

Wrangler NEWS

'The Valley's Best Community Newspaper'

March 5 - 18, 2016 • Volume 27, No. 5



The Cat in the Hat brought smiles to all faces and Broadmor Elementary was the place of all places. Photo feature by Alex J. Walker, Pg. 27



Friends will miss the traditional St. Paddy's Day feast served up by consummate Irishman Joe McCarthy, who died in February. Story, Pg. 9

Inside



Chandler chief to help 400 AZ police agencies meet 21st Century challenges

By Jonathan Coronel

After 30 years in law enforcement—the past two as chief of the Chandler Police Department—Sean Duggan is taking on one of the potentially most influential roles of his career: chairman of Arizona's quietly essential Criminal Justice Commission.

Appointed to the post by Governor Doug Ducey, Duggan will oversee the professional entity tasked with helping to guide 400 offices statewide, from large- and small-town police departments to sheriff's offices to the myriad other enforcement and prosecutorial agencies involved with keeping the state safe.

Despite the inherent challenges of his new job, Duggan definitely knows the ropes.

Heading into law enforcement right out of college, he spent the next 20 years on the Scottsdale police force, including seven as the department's assistant chief. Due to his several decades of Scottsdale PD experience, which included a combination of years assigned to jobs from investigations to SWAT work, Duggan emerged as a top candidate for the commission job.

Along with what were his obvious qualifications for the new state-commission role, those who know him say Chief Duggan brings an enthusiasm for helping people and holding the law enforcement community to high standards.



Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan shares views with Jonathan Coronel on the challenges facing law enforcement.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

Study results: Kyrene enrollment on rebound

By Diana Whittle

A drop in enrollment for Kyrene schools appears poised to begin a reversal, due to a stronger birth rate and more turnover in neighborhoods, according to a study update.

Data presented to the Governing Board was gathered by Rick Brammer of Applied Economics, a consulting firm that specializes in school population projects, economic

development and economic and fiscal-impact assessment.

Brammer assembles his statistics based on various resources, such as numbers from the Census and the Department of Urban Development.

Brammer, who has tracked the district since 1988, says that while the recession caused a decline in birth rates, the number is reversing and in-district enrollment is likely to rebound over the next 10 years, as

owners become empty nesters and decide to move away.

While in-district enrollments have gone down by nearly 5,000 students since reaching a peak in 2000, nearly 4,000 out-of-district students chose to attend Kyrene schools, the numbers indicate. Coincidentally, this number of students is equally offset by school-age kids whose families chose other

— CHIEF, Page 8

— STUDY, Page 17

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Workshops help unlock puzzle of homeowner association rules, regs

By Joyce Coronel



managed HOAs. Most area associations are professionally managed, Ramos said, but a handful are administered by the residents themselves.

Ida Rodriguez has lived in her Chandler home for 25 years and said she has attended the HOA academy for more than 10 years. While she doesn't currently sit on the board, she has in the past and still helps out with accounting for the association's dues, which recently increased to \$100 per month. Rodriguez called the city-sponsored HOA academy a "blessing" and said that her HOA may have been the first one established in the city.

"We are a small, self-managed HOA so we don't have a lot of funds, and every bit of information we can get helps keep our board members in the know," Rodriguez said. "Every time you go you learn at least one new thing. They keep you up to date on the latest laws and provisions in the statutes."

"There's a lot involved in running an HOA. It's not just having a board," Ramos agreed. "There are many rules and regulations, so being self-managed, you have to be really on top of things—your budget and so forth."

With new legislation constantly coming up for discussion, the city wants HOA board members and the residents in the area to stay informed. But city staff also needs to keep an eye on developments, which explains why representatives from her department will be attending the HOA academy sessions as well.

The academy begins March 23 and continues on Wednesdays through April 13 at the Environmental Education Center, 4050 E. Chandler Heights Road.

Information: chandleraz.gov or call (480) 782-4320.

If you live in a neighborhood with a homeowners association, chances

are the Phoenix Suns fan next door

won't be painting his house purple with

orange trim any time soon.

But how much power does the HOA board really have when it comes to sprucing up your castle?

Judy Ramos, neighborhood programs supervisor for the city of Chandler, is hoping area residents will sign up for the four spring sessions of an HOA academy that starts later this month.

Local HOA attorneys present the 90-minute classes at no cost to residents and provide lunch for the participants.

City staff work alongside the lawyers to decide what topics need to be addressed, Ramos said, adding that the lawyers are needed because city staff can't give legal advice when it comes to HOAs. The spring session of the academy will have a back-to-basics emphasis this year, she said. Some of the sessions will deal with board members' roles and responsibilities and the code of conduct for boards.

Many of those who attend, Ramos said, are board members from the various HOAs around town, but other residents who don't serve on the board are also encouraged to attend.

"It's always great to come in and get that information so you understand the rules and regulations and the state laws that govern HOAs," Ramos said. "So you also get it that 'Oh, they're not picking on me — these are state laws.'"

On Wednesday, April 6, the academy will address the pros and cons of professionally managed versus self-

Governing Board reviews pay packages for 2016-17 fiscal year

By Diana Whittle

Teacher retention continues to challenge school districts in Arizona, and the Kyrene District is no exception.

So each year, Kyrene goes through a high-level of detail to ensure teachers' pay is competitive, which includes a lengthy negotiation process between staff and the Governing Board, known as meet and confer.

At the forefront of the compensation discussion is Dr. Mark Knight, assistant superintendent of the district, who also is responsible for human resource functions in the district.

"Kyrene is considered a coveted place to work, which we want to remain," says Knight. "Part of the reason for our status is that we listen to employees and negotiate with them through our meet and confer process."

To prepare for this year's budget planning, Kyrene teachers participated in a compensation survey, in which a total of 675 teachers, or 68 percent of the teaching population, participated. Another survey was completed with 92.4 percent of the district's administrators.

For both teachers and administrators, the highest-rated request was to apply a cost-of-living increase across all positions. About 10 years ago the district abandoned a salary schedule that included automatic increases for inflation and moved to the performance-based model of pay.

Knight also was instrumental in the hiring of an outside consultant group, Fox and Lawson, to undertake a review of salary competitiveness for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The consultants' task was to review four categories of school-district employees, including support personnel, selected directors, the speech language technician, and teachers in grades K-8.

Their finding was that Kyrene is falling behind nearby school districts in salary competitiveness and retention. Knight reports the current attrition rate for Kyrene teachers is about 10 percent a year.

Based on the Fox and Lawson recommendation, the Kyrene Governing Board wants to increase total compensation for employee

— PAY, Page 16

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An update: Lots of response, and our sincere thank you

As some of you no doubt recall, our last issue contained an informal survey of sorts, asking that you share thoughts you might have about *Wrangler News* and inviting you to offer any ideas you'd like us to consider as we go forward.

Simply said, I was amazed at the outpouring of comments/suggestions/critiques and, happily, quite a lot of praise that was indeed appreciated.

As a result of the large number of responses, I'm going to break my promise of an individual reply to each of you and try to summarize your contributions in a single column, as follows.

(So as to not relegate to last place any of the critical remarks we might have received, let me start with those):

One writer felt that we place too much emphasis on elementary and high school news, "especially sports," to the point that it becomes "tiresome to read."

As a result, said the writer, the paper gets tossed into the recycle bin week after week.

Another felt we should concentrate on new businesses and the uniqueness of our south Tempe/west Chandler neighbors.

Although we try to write about the new businesses and people we discover during our neighborhood travels, we feel that our first commitment should be to those who support us via their advertising dollars. We definitely do not subscribe to the notion that only people who buy ads will get stories written about them. However, the reality is that we have a limited number of pages and a small fulltime staff—two of us, in case you wondered—so a lot of worthwhile stories get stashed away until time and space permit.

Sports news gets the amount of coverage it does because we know how much these young athletes and their parents—our readers—appreciate the

recognition, and we hope are encouraged to further strive as a result.

A lot is written about our schools because it's on the minds of so many people in our community, whether parents who want their kids to get a good education or business owners who want to make sure that classrooms continue to provide a sound learning experience which translates to these young people's future employability.

Here are a few of the other suggestions our readers shared. You can be sure we've added all of them to our list of coverage possibilities, and we hope you'll keep your eyes open as these stories appear on our pages in future weeks and months.

- What types of animals do the cities of Tempe and Chandler allow in their residential neighborhoods?
- What are the regulations regarding temporary street-side signs—how are those regulations enforced?
- How about more stories regarding the lives and accomplishments of our behind-the-scenes heroes, such as teachers and school administrators?
- Tell us what local people who formerly were in the spotlight are doing today—City Council members, military, news people, etc.
- More on the why's and when's of Tempe's curbside refuse pickup system.
- More about the unique people who populate our neighborhoods.

This is just a sampling of the many suggestions that flowed into our email box. However, I can promise you that all of the ideas we received will help us do a better job of planning the kind of coverage you've said you want in your hometown newspaper.

To the many who answered our mini-survey, we want you to know how much we appreciate you taking time from your busy schedule. Your names are on our list for the Babbo's Italian Eatery giftcard drawing coming up in a couple of days, and you'll hear from us as soon as we dip into the hat for our winners.

Again...thank you for your support of *Wrangler News*.

— Don Kirkland

Driver for 'Brown' brings home the gold for safe driving

If a big brown delivery van seems to be inching into your lane of traffic, it's likely not a UPS truck and it's certainly not Pete Curiel.

The veteran parcel-service driver, a longtime Tempe resident, has been inducted into his company's prestigious Circle of Honor for achieving 25 years of accident-free driving.

Curiel, along with 25 other elite drivers from Arizona, are among 1,613 newly inducted into the company's honorary organization.

The company announced that 26 drivers from Arizona are among 1,613 newly inducted worldwide. Arizona boasts 104 active Circle of Honor drivers with a combined 2,899 years of accident-free driving, according to a press release.

Mark Woolston of Glendale is the state's

senior-most safe driver, with 40 years of accident-free driving under his belt.

There are 1,702 total UPS drivers in Arizona.

Globally, 8,703 active UPS drivers are members of the Circle of Honor. Collectively they've racked up more than 245,000 years and more than 5.3 billion safe miles during their careers.

That's enough miles to travel to Mars and back 19 times.

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Chief

From Page 1

Now, as the body's new chair, Duggan will face the job of balancing the needs of many constituents and responding to the pressing issues of the law enforcement community—needless to say a daunting task for state and city governments to take on entirely by themselves.

Accordingly, ACJC serves as a liaison between the many involved agencies, since all members of the criminal justice community are represented, as well as providing a forum for people to bring their issues to the table, each element of which helps to further the commission's primary goal of keeping crime in check, notes Duggan.

As the grandson of a British Royal Marine, Duggan is proud of his British heritage, which becomes evident as he explains how the foundations of American policing actually come from Sir Robert Peel, a 19th-century British statesman, and Peel's impact on the development of today's standards.

"Peel's principles of policing serve as the basic tenets of our law enforcement practices. Even though they were written in 1829, they're still just as relevant today as they were then, and you'll find them up in just about any police station in America," Duggan

explained while showing me a framed copy of Peel's concepts outside of his office.

The first principle, and the one both Duggan and ACJC think is the most important, states:

"The basic mission for which police exist is to prevent crime and disorder as an alternative to the repression of crime and disorder by military force and severity of legal punishment."

However, the million-dollar question, older than Peel's principles, is how to prevent crime. One answer is with data analytics, which Duggan says ACJC employs rigorously.

"The ACJC is unique because we have a capability to conduct surveys on a range of things like youth issues, crime, drug use, gang violence and victim services. Having that info helps us make informed decisions and predictions, so we can prevent crime from occurring in the first place. Data-driven decision-making allows ACJC to allocate resources to different agencies and communities accordingly," Duggan says.

Data-analytics is just one innovation that Duggan believes will continue to improve policing in Arizona. Another is body cameras, which are a trending concept, as relations between citizens and police in some communities can be less than amicable.

Duggan supports the implementation of such cameras, noting that the Chandler Police Department, which already has 60 officers using

them, plans to have them deployed throughout the force by May. Duggan sees cameras as a valuable asset in an age when police can be a target resulting from civilian videos that he says may not show the entire story.

"There's 300 million reporters out there," Duggan says while holding up his smartphone. "Oftentimes people show snippets of an event and this is used to paint a negative narrative. Body cameras will solve some of the problems that arise from this, but even they aren't a panacea. They will help, though, and when officers do make mistakes they should be held accountable."

Chief Duggan earnestly believes that the majority of police in America are doing a good job, and the numbers corroborate his belief as crime rates continue to fall in this country.

However, Duggan is quick to add that it's impossible to paint law enforcement with too broad a brush, as cultures and police practices vary from state to state and region to region.

"There's no such thing as 'the police'. There's your police. There's the Chandler Police. Every community is different, and communities often dictate how police forces are run."

"With 250,000 people in Chandler, we can't do our job without having the community behind us."

Information: AZCJC.gov

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St. Paddy's Day memories

Farewell to a favorite Irishman whose savory tradition lives on

Every year when March rolls around on the calendar, I remember that it must be time for our friend Joe McCarthy to host his annual St. Paddy's Day dinner.

You have only to consider his name to know what's going to be on the menu: Joe's corned beef and cabbage always has been No. 1 on his—and our—list of favorites.

And who better than Joe—actually, Joseph Francis McCarthy III—to outperform the other would-be Irish chefs when it comes to skill involving a Guinness (or two), a traditional meal and, not to be overlooked, a generous chunk of homemade Irish soda bread, fresh from the oven.

So, when Joe died a few weeks ago at age 60 after fighting a nearly six-year battle with cancer, we knew we'd be enjoying this year's corned-beef-and-cabbage repast only as a memory, not as the savory, hail-fellow-well-met sharing of seasonal camaraderie that we'd all become so accustomed to in

the dining room of Joe and his wife Janet's South Tempe townhouse.

No, we admitted to ourselves, this year would be different.

So, imagine my delight when, a few days later, we walked in to the nearby Great Harvest Bakery, home to all sorts of still-warm-from-the-oven loaves, cakes and cookies, to learn that Irish soda bread wasn't Joe's exclusive culinary domain.

Leslie and Ward Walston have created their own scratch version of the Irish favorite for many years now, and although we haven't sampled it yet (none comes from the Walstons' big ovens until about this time of the month), we're pretty confident it won't disappoint—not us, not those who queue up for the annual fresh-off-the-racks ritual—certainly not, we're sure, from our friend Joe, who no doubt will be taking in the deepest draught ever of that fragrant aroma from on high.

—Don Kirkland



Joe at the Phoenix Zoo: another occasion for wearin' of the green.

Photo courtesy Riley Gay

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Sports

By Alex Zener

Keys to winning: Coaching, chemistry . . . and luck!

To win a state basketball championship, it's a given you need a well-coached team with a few exceptional players and a number of role players who are willing to buy into the program, develop team chemistry and possess the heart and desire to leave it all out on the court to win.

You also have to have luck on your side.

The Aztecs, in a bid to win their fifth consecutive D1 State Championship trophy, appeared to have almost everything they needed to defend their state championship when they earned the No. 1 seed for the fifth straight year.

The seeding was favorable. A bye in the first round, the nmost likely teams they had defeated this year, Mountain Pointe and Gilbert, in addition to the No. 8 seed that didn't seem to be on anyone's radar, Sunnyslope.

Yes, many were skeptical because they were missing an inside presence but their three returning guards had proven they could score points and win games.

Even though the Aztecs lacked a strong post player, it was still possible they could make it all the way to the finals to play against No. 2 seed Mesa.

Mesa did make it to the finals while Corona did not, most likely due to bad luck.

The one aspect that Corona had in the past four seasons but was missing at this tournament was luck, the kind you get when everyone stays healthy and injury free.

Saben Lee, part of Corona's three-guard scoring machine, was not able to play when the Aztecs lost in the quarterfinals to No. 8 seeded Sunnyslope, Feb. 24, at Wells Fargo Arena, 61-53.

Sunnyslope went on to lose to Mesa in the finals but you can't help but wonder what would have happened if Lee, a player who had grown several inches and improved drastically since last season, had not been sick.

The Aztecs, led by junior **Alex Barcello** and senior **Tyrell Henderson**, not only missed the scoring of Lee but also his tenacious defense, in their first playoff loss since 2011.

Barcello (29 points) and Henderson (18 points) combined to score 47 of the Corona's 53 total points but missed more shots than they hit, only 36 percent, while Sunnyslope, with a more balance and deeper team, only had to focus their defense on two players and shot close to 50 percent.

It was a great run while it lasted. It's way too early to speculate what will happen next year.

Corona wrestling

After taking second place as a team at the D1, Section II tournament at Valley Vista High School on Feb. 6, the Aztec wrestling team qualified 10 wrestlers to compete at the state championship tournament Feb. 11-12 in Prescott Valley, including the Farina triplets.

Seniors **Ryan**, **Marc** and **Anthony Farina** all qualified and were part of the team of Corona wrestlers who took sixth place, with 94.5 points, at the state tournament Feb. 12. It is the first time in Arizona state history that triplets competed in a state championship wrestling tournament.

"The Farina brothers have been a great source of pride to our program," said coach **Jim Martinez**. "They will be greatly missed!"

"Ryan has been a leader through winning a state championship and by being a model student athlete while Marc has been one of the hardest workers in the program. His hard work paid off when he took second place at state this year."

Marc was named to the All-Tribune Wrestling Second team, citing the "former champ finished second in possibly the best match of the D1 state tournament."

"Anthony has been a true team player and brings the team closer by the way he bonds with his teammates," said Martinez.

Helping earn points for the Aztecs was top finisher Marc Farina, who was the runner-up to the champion in the 138 lb. weight category winning a second place medal.

Adding to Corona's score was junior **Hunter Carmona** with a third place medal at 145 lbs. Sophomore **Cam Upshur** took fifth place at 113 lbs.

Medaling in sixth place were freshman **Zack Kvalve** (106 lbs.) and **Ryan Farina** (132 lbs.).

Carmona, Ryan Farina, Kvalve and Upshur were named honorable mention wrestling team members.

Also competing in the state tournament for the Aztecs were junior **Sole Bernstein** (126 lbs.), **Anthony Farina** (160 lbs.), junior **Diego Fill** (170 lbs.), junior **Nick Ruffalo** (182 lbs.) and sophomore **Jacob Santa Cruz** (195 lbs.).

McClintock and Marcos de Niza both competed in the DII state wrestling championship held in Prescott Valley Feb. 11-12 while Tempe competed in the DIII tournament Feb. 12-13.

Marcos de Niza wrestling

The Padres finished ninth out of 41 DII schools that competed in the state tournament with 72.5 points.

Taking home fourth place medals were juniors **Samuel Johnson** (138 lbs.) and **Edward Heral** (195 lbs.).

Johnson received honorable mention.



Seated, first row: Corona's Cam Upshur, Coach Jim Martinez, Anthony Farina; Center row: Coach Carmona, Stephano Linares, Nick Ruffalo, Zack Kvalve, Cole Bernstein, Marc Farina, Diego Fill, Hunter Carmona, Justin Sorenson, Armando Arellano, Ryan Farina; Back row: Coach Dayoob, Jacob Santa Cruz, Nick Ramirez, Dylan Conner, Michael Santa Cruz, Coach Thorton.

— Photo courtesy Coach Jim Martinez

Seniors **Carnell Dargan** (132 lbs.) and **Kendrick Reif** (170 lbs.) finished fifth in the state tournament along with sophomore Andrew Torres (145 lbs.).

Sophomore **Alejandro Torres** (152 lbs.) competed for the Padres at the state tournament earning a 42-13 record.

McClintock wrestling

The Chargers have two incredible sophomore wrestlers in brothers Marco and Gator Groves.

Marco Groves (132 lbs.) was undefeated his

sophomore year, going 62-0 to win his second DII individual state championship.

His brother, **Gator Groves** (126 lbs.), had an incredible year as well, going 59-2 to win his second individual DII state championship for McClintock.

Both Marco and Gator Groves were selected to the All-Tribune Wrestling First Team.

Senior **Noah Bello** (160 lbs.) earned points for the Chargers with his fourth place medal to earn a 56-8 season

— SPORTS, Page 12

Kiwanis Park 25 Anniversary Batting Range Party!

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Come swing for the fences at the newly renovated Kiwanis Park Batting Range. Whether you're looking to enhance your batting skills or are seeking a fun day out with the family, KRC's range offers the perfect destination to have a swinging good time.

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Sports

From Page 11

record and a name on the All-Tribune honorable mention team.

Also qualifying and wrestling at the DII state tournament for McClintock were sophomores **Gabriel Medrano** (113 lbs.) and **Crystian Rodriguez** (120 lbs.).

Tempe wrestling

The Buffaloes had nine wrestlers qualify for the DIII tournament where Tempe's team took sixth place out of 53 teams by scoring 75.7 points.

Juniors **Adan Guillen** (113 lbs.) and **Jaren Savage** (138 lbs.) were the top finishers, both taking home second place medals for finishing as runner-ups to the state champions in their weight category.

Senior **Elias Gonzales** (120 lbs.) won a third place medal with a 40-6 record while fellow senior **William Colbert** (145 lbs.) was sixth on his way to a 32-24 record.

Guillen, amassing a 29-2 season record, was named to second team while Savage, with a 38-4 season record, and Gonzales, 40-6 season record were honorable mention.

Competing in the tournament for the Buffaloes as well were seniors **Omar Casillas** (132 lbs.) and Aaron Epstein (195 lbs.), junior **Jose Arragon** (220 lbs.) and sophomores **Tony Ramirez** (126 lbs.) and **Steve Maddox** (152 lbs.)

Corona girls soccer

The Lady Aztecs entered the DI state tournament as the No. 9 seed with a 7-5 record losing a heart-breaking game to the No. 8 seed Campo Verde in the first round Feb. 1 in the second overtime 3-2 in penalty kicks.

It was the second straight year Corona has lost in the first round to penalty kicks after leading early in the game.

After a scoreless first half, Corona scored first when senior striker **Bailee McCook** put the Aztecs up 1-0 with 35 minutes to go in regulation.

Corona held off Campo Verde until a little over six minutes remained when the Coyotes scored on a free kick resulting in a 1-1 tie and overtime. When no one scored in the first overtime, the game winner was determined by penalty kicks.

Goalkeeper **Jordan Freese** made some heroic stops for Corona but the Aztecs still found themselves down by one at the end and were eliminated in the first round.

Corona boys soccer

The Aztecs entered the D1 state championships as the No. 6 seed on Feb. 3 when they defeated No. 11 seed Chandler 3-1.

In the quarterfinals, Corona's boys team was also defeated in the second overtime when No. 3 Hamilton outscored the Aztecs in penalty kicks 4-3 on Feb. 6.

After Hamilton scored two goals in the first half, Corona's **Tanner Pile** and **Ryan Flood** each scored a goal to even out the score and cause the game to go into overtime with a 2-2 tie.

Corona's leading goal scorer, **John Rea**, with 26 goals this season, did not play in the game against Hamilton.

Goalkeeper **Josh Whitney** stopped several attempts during regulation but could not stop all of the penalty kicks in the second overtime.

'Woman of Year' combines nitty-gritty business savvy with a flair for the arts

By Deborah Hilcove

"I love helping other people, helping solve problems," says Mary Contreras, a longtime Tempe businesswoman, recently named "Woman of the Year" by the Women of Scottsdale.

Active with the Intel Community Advisory Committee, and both Tempe and Chandler chambers of commerce, she directs the Chandler Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

A former executive board member of NAWBO, the National Association of Women Business Owners, Contreras is a director of Bank of America's project, Women's Financial Group.

She is an executive board member of Go Red For Women, a national movement of the American Heart Association.

The Women of Scottsdale organization includes business and professional women, community leaders who live, work or play in Scottsdale.

A longtime active member of that enviable group, Contreras says she enjoys "sharing the friendships. My responsibilities [as Woman of the Year] remain multifaceted—being a good citizen, continuing the good works, sharing the fun of philanthropy, supporting the arts and civic endeavors."

"Mary encompasses all the attributes of Women of Scottsdale," says WOS President JoAnn Holland. "Whatever role she's in—employer, community leader, friend, wife—she puts her all into it. She's an outstanding person."

Growing up on a ranch in South Dakota, Contreras later studied art and engineering. She worked at Allied Signal Aerospace and Honeywell for more than 15 years before becoming a State Farm agent and starting her own agency in Tempe, ultimately becoming a Million Dollar Roundtable member.

Contreras encourages small business owners, saying, "I know what it's like. I know it keeps you up late. I know the worries, the joys," she says. "My passion is helping people, and I want to show how insurance is a tool to help protect assets. I started out in aerospace engineering. That's one side of me. Detail-oriented. I read contracts thoroughly for my clients." She laughs. "I'm really a contract geek!"

"The other part of me is the creative side. You know, left-side, right-side brain. Look at this." She shows a small, framed painting. "It honors my mom and my aunt. They were of Irish descent."

The painting, inscribed "Where Love and Loyalty Meet," portrays a heart, shaped by vivid red and pink roses, poppies and peonies—symbolizing love, remembrance and healing thoughts—surrounded by butterflies, surmounted by a crown.

"It's a version of the Claddagh," Contreras explains, "the legendary Irish ring. But instead



Businesswoman Mary Contreras outside her State Farm office in South Tempe. Named 'Woman of the Year,' Contreras is also an accomplished artist whose painting, 'Where Love and Loyalty Meet,' represents a tribute to her mother's and aunt's Irish heritage.

— Wrangler News photos by Tracy Doren



of the hands of friendship clasping the heart, I've painted butterflies, representing beautiful souls. The heart stands for love, and the crown represents loyalty."

Pausing, she explains: "My mom died 30 years ago from heart disease. That's one reason I've been so involved with the American Heart Association and Go Red for Women. I'm an executive board member and was honored when my design was chosen for our

correspondence cards."

This year, Feb. 5 was national "Go Red Day," spotlighting heart disease and stroke, a "silent killer" attacking one of every three women.

However, a whopping 80 percent of these can be prevented with education and lifestyle changes, says Contreras.

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Once upon a musical

Kyrene Middle School students star in 'Once Upon a Mattress,' the popular Broadway musical based on Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Princess and the Pea.' Cast members, under direction of longtime instructor Julie Hackmann, have been in practice for the program for weeks. Performances run March 16-19.

— Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker



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We're frequently asked where to find an additional copy of Wrangler News.

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Call us at 480-966-0845 any time 9-5 M-F for other locations and watch this space as we add additional drop sites in both Tempe and Chandler.

And be sure to thank these businesses and professional offices for helping to bring your community newspaper to even more people.

Downtown Tempe: Enclosed permanent racks on Mill Ave. in front of Hippie Gypsy and Rula Bula. Tempe City Hall lobby.

Downtown Chandler & nearby area: City Hall, Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Central Credit Union.

West Chandler: Spices, Jimmy & Joe's Pizza, Ray & McClintock; Sunset Branch Library, Ray & Rural. Fractured Prune.

South Tempe: Wrangler Offices at 2145 E. Warner Road; Kyrene Elementary and Middle Schools; Tempe Elementary Schools; Dairy Queen, Rural & Elliot; Ragtops, McClintock & Elliot; Tempe Smile Design, Guadalupe & McClintock; Great Harvest Bread; Warner & McClintock; Seattle Espresso; Steve's Espresso; Wildflower Bread; Bogey's; AZ Bread; Arizona Community Church; Kyrene Elementary Schools offices; Tempe Elementary Schools offices; Tempe Union High School District.

NOTE TO BUSINESS OWNERS: If you'd like folks to be able to visit your business for a copy of their community newspaper, and at the same time be able to get acquainted with your products and services, give us a call and we'll add your location to our listing.

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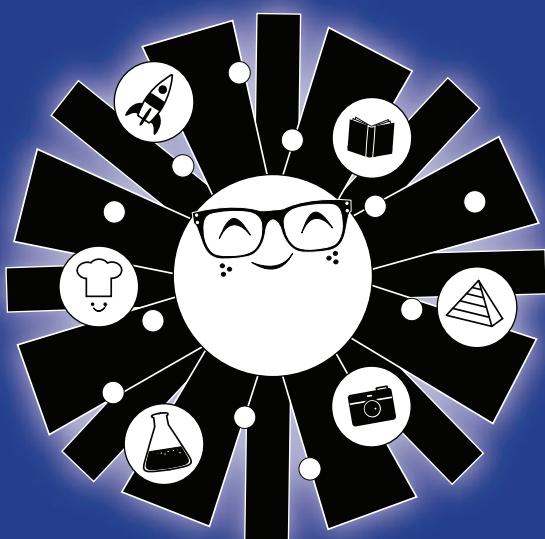
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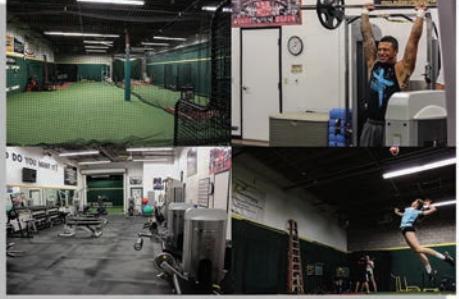
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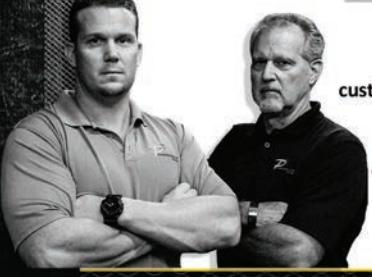
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Pay

From Page 5

groups from the current baselines to being in the top third or 67th percentile of comparable districts. This will require a three-year phased-in approach and is designed to retain more teachers, Knight noted.

At the last Governing Board meeting, Knight, along with Jeremy Calles, the district's chief financial officer, presented four compensation options to the Governing Board.

Calles said that the annual budget process is an important opportunity to present publicly the highest priority compensation items preferred by teachers. "In my budget projections for the next five years, I include cost-of-living adjustments, the Fox and Lawson recommendations and the Performance Based Retention Plan to help retain teachers."

This still may not be enough to attract new teachers, says Sue Cormier, a certified ombudsman who works with Knight on the meet and confer process, which also represents other employee groups in the district, such as administrative staff. She also is a part-time teacher at Kyrene del Cielo and de la Esperanza schools.

"Starting pay for a teacher with a bachelor's degree begins at \$36,200

in Kyrene, but the teachers believe that starting pay should be closer to \$40,000 to be at a living wage," said Cormier.

She says in addition to increasing starting pay, more needs to be done to attract new teachers to the profession.

Knight agrees that fewer students are choosing teaching as a career and that Kyrene continues to work with ASU to encourage student teaching opportunities.

Once Kyrene signs a contract with a teacher, the next goal is retention. For this reason, discussions will continue about increasing the value of the performance-base pay for long-term teachers. Currently, there is an additional payment of 2.5 percent given to a teacher after signing their seventh-year contract, but no further adjustments are given to a teacher with longer tenure.

Besides rewarding teachers who have experience, Kyrene considers the entire work environment for them.

"We use not only the amount of pay but working conditions, attrition and retention rates to help guide us to an agreement with our employee groups," said Knight.

Knight expects that the Governing Board will allocate at least a one-percent cost-of-living raise, for the next fiscal year, at its Tuesday, March 22 meeting.



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Pollack Tempe Cinemas to host free family movie night for Prop. 123

Movie fans of all ages are being invited to attend a free movie night Thursday, March 23, in support of Prop. 123 at Pollack Tempe Cinemas.

The event, starting at 7 p.m., will offer viewers a choice of three popular, family-friendly films. In addition, attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about Prop. 123 on the coming ballot.

The lineup will include Jack Black's

2003 hit "School of Rock;" the 2014 live action/computer-animated film "Paddington;" and the 2006 comedy "Night at the Museum," starring Ben Stiller. Seats will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

If approved, Prop. 123 will provide \$3.5 billion in additional K-12 public education without raising taxes.

Pollack Tempe Cinemas are on Elliot Road just east of McClintock.

Longtime S. Tempe jeweler to close

Berning's, a South Tempe jeweler that has served the area for five decades, has announced it will close its doors forever this May.

The retailer is planning special events to mark the end of its long tenure in the area, but for now

Study

From Page 1

providers.

"For the most part, Kyrene has demonstrated a strong resistance to the charter schools in the area," said Brammer. "The big exception was when Basis opened in Ahwatukee for the 2013-14 school year.

"One big challenge with the charters is planning, because you never know what is next and if a new one will open."

On the reverse, if a charter school closes, Kyrene is legally bound to make a place for any such displaced students in one of its schools.

In spite of these issues, Kyrene has retained its reputation for excellence in education, says Brammer.

"I work with about 20 Arizona-based school districts during the year and many of them are experiencing declining enrollment, which is not balanced by the out-of-district attendance like it is in Kyrene. This is a real testament to the continued success of this district," said Brammer.

Over the years, social changes have impacted enrollment numbers, explained Brammer.

is offering savings on all current inventory.

The store is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sunday through Tuesday.

Information: 480-730-1866.

"Tempe is nearly built out and the only area in the district that will probably grow is west of 19th Avenue, and that may include multi-family housing, which is usually for renters. I project only about 3,000 new housing units to be constructed over the next 10 years."

Other changes include the racial make-up of the student population, which has followed the growth trends of the state.

While White is still the predominant race in the district, at 70 percent, significant changes include eight percent Asian students, more than 14 percent Hispanic and another five percent African American.

Since the district's boundaries melt into the nearby reservation, Kyrene also has nearly two percent enrollment of Native Americans. The remaining one percent of students classify themselves as being "other" or of mixed race.

Many elementary schools in the Wrangler News readership area continue to attract strong in-district attendance, particularly Niños and Norte, which both offer dual language programs. At the middle school level, the most in-district students are found at Pueblo in west Chandler.

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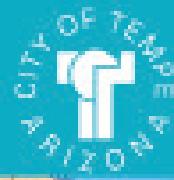
The fare is authentic Mexican, unlike many of the restaurant chains that call themselves Mexican.

Upon entering you'll be dazzled by the colorful décor and the gracious service with warm gold and yellow tones echoing throughout the restaurant. Great atmosphere, the unique tables and live music are waiting for you. This is a very affordable little spot. The flavorful salsa, the delicious margaritas, the extraordinary and well-priced food will definitely keep you coming back.

Check out La Casa De Juana at 1805 E Elliot Rd, Tempe AZ 85284



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City of Tempe Page

March 2016



Get geared up for Tempe Bike Month

April is Tempe Bike Month! To celebrate, the city will hold its 20th annual Tour de Tempe community bike ride on April 3 and its 23rd annual Bike to Work Day on April 20.

Tour de Tempe

More than 1,000 people are expected at the Tour de Tempe community bike ride on April 3, from 7:30 to 11 a.m., at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way, in the west parking lot north of Guadalupe Road.

This free, 10-mile bike ride is led by members of the Tempe City Council. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and the ride starts at 9 a.m.

Register the day of the event or at www.tempe.gov/bikemonth.

Free T-shirts will be available for the first 1,000 riders.

Breakfast foods and coffee will be provided by Wildflower Bread Company, Whole Foods Market, Back East Bagels and Starbucks. Riders should bring their own water and helmets are required.

The Bicycle Cellar, Tempe Bicycle Action Group, REI and others will be on hand to provide bike demonstrations, tune-ups and safety tips.



Bike to Work Day

On April 20 from 6:30 to 8 a.m., bicycle riders who stop by one of the participating Bike to Work Day locations in Tempe will receive a free breakfast, and the first 350 riders will receive free T-shirts.

At 7 a.m., join members of the Tempe City Council on a group ride from Whole Foods Market to NCounter in downtown Tempe. Breakfast site locations include:

- Back East Bagels (northwest corner of Southern Avenue and McClintock Drive)
- IKEA (northwest corner of Warner Road and Priest Drive)
- NCounter (southwest corner of Mill Avenue and Third Street)
- REI (Daley Park at northeast corner of College Avenue and Encanto Drive)
- New location this year: Steve's Espresso (southeast corner McClintock Drive and Baseline Road)
- Whole Foods Market (northwest corner of Rural and Baseline roads)
- Wildflower Bread Company (southwest corner of McClintock Drive and Guadalupe Road)

Tempe Bike Month sponsors include Downtown Tempe Authority, Back East Bagels, Steve's Espresso, IKEA, REI, NCounter, Whole Foods Market, Wildflower Bread Company, The Bicycle Cellar, Tempe Bicycle Action Group and Starbucks.

For more information about Bike Month, visit www.tempe.gov/bikemonth or call 480-350-2707.

A match made in cycling heaven

New this year, Tempe will hold Bikes & Beer: An Evening with Tempe in Motion, Tempe Bicycle Action Group & Pedal Haus Brewery.

Hosted by former Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano as part of the Tempe History Museum's Third Thursday series, this cool new Tempe Bike Month event on April 21 will include a panel discussion, beer tasting courtesy of Pedal Haus Brewery and fun bicycling related activities.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Get a sneak peek of the 2017 Tempe Bike Month artwork and see a retrospective of bike art and T-shirts throughout the years.

Following Bikes & Beer, the Tempe Bicycle Action Group will lead a group ride from the museum to Pedal Haus Brewery in downtown Tempe.

Riders must be 21 or older to participate in beer tasting.



2016 State of the Neighborhoods Awards & Workshops

Gather with fellow Tempeans at the 2016 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops on Saturday, April 16, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

The schedule includes registration and a light breakfast from 8 to 8:30 a.m., followed by the State of the Neighborhoods Address by Mayor Mark Mitchell and a Neighborhood Awards presentation celebrating great neighbors and beautification efforts from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Three workshop offerings will run concurrently from 9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Visit www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodworkshop to view the workshops and be sure to register by April 12 online, by phone at 480-350-8234 or email at neighborhoods@tempe.gov.

Event sponsors include title sponsor SRP and HOA Document Archiving.

Senior Health & Wellness Expo

The Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave., invites seniors to explore community resources at the free Senior Health & Wellness Expo.

From 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 14, participants can discover services offered by more than 50 vendors while enjoying free screenings, class demonstrations, a light breakfast and a door prize drawing. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/adults50plus.

KaBOOM!



In keeping with its designation as a Playful City USA by KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to promoting play in kids' lives, Tempe hosted a free day of play for kids of all ages. Participants romped with structured and unstructured games, sports, kayaking, dance, inflatables and more. Also among the day's treats was

Diablo Dash, an obstacle course that featured running, crawling, climbing, sliding and laughing all the way to the finish line.

The 25th annual Kids Fishing Expo and return of the Tempe-sponsored Kid Zone Experience also awaited the eager crowd.

**Needless to say,
it was quite a day!**

— Wrangler News photos
by Alex J. Walker



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Children 7 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
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Raven Golf Tournament Combines Business and Fun

The Tempe Chamber Classic golf tournament returns to spring weather, a morning tee time, and a brand new home at the Raven Golf Club.

This dynamic tournament features a full round of golf with hole prizes, a raffle, auction and awards luncheon.

The tournament is a modified scramble where each golfer tees off and play continues from the best drive. It's a fun format that encourages speedy, exciting play. Invite friends, key clients or reward your high-performing staff with a morning round of golf at the beautiful Raven Golf Club.

Play and score as a foursome, competing against the rest of the field for a chance at the First Place ranking, trophy and prizes. Single spots and foursomes are available.

To register for this event, please visit www.tempechamber.org or call our office at 480.967.7891.

Tempe Chamber Classic Golf Tournament
Friday, April 8, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
The Raven Golf Club, 3636 E. Baseline Rd.

Members
Single - \$125
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Diversions

Valley Americana rocker Christopher Shayne shifts perspectives

- Coming to Tempe in April

By Chase Kamp

After a nasty brush with the music industry left a bad taste in their mouths, Christopher Shayne and his gang in Whiskey Six decided to retool their entire approach; they walked away from their signature heavy rock and started performing under Shayne's name.

Now the accomplished Valley band is set to release a new album of raucous, country-tinged rock called Turning Stones and Rolling Bones, a more loose and varied departure from Whiskey Six's metal tendencies.

"This record is really fun and we wanted it to be upbeat," Shayne said over the phone on the way to Marquee Theater, where he and the band were headlining that night.

"We got so tired of trying to be serious. We wanted to write something that makes you feel good inside and want to move."

Gone are the distorted riffs and head-banger tempos, and in their place is a grab bag of high-energy twang, stomping ragtime piano growlers and even some sensitive slow ballads.

The group will showcase this new work at EagleRider Fest in Tempe on April 1-2, featuring

— KAMP, Page 22

'Zootopia' more noorish than a Utopian fairy tale

By M.V. Moorhead

Zootopia—The title refers to a city that looks like a theme park, with frozen tundra, desert, rainforest and other ecosystems all conveniently connected by highway exits. The inhabitants, you see, are animals—anthropomorphic, bipedal, civilized mammals of every sort, from pachyderms to rodents, living side by side.

It's not Utopia, however. Inter-species tensions continue, especially between predator and prey species, and there are glass ceilings in certain professions.

Our heroine Judy Hopps (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin), for instance, is a bunny who has internalized the high-minded idea that "Anyone can be anything," and she wants to grow up to be a police officer, normally a job for the likes of tigers and rhinos and cape buffalo.

Through determination and resourcefulness, Judy realizes her dream, but as with many pioneers, she gets stuck with traffic duty. Before long, however, she's caught up in a mystery involving missing predators, and develops

— MOORHEAD, Page 22



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Kamp

From Page 21

headliners Great White and Slaughter.

It wasn't long ago that Whiskey Six appeared to have the dream of a record deal at their fingertips: Industry executives and labels were courting them, fans were piling up and expectations were growing.

One management company—which oversaw the success of numerous hard rock heavyweights—allegedly showed up to the band's CD release show in Phoenix with a freshly minted contract in hand.

Shayne said he and his bandmates were about to sign on the dotted line when an executive spelled out the terms of the deal: Shayne was in, but they wanted him to ditch his band.

"They said, 'We really like you, but you need to fire the entire band because they're too old,'" Shayne recalls.

"We flipped them the bird and told them to get out."

It was an easy decision to make: He was not about to abandon his cohorts, especially his songwriting partner and guitarist Dave Lansing.

But letting go of a record contract, and the success that might have followed, was a tough consequence to swallow.

Shayne had to take a six month break from music to wrestle with the lingering doubts.

"Once I crawled out of that

heaviness, I could see everything completely crystal clear," he said. "There was no second-guessing. I needed to clear my head, see who I am as a person and the decisions I've made."

Feeling rejuvenated, Shayne and company got right to work with producer Chuck Alkazian, who had recorded an earlier Whiskey Six record and sported impressive rock acts like Blessthefall on his résumé.

They tracked this new material—an adventurous mingling of country, rock and Americana—at Pearl Sound Studios in Detroit, in the same room where Madonna recorded 'Like a Virgin'.

Shayne said they gave themselves the liberty to chase after whims and ideas that would have otherwise gotten shut down.

Most notably, the final song on Turning Stones and Rolling Bones is a stark, vulnerable piano ballad. "That kind of song would not have worked in the hard rock setting," Shayne said.

"That idea wouldn't have even come up."

The new album's standout track is a furious and triumphant country-rock kiss-off called "Give a Damn," inspired by the confidence the band earned after overcoming the Whiskey Six contract mess.

"We want to be who we are," Shayne said.

"That song is a big middle finger to anyone who will sit there and tell you who you think you should be."

Moorhead

From Page 21

a tense alliance with Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), a wily vulpine con artist.

The buddy-picture plot that ensues is surprisingly dark and noir-ish at times, and in some ways Zootopia is one of the least sentimental Disney movies I can remember.

It's fraught with unmistakable racial and class subtext, and although it has the struggling underdog protagonist standard to animated features, it honestly grapples with the complex and painful realities behind the believe-in-yourself platitudes of the genre.

Thus, the movie's ultimately positive conclusions feel hard-won, and all the more uplifting.

Zootopia is delightful, but I did have a complaint: the freakin' 3-D. At least at the screening I saw, it dimmed and washed out the images, and added not one effect that I thought was worth the eyestrain. See it in old-fashioned 2-D.

Oscars retrospective

It was gratifying for me to see the number one movie on my Top Ten list, Tom McCarthy's low-key powerhouse Spotlight, win Best Picture at the Oscars this year.

It was even more gratifying to see the great, 87-year-old composer Ennio Morricone, who had never won an Oscar for Best Original Score (he won an honorary Oscar in 2007), take the statue for his superb music for The Hateful Eight. I

t makes up, sort of, for Morricone not even being nominated for his greatest score, for 1970's Two Mules for Sister Sara.

But most of the satisfactions of this year's surprisingly enjoyable Oscar show had little to do with the nominees, and more to do with the host. Interest in the Oscars was high this year, less because of any particular suspense

as to who would win, and more because of what the great Chris Rock would say and do.

While the telecast was glacially paced and overlong as usual, Rock, who had not too memorably hosted the show in 2005, brilliantly managed his tricky duties this year.

What made it a tricky gig was, of course, the controversy over the lack of racial diversity among this year's nominees.

Some African-American industry notables had boycotted the show, and Rock himself had been urged to decline the job.

His approach was marvelously disarming. From the very first line of his monologue, he attacked the subject straightforwardly, good-naturedly and in all directions—his jokes were at the expense of the Academy, the boycotters, and himself, and they ranged from daringly tasteless to thoughtful.

A high percentage of them were genuinely funny, and all of them put the controversy into perspective, without disrespect to the validity of the boycott's grievance.

Perhaps most amusingly, however, was that Rock wouldn't let it go. I expected he'd try to dispense with the subject with a few jokes at the beginning of his monologue and then move on to a business-as-usual Oscars, but bit after bit kept coming back to it.

The show was so single-mindedly devoted to the controversy that, ironically, it probably brought attention to racial inequities in Hollywood in a way that no number of minority nominations could have, deserved though they might be.

And it seems pretty unlikely that this would have been the case if Rock hadn't hosted.

A couple of disappointments: While the brilliant Mark Rylance entirely deserved to win Best Supporting Actor for Bridge of Spies, I still found it slightly disappointing—I wanted to see Stallone win for Creed.

But I suppose it's in the spirit of the original Rocky, where even though he didn't win, Rocky triumphed just because he got to the Main Event.



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Briefly

March 19 health expo

With spring just around the corner, many area residents are enjoying healthy, outdoor activities, but does the thought of the upcoming swimsuit season give you the willies? Perhaps it's time to take stock of overall health and well-being.

The Health Connect Expo offered by the city of Chandler on March 19 is one way locals can do just that. The free, family-friendly event runs 9 a.m. to noon and will feature dozens of health-conscious vendors.

Step inside the Tumbleweed Recreation Center that day and you'll find fitness and cooking demonstrations, child fingerprinting, blood sugar checks, oral checks for kids, hearing and vision screening plus plenty of free giveaways. There's a bounce-house for the tykes and an obstacle course challenge for teens, too.

For the older crowd, look for presentations on aging and memory as well as orthopedics and finance.

New this year to the expo is onsite mammography. Medicare patients and most insurance carriers will be accepted and the costs for non-insured patients will be covered by the Desert Cancer Foundation. To secure a mammography appointment, call 480-967-3767 or 800-285-0272.

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MCC pair among top achievers

Two students from Mesa Community College are among nine high achievers named to the All-Arizona Academic Team.

The pair, Misty Stickney and Sean West, were honored during an awards luncheon March 3. Stickney plans to become a recreation activities director who initiates and mobilizes communities to use recreational activities for social growth and development. West plans to pursue a master's in college student personnel administration to qualify for a career in higher education as a director of student life and leadership.

Seventy-five community college scholars from across the state participated in the ceremony, which celebrated outstanding academic achievements and distinguished leadership skills.

Judging consisted of three rounds. In the first round, a group of local business, civic, education and government leaders reviewed applications and chose the recipients of the award.

Only two are selected from each college campus.

The selected recipients' applications were then forwarded to Washington, D.C., for second and third rounds of judging and scoring by representatives from federal agencies and national education associations.

Those scores were used to rank the students for first, second or third state teams. First Team members receive a \$1,000 scholarship, Second Team members a \$750 scholarship, and Third Team members a \$500 scholarship to one of Arizona's state universities.

Stickney and West both were First Team honorees.

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Painting — Village Painting – Interior/Exterior painting, drywall repair with texture matching, custom faux finishes, and cabinets. Small jobs also welcome. (ROC#069679) CALL (480) 814-1588.

Painting — Burden Painting Inc. Interior and exterior painting, power washing, drywall repair, wallpaper removal, texturing, and epoxy garage floor coatings. Free estimates, multiple room discount. Call Darrell Burden at 480-892-1190, or www.burdenpainting.com.

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We welcome your stories, photos — and ideas! Feel free to call with article suggestions. We accept manuscripts and photographs from area residents about topics of interest to our community. Sorry, we do not accept paid "advertisorials."



The Cat in the Hat came back for more fun and students and teachers enjoyed it a ton. Thing One and Thing Two knew just what to do as kids of all ages listened well too.

Wrangler News photo feature by Alex J. Walker at Broadmor Elementary School's celebration of Read Across America Day



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