

Wrangler NEWS

March 9-22, 2013
Vol. 24, No. 5

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community
a little bit smaller.



Shepherd's Pie, Irish Stew and, of course, green beer are not only a McDonnell family tradition but the mainstay of the St. Paddy's Day menu at Mac's Broiler and Tap, which celebrates its Irish roots on March 16 and 17. Hosting the celebration will be owner Neil McDonnell and daughter Chelsea. Details, Page 5.

Wrangler News photos by Dee Myers

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Chandler - The Vistas at Ocotillo

4 Bedrooms / 4.5 Bath, 3,797 sf - Stunning custom home on an elevated lot with nice views. Interior features include stone floors, family room with fireplace, a library room with built-in bookcases, an exercise/sauna room, an open island kitchen with granite countertops, plenty of counter space and upgraded cabinets. The upstairs master suite with sitting area, fireplace, walk-in closet and balcony. Private lot with play pool - perfect for entertaining. This is a well-designed and beautifully maintained home. Truly a Must See to Appreciate! Offered at \$595,000



Chandler - Springfield Lakes Solera Gated Community

2 Bedrooms / 2 Bath, 1,894 sf - This home features an open spacious living area. You will enjoy the laminate floors & gracious interior features. Spacious split master suite. Den off the entry & another large bedroom, formal dining & breakfast nook round out this very desirable floor plan. Enjoy the covered patio & easy care back yard w/awesome mountain views! Don't Miss Out On This Beautiful Home Resort Living. Offered at \$239,000



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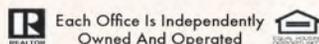
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Tempe's premier neighborhood. Santa Barbara home with a contemporary flair! Tasteful glass and iron front door invite you into this architecturally pleasing home. The living room features circular windows, fireplace and wet bar. Kitchen includes 2 stainless dishwashers, Sub-Zero fridge, double ovens, granite counters, built-in icemaker, and walk-in pantry. Master suite with his/her walk-in closets, incredible shower and tub. Formal dining room with custom lighting fixture is fabulous for entertaining. The basement is a perfect game/media room with billiards table and large TV and mini-kitchen, a den/office and full bedroom, bath w/steam shower and whirlpool tub. Other interior features include: polished travertine floors that complement the neutral carpet and warm paint tones. Professionally landscaped yards. The backyard features a heated pool & spa. Offered at \$1,095,000

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Kyrene's budget uncertainty lingers

By Diana Whittle

Kyrene school planners continue to hope for a positive vote on HB 2399, which would allow them to move forward and sell bonds.

The Arizona State Legislature failed to hear a similar bill last spring. Without this approval, school boards across the state feel that their hands are tied financially.

If the Kyrene Governing Board doesn't reach a firm legislative decision in time, it will need to select from a list of proposed budget strategies to close the expected \$8.9 million gap in the district's budget for this fiscal year.

The suggested cuts were previewed at a Feb. 26 study session.

The official end to the year is June 30 and, with no definite resolution in sight, "school administrators must remain realistic and be prepared for the cuts," said Kyrene superintendent Dr. David Schauer.

What might be cut — or not

Jeremy Calles, the district's chief financial officer, presented 10 items

that could be implemented if needed to close the budget gap.

It's a wide-ranging list of possibilities that was created after administrative scrutiny of all the district's spending.

Calles removed class-size increases and changes to student programs from the budget-cut list.

Among the current options are a one-time use of reserves, deferral of capital expenses, a phased retirement program and another salary freeze.

HB299 would allow the Kyrene district to sell bonds, which voters approved in 2010.

If approved, the bond sale would be used for maintenance at all 26 schools and reduce the fiscal shortfall to about \$2 million.

The Arizona State Legislature maintains a Website, azleg.gov, where the public can view a copy of all the bills and their hearing dates.

Calles is still hoping that the legislature will give the district a green light to increase its bonding capacity to 10 percent instead of the current five.

"If we get the bond money, then I would feel comfortable closing the deficit with reserve funding," said Calles.

"We have realized some additional cost savings in capital expenses and we do expect eight participants in the phased retirement."

The budget detail discussion will be on the agenda of a future Governing Board meeting.

Additional information is available online at kyrene.org/capitalfinancecrisis.

Price Corridor selected for GM's \$21 million tech innovation facility; 1,000 to be hired

General Motors has selected Chandler's Price Road Corridor as the site of its fourth Information Technology Innovation Center, a facility designed to enable the company to in-source its innovation capabilities and strengthen its global competitiveness.

GM expects to invest \$21 million in the new facility and hire 1,000 high-wage employees over the next five years.

Chandler joins previously disclosed locations for GM innovation centers in Warren, Mich.; Austin, Texas; and Roswell, Ga.

The facility will be housed in temporary quarters near the 101/202

interchange while permanent buildings are constructed.

"This is exactly the type of technology employer we need in Chandler and in our state," said Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny.

"The (facility) is a perfect complement to Chandler's Price Corridor, and furthers the city's reputation as a regional hub for innovation and high-tech businesses."

GM said it will begin recruiting and hiring software developers, database administrators and system analysts immediately.

The facility is expected to be operational by first quarter 2014.

Candidates can apply for positions at <http://jobs.gm.com/>.

Report reveals teacher pay is likely locked at current level

Analysis
By Diana Whittle

Few words pique a crowd's interest like money, which is why a discussion on teachers' compensation sounded interesting.

However, what at first seemed promising during a Kyrene School Board meeting ended much differently, with teachers disconcerted to hear that an existing freeze on salaries likely will continue.

Their predictable despair is compounded by a complex methodology used to determine pay ranges, a formula that is quite different from private industry, where performance is usually the measure of dollars earned.

The discussion, part of a study session on Feb. 26, was in response to an earlier inquiry by Board Member Ross Robb, who also was curious about the variables used in compensation decisions.

Mark Knight, the district's executive director of human resources, and Jeremy Calles, its chief financial officer, made the presentation to explain their analysis methods and to compare the district's data with that of 11 others, which are considered to be Kyrene's "competitor school districts," according to Superintendent Dr. David Schauer.

After hearing the details of the presentation that ranked all of the "competitor" districts, Robb summarized the discussion by saying it appears that a teacher's rate of pay is impacted by three significant issues:

- **Class size** — School districts with more students per class can afford to increase teacher's pay.

Kyrene's student-to-teacher ratio, of 17.48, ranks near the middle of the districts, with nearby Tempe Union at 18.92 and Mesa Unified at 20.31.

At the top and the bottom of this comparison are Phoenix districts Madison Elementary, with a student-to-teacher ratio of 21.13, and Cartwright Elementary, at 15.74.

- **Programs offered** — More class choices require more staff, which leaves less money for salaries.

For now, Kyrene took program changes off the chopping block and still offers special-area subjects, including art, music, library and physical education.

Other districts have completely eliminated such electives. Kyrene excels for the most money spent in the classroom, a ratio called highest total of

instruction to administration.

Kyrene also is at the top of this comparison, at 12.02. The nearest competitor is Chandler Unified, at 11.51; at the bottom of the ranking is J.O. Combs Unified in San Tan Valley, at 6.55.

- **Additional funding mechanisms** — School districts that receive alternative sources of funding, such as money allocated as a result of Civil Rights Act violations in 1964, may use these funds for teachers' salaries.

Those districts are required to assess an additional charge in their property-tax valuation, an encumbrance not affecting Kyrene, mainly because it wasn't yet established in those days.

There was no end date established for the desegregation penalty, and Calles says that since some school districts are benefiting from those funds, no change is likely to occur.

"Nearby school districts, including Tempe Elementary and Phoenix Union, receive \$9 million to \$10 million a year, which can partially be used to fund teachers," said Calles.

"So the desegregation funding does create some disparity within our 12-school comparison, as six of the school districts still assess this fee."

In spite of not having this funding source, Kyrene remains competitive in pay for new teachers, who start at \$34,982, which falls to sixth in the list of 12 districts.

While new teachers start out strong, HR Director Knight admits that Kyrene is not as successful in rewarding more experienced teachers.

He also said that another disappointing finding is that new teachers with experience coming into the Kyrene district receive credit for only 4 years of previous teaching experience no matter how many years they have previously taught. Other districts reward 8-10 years.

Mesa is the most generous by acknowledging total years of teaching experience, no matter where achieved.

In closing the meeting, no definite decisions were made on increasing pay for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts July 1, to give the Governing Board the ability to remain flexible while budget decisions are finalized at the state Legislature.

Editors Note: Like all board meetings and study sessions, this meeting can be re-played at any time by going to www.kyrene.org and selecting Governing Board meeting.



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Sports . . . with Alex Zener



Aztecs' secret formula: Believing

Corona's basketball team celebrates its back-to-back Division I state championship and sixth one overall. Celebrating the 63-59 win, from left, were Alex van Ryswyk, Cassius Peat, Bryan Siefker, Russ Davis, Adam Gleave, Casey Benson, Coach Sam Duane Jr.

— Wrangler News photo by Zi Yang Lai

What changes the dynamics for a basketball team that's a mere one second away from losing back-to-back state championships—not once, not twice but potentially four times—and then comes back to win?

It's simple: They *believed* they could produce a second straight championship for Corona's history books.

Throughout the season, team members believed in each other. They believed they could overcome huge deficits late in games. Most of all, they believed they could win even when most people were sure they would lose.

Corona players, as it turned out, never doubted that they had what it took to win another state championship, even though only three returning players, two of them starters, had significant minutes

on a team that last year went 32-1 to win Corona's fifth state championship.

"Our guys played together, as a team, and believed, which is probably the most important thing," said head coach **Sam Duane Jr.** "They believed in themselves, they believed in their teammates, they believed in their coaches. They trusted each other and the coaches explicitly."

"We stuck together and just believed we could do it," said **Casey Benson** after the team's 63-59 win.

After a rocky playoff run, to say the least, the Aztecs looked to be getting off to a good start in the first couple of minutes in the championship game against Pinnacle when **Braden Tennyson** connected on two three-pointers.

"Braden Tennyson had a huge playoff run for us. He hit some big shots and really battled inside

defensively," said Duane. "He played really well against Millennium and Desert Mountain but his two threes in the first quarter against Pinnacle kept us in the game."

Corona ended up playing from behind most of the first half, though, when Pinnacle shot the lights out hitting what seemed like one three right after another three to score 28 points in the first quarter and lead by five. CdS was down even further, by seven, heading into the locker room at the half with the Pioneers up 40-33.

"Pinnacle came out on fire, but we knew if we hung in there eventually our discipline and experience would get us the win," said Tennyson.

Corona's discipline and playoff experience may have started shifting things a bit in the Aztecs' favor when they came out to go on a 6-0 run after halftime.

First **Cassius Peat** found a cutting **Adam Gleave** driving in for a layout on a pick from Tennyson.

Then Peat once again found Gleave, after another Tennyson pick, to bury a 20-foot jump shot, thus cutting the lead to three at 40-37.

"I just felt like the turning point in our championship game was when we came out and scored the first two baskets in the second half," said Gleave. "That just started us off on the right tone."

"Adam Gleave really came on for us the last month of the season," said Duane. "He played extremely hard in the playoffs and was a key to us winning that final game."

Peat kept the ball himself to score the team's third straight basket on a driving layup to come within one point at 40-39.

"Cassius Peat did a good job of creating mismatches offensively all season for the other team's big guys because he's tough to guard. We could use him on the outside or post him up," said Duane. "Then he did an excellent job defending guys much bigger and in getting rebounds."

Pinnacle did bounce back to eventually to be up seven points at the 3:32 mark in the fourth quarter, but those six quick points to start the second half had a big impact both on the final score and psychologically for the Aztecs and the Pioneers, as the final three-plus minutes ticked off the clock.

Those minutes were crucial to Corona's ability to repeat when the Aztecs ended the game on a 13-2 run to defeat Pinnacle 63-59.

"I knew we just needed to keep shooting and be aggressive and our shots would start falling," said Benson. "We finally tied the game and took the lead in the fourth quarter, forcing some turnovers and gaining the momentum."

"I knew we had an advantage when Pinnacle started stalling with around four minutes to go," said **Bryan Siefker**, the scrappy player who is best known for taking charges on defense and finding the open guy on offense.

Siefker, though, knew he had to help out offensively in the finals because the defense was keying in on Benson. He ended up as the team's leading scorer with 19 points in his final game as an Aztec.

"Bryan is an unbelievable leader and competitor who always made the big shots whenever we needed him to," said Duane. "He is a tremendous rebounder and defender, who has done all the little things the last two seasons that great players do and teams need to win championships."

Benson, who helped keep the Aztecs in the hunt in their double overtime win against Mountain Pointe and one-point come-from-behind victory against Millennium, had to resort to keeping the Aztecs in the game from the free throw line and with assists in the fourth quarter when he was often double- and triple-teamed.

"Casey took on many roles including being a leader, ball-handler, scorer, defender and rebounder for our team this season," said Duane. "He did so many things for us including doing a great job of making his teammates better in the state playoffs."

In addition, **Jarrett Givens**, usually the first player off the bench, as well as the rest of the team played a big role on and off the court.

"Jarrett Givens bought into his role off the bench and was a big part of our success all year," said Duane. "He gave us a slasher to the basket, a defender who could get steals and deflections, and a player who could give us great energy off the bench."

"All of our players, though, were significant to our success," said Duane. "It takes everyone on the team to buy into their role to have a championship team."

"Alex van Ryswyk, for instance, did a

tremendous job as a senior leader," said Duane. "He did not get a lot of minutes but was a key part of our scout team and worked hard every day to make our guys better. He is a perfect example of how everyone on the team contributed to our championship."

Other members of Corona's championship team included **Tyrell Henderson, Logan Dubek, Ashton Howard, Vance Arnold, Thomas Turley, Russ Davis** and **Dan Starkey**.

The Aztecs, who started the season ranked at No. 6, had to adapt and fight hard to repeat their state championship run. It was not like they were the heavy favorites and could have easily been out of contention in the second round but, again, they believed they could win, which may be half the battle.

"It really did come down to the buzzer before we knew we were champions," said Duane. "It was just an incredible feeling, knowing that a group of kids, who no one thought could win the championship for a second time, actually believed they could and ultimately achieved that goal. It was an honor to coach such a great group of kids."

Coach Duane is once again being mentioned in the conversation for Coach of the Year for the second straight year while Casey Benson is up for Player of the Year.

Corona baseball preview — Ranked No. 6 in the preseason by the Republic, the Aztecs were playing well with a four-game winning streak, as of March 4, after losing their opener to Sandra Day O'Connor 5-1 on Feb. 22.

Coach **Dave Webb**, in his eighth season at Corona, returned seven starters from his last season's 18-12 team, enabling the experience, speed, pitching and hitting that Webb thinks should put them in the Division I top 10 teams along with Hamilton, Pinnacle and possibly Desert Ridge, all in Corona's section, by the end of the season.

"We have a lot of solid, varsity-experienced players returning plus some new starters and bench players with excellent baseball skills," said Webb. "Our only issue may be our schedule. Maxpreps.com lists our team as having the toughest schedule."

With 24 players listed on the roster, 14 of them seniors, eight juniors and two sophomores, the Aztecs should have a number of options.

Senior players who Webb expects to have an impact right away are second baseman **Jeff Carter**, shortstop **Josh Ethier**, first baseman **Rick Riley**, catcher **Colby Hamilton**, right fielder **Shawn Maloney** and left fielder **Ryan Riley**.

Returning juniors key to Corona's success are starting right-handed pitcher **Nathan Birecki** and left-handed pitcher and center fielder **Nathan Chokey**.

Three-year started Carter will be the lead-off hitter, batting .360 last season, while Maloney will also be a key player starting his third season, according to Webb.

"Our shortstop Josh Ethier is an explosive player who played on the AZ Sunbelt team last summer hitting .360," said Webb. "He recently signed at Grand Canyon."

Starting catcher Colby Hamilton is complemented by three pitchers that Webb is expecting to propel his team into the win column: Chris Tate, Nathan Birecki and Nathan Chokey.

"Colby is arguably the best defensive catcher in the state who recently signed at Central Arizona College hitting .330 for us last season," said Webb. "Chris, our starting left-hand pitcher, is the ace of the staff. He has great change and a breaking pitch. Chris went 6-3 last year as a junior."

"Junior **Nathan Birecki**, at 6-foot-3 and 205 pounds, has a freakish movement on his fastball," said Webb. "He went 5-0 for us last year as a sophomore with a 2.00 ERA."

"Nathan started every game for us last year in center as a sophomore," said Webb. "He also runs well and is a great left-handed pitcher and hitter, hitting .330 for us last year."

The Aztecs have brothers Rick and Ryan Riley, both starting this season.

"Rick hits with power last season hitting .385 for us," said Webb. "This will be his third year starting at first base while his twin Ryan will be a starter his second year at left field."

Other players on the team include returning seniors **Billy Clemens, Jake Martin, Nick Marciano, Nick Radford, Charlie Markman** and **Jake Fett. Tim Coen, Tyler Daugherty, Matt Reum, Ian Cooper, Garrett Poole**, and

— SPORTS, Page 21

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Trauma care could help offset changes in hospital economics

By Alison Stanton

Thanks to constantly changing insurance and reimbursement programs, the economic environment at hospitals seems always to be in flux.

According to Jane Hanson, the new chief operating officer at both Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers, there are definitely some challenges to dealing with these ongoing changes.

"In my role as chief operating officer, I want to support the people who work in the hospital during this time of unprecedented change," said Hanson, who started her role as COO of both hospitals in December.

"I am trying to create a culture where change is expected."

Part of this, Hanson said, is keeping the hospitals' workforces engaged and involved as much as possible, and staying on top of their performance and commitment to providing quality care.

"One of the challenges is that we used to do healthcare forecasting based on historical trends maybe yearly or bi-yearly," she said.

"Now we are constantly doing this, looking at our current performance and our future performance and adjusting everything as needed. Instead of once or twice a year, we are now doing it quarterly or even monthly."

Revisiting strategies more often and looking at how the staff can pursue the hospitals' operational excellence goals will become even more important as value-based reimbursement and pay-per-performance comes into play, Hanson noted.

"In addition, we are also looking at ways to take out economic waste as much as we can. Our job is to focus on operational care and reduce waste while improving the process of care," she said.

"We are also rethinking how we use our capital. While in the past, the focus has always been on brick and mortar buildings, we will be investing in more technology."

Hanson said the hospitals have been "future focused" for some time, and have been working on strategies since well before last November, when President Barack Obama was re-elected for a second term.

One example that took place over the course of 2012,

Hanson said, is the consolidation of the executive roles of the two hospitals.

"We now have just one chief executive officer and one chief operating officer," she said.

"We are also enhancing the collaboration between the two hospitals, helping us to achieve top deciles levels in terms of service and quality."

At Chandler Regional Medical Center, Hanson said a key emphasis is on growing key service lines that will help to bring in new types of patients to the hospital.

One way this will take place, she said, is to pursue a Level I trauma designation at CRMC.

"We are driven by an unmet community need, and expanding our services to meet these needs," Hanson said.

Another example of changes at CRMC includes the ongoing construction of a new patient tower, which Hanson said has moved from planning mode to the building stages.

"We hope to have the new tower completed in 2014; it will provide 96 additional beds and should help create around 200 new jobs."

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Heading to Rocky Point for spring break? Here are tips to stay safe



Affordability and proximity have maintained the popularity of Rocky Point and other border cities as a spring break destination for Valley travelers, although trips into Mexico still come with a State Department-issued travel warning, according to Michele Donati, a spokeswoman for AAA Arizona.

As a result, Donati says spring-break vacationers should exercise caution if their plans include heading south of the border.

The State Department's warning comprises 20 states that include popular spring break spots including Rocky Point, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan.

"Unlike previous alerts, the current warning for Mexico now encompasses a handful of tourist destinations," said Amy Moreno, director of travel for AAA Arizona.

"AAA knows that Mexico is a popular destination, which is why we're urging Mexico-bound travelers to heed warnings, and no matter the destination, don't leave smarts or safety behind."

To ensure a safe and enjoyable spring break in Mexico, here are tips for travelers:

- **Use recommended crossings.** U.S. citizens visiting Rocky Point should use the Lukeville border crossing. The State Department also encourages auto travelers to limit travel to main roads during daylight hours.

- **Carry a passport.** Citizens are required to have a passport to gain re-entry into the United States.

Travelers should carry extra copies of their passport and store them separately, as well as leave a copy of it and travel itinerary with a friend or family member at home.

- **Travel smart.** Stay with your party at all times. Don't share your itinerary and do not travel with

valuables and expensive jewelry. Travelers seeking a taxi should request that hotel or restaurant staff summon an authorized one, rather than hailing it themselves. Use a credit card instead of a debit card when possible.

- **Know the laws and who to call if you need help.** If you are arrested for any reason in Mexico, you may be jailed until you can prove your innocence.

Always travel with a cell phone and check ahead to ensure you have coverage at your destination. Save important contact numbers and information such as hotel, credit card and insurance companies, and a number for the U.S. Consulate for reference in case of emergency.

- **Be insured.** U.S. auto insurance is not valid in Mexico, which means American drivers can be arrested and jailed for failing to provide a Mexican auto insurance policy. Travelers should consider purchasing a short-term travel medical insurance policy or trip insurance to cover any emergencies.

- **Use caution when renting recreational vehicles.** Personal watercraft, such as jet skis and ATVs are widely available for rent in Mexico. However, this equipment may be uninsured, underinsured or not covered by personal insurance.

If you incur any damage while operating rental equipment, you could be arrested and detained until restitution is made. Make sure to read rental contracts carefully.

Donati also recommends anyone traveling abroad sign up for the Department of State's STEP, or Smart Traveler Enrollment Program.

STEP allows the agency to contact you in case of emergency. The agency has also created a page with information specifically for student travelers, which includes a list of emergency contact numbers for various countries abroad.



Mary Contreras, owner of Contreras State Farm agency in south Tempe, is among Phoenix Business Journal's 25 Dynamic Women in Business honorees. Contreras was recognized for 'working daily to foster positive relationships while being problem solvers and educators, and modeling integrity in our actions.' Contreras was called a 'natural collaborator and connector,' encouraging professionals to explore how they can benefit each other. The awards program was held at Westin Kierland Resort, Scottsdale.

— Photo courtesy Phoenix Business Journal

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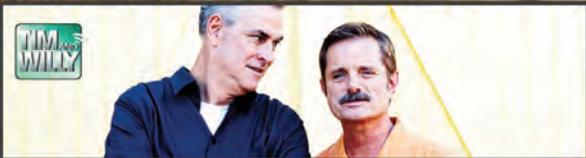


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March 15 cutoff for charities to submit requests for Diablos' 2013 funding

Tempe Diablos are reminding local charities that the deadline is nearing to submit applications for this year's share of grant funding.

Last year the group donated approximately \$500,000 to Tempe-area charities. It also funded student scholarships, provided teacher awards and underwrote needs-based services.

According to grants committee chairman Greg Garcia, the group's mission is to enhance and promote Tempe, including support of its youth-education needs.

Targets of the grants are

groups specializing in at-risk youth and families; community outreach; quality of life programs; improvements in the lives of those who are physically or mentally challenged; and education, with an emphasis on early childhood development and life skills.

Organizations have until Friday, March 15, to submit their request.

Those interested in submitting requests may visit tempediablos.org and click on the tab labeled "Grant Applications" to download a form.

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Hotel, light industrial park get an OK for start of west Chandler construction

West Chandler stands to be the beneficiary of two proposals approved recently by the Chandler City Council.

One involves a hotel planned at McClintock Drive and Chandler Boulevard. The other is a 43-acre light industrial park planned at Kyrene Road and Gila Springs Place.

Relating to the hotel project, councilmembers approved a preliminary development plan submitted by Staybridge Suites for site layout and building architecture. The site has a history of requests for hotel development dating back to the 1990s, with the most recent zoning extension granted in early 2012.

Members of the city council approved a request by the developer, Diversified Real Estate Group, to construct the proposed hotel on what they consider a more dominant location on the site's northeast corner.

All other aspects of the site layout remain consistent with a previous approval, except that a conceptual office layout is anticipated where the hotel was previously proposed.

Light industrial project

Rezoning from Agricultural to Planned Area Development was approved for Gila Springs Place, an industrial park at the southwest corner of the Kyrene-Gila

Springs intersection, along with approval of a Preliminary Development Plan for a business park.

The proposed development is for a mixed use light industrial business park, consisting of six single-story buildings totaling approximately 404,200 square feet.

Buildings of this type are said to be extremely flexible and offer an upscale quality office/warehouse environment.

City planners say this type of space works well for tenants in the 5,000- to 50,000-square-foot range, a market where large job growth typically occurs.

The buildings feature attractive office entries and glass storefronts along the north, east and south property lines, and the project has been designed to screen the grade level and loading activities from the street.

The Kyrene frontage will essentially look like an office environment.

The Kyrene 202 Business Park site is laid out in a square shape, incorporating six properties under single ownership. The project is generally bounded by Gila Springs Place on the north, Kyrene Road on the east, Chandler's West Chandler Park and Aquatic Center along the south, and an existing older industrial business park on the west.

The property is situated north of the San Tan Loop 202 and Kyrene freeway interchange.

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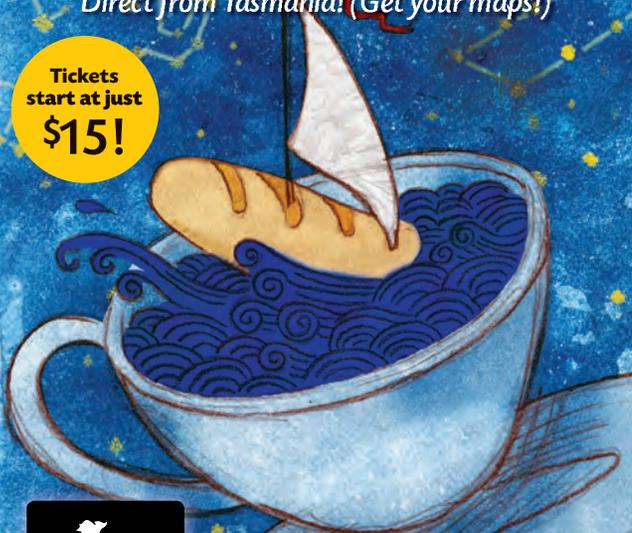
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Happenings in the Kyrene Corridor

Online degrees coming to MCC

Starting this summer, Mesa Community College will offer more than 20 online degrees and certificates following approval of its plan by the Higher Learning Commission.

MCC submitted an application to the commission last fall, seeking approval to offer degree and certificate programs via distance delivery.

A site visit was conducted by HLC in October.

Formal notification of HLC's approval to expand distance learning education to include 100 percent degree programs was received recently.

While MCC has offered online classes for several years, students will now have the opportunity to complete a degree fully online. Currently, the college offers more than 500 eLearning classes through Internet, hybrid or Web-enhanced delivery methods, which allow students convenient and flexible options to advance their education.

"This is a significant milestone for MCC," said MCC President Dr. Shouan Pan. "Our focus on academic excellence, student success and student support in the virtual environment is paramount to helping students achieve their educational ambitions."

Information: 480-461-7700 or mesacc.edu/elearning

Kajukenbo to train state employees

Kajukenbo Arizona, with Chandler/Gilbert and Mesa/Tempe locations, has been named the exclusive martial arts provider for the state of Arizona's 17,000 employees and their families.

Students with state-issued ID cards will receive a 10 percent discount on training at either location.

The program is open to students ages 12 and up who participate in a team sports program at their school. Students can join the program at a discounted rate of \$50 per month (paid

— HAPPENINGS, Page 19

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Happenings

From Page 15

in advance) and invite their coach to attend CrossPIT classes at the dojo at no charge.

Schools with two or more students participating will receive a donation of \$50 per participant from Kajukenbo Arizona for their school's athletic program.

Information: 480-755-3008.

Chandler newspaper co-publisher succumbs

Geoff Hancock, who with his wife Laurie Fagen published the San Tan Sun News for the past 10-plus years, died Sunday after battling pancreatic cancer for more than two years.

Hancock, 61, who guided the newspaper's production and advertising departments, helped grow the paper from 7,000 copies to almost 40,000. He is survived by his wife and a son, Devon.

A memorial service is pending at a future date.

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Guests are invited to tour the Gallery until 7 p.m. and stay for the Tempe Comedy Concert Series, which brings the best Valley comics to the stage at 7:30 p.m.

tempe.gov/TCA

Showing at TCA

- Through May 25 – Green Revolution (exhibition)
- March 9 – Family Art Workshop: Mitch Fry, Cardboard Trees
- March 9 – Lakeshore Music Jazz Series: An Evening with Karrin Allyson
- March 11 – Paul McDermand Steel Drums
- March 11 – Hong-Mei Xiao Recital
- March 15 – Tempe Comedy Concert Series: Kirsten Alberts
- March 16 – JR. Muay Thai Grand Prix
- March 19 – Performance with a View: ASU Guitar Ensembles
- March 19 – Brubeck Brothers Quartet: Dave Brubeck Tribute
- March 22 – Tempe Comedy Concert Series: Improv Night at TCA
- March 23 – Lakeshore Jazz Series: Dominick Farinacci Quartet
- March 24 – 2013 AZ United States Pageant
- March 28 – Excellence in Education
- March 29 – Class Clowns Comedy
- March 29 – Tempe Comedy Concert Series: Kevin O'Dea's Stand-up Comedy Circus
- March 30-31 – Childsplay: "Boats"
- March 30 – Phoenix Symphony: Robert Moody Returns
- March 31 – ASU Origins Project Film Screening
- April 6 – INFLUX at Tempe Center for the Arts: Christy Puetz
- April 3 – Poetry in April: Michele Poulos
- April 4 – Tempe Youth Symphony
- April 5 – Lakeshore Jazz Series: Snarky Puppy
- April 6 – Mrs. Arizona America Pageant
- April 6-14 – Childsplay: "Recipe for Disaster"



Brubeck Brothers Quartet



Robert Moody



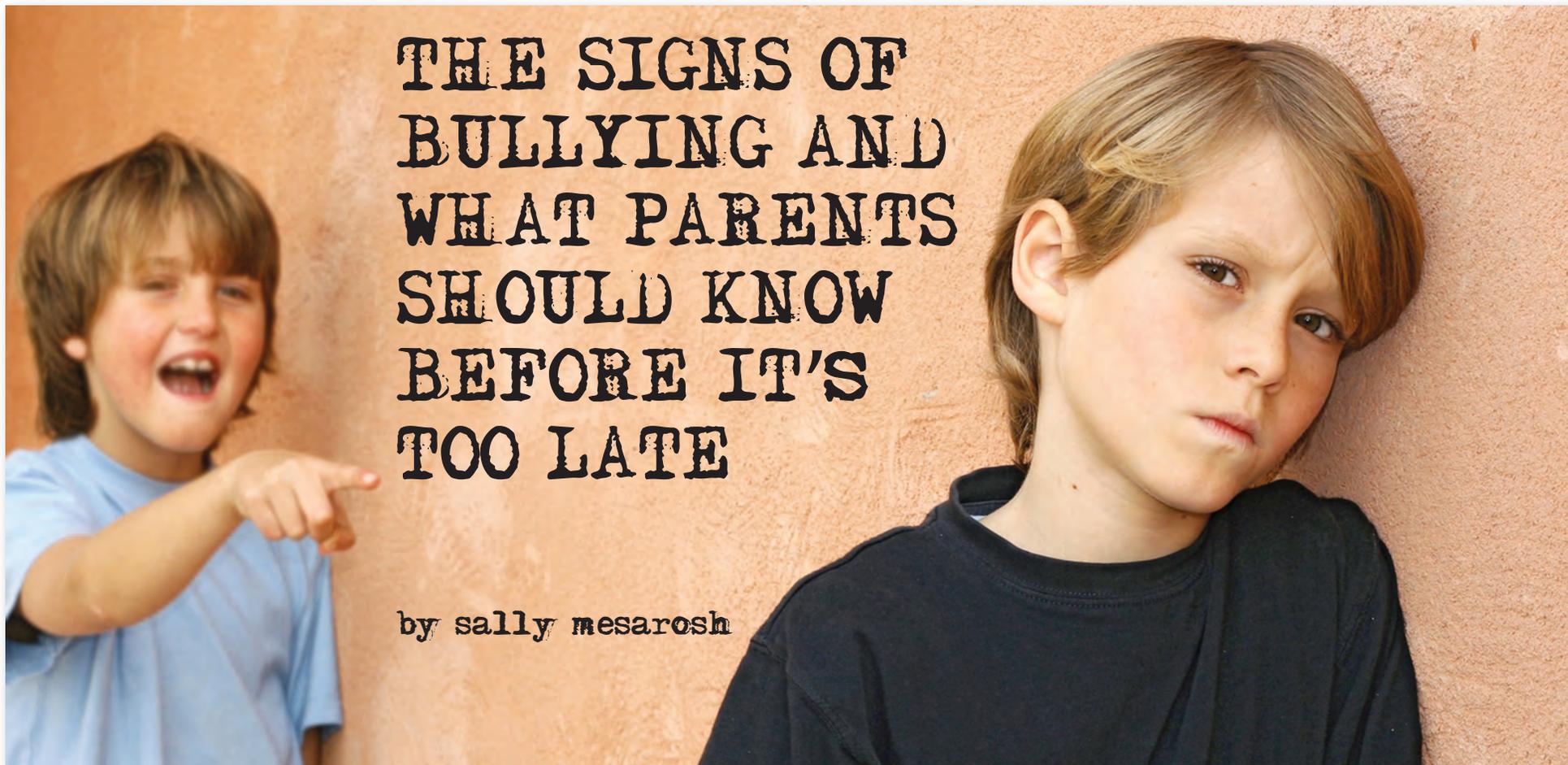
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Snarky Puppy



Schedule is subject to change ~ updates: www.tempe.gov/TCAevents



THE SIGNS OF BULLYING AND WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

by sally mesarosh

News reports of recent school shootings, violence and suicides express the concern the nation has in regard to the mental health of its youth.

Childhood exposure to severe bullying, in particular, is cited as a frequent cause of serious long-term effects that ultimately can lead to anxiety, depression and suicide in adults.

No one is less concerned than Amanda Hamm and her corps of prevention specialists working their hardest to ensure that Kyrene kids learn about bullying, how to spot it, how to prevent it.

The statistics on bullying are sobering, says Hamm:

- ▶ Almost 30 percent of young people participate in bullying behaviors or are bullying victims.
- ▶ Every day, around 160,000 students do not attend school because they are afraid of being bullied.
- ▶ Young people who have been bullied are two to nine times likelier than their non-bullied peers to consider suicide.

National policymakers, school administrators and parents no longer consider bullying just a youthful rite of passage. Anti-bullying campaigns that came into play a few years ago are being re-examined, and schools are ramping up their efforts to help students and families.

Todd Patkin, author of *Finding Happiness: One man's Quest to Beat Depression and Anxiety and—Finally—Let the Sunshine In*, says:

“Suicides are still happening, and that’s not even mentioning the thousands of kids whose lives are destroyed or diminished—but not ended—by bullying.”

It’s not enough to institute zero-tolerance policies against bullying. Parents and teachers are

striving to teach all kids to not participate in or tolerate bullying behavior.

In the Kyrene schools, Prevention Manager Hamm said the district utilizes myriad programs to help build personal social skills that all kids need.

“If you can get all students on the level of ‘bullying is not ok’ and to speak words of kindness, that reduces bullying on campus,” Hamm said.

One example is “Rachel’s Challenge,” a program based on the life of Rachel Joy Scott, the first student killed in the Columbine massacre. All Kyrene middle schools participate in the program, which presents students with five challenges that train them to look for the best in others and choose positive influences.

Another program, “Mix it Up Day,” is a national event in which students wear mismatched clothing and sit with different people at lunch.

“By mixing it up and sitting with people you don’t know, you make a personal connection and find things in common,” Hamm said.

“This increases the social network of the school in a positive way.”

For parents, Hamm advises starting young to develop empathy and emotional resiliency.

“We need to teach skills immediately and not just to kids who need it,” Hamm said. “All kids need to know how to handle emotion and how to be kind. Empathy is a thinking skill, which means it’s learned. It’s not natural.”

There are several processes involved. Hamm passes these tips on to parents:

- ▶ Help students name their feelings and emotions. Ask if they are mad, frustrated or disappointed, or have other feelings that concern them. Go beyond sad or mad. If a child can name his or her feelings, effectively communicating can be made easier.

- ▶ Discuss your child’s feelings and encourage open communication. Listen to your child and validate those feelings. This allows you as a parent to see things from a child’s perspective.

- ▶ Encourage anger management skills. Teach children to recognize their personal triggers, which are different for everyone. For example, a child exhibiting clenched hands or a flushed face signals emotional upset. If you as a parent can recognize your child’s triggers, you can teach it to them.

For older kids, do it at a time they are willing to talk. If you see your child come home upset, the child needs to talk. But some kids need processing time. That doesn’t mean you don’t talk about it; you just offer a time in the future to listen.

“Talk to them about solutions and help them come up with their own solutions,” Hamm said. We have to give them skills to help themselves. You have to spur that thinking.”

Hamm advises talking to kids every time an opportunity comes up, whether it’s prompted by something they’ve seen in daily life, movies or books.

“Ask, ‘How did you feel?’ How do you think they felt?’ ‘Could you help your friend?’ “Just listen to your kids and ask more questions so that they talk instead of instantly providing the solution. They’ll find the solution.”

“There’s nothing more important to middle school kids than their social relationships. It’s a time you’re thinking about who you are as a person and so we need to help our kids emotionally using many situations.”

Kyrene Parent Summit — *When:* Thursday, April 25, 5-8 p.m., Centennial Middle School, Ahwatukee. Dinner 5-6 p.m., Parent Workshops 6-8 p.m. (includes childcare). 12 classes to choose from, including Cyber Bullying, How to Raise a Civic-Minded Child and other topics.

BATTER UP

BASEBALL COACH PITCHES WHAT MAY BE A LIFE CHANGING CONCEPT TO HIS TEAM

Corona head baseball coach Dave Webb's chance meeting with a young man last fall turned out to have an unexpected, and at the same time beneficial, impact, not only on Webb but on his players and the entire team as well.

"Last fall, while working for USA Baseball," Webb said, "I met a young man who gave me an idea for a community project to bring unity to our Corona baseball team and impress upon them the notion of selflessness this spring."

Webb met Chase Jones, a promising baseball player at the University of North Carolina until he was diagnosed with a brain tumor his freshman year. Jones underwent chemotherapy and surgery. He eventually beat his cancer, but his baseball career was over.

Jones did not let it get him down and instead took his experience with cancer and his connection as a baseball player to another level. He started working with an organization called BaseBald, whose purpose was to help high school and college teams raise money for juvenile/pediatric cancer patients. The baseball players, after raising money, would then shave their heads to honor what juvenile cancer patients went through losing their hair to cancer treatment.

In January, Jones started his own organization, Vs Cancer, to promote the same goals, according to Webb.

"Our team decided to participate in Vs Cancer and donate all of our proceeds to the Phoenix Children's Hospital," said Webb. "We chose to participate in this endeavor to teach our players here at Corona the value of 'selflessness,' a concept we constantly talk about in our program."

"We started by setting up a donation website and encouraging people to donate money to help fight juvenile cancer," said Webb. "Our initial goal was \$2,000 but as of Feb. 24, we had already raised \$3,224 for our cause."

The team chose Feb. 16 to kick off its season and to have a mass head shaving event to honor the young and courageous

kids who fight for their lives every day after being diagnosed with cancer. Every Corona player and coach participated, with a total of 72 heads shaved over home plate on Corona's varsity baseball field.

Professional hair stylists from Ace's Barbershop and Salon not only volunteered their time and effort to the cause but closed their shop for the 3½ hours it took to shave everyone's head on a Saturday afternoon, according to Webb.

What were the players' reactions to having their heads shaved?

"At first I was nervous and thought it was going to be a big deal to cut off all my hair," said infielder **Thomas Gordon**.

"But then I realized that cutting off my hair did not even compare to the struggles these kids have with cancer. I know my hair will grow back, but they don't know what their future holds."

A company has offered to match the baseball team's donations, so it is estimated that they will soon be sending Phoenix Children's Hospital a check for more than \$6,500.

An unexpected benefit of participating in a project similar to this is the impact it has on individual players and their way of thinking about life, said a player. "I learned that that most of us are so lucky to have our health and we should not take for granted the little things in life," said right fielder **Shawn Maloney**. "I want to be more positive and try to help people in any way possible in the future."

"Being able to help kids with cancer by only having to do something so small as shaving our heads made us feel good," said **Josh Ethier**.

"Every day we take our hair for granted when some cancer victims may give anything to have their hair back."

"Participating in raising money for Vs Foundation made me learn that it's not all about me," said **Colby Hamilton**. "It felt good to show support for the ones who need help."

The impact a community service project can have on a team's season is tremendous.

"I think our team chemistry got stronger as we all got our



Members of Corona del Sol's Aztec baseball team donated nearly \$6,500 to Phoenix Children's Hospital after getting their donation matched by a corporate sponsor. Players Jake Martin, left, Matt Reum and Nathan Chokey with volunteered to lose their locks.

— Photo courtesy Brad Coen

hair cut together," said first baseman **Rick Riley**. "It helped us kick off to our season united and got us pumped to do something together as a team."

"It's like we all came together to and made a big commitment to support a single

cause or goal and at the same time it brought our team closer together," said Gordon.

"We not only had a common goal to support Vs Cancer; we now have a common goal on the baseball field," said Maloney.

— Alex Zener

Sports

From Page 7

Trevor Wood are the junior players while **Damon DeVirgilio** and **Eric Schwalbe** are the two sophomores.

After defeating Chandler 11-1 with hits by almost all the starters mentioned, including two home runs by Maloney and a hit by senior Fett, the Aztecs had a game March 5 against Desert Vista at home and then a game due at Chandler March 8.

Up next Corona was scheduled to play at home against Hamilton March 14, at Pinnacle March 19 and at Mesa March 20.

Corona Boys Volleyball —

Corona's boys volleyball team started its season Feb. 28 after returning only three players from a team that was undefeated in the regular season last year and was the No. 2 seed in the state tournament.

The Aztecs graduated 10 seniors and are currently just trying to get up to speed by mixing the three veteran players in with a bunch of young guns with hopes of steadily improving as the season progresses.

The Aztecs did not get much time to gel as a team before facing some of the best teams in the state at the Chandler Wolf Howl

Invitational tournament in their second outing of the season last weekend. Eight of the Republic's top 10 preseason teams competed.

"Our team is obviously concentrating on learning how to play together early in the season," said coach **Brynne Evans**. "Our challenge is going to be getting comfortable with one another on the court. Developing trust and discipline together will be a goal for the entire season along with improving every time we play."

Returning players include senior outside hitter **Blake Pendleton**, senior middle blocker **Nic Plott**, and junior setter and opposite hitter **Matthew Lake**.

Pendleton, starting his fourth year on varsity and one of the team captains and go-to hitters, was the only Corona player selected as a "player to watch" by the Republic in the preseason.

"Blake, our most consistent defensive player, is working hard on becoming a more dynamic outside hitter and developing into the player that can place a ball or put a ball down when needed," said Evans.

"Nic, another of our team leaders and go-to hitters, is by far our strongest blocker right now. We are counting on him to lead our younger middle blockers while working on further strengthening his own blocking."

Ask the Expert: Denise A. McGinley, RN, MSN Ad

What your feet reveal about your health

Your feet can reveal vast information about your overall health. From cold feet to cracked heels, your feet may show symptoms of serious health conditions before they are evident in any other part of your body.

"It's important to listen to your feet," said Denise McGinley, director, Center for Orthopaedic Innovation at St. Luke's Medical Center and Tempe St. Luke's Hospital. "A simple inspection may help to detect health issues ranging from diabetes to circulation and kidney problems."

McGinley says these are some of the top red flags to look out for:

Red Flag: Cracked heels

Cracked heels can start with calluses as a result of wearing flip-flops too often, wearing ill-fitting shoes, or standing for prolonged periods of time. They can also be a symptom of thyroid disorders, fungal skin disorders or diabetes.

Red Flag: Hairless feet or toes

Surprise! Hairy toes are healthy.

That's because poor circulation, usually caused by vascular disease, can make hair on the feet vanish.

Red Flag: Sores that will not heal

These can be a major indicator of diabetes or severe peripheral vascular disease. Elevated blood glucose levels and poor circulation both lead to nerve damage that will cause sores to go

unnoticed. Eventually these sores may lead to severe infections, or even amputation.

Red Flag: Swollen feet

Swollen ankles and feet are common and usually are not a cause for concern, especially after walking or standing for long periods of time. However, feet and ankles that stay swollen can be a sign of something more serious ranging from minor injury or infection to serious heart or kidney problems.

Red Flag: Numb feet

Being unable to feel your feet or having a heavy pins-and-needles sensation is a hallmark sign of damage to the peripheral nervous system. The peripheral nervous system sends information from the brain and spinal cord to every part of the body. The top causes of numbness and tingling are back problems, vascular compromise

and diabetes, and chronic alcohol abuse.

Red Flag: Cold feet

We're not talking about the nervous pit in your stomach. People often complain of cold feet, especially women, and it may be nothing or it may be a symptom of an under functioning thyroid or poor circulation, especially if accompanied by muscle cramping or mottling.

If you experience any of these foot issues, a trip to the doctor's office should be your next step.

Denise A. McGinley is the director for the Center for Orthopaedic Innovation at St. Luke's Medical Center and Tempe St. Luke's. For more information, visit www.AZMoreMotion.com. This information is provided by Tempe St. Luke's Hospital as general information only and is not intended to replace the advice of a physician.

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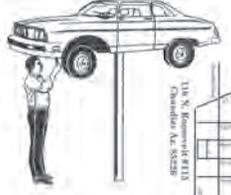
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Kids' artwork generates \$600 profit at Taste of Kyrene auction



By Preslie Hirsch

With the help of inspirational teachers, creative students, an innovative Kyrene school board member and a contest by the Arizona Department of Education, life for kids has gotten a lot more colorful.

Behind this shared enthusiasm was a department of education initiative to solicit artwork from elementary students statewide.

The creative spark that emerged from the kids' efforts resulted in test booklets for an English-language-learner assessment to an auction of student art at the recent Taste of Kyrene.

Linda Harvey, a department of education spokeswoman, said more than 200 submissions were received as the project grew in scope.

"The decision (to host the contest) was made in collaboration with the publisher and the department of education in order to showcase English-language-learner artwork," said Harvey.

"The students' artwork was matched according to the grade and age of the test booklet it would appear on," Harvey said.

"After preliminary review the artwork was scored by a panel of judges who rated all of the submissions."

Two selections were provided to the graphic arts designer from each grade level; next came the production

of draft covers, ensuring that the artwork would meet standards needed to reproduce well as artwork on the final piece.

Four Kyrene de los Niños students won, with two more receiving honorable mention. Kinora Hernandez, structured-English immersion coach at Niños, submitted the pieces. And, with the guidance of the school's art teacher, Jennifer Pooler, the winning pieces represented considerable variety, all encompassing developed art skills and famous concepts, like those of famed Southwest artist Georgia O'Keefe.

Other student winners were Abby Matus and Sam Samaan (both currently attending Kyrene Middle School); Ronald Chan; and Shrutie Biyala. The two students who received honorable mention were Natalie Galvez and Monica Porras.

"I am so proud of these students," Pooler said.

"Each of them worked hard and deserves this recognition. I feel honored to have all of them in my classes because they make my job a true joy."

The six pieces will be displayed at

the Arizona Department of Education building in Phoenix, the Kyrene district office and on the covers of the English-language-learner test booklets. The families will also receive a copy to display at home.

When the winning students presented their artwork at a Kyrene school board meeting, the reaction was overwhelmingly positive, which sparked an idea in Kyrene Governing Board member Michelle Hirsch.

"With the Taste of Kyrene event coming up, I thought it would be a perfect way to showcase these talented students' beautiful artwork and benefit the Kyrene Foundation," said Hirsch.

"So I paid for the printing and framing, and counted on lots of bidding at the auction."

Taste of Kyrene, which was held Feb. 28 at the Castle at Ashley Manor, generates support for the Kyrene Foundation, an organization that funds programs, grants and scholarships to benefit students, teachers and Kyrene families at 26 Kyrene district schools.

Of the total produced at this year's event, more than \$600 came from the sale of the students' artwork.

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Diversions

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Plucky 'Jack' a lavish new fantasy

A story with a hero named Jack is always promising. The Ripper aside, fictional Jacks tend to be plucky, resourceful working-class fellows who overcome adversity through courage and native wit, without benefit of being knights or princes.

Indeed, in latter-day retellings they sometimes even get the Princess—and while killing a giant may be impressive, being accepted by the 1 percent is truly the stuff of fairy tales.

The Cornish folktales known since at least the 18th Century as *Jack the Giant Killer* have been adapted for the movies at least once already, in a pleasant 1962 version manifestly made in imitation of the Ray Harryhausen classic *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*.

The lavish new version now in Valley theaters, directed by Bryan Singer and called *Jack the Giant Slayer*, borrows elements from the earlier film but applies them to a retelling of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

The new movie's Jack is played by Nicholas Hoult of *Warm Bodies*, whose long, homely-handsome face lends itself to the idea of a farm-boy hero.

The script, by Darren Lemke, Christopher McQuarrie and Dan Studney, cleverly makes Jack's acquisition of the Magic Beans plausible without either violating the spirit of the story or making him a hopeless dupe.

The plot is also embellished to add a sweet Princess (Eleanor Tomlinson), a fretful King (Ian McShane), a scheming rat of a courtier-villain (Stanley Tucci, sly as ever), and a valiant guardsman (Ewan McGregor), among others secondary characters, all

effective.

But of course this movie must stand or fall by its giants, and it's nice to report that they're terrific—squalid and scabby and scary, but with a certain uncouth grandeur and with pungently distinctive characterizations, from the two-headed alpha male (the left head voiced by Bill Nighy, the gibbering right by John Kassir) down through various aggrieved subordinates and malcontents. They have pathos and a certain bitter dignity along with their menace; you want to see them defeated, but you don't hate them.

When episodic high fantasy of this sort is done right—soberly but not somberly, with unpretentious high spirits, a generous heart and a well-structured story that sticks to the rules it sets up—it can offer one of the keenest pleasures of which the movies are capable.

Jack the Giant Slayer comes closer to nailing this atmosphere than any I've seen in a while, much closer than the remake of *Clash of the Titans* from a couple of years back.

I don't think I could ever feel as warmly toward CGI effects as I do toward stop-motion animation, but that's personal nostalgia.

And it should be said that *Giant Slayer* is likely to be a little too frightening for smaller kids. But that's not a criticism either; it just means that they've taken their giants with proper seriousness. *Jack the Giant Slayer* is a strong entertainment.

Only in its final minute or two does it strike a very slightly sour note, when it links the story's legacy to an ongoing aristocratic fetish that is unworthy of a self-respecting Jack.

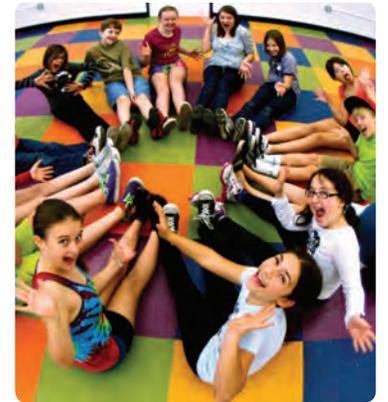
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He is a consultant for a joint implant manufacturer and travels around the country teaching other surgeons. Dr. Sharpe has been serving as an orthopedic consultant for the Chicago Cubs for over 10 years. He has learned much and continues to learn more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

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Sports

From Page 21

"Matthew, our other team leader, is in a pivotal spot for our team since he is the only trained setter we have right now," said Evans. "His consistency and accuracy will be crucial as the season progresses."

Eleven players are new to the varsity team, including two transfer students, a former player, two juniors, five sophomores and one freshman.

Michael Rivera, a junior opposite hitter, transferred from McClintock last year and is described by Evans as loud, aggressive and with a desire to get better.

Wes Goodman, another junior outside hitter, played one year at Mountain Pointe but is new to Corona volleyball this season.

"Wes has great basic skills, a positive attitude and a desire to get better at every practice," said Evans.

Connor Stuhmer, opposite hitter, is expected to become a dominant player once his court presence fully develops, according to Evans.

Junior middle blocker **Braedon O'Meara** has experience playing club ball with Corona's setter Lake.

"Matthew and Braedon already have made a great connection on the court which should continue to improve throughout the season," said Evans.

The other junior, outside hitter, **Tyler Weber**, understands the game well and is expected to be a big asset to the team when he becomes more consistent.

Several sophomores moved up from last season's JV team, including middle blocker **Devon Nelson**, outside hitter **Aidan Swansiger**, defensive specialist **Ridge Vanderbur**, defensive specialist **Chris Baker** and opposite **Trystin Nelson**.

"Trystin is brand new to volleyball but as a lefty he has a ton of potential," said Evans. "Devon also has a great deal of potential. We expect him to become a quick and dominant middle for us."

"I am looking forward to seeing Aidan's consistency and confidence build throughout the season because he has such a quick arm swing," said Evans.

"Ridge and Chris we will be counting on to play defense in the back row in addition to Pendelton. Ridge brings energy to the team on and off the court. He picked up the game quickly last season and is ready to step up a level."

"Chris, although new to volleyball, has the drive needed for the varsity level," said Evans.

"I don't know that I've ever seen a player new to volleyball hit the floor for a ball like Chris. He has great intuition and is figuring out his position very quickly."

Jeffrey McCain, the only freshman on the varsity team, also plays on the JV team as an outside hitter.

"Jeffrey is very athletic and I can't wait to see him learn the game," said Evans.

The Aztecs are highly motivated to have another winning season after so much success last year but only time will tell whether this young team will be able to learn how to play as a team and gain confidence as the season progresses.

A match scheduled March 9 was the Antelope Classic at Grand Canyon before spring break.

The Aztecs' next matches will be March 19 at Mesa Mountain View before the Brophy Invitational later that week.

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