ESPN, at his Tempe high school, Corona del Sol, in front of family, friends and teammates.

Andrus, second son of former NFL football player Todd Peat Sr., selected the school that he said he felt was best for him athletically and academically.

"I chose Stanford because the offense they run will be a good fit for my style of play," said Andrus. "In addition, I've been working my whole life both academically and on the football field in order to get the opportunity to go to a school like Stanford, and I just couldn't pass it up."

Andrus was pleased about being accepted academically to Stanford.

"Only 7 percent of the people who apply get accepted," Andrus said. "It felt really special to be one of the few who were admitted to such an outstanding school."

Stanford is getting, in exchange, a strong athletic football player and an outstanding young man with the ability to only make its football program better.

"I work hard every day and I know how to be a leader," said Andrus. "I think I'm a pretty special player on and off the field, and I can bring something dynamic to Stanford's team."

Andrus is undecided about what he will major in, but it

will probably be something in the realm of business. And, yes, he has high hopes of someday following in his father's footsteps.

"My ultimate goal would be to play in the NFL," said Andrus. "Stanford has potentially four first round draft picks coming out this year, so it's proven to be a good school for NFL recruitment and prestige."

"But, if the NFL doesn't work out or when I finish my football career, it will be great to have a degree from such an academically sound school to fall back on."

About Corona basketball: Andrus's decision to go to Stanford was not swayed by the fact that the Stanford coach, David Shaw, came to watch him play basketball. He does plan, with the rest of his basketball teammates, to bring home the Division I state basketball championship trophy later this month.

"At first I wasn't going to play, but then Calaen, Avery, my brother, Cassius—even coach Duane—implored me to play because they thought I could really contribute to the team," said Andrus.

"I came to the decision I wanted to try for a basketball state championship, even though I would be playing football in college and that's exactly what we are doing,"



Corona athletes and their college picks include, from left, Zach Hamm, Colorado Mesa University; Avery Moss, University of Nebraska; Nicky Newcomb, Minot (S.D.) State; Andrus Peat, Stanford University; Nicholas Woods, Phoenix College.

— Photo contributed by Kris Cartwright

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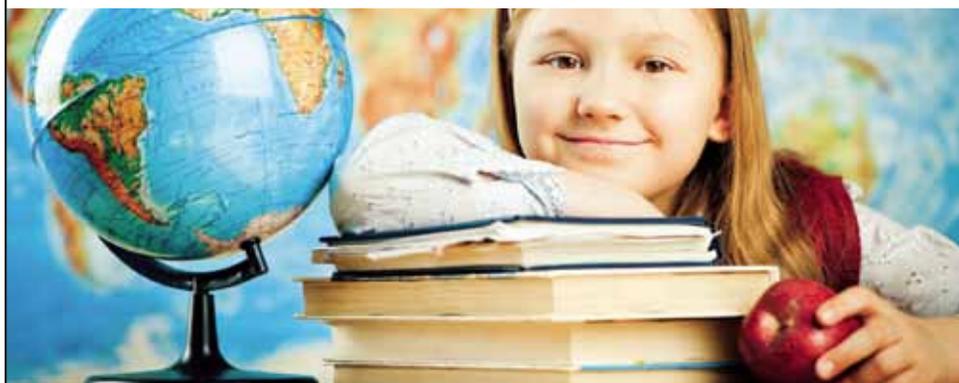


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## Notebook

From Page 7

### Girls Basketball —

Currently holding a 13-11 record, Corona's girls basketball program, although it has a way to go to be compared to the heyday of earlier teams, most recently the 2001 team that won the 5A state championship or the 2002 runner-up team, the Lady Aztecs under head coach **Andrew Strom** have been steadily gaining ground over the last three years.

"We have improved tremendously as a team this season," said Strom. "Our schedule, which we have no control over, has been incredibly difficult, so we have had little margin for error."

Corona started off winning 12 out of its first 14 games, bringing home the championship trophy from the Lady Badger Classic on Dec. 31 before the Lady Aztecs hit a buzz saw in their schedule, losing eight out their next 10 games to teams in Section II of Division I teams.

Even with the recent losses, Strom says he has seen great effort and improvement from his players this season.

"**Taylor Kalmer** and **Alexa Hogberg** have carried us in scoring," said Strom. "**Lauren Lucky** has been our biggest contributor on the boards."

Junior Hogberg is averaging more than 14 points a game and has made more three-point shots (45 at last count) than anyone else on the team. She is making 34 percent of her three-point attempts, but her teammate, freshman Kalmer, who averages close to 14 points a game, is making 37 percent of her treys with currently 34 treys.

Three other players contribute on offense by consistently averaging more than five points a game: Sophomore **Kaelin Shaffer**, 6.6 points per game with 15 total treys; Junior **Lauren Lucky**, 6.6 points per game; and **Sammi Moore** with close to five points a game with nine treys. Freshman **Haley Langille**, with limited minutes off the bench, is the only other player to make three-pointers for Corona by shooting 67 percent or making two out of the three shots she attempted.

Lucky is the leading rebounder averaging over seven rebounds a game (currently 146 rebounds) but she is followed by Shaffer and senior Liann Kline who are both averaging over four rebounds a game.

Hogberg is the assist leader, averaging more than four a game

with a consistent two-to-one assist-to-turnover ratio, followed by Kalmer and Shaffer. Lucky leads the team in blocks with nine but is closely followed by sophomore **Jordynn Logston** who has seven blocks subbing in off the bench.

The team will honor three seniors, Kline, **Hanna Rahman** and **Erin Miller** at the last home game Feb. 3 against McClintock.

"I appreciate the time and effort from our three seniors," said Strom. "They are all excellent people that will do well in the future."

Kline who is credited for doing all the little things that help make the team play better saw action in all fourteen game so far averaging over 2 points, 4.1 rebounds, .5 assists, .4 steals and .2 blocks a game. Miller averaged 2.4 rebounds, 1 point and .3 assists in the 14 games she played so far while Rahman saw action in over seven games this season so far.

Expecting to return most if not all of his starters and nine players from this season's relatively young team, including currently junior **Justice Mosley** and sophomore **Vicki Sanford**, who acquired experience coming off the bench, the Lady Aztecs should have a more experienced and mature team next year.

"The future of our team looks good," said Strom. "We played a lot of the top teams well in games this season, but we still need to be able to play a complete game which will come with maturity and experience."

### Corona Girls Soccer

— Corona's girls soccer team finished the season Jan. 24 with a game against Mountain Pointe at home, at the same time honoring 11 seniors who have helped the Lady Aztecs maintain the program's high standards and tradition of winning.

Being honored and helping the Lady Aztecs win their last five games of the season were **Jade Martins**, **Lauren Smeltzer**, **Nicolette Newcomb**, **Hallee Ahler**, **Megan Benson**, **Dallas Johnson**, **London Brewster**, **Cara Ridley**, **Brooke Ridley**. Also honored were **Mackenzie Bader** and **Taylor Johnson**, who were injured and not able to play.

Most players who go through Corona's girls soccer program share the same sentiments as Ridley.

"It has been a great experience for me to be able to play soccer at Corona," she said. "I will always remember that

# Notebook

From Page 12

we won together and we lost together, sharing a bond that none of use will ever forget.”

Corona finished the season with a 10-10-2 overall record but No. 19 power ranking with a 7-5 record. This is one of the few times the Lady Aztecs have not played in the state tournament. It doesn't make a difference, but the new AIA state tournament qualifying regulations kept at least 4-6 teams out of the state tournament that most coaches though should have played.

**Corona Wrestling** — Corona's wrestling team finished the regular season with a 21-4 dual meet record with a win over Highland Jan. 25.

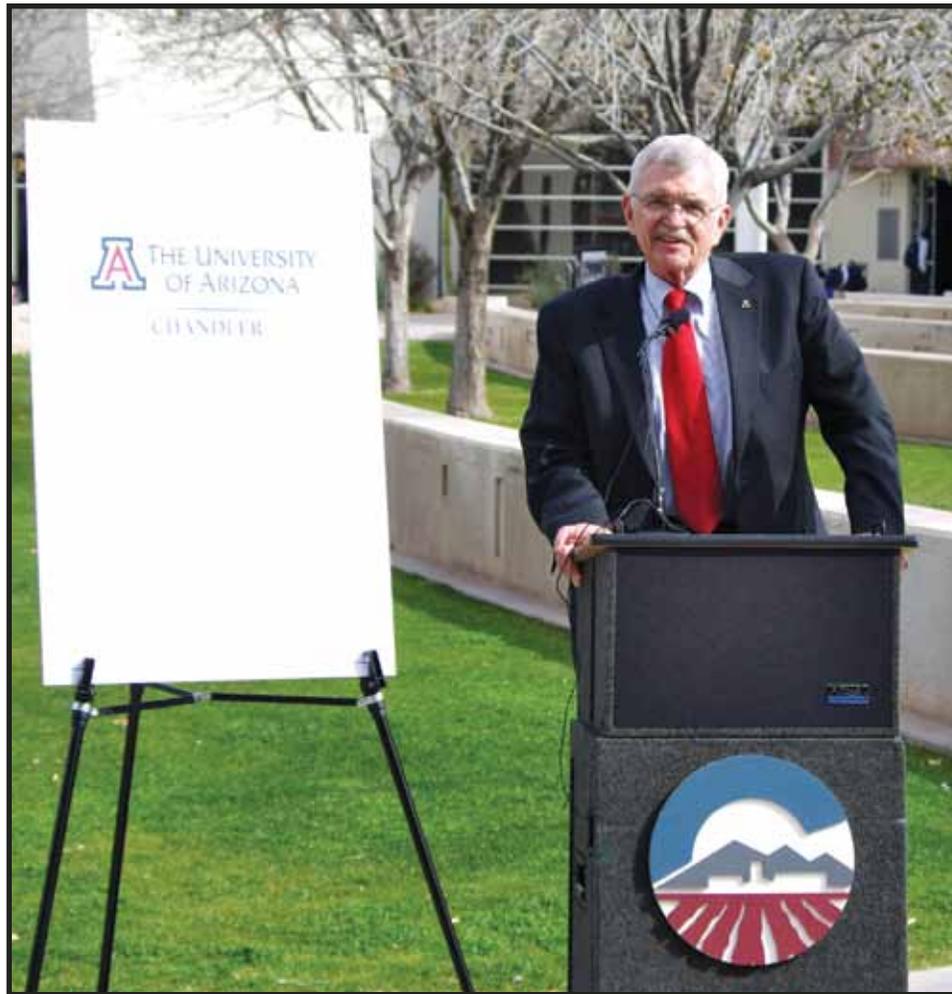
After Highland forfeited seven weight classes, the Aztecs won four out of the six remaining matches.

“I am very proud of our team,” said coach Jim Martinez. “The only losses we had for the year were to out-of-state teams.”

The team will be wrestling in the Division I, Section II tournament Feb. 3-4 at Skyline High School at 845 S. Crismon Road in Mesa.

“The top five wrestlers in each weight class will automatically qualify for the state tournament,” said Martinez.

“We hope to have a large number of our wrestlers qualify for state to be held in Prescott Valley Feb. 10-11.”



## UA brings a new face to Chandler

Dr. Gene Sander, president of the University of Arizona, addressed residents of Chandler on Feb. 1, announcing that UA and the city have launched a partnership to host a variety of university programs beginning this May. UA will utilize approximately 9,000 square feet of Chandler's community services building for classes and offices to expand its technology programs.

— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup

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Sunday Family Days provide special pricing to make a family golf outing affordable, and family tees make it more enjoyable and more competitive for players of all levels.

Beginning at noon on Sundays, families get a free youth green fee with each paying adult, as well as special pricing on food and beverages in our clubhouse restaurants – The Caddy Shack Sports Grill at Rolling Hills and Ken McDonald.

Golf Tempe recently implemented family tees, which provide two levels of additional tees for each hole. The new tees are located well in front of the existing tees in order to shorten the course and help players keep a comfortable pace of play. While standard tees can sometimes be too long for some youth golfers and adult beginners, family tees allow players of all levels to enjoy the game together.

Golf Tempe's two courses offer: seven-day advance tee times; affordable daily fees; excellent practice facilities; full-service pro shops and restaurants; group and private lessons; corporate outings; and tournament packages. For tee times, call Ken McDonald at 480-350-5250 or Rolling Hills at 480-350-5274. Or book online at [www.tempe.gov/golf](http://www.tempe.gov/golf).

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And, of course, if there's one other thing Tempe knows, it's how to throw a party.

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We're blending science, technology and fun to celebrate the Arizona SciTech Festival.

## Adopt-A-Street, Path or Park

Tempe's Adopt-A-Street, Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Path programs allow individuals, businesses and organizations to help maintain Tempe's streets, multi-use paths and parks.

While Tempe does its best to clean up litter, pull weeds and remove graffiti, we could use your

Best of all, everything is free. Come to Mill Avenue on Feb. 16 from 6-9 p.m. for a very special Third Thursday, themed to bring out the curiosity within.

Join the fun and you could: test your Star Trek and Star Wars knowledge; learn more about stars, galaxies and nebulae with ASU's astronomy program; check out robots; explore the world

of paranormal investigation; hear from well-known technology entrepreneurs and more.

Want to learn more about the Arizona SciTech Festival? Visit <http://azscitechfest.org/>. The Twitter hashtag for the event is #GEEKTEMPE.



## Free tax preparation for income-qualified residents

Don't pay hundreds of dollars to have your taxes done! Tempe Community Council's Financial Stability Initiative offers a free tax preparation site and Earned Income Tax Credit refunds for families who qualify.

The service will be available each Saturday through April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon (except March 10 and 17 for Spring Break) and Wednesdays in February only from 5-7 p.m.

It is hosted by Tempe Schools Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. For free tax preparation, families must have had an income of \$55,000 or less in 2011; single individuals must have earned \$35,000 or less.

Check [www.tempe.gov/tcc/financialstability/taxPrep.htm](http://www.tempe.gov/tcc/financialstability/taxPrep.htm) for details and what to bring to your visit.

## Kajikawa Classic returns

The reigning National Champion Arizona State University Women's Softball Team will host the annual Kajikawa Classic Feb. 9-12 at Farrington Stadium at ASU and at the P. Ben Arredondo Sports Complex in Tempe.

Named after legendary ASU softball coach Bill Kajikawa, the event is an ASU softball tradition.

The 2012 Classic will host 29 teams and a total of 74 games.

For more details, visit [www.thesundevils.com](http://www.thesundevils.com).

## Tempe hosts 3rd Play Day

On Saturday, Feb. 18, kids of all ages will have the opportunity to have fun and stay active at the city's 3rd Annual Play Day.

The free community event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Kiwanis Park, Mill Avenue and All-America Way.

Participate in kayaking on Kiwanis Lake, lawn tennis, art projects and much more.

For information, visit [www.tempe.gov/recreation](http://www.tempe.gov/recreation) or call 480-350-5200.





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# Coming up

**Jan. 26 through Feb. 6 — Circus Vargas Comes to Arizona Mills Mall** — Circus Vargas is bringing its show back to Arizona, featuring death-defying stunts, aerial artistry, clown acts and much more. Arrive 20 minutes early for the interactive pre-show, where children of all ages are invited into the center ring for a crash course in circus skills. For tickets and show times, visit [www.circusvargas.com](http://www.circusvargas.com).

**Feb. 8, 6 to 8 p.m. — Tempe Streetcar Project Public Meeting** — Residents are invited to review and comment on the Urban Design Guidelines (UDG) for the 2.6-mile Tempe Streetcar project and any future streetcar projects in the region. The UDG is a document that will provide future project designers with guidelines for how the streetcar stops should look, including concepts for seating, lighting, platform paving and more. The presentation will take place at the Tempe Transportation Center, located on 5th Street north of University Drive, in the Don Cassano Room. Information: 602-744-5552, [www.metrohightail.org/tempestreetcar](http://www.metrohightail.org/tempestreetcar).

**Feb. 8, 9 and 10, 7:30 p.m. — South Mountain Community College Presents Walk, Don't Ride! A Celebration of the Fight for Equality** — The SMCC theater department will present a student play, an ensemble piece in which actors and signers tell the stories of the brave men and women who stood up for equality and civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s throughout the U.S. The performance will take place at the SMCC Studio Theater, located on the northwest corner of Baseline Road and 24th Street. Tickets are available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). Information: 602-243-8382.

**Feb. 20 — Kyrene District Schools Closed for President's Day** — Parents who are interested in enrolling their kids in the Kyrene Kids Club camps that day can call 480-783-4044.

**Feb. 21, 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. — Water Wise Edible Gardening Class for Chandler Utility Customers** — Chandler utility customers are invited to attend this free class to learn how to prepare beds, choose plants and for vegetables, herbs, fruits and citrus for a bountiful harvest. To register, visit [www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water).

**Feb. 22, 6 to 8:30 p.m. — Leading and Communicating in Your Neighborhood** — This free workshop offered by the Chandler's Traditional Academy will provide residents with a discussion of characteristics of an effective leader and the key ingredients of community leadership. The workshop will be held on the second floor of the Chandler City Hall, located off of Arizona Avenue south of Chandler Boulevard.

**Feb. 24, 5 to 7 p.m. — 6th Annual Kyrene de la Mariposa World Fair** — This free event for Kyrene families will include crafts, fashion, food, dance and song to celebrate diversity and cultures from around the world. The event will take place at Mariposa Elementary School, located west of Rural Road on Knox Road, and will include a fashion show, flag parade and booths featuring various countries from around the world.

**March 1, 6 to 10 p.m. — Taste of Kyrene** — Support the Kyrene School District through this annual event, featuring chef stations, live entertainment, a silent auction and much more. Proceeds from the event will benefit all 25 Kyrene schools. The event will take place at the Castle at Ashley Manor, located south of Loop 202 on the west side of Price Road. Information: <http://www.kyrenefoundation.org/gettinginvolved/tasteofkyrene.shtml>.

**March 7 through 10, 7 p.m. — Marcos de Niza High School performance of All Shook Up** — Students and parents are invited to attend student performance featuring songs by Elvis Presley. Advanced tickets are available through the Marcos bookstore. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

**March 3, 9 a.m. — 14th Annual MotorSports Day at Arizona Community Church** — Join this free event at Arizona Community Church, located on the northeast corner of Rural and Knox Roads, to check out 500 locally-owned classic cars, hot-rods, dragsters and more. Activities for kids include grand prix wood car races, face painting and free goodie bags. A BBQ pulled-pork sandwich lunch will also be provided. Information: 602-320-4921.

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# Diversions

With M.V. Moorhead

## 'Moonstruck' a perfect pick for your Valentine

A woman falls in love with her fiancé's estranged brother. An aging, successful businessman cheats on his wife.

These are the plot and subplot, respectively, of *Moonstruck*, which turns 25 this year.

To someone who'd never seen the film, that description might sound more like the basis for a sordid melodrama with a violent, tragic ending than a warm, eccentric romantic comedy, perfect for Valentine's Day viewing.

Part of *Moonstruck's* achievement is that it manages to be both romantic and fiercely honest about love.

The fickleness, the brevity, the irrationality, and the wide streak of selfishness that characterize even the grandest *amours* are fully acknowledged, and cheerfully mocked, and yet somehow the movie convinces us of love's transcendence.

Plus, it's one of the funniest films of the '80s.

The story centers on a Loretta Castorini (Cher), an Italian-American widow pushing 40.

An accountant, she lives in a palatial house in Brooklyn, exquisitely shot by cinematographer David Watkin, with her gloomy father Cosmo (Vincent Gardenia), an affluent plumber, and her gloomier mother Rose (Olympia Dukakis).

Gloomiest of all is her grandfather (Feodor Chalaipin), who moves around in a wake of small dogs—the only time joy registers on his face is when he gets them to howl at the moon.



M.V. Moorhead

Loretta agrees to marry her dull, pleasant boyfriend Johnny (Danny Aiello), who by her own admission she likes but doesn't love, before he leaves for Italy and the deathbed of his vociferous, energetic mother.

While he's away, Loretta goes to invite his brother Ronnie (Nicolas Cage) to the wedding, and the two fall immediately in love.

Meanwhile, Rose struggles with the awareness that Cosmo is cheating on her.

That's the plot, but it does no justice to the richness of the movie, which works on a surprisingly broad canvas, with minor characters ranging from Loretta's customers to Cosmo's, Ronnie's coworkers, the waiters at the restaurants, or random passersby like the vitriolic old crone with whom Loretta has

an odd exchange at the airport. In formal terms, the resolution of the plot is a bit of an anticlimax, really, but while you're watching the movie it's comedic bliss, and utterly satisfying.

Indeed, this is one of those rare and precious movies where everything somehow went improbably right.

Cher did her best work as an actress in *Moonstruck*, and Cage probably had his finest hour here, too.

But the supporting actors and bit players are sublime without exception—in particular Louis Guss and Julie Bovasso as Loretta's Aunt and Uncle, and John Mahoney as a coed-loving college professor who happens into dinner with Rose and wistfully discovers the pleasure of a mature woman's company.

The director, Norman Jewison, did fine work before and after this film, but nowhere else showed this flawless a touch.

John Patrick Shanley, who wrote the Oscar-winning, highly quotable script, has never topped it—most of his subsequent work has been brilliant in flashes but badly uneven.

But *Moonstruck's* dialogue, for all its idiosyncratic poetry, still sounds blunt and natural in the mouths of these actors.

The happy irony is that this celebration of love's glorious imperfection is, in itself, pretty much a perfect movie.

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# Diversity

From Page 3

these days.”

Others seem to feel this way, too.

On Jan. 16, Unity leaders Lani Redmond and Mia Khan won Tempe’s Martin Luther King Diversity Award for their work with the program. Jan O’Malley also accepted a large grant for the program at the ceremony.

Awareness Day is based around a series of skits performed by the Unity leaders, a group of students who meet every week of the school year to prepare for events like this. Each skit focuses on a different topic of discussion, such as gender stereotyping, bullying, suicide and one called “the 5 levels,” a demonstration of how simple hatred can lead to genocide.

Following each of the skits, the students, known here as “delegates,” are split into groups to discuss, a method they call “processing.” Unity leaders raise questions designed to provoke thought and encourage discussion among the delegates.

However, opening up is something Unity leader Preslie Hirsch says is not a problem for most. “Many kids have a lot of baggage they didn’t know they were holding,” she says. “They don’t have the resources they need to express themselves, or have family and friends to talk about these subjects. Here we give them an outlet.”

“Students are opinionated on more things than we think,” she says. “This is a really great platform to express opinions, topics that might be inappropriate to discuss in a classroom, or things people are

afraid they may get judged for. We give them an environment to express this.”

Hirsch, a Corona senior and four-year veteran of Awareness Day, says the program has occasionally struggled with support from some of the faculty and community. But she says the recent arrival of principal Brent Brown could act as a new beginning for the program. “Awareness Day used to be mandatory for all freshmen, so we would put it on five to six times a year,” she says.

“Now we are down to two a year. Our new principal is very supportive of the program, and we’re hoping it will be mandatory again. It’s just something that is beneficial to the school as a whole.”

Upon her retirement in May 2013, O’Malley will be vacating the position of Unity Club adviser. Interest in the position has been minimal, she says, but she hopes that someone with a passion for Corona’s youth will step up to continue the program and take it to new heights.

“I am hoping that someone will at least continue

sponsoring the Unity Club, where kids can gather and discuss the same issues that are presented at Awareness Day,” she says.

“My 15 years with the program, working with such awesome kids who feel as passionate about this program as I do, is rewarding beyond anything else I have done.”

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## Marcos QB Thornton commits to Wyoming football

Contributed by Clayton Klapper

Former Marcos de Niza quarterback Tommy Thornton has officially committed to the Wyoming football program.

Thornton joined Marcos de Niza his junior year, moving from Parker, Colo., where he played two seasons of varsity football. He led the Padres to a 9-3 season in 2011 with 2,368 yards passing, 20 touchdowns and only five interceptions. He earned All City/All Region honors for the second year in a row, and was voted first team All State by the Arizona Football Coaches

Association.

He reached plenty of impressive feats this season, like throwing for 347 yards against McClintock, or the fact that he led the team in rushing yards in 2011. The one that he will remember the most, though, came in his junior year against Casa Grande; "I threw for five touchdowns in the first half. In the last drive of the second quarter a receiver dropped a wide-open pass which would have given me the record," Thornton said.

"I was upset at the time but I got over it pretty quickly as I realized it

was more about winning the game as a team."

They went on to defeat Casa Grande 60-0 that day.

Head Coach Roy Lopez teaches team pride and emphasizes unity off the field, one thing that Thornton says he could never overlook.

"Coach Lopez is such a good coach in the sense that he truly brings his team together as a family.

"He uses the phrase 'band of brothers' and we really bought into that and lived it out this season. We became a very close knit group of guys."



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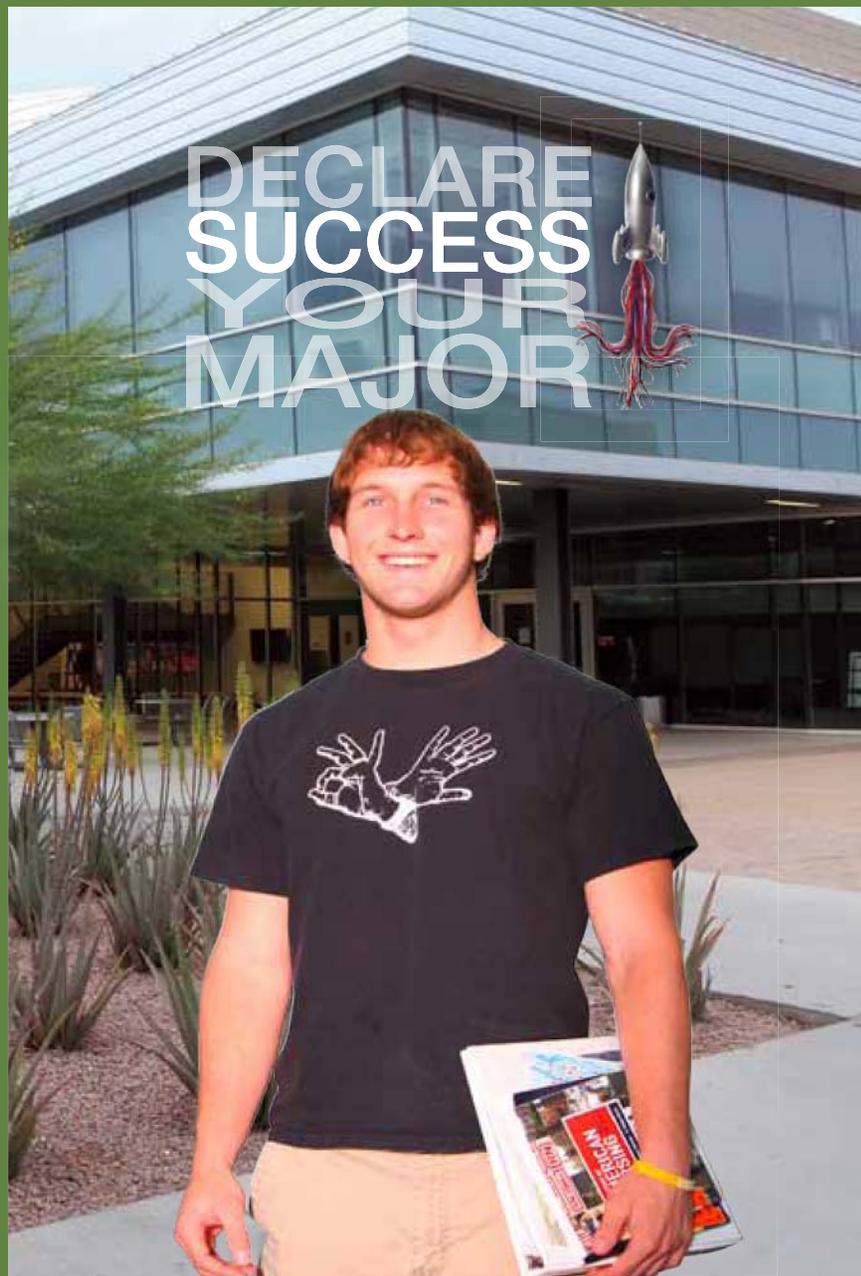


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## Feb. 6 deadline for Tempe Diablos teacher awards

**A**mong students and teachers, the best of the best are due to receive a deserved round of applause—and some significant financial recognition—on Monday, March 26.

That's when the Tempe Diablos' 23rd annual Excellence in Education Awards are handed out to teachers in the Tempe Elementary, Kyrene and



Gerda Klein

Tempe Union High School districts for outstanding innovation in the classroom.

Teachers' award entries must be submitted by midnight Monday, Feb. 6.

In a separate ceremony earlier in the day, the Diablos will award scholarships to high school students from the Tempe Union High School District to attend Arizona State University or a Maricopa County community college.

The scholarships and awards to teachers and students total approximately \$220,000, according to Diablo Bill Ottinger.

Keynote speaker at the awards event will be Gerda Weissmann Klein, a celebrated author, 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, Academy Award winner and Holocaust survivor.

Her message is one of inspiration and perseverance that parallels the accomplishments of the awards recipients, according to Ottinger.

Chairman of the event is Gerald Deetz, Jr.

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# Briefs

## HOA Academy launches new season

Helping homeowner associations improve their operations, overcome challenges and sustain vibrant, healthy neighborhoods is the focus of Chandler's free HOA Academy beginning next month.

The city's Neighborhood Programs Office is partnering with the Mulcahy Law Firm to present four weekly classes being held Wednesdays through Feb. 22.

Classes will be held 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Chandler City Hall. A final class will be 6 to 9 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Topics in the ongoing series include:

**Feb. 8:** The ABC's of CC&R Enforcement and Is It an Association or Homeowner Issue? Participants will learn when boards should pursue delinquencies and how to work proactively with members of their community to deal with association issues.

**Feb. 15:** Top 10 Common Errors Boards Make. Participants will learn about new open meeting laws, how to conduct an efficient meeting, take minutes and use technology effectively and properly. Additionally, participants will learn how to protect the board of directors and the association from the threat of a lawsuit.

**Feb. 22:** Know Your City Resources – Neighborhood Forum. Participants will receive an overview of city resources and learn how to utilize these resources effectively in their neighborhoods. The class also includes participation by students enrolled in the 2012 Spring Traditional Neighborhood Academy.

Information: 480-782-4320. Enrollment priority will be given to Chandler residents.

## Art students display talents at open house

Kids with a budding talent for creativity get a chance to show off their ingenuity at The Summit School of Ahwatukee's preschool through eighth grade student art exhibit Wednesday, Feb. 15.

An open house for kindergarten through eighth grade will be held at the same time.

Classrooms will be open from 6-7:30, with special presentations preceding the open house.

Kindergarten-bound parents are invited to a curriculum presentation from 5-6 p.m. in the kindergarten classroom, with discussion of how students can thrive in reading, math, home-learning and spelling at individualized learning levels.

From 5:30 to 6, head of school Pat O'Brien will discuss Summit's nationally accredited middle school program.

From 6 to 7:30, the school's multipurpose room will be transformed into an art gallery, displaying works in canvas, fused glass, architectural design, drawing, painting, and ceramics, done by preschool- through eighth grade- art students.

Summit School is at 4515 E. Muirwood Drive, Ahwatukee Foothills. Information: 480-403-9500.

## African village focus of storytelling event

South Mountain Community College's storytelling institute will present "Return to the African Village," featuring music, dance and folktales, Thursday, Feb. 16.

The event coincides with Black History Month. SMCC storytellers will join forces with the Kawambe Omowale African Drum and Dance Theater to present a colorful evening of sights and sounds guaranteed to create a multi-sensory African experience.

The institute is one of only a handful of academic programs in the nation to focus on this ancient art form,

and is the only Arizona institution to offer an academic certificate in storytelling.

SMCC storytelling programs are not exclusively children's events, but often contain sophisticated themes and content, and are suitable for both adults and young people.

Information: 602-243-8353.

## \$60k boost for DUI enforcement

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety has awarded the Chandler Police Department's Traffic Unit a \$60,000 grant for expanded DUI enforcement. The grant will fund additional officers to focus solely on roadway-impairment detection during specified dates throughout the year.

Past dates have included St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, 4th of July, Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

## Applications sought for police volunteers

Chandler Police Department's Volunteers in Policing Services program is seeking additional applicants for the positions. Motorist Assist Volunteers respond to calls of stranded motorists, collision scenes and other non-criminal situations.

The program has been recognized for its liaison value to the city's community policing efforts. In 2011, 70-plus volunteers dedicated more than 12,500 hours to effort.

The academy will run for five consecutive weeks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting March 6 and conclude Thursday, April 5, with one Saturday class on March 24.

Applicants must be 21 years of age, possess a valid Arizona Driver's License, and successfully complete a background investigation. Applications are due Friday, Feb. 3.

For information go to [www.chandlerpd.com](http://www.chandlerpd.com).



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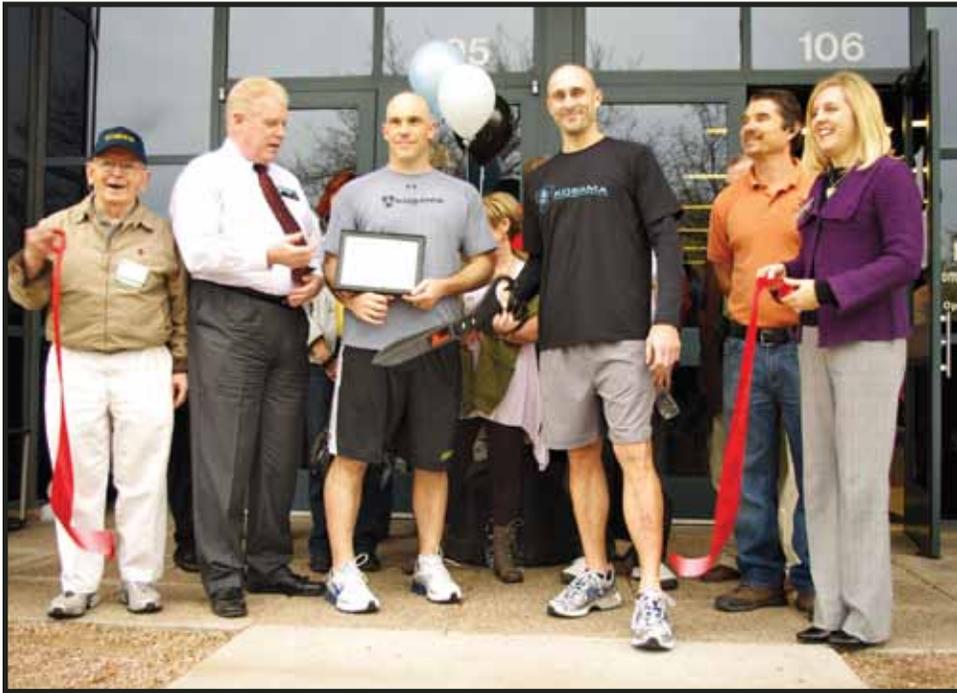
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Judd Hawkins, co-owner and general manager of Kosama, a fitness center located on the southeast corner of Warner Road and Beck Avenue, celebrates the one-year anniversary of his center with new and improved workouts and training methods.

Phone: 602-618-4040.

— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup



Terri Kimble, left, Chandler Chamber president, welcomes Tracy Nymeyer, owner of south Tempe's new Fit Medical Weight Loss center located in the Arizona State University Research Park.

— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup

## Polar Plunge raises \$4,000 for Special Olympics

More than 200 hardy men, women and kids jumped into a 64-degree pool at the Tempe Lakes during a first-ever Polar Plunge sponsored by the subdivision's women's club.

The event raised more than \$4,000 for Arizona Special Olympics, according to Denise Rentschler, Tempe community services coordinator and the program's planner.

"We were so pleased with the turnout of the event," Rentschler said. "We had 79 people, including Mayor Hugh

Hallman and Tempe City Council members, take part, with many more who contributed as pledges to the fundraiser."

Participants paid an event fee of \$20, which included a Polar Plunge t-shirt and bragging rights for hopping into the chilly water.

"It was really a feel-good community event for us," Rentschler said.

"We even had participants from the Arizona Special Olympics come out, which was great."

— Photo by Christine Baldanza



## New clinic offers options for weight-loss patients

By Mark Crudup

Are you looking to shed pounds of body fat without having to eat mail-ordered meals that leave you hungry?

Would-be dieters now have a new medical clinic, FIT Medical Weight Loss, designed to help participants lose pounds while still being able to eat the foods they enjoy. The clinic is located in the Arizona State University Research Park just north of Warner Road and east of Loop 101, on the southwest corner of River Parkway and Conference Drive.

Owner Tracy Nymeyer said the program allows patients to choose between two appetite suppressants, one a prescription medication, another that is an herbal remedy.

"We medically screen patients initially, then we screen them every week," Nymeyer said. "The program works because not only do we provide them with an appetite suppressant and a list of foods they can and cannot eat, but we also have a weekly check-up."

Patients are given their medication during the weekly follow-up session, requiring them to keep track of their diet on a weekly basis.

"The accountability of coming every week helps them stay on track and makes it a permanent deal," she said. "It's a combination of all of those things that really makes the program so successful."

When dealing with first-time patients, doctors make sure their heart is healthy and also run a full blood test to look at key indicators to make sure it is safe for them to begin the FIT program.

Nymeyer said patients normally opt for the prescription appetite suppressant, but many patients also lose just as much weight on the herbal appetite suppressant.

"We give them an eating guide, and they are free to eat whatever foods are on the program," Dr. Jennifer R. Francyk, a board certified physician assistant in primary care medicine, said.

"(Hypothetically) We say these are the six foods you cannot eat, but you can eat anything else."

Information: <http://fitmedicalweightloss.net/Locations/TempeArizona.aspx>.

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