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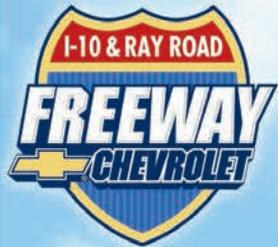
# Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read

The high school basketball season took its usual roller-coaster ride this year, with Corona del Sol's Aztecs winning a history-making fourth consecutive Division I title.

Full pull-out sports section and game coverage starting on Page 15

Photo by Billy Hardiman / Wrangler News



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# Family, friends rally as Corona senior fights the battle of his life

Story by Deborah Hilcove

Once upon a time, a young man planned his future. It was summertime and he anticipated his senior year of high school, filled with football, prom, volleyball, classwork and graduation. In May, he'd wear the orange gown of a Tempe Corona del Sol graduate, then enter Arizona State University, studying Fire Science, working toward becoming a firefighter and—with his characteristic hard work and determination—advancing to the rank of captain.

He already played football and varsity volleyball. But he wanted to take up archery, and as often happens to a novice, bruised his forearm. The bruise faded, but Ridge Vanderbur could not straighten his

Baseball players at Corona del Sol High School volunteered to lose their locks as part of a fundraiser for fellow student Ridge Vanderbur. Overall, more than \$11,000 has been generated to help with medical bills.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

— RIDGE, Page 8

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## Empty Bowls Marcos students do a good turn

By Diana Whittle

**T**he Empty Bowls project in Tempe is more than just a fundraising endeavor to benefit needy families: it's also a chance for the whole community to come together in service, including youthful artists from local schools.

Particularly committed are members of Jasen Evoy's ceramics class at Marcos de Niza high school, who have contributed handmade bowls for 14 years.

Evoy says he became involved with the project after a meeting with other ceramics teachers and thought it sounded like a great idea, not only because it gave purpose to his students' work but because it is a worthy

fundraiser for Tempe Community Action Agency.

"I was happy to get on board. It's a great project," says Evoy, "because it inspires the kids to be creative in making the bowls. (It helps them) to realize the self-satisfaction that comes from helping others."

Bowls also come from Corona del Sol students and from 115 different Tempe Elementary School District classrooms.

Evoy has taught for 17 years at Marcos, where he is a ceramics and Advanced Placement history teacher, as well as chair of the school's Fine Arts Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's in

— BOWLS, Page 5



Fine arts instructor Jasen Evoy guided his Marcos de Niza High School ceramics students in a class project to create handmade bowls for the annual effort to generate funds for Tempe Community Action Agency.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

# Bowls

From Page 4

curriculum and instruction. He's also a hometown boy who graduated from Corona in 1991.

In total, Marcos potters contributed 300 bowls, which were made in one day with clay that is donated by Marjon's Ceramics.

But the finished product takes several months, noted Evoy, and he oversees the entire process.

"The bowls have to be trimmed, bisque-fired, glazed, fired again, and packed. Each firing takes a couple days, and it takes several firings to get all the bowls through."

Empty Bowls shows community concern for needy families in Tempe, and "the altruism benefits the clients who receive services from TCAA," said Stephen Sparks, director of community investment for the agency.

But the event would not be possible were it not for hundreds of potters — adults, teens, elementary-school children — crafting the bowls that the public purchases for a donation of \$10.

Then the empty bowls are filled with soup and bread donated for the 13th year by Tempe's Whole Foods Market.

The Empty Bowl event raised approximately \$18,000 to benefit TCAA and United Food Bank, reports Sparks.

He says the annual event is a way to draw diverse community resources together to provide long-term benefits for families struggling to make ends meet.

TCAA has been the community's primary social service organization, serving elderly and low-income community members since 1971.

According to TCAA statistics, from 2010-2012, 23.8 percent of Tempeans lived in poverty. In addition, 26 percent of children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 4 percent of people 65 years old and over.

In addition, 14 percent of all families and 35.4 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Evoy says he is proud to see how his students respond to being involved in the effort.

"It makes them feel like they are part of something bigger by establishing a sense of community and fostering a stronger bond in the classroom." For more information on the services of the TCAA, visit [www.tempeaction.org](http://www.tempeaction.org)



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By Joyce Coronel

**T**here's a number Amy Storement wants you to remember in the face of ongoing political bluster over Common Core Standards: 43.

"Arizona ranks 43rd in the nation in high school graduation rates. That should be alarming to parents," Storement said.

"If you can't graduate from high school, you are not going to be able to get a job that will sustain you. You're going to have to take a minimum-wage job."

Storement, president of the Parent-Teacher Organization at Kyrene Middle School, is a former educator who is passionate about Common Core Standards that are now in full implementation in the Kyrene School District.

"Those standards are there to raise the bar for our kids. Our kids used to just compete on a state or national level once they graduated from high school and then went on to college, but now they are having to compete globally for jobs," Storement said.

Jama Nacke, principal of Kyrene Middle School, said "parents shouldn't be alarmed" about the change in standards because "it's raising the rigor and the analytical skills of their children."

The new standards measure students' ability to analyze, comprehend, synthesize and apply the information they've been learning in school and that's crucial to their future, Nacke said. It's not just about rote memorization and the regurgitation of facts. It's about depth of knowledge.

"An employer wants somebody who has critical thinking skills, is creative in problem solving and who can work with a group of people," Nacke said.

"Those are all the attributes they want and that's what Common Core is helping our kids do."

Nacke, who taught for 11 years before becoming a school administrator, said the parents she's spoken with are supportive of the Common Core Standards because they don't want their children to fall behind. She also pointed to what some business leaders and higher education officials have said.

"What you hear from employers, the Intels and the Michael Crows, is that our kids are falling behind and they are not coming to schools prepared," Nacke said.

"They have stressed the need for increased rigor and that our kids come more prepared. That's unquestionable."

Lorah Neville, executive director for educational services for the Kyrene School District, was equally emphatic in her support for Common Core Standards. Neville once taught at Kyrene Middle School and has spent the last eight years as a director of curriculum.

She's puzzled by the controversy surrounding the new standards.

"When you look at the math standards or the English Language Arts standards, what in them would you not want your child to be able to do? They are really good standards," Neville said.

The Common Core, she said, tests students' ability to reason through and apply what they know to solve a novel problem.

"We know that's the world our kids are going to live in," Neville said.

"They need to be continual learners and problem solvers and they need to be able to make connections across multiple areas."

Neville said the difference between what was used previously, Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards — the AIMS test — and the new AZ Merit test students will take this year, is that the new standards require proficiency, not simply a minimum competency. The bar is much higher from the get-go.

"We want to make sure that when kids leave, they are able to use their math and read and comprehend and all of those things at a level that they would be prepared, without remediation, to start college or to start in the work field," Neville said.

As to those who complain that the Common Core takes away local control over education, Neville stated that "there is no loss of local control. We still pick the materials as we have always done."

Diane Douglas, who became the State Superintendent of Public Instruction last November after campaigning against Common Core, released a statement Feb. 20 regarding the new standards.

"As we move away from Common Core, it is important to do so in a deliberate fashion so that we stop the pattern of creating new standards only to abolish them every few years," Superintendent Douglas said.

"This endless cycle leaves schools in a constant state of upheaval and causes undue stress for students and teachers."

Douglas has endorsed Senate Bill 1305, legislation to establish a committee that will evaluate a focused section of standards each year.

Storement, the KMS PTO president, said some parents she's talked to are nervous about Douglas' move. After initial unease, they'd accepted that Common Core was what was best for students. Now they worry all that will be taken away.

"I do think there are parents who are nervous with her threatening to say that she's wanting to get it taken out," Storement said.

"Common Core is what these kids need in order to be successful."

Nacke said she encourages parents to speak with teachers regarding their concerns and to visit [ExpectMoreArizona.org](http://ExpectMoreArizona.org) to find out more about Common Core.

# Orthographic wunderkid

## Top EV speller advances to state finals later this month

By Diana Whittle

He may not yet be Jeopardy-bound but Tommy LaPenna already has established himself as a worthy opponent on the spelling-bee circuit.

The Kyrene Middle School 12-year-old recently earned top honors in the Maricopa County Region 1 competition against 36 other sixth- to eighth-graders from the east Valley.

Tommy's victory came after he correctly spelled the word "mandarin" in the championship round. Now the quick-thinking mini-orthographer advances to the Arizona State Spelling Bee on March 21 in Phoenix. Tommy previously earned top honors in a spelling bee as a fifth grader at Waggoner Elementary.

"We are very proud that Tommy decided to participate and won, and that he will be representing Kyrene Middle School at the state level," said his mother, Judy LaPenna.

The recent spelling bee was hotly contested during eight rounds of competition, plus the additional one-word championship round, before Tommy was declared the winner.

Participating in the spelling bees is an optional assignment for KMS students, who are given a list of 450 vocabulary words to study in their English classes. About 60 KMS students took up the

challenge this year, but Tommy believes he had an extra edge when it came to preparation.

"In addition to the vocabulary words given to me by my English teacher, I also (used) the on-line study guide of 1,155 words," said Tommy.

His mother says Tommy is enrolled in the college-prep curriculum at KMS and is an excellent student. In addition to his academics, he plays saxophone.

Tommy says he likes all his classes in school—especially math and science—which pleases his mother, who was educated as a chemical engineer.

"My mom helps me to study the vocabulary words and encourages me to participate in the spelling bees," said Tommy.

"I really like to read, as does everyone in my family, and I think the spelling bees have helped me to increase my vocabulary and writing skills."

Educators say that spelling bees can enhance a child's growth in terms of life skills. Mastery of such an ability can teach youth discipline and competition, and is a great confidence-booster.

And, while it does take practice and regular studying, says Tommy, it's also fun.



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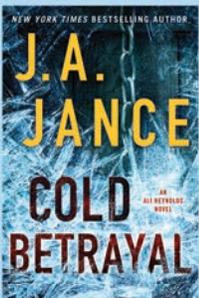
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# Ridge

From Page 3

arm and the pain would not go away. A doctor's visit showed two blood clots. Laboratory tests confirmed acute

myeloid leukemia, a highly aggressive cancer of the bloodstream. Suddenly Ridge and his family entered the world of catheters and thermometers, of doctors and nurses, of chemotherapy and laboratory tests. He spent the next seven months at

Phoenix Children's Hospital, battling the cancer that had no invaded his body and as the weeks wore on, spending his 18th birthday in the hospital.

Like a battle, there were good days and not so good days. Ridge and his family found themselves on a roller coaster of improvement, then setbacks, followed by more improvement. They kept fighting.

Just recently, Ridge hoped to go home. However, strokes and heart damage intervened, requiring his transfer to Mayo Clinic where he could receive advanced cardiology care.

Ridge and his family are fighting, determined he will return home soon and resume his dreams.

For now, though, his mother, Brenda,

spends 16 to 18 hours every day with him. She keeps a Facebook page, "Ridge's Rocky Road."

When his dad, Vince, finishes work, he is at the hospital, spending six to eight hours with Ridge, so their son is never alone. Whenever possible, his older sister visits from college and his younger sister brings messages and shares photos from their high school friends.

Neighbors, family and friends have rallied, forming "Team Ridge," to support Ridge and encourage his recovery. They have shouldered task—the housecleaning, dog care, laundry, yard work, grocery shopping, dinner preparations—so his family can be at the hospital.

One of the moms, Kathy Williams, says lots of folks have come forward since the family began its vigil.

"People everywhere have wanted to help. People may not know Ridge or his family, but they want to help. They've given grocery cards and gas cards to help with the endless driving to the hospital.

"There have been airline gift cards for an aunt who lives out of state and tries to come every weekend to help."

After a pause, Williams adds: "And there have been prayer vigils. That's important."

— RIDGE, Page 9



Their heads protected — at least so far — by Corona caps, players enjoyed a good laugh from their teammates' shearing.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

# Ridge

From Page 8

Robin Deschappelles, Team Ridge captain for a five-mile hike at South Mountain on Feb. 28, says:

"Our kids have known each other since play groups, elementary school and now high school. The community and the high school—the students and faculty—they've all come together, done so much. It's a difficult situation, but you see so much good."

She continues, "The family is dealing with a sensitive issue. They're overwhelmed by the support. They're asking help now in raising money for organizations that benefit children with cancer."

Firefighters at Station Five, near Phoenix Children's Hospital, visited Ridge whenever possible.

A friend gave him a fireman's helmet, a reminder of his dream, and firefighters from around the state have donated t-shirts bearing their station numbers that now have been fashioned into a quilt.

Corona students have rallied around their friend, posting encouragement on Facebook, Instagram and Flipboard, using Twitter to share Ridge's progress. They wore "Ridge" t-shirts for football games and staged a "White-Out." Trying to ease his seven-month ordeal, they decorated his hospital room with posters, cards and photos.

Together with faculty and parents, they have held fundraises—car washes, a dunking booth at the carnival, a golf tournament. Katelyn Stys, a neighbor

and CdS student, helped organize t-shirt sales. The boys volleyball team sold wristbands. Sports teams have designed t-shirts with a "Ridge" logo. The baseball team and coaches shaved their heads, honoring their friend while supporting the Children's Cancer Network.

"It's been difficult for them [the Vanderburs] to accept all this," Deanna Carrera says.

"They're very humbled by the outpouring. They're used to giving, being the first to offer help. But sometimes life takes us down a different path. They'd like people to know that anyone with cancer needs your support. Do what you can to help. You can't get through this alone."

Ridge's new room at the Mayo Clinic is different from the brightly decorated one at PCH. This is meant to be only a stopover.

His big, black Newfoundland, Zeus, joined the family recently to visit. Ridge sat outside with his dog, enjoying the fresh air and sunshine, looking forward to recovering soon at home.

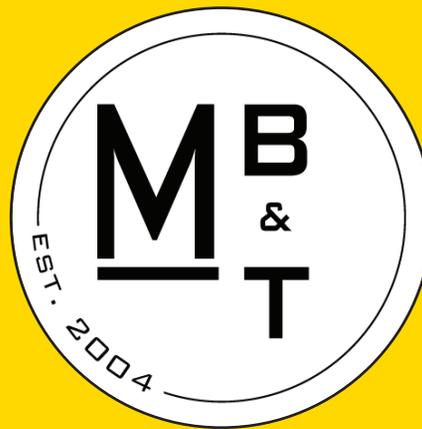
With the help of the Tempe Union High School District and Corona del Sol principal Brent Brown, Ridge has been taking online courses, keeping himself on track to graduate with his class in May.

When that day arrives and he dons an orange robe and crosses the graduation platform to receive his diploma, Ridge Vanderbur can stand tall, knowing he has been honored and embraced by a caring community of family, friends and strangers.



Up early and ready to depart from Mariposa Elementary School, a group of Ridge supporters headed off for a fund-raising trek to South Mountain hiking trails.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News



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# For Baby Jackson: A homerun against insurmountable odds

By Joyce Coronel

Andy and Elyse Lane had barely moved into their south Tempe home when they discovered they were expecting a baby.

Fourteen weeks into the pregnancy, they learned Elyse was carrying a boy. Andy, a former Major League coach for the Chicago Cubs, and Elyse, an occupational therapist, shared the happy news with friends and family.

When a routine ultrasound exam a few weeks later revealed their son had a devastating heart defect, the young couple was stunned.

"We actually didn't even try to talk about it for a week," Elyse said.

The doctor told them the baby was missing the pulmonary valve of his heart. Not only that, but his pulmonary artery was 10 times larger than normal — so massive that it was endangering his airway.

"We asked him the hard question: if it was your daughter, 27 years old, sitting here with her first baby, what would you say?," Elyse recalled of the meeting.

"He said he had like an 87 percent chance of not living until birth and then only a three percent chance that he would come home breathing on his own."

The doctor recommended they terminate the pregnancy.

Sitting in their living room looking through photos of Jackson's birth four months later, it seemed a surreal statement.

"He was also our biggest advocate," Andy was quick to point out about the doctor.

"He was the one who got us to go to Boston," Elyse added.

It was in Boston that the couple met with a physician who diagnosed their son's extremely rare condition: tetralogy of Fallot, a heart defect.

Jeff Lane, Andy's father, recalled hearing the news about Jackson's diagnosis.

"As soon as they heard this diagnosis, we found out that most people give up. They terminate. And they were never willing to quit," Jeff said.

"We are so proud of our son and

daughter-in-law. They were never going to take no for answer. They are both athletes and very competitive people. They said, 'We are going to fight though this and we are going to make it.'"

"It took an hour and a half for them to do an MRI on me," Elyse said of the visit to Boston. The baby was so active it was difficult to perform the test.

"They said, he's so active that it's a positive. So we left there being a little more relieved," Elyse said.

While in Boston, the Lanes learned of Dr. Frank Hanley, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif.

"When we went and met with Hanley he said...worst case scenario, he could be here up to a year. We didn't know what would happen," Elyse said.

Hanley also told them the most important thing was that Elyse try to make it to full term. At 36 weeks, however, she went into labor and delivered the baby.

There were 13 doctors in the room when 6 pound, 5 ounce Jackson entered the world, unable to breathe on his own.

Jackson's condition was so serious that he was put on life support. At just five days old, he underwent a 13-hour operation to repair his heart.

For five weeks, Andy and Elyse never left the hospital. They stayed up with him until 1 or 2 in the morning and were up again for rounds early the next morning to hear what the doctors had to say. Jackson seemed to respond to hearing Andy's voice.

"Nobody in the hospital could believe how quickly he recovered," Elyse said. Shortly after Thanksgiving, they brought their baby home to Tempe.

"Faith got us through it. I didn't ever doubt that he was going to be fine," Andy said.

"The doctors looked at us, like, why are you two always so optimistic? It's because we didn't know any better and we figured, hey, he's going to come out and live. Both of us are really driven people."

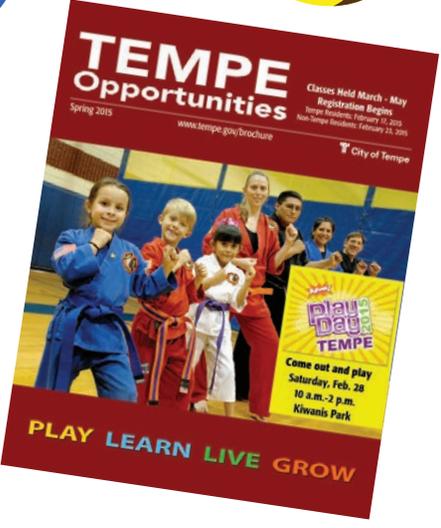
Sitting in his baseball-shaped chair, surrounded by MLB jerseys presented

— NEWBORN, Page 11



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Baby Jackson: At five months, could anyone have imagined a happier face?

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

## Newborn

From Page 10

to him by Giants and Royals players, Jackson coos with delight as older brother Jake, 2, bestows a kiss.

The couple is thankful for all the support — both financial and emotional — that they received from MLB friends throughout their journey with Jackson. They plan to take him to upcoming spring training games, starting with the Diamondbacks.

“Two big-name players came when he was born,” Jeff said. A Kansas City Royals player came on the morning of game five of the World Series and brought a hat and jersey for Jackson. One of the Giants players had already brought a jersey to the hospital.

The couple told doctors to share information about what happened to Jackson with others whose child has a similar condition.

“We want to give people hope, because we had three months of no hope when we were pregnant,” Elyse said.

“I’ve got two baseball players right here,” Andy said, holding tiny Jackson as Jake looked on.

The four-inch “baseball scar” on Jackson’s chest, a lifesaving zig-zag that can’t help but evoke visions of the stitching on its namesake, will always be a

— NEWBORN, Page 12

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## Newborn

From Page 11

reminder of the lifesaving surgery Andy's son endured. Doctors say Jackson will have no restrictions on activity, and although he will need the pulmonary valve replaced from time to time over the years, he'll be able to do all the things other children do.

"When the doctor told me there wouldn't have to be any restrictions,

that's when it kind of changed the tides I think," Andy said.

"I always had a good feeling about it."

As for the incredible odds that Jackson beat with his amazing recovery, Elyse thinks her son ultimately could have the same kind of charmed life that led her husband to a career with the Cubs. If Andy could make it, why couldn't Jackson.

After all, she said: "What are the chances of someone making it to the MLB, right?"



Dad Andy, Mom Elyse and little brother Jake at home with the newest addition to their family. The scars will remain a lifelong reminder of Baby Jackson's miracle recovery.

— Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News



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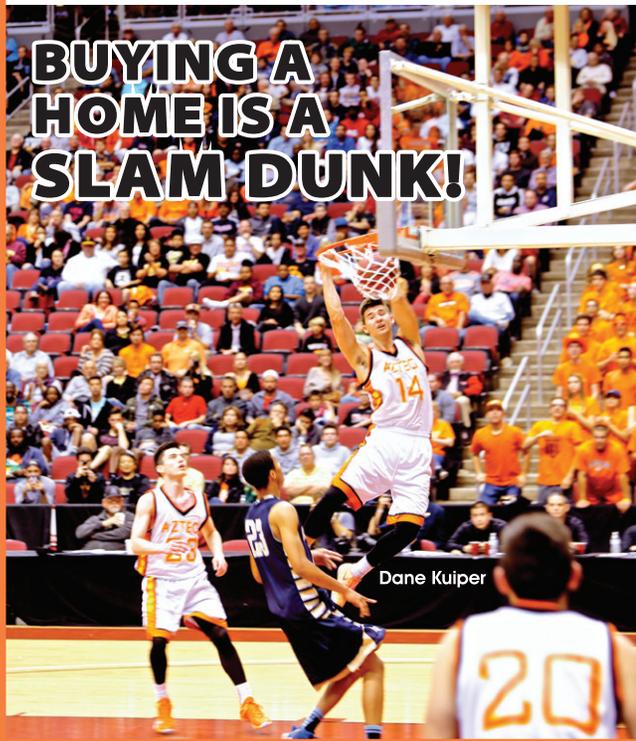
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Dane Kijper

# Around town . . .

## Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt is April 4

Children 10 and under are invited to a free Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4, at the north soccer field of Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way.

More than 8,000 plastic Easter eggs with prizes 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.

Children should bring their own baskets or bags to collect eggs. The Easter Bunny will make an appearance before the hunt for pictures.

The event starts at 8 a.m. and includes face painting, games and crafts. The egg hunt starts at 9 a.m. and lasts only a few minutes. Participants are encouraged to arrive early.

Children must be accompanied by parents.

For more information, visit [www.kcot.org](http://www.kcot.org) or call Mike Jennings at 602-791-5322.

## City studying approach to sustainability

The city of Tempe and ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability are teaming up on a study that will analyze food waste and fats, oils and grease from large Tempe food industries, Tempe restaurants and institutional dining halls to determine the feasibility of turning this material into renewable energy.

The study will focus on a process called anaerobic digestion, which occurs when oxygen is removed from food waste, allowing digestive bacteria to break it down.

This natural process produces a biogas that can be harnessed and used for energy.

Anaerobic digestion is commonly used to break down sewage sludge at wastewater treatment plants, but can also be used to generate gas through the decomposition of any organically-rich material.

The study will provide Tempe with: An inventory of food waste available from Tempe restaurants,

food industries, institutions, and food distribution centers to understand the amount of food waste available and to map out where it is being generated

A full-scale analysis of the individual and combined energy potential of available food wastes using the City's staff and laboratory facilities to analyze food sources identified

Research results for comparable cities with successful food waste-to-energy solutions

A tool to model the biogas output of food waste sources and to identify optimal combinations and optimal AD technology for those combinations

Planning and siting options, financial analyses and rates of return for different AD alternatives, and a final report summarizing recommendations and a blueprint for implementation

The study, called the Food Feedstock Source Mapping and Anaerobic Digestion Project Development Considerations was approved by Council on Feb. 12 and research planning will begin in March. For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/green](http://www.tempe.gov/green).

## Police expanding volunteer program to city parks

The Tempe Police Department is looking for people interested in investing more into our great community.

Working with City Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage, the department has expanded its volunteer program to include providing extra security patrols at neighborhood parks.

This volunteer team works hand-in-hand with Tempe Police Officers by providing motorist services and spending time in and around neighborhood parks.

The aim is to ensure parks remain safe so they can be enjoyed by everyone.

Current volunteers are ready to train others who want to step into a role designed to foster positive interactions among residents, visitors and guests.

Volunteers are already spending time around neighborhood parks but more are needed. Training, equipment and a vehicle are provided. The department can work around most schedules of available time.

Get more information at [www.tempe.gov/police](http://www.tempe.gov/police) and click "Volunteers in Policing" or call 480-350-8780.



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## Tempe's colorful past to be explored at March 21 tour

The second story of the building on the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Mill Avenue wasn't always a Hooters.

Those who'd like to know more about this and other pieces of Tempe's colorful downtown can learn the origins of the area's oldest structures at a Tempe Walk Through History on Saturday, March 21.

Tour guides will share behind-the-scenes stories in the event sponsored by members of the Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation.

Experts and enthusiasts in the areas of architecture, archaeology and preservation will lead the tours, which start with breakfast at Sister Cities' Hackett House, 95 W. Fourth St., with fellow history lovers at 8 a.m. Tours begin at 9.

Those attending should be able to walk one mile during the two-hour

tour.

Participants are urged to wear good walking shoes, bring a hat, a bottle of water and some sunscreen. Parking is available in a lot behind Hackett House, with first hour free.

Tickets are \$10 for adults or \$5 for students, plus processing fees. Children under 10 are free with a paid adult ticket. **Pre-registration is required** to ensure there are enough guides for everyone to have the best experience.

The Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation advocates for the preservation of historic buildings and raises funds for their restoration.

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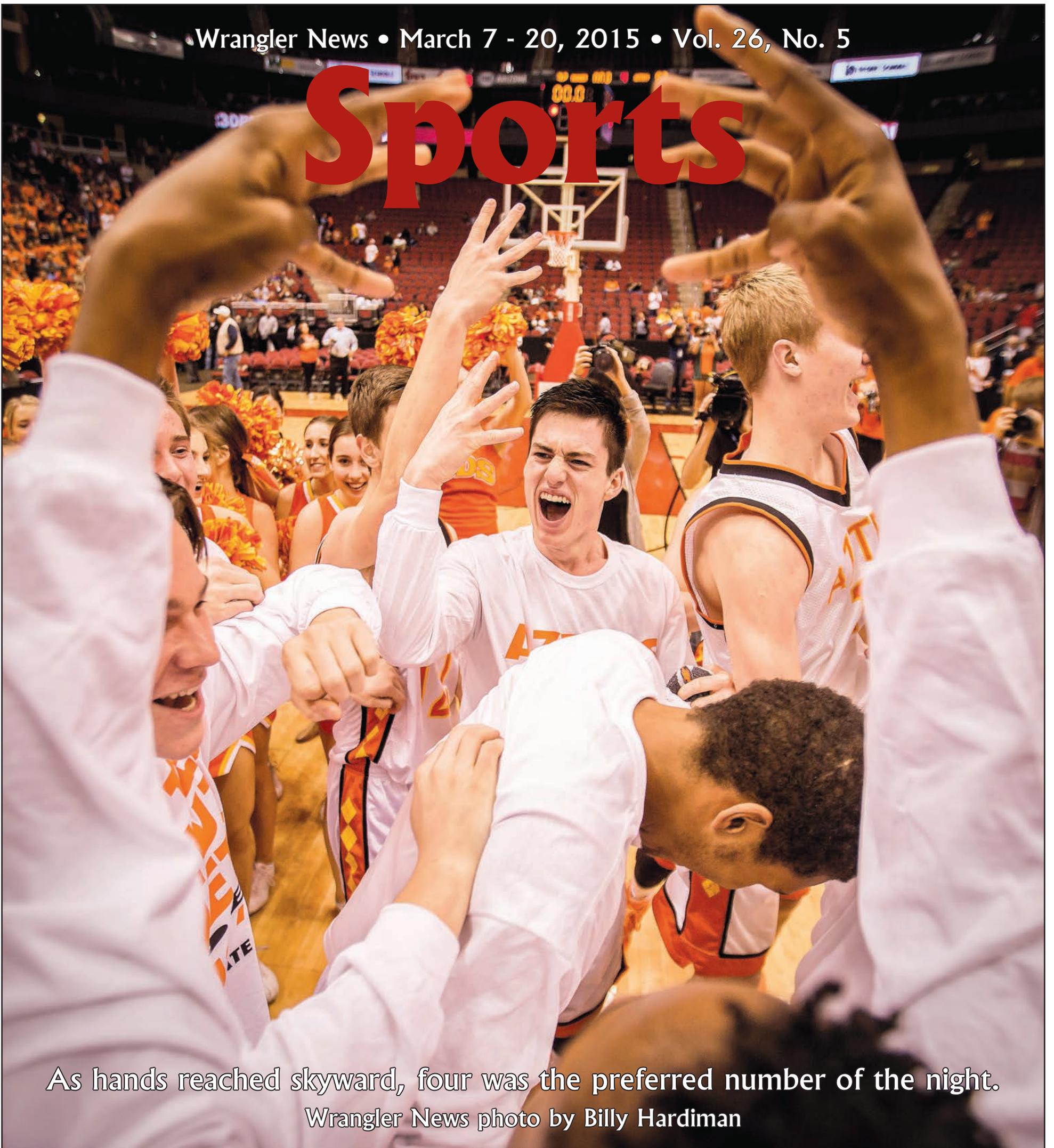
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# Sports



As hands reached skyward, four was the preferred number of the night.

Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

# Corona defense crushes DV; Azt

Article by Alex Zener  
Photos by Billy Hardiman

**T**hose who foresaw a game of intense rivalry between two Tempe Union high schools, in which Corona del Sol's high-powered offense was to be pitted against Desert Vista's suffocating defense, could not more emphatically have missed their mark.

It was the Aztecs' stifling defense, allowing the Thunder to score only five points in the first quarter and 21 points through the first three quarters, that was most evident in Corona's fourth

straight record-setting Division I championship win, with a 57-32 thumping of Desert Vista in the finals at Gila River Arena.

"We played incredible defense in the first half," said Corona del Sol coach **Sammy Duane Jr.** "I knew about three minutes into the game that we were playing our best defense of the season."

As is often the case, the Aztecs' offensive effort was fueled by their defense, leading to fast-break points including numerous dunks, where almost everyone who played in the first two quarters had an assist. Corona had 11 assists on 13 baskets in the first half alone leading 31-13 when the players left the court at halftime.

"We shared the ball really well tonight looking for the open man" said Coach Duane. "That was all started by our defense."

**Dane Kuiper**, the 6-foot-7 wingman with long arms and quick hands, must have stolen or deflected passes at least 10 times. He was often leading the fast break like a guard to either score on a lay-up or dunk, or to deliver an assist.

Kuiper, heading to University of New Mexico next fall, led all players with 17 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.

**Marvin Bagley III** struggled a bit offensively in the first quarter of his first high school state championship game but made up for it with his best defensive effort all season. He guarded the paint, ready to pounce on any Desert Vista player who managed to penetrate Corona's defense and get close to the basket.

Bagley tallied four blocked shots and nine rebounds in the first half alone.

Once Bagley settled down offensively, he wowed the crowd with several dunks, ending the first half with 10 points. Altogether he scored 16 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots.

**Alex Barcello**, Corona's highly talented and intense sophomore guard, even seemed to relax and enjoy the moment when Corona closed out the



Freshman Marvin Bagley III helped propel Corona to its 4th straight DI championship. Azt

third quarter leading 53-21. Barcello ended the game with 12 points and three assists in the stats.

It's only fitting, given his last name, that **Cassius Peat** was a member of Corona's championship four-peat team. Peat has the distinction of being the

only Aztec who has played on all four championship teams.

"It was my goal at the beginning of the season to win my fourth championship ring," said Peat. "It means the world to me to have been the only one who got to play with all four of these championship teams."

"Cassius's championship experience and



Dane Kuiper



Cassius Peat

# Aztecs secure record 4th State win



Aztecs rank among the nation's top 10 teams with a record of 33-1 for the season.

leadership was invaluable this season," said Duane. "He played a great game for us against Chaparral and was the difference-maker. He adds so much to our team."

Peat, one of the two senior starters on the team, will be heading to Michigan State to play football this fall, but not before having made his presence felt on the basketball court. He was a force in the paint for the Aztecs, snagging rebounds and getting points on put-back baskets as well as hitting free throws, but he also ran end-to-end to score lay-ups.

Junior guard **Tyrell Henderson**

was not only tenacious on defense but helped bring the ball up the court on offense, grabbing rebounds and leading fast breaks. It almost seemed as though he put a dagger in the hearts of the Thunder players when he hit a trey at the end of the third quarter.

Sixth man **Isiah Bolden** did an excellent job, providing a spark off the bench either on defense or offense when needed. He played a number of minutes in the championship game when Peat had to sit after picking up his third foul midway through the third quarter after



# Sports

From Page 17

being called for an intentional foul on a Thunder player who dared to drive baseline through him.

Corona tied a state record with Phoenix Union (1958-61) and Mesa

(1923-26) as the only top-division school in Arizona history to win four consecutive state championship titles.

Duane is the first coach in Arizona history to win four straight state championships. His father, **Sam Duane Sr.**, has won four championships at Corona but not sequentially.



“Tonight is all about Sammy,” said Sam Sr. “It’s an incredible accomplishment, and I am so proud of him.”

Corona also may have made unsubstantiated history when they led by over 30 points, 53-21, at the beginning of the fourth quarter, triggering a running clock for the rest of the game.

The Aztecs cleared the bench with three minutes to go after playing keep-away the first five minutes of the fourth quarter, most likely to prevent running up the score. Still, Desert Vista had to score four points against Corona’s bench to keep from getting the distinction of fewest points scored in a Division I state championship game since Tucson Amphitheatre in 1949 scored 26 points.

The Aztecs, who have not lost to an Arizona school for the past two years, went 33-1 this season, with their only loss represented by one point to Sierra Canyon from Chatsworth, Calif. The Aztecs struggled a few times, most notably against Central in the Super Sectionals and quarterfinals, but had that never-give-up attitude prevalent among championship teams.

The Aztecs should return Bagley III, Barcello and Henderson this November to gear up for their fifth

state championship run.

**Seton Catholic girls basketball** — After a slow start, down by as much as 10 points in the first quarter, Seton’s girls basketball team pulled within one point twice but failed to overcome turnovers and missed free throws ultimately losing 49-52 to the No. 12 seed, Maricopa, in the finals March 2 at Gila River Arena.

Seton’s young team—no one starts who is not a freshman or sophomore—no doubt gained experience that will serve them well next year. However, it had to be a bitter pill to swallow as the No. 2 seed failed to secure coach **Karen Self** a record-tying 8th girls state title.

Twin towers **Jenn and LeeAnne Wirth**, at 6-foot-3 and 6-foot-2, usually dominate the paint, but Maricopa’s speed

and athleticism forced Seton to turn the ball over 11 times, leading to 16 fast-break points for Maricopa by early in the third quarter.

**Sarah Barcello**, Corona’s Alex Barcello’s freshman sister, struggled early on but still managed to score 15 points in the loss.

Other players in the starting lineup for the Sentinels were sophomore **Liz Holter** and freshman **Kendall Krick**.



Christine Aguiar



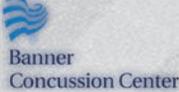
Seton girls react as their championship hopes slip away.



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# A hand out, not a handout, to homeless

By Joyce Coronel  
Photos by Billy Hardiman

**W**hen the bus pulled up to Desert Cross Lutheran Church on this day in late February, Fred Gilbert and Dick Andrews were ready to move into action.

Fourteen homeless men and women stepped off the bus and into a hall where volunteers, led by Gilbert and Andrews, had prepared a feast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and juice.

Each month, Desert Cross hosts the homeless for an evening meal, a shower and a place to sleep. In the morning, guests receive a brown-bag lunch and a ride back to the Chandler Christian Community Center.

Fifteen churches in the area take turns hosting the homeless every night of the week as part of the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, or I-HELP.

"These are not your hardcore homeless. These are people who have fallen on hard times," Gilbert noted.

One woman, who didn't want to give her name, said she'd been an accounting manager before disaster struck. She was angry about her predicament but grateful for the hearty meal.

"It's embarrassing enough being here, but when you can't find housing on your Social Security, that's saying something. That's the only reason I'm here," the woman said.

"I'm one of those who got sick and lost everything. There's thousands of us seniors like this."

Gilbert, 77, could relate. A retired pastor, he and his wife were defrauded seven years ago and had to declare bankruptcy. Their only income now is from



Fred Gilbert and junior high volunteers take a moment for prayer before serving an evening meal to participants in Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program at Desert Cross Church.

— HOMELESS, Page 20



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Homeless men and women enjoy a feast of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs at Desert Cross Church.



In some cases, the I-HELP program provides the only meal a homeless individual will have during the day.

## Homeless

From Page 19

Social Security. Helping the homeless, Gilbert said, gave him insight into his own situation.

"I see these people and I think, I'm pretty well off," said Gilbert.

Jay Griffin was one of those lining up for the breakfast-for-dinner feast at Desert Cross. He's a peer monitor through I-HELP, but he's also homeless. Although he graduated from cosmetology school, the Phoenix barber shop where he once worked went out of business.

It was all downhill from there. Griffin lost his car and his apartment not long after and has been without a permanent place to live since August. He said he appreciates the efforts local churches are making to help those who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets.

"They always ask what we need and if we need employment; they'll go to their church members and find out if there is some way they can help us out that way," Griffin said, adding that he plans to get his commercial driver's license soon and hopes to one day drive oil tankers.

Kevin Hartke, vice mayor of Chandler, is also pastor of Trinity Christian Fellowship, one of the host churches through the I-HELP program.

Hartke serves regionally as the chairman of the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness for the Maricopa Association of Governments

"Generally speaking, most of the folks have had some life-altering situation and they are not a whole lot

different than you and me. They don't have a safety net and that's why they've ended up on the streets," Hartke said.

"Some just need permanent housing. We try to get them off the street."

Andrews, a Desert Cross volunteer, said those they've helped share a common goal of wanting to become productive members of society again. Many of them were once gainfully employed but lost everything after their employer downsized.

"One of our biggest things is, we have that built-in bias. We think we know who they are, but we don't," Andrews said.

Amanda Lotes, a song leader at Desert Cross, brought her seventh- and eighth-grade students from Buckeye Freedom Elementary School to prepare and serve the meal and then share it with the homeless. She agreed the experience was an impactful lesson for the children.

"They're sort of in a little bubble over there. I really wanted them to get out and see this. Most of them never leave the far west Valley," Lotes said.

"That's what we're really encouraging. The more the community gets to see who these people are, the less fear they have," Andrews said.

Hartke said there is no simple solution to the problem of homelessness. He also noted that children number among those who have no place to call home.

"We've got a number of kids — I don't know the number that are actually involved in the Chandler school district — and they've got a place to stay and they've got a shelter but it's not their own," Hartke said.

For more information or to find out how you can help, visit [chandlerfoodbank.org](http://chandlerfoodbank.org)

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# Diversions with M.V. Moorhead

## Current offerings on screen and at The Tempe Improv

**The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**—This sequel to the easygoing 2012 comedy about elderly Brits retiring to a crumbling but comfortable hotel in Jaipur, India doesn't stretch the material very far.

It's just more of the same, with most of the stars from round one—Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Celia Imrie, Ronald Pickup, Penelope Wilton and Diana Hardcastle—returning for more mild antics.

Dev Patel is back as the overenthusiastic young manager, along with Lillete Dubey as his stern but attractive mother and, as a bone tossed to American audiences, Richard Gere as a mystery man.

There are new romances and adventures and intrigues, none very upsetting, and it climaxes with a Bollywood-style dance to that irresistible music.

It's no big deal, but you read that cast, right? The

movie almost can't be a complete waste with any of them in it, let alone all.

Around midpoint, Dench and Smith exchange a few commonplaces, with the subtext that both of them know a piece of difficult news that one isn't discussing.

All the mastery that these two have accumulated over their careers is there, in the steely compassion undergirding this short scene. It made *Second Best Exotic* worth sitting through all by itself.

### Bumping along at The Improv

The title *The Bump Pump and Dump Validation Tour* perhaps bears some explanation.

Of the three rhyming words, "The Bump" is the one that isn't a verb—it refers, rather, to thebump.com, a popular pregnancy and parenting website. The Bump sponsors the show, which plays Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Tempe Improv.

"Pump and Dump," however, was a term with which I was unfamiliar. "If you drink while you're breastfeeding, you would pump it out and dump it," explains comedienne Shayna Ferm, who along with Tracey Tee founded the show and performs it (they're also both contributors to *The Bump*).

A good deal of nourishment will be discarded in

the wake of the show, if all goes as Ferm and Tee plan. They describe it as 'a night of music, comedy, drinking, games, prizes and commiseration...We don't push that everyone should get wasted, it's just a chance for moms to blow off steam.'

"It's the tour of the show we've been doing in Denver for two and a half years," continues Ferm, a standup comic and actress in New York who came to Denver

— DIVERSIONS, Page 25

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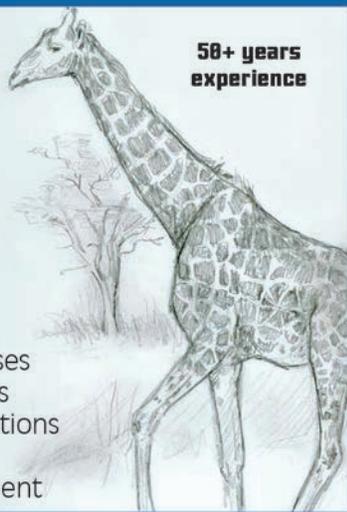
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# City of Tempe Page



## 2015 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops

Join fellow residents at the 2015 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops on Saturday, April 18, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Avenue.

This year's event will feature Mayor Mark Mitchell's State of the Neighborhoods address. His speech will be followed by awards honoring residents who are building community and character.

The schedule includes registration and a light breakfast from 8 to 8:30 a.m., followed by the State of the Neighborhoods address and Neighborhood Awards presentation by the Mayor and Councilmembers from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

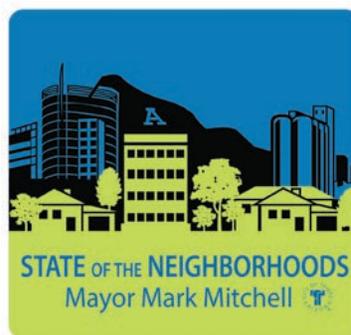
Attendees are encouraged to stay for one of four concurrent "Sustaining Momentum" themed workshops from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.:

• **Nourish Yourself and Your Neighborhood** – Pallet gardens are perfect for home gardens, especially when space may be limited.

Tempe resident and Desert Mission Food Bank Representative, Anne Costa, will show how to construct a horizontal or vertical pallet garden.

Learn everything you need to get started, including tips on choosing the right pallet, attaching a drip system and selecting plants.

• **Nurture Your Neighborhood** – Join neighborhood association and homeowners association representatives for a panel discussion on innovative ways



to stay connected. From potlucks to parades, cleanups to adopt-a-family programs, there will be plenty of ideas to help neighbors connect.

• **Apache Character Area Kickoff OR Central City Character Area Kickoff** – Ratified by voters through the General Plan in May

2014, Tempe's vision for itself in the year 2040 is one of even greater livability.

That means transportation, aesthetics, community amenities and quality of life all working in concert to attract and retain residents and businesses. If you live in the Apache Boulevard or central Tempe areas, join us as we kick off your Character Area

Planning processes.

Identify the local places, spaces and activities that make your area unique, as well as opportunities for improvement. These will be the first of three public workshops to create the future of these character areas. For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/characterareas](http://www.tempe.gov/characterareas)

Immediately following the workshops, gourmet food trucks will be outside offering enticing lunch options. Stay awhile and enjoy the community neighborhood picnic.

Invite a neighbor, friend or co-worker and reserve your spot. Register by April 14 at [www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodworkshop](http://www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodworkshop), by phone at 480-350-8234 or email at [neighborhoods@tempe.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@tempe.gov). Event sponsors include title sponsor SRP, HOA Document Archiving, Starbucks and Whole Foods.

## Gear up! It's Bike Month

To celebrate Tempe Bike Month, which is in April, Tempe will hold its 19th annual Tour de Tempe community bike ride on April 12 and the 22nd annual Bike to Work Day on April 15.

The purpose of Bike Month is to encourage people to use bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation.

• **Tour de Tempe** – More than 1,000 people are expected to participate in the Tour de Tempe community bike ride on April 12 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 ride is led by members of the Tempe City Council.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. with the ride starting at 9 a.m. Register the day of the event or fill out a registration form at [www.tempe.gov/bikemonth](http://www.tempe.gov/bikemonth)

Free T-shirts will be available for the first 1,000 riders and helmets are required. Breakfast foods and coffee will be provided by Wildflower Bread Company, Whole Foods, Back East Bagels and Starbucks. Please bring your own water. The Bicycle Cellar, Tempe Bicycle Action Group and REI will be on hand to provide bike demonstrations, safety tips and bike tune-ups.

• **Bike to Work Day** – Take two wheels to work on April 15! All riders

who stop by one of the participating Bike to Work Day locations in Tempe between 6:30 and 8 a.m. 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)
- Berning's Fine Jewelry (southwest corner of McClintock Drive and Warner Road)
- IKEA (northwest corner of Warner Road and Priest Drive)



• REI (Daley Park at northeast corner of College Avenue and Encanto Drive)

• Ncounter (southwest corner of Mill Avenue and 3rd Street)

• Wildflower Bread Company (southwest corner of McClintock Drive and Guadalupe Road)

• Whole Foods Market (northwest corner of Rural and Baseline roads)

Tempe Bike Month sponsors include Back East Bagels, Berning's Fine Jewelry, IKEA, REI, Ncounter, Whole Foods Market and Wildflower Bread Company, The Bicycle Cellar, Tempe Bicycle Action Group and Starbucks.

For more information about Bike Month, visit [www.tempe.gov/bikemonth](http://www.tempe.gov/bikemonth) or call 480-350-2707.

# Elite NASA scientist describes thrill of mission for captivated MCC audience

By Sally Mesarosh

When officials at Mesa Community College announced that NASA scientist Dr. Claudia Alexander planned to share her insights on the recent historic Rosetta mission, west Chandler resident and aerospace major Ricky LeDesma made sure his schedule was open.

Last November, Alexander was among an elite group of scientists watching with anticipation as the Rosetta Mission landed a probe on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

LeDesma, 30, said he was glad he had the chance to attend Alexander's lecture and meet her.

"I've been a space fanatic since I was a child, so I've been looking forward to this for months," he said. "It's a huge opportunity for me."

LeDesma wasn't alone in seeing worth in MCC's Honors Program lecture series.

Program Director Shereen Lerner, said community as well as students benefit from attending the Honors Forum lectures and hearing current research by top people in different fields.

"The students get to hear them during the day in their classrooms and then again during the evening lecture," she said.

"Listening to speakers talk about the challenges they have had to overcome to get to where they are is inspirational for students who may be facing those same challenges themselves."

As project manager of NASA's role in the European-led mission, Alexander spent 10 years preparing for the moment that would make history as the first mission to orbit and land on a comet.

"It's kind of amazing that it takes that long (10 years) to go deep into the solar system," she said.

"We had to build up speed by making three gravity assists around the earth, took a grand tour of the inner solar system, passed by Mars with an another gravity assist and passed by two asteroids to make our way into the outer solar system."

When the Rosetta spacecraft deployed its comet lander, "Philae," from an altitude of 21 kilometers, scientists waited a tense seven hours for the lander to touch down on the comet's surface.

Alexander said they were worried when the data and photos didn't arrive as scheduled, but then they began to receive photos. The lander was in a ditch, with one leg in the ditch and one leg in space.

"The panoramic camera worked, all the instruments worked," Alexander said. "The panoramic camera took an incredible picture of what's surrounding us and over us."

Scientists are studying the comet's composition, mass distribution and dust flux of the comet's nucleus, among other things.

The orbiter will follow the comet around the Sun and as it moves back out toward the orbit of Jupiter.

"It's a beautiful mission. We have made a lot of discoveries, some of which I can't tell you about," Alexander said, laughing.

"The people who have made the discoveries want to publish the findings in prestigious journals first."

Alexander told the audience that the mission was



named after the Rosetta Stone, an ancient artifact used to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs.

"The Rosetta Stone helped us understand ancient languages," she said.

"The name Rosetta is because we think that like the Rosetta Stone, the Rosetta Mission will give us the keys to the ancient solar system."

During the lecture, Alexander told students that when she was sitting in her college classes she never thought that she would one day be a scientist involved with a mission to a comet.

She now holds a Ph.D. in physics of space plasma from the University of Michigan. All her schooling and experience led her to the job she holds today.

"When I went for the (NASA Rosetta Mission) job interview, I told them I'd love to have the job, but asked why did they want me? They told me because I was young enough to see the project through to the end!"

Meanwhile, the Philae lander is currently hibernating. Alexander is hoping the lander can get enough battery charge from more sunlight to get it back to taking commands and get the instruments going again in June of this year.

She projected that money and other considerations will delay any similar missions for a while. But she remains steadfast in her passion for planetary exploration.

"We need to study as many comets as we can because they are not identical," she said. We'll learn a lot more with every one we study. Unfortunately, though, a big flagship mission like this is hard to build. There probably won't be another Rosetta mission for 15 years."

About the Honors Forum Lecture Series: The theme for this year's Maricopa County Community College Honors Forum Lecture Series is "Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration."

The Honors Forum Lectures are free and open to the public. The fourth and final speaker in the 2014-15 Honors Forum Lecture Series is Dr. John Medina on April 22 from 7-8 p.m. at Glendale Community College.

His presentation theme is "Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration: The Brain Over Time." Dr. Medina is a developmental molecular biologist focused on the genes involved in human brain development and the genetics of psychiatric disorders.

Info: <https://mcli.maricopa.edu/events/honors-forum-lecture-john-medina>



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## Chandler Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 27th Annual Ostrich Festival March 13, 14 & 15

**Tumbleweed Park, 2200 S McQueen Rd, Chandler, AZ 85286**

Tickets to the Ostrich Festival will be available at the gate or discount tickets can be purchased in advance, at all local Fry's Grocery Stores. Family Fun Packs will be sold for only \$67 (\$17 savings), which include 2 adult and 2 youth tickets and 2 all-day carnival ride wristbands. All-day carnival ride wristbands will also be sold **in advance** for \$21 (\$4 savings). General admission at the gate is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors (60 years of age and older), \$7 for youth (5 to 12 years of age), and free for children ages 4 and under. All-day carnival ride wristbands will be sold **at the gate** for \$25. Parking is only \$5 for vehicles and \$3 for motorcycles. Tickets will also be available for purchase at [www.ostrichfestival.com](http://www.ostrichfestival.com) and the Chandler Chamber of Commerce office. The festival is open Friday, March 13 from 2 pm to midnight, Saturday, March 14 from 10 am to midnight and Sunday, March 15 from 10 am to 11 pm.



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*Grand Funk Railroad takes  
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*Country/rock recording  
 artist, Shari Rowe is on the  
 Main Stage Sunday at 6 pm*



*Mexican Duranguense  
 band, Conjunto Atardecer  
 takes the Main Stage  
 Sunday at 8 pm*



*All-day ride wristbands are available at Fry's and the  
 Chandler Chamber of Commerce.*

# Diversions

From Page 21

to start a family. Tee describes Ferm as “an amazing veteran singer-songwriter,” and herself as “her sidekick...I call myself ‘MC Doula.’”

A doula—another term which I confess was new to me—is an assistant to a mother during pregnancy, childbirth and early motherhood).

Tee has a four-year-old herself, while Ferm has a two-and-a-half year old and a four year old.

“We call it a parentally incorrect comedy. It’s not sketch comedy, and it’s not stand-up.

“It’s a more programmed show.”

The programming includes comic songs—one of the more printable titles is “When I Die, I Want to Come Back as a Dad”—and games like Bumpo:

“It’s Bingo for Breeders,” explains one of the *Pump and Dump* ladies (I was talking to both at the same time, and was never sure which was speaking).

“We read off things that parents may or may not have done, like ‘I’ve never given my kid food off the car floor.’”

The evening also

features a guest comic—Debbie Scheer is slated for the Tempe show.

“And we keep it short, because we’re all parents and we know you have to get home and get to

bed.”

*The Bump Pump and Dump Validation Tour* performs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12 at the Tempe Improv, 930 E. University Drive.

Tickets for the 18-and-older show are \$17, along with a two-drink minimum.

Go to [tempeimprov.com](http://tempeimprov.com) or call 480-921-9877 for details.

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Wrangler News is celebrating its 24th year of publishing, and it’s been a fascinating journey. Happily, the growth which has accompanied us during that nearly quarter of a century illustrates that news *by* local people *about* local people remains a powerful incentive for those of us who disagree when people say that ‘print doesn’t work.’ Based on nationally accepted formulas, Wrangler News reaches 46,500 prospective readers every time it’s printed — quite a change from the meager 5,000 papers we delivered to homes back in 1991. We’re looking forward to continuing our reign as this community’s favorite newspaper, and we hope you’ll join us in what we think is a deserved celebration.



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# News & notes

## Java with Joel

Tempe councilmember Joel Navarro will host the next gathering in his Java with Joel series from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, March 28, in the Tempe Public Library's Connections Café. Residents are invited to bring ideas and questions about anything, but two topics for particular focus will be homelessness in city parks and communication with community members. Information: [www.tempe.gov/navarro](http://www.tempe.gov/navarro).

## Police volunteers recruited

The Tempe Police Department is looking for people interested in investing time and energy in their community. Working with City Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage, the department has expanded its volunteer program to include providing extra security patrols at neighborhood parks.

This volunteer team works with Tempe police officers by providing motorist services and spending time in and around neighborhood parks. The aim is to ensure parks remain safe so they can be enjoyed by everyone.

Current volunteers will be ready to train others who want to step into a role designed to foster positive interactions among residents, visitors and guests.

Volunteers are already spending time around neighborhood parks, but more are needed, say officials. Training, equipment and a vehicle are provided. The department can work around most schedules of available time. Information: [www.tempe.gov/police](http://www.tempe.gov/police). Click "Volunteers in Policing" or call 480-350-8780.

## Zero Waste Day

Still hanging onto that old TV? No clue what to do with all your personal documents or the leftover paint from a past room makeover?

Recycle it for free at Tempe's Zero Waste Day. Residents can drop off their unusual items to be properly recycled.

City crews will also be giving away free recycled paint and Tempe-produced compost to help beautify your garden. It all happens 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Tempe Fire Training Facility, 1340 E. University Drive.

Information: [www.tempe.gov/green](http://www.tempe.gov/green).

## Annual water quality report

Tempe's annual Water Quality Report is now available. The report details the sources and quality of Tempe's drinking water and provides information on water sampling results throughout the year.

Those samples help ensure that Tempe's drinking water is in compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

In an effort to conserve resources, Tempe will no longer mail paper copies of this report and encourages residents to visit [www.tempe.gov/ccr](http://www.tempe.gov/ccr) to view online.

Residents who need a paper copy can call 480-350-2678 to have one mailed.

A limited number of printed reports will also be available at the Tempe Public Library and community centers.

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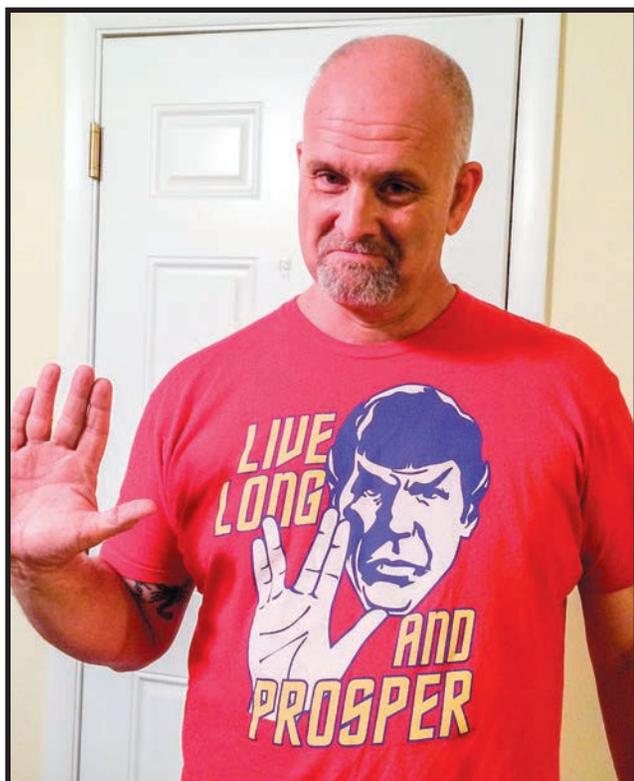
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# An avowed trekkie mourns the loss of a hero

## In memoriam: Leonard Nimoy



Wrangler's M.V. Moorhead offers a symbolic salute.

By M.V. Moorhead

Last week, when I first heard that Leonard Nimoy had gone to the hospital with heart

trouble, I was wearing his face on my t-shirt. The shirt, bright red with Nimoy as a jowlier, heavier-featured late-vintage Mr. Spock—he always reminds me of Jackie Mason in that picture—holding up his split-fingered Vulcan salute next to the inevitable well-wish “Live Long and Prosper,” was a gift from my wife and my daughter.

There are times when I suppose I might be a little embarrassed to admit that, at the age of 52, I still sometimes wear *Star Trek* t-shirts.

This is not one of those times.

I've been a *Star Trek* fan for the vast majority of my life. I can dimly remember the show's original run, but it was a few years later, when it ran in syndication in the very early '70s, that it became one of the fanatical enthusiasms of my childhood.

And it appears that the original *Star Trek* is something I'm not likely to ever outgrow. I still watch it, still notice new aspects of the episodes—often new absurdities and illogicalities—and take comfort and refreshment from it.

I recognize the validity of every criticism that could be leveled against Gene Roddenberry's silly space opera—the cultural chauvinism, the jocularity, the often preposterous science, the inconsistent social values—and I say there's something about the show, some core of decency and good will and gallantry, that transcends all of it and makes it mythic.

Spock was one of the main reasons for this. Nimoy, who passed on last week at 83, had a fairly

rich career as an actor before Spock, and very rich career as an actor and a director after Spock.

But it is, of course, as Spock that he'll be remembered—a supposedly emotionless native of the planet Vulcan, though plagued by emotional flare-ups from his maternal human half, cool, curious, courteous, expansively knowledgeable, ironic.

Spock was my childhood role model, and though I have never succeeded in emulating him—I'm far closer, alas, to the irascible and sentimental Dr. McCoy—I'm still extremely grateful for the influence.

We were always meant to see that Spock's lack of emotion was a pose—that he was more compassionate, and in his way possibly even more passionate, than any of the other characters.

His cerebral rationality, sometimes mistaken for callousness, was really in service of a bottomless, if sometimes bemused, sympathy for the wound-up humans around him.

When I say that *Star Trek* in general and Spock in particular were major and lifelong influences on me, I mean it without condescension—my gratitude is

serious. But one of the reasons that Spock was able to influence so many people of my generation is that Nimoy wasn't that serious.

Like many members of that cast, he was a little sheepish about his identification with the character, to the point that he titled his first memoir *I Am Not Spock*.

He later made enough peace with the role—finally getting some serious financial reward for it probably helped—that the sequel was titled *I Am Spock*.

All of those actors were essential to the show's unique alchemy, but the original *Star Trek* would have been an especially dreary affair without Nimoy's droll sensibility.

I was watching *Star Trek* the weekend before I heard about Nimoy's illness, and had been thinking how truly good he was, how much wry deadpan comedy he was able to bring to the show (“*Sir, there is a multi-legged creature crawling on your shoulder.*”).

The actor's slyness fed into the character's—I remember hearing Nimoy, in various interviews, explain that he came up with Spock's handy nerve pinch so that

he could avoid the strenuous fight scenes that William Shatner so often had to engage in, and how Spock had borrowed the Vulcan hand gesture from the Orthodox services of his Boston youth.

In short, like many hero figures, he—and Kirk and McCoy and the rest, each in their own way—made heroism look like *fun*. Spock's upraised eyebrow may ultimately prove as iconic as Groucho's brow-wiggle.

I had hoped to meet or see all the members of the original *Star Trek* cast before they headed off to the Undiscovered Country, and so far I haven't done too badly—I saw Shatner in a play in Ohio in the '70s, and in the decades that followed I interviewed DeForest Kelley and Walter Koenig and Grace Lee Whitney, and got an autograph from James Doohan.

I haven't yet caught up with George Takei and Nichelle Nichols, and now Nimoy (along with Majel Barrett) has slipped away from me.

No doubt Mr. Spock would tell me that it's highly illogical to feel sad about this, but I do. No matter though—Nimoy lived long, and prospered, and will live on in many of our memories.

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# Out & About

## a camera's-eye view of what's going on in our neighborhood

candid coverage by our ever-diligent Wrangler News photographer Billy Hardiman (who we suspect never sleeps...)



Happy anniversary! It was a cause for celebration at Elite Fitness, which celebrated two years of success in its location at 4320 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler. A couple of volunteer chefs were on hand for chicken and burgers for the hungry throng.

Herman Schiller was filling up his hotrod at the Fry's service station at Ray and Rural, and made sure others doing the same knew about the Cruise-In for Vets Car & Bike Show coming up March 7 in the San Tan Valley. Information on the sponsoring Cruise Arizona group is available online at [CruiseArizona.com](http://CruiseArizona.com)



The Chandler Chamber of Commerce welcomed a great turnout at its monthly Business Mixer event, held in February at the Nabers location at Casa Paloma. Arizona Pest Prevention, photo at left, sponsored this month's get-together.



Isabella Billmart wasn't expecting fireworks when she was driving home on Rural Road near the Tempe canal. But a flash in her rearview mirror revealed a fallen SRP power line, which narrowly missed her car. Utility emergency crews were quick to repair the damage and prevent injury.



Josh Williams, right, gave a thumbs up after walking away apparently unscathed from a crash near McClintock and Guadalupe. Only sign of the mishap other than a ruined car was the Band-Aid on Josh's right thumb, a small price to pay, all agreed.

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