

Wrangler NEWS

Feb. 23 - March 8, 2013

Vol. 24, No. 4

Making a big community a little bit smaller.

Volunteers from Tempe Community Action Agency, the city of Tempe and Habitat for Humanity turned out in impressive numbers for a day-long building initiative in Tempe's Escalante community. The goal: to construct a sustainable and affordable home for a deserving family. The volunteers plan to finish up by mid-May.



Wrangler News photos by Dee Myers



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'Interest-based' problem solving helps Kyrene answer its special-areas scheduling dilemma

Collaborative process leads to a unanimous decision

By Diana Whittle / Analysis

Consensus or even positive bargaining seem to elude most of our elected officials. In the Kyrene School District, though, a group of determined volunteers has succeeded in coming together with a unanimity not often seen in today's tug of war over controversial issues.

The district's Elementary Special Area Study Team used a technique, known widely as interest-based problem solving, to review scheduling options for Art, Library, Music and Physical Education, collectively referred to as special areas.

The study also was designed to consider any other solutions that might improve on the district's current system of allowing a 45-minute special area into students' schedules.

Using structured, interest-based problem solving to share information and explore issues to achieve consensus in their studies, team members said they were able to remain collaborative while focusing on the development of mutually beneficial solutions.

The Kyrene team was led by Carrie Furedy, principal of Kyrene del Milenio Elementary School, and Mary Jane Rincon, the district's assistant director of staffing and recruitment. It also included a mix of special-area and classroom teachers.

Two years ago, Kyrene adopted its current once-a-week special-area schedule, which was designed to stay within the boundaries of budget cuts that had

threatened to eliminate these elective subjects altogether. That current schedule enables students K-5 to have art, music, library and PE once a week for 45 minutes.

Principal Furedy presented the team's findings at a study session of the Kyrene School Board on Feb. 12, recommending retaining the current special-areas schedule.

The group's decision came after the team considered various alternative schedules and the size of a school's enrollment.

"Any change in the schedule was to be cost-neutral," said Furedy, "and once all the variables were considered, such as teachers' travel schedule between schools, it was decided that the existing schedule provides the best opportunity for students to receive instruction in the special areas."

Even though the new study team did not change the current schedule, study-group participants, school administrators and district board members agree that the review remains a valuable tool for further discussion.

"We know that these programs are important to Kyrene families, and it's critical that we look at our programs periodically and make sure they are the best solutions possible," said Michelle Hirsch, a Kyrene board member.

While budget challenges remain in the Kyrene district, the Special Area Study Team agreed that it

was a positive that there are no current plans to cut the affected programs.

"The assignment was a pleasure, and as a team we feel that we were productive and we worked together in a respectful way that allowed for honest and open dialogue," said Furedy.

The team agreed that as the budget becomes more stable, the members would welcome an opportunity to re-visit the issue and expand the opportunities available within the special-area framework.

Feb. 23 ASU basketball matchup will aid Kyrene schools' charities

The Kyrene Foundation is hosting a combined dinner and trip to see the Arizona State men's basketball team at 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 480-727-3508 or by going online to thesundevils.com and using promo code WYRENE-UW.

Tickets range from \$6 to \$28.

A portion of ticket sales will go to the foundation.

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Bye-bye wi-fi Popular hangout cuts the cord to its online access



Steve Schmidt, longtime proprietor of the popular south Tempe coffee house Steve's Espresso, says he's had enough of customers who take advantage of free wi-fi.

— Wrangler News photo by Patrick Bonitatibus

'My really good customers who don't even use the wi-fi are afraid I'm going to go out of business," he said with a relaxed smile, adding that the shop had its most profitable day ever the previous weekend.

By Chase Kamp

Steve Schmidt has been cheerfully getting his south Tempe neighbors caffeinated for almost nine years at Steve's Espresso café, where he serves up bold French press coffee, loose-leaf teas and an array of baked delectables prepared in-house.

When it comes to wi-fi though, Schmidt does not mince words. Simply stated, he refuses to be the neighborhood ISP.

"Who said I have to have free wi-fi, anyway?" Schmidt announces from the store's patio on a busy Saturday.

He disconnected his store's wi-fi

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Wi-Fi

From Page 4

connection about three weeks ago, something most people would consider a death knell for a coffee house operating in the Internet age.

"My really good customers who don't even use the wi-fi are afraid I'm going to go out of business," he said with a relaxed smile, adding that the shop had its most profitable day ever the previous weekend.

After years in the business, Schmidt said his decision to disengage from the Internet defies people's perceptions about the No. 1 function of a coffee shop, and hopes it will facilitate more real-life human interaction.

"As I've watched my clientele change and see other coffee houses come and go," Schmidt said, "you start to ask yourself what is really important and who are the majority of your customers."

The core of Schmidt's clientele is morning rush hour commuters and what he calls "coffee shop socializers," so he has been focusing on providing good products and a lively atmosphere for that base.

"Warning: Lively setting and loud music," reads a small, clever sign by the sugar and cream. "Steve's is a place to enjoy life."

Schmidt said he originally offered free wi-fi nearly a decade ago to keep up with his competition. Now he thinks the ubiquity of wi-fi has become a moot point.

"Lowe's has free wi-fi," he said.

"Businesspeople think it's this magical thing—it gives an aura of being on the cutting edge."

He admits the shop has received a few snarky online reviews and the

occasional flummoxed customer that spots the wry "no wi-fi" signs.

On the other hand, he has heard from customers who think of his coffee house as an Internet-free oasis from their incessant email inboxes.

"Is the customer always right?" he shrugs. "Over the years, I've learned that you can't please everyone. If you try to do that, it can be a recipe for disaster."

Schmidt's focus on only the most important aspects of the café business appears to be working.

Mike Bolitho, 29, brought his 42-year-old friend Gary Powell to Steve's for some coffee and conversation.

He said the lack of wi-fi is not a make-or-break factor.

"It would be nice to have, but I'm here more for the atmosphere," Bolitho said.

Jeannemarie Hormell, a project-management professor, agreed. She said she has been coming to Steve's for two years.

"The atmosphere is good for conversation and studying," she said, her computer and textbooks splayed on her table.

"I still come even though there's no wi-fi."

Though they have come on a particular Saturday for different purposes, Bolitho and Hormell said they both keep returning to Steve's for the same reason.

They really like the coffee.

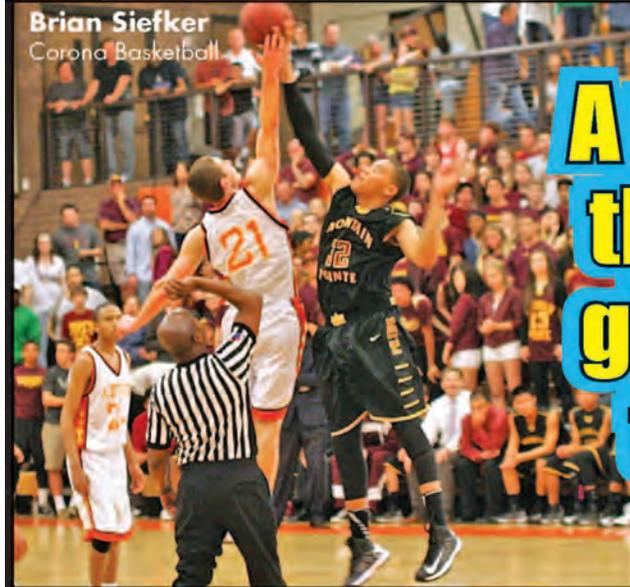
Steve's Espresso is at 1801 E. Baseline Road, on the southeast corner of Baseline Road and McClintock Drive, facing McClintock. Hours: 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m. M-F; 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Phone: 480-777-5373.

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Sports . . . with Alex Zener



Corona del Sol Aztecs, displaying their Section II Championship trophy, pulled out a double overtime victory in the second round of the state tournament playoffs over longtime rival Mtn. Pointe to continue their quest for back-to-back Division I state championships. Team includes, from left: Braden Tennyson, Russ Davis, Vance Arnold, Bryan Siefker, Alex van Ryswyk, Adam Gleeve (holding trophy), Isiah Bolden, Casey Benson (in front), Jarrett Givens (in back), Tyrell Henderson, Cassius Peat, Dan Starkey, Thomas Turley, Logan Dubek.

— Photo courtesy Susan Tennyson

Aztecs squeeze out 66-65 win over Pride following near-fatal flirt with defeat

If you were like most fans in Corona's Sammy Duane Sr. gym watching the No.1 seeded Aztecs play in their first state playoff game this season against No. 16 seeded but long-time rival Mtn. Pointe, you were asking yourself, as the seconds ticked down with the Aztecs trailing by three points, how this top-ranked team was ever going to pull out a win.

Nor would that be the only time during this epic game that you would have the same feeling.

An athletic, tall, long-armed and determined Pride team seemed to have the momentum, at times scoring three-pointers almost at will and leading in rebounding on both ends of the court.

"Rebounding hurt us against Mtn. Pointe," said **Bryan Siefker**. "They are an extremely athletic team."

The Aztecs especially had a hard time in the first half: the score was tied 6-6 at the end of the first quarter.

"Mtn. Pointe is a very good team," said **Cassius Peat**. "One of our biggest challenges was attacking

their zone on offense."

The Pride may have had the momentum and athleticism but not the confidence and playoff experience of the Aztec returning players, especially point guard Casey Benson, in the final minutes of the second half.

Down by three points with 14 seconds left, Siefker inbounded the ball, after Corona's last time out, to Peat. Peat immediately found a streaking **Casey Benson** at midcourt. Benson drove straight to the basket through several Mtn. Pointe players.

Benson not only made a layup but was fouled in the process. He swished in his free throw to tie the game at 52 with nine seconds remaining.

In the final eight seconds, Mtn. Pointe had trouble getting a shot off. Point guard Khari Holloway missed his chance to end the game and win by inches when the ball bounced off the rim with two seconds left sending the game into a 4:00 minute overtime period.

The Pride's height and athleticism won the tipoff, which immediately led to a three-point basket and the lead.

Both teams missed shots and turned the ball over on bad passes but several individual plays had an impact on the outcome, including two free throws and a clutch three-pointer by a player who had previously missed several shots in regulation.

Junior guard **Jarrett Givens**, a 6-foot-1 guard who played significant minutes after 6-foot-4 senior

wing **Adam Gleeve** had to sit the bench because of foul trouble and eventually fouled out in the fourth quarter, made two free throws to bring the Aztecs within one at 54-55.

Braden Tennyson then made his first three-pointer of the night to tie the score at 57-57 with 1:50 left in the first overtime period.

The Pride quickly took the lead again when 6-foot-6 Chris Davis slammed the ball in the basket with his left hand to put Mtn. Pointe up by two at 57-59 with 1:30 left.

Tennyson was fouled and made one of two free throws to bring Corona within one point at 58-59 with one minute to go. Corona was forced to take its last timeout when the Pride was able to pressure the Aztec ball handler. With 54 seconds left, Corona threw the ball away and was forced to foul.

The Pride made one free throw, which was enough to give them a 2-shot lead at 58-60. The Aztecs missed on a three-point attempt and again had to foul. Emmanuel Butler made one of two free throws, giving the Pride a three-point lead at 58-61 with 14 seconds left. For the second time in this game, Corona was behind by three points with 14 seconds left in their season.

This time was no different. With no timeouts left, Benson took the inbound pass, dribbled down the court, tightly guarded the entire way by not one but two Pride players. He pulled up four feet behind the three-point line and buried the basket to tie the

score 61-61.

"I was speechless when Casey made those clutch plays," said Peat. "It only goes to show you that he's got to be the best player in the state."

Mtn. Pointe's Holloway had his second chance of the night to tie the game away but missed once again. The game went into a second overtime period tied at 61 each.

After trading baskets to tie the score 63-63, with 29 seconds left, the Pride seemed to be holding the ball to play for the last shot. Givens got called for a foul, putting Holloway at the line with 16 seconds left. He buried both putting Mtn. Pointe up by two points, 63-65.

Benson, who seemed to have been willing his team to victory the entire night, was tightly covered. Peat, who got the ball wide-open in the corner, realized it was out of his range and wisely threw it cross-court to Seifker. With at least one Pride hand in his face, he took one dribble to the left and buried his first basket of the night, a three, to put Corona up by one point with six seconds left.

"I knew Casey was going to be heavily guarded, so once the ball went to Cassius, I spotted up on the weak side and had to take it," said Seifker.

"It was a tremendous shot," said Benson. "It looked good as he released it and hit nothing but the bottom of the net as it went through."

Holloway missed his third chance, again by inches, at a basket that would have won the game for the Pride.

Corona's fans swarmed the court congratulating and mobbing their Aztec players. **Cassius Peat**, for one, was knocked to the floor while being hugged by delirious fans.

"Oh man, that was a great feeling. It was difficult to breathe, though," said Peat.

The Aztecs lived on to play another playoff game and extend their hopes of winning back-to-back Division I state championships, not once thinking they could have lost that game against the Pride.

"I never felt like we were going to lose. Even when we were down in crunch time," said Benson. "We just needed to keep our composure through adversity and tough times and keep staying aggressive and our shots start falling."

Corona played in the quarterfinals against Millennium, out of Goodyear, Feb. 19 at Wells Fargo Arena. If the Aztecs won that game, they were scheduled to play the winner of the game between No. 4 Mesa and No. 5 Desert Mountain on Feb. 21.

The Division I state championship game was scheduled to be played Saturday, Feb. 23 at Jobing.com area starting at 4 p.m.



Corona's wrestling team finished third at the Division I state tournament held in Prescott Valley. Team included, from left, kneeling: Anthony Farina, Matt Churchill, Ryan Farina, Alex Carrillo, Marc Farina, Evan Solomon. Standing: Coach Walton, Coach Turner, Zach Walton, Glenn Farina, Bridger Barker, Ethan Tursini, Colton Winstead, Brix Kronborg, Josh Caliendo, Chris Moore, Coach Martinez, Coach Caliendo, Coach Richards.

— Photo courtesy Traci Winstead

Corona Wrestling — Corona's wrestling team, with 10 wrestlers qualifying for the Division I state tournament held in Prescott Valley Feb. 7-8, placed third behind Sunnyside and runner-up Chandler.

"Our team did great in 'wrestle-backs' to climb to within five points of taking second place," said Coach Jim Martinez. "Seven of our 10 wrestlers who qualified for state placed in the top five in their weight class."

Juniors **Glenn Farina** (132 lbs.) and **Ethan Tursini** (160 lbs.) won championships.

Tursini, with an impressive unbeaten record of 44-0 entering the state tournament this season, pinned his first two opponents, won by decision (4-3) against the third and then won the championship by decision (4-2).

"Ethan defeated the Division I state champion Pierre Gaud of Cibola in a come-from-behind victory in the finals," said Martinez.

Farina, also with an outstanding 38-4 record,

defeated his first three opponents by technical falls of 18-2, 16-1 and 18-3. His championship match went into overtime where he defeated Luis Nunez of Cibola in sudden victory to win his first championship, according to Martinez.

"The last two years I have fallen short at the state tournament, taking sixth both times," said Farina. "This time I finally ended the season on a good note, and it felt so amazing to be on the top of that podium."

"It was especially gratifying because I woke up sick on the second day of competition but managed to win anyway," said Farina. "I learned a valuable lesson. It doesn't matter what happens or doesn't happen, because when you really want to win you will find a way."

Both junior **Zach Walton** (145 lbs.), who

entered the tournament with a 39-4 record, and **Bridger Barker** (170 lbs.), with a 38-8 record his freshman year, took third place at state for Corona.

Walton defeated his first two opponents by technical falls of 20-5 and 9-4 before losing an 8-12 decision in the third round. After that loss, Walton regrouped and pinned his final opponent, Sunnyside's Aaron Steinbach, in 0:47 seconds flat to be able to stand on the podium for third.

"Zach and Bridger's only losses during the state tournament were to eventual champions," said Martinez.

Barker, who won by decision his first two rounds before losing by decision his third round, defeated Cibola's Vicente Guerrero in a last second reversal to earn a 4-2 final score and take third according to Martinez.

"The level of intensity at the state tournament was the highest I've very experienced," said Barker. "I was thrilled to place alongside so many top caliber

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Sports

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wrestlers.”

Barker learned some lessons in his first state tournament that may increase his odds of making it to the top of the podium next season.

“I learned that I need to use my offense first before my opponent can use his,” said Barker. “Besides reinforcing how to defend against the Fairfax roll, making sure I have good drill partners like I had this year in Zach Walton, Ethan Tursini and Colton Winstead, will be important for my improvement next season.”

Another freshman, **Alex Carrillo** (106 lbs.), and sophomore **Brix Kronborg** (195 lbs.) took fourth place.

Carrillo (35-12), who is only 14 years old, was pitted against an experienced wrestler, junior Alex Wimbish of Mesquite, in his first state tournament round. Right off the bat he ended up in the loser’s side of the brackets after being defeated in a close 9-10 decision.

“That first match was tough,” said Carrillo. “I was able to come back, though, and win four matches in a row, including beating that wrestler, Wimbish, who I lost to in the first round.”

“Alex fought back, winning four straight matches against wrestlers who had defeated him earlier in the year,” said Martinez. “His 7-0 decision

in the fifth round, over Wimbish, earned him an opportunity for a third place finish, although he eventually lost to Josh Olson of Cibola to take fourth.”

Kronberg, 30-15 heading into the state tournament, won his first two matches before a 2-5 decision in the third sent him into the loser’s bracket. Kronberg fought back to win his fourth match 4-3 to try for a third place finish. He lost in that final round in a 5-3 decision.

“Brix did a good job at state wrestling the entire tournament with an injured back,” said Martinez. “He earned his third place by pulling out two one-point victories.”

“I messed up my back pretty bad in practice the day before state,” said Brix. “I was just trying to do what whatever I could to win. It was very rewarding to take fourth especially after all the hard work I put in over the season and then to get hurt the day before state.”

Junior **Colton Winstead**, 24-9 this season, won his first match in a 9-2 decision and then lost 4-6 in the second. In the loser’s side of the 152-pound weight category, he wrestled back to win his third match in a 9-3 decision, his fourth in a 9-2 decision and then ultimately pinning his opponent in his sixth match, after losing in the fifth round, to take home fifth place.

“Colton had a stunning 37-second fall in his final match to win fifth place,” said Martinez. “His continual improvement throughout the year enabled

him to finish strong when he needed it most.”

Also representing Corona at the Division I state tournament were wrestlers **Matt Churchill** (120 lbs.), **Josh Caliendo** (220 lbs.) and **Chris Moore** (285 lbs.).

Marcos de Niza Wrestling — The Padres, who tied for sixth place with Liberty at the Division II state wrestling tournament, qualified eight wrestlers out of the Section III tournament. Of these wrestlers, two ended up in the championship finals.

Senior **Derek Crain**, entering the state tournament with a 39-2 record in the 220 pound category, won the championship trophy with a major, 9-0, decision over Danny Reyes from Barry Goldwater High School.

Another senior, **Jesse Morales**, wrestling at 132 pounds, came in second after losing to Troy Vandall, also of Goldwater. Morales entered the tournament with a 41-6 record.

Also qualifying for state and helping Marcos tie for sixth was junior **Richard Florez**, who made it into the fourth round and came in 6th place. Florez (138 lbs.) had a 36-8 record before the tournament.

Additional qualifiers included sophomore **Ryan Sondrup** (126 lbs.), 30-18 record; senior **Graham Schmoker** (170 lbs.) 31-15 record; junior **Brandon Dowland** (182 lbs.), 29-8 record; senior **Taylor Blankenship** (195 lbs), 14-10; and sophomore **Adam Baca** (285 lbs.), 26-17.


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Fake-license crackdown produces drop in Tempe ID seizures

The number of fake identification cards and IDs used illegally by underage patrons to purchase alcohol within Tempe's downtown district appears to be on a decline.

Molly Enright, a police department public information officer, cites a Feb. 12 report showing that 1,761 illegal IDs were seized by police during calendar year 2012, compared to 2,138 the year before.

The totals represent IDs picked up either by police or staff members at establishments licensed to sell alcohol in the downtown area.

Tempe police and licensed establishments in Tempe's downtown collaborate year round to prevent underage individuals from using false identification.

According to Enright, police officers provide training to bar and restaurant staff and management

on current trends, and on how to spot falsified IDs. Enright says the nearly 1,800 IDs seized in 2012



are illustrative of a commitment by the managers of downtown drinking establishments to curtail the problem of illegal liquor purchases.

"It represents their dedication to follow the law and prevent the serious consequences that can result from underage drinking," she noted.

"We want to send a clear message that the person to whom you hand your ID is trained in the area of falsified identification detection. Those using a fake identification can be arrested and fined."

The report also identified the top locations for seizures of illicit IDs, including Mill Avenue Cue Club, 378; School of Rock, 285; Canteen, 194; Firehouse (opened in September), 149; and Vintage, 136.

The highest number of arrests related to illegal alcohol use were reported at School of Rock, 54; Mill Avenue Cue Club, 31; and Canteen, 14.

March 2 open house for Chandler police, fire departments

West Chandler residents can get a first-hand look at the workings of their local police and fire departments during a family open house and public safety day Saturday, March 2.

The two city departments have joined forces to showcase a heritage of public safety staffing, equipment and commitment.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

police department's main precinct, 250 E. Chicago St.

A variety of departmental and city vehicles will be on display, accompanied by a show featuring police and vintage cars. The event also will include demonstrations of the department's K-9 and tactical robot units.

A prescription-drug take-back program, held in collaboration with the federal Drug Enforcement

Administration, is also scheduled.

Officers from the police department's various divisions will be available to speak with attendees. Guided tours of the police department will be held every half hour; the fire department administrative building will be open to tours for the duration of the event. Information: Officer Dan Chavarria, 480-782-4967.

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EOE

Fans discover camaraderie in a game that's 'Pickle'-icious

By Sally Mesarosh

There's a game in town that is capturing the attention of young and old alike. It's called Pickleball, but don't pucker up yet: it has absolutely nothing to do with that garden-variety deli treat of the same derivation.

This oddly named new sport combines the skills of badminton, tennis, table-tennis and racquetball, played with a hard paddle and a waffle ball.

Fans say it's an easy game to learn and easier on the joints for active senior adults, who comprise a growing legion of devotees. It takes about 15 minutes on average to learn to play, but the more time invested, the better the results.

"It's a wonderful game to play and so much fun," said south Tempe player Christine Costa.

"The sport is lower impact than tennis or racquetball, and there's no cut-throat competition. I've seen people who are 80 or 90 years old play it."

The smaller size of the court, coupled with longer volleys, brings players closer together, cutting down on the physical demands as well as encouraging socializing.

"The social aspect is important," emphasized Dr. Steve Brown, a retired ASU professor. "The smaller court encourages a lot of camaraderie. That's part of the culture."

The sport came alive in 1965 and has recently experienced widespread growth. The United States Pickleball Association estimates it has more than 100,000 active devotees in the U.S., and membership increased more than six-fold from 2006 to 2010.

In case you wonder how the game came to be associated with a pucker-inducing delicacy, it's definitely no extraordinary story. Although we're sure people don't pick the game's namesake out of a crowd—unless maybe at the local dog park—it pays tribute to Pickles, a cocker spaniel belonging to one of the sport's co-inventors.

— PICKLEBALL, Page 11



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Pickleball

From Page 10

Dutch Vander Laan, Tempe ambassador of the USA Pickleball Association, said he started playing about six years ago in Florida. When he returned to Arizona, Vander Laan started a group at the Tempe YMCA, where he presides on Monday and Friday mornings.

"Everybody is welcome—we've got players from beginning to skilled," Vander Laan said. "There's not a long learning curve. In an hour and half, I can have you playing and feeling good about what you're doing."

Vander Laan, 75, is also involved in two other neighborhood pickleball groups, including one at The Lakes community, another at the Harelson Park tennis courts, both in south Tempe.

"We have 50 or 60 players of different degrees, and we'd love more," Vander Laan said.

Because there are limited places to play Pickleball locally, players put up their own nets and draw lines on tennis and badminton courts. The Pickleball net is lower than a standard one, measuring 34 inches at the center. Players can fit four Pickleball courts on one tennis court.

Players say the demand for court space is growing in the Tempe area.



Sam Marcus and Christine Costa, newly committed aficionados of the sport called Pickleball, say it's a way for people in their golden years to stay fit and competitive — a recipe for long life.

— Photo courtesy Christine Baldanza

"The goal is to have a permanent Pickleball place in this part of the world," Vander Laan said. "Right now all the tournaments are on the north side of town."

Vander Laan said he plays in tournaments, but competition is not what drives him to participate.

"The finest people in the world, in my opinion, you'll find on a Pickleball court," Vander Laan said. "I think a lot of mature people have taken up Pickleball when they have found that tennis might not be where they want to be."

"Players are more mature, still competitive, but willing to teach and get along. Everybody plays with everybody. At our age, it's not so much winning and beating the other team with points, but most of the winning is done inside yourself—am I able to do this?"

Brown, however, notes that not all Pickleball players are of advanced age. His 12-year-old grandson loves to play with him.

Concludes Brown:

"It brings generations together."

Where to play?

Tempe YMCA — Mondays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – Noon. Free for members, \$3 for non-members. Drop-in basis.

The Lakes community — Saturday and Sunday, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Limited to community members, but members may invite guests.

Tempe's Harelson Park Tennis Courts — Tuesday and Thursday, 10 – 11:30

a.m. Free. Drop-in basis. Wear court shoes. Paddles and balls are available to get players started. Register online at www.tempe.gov/brochure. Session schedule: Now through March 28 (registration code: 34162). Also, April 2-May 9 (registration code: 34163).

Other groups are located in Ahwatukee, Dobson Ranch in Mesa and Pecos Community Center in Phoenix. Vander Laan said the Chandler YMCA is also trying to start a program.

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Diversions

with M.V. Moorhead

Oscars' treatment of Affleck among decade's worst snubs

Somebody gets slighted by the Academy Awards almost every year, but this year might just go down in Oscar history as The Year of the Snub.

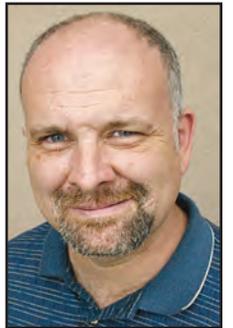
At this writing, Ben Affleck has won a BAFTA award, a Golden Globe and a Director's Guild Award, among others, for directing his splendidly entertaining political thriller *Argo*.

The film itself has also been widely honored—indeed, it received seven Oscar nominations. But even if his movie were to win all seven on Feb. 24, Affleck can't be honored with an Oscar for Best Director—because he wasn't nominated.

Argo indulges in a bit of hairbreadth-escape melodrama in its final stretch, and one could argue about whether the movie might have been

equally tense and satisfying with a more realistic resolution, instead of this sort of corny Hollywood action.

But this is a question of artistic taste, not of execution. Corny or not, the picture, these scenes included, is rousing suspenseful, and must be considered one of the best-directed movies of the year.



M.V. Moorhead

It would be disappointing but perhaps legitimate if Affleck didn't win if the award went to Spielberg or

— SNUBS, Page 22

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Students in the Marcos de Niza High School Theatre Group rehearse for their March 6-9 production of '42nd Street'.

— Photo courtesy of Toni Ramsey

Theater students bring tap-dancing favorite '42nd Street' to Marcos stage

42nd Street, a memorable tap-dancing musical based on the novel by Bradford Ropes, will be presented March 6 through 9 by members of the Marcos de Niza High School Theatre group.

With lyrics by Al Dubin and music by Harry Warren, the production represents the quintessential Broadway fairytale of a young dancer who arrives in New York fresh off the bus from the Midwest, and becomes an overnight star.

Toni Ramsey, president of the school's choir and drama parent group, says the Marcos version has all the complexities of a huge production with

beautifully crafted set pieces, stellar musicians and lavish costumes, along with talented students.

There's also a hit parade of songs including "Lullaby of Broadway," "We're in the Money," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" and the title number, "42nd Street."

Details: 7 p.m. nightly Wednesday, March 6 through Saturday, March 9. Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 students/seniors. Advance ticket purchase through the Marcos bookstore, 480-838-3200, ext. 47640, or at the box office 45 minutes prior to performance time.

Diablos will host spring training fun day

Baseball fans of all ages, sizes and team loyalties can catch a great game for a great cause by attending a fun day at Tempe Diablo Stadium on Sunday, Feb. 24, when the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim kick off spring training against the Oakland A's.

The Diablos and KTVK 3TV will sponsor the event, which gets under way at 1:05 p.m.

"We are excited to be partnering with the Angels to bring spring training baseball to Tempe," said Les Glaser, event chairman for the Diablos.

Proceeds from ticket sales, concessions, merchandise and parking will go to Diablos charities, which support the youth of Tempe by promoting, organizing and supporting community-based programs and education.

This year, proceeds from the

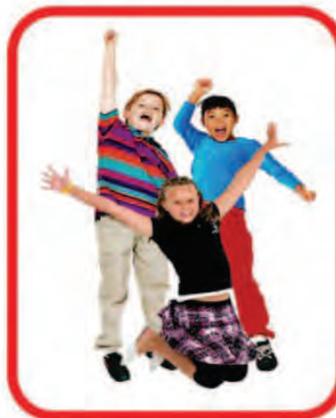
Diablos' baseball efforts will be used to launch a program in area schools known as Rachel's Challenge, recognizing Rachel Scott, the first student killed in the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.

"This important program inspires, equips and empowers middle- and high-school students to create positive culture change in their schools by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion," said Diablos President Greg Stainton.

"This is a powerful antidote to bullying and violence in schools, and we're appreciative to 3TV for allowing the Diablos to bring this special program to Tempe."

Rachel's Challenge programs can be found in schools within the Kyrene Elementary and Tempe Union high school districts.

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Happenings

Schools in science bowl

Students from Corona del Sol and McClintock high schools, as well as those from Tempe Preparatory Academy, are among Valley-wide entrants in a regional competition of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science's National

Science Bowl coming March 2 to Glendale Community College.

The competition is designed to interest youth in pursuing careers in science and math.

The winner of the regional competition will receive a fully paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in a National

Science Bowl in late April; the winners of that event will receive prizes for the team members and their schools.

Cars from Roaring '20s

Aficionados of the Roaring '20s and the cars that became part of that memorable era won't want to miss the ninth annual Kiwanis Nuevo Catch-A-Wave Car Show due Saturday, March 23, at Kiwanis Park.

The show, planned on the park's north side off Baseline Road, will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Because of the Roaring '20s theme, 1920-1929 vintage vehicles will be admitted free and placed in the front row.

Drivers need to arrive between 7:30 and 10 a.m. Sign up at kiwanisnuevo.org or on the day of the show.

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Classic cars, 1986 and older, can be entered in the judged section. A “shine and show” area, with exhibitors, food and entertainment, will be available throughout the day.

Proceeds benefit Kiwanis charities and provide funding for local high school scholarships, community service awards and youth projects.

Opening Day...in style

Tempe’s Lucky Break is partnering with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim to select a lucky customer and three friends for a limo ride to and from the Angels-Cubs game Sunday, March 3, followed by dinner afterward at the popular sports bar.

“Basically, you get to be president for a day and trot out onto the pitcher’s mound before the game to throw out the first pitch,” said

General Manager Jared Fenix. It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

No purchase required to enter; simply drop off an entry form at the bar.

The contest ends Feb. 28. The prize will be awarded March 1.

Information: luckybreak.com.

Presidential scholars

Two students from McClintock High School and three from Corona del Sol are among 10 area teens named as candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program.

The program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor some of the nation’s most distinguished graduating seniors.

Students who received notification of their selection were Joy L. Nachman and Eveline

Postelnicu from McClintock and Jennifer S. Chiang; Saisanjana Kalagara and Joyce Wen from Corona.

New St. James priest

The Rev. Susan E. Wilmot has joined St. James the Apostle Episcopal Church and Pre-School in south Tempe as priest in charge.

Wilmot comes from the White Mountain community of Lakeside, where she served as rector of the Church of Our Saviour for almost five years.

Wilmot and Steve, her husband of 28 years, grew up in the United Kingdom and recently became U.S. citizens.

She holds a BS honors degree as well as a masters of divinity degree, from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

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Go to angels.com for complete game information. Tickets can be purchased that Sunday at the gate.



The Kyrene Foundation is selling ticket vouchers for the game to help support Rachel’s Challenge programs in Kyrene Schools.

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He is a consultant for a joint implant manufacturer and travels around the country teaching other surgeons. Dr. Sharpe has been serving as an orthopedic consultant for the Chicago Cubs for over 10 years. He has learned much and continues to learn more about treating athletes and keeping them “in the game.” He is the team physician for the Mesa Cubs and for Mesa Aquatics.

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EOE

It's official: Canadian TV picks Tempe's best pizza

By M.V. Moorhead

Pizza is a personal thing, subject to each individual's tastes, familiarities and habits. But insofar as it's possible to officially declare who makes the best pizza in Tempe, Canadian television has done so: it's Nello's, at Southern and McClintock.

The reality series *Pizza Wars*, which pits three restaurants from a given area against each other, recently shot an episode in the city, and the 30-year old pizzeria outdistanced two of its competitors to take the trophy.

As we speak, the

trophy is sitting on the table at one of the booths at Nello's, in front of owner Eric Gronning.

The base reads “Pizza Wars Certified: BEST PIZZA IN TEMPE.” Mounted at the top is a laminated fake slice of pie, with rather unappetizing, rubber-vomit-ish-looking toppings under the acrylic.

“I told them that looked kind of gross,” says Gronning. “I said we should put a piece of ours up there instead.”

The producers of the north-of-the-border series—which rotates with *Burger Wars* and *Taco Wars*—spent three days shooting in Nello's.

Day 1 was showing how Nello's pies are made. Gronning did the honors in the kitchen, whipping up a “margarita” pizza—olive oil, feta and Romano cheeses and chunks of garlic, with sausage—for the cameras.

“They had a host who was trying to mess me up,” recalls Gronning. “He's witty, and we're bantering, and I'm trying to focus.”

Pressure aside, Gronning did manage to land a quip:

“My line was, ‘I think I'll cut this pizza in four slices, because I don't think we can eat eight.’”

For Day 2 of the shoot, the judges were fed the pie; then came Day 3, the presentation of the award, with Sun Devil Stadium as the background.

Nello's was named the champ over La Bocca Urban Pizzeria + Wine

— PIZZA, Page 18



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Pizza

From Page 16

Bar on Mill and Venezia's Pizzeria on Southern.

A missionary's son who grew up in the remote community of Tanana on the Yukon River in the heart of Alaska—"I spent the first eight years of my life without electricity or

running water, and with a five-dog sled team"—Gronning studied business and public relations at Purdue and the University of Phoenix and worked as director of sales for the Arizona Cardinals during the Stallings and Bugel years.

He's a sports fanatic—his son Paxton's name is a conflation of John Paxson (Chicago Bulls) and Walter Payton (Chicago Bears). Small

wonder that the Southern and McClintock Nello's is heavily decorated with Chicago sports memorabilia.

Gronning still keeps a hand in sports—he's in management for the Chicago Cubs Spring Training at Hohokam.

"I handle the national anthem and who's throwing out the first pitch. All that stuff that nobody notices."

But he's also owned Nello's since 2004. "I'm kind of a non-blood brother to the two brothers who started it,

Brian and Gino Mai."

Thus Gronning has been a habitu  of the place since before it opened in the early '80s.

"I helped put fliers on cars about the opening," he says.

"I used to bring in pro athletes in those days."

He probably never imagined that, three decades later, he'd be the one in competition, baking pizza for glory and pride.

And a trophy with a (well, make-believe) slice on top.



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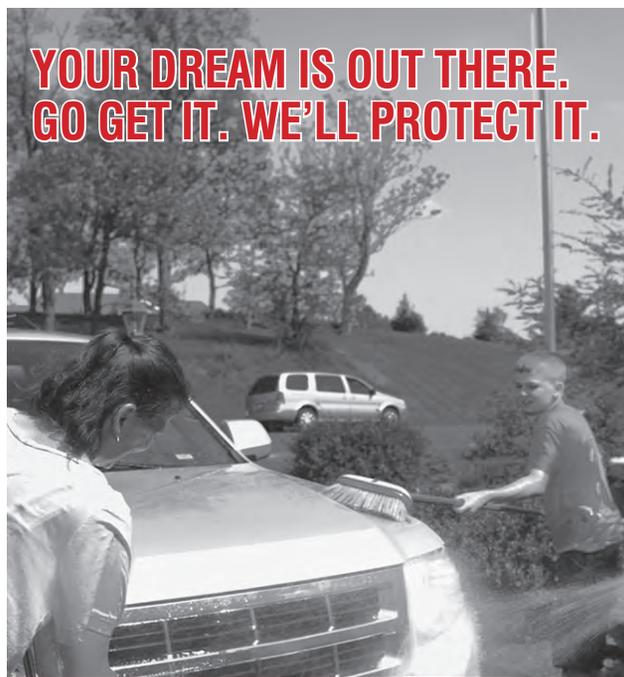
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Buena Vista Ranchos: a bucolic gathering place for 'Mavericks,' young and old alike

Tempe's Buena Vista Ranchos neighborhood is helping create youth leaders and community service advocates through a simple act of generosity.

The community, located near Warner and Rural Roads, is a bucolic oasis in the center of Tempe, featuring well-kept, sprawling properties, mature trees and a friendly feel.

Children ride their bikes along the streets and trails, sharing space with dog walkers, horse riders and the occasional chicken. A large arena, surrounded by horse stalls and grassy lawns, is the hub for the horse owners and aficionados in the neighborhood.

"It's the most beautiful place I know, and I've traveled around the world," said resident Aidan Warrington, who moved into the neighborhood six years ago.

"It's where I'm going to retire."

On alternate Fridays and many weekends, it's also bustling with teen and pre-teen girls, their parents—and lots of horses—from both in and outside the community.

They're the Buena Vista Mavericks, a 4-H club that is 30-strong, and impressive in both its accomplishments and comportment.

Over its nine years, the club has

raised thousands of dollars for local and international charities and horse-related organizations. Through semi-annual activities, the club has collected and donated tons of canned food and citrus to the Kyrene Resource Center, a joint effort between the school district and its non profit foundation, to provide needy families access to resources which meet their basic needs: food, clothing and shelter and medical resources.

Members have contributed countless community service hours packing food bags, picking citrus, reading at schools, painting and repairing arena equipment and much more.

They ride in horse shows and clinics, and take part in public speaking and horse knowledge competitions. Over the past two years, six members represented Arizona at National 4-H events and contests, with two selected as county 4-H Members of the Year. The club also hosts and helps out at neighborhood events, including food and clothing drives, barbecues and gymkhanas.

Youth leaders conduct every project, working with adult mentors.

"The 4-H group is a real

— 4-H, Page 30

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Karrin Allyson



Brubeck Brothers Quartet



Dominick Farinacci

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March 9

Karrin Allyson Quartet

presented by Lakeshore Music

Allyson performs music ranging from the songbooks of George Gershwin and Cole Porter to those of Duke Ellington and Miles Davis.

March 19

Brubeck Brothers Quartet

presented by Tempe Center for the Arts

Daniel Brubeck and Chris Brubeck pay tribute to Valley favorite and world-acclaimed artist Dave Brubeck in this specially-produced appearance.

March 23

Dominick Farinacci Quartet

presented by Lakeshore Music

Farinacci offers a youthful blend of contemporary and traditional jazz that is sure to please.

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www.tempe.gov/TCAevents

23-year-old nabbed in CVS, Walgreens robberies; drug addiction suspected

Police say they have arrested a suspect in the robberies of a CVS pharmacy and a Walgreens store earlier this month.

Angelo Moreno, 23, of Phoenix was charged in the crimes.



Tempe detectives said that at approximately 4 p.m. Feb. 4, an armed male suspect made threats and demanded prescription medications from the CVS location at 1424 W. Baseline Road.

The robber passed a handwritten note to pharmacy employees demanding pills and, when they did not comply quickly, became agitated and began to climb over the counter. The pharmacist handed over the pills and the suspect fled on foot.

At approximately 10:30 a.m. four days later, on Feb. 8, the same suspect made similar threats at the Walgreens at 925 W. Baseline Road, according to police.

In both robberies, the employees were frightened by the suspect's behavior and statements, and complied with his requests, said Molly Enright, a spokeswoman for Tempe PD.

No one was injured in either incident. Detectives said that, during interviews, the suspect acknowledged being addicted to Xanax, a tranquilizer that can be legally prescribed, often for symptoms of anxiety.

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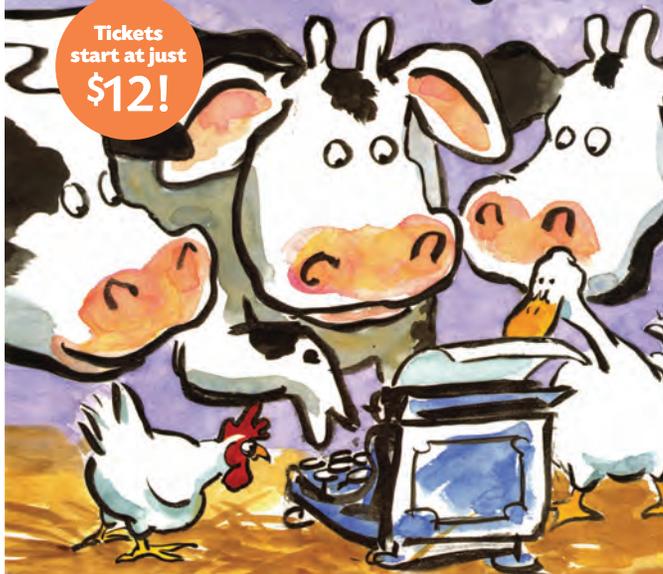


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Snub

From Page 12

Tarantino or Ang Lee, or even to the visionary young Benh Zeitlin of *Beasts of the Southern Wild*.

But for him simply to be ignored is arguably the most egregious Oscar snub in decades.

It seems to have happened for two reasons. First, Affleck has been a fashionable figure of ridicule for years, for reasons I don't understand. I've never been a particular fan of him as an actor, though I think he's given some fine performances—notably in *Hollywoodland*—he's also been a bland lightweight at times.

He's impressively low-key and haunted in the lead in *Argo*, however, suggesting that he may, on top of everything else, be *his own* best director.

But no one really disputes the excellence of his work as a director. By any other name, the guy who directed *Gone Baby Gone* and *The Town* and then *Argo* would be hailed as, quite simply, a new Hitchcock.

Because it's Ben Affleck, however, much of the praise has seemed either grudging or insultingly astonished.

Enough already—it's time to declare him paid up for *Gigli* (sad to say, I'm part of that small cult of outcasts who thinks that *Gigli*, while certainly flawed, is overall a worthwhile movie).

In the long run, the snub will likely work to Affleck's benefit—the standing ovations he's been getting while he wins all those *other* directing awards suggests that it may have caused the filmmaking community to look at him with new eyes.

And his oh-so-gracious-and-humble acceptance speeches, though probably sincere, are also flawlessly played.

The other reason for his omission seems to have been the need to find a place among the nominees for director David O. Russell, for *Silver Linings Playbook*. Russell is a superb director, rightly nominated for 2010's *The Fighter*, snubbed himself for his terrific 1999 *Three Kings*.

But while *Silver Linings Playbook* is a watchable, generally touching comedy-drama, I don't think it

represents anything near Russell's best work, and it doesn't come within a mile of *Argo*. I'm not sure why it's been so rapturously received.

Silver Linings Playbook also seems to have figured into this year's worst acting snub, that of John Hawkes for his star turn in *The Sessions*. I admit that I've had a hard time warming up to Bradley Cooper, but I

thought his performance in *Silver Linings* was quite creditable and poignant.

But it isn't in the same galaxy as the luminous work of Hawkes—in any year in which Daniel Day-Lewis didn't play Lincoln,

Hawkes would deserve to win.

I was delighted, however, that Helen Hunt received a Supporting Actress nomination for her lovely turn in *The Sessions*. It's a pleasant surprise, as Hunt—an authentically great actress—has long been fashionably sneered at in the same perplexing way as Affleck.

One other note: I was also delighted that the Best Animated Short nominees included *The Longest Daycare*, a riotous *Simpsons* cartoon that played before *Ice Age: Continental Drift*. Nice to know that Maggie Simpson wasn't snubbed.





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Kiwanis Club of Tempe's annual Community Easter Egg Hunt is March 30

Children 10 and under are invited to a free Easter egg hunt at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, at the north soccer field of Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way.

More than 7,000 plastic Easter eggs with prizes, items and stickers inside will be scattered on the field where children of two different age groups will be turned loose at the appointed times to gather up as many eggs as they can.

Young children must be accompanied by parents. Children should bring their own baskets or bags to collect eggs.

For more information, visit www.kcot.org or call Mike Jennings at 602-791-5322.



The City of Show Low hub of the beautiful White Mountains in Northeastern Arizona, is seeking motivated and community oriented individuals to fill the following position opening:

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For deadlines, position details, application and further information please access the City's web page at showlowaz.gov. Applications may also be received from Human Resources, City Hall, at 180 N. 9th Street, Show Low, AZ 85901, (928) 532-4027, smcquillan@showlowaz.gov. Resumes may be included but will not be accepted in lieu of actual employment application. The City of Show Low is an Equal Opportunity/Americans with Disabilities Act Employer (EOE/ADA).

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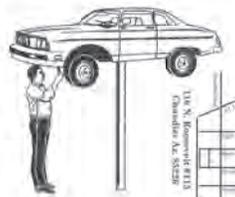
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Fare increase to take effect March 1 for transit services

The Valley Metro Board of Directors approved a fare increase that takes effect March 1 for bus, light rail and some Dial-a-Ride services.

Increases in fares are necessary to preserve service with operations costs increasing at about three to four percent each year.

The increases include \$.25 for the local bus/LINK/light rail single fare and \$.50 for

the Express/RAPID single fare.

Increases will also occur with reduced fares for local bus/LINK/light rail, ADA Dial-a-Ride services, the rural bus route service, and employer and school-issued passes. The increase will generate about \$6.5 million annually, or support 3.2 percent of total operating costs.

Details are available at www.valleymetro.org.



Experience Corps looking for volunteers

In partnership with AARP, the City of Tempe offers a unique volunteer opportunity for adults 50+ to work with elementary school children.

AARP Experience Corps is a nationally recognized literacy program currently running in 19 cities across the country.

More than 2,000 volunteers nationwide make this program possible and create a significant impact in their communities.

In Tempe, there are 57 volunteers who work in seven Tempe and Kyrene elementary schools. Volunteers work one-on-one to improve literacy among third grade students.

This fall, Tempe's Experience Corps program is expanding into three new schools and is looking to add about 30 more volunteers.

Volunteers do not need any special skills, just a willingness to share their experience, time and patience.

Comprehensive training, support services and orientation are provided.

Learn more by attending one of two information sessions:

Monday, March 18, and Tuesday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m. in the Tempe Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Rd.

For more information on the program, visit www.tempe.gov/adults50plus or call 480-858-2464.



Who's Your Neighbor program focuses on Tempe's rich diversity

The City of Tempe hosts a quarterly lecture series called Who's Your Neighbor, to increase understanding and celebrate the diversity in our community.

While we may know our own cultures and lifestyles, we may not know as much about our neighbors' traditions.

Join the next presentation on the Pacific-Asian Culture with speaker Eric Tang, Chair

of the 2013 Arizona Dragon Boat Festival.

The program will be Wednesday, March 20, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Tempe City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.

Bring your lunch and dessert is on us!

For more information, call Ginny Belousek at 480-350-8979 or visit www.tempe.gov/diversity.

Community members: what are your priorities?

The City of Tempe is holding a second meeting to hear from residents on their priorities for capital improvement projects in the 2013-14 fiscal year and beyond.

These projects range from major equipment replacements and street improvements to new facilities and building updates.

They are budgeted separately from operating expenses such as salaries and office supplies.

Tempe would like to review its capital improvement approach and hear from residents about what types of infrastructure improvements they think are most important.

The meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Tempe Transportation Center, second floor Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth St.

For updated details on the formulation of operating budgets for the 2013-14 fiscal year, as well as dates for City Council discussions and votes on both the operating and capital budgets, visit www.tempe.gov/budgetplan.

Female astronauts to share details of their voyages into space

Tempe and Chandler space enthusiasts will have a chance to escape the bounds of the everyday universe for a pair of programs offering perspectives of the International Space Station from a woman's-eye view.

Mesa Community College will host NASA's "Destination Station: Experiences in Orbit" during events Feb. 25 and 28.

Astronauts Suni Williams and Cady Coleman will be on hand to discuss their trips and the memories that will last a lifetime.

Williams was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy in 1987 and served until being selected by NASA in 1998. Coleman was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1983 and began graduate work at the University of Massachusetts. In 1988, she entered active duty and was assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

She was selected by NASA in March 1992 and retired from the Air Force in November 2009.

As a member of the Expedition 14 crew, Williams established a world record for females, with four spacewalks totaling 29 hours and 17 minutes of extravehicular activity.

Coleman has logged more than 4,330 hours in space aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia and the International Space Station.

The space station is an internationally developed research facility in Earth's lower orbit. It is the largest such station ever constructed and serves as a research laboratory where astronauts from around the world conduct experiments in human health, physical sciences, and the mysteries of earth and space.

Program details: **Monday, Feb. 25** — 9-9:45 a.m., Astronaut Suni Williams; 9:45-10:30 a.m., autographs. **Thursday, Feb. 28** — 7-7:45 p.m. Astronaut Cady Coleman; 7:45-8:30 p.m. autographs. Planetarium showings after presentation.

Community RSVP Link: <http://tinyurl.com/nasatalk2>. Both events will be held in the MCC event tent, east side of the Southern and Dobson campus.

Destination Station is NASA's International Space Program national awareness campaign that promotes research opportunities, educates communities about activities performed on the International Space Station, and communicates the real and potential impacts of the station from an everyday perspective. Additional information can be found at www.nasa.gov/destinationstation.

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Ask the doctor

Sleep disorders may be blamed for more than just restless nights

The National Sleep Foundation estimates that nearly 74 percent of Americans may spend more time counting sheep than snoozing.

Not only can this lead to daytime sleepiness that can interfere with daily activities – it can be life-threatening.

“Studies have found that one in six car accidents can be linked to sleep-deprived drivers. Furthermore, sleep disorders can put people at risk for a number of serious health issues, particularly involving the heart and vascular systems,” said David Baratz, M.D., medical director at the new Sleep Disorder Lab at Tempe St. Luke’s.

Dr. Baratz shares his expertise on common sleep questions:

What are common signs of a sleep disorder? —

Simply put, sleep disorders are problems with sleeping. For instance, if you have trouble falling or staying asleep, are falling asleep at the wrong times, are getting too much sleep or have abnormal behaviors when you sleep, you could have a sleep disorder.

What are the secrets to a blissful slumber? —

Sticking to a schedule is so important. Going to bed and waking up at the same time everyday enables you to wake up feeling refreshed. A cool, dark and quiet room provides an ideal sleep environment. Regular exercise can promote better quality sleep; however, timing is important – if performed too close to bedtime it could cause the reverse. Limit daytime naps to 30 minutes or less, or avoid them altogether. There are also many things you should avoid before bedtime that may prevent you from having a good night’s sleep, including nicotine, caffeine, alcohol, large meals and technology.

What’s the harm in snoring? — In some cases, snoring may just be a harmless nuisance to one’s partner, but it may also be a warning sign of a dangerous condition called sleep apnea, where a person’s airway becomes obstructed causing breathing to stop as frequently as a few hundred times each night. The combination of disturbed sleep and low oxygen can lead to conditions like heart disease, hypertension, and mood and memory problems. Sleep apnea can be life threatening and should be treated.

What should people do if they suspect a sleep disorder? —

People who suspect that they may have a sleep disorder should bring it to the attention of their primary care physician or make an appointment for a consultation with the Sleep Disorder Lab at Tempe St. Luke’s by calling 602-765-1620.

What exactly is a sleep study? — Patients at the Sleep Disorder Lab are tested in the comfort of a private bedroom in a painless, overnight sleep study. During this process, brain waves, muscle activity, leg movements, heart rhythms and other body functions are monitored by highly-skilled sleep technologists. The data is then scored, interpreted by a sleep specialist and sent to the ordering physicians who will recommend an appropriate treatment plan.

David Baratz, M.D., is the medical director of the Sleep Disorder Lab at Tempe St. Luke’s Hospital.

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



David Baratz, M.D.

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Feb. 25 info session for Chandler Regional's 'Volunteens' program

Teens with an eye on the future — particularly a future that's expected to produce thousands of new jobs to meet the needs of aging baby boomers — can put their interest to a test this summer in Chandler Regional Medical Center's annual "Volunteen" program.

The hospital is bracing for the usual rush of applicants for the highly anticipated program, which has provided hands-on experience for more than 500 teens since its inception four years ago. During that time, participating teens have accumulated almost 21,000 hours of service.

As to the potential benefits, hospital officials agree that volunteering can provide a great opportunity for young people who may be considering a future in health care.

An informational session for parents and teens is scheduled Monday, Feb. 25.

Volunteens should be between the ages of 14 and 18 (before June 1) and have an interest in helping others, gaining work experience and making new friends.

"Our goal is to inspire compassionate, dedicated future health care providers for our community by allowing them to witness quality health care firsthand," said Barb Farmer, volunteer services manager.

Volunteens also are required to attend a kickoff seminar which this year features the motivational speaker and Hall of Fame wrestler Anthony Robles.

"We have a variety of opportunities available again this summer for our Volunteens," said Farmer.

"Some volunteers really enjoy working at the information desk or helping people select items in the gift shop; others prefer performing administrative duties. We want to make this a fun, positive experience."

Many teens return annually to serve, and each year they are presented with new and hopefully rewarding experiences.

Approximately 150 Volunteens will be accepted into the program this year, assisting with such duties as escorting patients, delivering flowers and newspapers, performing clerical duties, helping at the nursing stations and running errands around the hospital.

In return they receive a meal voucher.

"Volunteering for Chandler Regional is a great opportunity for teenagers to get an inside look at what it's like to work in the health care industry while at the same time making an important and positive impact on our patients, staff and visitors," said Farmer.

Dignity Health requires all Volunteens to serve a minimum of 40 hours over the summer as well as to attend three mandatory educational sessions. At the successful termination of each summer's program, Volunteens receive a certificate of completion, a copy of their hours for future scholarship applications, a letter of recommendation and the opportunity to apply for the Dignity Health volunteer scholarship.

Students and parents can attend the Monday, Feb. 25 meeting (registration is not required) from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Campo Verde High School Auditorium, 3870 S. Quartz St., Gilbert.

Students who attend the session will receive advance copies of the summer Volunteen application.

For those unable to attend, applications can be downloaded online beginning March 1. **Information:** ChandlerRegional.org, click Volunteer Information on the left-hand navigation bar. Volunteen applications will be available March 1-14.

An 'old goat' for a not-so-old birthday boy

Pre-dawn dog walkers in the 1200 block of east Vinedo Lane, Tempe, were greeted by an unexpected barnyard visitor, dropped off by a merry band of pranksters celebrating that day's birthday of a fellow employee. Seems the goat was only a prelude to more surprise hilarity, including a hearse left in their coworker's parking space. Anyway, to the honoree of the jokesters' efforts, Happy Birthday!



— Wrangler News photo



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4-H

From Page 19

enhancement to our community,” said long-time Buena Vista Ranchos resident and horse owner Suzanne Downey. “The girls take on a lot of responsibilities, and it’s great that the neighborhood can support them in their endeavors.”

Resident and 4-H leader Shari Petersen co-founded the club.

“It’s amazing what these kids are doing, how they’re excited about learning and growing into hands-on leaders,” she said.

What they really love to do is ride together.

Resident and first-year member Madeline Cottrell moved into the neighborhood when she was six. “I had to wait three years to join,” she said.

Apparently, it was worth the wait. “I really like the open rides and meetings where I learn to control my horse, and the older kids help me figure things out,” she said, adding, “My favorite activities are when the older girls get to pick the activities.”

Without the good will of the residents, however, those rides would not be possible.

“As a group, we really appreciate the neighborhood allowing us to use the arena,” said Zoe Dailey, a second-year Mavericks member. The 17-year-old trailers her horse to meetings from her South Mountain-area home. “They

are all really nice to us, and we have so much fun with the neighborhood events.”

Resident Downey believes the group adds value to the neighborhood’s equestrian lifestyle. “The kids bring energy by sharing their enjoyment of a lifestyle that is becoming rare,” she said.

To Aidan Warrington, the enjoyment is mutual. “Sharing is one of the nicest things you can do in life. It’s



wonderful to share the pleasure of our neighborhood, especially when it’s so appreciated,” he said.

The Mavericks invite visitors to see them in action at the Neighborhood Gymkhana, from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at the Buena Vista Ranchos arena, off Warner and Terrace Roads in Tempe.

The event features rodeo-style action with pole bending and barrel racing, with a lead line event for the young ones, as well as food concessions, a silent auction, raffle and tack swap.

The event also celebrates 100 Years of 4-H in Arizona.

Information: bvmavericks.org.

— Contributed by Tracy Zipay

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Don Kirkland, President

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Contributing Writers: Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead, Alison Stanton, Diana Whittle, Chase Kamp, Sally Mesarosh

Advertising Consultants: Patrick Bonitatibus, Brandy Williams

(480) 966-0845

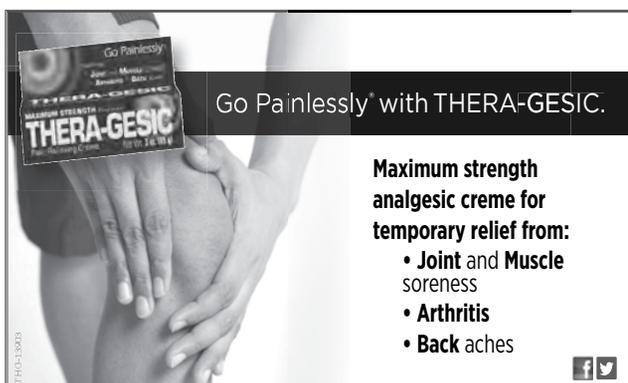
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