

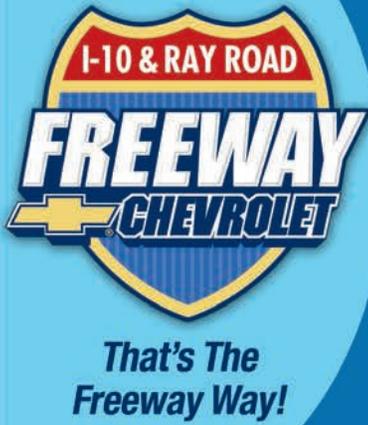
Wrangler NEWS

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Everybody loves a parade, particularly when it's a precursor to Chandler's famed Ostrich Festival — More, Page 15

Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman



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Results of expansive study due by fall Task force considers changes to Kyrene boundaries

By Diana Whittle

A volunteer collaboration of concerned residents, charged with evaluating the long-term enrollment numbers and boundaries of the Kyrene School District, expects to report to the Governing Board on its analyses this fall.

Known as the Kyrene School Boundary Change Task Force, the group includes about 30 Kyrene parents, community members and business leaders who began to meet in March 2013.

The members gather to review boundary history, current student capacity, trend data, demographic studies, population growth or decline projections, school and neighborhood needs and desires, and efficiency models.

The basis of their study sessions is a demographic and enrollment analysis for the district created by Applied Economics, a local consulting firm.

Their efforts are important for the district as they seek to further define changes in enrollment and to better understand emerging population trends, say school officials.

Rosalie Hirano is a Kyrene parent who is serving on the task force.

“There has been a core group of parents and community members, of which I am one, who have participated in these meetings. Personally, I hope to bring to the discussion the perspective of a parent who has lived in Kyrene for over 15 years,” said Hirano.

“As the committee works on developing a recommendation for boundaries in Kyrene, I hope I can lend the perspective of a parent’s concerns over any proposed change and the effect of that change on students.”

The participants first looked at possible boundary changes on the east side of Interstate 10 in Tempe and Chandler. Once this process is completed, the group will look at the schools on the west side of Interstate 10 in Ahwatukee.

The factors being considered in boundary changes include population shifts that have occurred since the last time the boundaries were drawn in 2000; having an elementary school feed into only one middle school; having students attend their neighborhood school; and balancing enrollment among schools.

Before any recommendations are taken to the Governing Board for approval they will be open to public comment, says Hirano.

“The committee has been focused on making recommendations that are in the best interests of the students and the schools, and that ultimately will be beneficial to the district,” said Hirano.

Still with open enrollment, families can decide to send their students to an out-of-district school or a private or charter school. Hirano stresses the positives that Kyrene offers whenever she is asked about the district.

“Long before the national effort to improve academic excellence, Kyrene schools have been challenging their students to high standards, while also providing for the education of the “whole child,” by offering outstanding programs in music, art, science, math, theater, leadership development and athletics,” said Hirano.

“With so much discussion about academic excellence, it’s easy to lose sight of the fact that we have to provide students with more than just academic “rigor”—we need to provide them with a learning environment in which they can thrive, and I believe that Kyrene can offer that to its students.”

More parents are needed for the boundary committee. Meetings are typically held Mondays, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, email Carol Mahoney at cmahon@kyrene.org.



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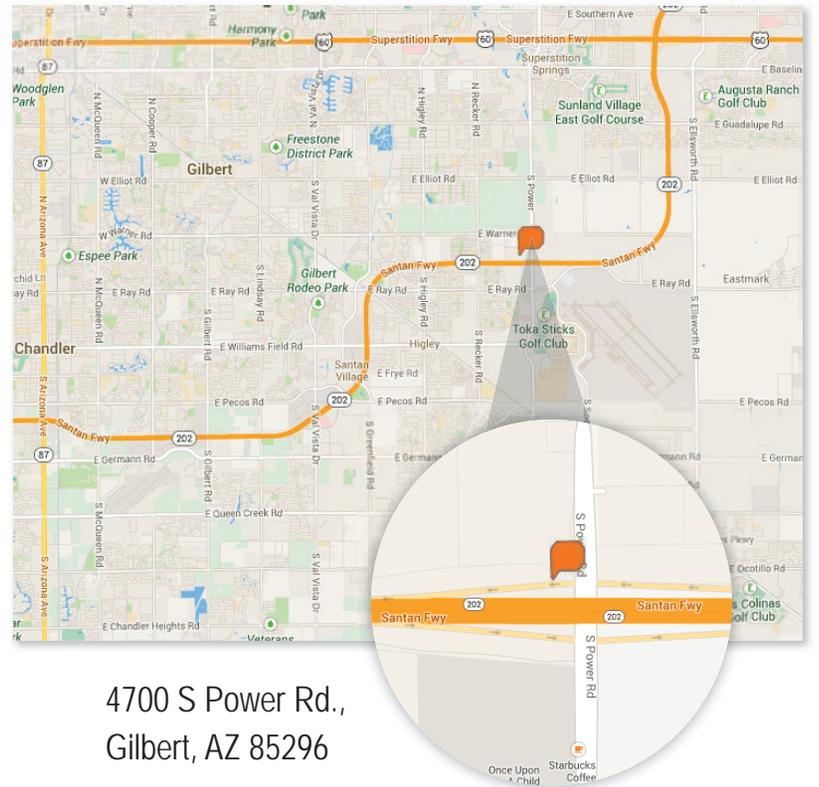
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Abandoned pets get new hope with 'Lost our Home' initiative

Tempe police and courts employees have partnered with Tempe schools and the Tempe non-profit animal shelter Lost Our Home to generate nearly 10,000 pounds of food for abandoned or vulnerable animals.

Lost Our Home founder and executive director Jodi Polanski said the program was launched after it was learned that police officers who respond to an abandoned, vacant or foreclosed property often encounter an abandoned animal.

"It can be extremely difficult for officers to locate a shelter that is willing to provide medical care and a home for abused, injured animals until a permanent home with an adoptive family can be found," Polanski said.

Finding an appropriate agency with resources to provide immediate shelter and veterinary care for an injured animal has also been time-consuming and, since shelter resources are limited, an often disappointing endeavor.

The Lost Our Home shelter recently opened in south Tempe at 2323 S. Hardy Drive and has filled that partnership gap. In addition to being a compassionate resource, the availability of the staff and shelter services frees police officers to return

to handling calls for service more quickly.

During the recent food drive, Tempe City Court staff challenged Police Department employees for the most donations. Police school resource officers and students from the Tempe Union High School District also rose to the challenge, collecting nearly 7,000 pounds of food.

Major contributors and their donated amounts included Tempe Police and Courts, 3,000 pounds; Corona del Sol High School, 2,400 pounds; Compadre/Tempe Union H.S. District Office, 2,000 pounds; Marcos de Niza High School, 975 pounds; Connelly Middle School, 700 pounds; McClintock High School, 472 pounds; and Tempe High School, 350 pounds.

Said Polanski:

"We are so grateful to the generous Tempe police, court and school employees, and Tempe students for raising such an enormous amount of pet food for our shelter and pet food bank program. They have made a huge impact by providing food for the pets we rescue and for families in crisis that we help through our pet food bank, for many months to come. "This has been the most successful pet food drive we have ever had." *Information: www.lostourhome.org.*

Tempe Y rolls out spring break programming

Spring break is closing in on us, and with it comes the arrival of some YMCA activities that promise to engage the whole family.

Two upcoming offerings are spring break swim lessons and spring break camp, both of which commence on March 10 and continue through March 14.

The camps will be every day

from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Tempe Y. The week of fun will include field trips, guest speakers, daily swimming, treasure hunts, gym time, group games, art, computer lab and more.

Swim lessons will be from 1 to 1:30 p.m. every day and are available as a package of five 30-minute lessons for \$20.

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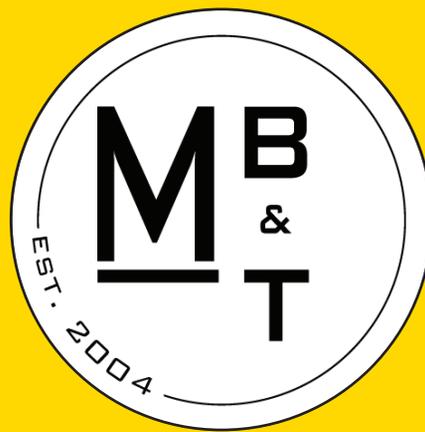
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Tips from longtime Kyrene Corridor veterinarian Tom Gus Walking: As vital to your dog as it is to you

By Don Kirkland

Rain or shine, young or old, Bowser needs exercise. And even though he doesn't speak our language, he has no trouble letting us know when it's time for his daily walk.

After all, there are only three priorities in Bowser's life.

"Unlike people, a dog doesn't look forward to sitting down and reading a good book; he lives to eat, to interact with his owner and to exercise."

It's an understanding that's been gained through years of experience with man's best friend, an ability in which Dr. Thomas Gus is definitely not lacking.

The popular Tempe veterinarian and a longtime owner of University Animal Hospital knows that lack of exercise is as bad for dogs as it is for their masters.

"Our dogs can get just as out of shape as we can," noted Gus. "We see diabetes, heart disease and solid evidence of increased weight."

And then there are the behavioral issues.

"If you take away walking, you take away a major part of the dog's everyday expectations. Some dogs will chew up the furniture, others will bark. They can get just as out of sorts as we do without exercise, and this can be their way of showing it."

So the lesson to be learned is that walking your dog is valuable for both participants, and should become an integral part of every day's routine, whether man or beast.

One significant caveat, though, as summer approaches:

In the Valley, heat is our issue, said Gus. Our animals can function nicely here with the type of cold weather we have; it's when temperatures creep upward that pets typically run into problems.

"Even after the sun goes down, the pavement still holds heat. Whether a bright summer day or a dark summer night, dogs can very easily suffer from heat exhaustion or burns," he said.

While their masters may be able to withstand the summer temperatures, dogs are more poorly equipped to do so.

"We're much more able as an organism because evaporation occurs over our entire bodies," Gus said. With dogs that's limited to the mouth, the nose and a little bit via their foot pads.

Every year, said Gus, his clinic gets about a call a week from owners who have taken their dog out for a walk and returned home with an emergency situation requiring professional care.

"We have cases of dogs hiking up South Mountain with their owners. The dog wants to keep up so he overextends himself. He can't stop to say, hey, give me a breather."

While pet-walking in its traditional form is best for all involved, Gus says an inventive

brother-in-law has developed a summer alternative: training his dog to run on an indoor

treadmill.

"He does about 30 minutes every day; the teaching takes approximately a month, but at least it minimizes any concerns over excessive heat."

As to the problems some pet owners face with dogs that don't want to behave during a walk, potentially resulting in the owner's diminished interest in getting out regularly, Gus offers a suggestion.

"To keep your dog from taking charge of the walk or fighting the leash, some basic training is critical," he says.

"The importance of teaching such commands as stay, sit and heel allows the owner to be in control, not to mention the added element of safety," he said.

Leashes designed to minimize pulling are available at area pet-supply stores, offering a way to develop a routine that's more desirable by both dog and master, according to Gus.

As to the value of adopting a regular exercise routine, Gus says the benefits go both ways.

"There are few things that feel as good as your dog greeting you when you come home with his tail wagging and a leash in his mouth."

It's good for you both—and it's hard to say no.

University Animal Hospital is at 2500 S. Hardy Drive, Tempe. Information: 480-968-9275 or www.universityvet.com



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Jayelee Dorris, left, with SOL Buddies officers Laura Rodriguez, Hannah Allen, Tyler Thompson, Julia Maisel, Bridget Manning and Erin Wochner.

— Wrangler News photo by Chelsea Martin

Honors group strives to make a difference

By Chelsea Martin

When you believe you can make a difference, you will. Whether it takes a day, a month, a year or longer, positive change can occur, even in the face of challenges that stand in the way of progress.

That's the view of Jayelee Dorris, a faculty member at Corona del Sol High School who has guided the CdS chapter of National Honor Society for 12 years and SOL Buddies for 15 years.

For the first time this year, she's added Holly Hope Foundation to her list of sponsorships.

The honors group is designed for highly motivated students who display a good academic standing and a desire to get involved in their school and community. SOL Buddies coordinates with students with special needs through various activities, fundraisers and events.

Enter Holly Hope Foundation, which started last year and already has taken off on a national level.

"Holly Hope started with a couple of girls because a friend of

their family was diagnosed with cancer," Dorris said. "The family was constantly stressed financially and decided to start the foundation for similar families that need the help."

This year the Tempe Union High School District has an advertising slogan circulating called "I'm (IN)" that Dorris helped to create. The purpose of the campaign is to actively seek ways to include our students, our school and our community.

Dorris said all of the student groups she sponsors share a devotion to making their school, and the world, better places.

This year the 220 students involved with NHS are doing a year-long project of their own based on the district's efforts to accomplish such goals as promoting inclusion and discouraging intolerance, according to Dorris.

"I ran with this campaign because I wanted these guys to be able to reach out to each other and build a community promoting

— BUDDIES, Page 12

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Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener



Corona del Sol's basketball team celebrates its 'three-peat' victory.

— Photo courtesy Kelly Zimmer, Corona Sunrise online photo editor

Aztecs take their 'best shot' with spectacular three-peat win of Arizona basketball title

It took the 15 players on Corona's boys basketball team 96 days in this 2013-14 season, playing 35 games with targets on their backs, to 3-peat as Arizona's Division I state basketball champions by defeating Pinnacle 71-70 in overtime at Jobing.com arena.

"Our guys, from day one, had to take everyone's best shot," said coach **Sam Duane Jr.** "We had to play with the pressure of being No. 1 and the expectation of winning another championship."

"If you are not a coach or a player who has been in this type of situation, you have no idea how difficult

it really is to get to your third final game, let alone playing the actual game and winning it all can be."

Corona's game in the finals, a repeat of last season's finals against Pinnacle, certainly lived up to the hype.

It was an epic battle between two outstanding teams where the score was tied 14 times with 16 lead changes over 36 minutes—four eight-minute quarters and a four-minute overtime period.

Corona had the largest lead at nine points with a little over four minutes to play in the second quarter at 26-17, but the Pioneers would battle back to tie the

game at 31 on their first two plays in the second half.

The basketball gods must have been shining down on the Aztecs after Corona's 1989 championship basketball team was honored at halftime for its state championship title won 25 years ago. This final game had a few added twists at the end of regulation to add to the suspense.

As the seconds ticked off to end the fourth quarter, both teams thought they had won during regulation when Pinnacle's Ben Wahlberg grabbed an offensive rebound and put it in the basket as time expired with the Aztecs leading 62-61.

Notebook

From Page 8

The Aztec players ran off cheering because Wahlberg's shot went in after the buzzer. At the same time, Pinnacle's bench was calling a foul on the put-back basket. While everyone in the arena and those watching at home held their breath, the officials stopped everything to watch the recorded playback.

"I knew before the refs went to the monitor that a foul had been called," said coach Duane. "I was praying the foul was called after the horn and that the basket would not count, because if it did we were done. At least with free throws, we had a chance that the Pinnacle player would miss one. I knew if they counted the basket we had lost."

A foul was called on an Aztec player, but before the Pinnacle player shot the basket. He was given two free-throw attempts. He made the first one, tying the game for the 12th time at 62-62, but missed the second. The buzzer sounded, sending the game into overtime.

The Aztecs scored first on a put-back basket by freshman **Alex Barcella** to lead 64-62. Pinnacle tied the game at 64 before Corona was able to take a five-point lead at 69-64 on a three-point basket by **Casey Benson** and two free throws by **Dane Kuiper** with less than two minutes remaining.

Of course, Dorian Pickens, Pinnacle's star guard, was instrumental in not only tying the game at 69 each but giving the Pioneers a one-point lead at 70-69 with an old-fashioned "and one" basket with less than a minute remaining.

Benson was fouled as he drove to the basket resulting in two made free throws to put the Aztecs on top 71-70 down the stretch.

Pinnacle had chances in the last minute to tie the score or even take the lead but ultimately failed on a last ditch three-point attempt by Pickens as the final second counted off and the Aztecs celebrated their win for sure this time.

Every championship team has its star players, but as coach Duane preaches all year, players have to buy into their role on a championship team and play like a team. All of Corona's 15 basketball players did just that, and whether they made it on the court or not during this state playoff run, they all contributed to Corona's third championship win in one way or another.

To the seven main players whose role it was to contribute on the court, they all had their moments during this championship tournament.

"That's the great thing about this team, we had

depth and a lot of guys capable of making plays when we needed them" said Duane.

For instance, when Corona seems to be struggling to score points in the third quarter, **Cassius Peat** came in and played aggressively driving into the lane to put in seven points, five of them free throws, to help put the Aztecs up 46-42 late in the quarter.

"My mindset was to get our team back in the game when I came in during the third quarter," said Peat. "I wanted to focus on doing my absolute best job to accomplish that goal."

"Cassius played with great energy in the third quarter and gave us a huge lift," said Duane. "He is a winner; he is a big game player and has been since his freshman year. He has been part of three championship teams now. I can't say enough about how he accepted his role this year coming off the bench to help us win our third one."

Two return players from last season's team had bigger roles this season.

"I can't say enough about **Russ Davies** and **Jarrett Givens**. They really stepped up the whole tournament and made big plays—winning plays. They really should be credited for how they helped us win."

"Russ was big for us all year, making some big shots, like he did against Perry, when we needed

them," said Duane.

"Jarrett is our X-Factor," said Duane. "He can defend, rebound and score. For instance, it was a big play when he grabbed that loose ball and passed it up the court to Casey for a layup, cutting Pinnacle's lead to one late in the game. His trey against Perry sealed the win."

Adding three new players to the team could have been a challenge on most teams, but the Aztecs accepted **Connor MacDougall**, **Dane Kuiper** and freshman point guard **Alex Barcella**, who were crucial to the team's success this season and especially in the state playoffs, without a hitch.

"Connor was outstanding all year long," said Duane. "I have so much respect for how he handled this season and how he battled through injuries. He is such a team player. To be honest, we would not have been in that final game against Pinnacle without his game against Mountain View."

"Dane has really turned into an outstanding defender. He often draws the assignment on our opponent's best player," said Duane. "He is such a great player and so unselfish. He contributed in every facet of the game to help us win."

Alex Barcella accepted his role and contributed greatly to the Aztec success during this,

— NOTEBOOK, Page 10



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Notebook

From Page 9

his freshman season. Winning state championships turned out to be a double whammy for the Barcello family since his sister Julia also won a state championship with Seton Catholic the same day.

"Alex was a huge part in our success all year long," said Duane. "He probably would have started on any other team in the state but accepted with great pride his role off the bench. He always gave us a shot of energy."

What Barcello did was help free up Corona's never-say-die leader **Casey Benson** to shoot the ball more by taking over some of Benson's point guard duties.

It is probably safe to say to anyone that the

Aztecs would not have won three consecutive state championships without Benson.

"There are not enough pages in your paper to tell you what Casey Benson has meant to Corona basketball," said Duane. "I would sum it up as saying he is a high-character person, who has an unbelievable drive to be successful."

"Casey is not only a role model to our players but to the students at Corona. I have never coached a player that will not let anything get in his way of accomplishing his goals."

The last three seasons his goal has been to win a state championship title for his team and his school.

"It was awesome to be able to win my final high school game," said Casey. "I never thought as a freshman about winning three state titles. I'm just glad I could help my team win."

Corona is only the second Arizona big school to win three back-to-back state championships. Mesa

Mountain View is the other.

The Aztecs also had a come-from-behind victory against Pinnacle in the finals last season with similar results.

"It was like here we go again," said Duane. "When you win a championship, you are always going to have that one game where your players are pushed to the brink and you have to find a way to win. Little did we know it would be so heart stopping like our game this year against Pinnacle."

"It is a true testament to our players and their belief in each other and their ability to win," said Duane. "It has really been an honor to coach this group through this run. The unselfishness of this team and their belief they had in each other and their coaches was truly a pleasure to be part of."

Corona's 2013-14 boys basketball team has certainly earned its place in Arizona basketball history.

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were included in the age group.

— Photo courtesy Peggy Wagner

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History of Cactus League next Sunset Library topic

The history of Arizona's Cactus League, including spring training baseball at Chandler's Compadre Stadium, is the featured topic at the next Our Stories guest speaker presentation Saturday, March 15, at Sunset branch library, 4930 W. Ray Road.

The program runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The Our Stories series is presented by the Chandler Museum, Chandler Historical Society and the Chandler Public Library. The free event will include a presentation by Rodney Johnson, president of the Arizona Chapter for the Society for American Baseball Research.

His presentation will delve into more than 60 years of spring training history in Arizona, including some rarely seen photographs, little-known and long-forgotten facts, and a chance for the audience to ask questions.

Johnson is also an official scorer for the Arizona Diamondbacks and historian for "Play Ball: The Cactus

League Experience," an exhibit presented by the Mesa Historical Museum.

The Our Stories series continues on April 12 with a presentation on Arizona music history with legendary Valley radio DJ Johnny D.

The May topic will be the history of the Ocotillo area of south Chandler. Information: 480-782-2751 or www.chandleraz.gov/museum.

Trees coming to Goodwin Park

The city of Tempe plans to deliver 25 boxed trees to Goodwin Park for a tree-planting project from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 8.

The delivery will expand to 50 the number of trees already provided members of the area homeowners association, who are being invited to participate in the project.

An arborist will provide planting instructions at 9 a.m.

All ages and abilities are welcome.

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For more information, please call **602-214-0886**.



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Buddies

From Page 7

acceptance. I believe that just because the kids are in special education does not mean that they cannot be eligible to be a part of NHS or homecoming."

This is the first time Dorris has coordinated a growing relationship between the various clubs. The goal of the NHS project is to raise awareness, promote acceptance and abolish intolerance of persons with special needs, not only within the community but statewide and eventually nationwide.

Tapping into the interest shown among her SOL Buddies officers, that group is working to actively promote acceptance and educate anyone willing to take a moment to listen.

Officers include Laura Rodriguez, Hannah Allen, Tyler Thompson, Julia Maisel, Bridget Manning and Erin Wochner. Prior to this year's project, the NHS students were allowed to serve at a food bank and be done with their community service portion. But thanks to the "abolish intolerance" project, the NHS students are able to spend their time with the special needs students working on building projects, activities, events and awareness, Dorris says.

This year at the NHS induction ceremony last fall, five of the special needs students were inducted because of their outstanding academic eligibility. A few of the SOL Buddies officers spoke at the ceremony and explained the project and what they will be accomplishing. Another activity the officers decided to follow through with was each taking a buddy to homecoming and coordinating a booth at the bonfire. The officers wanted to be able to set an example for their peers.

"I want them to know that, at the end of the day, they are truly making a difference," Dorris said.

"I'm grateful that these officers were able to start this and watch it grow, knowing they started something amazing at our school. They are some of the best officers I've ever had and the accomplishments they've made are huge."

The purpose of the project is to alleviate ignorance barriers between people and individuals with special needs. Although the officers say they appreciate the friendships they've made, the clubs and activities involved and the overall progress achieved, there are still obstacles to cope with.

"Getting people to make a commitment to the club is a challenge," Wochner said.

"At the beginning of the year there are always so many people and it's all great, but by the end of the year there are only, like, maybe 10 people."

Another officer shared her thoughts on certain obstacles for the club, noting it's no easy task to engage her peers.

"The biggest challenge is finding people who actually care and have good intentions, not just another thing to tack onto the resume or for a college app," Maisel said.

"We want to find the ones who want to be a part of the change. But actually finding

people that are willing to commit long term is rare."

But the officers and Dorris insist they won't stop trying.

"Our society needs to realize that (those in special-needs categories) are just people, like anyone else—just like you and I," Rodriguez said.

Dorris' initiative will continue until people realize an individual with a disability should be fully accepted into a classroom and into the community.

"Special-education people should get what they deserve, and that is to be included and see themselves as important," Dorris said. "They sometimes sell themselves short because they don't feel a part of anything. This project is huge to take on, but I'm really hoping we can make a difference."

No need to point out that Dorris loves what she does. Despite the indifference that she continues to face on a daily basis, Dorris keeps her head up. She focuses on the positive.

"It enhances you as a person," Dorris said. "Every single day I go home and think, 'Wow I just made that kid's day and they just made mine.' What could be better than that?"

March 17 application deadline for Tempe police candidates

Aspiring police officers have until Monday, March 17, to complete the first step of the job-application process: completing an online application.

Tempe PD spokeswoman Molly Enright says officer recruit and lateral applications are available by visiting www.tempe.gov/policejobs and clicking on the orange box. This will provide the latest details about the testing process, including application availability and test information.

Applicants selected to move forward in the testing process will receive email notification confirming the time and location of the written examination and physical agility tests, which are scheduled for Saturday, April 19.

The hiring process includes seven independent phases: Written Examination; Physical Agility Test; Panel Interview; Background Investigation; Polygraph Examination; Psychological Evaluation; and Medical Examination.

"The Tempe Police Department emphasizes leadership and innovation," said Chief of Police Tom Ryff. "We are strongly committed to creating an environment conducive to achieving excellence and supporting employees; we provide ongoing training and development opportunities so that our organization is prepared to meet the public safety needs of the future."

"It is fundamentally important that our officers earn the trust, confidence and respect of those we serve. That starts with recruiting and hiring diverse, exceptional individuals committed to the service and protection of our community."

Purim events at Temple Emanuel

Barb Colby, a professor of philosophy at Arizona State University, will lead an adult study session called "Is It Ever Right To Kill? (The Untold Dilemma of the Purim Story)" on Saturday, March 15, at Temple Emanuel in Tempe.

Rabbi Dean Shapiro will lead "Until You Cannot Tell the Difference": Mordechai, Haman, and the Shadow."

The programs are part of the temple's celebration of the Purim holiday, based on the biblical Book of Esther. According to temple spokesman Sal Caputo, the holiday

is typically thought of as a children's or family occasion, celebrated with merry-making, costumes and satirical plays known as Purimspiels.

But the story is deep and asks troubling questions on an adult level.

The adult observance will be followed on Sunday with a family celebration, beginning at 11 a.m. with the first performance of the Temple's Purimspiel and the Purim carnival, featuring games, food, bounce houses and a petting zoo.

Additional information: 480-838-1414.

TCH exec named top chamber vol



Dawn Hocking has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. The recognition was announced at the chamber's 17th annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions held at Embassy Suites Tempe.

"This award is given to someone who has gone above and beyond to help make the Tempe Chamber and its programs a success," said Mary Ann Miller, Tempe Chamber president/CEO. "Dawn has consistently offered her time, energy, services and efforts to helping our members. She seeks out roles to fill and pitches in without being asked. We are thrilled to honor her with this recognition."

Hocking is director of development at The Centers for Habilitation, where she has been employed for more than 20 years.

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Observations from a lifelong 'desert rat' California drought: Different story, same result

By Chase Kamp

When I hit the road last year, looking forward to settling into my new home in Oakland, I was ready to face the challenges of a new state. Nothing suggested those would include a state of emergency.

I had managed to roll into Los Angeles late in the afternoon, beating the hellish rush-hour traffic, and navigated my way north on the I-5, an uneventful six-hour stretch of inland highway that manifests the occasional grape field or roadside produce stand.

It wasn't long, though, before I began to see signs of trouble: Big roadside signs, that is, with stark letters. "Congress Created Water Crisis. Pray For Rain." These weren't your everyday commercial billboards, instead the kind you see on rural roads propped up on rebar stakes or mounted on the sides of trailers. Forewarned I guess is, well, you know.

I suppose it should have been obvious that drought doesn't just happen in the desert. But California's systemic drying is hitting the state's central Valley, which grow half the nation's fruits, nuts and vegetables, especially hard.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in mid-January after the 13th consecutive week of drought. Since then, the expected February

rainstorms have come pouring in, but the National Weather Service put a damper on anyone's hope that true relief had come.

Forecasters posted a photo on social media with a standard 10-ounce coffee Thermos, representing our recent rainfall, next to a 5-gallon hardware bucket, representing the state's water shortfall since the winter 2011-12.

This prompted Brown and the California legislature to pass a \$647 million relief bill funding greater storm-water recapturing, management of groundwater storage and water conservation measures. There are lots of calls to conserve water by turning off faucets and taking shorter showers, but they seem trivial when farmers are leaving hundreds of acres of land unused because they cannot afford to grow on them.

Arizona's leaders have tried to address sustained drought since June 1999, when then-Gov. Jane Hull declared a state of emergency.

Current Gov. Jan Brewer backed a declaration by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in April 2012 to declare six counties as disaster areas due to continued drought, including Maricopa County.

In January this year, farmers in Mohave County were eligible for emergency federal assistance.

Yet this kind of water concern is part and parcel

of living in the desert, at least for most. Some people still water expansive lawns or hang misters in their restaurant patios, practices I've never understood as a nearly lifelong desert rat.

The shock to California's water supply is not only on a larger scale, but a jab to its milk-and-honey cultural essence.

At the turn of the drought, the big California municipalities like Los Angeles and San Francisco started investing in massive water storage facilities to curb shortages.

Meanwhile, the Central Valley farmers here are stuck relying on dwindling federal assistance and continued prayers for rain.

I'm stunned to discover that in an economy as vast as California's, with deep-seated urban and rural interests, even the nation's biggest agricultural operations have to fight for a cut of the drink.

The forecast last week called for heavy precipitation, more showers. Water is somehow everywhere and nowhere.

Chase Kamp graduated from Corona del Sol High School and the Walter Cronkite Journalism School at ASU. He is a San Francisco-based freelance writer who contributes regularly to Wrangler News.

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We're not sticking our necks out when we recommend the Chandler Chamber's 2014 Ostrich Festival, coming to Tumbleweed Park Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 7-9. The event is previewed each year with a parade through the city's downtown, featuring local color and, of course, lots of kids. Visitors to the festival, which includes four runnings of the renowned Ostrich Races, will also find rides, music, food, game booths — in other words, something for everyone. Discount tickets available at Fry's. More information at 866-993-2477 or ostrichfestival.com

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



Tempe Center for the Arts



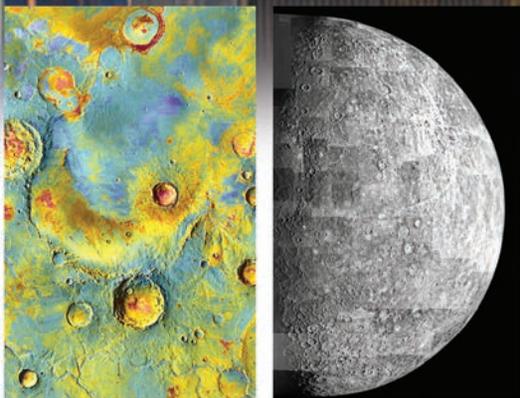
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Enhanced by tasteful orchestration, Paul McDermand's exuberant steel drums and sensual marimba lead the listener through a vast array of standard, romantic and popular works.



**Lakeshore Jazz:
Hot Club of San Francisco
March 21, 7:30 p.m.**

This ensemble of accomplished and versatile musicians, including Isabelle Fontaine & Meet Me in Paris, celebrates the music the pioneering Hot Club de France.



**Mujeres Seis
March 29, 6:30 p.m.**

Internationally-acclaimed flamenco dancer Yumi La Rosa and belly dancer Ava Fleming present a journey of cultural music and dance.

Get information and tickets for these and other events at www.tempe.gov/tcaevents

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Disease hasn't stopped her resolve

Area woman joins MDA march for a cure

By Chelsea Martin

Leading a helping hand is what humanity exists and thrives upon. There are countless individuals donating their time to creating a better world for future generations.

Muscular Dystrophy Association is just one of the many non-profit organizations fighting for a cure and a better tomorrow through endless awareness, fundraising and research.

Twenty six-year Tempe resident Bonnie Guzelf has been involved with MDA for several years, and has been its Arizona Adult Ambassador for the past two years after having been diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in 1999.

Through the ups and downs, Guzelf has remained sturdy in her position, as well as in her goal to raise awareness for the MDA Foundation and all 44 neuromuscular diseases that are covered under the MDA umbrella.

"They do a lot of really good things," said Guzelf. "They get absolutely no federal funding, and all of the money they receive is raised through their events and a team of full-time fundraisers—it's incredible," she said.

"It's such a good cause, but (many) people don't really know about all the diseases."

There are only 2,000 families in Arizona that are affected by the diseases covered under the MDA designation. That number puts muscular dystrophy just low enough to fall short on people's radar.

The lack of publicity—and thus lesser priority—has stuck with Guzelf, inspiring her every day to do something to raise awareness.

She never stops telling her story.

"It's what I like to do," Guzelf said. "I get out there to share my story and (the stories of) others, to educate the community and ask for donations. People give what they can, and what's in their heart, it's a wonderful thing."

As little as \$30 can pay for a flu shot, while as much as \$800 can pay for a week at an MDA summer camp for one child. Whatever funds are raised benefit a wide span of recipients and research, she said.

Guzelf is participating in the 14th annual MDA Muscle Walk this year and is looking for friends to participate on her team, *Princess Bonnie*. The walk will be on Saturday, March 22, at Tempe Town Lake. Registration begins at 7.

This is Guzelf's fourth year completing the challenge, setting this year's goal at \$1,000.

"Anyone can come out to the walk," Guzelf said. "Right now it's just my husband and I, but we would love to have neighbors or friends in the community with us on my team. The walk is a great time and it truly warms my heart."

Guzelf spends her time working with MDA through events and fundraising. She blogs regularly, spends time with her husband and caregiver Phil, and supports local businesses in her neighborhood.

Her support is returned, she says, and Guzelf has become an inspiration to those who surround her.

"I just want people to know that (despite dealing with a disabling disease) you can still do things," Guzelf. "You have to find different ways of doing them, but don't let it ever stop you."

— MARCH, Page 18

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March

From Page 17

“You could sit in a corner and cry—and believe me, for the first year I did—but then I realized I couldn’t keep doing that. You can’t let it stop you. You’d end up just sitting in a chair for the rest of your life, and I just can’t do that.”

“I’ve learned to never take no for an answer.”

The upcoming MDA walk promises again to be a day of working alongside great people for a great cause, along with delicious food and lively entertainment, Guzelf says.

“When people ask me personally why I walk, I tell them it’s to bring awareness to the fact that it not only helps children, it also helps adults like me, who have ALS. It helps research for possible treatments and a future cure,” Guzelf said.

“That’s why I walk. I walk for the people who can’t. Anything I can do to help them, I think it’s a good thing. It gives me something meaningful in my life, and I am grateful for everything.”

Anyone is free to join Guzelf’s team for the walk or send a donation through her name up until March 22.

For more information visit www.mda.org and find Princess Bonnie’s team link or contact her at 480-838-1184 or bguzelf@cox.net.

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Briefly . . .

Marcos students get \$3,000 from Goodwill

Marcos de Niza High School’s choir and drama program has received a \$3,000 check from Goodwill for the group’s fundraising efforts during the opening night of its student production of “Little Shop of Horrors.”

The Goodwill donation drive was launched in June, designed to help schools, sports teams, churches and nonprofit organizations. In six months, 61 drives were held and \$24,200 was donated back to the community, according to a Goodwill spokeswoman.

“The choir and drama program is a huge supporter of Goodwill,” said Jackie Halleen, Goodwill VP of retail operations. “They have several productions a year and shop Goodwill for props and costumes. It was a natural fit to hold a donation drive, and we’re thrilled to be making a donation back to their outstanding program.”

Free financial education series for families

A free family financial education series for adults and teens is being conducted from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 20 and April 3, at Kyrene Middle School, 1050 E. Carver Road, Tempe. Session topics include Building a Better Budget, Taking Charge of Credit and Preparing for Home Purchase or Credit Cards.

Free dinner and refreshments will be served 5:30-6 p.m. Workshops run from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Classes are open to adults, kids and teens (6 years old and up). Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult. Every child who completes the three-workshop series receives two movie tickets.

Workshops are sponsored by the Tempe Financial Stability Initiative, a program of Tempe

Community Council, in collaboration with the city of Tempe, Arizona Community Foundation, Boeing Employees Community Fund, Bank of America, Comerica Bank, Wells Fargo Bank and Valley of the Sun United Way.

Cool treat coming to DQ

As most of the country digs out from a wicked, snow filled-winter, the Dairy Queen at Elliot and Rural roads in Tempe is celebrating the dawn of spring by going green with the return of the Mint Oreo Blizzard Treat as the featured Blizzard of the Month for March.

A mix of crème de menthe topping and Oreo cookie pieces blended with vanilla soft serve, the treat is joined on this month’s menu by a new Mint Oreo Royal Shake, garnished with whipped topping and Oreo pieces.

Store owner Bill Sladek says the mint oreo treat “has become the unofficial kick off for spring for our fans and our system.”

Cronkite H.S. scholarship deadline

For two weeks every summer, the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication brings top-performing high school students to ASU for two weeks of intensive, hands-on experiences in broadcast and digital journalism.

The 2014 dates are June 8-20.

Selection into the program is competitive. Students must submit applications by March 14.

Information: cronkitesji@asu.edu.

— Continued on facing page

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Kyrene — Meghan D. Foe; Sourmya C. Kambhampati; Omar M Arafa; Rohit R Badia; Saheba Bhatnagar; Jonathan Wu.

Pueblo — Patric T. Cao; Arjun M. Karpur.

Gymkhana at BV Ranchos

Buena Vista Ranchos will hold a neighborhood gymkhana from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at the community arena.

Every year the local 4-H club, Buena Vista Mavericks, organizes the event to share its members' equine experience with neighbors and friends.

Participants can sign up to ride in timed events that include barrels and pole bending or register their youngster for a pony ride around obstacles as a fundraiser for Heifer International.

Music, raffles, food and entertainment will be part of the event.

Katy Holditch, the group's co-leader, says this year's event will feature the Maverick Poultry Club, displaying its project chickens and talking about 4-H.

Cost for riders is a \$10 arena insurance fee and \$5 per event. Horse warmup is from noon to 1 p.m.

Cost for the Heifer International pony ride is \$5. Visitors are advised to sign up early as riding slots are limited.

Proceeds go to 4-H scholarships and community service projects. The Buena Vista Ranchos arena is at Terrace and El Freda roads, Tempe.

Information: Katy Holditch at gahold@aol.com

Community Easter Egg Hunt!

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for more information

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Kyrene teachers grow professionally through board certification process

By Dianna Whittle

Board certification is not required for teachers, yet more Tempe educators voluntarily undertake the national examination as a way to improve their performance in the classroom.

The Kyrene District now has 43 teachers holding board certification, with Tempe Elementary close behind with 27.

This recognition, denoting extra training and knowledge, is similar to when an accountant becomes a CPA or a doctor becomes board certified—the designation acknowledges a higher measure of commitment to a profession and demonstrates knowledge and skill level.

Mary Bosen became certified in 2000 and then re-certified three years ago. She is a third-grade teacher from Scales Technology Academy, 1115 W. Fifth St. in Tempe; she also coached teachers for

more than 10 years to prepare for certification.

“I feel it made me a more reflective teacher and one who is more aware of the important components of excellent teaching practices,” said Bosen. “I then strive to make sure I live up to those expectations.”

Bosen believes her students also benefit from her being certified. “By paying attention to my own teaching, I make learning better for them.”

Recently, the Arizona Department of Education announced that another 122 teachers in the state earned National Board Certification in December, which brings the state’s total to 1,078. This ranks Arizona as 19th in the nation for the number of nationally certified teachers.

Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David Schauer says that the district appreciates the time commitment involved in obtaining the certification.

— Continued on facing page

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“We know teachers face many challenges as they strive to meet the diverse learning needs of their students, and the completion of the certification is a display of their dedication to the profession of teaching,” said Schauer.

“We encourage all our teachers to participate in lifelong learning programs.”

Kyrene offers assistance to teachers to prepare for the exam and rewards them with a \$1,200 stipend for the lifetime of the 10-year certification. The Tempe Elementary district also supports teachers who become certified.

“We have nine national board-certified teachers and we also recognize counselors, nurses and psychologists who are national board certified—we have 18 employees in those job categories who also are national-board certified,” said Monica Allread, Tempe Elementary’s public information coordinator.

“We give a \$1,000 stipend for each year a person is certified. And, if they renew their certification, they continue to receive the stipend.”

“We believe that the National Board Certification process helps teachers to refine and improve their practice and research shows it is linked to improved student achievement,” said Lorah Neville, executive director of curriculum and learning services.

Hannah Jones, a resource teacher at Kyrene de los Niños, agrees.

“To me, being Nationally Board Certified means that I have achieved the highest standards for my profession. The process of certification taught me to continually reflect on my practice to best serve my students,” said Jones.

“Accomplishing this also has opened doors in my career to be more influential and have a voice in the teaching profession at the district, state and national level.”

Mary Bosen agrees that board certification has opened doors professionally. “I have had many opportunities open to me as a result of being board certified. For example, I was chosen to attend

“Certification proved to be transformational to my teaching practice. I also learned that it can be contagious because many colleagues have since become certified themselves.

— Kathy Wiebke

conferences and sit on the State Board of Education Professional Practices Committee for 4 years.”

To become a National Board Certified Teacher, the applicant must have a bachelor’s degree and pass through an extensive assessment process and demonstrate proficiency in their subject matter expertise. There are 25 subject areas of focus that can be obtained.

While the board certification is an advanced teaching credential, it complements, but does not replace a state teacher’s license. It is only valid for 10

years, but can be renewed through recompletion of the certification process

Locally, the Arizona K12 Center offers an array of support activities and professional learning opportunities designed to help candidates through every step of the certification process. The organization formed in 1999, by the Arizona Legislature, to improve teaching and learning in schools by providing extra support to teachers who in turn improve their classroom performance.

The center’s executive director, Kathy Wiebke, became the state’s first certified teacher in 1996. She says that during the process of becoming certified she gained a new reason to talk to her colleagues about teaching and learning.

“Certification proved to be transformational to my teaching practice. I also learned that it can be contagious because many of those colleagues have since become certified themselves,” said Wiebke.

“After undergoing the process, 99 percent of the teachers believe certification was the best thing they have ever done because in the end, being a better teacher does impact students’ learning.”

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City of Tempe Page



Neighborhood Workshop features first State of the Neighborhood address

Join fellow Tempeans at the 2014 Neighborhood Workshop & Awards on Saturday, April 5, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. This year's event will include the inaugural State of the Neighborhoods address by Mayor Mark Mitchell. His speech will be followed by awards honoring residents who are building community and character.

The schedule includes registration and a light breakfast from 8:30 to 9 a.m., followed by the State of the Neighborhoods address and Neighborhood Awards presentation by the Mayor and Councilmembers from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to stay for one of four concurrent Building Character-themed workshops from 10:30 a.m. to noon:

Tempe has abundant character – Join Amy Douglass, Tempe History

Museum Manager, on a behind-the-scenes tour. Learn about Tempe's past and the interesting items the museum is carefully preserving. Hear updates about the museum's new and innovative programming.

Neighborhood Character Starts at Home – Dave Maza, Neighborworks instructor and local business owner, will lead a dynamic workshop on how your home shapes, confirms or destroys your neighborhood's character. There will be plenty of tips and ideas to help you and your neighbors enhance your homes and increase your street's appeal.

Kiwanis/The Lakes Character

Area – Defining Character on a Grander Scale – Join Hunter Hansen, of Tempe's Community Development Department, as he shares research for the **Kiwanis/The Lakes Character Area**. Identify the places and activities that make this area special, as well as opportunities for improvement.

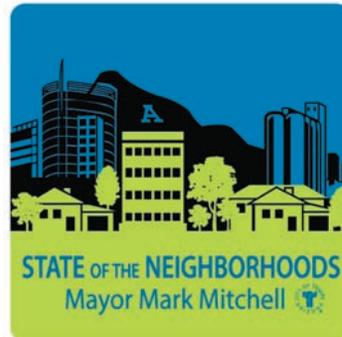
This is the second meeting of five to define the desired character and influence the appearance, amenities, future development and services for this area.

Corona/South Tempe Character Area – Defining Character on a Grander Scale – Join Nancy Ryan, of Tempe's Community

Development Department, as she shares research for the **Corona/South Tempe Character Area**. Identify the places and activities that make this area special, as well as opportunities for improvement. This is the second meeting of five to define the desired character and influence the appearance, amenities, future development and services for this area.

Immediately following the workshops, food truck vendors will be outside offering varied and enticing food options. Stay awhile and enjoy a community neighborhood picnic.

Invite a neighbor, friend or co-worker and reserve your spot. Register by April 1 at www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodworkshop, by phone at 480-350-8234 or email neighborhoods@tempe.gov. Event sponsors include title sponsor SRP and HOA Document Archiving.



Get geared up for Tempe Bike Month

To celebrate Tempe Bike Month, the City of Tempe will hold the 18th annual Tour de Tempe community bike ride on April 6 and the 22nd annual Bike to Work Day event on April 16. 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 6 from 7:30 to 11 a.m. at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way, in the west parking lot north of Guadalupe Road across from the batting cages. This free 10-mile bike 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

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.

Bring water for the ride. 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

On April 16 from 6:30 to 8 a.m., all 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 bike 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 (DaleyPark at northeast corner of College Avenue and Encanto Drive)
 - Ncounter (southwest corner of Mill Avenue and Third 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 information about Bike Month, visit www.tempe.gov/bikemonth.

Recycle at April 19 Zero Waste Day

Tempe residents are encouraged to clean closets, clear out sheds, purge garages and bring it all to the city's Zero Waste Day on April 19 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tempe Fire Training Facility, 1340 E. University Drive.

Collected items will be recycled, reused or disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

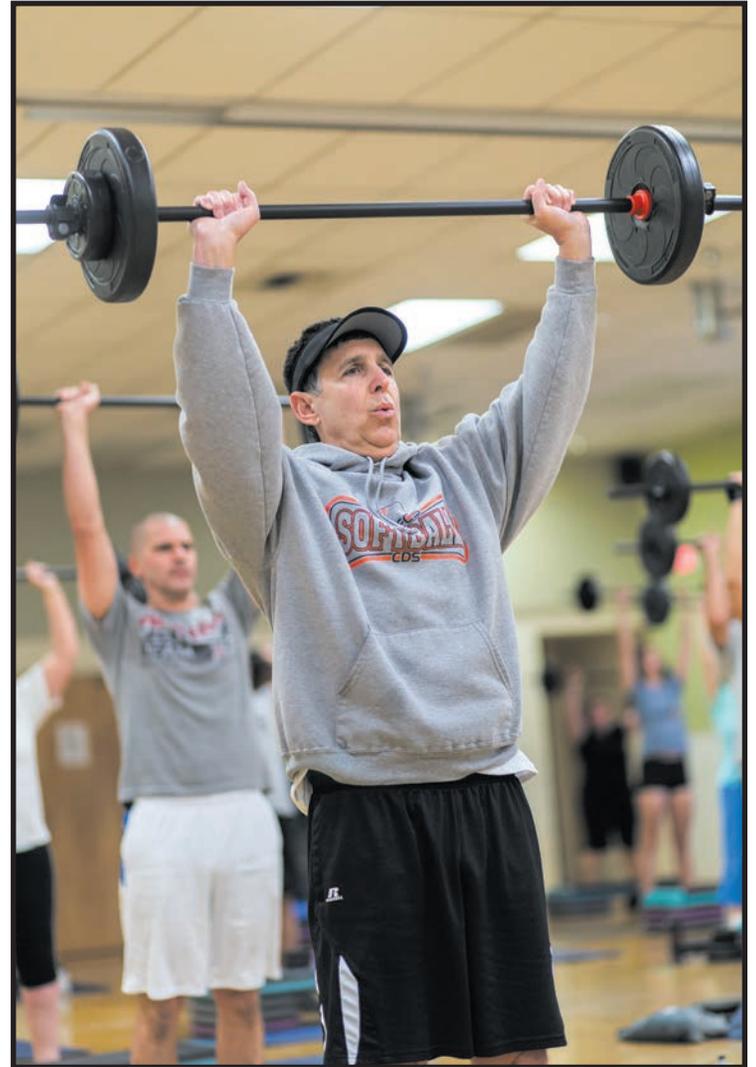
Accepted items include: books, building supplies (no cement), electronics (calculators, cameras, phones, computers and monitors, DVD players, VCRs, TVs), golf balls, household hazardous waste (cleaning supplies, lawn and pool chemicals, paint), clothing, linens, towels,

belts, hats, shoes, purses, wallets, soft/stuffed toys, plastic shopping bags, tires, appliances, paper, cardboard and other recyclables. All items must be clean.

The event includes free secure document shredding, as well as giveaways of free compost and recycled paint (up to 20 gallons of paint per resident). A donation of one canned food item is requested for Tempe Community Action Agency's food pantry.

Participants must show proof of Tempe residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/zerowaste or call 480-350-4311.



Spring has sprung, meaning that it's time to dust off those exercise routines that just might have fallen dormant during the Valley's cooler season (apologies to our neighbors in the East and Midwest). A perfect venue for the annual reblossoming of our resolve to get into shape is the Tempe YMCA, where every age and every skill level can find the perfect regimen. Best of all, singles and families can sign up at any time — even at 5 a.m. when the Y opens for business.

For details, call the Tempe Y at 480-730-0240.

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman





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St. Paddy's treat: Irish soda bread

For St. Paddy's Day purists, no March 17 is complete without the arrival of traditional Irish soda bread.

Not to disappoint, the folks at Great Harvest Bread Co. have started rolling the hearty stuff out of their ovens, and will continue to offer it through the end of the month.

But wait: the March menu also includes such made-from-scratch Irish specialties as Black Forest Rye, scones and Guinness Beer & Smoked Gouda Cheese Bread.

No matter which one you pick, owners Leslie and Ward Walston promise it will be a perfect complement to any meal.

PS: If you haven't had your fill yet of the normally fall-season Pumpkin Chocolate Chip bread, that's available, as well.

Great Harvest Bread Co. is at 1730 E. Warner Road, Tempe. Information: 480-777-1141.



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MORE: ArborDay5K.com

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Diversions . . . with M.V. Moorhead

Commentary: Oscar fete missing ‘giddy excitement’ of yore



“Watching the Academy Awards is like watching *Saturday Night Live*,” said a friend of mine after the 86th annual Oscars last Sunday. “I used to enjoy it; I want to enjoy it—but it just isn’t there anymore.”

That pretty much sums it up, alas. In any case, “it”—the giddy excitement that the Oscars show gave us when we were kids—certainly “wasn’t there” last weekend.

The host, Ellen DeGeneres, managed a very funny initial monologue, but her subsequent shticks, many involving interaction with the audience, were too slow and laborious to be worth whatever meager payoff they had.

They just ran the show long.

Having said that, there were also, of course, some highlights this year. Here are a few:

A surprising number of this year’s highlights were musical:

Pharrell Williams singing the exhilarating “Happy” from *Despicable Me 2*, for instance, or Pink singing “Over the Rainbow.”

Bette Midler singing “The Wind Beneath My Wings” after the *Necrology*—not my favorite of her hits, but it’s always great to see her.

U2 singing the stirring “Ordinary Love” from *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*.

Then there was the always-overpowering Idina Menzel, blowing the roof off the joint with this year’s winning song, “Let It Go” from *Frozen*. This was definitely a highlight, though it was preceded by a low-light: John Travolta mangling poor Menzel’s name in his introduction.

My favorite non-musical moment, I think, was Bill Murray, as presenter, sneaking in a shout-out to his old pal and collaborator, the great Harold Ramis, who died way too young late last month.

A pretty solid case can be made that, in his unassuming way, Ramis just sort of *was* popular movie comedy over the last three decades—he wrote, co-wrote, directed or acted in (or some combination of the above) *Animal House*, *Caddyshack*, *Stripes*, *Ghostbusters* and *Groundhog Day*, as well as the criminally underrated *Stuart Saves His Family*.

Murray and Ramis are said to have fallen out after *Groundhog Day*, so I was happy to see Murray acknowledge the guy who crafted many of his signature vehicles.

As for the winners, none of them seemed very wrong; they were just sort of boringly predictable.

12 Years a Slave isn’t a movie I’d be eager to sit through again, but that’s because it was superbly done, not because it was badly done.

Jared Leto and Matthew McConaughey, both of *Dallas Buyers Club*, were both worthy winners, and their acceptance speeches were gracious and gracious and weird, respectively.

But I would like to have seen one of my favorite actors, the marvelous Bruce Dern, win for his taciturn work in *Nebraska*, and I would like to have seen Phedon Papamichael win for his exquisite black-and-white cinematography on *Nebraska*, as well.

Also, while it pleased my kid to see *Frozen* win for animated feature, its competitor in that category, Hayao Miyazaki’s stunning *The Wind Rises*—though it’s not for younger kids—is one of the most visually and kinetically beautiful movies I’ve ever seen.

And finally, a boast: Out of the 24 categories on her Oscar ballot, my wife missed...drum roll please: exactly one. Animated short subject. She was 23 for 24!



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Childsplay's 'Cowgirl' brings heart, humor to Tempe Center

Childsplay brings acclaimed playwright José Cruz Gonzalez's play *Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle* to Tempe Center for the Arts for a series of weekend performances March 22-30.

As told through the relationship between a grandmother, her

granddaughter and an unexpected furry friend, the play illustrates the impact of tough economic times on a community and family.

When a stray dog appears on the doorstep it's love at first sight for six-year old Cory and the last straw for Grandma Autumn. Life hasn't been easy for either of them,

facing absent parents and lost homes. But in a delightfully surprising story filled with humor and heart, *Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle* sends a message that love makes almost anything possible, even in hard times.

"Kids and families are going to love watching these two strong females, a middle-aged woman with a toothache and her energetic and imaginative granddaughter, learn how to survive life's challenges together," says Director Dwayne Hartford.

"With the help of a lovable, if not somewhat mischievous stray dog, the two discover the true meaning of love and family."

"I think that people everywhere find comfort and strength in having



a place to call home, and all can relate to the fear of losing all that one has," says Hartford. "Therefore the wonderful message of the play that 'Where there is love, there is home' will resonate with everyone."

Performances of *Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle* are scheduled March 22 - March 30, Saturdays at 1 and 4 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m. Tickets start at \$12 and are on sale at www.childsplayaz.org or at the Tempe Center for the Arts Box Office 480-350-2822 (ext. 0). The play is

recommended for ages 5 and up.

Note: The 1 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 22, is a special \$12 Storybook Preview performance, sponsored by The Steele Foundation. Each family that attends will receive a free book.

Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracles features Osiris Cuen as Cory, Chanel Bragg as Grandma Autumn and Carlos A. Lara as Mighty Miracle. The play is directed by Childsplay Associate Artist Dwayne Hartford. *Super Cowgirl*

and *Mighty Miracle* is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additionally, Childsplay and the Arizona Animal Welfare League are teaming up to help dogs like *Mighty Miracle* find a home.

During March, families adopting a cat from Arizona Animal Welfare League will receive a free ticket to the performance. Details at www.childsplayaz.org/aawl.

Tempe Center for the Arts is at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway.

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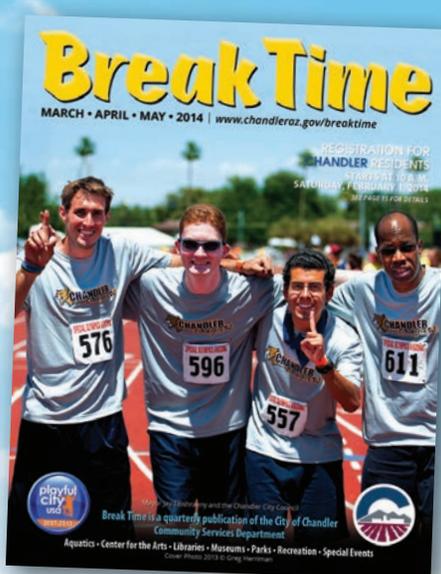
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This year marks the 30th production in 20 years for the Kyrene de la Brisas Gecko players, who have provided years of heart-warming productions. Seventy-five students in the program, ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade, recently performed their annual drama show, "Into the Woods" about a fractured fairy tale. The production was coordinated by co-directors and producers Diane and Nicole Burt, with a team of 35 volunteers.

— Contributed by Nicole Burt

Tempe Center for the Arts

March schedule packed with wide range of adult, family programs

March at Tempe Center for the Arts is jam-packed with programs for a broad spectrum of enthusiasts, from little ones to aficionados of the classics.

Lumilius Productions: 3 Pianists and a Violinist — This is a new classical music experience with pianists Robert Hamilton playing "Pictures at an Exhibition," Steve Cook's multimedia performance and German-born South Korean Violinist Ji-Hae Park's TED Talk-like performance. **Details:** March 14, 7:30 p.m. **Tickets:** \$35 and \$45. All fees are included in the price. **On Sale:** Now.

Phoenix Chamber Music Society: Fifth Winter Festival Concert — A blend of music and the spoken word, featuring Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat (The Soldier's Tale)* and Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals*. Narrators: Sterling Beaff and Terry Goddard.

Details: March 21, 7:30 p.m. **Tickets:** \$50, not including service or convenience fees. Seating is general admission. **On Sale:** Now.

ASU Barrett Choir Pops: The Wonderful World of Disney — **Detail:** March 2, 7:30 p.m. **Tickets:** \$8 for adults, \$4 for students with a valid ID, not including service or convenience fees. **On Sale:** Now

For tickets to these and other events, visit the box office in person, order online or call 480 350-2822. A \$1 service fee will be applied to each ticket sold over the telephone or at the box office window; a \$3 service fee is applied to each ticket purchased online, unless otherwise specified.

Information: www.tempe.gov/tcaevents.

Other TCA events

March 1, 7:30 p.m. - Arizona Pro Arte Ensemble: Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*;

March 5, 6-10 p.m. - Walk-in Wednesdays Open Mic Night;

March 7, 6 p.m. - Sci-Fi Friday: Mars Space Flight Facility;

March 7, 5-7 p.m. - Finally Friday: Bob Villa;

March 7, 7:30 p.m. - Tempe Comedy Concert Series: Jim Bambrough's *Megabyte Comedy Show*;

Through March 16 - Childsplay: *The Cat in the Hat*;

Through June 7 - American Pop! From Comic Books to Science Fiction... And Beyond

Check www.tempe.gov/tcaevents for more information on these and other events.

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— Photo courtesy King Lai

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The Last Word

On Tempe's History Museum

By Mark Mitchell

Tempe's history isn't locked in the pages of text books or hidden away. Our past, present and future are plainly visible in Tempe in the architecture in downtown Tempe, in the petroglyphs on A Mountain and at the Tempe History Museum, where we can see freight wagons from the 1800s and state-of-the-art heart defibrillators. The Tempe History Museum strives to show how our city's past affects today's population and will shape the future.

Exhibitions, such as the "Houses of Worship" photo display that opens on March 11, reflect who we are and what we believe. The current "Made in Tempe" exhibition shows products that are manufactured in Tempe, from flour from the original Hayden Flour Mill to motorcycles and night vision goggles.

The work we do, the things we build and the products we create show



the world what we can accomplish together.

Tempe has long been known for its great live, local music. In November, the museum will honor the performers and venues that used to be or are now an integral part of our community. Staff is collecting music memorabilia for this exhibit, called "The Tempe Sound."

If you saw Waylon Jennings back

when he was part of a local house band, if you saw the Gin Blossoms at Long Wongs, or if you were a part of the audience for U2's "Rattle and Hum" Tour at Sun Devil Stadium, you may have stories and souvenirs the museum wants to borrow.

Who knows? Your old concert T-shirt might be a museum-quality artifact. If you'd like to find out, call museum staff at 480-350-5100.

Knowing that music is important to Tempe, the museum also offers the opportunity to hear the bands who help show the cultural heritage of the people who live here. "The Performances at the Museum" shows are free and happen monthly.

Next up in April is Tempe's own Pistoleros. The band will play and discuss its songs, with a Q&A session afterward.

On March 15, our third "LOUD" concert brings together local brass bands, percussion lines and more to demonstrate how these long-time music genres have evolved to remain important today. Stop by from 5 to 8 p.m. for a free show under the stars. Have dinner at one of the great food trucks and let the kids play with LEGOS while you relax.

It's a great time.

The Tempe History Museum also archives our past and has a rich array of photographs from even before our city's beginnings. The catalog is more than 50,000 images deep. Some of the art hangs in banks, in Tempe City Hall, and even decorates the Tempe Improv.

The museum's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/tempehistorymuseum) posts many of

the best images each week, sharing Tempe's favorite places and people with fans.

Feel like climbing into a fire truck? Seeing a police motorcycle? Checking out a Sun Devil football uniform from way back in the day?

I invite you to stop by. All those things and much more are on display. And it's a great deal. The museum is free for everyone. It's located at 809 E. Southern Ave., right next to the Tempe Public Library.

Visit www.tempe.gov/museum for directions and other information.

I hope to see you at the Tempe History Museum soon.

Would you like your ideas to be heard? Wrangler News invites you to submit topics for discussion in this forum, "The Last Word," for which we have reserved the last page in each edition. Simply email editor@wranglernews.com or call our office at 480-966-0845 any weekday 9-5. We'll be glad to hear from you.

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Dignity Health now offers an Online Waiting Service[™] for our Emergency Room and Urgent Care Centers.

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