

Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read Local.

Feb. 4 - 17, 2017 • Volume 28, No.3

What's Inside



Chandler teenagers are being invited to take part in the annual Teen Town Hall Thursday, Feb. 23, where they'll discuss issues of importance to young people in the community and propose solutions. Pg. 23



Mango, a fuzzy feline in search of a forever family, is an orange-and-white-striped kitty that likes to play with toys and even a few other cat buddies. He's up for adoption at Lost Our Home Pet Rescue. Pg. 10



JROTC cadets from Marcos de Niza High School formed an honor guard for Marcos alum Judge Erin O'Brien Otis. The former Padre was recently appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court. Pg. 13

For this retiring pair, Valentine's Day blossoms anew



Bob & Bonnie: Reigning King & Queen during 2016 Valentine's Day social at Westchester Senior Living.

By Joyce Coronel

Growing arrays of heart-shaped candies, red and pink balloons, chocolate and a chubby cherub armed with a bow and arrow all point to one thing: Valentine's Day is nearly upon us.

While the kids scrawl greetings on their Captain America and Disney Princess pre-printed Valentines, others plan a candlelight dinner or festive gathering that pays tribute to love amidst heart-shaped decorations.

Just ask Dawn Dunn-Rice. She's got plenty in store for the numerous guests at her Feb. 14 soiree.

— VALENTINES, Page 9

Businesses scrambling to meet new wage mandate

Job cuts, reduced hours, higher prices remain among options

By Chris Samuels

In a survey distributed to members of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, about half of the business owners responding said they're facing difficulties in adjusting operational strategies to meet the requirements of Proposition 206, the wage and time-off measure adopted by Arizona voters last November.

In the questionnaire, distributed two weeks ago, a majority of businesses said they are taking steps to offset the increase in payroll-related expenses.

Of those surveyed, over a third reported having to raise prices of goods or services for consumers as much as 10 percent to

rebalance the costs of maintaining profits. Another third said they will need to reduce the working hours of their employees.

Sixteen percent of Tempe businesses surveyed have reported layoffs, or expect to begin them, the number estimated to fall in a range of four to as many as 10 employees.

By contrast, nearly half of the businesses that responded have not taken or do not plan to make any adjustments as a result of the measure's passage. Most, especially those in law, medical, finance or jewelry businesses, said it was because their employees already were being paid above the new minimum.

— PROP 206, Page 7



Wrangler's Word of the Week

OINK!

By M.V. Moorhead

In our culture, some food dictums are gulped down obediently by those lifelong followers of The Breakfast Rules.

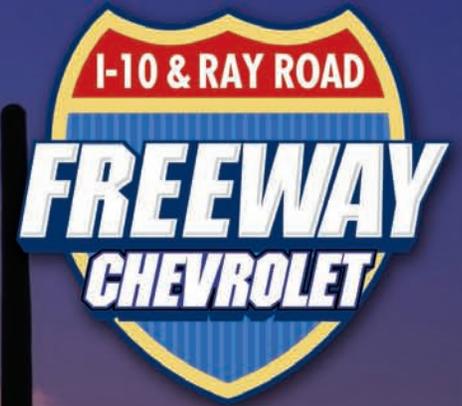
After all, didn't Mom insist that breakfast is the most important meal of the day?

Sure, people may eat and enjoy eggs, pancakes, French toast and cereal, but if you heard me recite

— OINK!, Page 22

Donnie Baxla with a sampling of his signature menu creations. — Wrangler News photo

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McClintock bike lane study heads toward June wrap-up

Studies examining last year's reconfiguration of McClintock Drive, a project that was launched to enhance bicyclist convenience and safety, are headed toward a June completion date, according to a new projection by Tempe officials.

Some motorists have complained that modifications to the previous roadway configuration have impeded morning and evening rush-hour traffic flow, and a group appearing before the Tempe City Council in November was said to be instrumental in the councilmembers' decision to undertake a study.

Following that meeting, council members requested that staff study the possible use of a consultant to evaluate the roadway for inclusion of bicycle infrastructure while restoring vehicle capacity.

The following summary describes staff process so far, with a goal of returning to the council in June after having completed a period focusing on public involvement and evaluating solutions on a segment-by-segment basis while also including the improvements of the entire corridor.

January, March and May — Continue data collection between University and Elliot:

- Traffic Volumes
- Travel Times (including off peak

times; also compare to other two/two arterials in Tempe)

- Bike Counts: At all major intersections between Apache & Guadalupe on McClintock

- Crashes: Collect Monthly *February* — Council decides on contract with consultant, if required *March-May* — *Deliverables from consultant:*

- Traffic Analysis
- Data Collection and Field Review
- Best Practice Research
- Modeling Alternatives
- Develop Design Alternatives that meet Council's threshold criteria
- Cost Opinions
- Internal stakeholder meetings
- Two public meetings with breakout sessions

- Transportation Commission Presentation

- Sustainability Commission Presentation

June — *Present to Council:*

- Public outreach findings
- Data collection findings
- Design alternatives and costs for council consideration

Tempe staff will follow the council-adopted Tempe Involving the Public manual throughout the public involvement process.



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For this exec, massage therapy internship opens a new door

By M.V. Moorhead

Good jobs aren't easy to come by these days, and starting a new career isn't a lightly undertaken project.

But for those wishing to learn new skills, gain experience, broaden perspective, expand a resume—perhaps even impress a future employer—serving a professional internship can be a game-changing move.

As the 2015 movie *The Intern* depicted, even a retiree might seek an internship, not out of professional aspiration but simply out of the desire for meaningful work.

Or take, for a real-life instance, the case of Bob Stephens. On the surface, he wouldn't seem to be a likely candidate for an entry level, part time trainee position.

But internships, it seems, aren't just for college kids anymore. Stephens, a full-time, salaried manager at Chandler's Mortenson Construction, has become an intern, at the age of 42, at Physician's Choice Massage in Tempe.

"I wanted a better understanding of how the body works," explains Stephens, who spends weekends and evenings at PCM as part of the clinic's new internship program.

Notes Stephens:

"We specialize in clinical type body work, deep tissue work, so that when people have, say, a shoulder problem, we work on the specific muscles around the shoulder...It sometimes can be a little painful and uncomfortable for the client while they're on the table, but it gets results."

The Colorado native's interest in therapeutic massage arose, in part, from his own experience.

In his younger days Stephens was an athlete, a shortstop with the baseball team at Neosho County Community College in Kansas.

Back injuries had left him with ongoing pain, and after three surgeries he discovered the benefits of massage.

"I'd say that massage did more for me than the surgeries," he notes. He found himself wanting to pass this benefit on to others, and studied at the

Arizona School of Massage Therapy. He followed this with more study, at PCM.

This isn't unusual, according to PCM owner Devena Spears.

"A lot of licensed massage techs come out of school with a certain level of knowledge and experience," she says. "From our point of view we give them a chance to increase their understanding of anatomy, physiology and body mechanics."

The difference in the PCM approach compared to that of many massages, says Spears, is the tactical approach to where our pain may come from.

"The area of pain is not the source of pain," says Spears. "So if somebody comes in with lower back pain, the last thing we would touch is the lower back. Or if a patient comes in with pain in the upper back, maybe between the shoulders, we go to the source. Upper back pain comes from the front of the body, from steering wheels, lifting small children. Maybe not when you're 19, but when you're older."

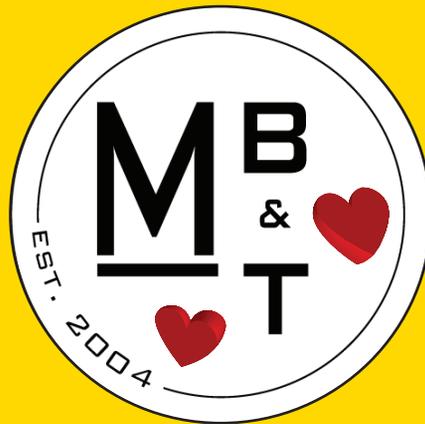
Communication with clients is also a key to PCM's approach. "When a patient comes in for their initial assessment, we show them the muscle groups we're going to target," says Spears. "When they get a clear picture of what's going on, it really helps them. We also demonstrate corrective muscle patterning. Let's say somebody comes in with a rotator cuff problem. We would have that person avoid pushing forward. So if you come up to a big door, avoid pushing open that door. We give them examples of other ways to open it."

This sort of broad-canvas approach may explain why massage therapists are choosing to continue their training at PCM.

Says Spears, "All the licensed therapists that are coming here, they all say the same thing—that what we do here is unique."

As for Stephens, asked how he likes being a PCM intern, his response is simple: "I love it."

Physician's Choice Massage is located at 1840 E. Warner Road in Tempe. For details go to massagepcm.com or call 480-759-4900.



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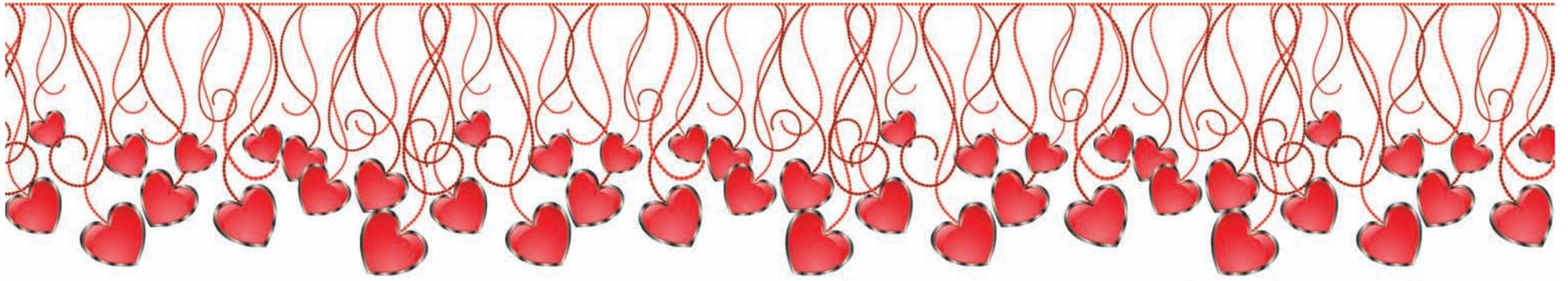
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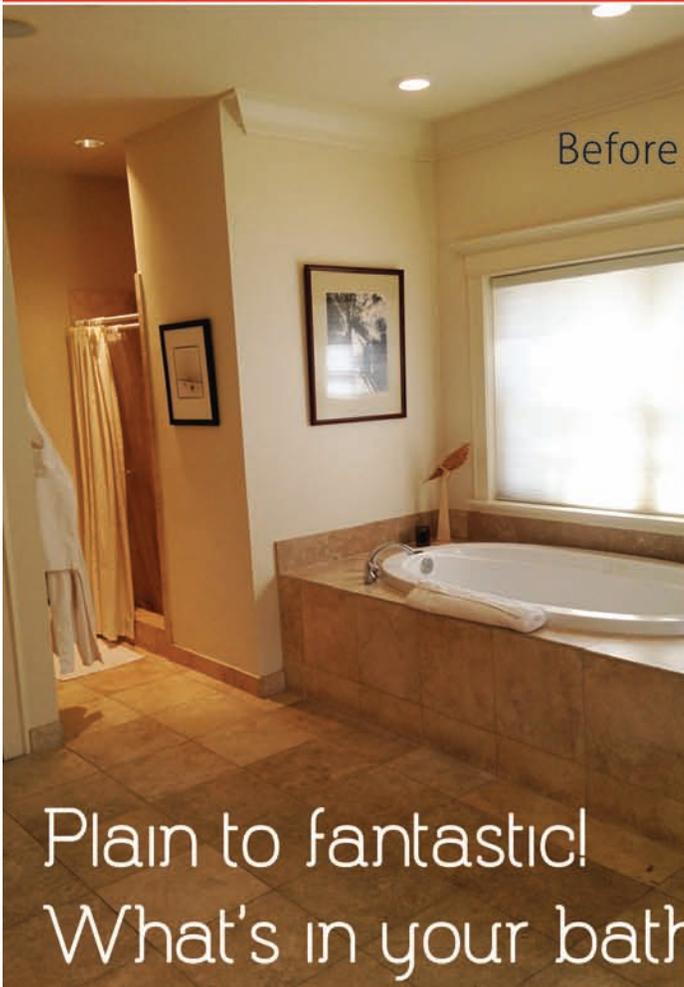
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Prop 206

From Page 1

The trend is a direct consequence of action taken at the polls last November. Voters passed a measure stipulating an increase of the minimum wage from \$8.05 in 2016 to \$12 by 2020. January saw the most dramatic result of the wage hike, increasing the level from \$1.95 to \$10 per hour.

In a recent meeting with the Chamber Board of Directors and U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), Flake described the measure as “awful” and noted it could have a negative effect on Arizona’s economy and the state’s small business owners.

Flake also mentioned that federal regulations, which a Republican-controlled Congress will hope to eliminate, will hopefully let small-business owners reduce costs and help their profits.

Additionally, the provisions of Prop. 206 require paid sick time proportional to the number of hours worked and how big the company is. The law mandates that one hour of paid sick time be given for every 30 hours of work. If a company has 15 or more employees, the minimum the law can establish is 40 hours per 12 months.

With fewer than 15, the minimum is 24 hours in the same time period.

The policies for paid sick time come into effect July 1 of this year.

At a recent forum held by the chamber, Rick Mahrle of the law firm Gammage & Burnham outlined the stipulations of paid sick time.

It is important to note, he said, that the law only mandates the minimums that employers could give. Companies with more generous policies can continue to implement those.

Mahrle also discussed other stipulations that will be adopted with the new law.

For example, it is now necessary to give a report of the hours of paid sick time gained and spent by the employee in each employee’s regular paychecks, Mahrle said.

Some in the chamber-group audience, including Matt Roumain with Managestaff, an HR and staffing company, expressed concern about the new policy, who suggested the sick-time measure may be an overlooked policy.

“For our company, as well as the companies that we work with,” Roumain said, it is important to stress compliance, “making sure that employees are actually seeing and being made aware of what is required of the employer.”

“Having the employer take those proactive steps to ensure that their company is doing what is required of them to prevent them from being...fined or having to pay back things they didn’t intend to do.”

Recently, several Arizona chambers of commerce filed a lawsuit challenging Prop. 206 in the state courts. The case is waiting to be heard by an appellate court.

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce is not among plaintiffs in the lawsuit, but is cooperating with the other chambers named.

Chris Samuels is communications director for the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

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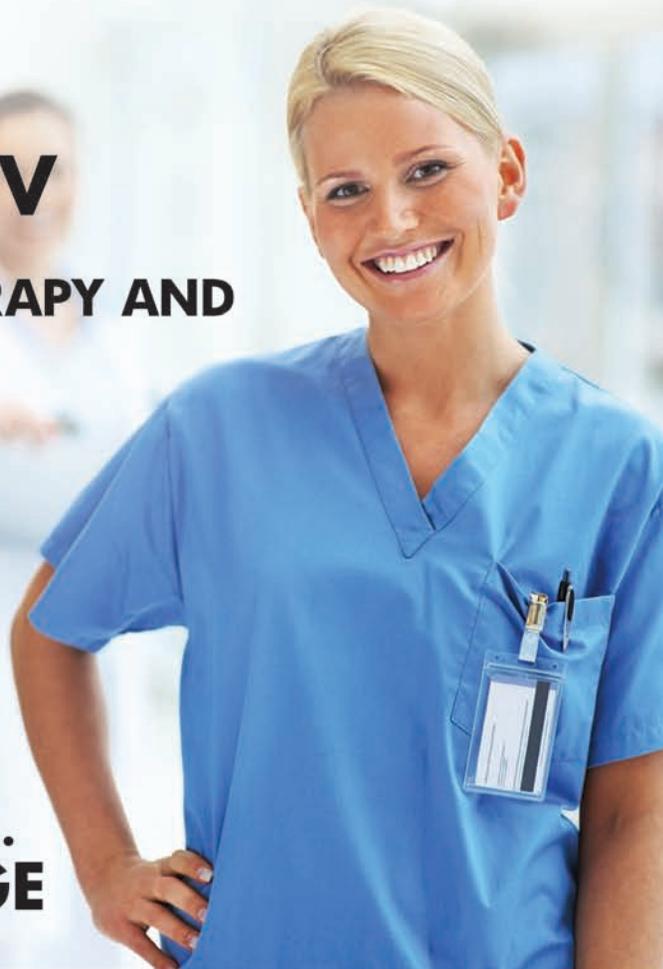
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Tempe hosts area disaster training

A six-week course on emergency preparedness that culminates in a disaster simulation begins Feb. 23 at the Tom Hontz Police and Fire Training Facility in Tempe.

Members of the community volunteer to learn basic emergency response skills so they can better assist their families, friends and neighbors.

The course is a hands-on, intensive series that offers students the decision-making and practical skills needed in an emergency.

The Community Emergency Response Teams program trains the community in basic

disaster prevention and response skills such as disaster preparedness, fire suppression, disaster medical operations, search and rescue, organization and disaster psychology.

CERT training is free, but pre-registration is mandatory as class size is limited.

The police and fire training facility is at 911 N. Stadem Drive, Tempe.

Information: tempe.gov/city-hall/police



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Valentine

From Page 1

“Our intent is to have a really great time—a fun time,” Dunn-Rice said.

The activities coordinator at Westchester Senior Living in Tempe noted the center marks each Valentine’s Day with special events in all three areas of its Tempe facility, including the more than 90 independent living apartments.

“Everything relates to hearts,” Dunn-Rice said. “Even the food. I’ll have artichoke hearts and other foods that relate to Valentine’s Day.”

Last year, students from nearby Marcos de Niza High School brought a box filled with handmade Valentine cards for residents.

There’s a trivia game that helps break the ice with newer residents.

The highlight of the Westchester Valentine merrymaking is probably the election of a king and queen.

The lucky pair receive prizes such as a Valentine-themed stuffed animal or other small gifts. Of course, you can’t have a coronation without a crown.

“Oh, they get a crown,” Dunn-Rice explained. “The idea is for them to have a good time and laugh.”

“It means a lot to them to be chosen,” added Erin Berge, regional marketing director for Westchester. “They are pretty proud when they are sitting up there.”

And yes, there are still romances sparking among the seniors. Last year’s winners, Bob and Bonnie, were boyfriend and girlfriend.

For some of the residents, though, Valentine’s Day might stir feelings of sadness.

They may have lost a beloved spouse recently and miss having that special someone beside them.

“It can be a hard time if you’ve lost somebody you were married to for 60 years,” Berge said.

“We keep it upbeat.”

The candlelight dinner is held a few days after the Valentine’s social as way of showing sensitivity to hearts that grieve.

Dunn-Rice noted that the Valentine’s Day celebration at Westchester is focused on love in general and not simply romantic love.

“It’s love for their kids and grandkids. If they have no children, they can focus on friends. It’s all about feeling appreciative that they have someone they love in their lives.”

Tom Ballard, executive director of Westchester, published an article in the Tempe facility’s newsletter that focused on the value of love in a world that often seems bereft of it.

He quoted from the 1965 smash hit that some residents might recall: What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love.

“The song contains the memorable lines about love, ‘It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of.’ How true,” Ballard wrote.

“My message to you this month, the month we celebrate love through Valentine’s Day, is to give yourself over to love.”



The Minds Of Boys And Girls



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FEBRUARY 8

Tempe Union High School District proudly presents

Dr. Michael Gurian

As part of our ongoing efforts to support the social-emotional wellness of students, Tempe Union High School District is proud to host **Dr. Michael Gurian**, as he presents his keynote, “The Minds Of Boys And Girls.”

His keynote presentation will outline the ways in which teachers, administrators, parents, and community members can gather to support and bolster youth as they progress through the most formative years of development. Specific and immediate strategies will be provided.

Dr. Michael Gurian is a marriage and family counselor in private practice and The New York Times bestselling author of 29 books published in twenty two languages.

As a social philosopher, he has pioneered efforts to bring neurobiology and brain research into homes, schools, corporations, and public policy. The Gurian Institute, which he co-founded, conducts research internationally, launches pilot programs, and trains professionals.

Dr. Gurian travels extensively to provide keynotes and consulting. He has spoken for the United Nations on violence against women; provided information on boys’ and girls’ educational needs to the White House; and briefed Members of the 114th Congress on the boy crisis in America. A number of Dr. Gurian’s books, including “The Wonder of Boys,” “The Wonder of Girls,” “Boys and Girls Learn Differently!,” and “Leadership and the sexes,” have sparked national debate.

Report: Kyrene teacher salaries higher than those in other Valley school districts

The Kyrene district is more competitive in compensating teachers and administrative staff this school year, according to research presented to the Governing Board by the Fox Lawson Group.

The researchers are winding down a three-year compensation study, which began in 2013-14 and revealed that, previously, teachers in the East Valley received higher compensation in several nearby school districts when compared to Kyrene.

At that time, Fox Lawson researcher Annette Hoefer warned the Governing Board that Kyrene was losing ground in the marketplace and should implement a phased approach to increasing salaries in order to retain experienced teachers.

Based on those findings, the Governing Board decided to increase pay ranges for teachers and other staff in the district so that they reach a level of 67th percent of the market by 2018-2019.

The pay increases are proposed to be implemented in three phases, pending budgetary approval. In addition they must be affordable and not compromise student learning, said Hoefer.

The data summary prepared by Fox Lawson shows that the most Kyrene teachers received a 4.5 percent raise in the current school year, while other school districts offered about 2.9 percent.

Due to a recent change in Arizona minimum wage laws, some support positions in Kyrene also received

a pay adjustment in January, if their hourly rate was below \$10.

Hoefer explained to the Governing Board that during each year of the survey, specific job classifications were selected, studied and benchmarked against similar positions in other nearby school districts, including Chandler, Gilbert, Higley, Mesa, Tempe and Scottsdale.

"In each survey, we looked to compare positions that have similar duties and functions, not just reviewed by title," said Hoefer.

Fox Lawson considers a valid job match one in which the descriptions are approximately 70 percent like the other. For the 2016-17 analysis, the jobs studied included positions that were not reviewed in the previous two survey cycles. They included two executive positions, five administrative positions and 20 support jobs, along with two teaching positions and the school social worker.

"The results of their work provides useful information to district staff and the Governing Board, which will be used during the budget cycle to determine any pay increases," said John King, newly elected as president of the board.

In addition, the Fox Lawson recommendations are used by human resources staff in negotiating with employee groups, said Dr. Mark Knight, assistant superintendent of the district.

— Diana Whittle

Workshop explores learning differences between genders

Educational system is failing boys, says author, researcher

By Diana Whittle

Not only are boys different anatomically than girls; they also learn differently. That's the view of Dr. Michael Gurian, The New York Times' best-selling author. He will bring his message about gender differences to Tempe at a public event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 at McClintock High School.

The free workshop is sponsored by the Tempe Union High School District as part of its efforts to provide resources to families to cope with the parenting of teens and to improve the emotional wellness of youth.

Gurian gained initial renown when his first book, "The Wonder of Boys," gained national recognition. He is a marriage and family counselor in private practice in Washington state and the author of 28 books, published in 22 languages.

He describes himself not as an academic, but as a "social philosopher" who pioneered efforts to bring neuro-biology and brain research into homes, schools, corporations, and public policy. The Gurian Institute, which he co-founded, conducts research internationally, launches pilot programs, and trains professionals.

— Continued on facing page

I'M MANGO: ADOPT ME [Please...]

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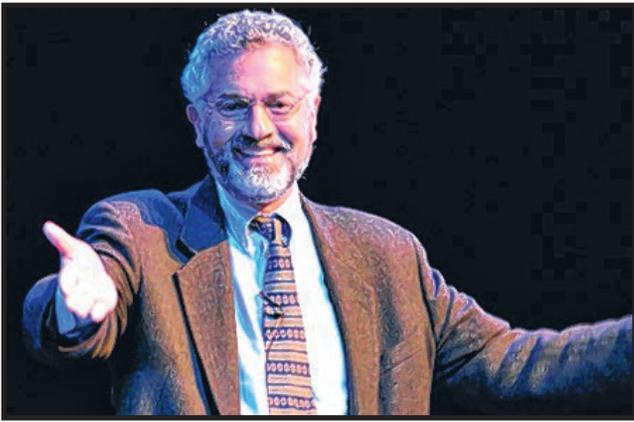
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Michael Gurian, a New York Times best-selling author, will offer his insights on the difference between how boys and girls learn at a free workshop Wednesday, Feb. 8, at McClintock High School.

Recently, the headquarters of The Gurian Institute moved to Chandler, where Katey McPherson is the new executive director. McPherson spent 20 years as an educator and principal in the Valley.

Several years ago, McPherson attended one of Gurian's conferences and was "blown away at the accuracy of his research."

"In my experience his work hits a nerve and will resonate with teachers," said McPherson. "I became certified through his institute and immediately used some of his concepts in my day-to-day interactions with students."

McPherson eventually became an employee and now assists Gurian in sharing his concepts in workshops and seminars all across the country. While in Tempe, Gurian will be speaking about "The Minds of Boys and Girls" and

share information on ways to improve the educational and behavioral outcomes of students.

She says TUHSD is anxious to serve as a resource to families as they cope with the stress of raising and educating children.

"Superintendent Dr. (Kenneth) Baca is to be commended for his interest and support of the social and emotional challenges that many families face, particularly with the popularity of cell phones and social media," said McPherson. "Part of the workshop presented on Feb. 8 will be suggestions on getting kids to unplug."

McPherson says that our educational system is failing boys because they can't sit still for long stretches of time and thrive in learning environments that are experiential and hands-on.

"This is one reason why STEM education is a natural for boys. They lose interest in classroom lectures after about 90 minutes," said McPherson. "Boys bond well with movement and girls bond better with words."

In fact, Gurian's research found that the female brain processes words on both the left and right side of the brain, while the typical male processes words only on one side. This phenomenon seems to be true across cultures and with diverse upbringing.

He says that education needs to respond to these gender differences for the best learning environment. In fact, Gurian has re-designed classrooms to allow more intentional movement during the day.

By the time students reach high school their thoughts and behavior patterns are more ingrained so Gurian hopes to train adults to learn the different educational needs that boys have from girls, so they can be implemented at the elementary level, explained McPherson.

"He will offer the audience new strategies to address gender issues and hope for improving educational outcomes in our schools." No reservations are needed for the event, but for more information visit the district's website at www.tempeunion.org

Firefighters, community vols launch door-to-door smoke alarm canvass

Volunteers are needed from West Chandler and other city neighborhoods for a community smoke alarm installation program being conducted by Chandler firefighters.

The group will go door-to-door offering free smoke alarms for homes that need them. They'll also provide educational information on fire safety.

The program is a collaborative effort among the Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Department; Arizona Burn Foundation; American Red Cross; and other East Valley fire departments.

Select neighborhoods in Chandler, Tempe and Mesa have been notified that they will be visited by teams of three people who will offer to install smoke alarms at no charge.

Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to noon. No experience is necessary, and all training, tools and materials are provided.

Both installers and record keepers are needed. By investing four hours of time, they will know they've potentially saved lives by providing homes with working smoke alarms—and have fun participating in the program.

To register, visit <https://abf.civicore.com/publicLogin/index.php?action=cal>.

Select the Chandler event on Feb. 4 and sign-up. Once you have registered, details will be sent to you, including the location to meet and what to expect during the program.

Information: Arizona Burn Foundation, 602-230-2041, ext. 104 or at chandleraz.gov/fire.

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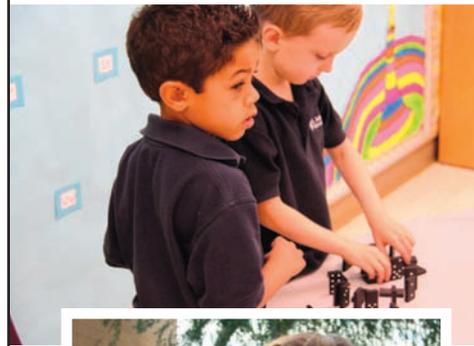
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New judge, a Marcos de Niza alum, saluted by Padre JROTC well-wishers



Isaac Yepiz, Amando Acosta, Cassidy Wright and Jacob Harold of Marcos de Niza formed a color guard to honor the newly appointed Judge Erin O'Brien Otis, a Marcos alum. — Photo courtesy Jill Hanks

Students at Marcos de Niza High School pride themselves in keeping track of their campus success stories, including grads who have brought pride and recognition to their alma mater.

Enter Erin O'Brien Otis.

A 1994 Marcos grad, Otis received her law degree from ASU'S College of Law in 2002. From there she was hired as a deputy county attorney, and in 2010 was named the office's Prosecutor of the Year.

Her appointment as a Superior Court judge was announced in September, followed in mid-January at a traditional investiture ceremony, an observance that confers on the recipient the authority and symbolism of the office.

It was here that Marcos students showed their reverence for a grad who has helped perpetuate the school's trademark, "Padre Pride."

On hand for the formalizing ceremony was a group of current Marcos students, all members of this year's regiment of Junior ROTC cadets. The group's color guard presided at the

event, held at the Board of Supervisors auditorium in Phoenix.

Participating were cadets Isaac Yepiz, Amando Acosta, Cassidy Wright and Jacob Harold.

In appointing Otis to the bench, Gov. Doug Ducey said: "Erin is nationally recognized for her expertise in sex crimes and human trafficking cases. Her experience as a commissioner on both the family law and criminal law benches will make her an outstanding addition to the court."

Only last October, the same cadets participated in an investiture ceremony for then-newly appointed Maricopa Superior Court Judge Kristin Culbertson.

More than 200 students from all seven of Tempe Union's high schools participate in the district's JROTC program, according to district spokeswoman Jill Hanks. They are under the direction of Major Robert Fore.

JROTC is a federal program sponsored by the U.S. Armed Forces in high schools across the country.

National acclaim for a top TUHSD educator

Dr. Anna Battle, assistant superintendent for Operations in the Tempe Union High School District, has a new feather in her cap of career-spanning achievements.

Battle's recognition, the outcome of a rigorous certification process, places her among an elite group of administrators across the country.

"I really believe it's my responsibility to continue to learn to increase my leadership capacity in all ways available to me. This certification does that," said Battle.

The former Corona teacher oversees TUHSD's athletic programs and serves on the National Federation of State High School Associations board of directors. She has also been on the executive board for the Arizona Interscholastic Association.

The purpose of the certification Battle received is to promote professional

standards, practices and ethics of athletic administration; foster professional growth; and maximize the benefits received by the school community from the leadership provided by certified athletic administrators, among other objectives.

In her career as a TUHSD educator, Battle has served as principal at Desert Vista and Tempe high schools, assistant principal for athletics at Desert Vista, and as a teacher at Tempe High and Mountain Pointe.

She's also coached myriad school sports—something that seems to come naturally for the former track and basketball student-athlete at Arizona State University.

Battle was selected as the 2011 Arizona Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.



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Hey, neighbor, want to buy some Girl Scout cookies?

Annual sale produces usual throngs seeking a sweet & crunchy treat

By Joyce Coronel

One hundred years ago, the Girl Scouts made crunchy sweetness wrapped up in a cookie one of the mainstays of their organization.

A century later, they're still at it, delivering their ever-popular goodies to neighborhoods in Tempe and West Chandler from now through March 5.

For six weeks each year, Girl Scouts, often attired in their uniforms, knock on doors with goodies such as the ever-popular Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-si-dohs, Savannah Smiles, and of course, S'mores. This year, they'll also be offering a limited quantity of gluten-free treats dubbed Toffee-tastics.

On a frosty January afternoon, "Cookie Mom" Melanie Gibson, along with her daughter Maddy and two other Girl Scouts, stood at a folding table in front of the Safeway at the corner of McClintock and Elliot. Cartons of cookies stacked on the table, they asked those entering or leaving the South Tempe store if they'd like to purchase a box of the treats.

One gentleman with a basketful of groceries dug into his wallet and handed Luthien Attwood, 13, a \$5 bill. "You keep the cookies," he told her. "Thank you, sir," Luthien replied with a grin.

It's all part of the largest financial literacy program for girls in the U.S., according to Melanie.



Hailey Crosson, Luthien Attwood and Maddy Gibson share their enthusiasm—and an ample supply of cookies—at the Safeway store at Elliot and McClintock in Tempe.

— Wrangler News photo

"They learn business ethics, money management, customer service skills, and other skills too."

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"We get to go on trips," Maddy said. "Our last two times we went to Disneyland and we'll probably go to Girl Scout camp this year."

So what's the best part of being a Girl Scout?

"I get to do things with my mom and my friends at the same time and I get to benefit my community without any cost," Maddy said.

The Girl Scout organization requires that each troop use a portion of cookie-sales revenue for community service.

"Every year, we do "Boo Bags" in October," Melanie said. "Those are candy and toy bags for homeless children who can't go trick-or-treating. We also do Easter baskets for the homeless kids."

"And we do Feed My Starving Children," Maddy added.

For Melanie, the cookie sales involve a bit more than supervising her troop in front of Safeway.

She's the cookie manager for the East Kyrene Service Unit and started organizing things back in October, placing her cookie order in mid-December.

"The cookies came in Jan. 21 and we all distributed cookies—about 60,000 boxes went out to our 46 troops that are in the East Kyrene neighborhood," Melanie said.

Hundreds of Girls Scouts throughout Tempe and West Chandler are involved in the cookie sales which run for the next month.

Boxes of cookies are \$5 each. S'Mores and gluten free Toffee-tastics are \$6 per box.

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Aztec girls volleyball honored as No. 9 in U.S.

Sports

With Alex Zener

Girls VB MaxPreps Tour of Champions

Corona's 2016 6A state championship volleyball team was honored for being named to the MaxPreps Tour of Champions at halftime during the home boys basketball game at the end of January.

The team was presented with the Arizona National Guard's trophy for its No. 9 national ranking.

The Aztecs (39-5) won Corona's second state championship the previous month by defeating cross-district rival Mountain Pointe 3-0.

Although Corona had finished seven times in second place, it was the first time they had won a state title since 1991.

Arizona Gatorade Player of the Year — Brooke Nuneviller, the leading attacker on Corona's 6A state championship team, was named Gatorade-American Family Insurance Arizona Girls Volleyball Player of the Year and will be among finalists for National Player of the Year.

Corona Boys Basketball — The Aztecs, with a 21-2 record and only three games remaining on their regular season schedule, could potentially be the No. 1 seed in the 6A state tournament with their current rating points of 24.84, if they can win all three, based on the AIA rating system.

Basha, MaxPreps 6A division No. 1-ranked team, though, is right behind Corona with 24.64 points, so the placement could easily change before state tournament brackets are announced.

The No. 3-rated team, Cesar Chavez, has a slim chance of overtaking either Basha or Corona with their

current 13.83 rating points.

It may be more advantageous for Corona to be the No. 2-ranked team if Desert Vista, which has had a storied history and a cross-school district rivalry with the Aztecs for years, remains rated No. 4.



The No. 1- and No. 4-seeded teams are on the top half of the brackets, so if both teams were to be seeded No. 1 and No. 4, they could meet in the semifinals of the 6A state tournament.

The Thunder gave Corona about the only real challenge the Aztecs had against teams in their 6A conference section this season when they played at Desert Vista on Jan. 17.

Corona came away with a hard-fought 86-83 victory on the road but there were several times, especially in the second half, when Desert Vista played well enough against the Aztecs to take the lead.

The Aztecs are scheduled to play the Thunder again, at home, the last game of the season on Feb. 7.

What is more important than the No. 1 or No. 2 seeding, though, could be keeping **Alex Barcello** and **Saben Lee** injury free and healthy throughout the rest of the season.

The offense relies heavily of Barcello and Lee to score points. For instance, both Barcello and Lee scored 30 or more points each against Desert Vista, or almost three-quarters of the 86 points.

Most fans will remember last season when Lee was ill and had to watch from the bench as the Aztecs, seeded No. 1, lost to the No. 8 seed Sunnyslope, 61-53, in the quarterfinals of the 2016

state championship.

This season, Lee had been healthy and injury free until recently when he sprained his ankle in the first half against Highland on Jan. 24.

He did not play in the Aztecs' 66-55 win against Desert Ridge three nights later, probably for precautionary reasons, but was in uniform on the bench.

One significant injury the Aztecs did suffer was to senior guard **Jordan Guy** who was hurt Jan. 10 in the Aztecs' 62-49 win over Gilbert, in which he was a starter.

"Jordan Guy had been playing great minutes for us, adding energy and accurate shooting to the lineup," said coach **Neil MacDonald**.

"Unfortunately, Jordan suffered a broken hand and has been unable to play."

Relying on the Aztecs' two Division I scholarship senior players, Barcello (University of Arizona) and Lee (Purdue) to lead their team to victory does not mean the other players on the team do not play significant roles and are not part of the key to Corona's success on and off the court.

The Aztecs would not be where they are without players like **Melek Alexander**, **Dalen Terry**, **Josh Onwordi**, **Jordan Guy**, **Eric Blackwell** and **Eric Ozawa** who have all, at one time or other, started or come off the bench to help the team be successful.

Senior Onwordi is one of the team's better defensive players.

"Josh is an extremely athletic forward who has helped us a great deal defensively," said MacDonald. "He has the ability to guard larger opponents plus use his speed to beat bigger guys down the floor."

Alexander can be counted on to hit a couple of three-point baskets almost every game.

"Melek is a very talented shooter who is now starting to emerge as a complete player on both ends of the floor," said MacDonald.



Melek Alexander go up for a rebound against Highland.

— Photos by Kris Cartwright for Wrangler News
For more, visit kriscartwright.smugmug.com

"We expect, as we get towards the end of the season, he will continue to come into his own and his contributions will increase."

The two freshman players on the team, Terry and Blackwell, have shown they belong on varsity.

Terry has turned into quite the shot-blocker, especially if his blocked shot in the fourth quarter of the Aztecs' 75-60 win over Mountain Pointe on Jan. 13 is an example of his capabilities.

The 6-foot-3 Terry can

also hit the three like he did when he scored Corona's first points against Desert Vista Jan. 17 or when he stepped up his game in the Aztecs 66-55 win over Desert Ridge Jan. 27 and Lee did not play.

"Dalen and Eric are both giving very solid performances off the bench," said MacDonald.

Senior guards Ozawa and **Shane Grier** have stepped in when and wherever they are needed to help the team's overall success.

"Shane and Eric Ozawa are continuing to find ways to contribute in different areas of the game," said MacDonald.

The Aztecs are trying to focus on each game as it comes and not think too much about the impending state tournament.

"We like how we are growing and evolving as a team," said MacDonald. "We will continue to focus on defense and rebounding as the two areas where we can improve and give ourselves the best chance

Sports

From Page 16

of success.

The Aztecs were scheduled to play two away games, at Gilbert, Jan. 31, and at Mountain Pointe on Feb. 3, before they have their last regular season home game, Feb. 7, against Desert Vista.

That night Corona will honor its eight seniors including **Seth McCollum, Ty Stolworthy, Shelan Yarde**, Lee, Onwordi, Guy, Ozawa and Barcello.

The first round of the 6A state tournament will be at Corona Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. If Corona wins that game, the second round will be Feb. 18, also at Corona.

The semifinals are scheduled Feb. 23 at Gila River Arena and will also be broadcast on the NFHS Network. The finals are scheduled at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 at Grand Canyon University.

Tempe Boys Basketball — The Buffaloes are currently ranked No. 6 in the 4A conference with a 12-4 record and will play in the first round of the state championship tournament scheduled Feb. 15 at the higher seed.

With only two regular-season games on its schedule, Tempe was scheduled to play at home

against Higley on Jan. 31 and at Casa Grande Feb. 2.

Tempe is led in scoring by junior guard **Naseem Vigil**, who averages almost 18 points a game with 44 three-pointers. Sophomore **Kameron Spivey-Johnson** is second averaging 10.5 points a game, followed by senior **Nate Manley** with close to 10 points a game.

Spivey-Johnson is the assist leader with 59 assists, while Manley is the leading rebounder on the team with 129 rebounds. Spivey-Johnson also has 102 rebounds while Manley has 40 assists.

Sophomore **Emmanuel Gore** has 82 rebounds while senior **Allan Vigil** has 68.

The senior players honored at the Buffaloes' last home game Jan. 31 included **Alex Beltran, Angel Flores, Fabian Lopez**, Allan Vigil and Manley.

Marcos de Niza Boys Basketball — The Padres, in the same 4A conference as Tempe, are currently ranked No. 12 with an 11-5 record and should have no problem being one of the 16 teams that make it into the state tournament, if they can win their last two games.

Marcos was scheduled to play its last home game Jan. 31 against St. Mary's before playing at Higley Feb. 2.

Seniors who were scheduled to be honored on Jan. 31 included **Jamari Robinson, Zurell Livingston, Mason Stark, Tyson Union, Aaron**

Childers, DaShawn Ray and Gaige Hale.

Stark is by far the leading scorer on the team, amassing over 550 points or close to 23 points a game, followed by Livingston and Ray with 11.9 points each a game.

Stark made 50 three-pointers, as of Jan. 30, hitting an amazing 46% of his 109 attempts and was also the leading rebounder with 138 total rebounds.

Corona Girls Soccer — Ranked No. 9, Corona defeated Trevor Brown 7-1 in the 6A Conference Play-In Tournament Jan. 26 and was due to play as the No. 9 seed in the first round of the 2017 AIA 6A State Championship Tournament Feb. 1. The Aztecs are scheduled to play at the No. 8 seed Highland in the first round.

Corona Boys Soccer — Corona's boys team, with a 16-1-2 overall record, received an automatic bid to the 6A state tournament as the No. 4 seed. The Aztecs were set to play at home against Highland Jan. 31 at 6 p.m.

If the Aztecs defeat Highland in this first round match, they will play the winner of No. 12 Chandler versus of No. 5 Tollenson Union.

This quarter final match is scheduled Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. on Corona's home field.

The semifinals are scheduled at 5 p.m. Feb. 7 at Campo Verde High School, with the finals scheduled at noon at the same venue.



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Friday, March 3 • 7:30 p.m.



Full season listing
ChandlerCenter.org
480.782.2680

Diversions

3 state-of-the-art venues to host coming MCC season

By Dawn Zimmer

Master performers along with an impressive array of up-and-coming student artists will be featured during Mesa Community College's Spring 2017 arts season.

Performances and exhibitions are presented in three state-of-the-art venues on MCC's Southern and Dobson campus.

The college's Performing Arts Center consists of two performance spaces built with what performance-hall experts say are exceptional acoustics and visibility for musical, instrumental and dance events.

Boasting theatrical modernizations, the MCC Theatre, a community landmark, delivers an intimate experience to stage performances.

A recently opened Art Gallery embraces the dynamic and multidisciplinary nature of today's visual culture.

The current season, which opened last month, continues in February with "The Deep Blue Sea," a National Theatre Live screening, part of a groundbreaking initiative to broadcast productions from the London stage to cinema screens worldwide.

It features Helen McCrory and Tom Burke, McCrory playing what has been called one of the greatest female roles in contemporary drama. It plays Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Richard Renaldi's Touching Strangers traveling exhibit, which creates relationships that may only last for the moment the camera shutter is released, is on display through March 24. The Art Gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"Our Souls Delight" sacred choral music concert will be presented at 7:30 p.m. March 2.

"Effects of Altitude," photography from MCC students during their stay in the Eastern Sierra Nevada mountains, will be on display April 3-14.

The annual Juried Art Student Show" will be on exhibition April 24-May 12, showcasing the creations of MCC art students as they explore the mediums of ceramics, digital, drawing, painting, photography, 2D and 3D.

Music lovers will want to attend a Community, Concert Band and Orchestra Concert, showcasing MCC's Instrumental Music Program featuring MCC students and community ensembles. Performance at 7 p.m. Feb. 28.

Three more National Theatre Live screenings are scheduled for March. "Amadeus," adapted from the Academy Award-winning film about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and court composer Antonio Salieri

with Lucian Msamati of Game of Thrones playing Salieri at 7:30 p.m. March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

"Saint Joan" starring Gemma Arterton as Joan of Arc, a production of Bernard Shaw's classic play that follows the life and trial of a young country girl who declares a bloody mission to drive the English from France will be screened on at 7:30 p.m. March 4.

"Hedda Gabler," played by Ruth Wilson of Luther and The Affair, is trapped but determined to try to control those around her, only to see her own world unravel, may be seen at 7:30 p.m. March 24.

Patrons should use the Solar Way entrance east of Dobson Road for easy access to the MCC Theatre and Art Gallery. The Longmore Way entrance west of Longmore Street is nearest to the Performing Arts Center.

Those who are interested in a glimpse behind the scenes during the development of the shows are encouraged to follow progress on social media—MesaCC Facebook; MesaCC Twitter; and MesaCC Instagram.

Arts Center focuses on Western history

Western POP: Facts and Fiction of the American West is The Gallery at TCA's newest exhibition, featuring artworks, memorabilia, music and historical displays celebrating the nostalgia tied to the Western genre.

The event, which runs through May 6, also sheds light on the facts and fiction about morality, race relations and economics in the American West.

"Growing up in the Southwest I knew a lot about

— DIVERSIONS, Page 20



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Diversions

From Page 19

Western iconography, but this exhibition is telling a much larger story," said Michelle Nichols Dock, the gallery's art coordinator.

"We are investigating the truths behind the stereotypical Hollywood mythology and the realities of the Old and New West that isn't so black and white."

The exhibition opened Jan. 13. There is no charge.

Remaining dates in the series include:

March 15, 7 p.m. — Panel discussion titled *Anti-Stereotypes: Hollywood Representation of the Apache* featuring artist Douglas Miles from Apache Skateboards and his brother, writer Dale Miles.

April 21, 7 p.m. — TCA Western Radio Hour featuring music, comedy and melodrama.

The Gallery at TCA is in the Tempe Center for the Arts sponsored by Northern Trust, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe. Information: www.tempe.gov/tcagallery or 480-350-2867.

Jewish Film Festival comes to Chandler Harkins

By M.V. Moorhead

According to the Book of Exodus, after leaving Egypt the Jews spent 40 years in the desert. As of this year, the Greater Phoenix Film Festival is more than half way to the same tenure in this different desert.

Year in and year out since 1996, it's been one of the Valley's more interesting cinematic shindigs, featuring dramas, comedies and documentaries, both American and international, reflecting the diversity of the culture it represents.

Many of the showings are accompanied by speakers to expand on the themes explored by the films.

The 21st annual edition, which runs Feb. 12 to 26, promises the same abundance.

As in past years, the fest is spread out over venues in the West Valley (Arrowhead Fountains in Glendale), the Scottsdale area (Harkins Shea 14) and the East Valley—Chandler Fashion 20.

The list that follows includes the selections and showtimes for the "Great Films...With a Little Jewish Flavor" handy to the *Wrangler News* coverage area, at Harkins Chandler Fashion 20 at Chandler Fashion Center, 3159 W. Chandler Boulevard:

Sunday, February 12, 3 p.m. *Rosenwald* — The Chandler side of the Festival kicks off with this documentary, directed by Aviva Kempner, about Sears CEO Julius Rosenwald, who, though he never finished high school, built thousands of schools in African-American communities in the South.

The speaker at the Chandler showing will be the Rev. Ozetta Kirby.

Sunday, February 19, 3 p.m. *On the Map*—Dani Menkin's documentary is about the 1977 Maccabi Tel-Aviv basketball team and their triumph



A fascinating look at how, with no high school diploma, Julius Rosenwald launched the Sears dynasty.

over the Soviet team in the European Basketball playoffs.

Monday, February 20: 7 p.m. *Remember*—This Canadian drama by Atom Egoyan stars Christopher Plummer as an elderly Auschwitz survivor racing his own memory loss as he searches for a Nazi in hiding.

Tuesday, February 21: 7 p.m. *Wunderkinder*—Three young musical prodigies, two of them Jewish, face the invasion of the Nazis in Ukraine in 1941. The Festival warns that, while his movie is about children, it isn't for children; it's recommended for ages 13 and older.

Wednesday, February 22: 7 p.m. *Kapo in Jerusalem*—This drama from Israel concerns a married couple, both Holocaust survivors, haunted by the husband's activities in the camps.

Thursday, February 23: 7 p.m. *Sabena Hijacking: My Version*—Another Israeli production, this recounts the 1972 hijacking of a Belgian commercial airline on its way to Tel Aviv, from the point of view of its English Captain Reginald Levy.

Sunday, February 26: 3 p.m. *Moos*—Nothing to do with cows. The title character of this Dutch comedy, played by Jip Smit, is an aspiring singer trying to get into a performing arts academy.

Go to gpjff.org for tickets and details, including information on selections and showtimes at the other venues.

More noteworthy film fare . . .

Opening this weekend

The Red Turtle—This animated feature is a Japanese-European co-production, and it looks it. It begins with ocean waves that look like the art of Hosukai.

These tempestuous swells maroon a man, who looks like a character out of Tintin, on an island of bamboo forests and beaches crawling with deadpan little crabs.

The man has all he needs to survive on the island except companionship.

Eventually he finds this in the form of the great red sea turtle that he attacks, blaming the creature

for scuttling his attempts to escape on rafts.

The turtle mysteriously changes into a beautiful woman, the man abandons his plans to leave the island, and the two of them settle into married life and have a child, who...well, it's all very surreal and dreamlike.

Directed by Michael Dudok de Wit, this nearly wordless film couldn't be much more beautiful visually.

It has quietly magical atmosphere, but somehow it doesn't quite add up to the masterpiece it seems to want to be.

I liked a lot about it, but the moment where the story's dream logic provides a dramatic payoff is missing.

Still in theaters

Resident Evil: The Final Chapter—Alice, played by Milla Jovovich, wriggles out of the ruins of the Washington D.C. and finds the world still crawling with cannibal zombies, bio-engineered monsters and amoral corporate mercenaries in armored vehicles.

In this, the sixth and supposedly the last installment of the series based on the gruesome video game, she must return to "Raccoon City" and the underground complex where it all began to retrieve some concoction that will shut down the zombies.

These movies represent almost everything I despise in contemporary big-budget moviemaking—overblown, hyper-edited action, sterile CGI visuals, actors growling humorless dialogue, too many endings.

So it's embarrassing to admit that they've been a guilty pleasure for me—just possibly the ever-fetiching Jovovich has something to do with this. I enjoyed this one, too, but even so I'd agree that it's time to retire the series.

Resident Evil: The Final Chapter is Rated R and plays at Harkins Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion 20, Tempe Marketplace and other multiplexes Valleywide.



City of Tempe Page



The geeks are back in town!



Geeks Night Out returns from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, at a new location – the Tempe Community Complex, 3500 S. Rural Road.

The free, family-friendly event invites everyone to Discover the Science.

Geeks Night Out, presented by State Farm, is an Arizona SciTech Festival signature event that blends science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics (STEAM) and much more.

Join us for interactive STEAM displays, the annual costume parade featuring Phoenix Comicon and others, pop culture and sci-fi based activities, and much more.

The evening is sure to delight enthusiasts and geeks of all ages.

Visit www.tempe.gov/geeks for more information.

Feb. 22 budget forum and online feedback

The City of Tempe is developing its operating and capital budgets for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs July 2017 through June 2018.

The Mayor and Council would like public input on the status of daily operations, city assets and infrastructure, such as streets, community centers, pools, lighting, parks and more.

Where do you think the city should focus its limited funds to provide the greatest benefits to the community?

Visit the budget planning page at www.tempe.gov/budgetplan for reference and to access a survey designed to gather residents' input; it will remain open through March 31.

The City of Tempe also is holding a public forum to inform and solicit community feedback on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., in the community room of the Tempe History Museum, located at 809 E. Southern Ave.

Construction is underway at Tempe's McClintock Pool

The City of Tempe's McClintock Pool, at 1830 E. Del Rio Drive, is under construction and slated to reopen to the public for outdoor recreational swim this summer.

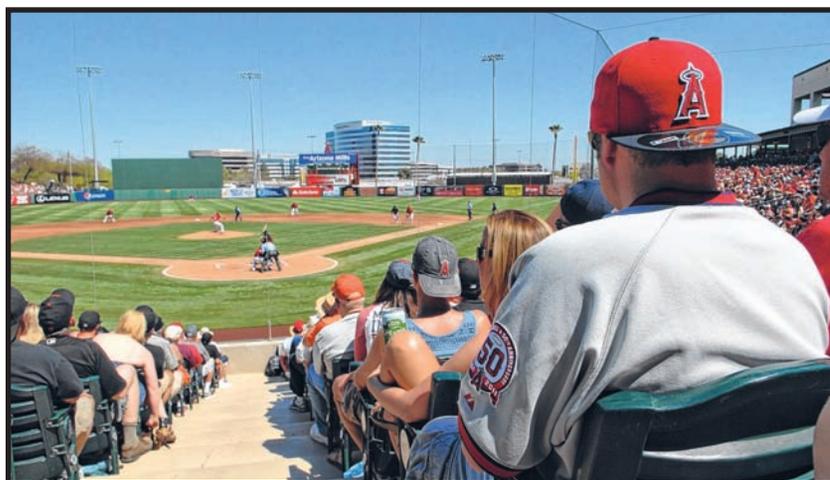
The pool renovations include increasing the depth to meet the Maricopa County Department of Environmental Quality requirements for diving, replacing the bulkhead with a moveable version to expand the programming opportunities, adding a new ADA-accessible entry, as well as updating the infrastructure and equipment.

McClintock Pool was constructed in 1964 and remodeled in 1996.

During the economic downturn, the pool was closed for public swim in 2010.

Tempe Union High School District and local swim clubs continued to use the pool for physical education classes, swim team practice and local/regional swim team competitions.

Once construction is completed, McClintock Pool will reopen to the public for recreational swim. Days and times of operation and fees will be determined this spring.



Anaheim Angels home opener Feb. 25

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim will return to their spring training home at Tempe Diablo Stadium when they host the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday, Feb. 25.

The Charity Game will be held Feb. 27 against the San Diego Padres. The season will run through March 28 at Diablo Stadium.

Tickets are on sale now at www.ticketmaster.com or you can purchase them at the Tempe Diablo box office beginning Feb. 18.

Tempe Diablo Stadium is located at 2200 W. Alameda Drive.

Visit www.tempe.gov/diablo for information on games, tickets, stadium hours, directions and parking.

Watch the MLK Diversity Awards ceremony

If you did not have the opportunity to attend this year's MLK Diversity Awards Breakfast, you can still enjoy the program and learn about the ways that our winners help Tempe's community become even more inclusive and welcoming.

The program is airing on Tempe 11 and is available to watch on our Tempe 11 YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/LbCHGcOj91g>.

Interested in other activities sponsored by Tempe's Diversity Office?

Visit www.tempe.gov/diversity.

Kudos to Kris

Longtime Tempe/West Chandler Realtor Kris Cartwright has been named a recipient of United Brokers Group's 2016 Culture Award.

The award is given to a real estate agent who embodies the UBG culture by serving the community, fellow agents and clients with the utmost professionalism and care.

Cartwright was nominated by her fellow agents and was presented with the award at UBG's recent "Celebration of Success" event.

Readers of Wrangler News also recognize Cartwright for the top quality action sports photos she has contributed to our newspaper for many years.

From a list of longstanding admirers: Congratulations, Kris!



March 11 rummage sale at St. John Bosco

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to clear out the clutter from your home?

St. Benedict Parish in Ahwatukee, home to many Kyrene Corridor families, might have just the solution for you.

The church's annual rummage sale takes place March 11 on the campus of nearby St. John Bosco School, which sits east of 48th Street and south of Chandler Boulevard.

Quality donations for the sale are being accepted now through March 10.

Popular items include clothing, furniture, electronics and tableware.

Donations can be dropped off at St. Benedict's, 16223 S. 48th St.

For larger donations, such as furniture, call 480-773-5300 to arrange for pick up.

Online: stbenedict.org/rummagesale

Oink!

From Page 1

any of those universal favorites on *Family Feud* (or whatever gameshow is at the top of the charts these days), you'd lump them into a single, incontrovertible category: Breakfast foods.

The pig, it turns out, is not in that category.

That noble creature has mouthwatering associations with lunch—the ham sandwich, for instance—and with dinner—pork chops and spare ribs, to name only a few.

That's why Donnie Baxla wasn't sure that "Oink" was the right name for the restaurant he was planning.

"We were always going to open a breakfast place," recounts Baxla.

"The name Oink came up, and we sort of liked it, but we thought it sounded like a barbecue place."

But eventually Baxla realized that the pig is every bit as central to our idea of breakfast, in the form of sausage links and sausage patties, ham alongside eggs or diced in omelets and, of course, bacon.

"We had five different kinds of bacon when we started," says Baxla. "Now we have eight kinds."

So Oink did indeed become the name of Baxla's first breakfast joint that opened in 2011 on the edge of Paradise Valley Mall.

A Valley native whose family had run pizza restaurants, Baxla chose to try his hand at the breakfast trade because he preferred the hours.

The concept took off, and soon a second Oink, run by Baxla's sister, opened in Tucson.

Now there's a third little pig, in the shell of the departed Marcello's eatery at the intersection of Warner and McClintock.

Gone are the dark piano bar trappings in favor of cheery green walls decorated with pictures of pigs imaginatively Crayoned by young diners.

Framed pictures of bespectacled pigs stare down without reproach from the walls. A big-screen TV offers the day's news, in some cases happily drowned out by the bustle of customers interacting with friendly, enthusiastic young servers.

Baxla has even added a few tweaks to the menu. "We added a Sunrise Benny: Hollandaise sauce with ranchero mixed in—all Southwestern."

In honor of the new Oink's location, says Baxla, "We're also adding a Tempe Sunrise Omelet. That's sauce on top of an omelet, with a chorizo patty."

Open daily from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., the place has so far been well received in its new home.

"Business has been good," says Baxla with satisfaction. "Great corner; busy, good neighborhood. You could just tell it was going to be great."

Oink can be found at 1701 E. Warner Road in Tempe.

For more information, go to oinkcafe.com or call 480-839-6465.

M.V. Moorhead, a longtime writer for Phoenix New Times, contributes regularly to Wrangler News.

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Longtime library exec named director of Sunset branch, other Chandler locations

West Chandler's popular Sunset branch library, along with its sister libraries citywide, will be getting a new chief bookworm.

Dan Lee has been named manager of Chandler's library system after serving as the system's assistant manager for the past 15 years. His promotion was announced by Chandler Community Services Director Brenda Brown, who served previously in the post.



Regarding his appointment, Lee said:

"As the library manager, I don't play favorites, but I believe the Sunset Library is the quintessential neighborhood library. We renovated it five years ago, adding a computer lab and creating more open, inviting spaces for people to meet and gather."

While there are no large-scale projects in line for the library at this time, staff will continue upgrading some of the existing technology, including the projection system in the Monsoon Room.

Added Lee, "We are also focused on continuing to offer great programs like Thursday afternoon STEAM Club for kids and tweens and our Frank

Talk presentation on "War, Liberty, & Law: The U.S. Constitution and Crisis" on Wednesday, Feb. 22."

Noting Lee's transition to the top job, Brown, the new community services director, said:

"Dan has served the city and the library for 27 years, with his responsibilities steadily progressing as his value to our organization has grown. He is known throughout the city for his natural curiosity, innovative approach to problem solving and great customer service. He is ethical, open and approachable."

She traced Brown's library history, saying that, when he started working for the system in 1990, he was the only employee overseeing the Information Technology needs of the staff and library customers.

There was only one Chandler library, noted Brown, adding that the computers of the day used floppy discs, and most people had never heard of the internet. Since then, she said, Lee has been involved in the design and construction of all four Chandler libraries, as well as every aspect of library technology infrastructure.

He has been a member of the library leadership team for the past 15 years, and has established himself as a trusted voice on technical projects throughout the city, said Brown.

Youth town hall offers teens a chance to voice opinions, concerns to city's leaders

West Chandler teens can take the day off from school but not from learning when they attend the Teen Town Hall Thursday, Feb. 23.

Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and Chandler city council members are encouraging young people to spend Feb. 23 at city hall in order to voice their opinions, connect with their peers and propose solutions to important teen issues.

Students receive an excused absence from school as long as they have registered to participate in the town hall. Registrations are being accepted through local schools' guidance offices.

The day-long gathering begins with comments from Mayor Tibshraeny, followed by teambuilding exercises and breakout sessions on topics and issues of concern to Chandler teens, including teen dating and life after high school.

"The teens talk about real issues facing young people in Chandler and propose real solutions," Mayor Tibshraeny said. "I am always impressed by the effort and thought that goes into the discussions



Monet Tam, Sarah Gilliam and Ritika Bharati of the 2016 Teen Council presented their findings to the Chandler City Council. — Photo courtesy city of Chandler Public Information Office

and recommendations."

Last year's town hall was attended by 162 teens from various Chandler high schools, middle schools and charter schools. Past town hall topics have included domestic violence, underage drinking, education and sustainability.

The group will present their recommendations in a summary report to the council later this spring. Information: chandleraz.gov



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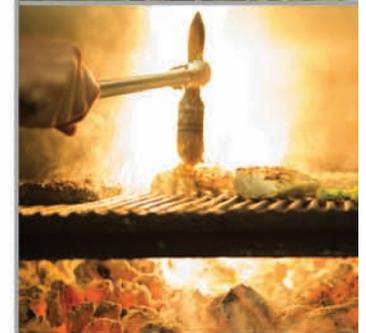
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