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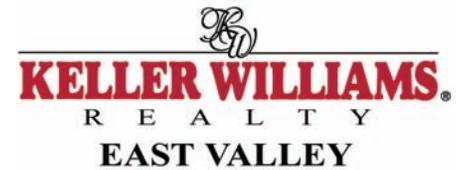


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Chandler - Old Stone Ranch

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Tempe - Sunset Shadows

3 Bedrooms / 2 Bath, 1,869 sf - Wonderful Tempe home, lots of charm and in a great location. Greatroom floor plan, cozy brick fireplace, with bar area and cabinets. The living room has vaulted ceilings and bay window. A large and open remodeled kitchen, with black appliances and a large kitchen nook and bay window as well. The backyard has nice grassy area and large pool to enjoy during the summer months!! Offered at \$175,000

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Cover story: Gerri Shaw

Going-away party is one more adventure for retiring principal

By Mark Crudup

Gerri Shaw retires this year after a decade as principal of Kyrene Aprende Middle School and 10 earlier years in classrooms around the district.

It's been quite an adventure, she admits, with lots of surprises along the way.

But Shaw got the biggest surprise of all this year at an assembly just prior to spring break: a video featuring teachers, staff and students saying farewell to someone many agreed was their all-time favorite principal.

"This assembly had a bonus twist to it," said Haley Jensen, Aprende eighth-grade math teacher. "The PTSO (Parent-Teacher-Student Organization) came to us and said that if we did what we were planning in the third quarter, she wouldn't be expecting it."

Cathleen Click, student council president at Aprende, said the students worked hard and successfully kept the presentation a secret.

"The video is of all the students and teachers waving goodbye," Click said, just before the assembly began. "So we're hoping to get some tears out of her."

No disappointment there: Shaw's eyes glossed over as the video played.

"I was totally shocked," she said. "I felt so honored that they would think to do something like that."

Although she's looking forward to retirement, Shaw said she has some regrets, as well.

"I will miss the students so much,"

she said. "They've been part of my family, seeing them grow – we've really been building community here."

Shaw began her first two years with the district alternating between Kyrene de los Niños and Kyrene de la Mariposa elementary schools, she said, watching as the district grew in the number of schools, moving to Aprende during the first year it was open.

"There were so many positive experiences," Shaw said.

"Personally, having the support of (Superintendent) Dr. Schauer to try innovative programs at Aprende helped to grow the school to what it has become."

That growth is visible for all to see in the banner hanging outside Aprende that distinguishes it as an A+ School of Excellence, a trademark of the Arizona Educational Foundation honoring successful student and staff programs at the school.

"We'll also be receiving an A+ Exemplary banner in April for our peer-tutoring program," Shaw said. "The Educational Foundation looks for unique programs like this, and it's something they, like other schools, need to be aware of."

The rise in student achievement is also a product of having a great group of parental involvement, she said.

"We have amazing parents here," Shaw said. "I can't say enough about the PTSO; they have been so great over the years."

"It's been so wonderful to be a part of this school and community."

Contreras honored for commitment to aiding women in their reach for success

National Bank of Arizona's Women's Financial Group has named Tempe insurance entrepreneur Mary Contreras as recipient of its Woman of the Year award.

The award recognizes women who have successfully demonstrated their ability to create a positive impact in the community through professional ethics, community philanthropy and business savvy.

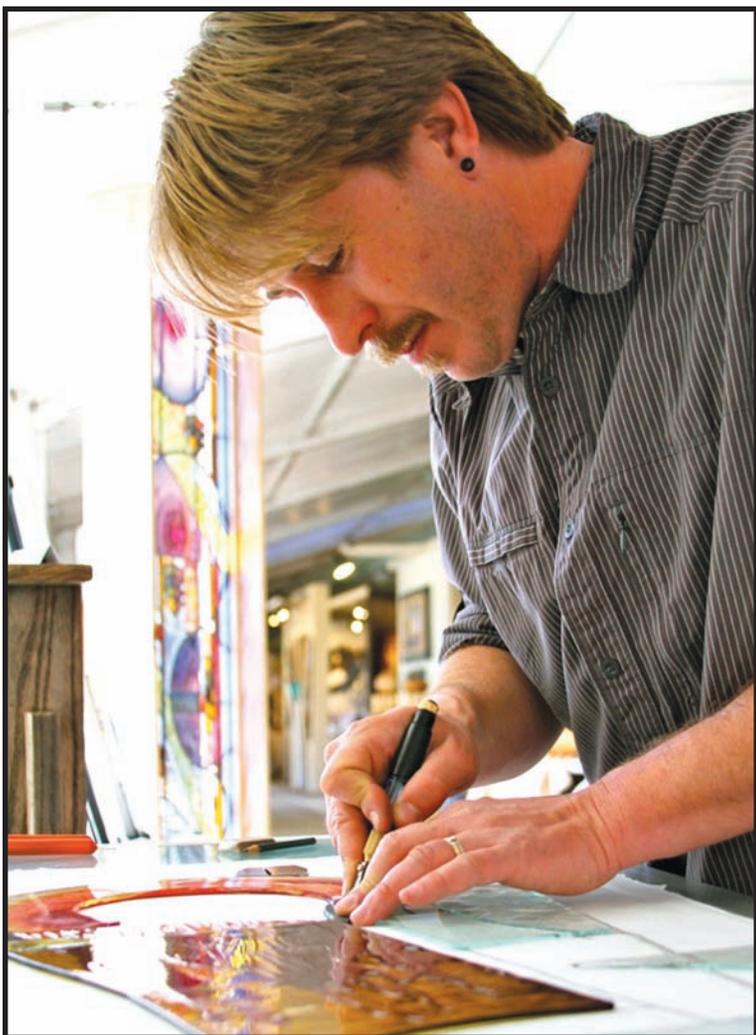
Competition is open to women whose companies are headquartered in Maricopa County or who do business regularly within Maricopa County. Awards are based on the review of a selection committee comprised of industry leaders and the National Bank

of Arizona Women's Financial Group Advisory Council.

Contreras, owner of Contreras State Farm agency in Warner Century Plaza, Tempe, was honored for her commitment to mentoring women, as well as for her efforts "to build confidence and self-esteem, guide skill improvement initiatives and promote the qualities of integrity, increased knowledge and love among her employees and others with whom she comes in contact."

She previously was honored with a Tempe Award for Diversity and was a 2009 winner of the Alfred P. Sloan Workplace Award.

Her offices are at 2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 101, Tempe.



Artist, his work at top-judged exhibit through March 25

Massive courthouse endeavor only one dimension of his talent

Story & photos by Lloyd Mullen

“I’m definitely not pushing any sort of agenda other than beauty itself,” says Troy Moody, a Corona del Sol graduate and Tempe glassworks artist.

“I’m just working with colors, textures and light to create a pleasing environment for the viewer.”

Moody was selected to design approximately 75,000 square feet of terrazzo artwork for the new Maricopa County Court Tower, potentially the largest terrazzo piece in the Southwest. Terrazzo is a composite material that can consist of marble, quartz, granite or glass. It is used for floor and wall treatments.

“This project was massive. It took a crew of 12 craftsmen to create it onsite,” Moody said. “There’s months of design conception,

rendering, color selection, placements—it’s quite a project.”

Moody said his interest was piqued by the scale of the project, and that he took as inspiration the surrounding landscape and the

His works are not ‘squirreled away’ in a private residence or exhibit. Says Moody: ‘These pieces are open to all walks, anybody.’

confluence of the Gila and Salt rivers.

“I think most artists are interested in scale, just from a design point of view. Going big has always been attractive,” Moody said.

— ARTIST, Page 19



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North Elevation



Shops A - East Elevation

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E - DE 5216 - 'AUTUMN UMBER'
F - DE 6069 - 'BANNISTER BROWN'
G - STONE VENEER

Conceptual Elevations

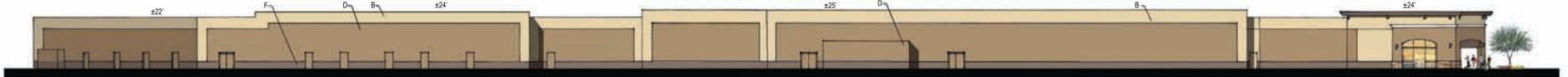
Scale: 1" = 20'-0"



Shops C - East Elevation



Shops C - North Elevation



Shops B & C - South Elevation

Bashas' - South Elevation

Shops A - South Elevation



Shops C - West Elevation

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\$1.5 mil remodel for Cobblestone Village

The same neighborhood-friendly entrepreneurship that brought new life to the McClintock Fountains retail center has its sights on another fixer-upper: the stores in Cobblestone Village.

Stephen Mariani, vice president of asset management for West Valley Properties Inc., says the company has launched a massive redesign effort aimed at updating the Bashas' center and its adjacent stores on the southwest corner of McClintock and Warner.

Negotiations for the \$1.5 million to \$1.6 million project have been in the works for the past 1½ years, and finally were firmed up with Bashas' signing of a new 15-year lease, Mariani said.

Work was due to get under way last week, with completion expected within four to five months.

If timing is a critical component of any such project, Mariani says his group feels that beginning now is consistent with recent positive data.

"We get economic reports from across the board,

and we see things improving," he said.

To keep that momentum going, the new ownership envisions the reconstituted Cobblestone Village as more of a destination than an afterthought, as some have regarded it in recent years.

One of the strategies discussed to create a "positive buzz" for the coming changes, according to Mariani, involves employing features with a newer, more contemporary look.

"The center has been suffering from a dated obsolescence, both in terms of its line-of-sight and the design," he said. Architects developing the plans say the scheduled improvements will go a long way to change that.

Junior anchor

One central focus of the redesign will involve recruiting what Mariani describes as a "mini-major" tenant, whose structure will reside in the area now occupied by a central fountain in the center's southwest corner.

A planned 12,000-square-foot building will emerge as what retail-center analysts describe as a "junior anchor," part of the overall conceptualizing of what it takes to provide an element of excitement to the changes, Mariani said.

Planners will start the center's modernization by replacing existing landscaping, which Mariani said has been described as a "mismatched hodgepodge" of trees, shrubs and ground cover. In their place will go thousands of leafy replacements that the new owners hope will give the center the feel of a place where they'll want not just to shop but to linger—to think of as "a gathering place."

Mariani says his company feels good about the planned landscaping-replacement program, having proven the long-term success of a similar effort at McClintock Fountains, which it also manages, several years ago. A group of nearby residents objected to plans to renovate that center, which included removing trees and other vegetation.

All-City Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

Coach discounts team's youth, says last season's returnees can help offset weaknesses

Corona del Sol's baseball team is young this season but strong on speed, hitting, defense and baseball knowledge, according to head coach Dave Webb.

"Our weakness is probably youth," said Webb, "but they can still play the game."

Webb will also be relying on the experience of seven players from last season who played significant varsity games to have an impact this season and help lead the Aztecs' young team: **Kyle Jorgensen, Josh Ethier, Jeff Carter, Shawn Maloney, Michael Gammon, Rick Riley** and **Chris Tate**.

"Starters from last season include senior Jorgensen, a utility player who can flat out hit, with a .454 batting average and seven home runs last season," said Webb.

"Kyle has great potential to compete at the next level."

"Returning juniors include Ethier, a slick fielding shortstop who started and hit .350 as a sophomore," said Webb, "and Carter, a switch hitting second baseman and stud leadoff hitter, who hit .330 last season and is a terror on the bases."

"Another returning starter is junior Rick Riley, a catcher who can throw and hit with anyone," said Webb. "Rick hit .442 as a sophomore. He has a twin brother, **Ryan**, playing outfielder on varsity this season who is every bit the player as Rick."

New to the team but expected to make a big contribution to the team's overall success are sophomores **Nathan Chokey, Trevor Wood** and **Nathan Birecki**, according to Webb.

Unfortunately, the Aztecs are going to need their pitchers to step up big for the team this season because they already have lost two pitchers to injury.

"We lost our No. 1 and No. 2 arms already," said Webb. "**Garret Poole**, who pitched on varsity last year as a freshman, tore his ACL and is out for the year, and then senior Michael Gammon, who saw action in 18 games as catcher, with 59 put-outs, and seven as pitcher, is out for the first couple of months with elbow issues."

Other players who hope to help the Aztecs improve on their 14-15 overall

record from last season and return to the state tournament include **Colby Hamilton, Tyler Peterson, Jake Martin, Thomas Gordon, Justin Zimmer, Vince Quintanna, Nick Radford, Charlie Markman, Billy Clemens** and **Nick Marciano**.

The Aztecs started the season playing in Brophy's annual Adam Donnenfield Memorial Tournament Feb. 22-25, winning three (North Canyon, 16-6; Seton, 14-6; and Gila Ridge, 6-2) with one loss (Sandra Day O'Conner, 10-3) before their final game against Brophy was postponed.

The Aztecs had an 8-3 record, as of March 18, and were on a four-game winning streak after defeating Desert Vista in a close 4-3 game at the Thunder's home field.

Aztec pitchers **Nathan Birecki** and **Chris Tate** faced 32 Thunder batters altogether, struck out 5 and only allowed 3 runs while the Aztecs had a big fourth inning to hold on for the win. **Kyle Jorgensen, Josh Ethier, Ryan Riley** and **Rick Riley** all scored in the fourth on RBI's by **Colby Hamilton** (2), **Shawn Maloney** (1) and **Rick Riley** (1).

The Aztecs then went on to defeat Brophy 17-9 in a game where Ethier scored a team-high 4 runs with 3 stolen bases while at bat 4 times with 4 hits earning a 1.000 batting average.

Three Corona pitchers saw action and gained valuable experience against Brophy, Trevor Wood, Billy Clemens and Jacob Martin, allowing only 13 hits on 146 total pitches.

Corona then went on to beat Chandler 7-3 on March 9 and Hamilton 12-5 on March 15.

Up next Corona was expected to play in the spring break Husky Baseball Tournament March 19-22 against teams from all over the country during.

Marcos Pink Softball Fundraiser for Cancer Research

Last year's efforts by the Marcos de Niza softball team to raise money to help prevent breast cancer was just the beginning. At 9 a.m. March 31, the



Marcos de Niza's softball team started the first annual Pink Softball fundraising event for breast cancer and received sponsorship and Padre pink uniforms from Chapman Auto Body. Team includes, from left, bottom row: Head Coach Korine Gomez, Assistant Coach Raina Gomez, Captain Stephanie Montanez, Sabrina Hernandez, Eryca Garcia, Assistant Coach Jackie Acedo, Assistant Coach Loren Anguiano. ow: (L to R) Debbie Arnet From Chapman Body Shop, Izzy Matus, Ciera Caldwell, Niza Bilducia, Caitlin Watson, Captain Mallory Schneid, Bena Ormsby, Elena Quihuis, Deanna Rodriguez, Captain Lili Flores, Sara Sotelo, Kyla Jacobs-Cornish.

— Photo contributed by John Claus

team will host its second annual Pink Game with the goal of doubling the group's efforts to increase attendance and raise awareness for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research.

"Statistics show that one in eight women will eventually get breast cancer," said Marcos softball team captain **Stephanie Montanez**. "So someday someone I play ball with right now might end up with breast cancer. If there is anything we can do now to raise awareness for the need for breast cancer research, then we are all out for doing what we can to help prevent it."

With the help of head coach **Corine Gomez**, the team found a sponsor, Chapman Auto Body Shop, to supply the pink jerseys, and are now in the process getting everything organized for the Saturday game against Seton.

"Stephanie got the idea from the football team's pink game," said senior outfielder **Sabrina Hernandez**. "But we didn't raise as much money as we hoped last year, so this year we are starting early to get the word out in the hopes of getting more community involvement and support."

Both Seton and Marcos players will be sporting their pink jerseys and representative from the Komen Foundation will attend to not only

raise money and increase awareness for breast cancer research but for girls athletics.

"We work hard, we train hard, and we take our commitment to our team and the softball program very seriously," said Montanez. "Last year, the total monetary value of what we collected didn't compare to the awareness we created for cancer research and our softball program."

The game, held on the MdN softball field, should be a fine showcase of student athletes organizing an event for a charitable cause.

Marcos Track and Field

After incredibly good results during the 2010-11 season, the Padres will probably be in rebuilding mode this season.

"We felt that we had our most successful year overall in regards to the end results for the boys and girls team in 2011," said head coach **Samuel Johns**. "We had more kids qualify for state than we have had in the past, plus we finished well in several events."

"Our girls team finished sixth at

Mom's vision of future comes true for new author

Story & photo by Jennifer Pillen Banks

Growing up, Brooke Bessesen's mother told her she'd probably be a children's author someday.

Bessesen's response? "No way; I don't think so."

Now an adult, Bessesen is exactly what her mom predicted, and an award-winning one, at that.

While she wonders at the influence of her mother's words, she believes the real reason she became a children's author was to "connect with likeminded people."

Elementary students, she explained, "are still passionate and curious about animals, wildlife and the world around them."

And earlier this month, she shared that passion with students at Kyrene de los Niños Elementary school.

When she began her presentation for first- and second-graders with a video of her encounters with white tigers, tarantulas and sea turtles, among other creatures, the room quickly erupted with oohs, aahs and cheers.

"I was surprised that she showed us more about real animals than she did about her books," said third grader Riley Proctor, who now plans to write about the Arctic and the African Savanna in the fashion of Bessesen's books *Look Who Lives in the Desert* and *Look Who Lives in the Ocean*.

Niños librarian Holly Johnson said that, after Bessesen's presentation, "the classes were checking



out nonfiction like crazy."

Bessesen tells students that her books are a concoction of experience, knowledge and imagination, a recipe they, too, can use.

Zachary Z. Packrat and His Amazing Collections, for example, is inspired by Bessesen's "packrat" parents, her work with actual packrats, and an article she read about ancient packrat middens.

Bessesen's books are a great example of "bridging fiction and nonfiction," said Niños librarian and

teacher Sara Berns, who uses children's books as models when she conducts a "Writers Workshop" with her second graders. "We write, publish and present, just like authors do professionally," said Berns. "It's so great for the students to see a true, live author."

During her presentation Bessesen shares early samples of her writing, including a three-sentence story with cross-outs, misspellings and malformed letters from when she was around six years old.

Bessesen reassured students that the way to get better at writing "is just like with baseball, piano, Spanish or anything else: Practice, practice, practice."

Johnson said that Bessesen's sharing of her progression as a writer really helps students "get the big picture of what it means to write and be a writer."

Niños fifth grader Isaiah Carbajal admitted he was surprised by "how much [Bessesen] puts into her job to find out all the interesting stuff about animals. It takes a lot of editing and time to write."

Ultimately, Bessesen hopes her presentations leave elementary students believing they can be good at anything with practice.

She aims to give them "a spark of their own potential—that moment where they realize that maybe they could do something they dream of," she said.

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Must Sell - AZ Investing

Lease-back concept viewed for teachers

By Mark Crudup

One more potential revenue-generator for the Kyrene School District is under study, focusing on a phased retirement plan that would lease retired employees back to the district through an outside company at 78 to 80 percent of the employee's salary.

Employees would collect a portion of their retirement pension at the same time.

During a Kyrene Governing Board study session held in early March, Jeremy Calles, Kyrene's director of business services, said a task force is developing ways the plan could be beneficial for both the employee and the district. That group has said it will present a recommendation to the board in April.

"In lieu of keeping their contract, (Kyrene employees) would retire and then be leased back," Calles said.

"We would have the same quality, experienced Kyrene teachers; we're not leasing back teachers from another district; we're not leasing back any employees who weren't already our employees."

Calles said employees who opt for this program would have increased income but decreased job security, as the contract with smartschoolsplus is good for only one year.

Calles presented an example of how the process would work for employees wanting to take advantage of it.

"So, (when) we've already finished the RIF (reduction in force) process, we've given you a contract saying that we have a position for you next year. You turn your contract back in, and say, 'I don't want the contract, I would rather retire and be leased back,'" Calles said.

"You get one year, but you have no guarantee after that one year that you're going to come back again."

Employees would then have to reapply for their position each following year, he said, and would earn the same amount of pay (78 to 80 percent of their previous salary) in subsequent years.

The district would gain savings from retired employees coming back to work at a reduced rate, Calles said.

Although the phased retirement would be an opt-in program, board member Ellen Shamah said she does not support it, as leased-back employees would eventually see decreased pay after their first year back.

"I think it's a fancy way of decreasing teachers' salaries," Shamah said.

Sandee McClelland, a retired principal at Rover Elementary, is now president of Smartschoolsplus Inc., a company specializing in phased retirement programs already being used by neighboring school districts, said without an incentive provided by a program like this, many teachers will not retire right now, due to the economy.

"If this wasn't made available to them, they wouldn't be retiring and there would be no vacancy for a young teacher to slide into."

Board member Ross Robb said the concept poses large-scale questions, including why the district would rehire employees back in the first place.

"There are really just too many variables to figure it all out," he said. "To me, the advantage of it seems to be it's a choice."

The question of how many would opt for the program, which would determine the district's predicted savings, remains unanswered, Calles said.

The board is expected to study the recommendation further and possibly act on the recommendation during its April 10 meeting.

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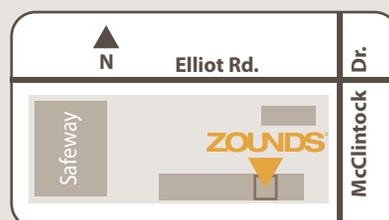
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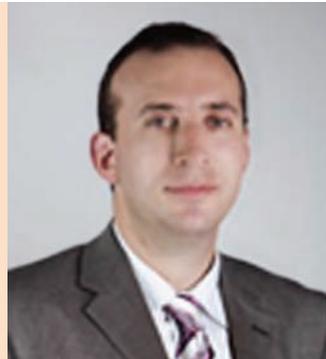
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Dr. Matthew Karlovsky is a board-certified urologist who is also specialty-trained in female pelvic health issues such as urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse and recurrent urinary tract infections.



He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, as well as articles in the lay press. Dr. Karlovsky has appeared in *M.D. News*, and on various television, radio and Internet broadcasts. He is a health writer for various websites including EmpowHer.com and Sun Times Online, and gives talks to doctor and public groups on matters of female pelvic health.

Dr. Karlovsky completed medical school at the State University of New York - Brooklyn, his urology residency at Temple University in Philadelphia, and fellowship training in female urology at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York. He practices in Ahwatukee Foothills.

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EOE

Holidays still 9 months away, but Cds already planning next 'buddy' project

By Mark Crudup

This year's holiday season took on many forms for local families and others around the Valley.

Approximately 63 Corona del Sol student council members surprised kids at Crockett Elementary School with some joyful cheer, handing out gifts to their young counterparts and spending the day with the kids as they played with their new toys.

Ben Forbes, a Corona teacher who organizes the annual event (it's on this year's schedule as well), said this has become one of the most exciting days of the year for students at both schools. During the most recent event, the younger and older kids made gingerbread houses together, and those from Corona ordered a pizza lunch for the second-graders.

Corona student council members were asked to have their parents buy a \$50 gift for the Crockett students. Earlier in the year, elementary kids sent Christmas-wish letters to Corona, and gifts were bought specifically for each student.

"This is my fourth year sponsoring the event," Forbes said. "It has been a

student council tradition at Corona for a long time now."

Second-graders ran around in a flurry of excitement, riding scooters they received as presents and driving remote-control cars in the outside play area.

"They get a buddy for the day, and it's really nice because we'll have repeat student council members come back and they'll recognize their buddy from the previous year," Forbes said.

"They build these connections, spending the day with them playing games; it's a really neat experience."

Forbes added that the day can be a reality-check for some Corona students when they see how thankful the second-graders are for receiving the presents.

Robbie Choueiri, Corona student council president, said this was his second year being involved with the holiday event.

"I look forward to it every year, because you feel like you're making a difference in these kids' lives for a day," Choueiri said. "I wish I could always come back; it's really my favorite day of the whole school year."

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Marcos de Niza ninth grader Jackson Wilfert has some lofty aspirations following his weeklong participation in Honeywell's Leadership Challenge Academy.

— Photo contributed by Julie Wilfert

UP, UP & AWAY . . .

Marcos teen among 250 would-be astronauts hosted by Honeywell

Jackson Wilfert is keeping his eyes—and his career hopes—focused upward. The Marcos de Niza High School ninth grader is among 254 students from around the world who have just returned from the weeklong Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The unique, week-long program gives children of Honeywell employees a chance to develop their leadership skills through technology- and science-oriented workshops, lectures and team exercises that include simulated astronaut training that brings their studies to life.

"We were able to do simulated missions; I was in ground control, and

we had other students in a separate room that was designed to look like the inside of a space shuttle," Jackson said. "Everybody had the opportunity to be a leader at some point during the camp."

Developed in partnership with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the program is designed to encourage high school students to pursue space-related careers.

During the course of the program, students meet with scientists, engineers, and former astronauts to reinforce core leadership competencies and provide them with first-hand professional experiences.

Students engage in interactive

—HONEYWELL, Page 22

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Neonatal ICU expands its capability Wider range of mom, infant services now available at Chandler Regional Hospital

Moms giving birth to infants who are sick or born prematurely now have the added comfort and convenience of a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit opened recently at Chandler Regional Medical Center.

The unit offers 12 private patient rooms with overnight accommodations, as well as a private restroom and shower for one parent or caregiver.

Moms and babies who are being cared for in the specialized unit are those who require monitoring and, in some cases, support of vital functions.

Around-the-clock care is provided by neonatal nurse practitioners with specialized training beyond that of a registered nurse. Neonatologists oversee the care plan and are readily

available should changes occur in the patient's condition, according to hospital CEO Patty White.

"While planning our NICU, it was important that we provide private rooms with the necessary accommodations so a loved one could stay with the baby," said White. "The personal needs of our patients play a key role in the development of our new services."

The hospital's Family Birth Center recently completed several improvement projects designed to better serve patients, including spacious dedicated rooms for labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum stay; a secure postpartum area with large modern rooms; and a dedicated antepartum unit for patients in need of



Professional staff at Chandler Regional Medical Center's new neonatal ICU include, from left: Debbie Jourgensen, NICU clinical supervisor; Dr. James Zozobrado, medical director; Laurie McGowen; Lori Duffy; Stephanie Toner; Kelli Despaigne; Gina Barreras; Dr. Eva J. Condon; Dr. Anita Stola; Patricia Sparrazza; Julie Hoffman, nursery RN; Julie Hoffman, director of Maternal Child Health; Nancy Henderson, clinical supervisor. Kneeling: Erin Scheurn; Becky Burke; Alison Hardy; Laura Lantsberger.

— Photo courtesy Chandler Regional Medical Center

hospitalization and monitoring during their pregnancy. Each private room has a full monitoring system for mom and baby along with amenities such as crafts, movies, games,

magazines and free Wi-Fi access.

Also part of the recent improvements is an enhanced-services nursery with 16 beds for those requiring specialized care.

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Innovations Incubator Entrepreneurship class targets small businesses

As part of its mission to facilitate the growth of technology businesses citywide, west Chandler-based Innovations Incubator is launching what it calls a techEDGE entrepreneurship course for small-business owners.

The course is designed to give owners one-on-one access to experts that would be difficult to emulate.

"We had people that I wanted to speak with but were difficult to get to," said techEDGE graduate Mary Meadows, chief executive officer of H2 Pure Power, one of Innovations Incubator's tenant partners.

"We had the opportunity to interface with them, and they covered every aspect of growing a technology business."

The 10-week course is intended for entrepreneurs who are in the concept phase, early stage or growth mode. It's designed to be interactive and fast-moving with current, real-world information.

The curriculum was developed in

partnership with the Small Business Development Center and includes both formal instruction and individual consultations from professionals in their areas of expertise.

Topics include technology readiness, intellectual property, business analysis, investor strategies, market development, business process, strategic partnerships, financial management and accounting, capital formation strategies and human resources management.

The techEDGE class will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays from April 10 to June 19 at the incubator site, 145 S. 79th St., Chandler.

Class size is limited to 15, however a waiting list is being created for those who would like to reserve space in future courses.

Cost is \$120, and includes course materials and exclusive Web content.

For questions contact Sanjay Dhole, SBDC, at 480-809-6117 or sanjay.dhole@domail.maricopa.edu.



Mary Meadows says her participation in first techEDGE workshop helped her readjust the business model for her hydrogen-technology company at Innovations Incubator. — Photo by Jane Poston, Chandler Media Relations Dept.

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Notebook

From Page 7

the DII state meet," said Johns. "Our 4x800 meter relay team was state champion, as was **Kylee Kieser** in the 1600 meter run. Kieser, who graduated last May, was also runner-up in the 3200 meter run, while then sophomore **Savannah Whitehead** took second in the pole vault.

The boys team had champions at the state meet last season in the 100 meter dash and the 4x100 meter relay. The good news this season is that the Padres return 16 key members from last year's boys team, and Johns is predicting them to be strong in the sprints and jumps.

"We return three runners from that champion 4x100 relay team: **Brian Drew, Priest Willis** and **Josh Eckley**. In addition Drew will run the 400; Willis the 100 meter, long jump, triple jump and high jump; and Eckley the 100 meter, long jump and high jump," said Johns. "I also expect **Royal Bailey** to have an impact in the 110 and 300 meter hurdles."

"We also have three solid distance runners, **Julio Felix, Victor Lopez** and **Robert Cubedo**."

"**Jacob Lagunas** and **Logan Palmer** are our best jumpers, and then our senior pole vaulter, **Chris Wong**, who should have a great year," said Johns.

"In the field events, I expect **Tylor Henson** and **Marco Barros** to be competitive in the shot and discus events."

The Padres' focus this season will be not only in rebuilding but in defeating Ironwood Ridge, who Johns expects to be their main competition at the DII state meet.

The Padres won their match up against Desert Ridge at home on Feb. 29 in their first meet of the season. They also competed in the Aztec Invitational against several DI-A schools where the girls team finished seventh and the boys team ninth.

Notable girls team results included a first place for **Michelle Colbert, Jessey Tenorio, Kelly Wolf** and **Kaitlyn Law** in the 4x800 meter relay race. The Marcos 4x100 meter relay of **Antionette Ware, Teleya Bailey, Daria Clinton** and **DiOndre Mosley** came in fourth.

Tenorio was also eighth in the 800 meter run as was **Jamie Chan** in the 1600 meter run and Wolf in the 3200 meter run.

In the field events, Whitehead finished fourth clearing nine feet in the pole vault while **Iris Fanene** was fourth and **Curaun Thompson** sixth

in the shot put.

On the boys team, top finishers included **Josh Kirkwood's** third in the 40 yard dash and a third for Felix in the 800 meter run. **Dominique Brown** was sixth in the 100 and 200 meter dashes.

Wong took seventh in the pole vault while **Taylor Henson** was ninth in the discus throw.

Corona Softball

The Lady Aztec softball team, with 10 returning players, nine of them seniors, should be more experienced, stronger and better than last season, according to head coach **Jeep Ray**.

Sometimes having so many seniors can be a challenge, said Ray, but she is counting on all nine of them to provide leadership, especially ASU-bound **Abby Spiel, Nicole Giannonatti, Nicole Schwalbe, Lani Redmond, Paige Vallejos** and junior **BriAnna Schrimpf**.

Other players expected to contribute to the team's overall performance include seniors **Katie Koponen, Abby Johnson, Maddie Mayol**; juniors **Leah Kroeger, Christy Farrell, McKenna Isenberg, Bria Schmitt, Andrea Urias**; sophomores **Cassie Navarro** and **Mackenzie Bates**; and the lone freshman, **Sarah McCabe**.

Coach Ray is expecting Basha, Desert Ridge, Gilbert, Red Mountain, Perry and Mountain View to be the Aztecs' main competition in Section II and the DI state, in addition to Deer Valley and Pinnacle.

The Lady Aztecs started off their season playing in the Lion Country Tournament at Skyline High School Feb. 22-25, defeating Skyline 21, Perry 18-4 and Saguaro 12-2 while losing to Queen Creek, Basha, Skyline and Red Mountain.

Corona then went on a five-game winning streak before losing an away game to Chandler 3-2 March 9.

The Lady Aztecs, currently 8-4, were scheduled to play at Dobson March 20 before playing in the Desert Mountain Tournament March 21-23.

Games scheduled after spring break included an away game March 27 at Desert Vista and then two home games: March 28 at Chandler and March 30 at Mesa.

Corona Track and Field

Corona's track and field team returned a solid core of over 50 varsity members who worked hard in the preseason to come out strong with both

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Notebook

From Page 14

the girls and boys teams defeating Basha in their first meet and taking second to Desert Vista in their own Aztec Invitational, March 3. The boys team only lost to the Thunder by 10 points, 152-142.

"We have a solid core group on the boys team which should be able to make a run at the City Championship and place in the top five at state," said head coach **Tim Kelly**.

The track events (relays, sprints, hurdles, mid-distance and distance running) are currently the strength of the boys team according to Kelly.

The Aztecs showed this strength at the Aztec Invitational when **Nate Rodriguez** set a new meet record with his 4:23.58 time in the 1600 meter run and **Cody Jackson** took first and Rodriguez second in the 800 meter run. **Tevin Mayfield** also came in first in the 110 meter hurdles and second in the 300 meter hurdles while **Quinn Robertson** came in a strong third in the same event. **Brian Skinner** was second in the 40 yard dash as was **Nicholas Woods** in the 200 meter dash.

The boys relay teams all came in second at the Aztec Invitational: **James Contes**, Mayfield, **Stephen Hill** and **Dylan Huch** in the 4x100; **Hill, Huch, Woods** and **George Wright** in the 4x200; Woods, **Cody Jackson**, Mayfield and Rodriguez in the 4x400; and **Patrick Buck**, **Nick Creasman**, **Blake Fischer** and **Nick Martinez** in the 4x800.

The boys team continued to do well in the track events at the Brophy AMDG Invitational, March 8,

where the Aztecs took third place overall.

Several previously mentioned Aztec runners placed in the top 10 in addition to other top finishers including **Drake Ridge** and **Grant Fishburn** in the 400 meter, **Jacob Whitney** and Fischer in the 1600 meter and **John Osgood** in the 110 meter hurdles.

The boys field event team, although not as strong as the running events, showed improvement over last season.

"Our best boys team field event athletes were sophomores last year and are now juniors who are making huge strides after last year's experience and the off-season workouts," said Kelly.

This improvement was evident at the Aztec Invitational when Wright took second and **James Contes** fifth in the long jump, **Aaron Simons** second in the discus and sixth in the shot put and **Wyatt Larson** fifth in the triple jump.

These same athletes finished in the top 10 at the Brophy AMDG Invitational in addition to **Blake Jones** in the high jump, **Connor Littleton**, **Colen Ruan** and **Matt Eckles** in the pole vault, **Drake Ridge** and **Dakota Summers** in the triple jump, **Sam Radford** and **Jordan Summerville** in the discus and **Pat Carlson** in the shot put.

The girls team is young and had a few setbacks, such as injuries, early in the preseason according to Kelly but appears to be improving as the season progresses.

In addition to taking second at the Aztec Invitational, the girls team finished fourth at the Brophy AMDG Invitational with strong finishes both the track and field events.

Notable track results at the Aztec Invitational included: Second place finishes for **Hallie Swenson** in the 800 meter run, **Jackie Vogt**, 100 meter hurdles, **Grace Ashu**, 300 meter hurdles, Ashu, **Justice Onwordi**, Vogt and **Gabrielle Dotson** in the 4x100 relay and **Dani Lemieux**, **Victoria Haun**, **Kelly Nauman** and **Amberly Ricks** in the 4x800 relay.

Lemieux was third in the 3200 meter run, Ashu fourth in the 100 meter dash as was Haun in the 1600 meter run. **Stephanie Allen** came in third and **Dana McKenzie** fourth in the 100 meter hurdles while Vogt was fourth in the 300 meter hurdles.

The Lady Aztecs also received points from two third place relay teams. Onwordi, **Maggie Reid**, **Aery Ware** and **Mykiel Johnson** were third in the 4x200 meter relay as were Ashu, **Amina Swenson**, Dotson and Vogt in the 4x400.

Although McKenzie runs the hurdles events, she is strongest in the field events where she was first in the high jump, fourth in the triple jump and seventh in the long jump. Dotson was third in the long jump.

Lauren Lucky is Corona's main competitor in the shot put and the discus throw where she took first and sixth respectively at the Aztec Invitational.

Most of Corona's girls team also competed in the Brophy AMDG Invitational track events with the addition of **Megan Benson** who placed in the top 10 in the 100 meter and 300 meter hurdles, **Adrianna Fill** and **Ifeatu Mmegwa** in the 400 meter dash, **Jordan Chapman** and **Kelly Nauman** in the 800 meter run, **Caitlin Slater** in the 100 meter dash and **Sidney Bussler**, added as part of a 4x800 relay

— NOTEBOOK, Page 16

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Notebook

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team.

The same was true for the field event at Brophy with the addition of **Liann Kline** who competed in the triple jump, high jump and long jump, **Carli Giese**, **Staphanie Galsim** and **Sarah Wheeler** in the pole vault, **Michaela Yelland** and **Zoya Oyzerovich**, discus and **Kayleigh Simons**, shot put.

Coach Kelly expected the Aztecs main competition to come once again from Desert Vista, Mountain View, Chandler and Mountain Pointe but it appears that Brophy/Xavier and Basha are also doing well early in the season. Regardless, several aspects including off-season workouts and preseason training have had an affect on the competitiveness of Corona's track and field teams.

"We are proud of the way the track teams have attacked the pre-season, the weight room, the camp, the Susan Mortenson Turley Cancer Run Community Service Project, the Car Wash Fundraiser and the setting up our Aztec Invitational," said coach Kelly. "They have been positive, diligent and hard-working; no matter what we have done, our kids have been first class and committed the entire way."

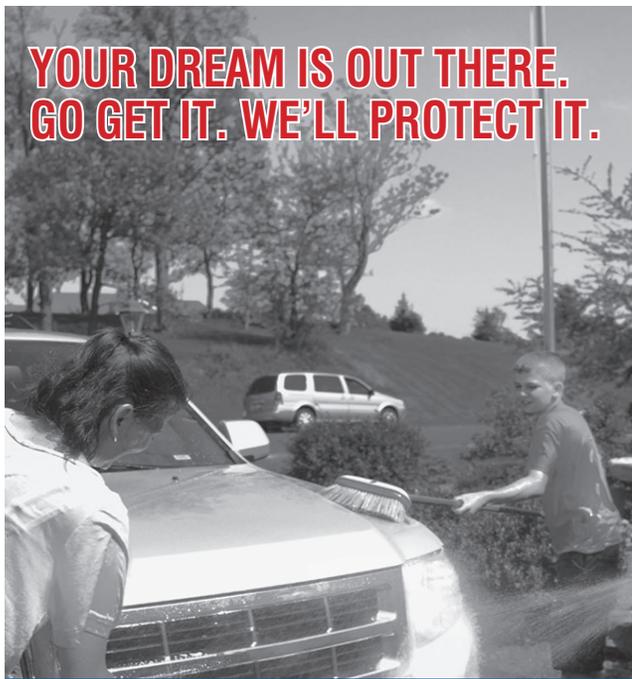
The team raised \$1,400 to support the Susan Mortensen Turley Foundation in its third annual community run, held Feb. 20, to kick off the 2012 track season. Altogether 127 kids participated in this event, which raised money to help support vacations for families whose children suffer from cancer.

Corona will compete in the Chandler Rotary Mar. 23-24 before hosting Saguario on Mar. 28, attending the Basha Relays Mar. 30, competing at Marcos de Niza April 4 and then attending the ASU Classic April 5.



Nate Rodriguez set a new meet record in the 1600-meter run at the Aztec Invitational March 3.

— Photo courtesy Chris Huch



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Celebrating initial steps in a major revamp of Cobblestone Village at McClintock Drive and Warner Road, Tempe, are, from left, West Valley Properties execs Tammy Palmer, Taryn Michael, Shannon Jallow and Stephen Mariani, along with Kristy Jozwiak and Johnny Basha of Bashes' Stores.

— Wrangler News photo

Cobblestone

From Page 6

The replacement landscaping at McClintock Fountains, however, accomplished three goals: it grew quickly to maturity; it made shops and their signage more visible; and it helped enable a number of shop owners to survive the brutal economic conditions of those times.

Now, hoping to retain some of the original design elements that gave Cobblestone its distinctive qualities in the early years, the new management team retained Larry Ellerman of

Phoenix-based architects Ellerman Shick & Bruno to oversee the redesign.

"We believe that doing so will help capture the excitement that was existing when the center opened," Mariani said.

As to new occupants for the redesigned center, he said no major recruiting effort has yet been launched.

"We purposely resisted the temptation to look for new tenants because we wanted them to be able to touch and feel the finished product rather than have to make a decision from color swirls on a plan sheet."

— Don Kirkland



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Bashes' store to get fresh new look as part of Cobblestone remodel

One of Bashes' best-known flagship stores, the one in south Tempe's Cobblestone Village at Warner and McClintock, will undergo a major modernization in conjunction with new management of the entire center by West Valley Properties.

Work on the project is due to take place over the summer, which will result in the store being closed for approximately two months.

Kristy Jazwiak, director of communications and public affairs for the Bashes' chain, said the work will represent a "major remodel" of the store, which is located on the

southeast side of the center and is its primary anchor.

"We have operated at this location for 25 years, and it's time for us to make some modern changes," said Jazwiak.

"We're looking forward to the partnership with the developer, and we'll be doing some nice renovations that will offer a new shopping experience."

Jazwiak said the planned improvements will require a short-term closure of the store because they are so extensive.

"When it's complete, it's going to look completely different than it looks today," Jazwiak said.

The goal, she says:

"To do some things that our neighbors will be excited about, that will make it a place they'll want to hang out."

Artist

From Page 5

The project, he said, has an additional appeal. "It's for the public. It's there for generations to come. It's not squirreled away in a private residence, or in an exhibit. These pieces are open to all walks, anybody."

For Moody, glass was an ideal medium, especially in Arizona.

"With the abundance of sunlight it would make sense that we would play with it," he said.

Prior to working with glass, he said he drew, painted and pursued other artistic interests. Until recently he had never considered using glass. His fascination with glass artwork started roughly 15 years ago during a backpacking trip through Europe.

"I saw the monumental abstract glass of the post-war Germans, and it just blew me away. It was the bold line work, the contrast and the forward thinking aesthetics built into the architecture," he said.

"They were filling the spaces with extremely fresh designs."

It took a while, though, for Moody to chart a course to his future.

"I was fairly nomadic for about 10 years. My girlfriend (now wife) and I would travel back and forth between New England and Arizona. I worked with some studios back East and returned to Arizona in '04, and have been on my own ever since," he said.

It was his roots, Moody said, that drew him back to Arizona.



"My family has been out here for 150 years. Whenever we would travel, this was always home," he said. After his trek abroad had come to a finish, Moody came back to the states and starting knocking on doors, looking for a studio.

"I didn't grow up in a church with stained glass, so it wasn't on my radar screen," he said.

This coming fall, Moody will be working on a piece for Scottsdale as part of the community's Bell Tower Project.

"That one will entail half a dozen large glass

panels in the Pen Air Tower to create an abstract sanctuary place," he said. "That is something I am really excited about doing."

Moody is currently participating in the Scottsdale Celebration of Fine Art, where he and other top artists are working while showcasing their works.

The upscale juried exhibition, which runs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily for 10 weeks through Sunday, March 25, is located on Hayden Road just south of Loop 101 (Exit 35).

For more information visit www.troymoody.com

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With M.V. Moorhead

Visual authenticity doesn't save 'Carter'

Maybe the highest compliment that can be paid to *John Carter*, the long-awaited version of *A Princess of Mars* by Edgar Rice Burroughs, is that it looks just like it ought to look. Again and again, watching it, I was struck by how seamlessly the filmmakers had captured the visual flavor of the cover paintings of '70s-era sci-fi-fantasy paperbacks, by the likes of Frank Frazetta and Boris Vallejo.

These covers, often far more than the reprinted pulp tales that they enclosed, had an effect on the imaginative landscape of Boomer-era boys that



M.V. Moorhead

shouldn't be underestimated, and the degree to which *John Carter* brings them to life is no small achievement. The green, six-limbed Tharks, the elite Red Martians, the rampaging White Apes, the cityscapes, the flying machines, even the hero's endearing dog-like companion Woola—all of them struck this Burroughs reader as just right visually, and the battles, duels and gladiatorial combats are excitingly staged by director Andrew Stanton.

This makes it all the more disappointing to report that the movie, which came in second to *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* on its opening weekend, isn't the knockout that it wants to be. It's terrific in stretches, but overall it's tiring, with little of the book's hearty, free-wheeling sense of storytelling panache.

Originally serialized as *Under the Moons of Mars* in 1912, *A Princess of Mars* tells the story of a former Confederate officer, John Carter. Under attack by Apaches while prospecting in the Arizona

Territory, Carter suddenly finds himself mysteriously transported to the surface of the planet Mars, or "Barsoom" as it's called by its inhabitants.

It's a dying desert world, peopled by perpetually warring tribes of various bizarre races. Carter is caught up in these conflicts, and the lower gravity makes him a virtual superman. He becomes an ally/friend of the fierce-but-honorable Thark chieftan Tars Tarkas, and with the loyal Thark female Sola.

He also finds love with the beautiful Dejah Thoris, Princess of Helium.

Silly as all this sounds—and is—the original, rambling adventure novel can give a heart-lifting delight. The movie, for all its craft, doesn't come close. It's badly overlong, and while the dialogue is intelligent, the screenwriters—Stanton, Mark Andrews and Michael Chabon are credited—weigh down the movie with layers of confusing, unnecessary and wearily "grown-up" exposition and backstory.

In this way *John Carter* is, regrettably, very much like the latter-day *Star Wars* trilogy. As with those films, the filmmakers seem to have been so intent on not treating the material as kid stuff that they forgot that kid stuff was exactly what we wanted from it—and just what Burroughs always gave us.

Another part of the disappointment may be that Taylor Kitsch, who plays Carter, isn't quite up to it. He has a fine physique but a callow, somehow unmemorable beauty and no particular presence as an actor.

The character is saddled, again unnecessarily, with a tragic backstory in the spaghetti-western vein, and he speaks in the same manner as Christian Bale in *The Dark Night*, that growl by which unconfident young leading men of our era try to project heartsick manliness, but which really just makes them sound like they need a lozenge.

On the other hand, Lynn Collins fits the role of Dejah Thoris, here admirably more Amazon than damsel in distress, perfectly. She's gorgeous and regal, yet likable.

It's especially gratifying that in modern-day Hollywood, Collins was entrusted with a romantic lead at the crone-like age of...34.

The film, in wide release, finished third in box office receipts last weekend, not boding well for Disney's expectations that ticket sales would make a quick dent in the production's \$350 million costs.



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Briefs

Rural Road signal upgrades

If you travel on Rural Road, your commute should start going a little more smoothly. Tempe is making some changes to traffic signals along Rural Road between Curry and Baseline roads in order to improve traffic flow.

The changes include adjusting signal timing and switching from leading to lagging left-turn arrows at some intersections.

“State-of-the-art technology allows us to fine tune traffic signals in order to optimize traffic flow throughout the day,” said Tempe Traffic Engineer Christine Warren.

While signals at some Rural Road intersections will continue to use leading left-turn arrows, others will switch to lagging. Signals at University Drive and at Apache Boulevard will alternate between leading and lagging depending on time of day and traffic flow.

Tempe has started and will continue to monitor and fine tune over the next couple of weeks.

Get lucky at Lucky Break

Baseball fanatics will get a chance to see their dream come true at a competition going on now at Lucky Break, a south Tempe bar and grill.

Winner of a First Pitch Fantasy contest will trot out to the mound to throw the first pitch at the Angels versus Rockies game March 26 at Diablo Stadium.

“It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity, but you had better throw a strike,” joked Lucky Break general manager Jared Fenix. No purchase is necessary.

Placing the entrant’s name in an onsite contest box is all it takes.

Second-place winners will receive tickets to the game and dinner at the restaurant.

Lucky Break is 1807 E. Baseline Road, on the southeast side at McClintock. Information: 602-410-1706.

Vocalist at Unitarian program

Singer-songwriter and three-time Outmusic award nominee Namoli Brennet will take the stage at Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, in west Chandler.

Brennet, a prolific folk-rock performer, has independently

produced and released nine CDs since 2002 on her own label,

Individual tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door for adults; \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door for seniors and children ages 12 and under.

Advance discount tickets are available on Sundays at the church before the concert or can be purchased online at www.vuu.org/vuusica.

The church is at 6400 W. Del Rio St., Chandler.

Wave Pool open on Saturdays

Fun has washed in again this year with the opening of Kiwanis Wave Pool.

The pool, at Kiwanis Park in Tempe, is now open 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is \$7 for ages 13 and over and \$5 for ages 2-12. Information: www.tempe.gov/kiwanis or 480-350-5201 (350-5050 TTY).

April review set for scholars

Eight students from Corona del Sol High School, Mountain Pointe High School and Desert Vista High School have been announced as candidates for the 2012 United States Presidential Scholars. Scholars are chosen based on their excellence in education, leadership and overall academic success.

In April, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars will review the applications of all semi-finalists and select up to 121 Academic Scholars, in addition to up to 20 Arts Scholars in early May.

Scholars will be honored in June in Washington, D.C. Student candidates from the Tempe Union High School District include: Brianna B. Duong, Jean M. Juang, Simona K. Kovatcheva, Cyndia B. Yu, Ajay R. Karpur, Yucheng Zhang, Ankur M. Razdan and Jeeyoung ‘Anes’ Sung.

Correction

In two previous articles, the 13,500-square-foot Kyrene Road mansion built by Philip and Billy Erickson in 1983 was said to have once been owned by Valley developer Conley Wolfswinkel. It never has been.

Cable Rosenberg, the alleged porn movie maker, purchased the property in 2002. It went into foreclosure and was purchased for what was hoped would be a special events venue.

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Honeywell

From Page 11

challenges such as designing, building, and testing their own rockets, bridge structures and DNA extraction experiments.

“My favorite part was the (human) centrifuge, which spins around putting a certain amount of Gs on your body,” said Jackson, who is currently taking honors chemistry/physics in his freshman year.

The centrifuge is a device that spins the person around, forcing a larger amount of acceleration on their body than normally experienced by the earth’s gravity.

“We also got to test our model rocket in a wind tunnel, so we could see how much wind pressure was acting on the rocket as the wind rushed by,” he said. “Then, we were able to compare it to other teams’ rockets and how much drive they had.”

Jackson said his experience has added to his interest in aerospace engineering, and he plans on majoring in a related subject in college. All students who participated in the camp earned one college credit of intro to space and science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Since 2010, Honeywell and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center have awarded more than 630 scholarships to students after rigorous application and review processes based on their academic achievement and community involvement.

Information: <http://leadership.honeywell.com/>

Summit School PE coach finds kids in early-bird running club do better in class

By Alison Stanton

Three mornings a week, Dawn Ighodaro and her 9-year-old son Osasere leave their south Tempe home even earlier than usual to make it to Summit School of Ahwatukee by 8, so Osasere can participate in the school’s running club.

Osasere is one of about 60 preschool- through eighth-grade kids who start their Summit School days not sitting at a desk but running and walking laps with their friends for 10 minutes.

The running club, now in its second year, is the brainchild of Kathy Dean, the school’s physical education teacher. She says she was inspired in part because of studies that show kids who exercise early in the morning tend to do better in class.

“The research is saying more and more that starting off the day running or walking makes students better learners during the day,” she said.

Summit School is also one of 5,200 schools across the nation that is participating in the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance program called “Let’s move in school,” Dean said. The running club, which meets three mornings a week, fits into the program’s goal of getting students to move more throughout the school day.

To keep track of their mileage, kids are handed a plastic spoon each time they finish one lap around the field. Students also earn colorful plastic shoe-shaped “toe tokens” they can use to decorate their shoe laces; one token is given for every five miles run or walked, Dean said, and a special one is awarded at 10 miles.

Dean said she enjoys watching the way older students often encourage the younger ones by walking with them and praising their efforts.

She also has been interested to see if the club

can lead to a tangible improvement in attention and focus. So far, she said, she is happy with the results.

“We have seen quite a bit of difference in the ones who are involved in the club,” she said.

Dawn said her son, who is in fourth grade, likes the chance to run before sitting down for seven-plus hours of school; he also gets a kick out of earning the toe tokens.

“Last year he logged 62 miles, and this year so far he is at 35 miles,” she said, adding that he has not



Kathy Dean goes over the schedule with, from left, Nathan Ivey, 3rd grade; Osasere Ighodaro and Brennan Klein, both 4th grade. — Photo courtesy Summit School

missed one day of the running club since it began.

“He is more focused in school, loves working toward a goal—and he feels proud of himself.”

Jennifer Spear, a west Chandler mom, has two daughters who participate in the running club regularly. Eight-year-old Erin and 6-year-old Paige try attend twice a week, she said, and both are working toward their goals of running a total of at least 26 miles.

Like Dawn, Jennifer said being in the running club has improved not only her children’s stamina but also their attentiveness in school.

“We do notice that they are able to more easily sit still and focus on their work in the morning after having some physical activity,” she said.

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First Person: Shana Ellis

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Shana Ellis

Recently, the Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority and METRO light rail boards, which represent local cities, towns and Maricopa County, selected Stephen R. Banta as the solution to lead both

agencies as a single CEO.

His initial charge is to work toward greater efficiencies in local public transportation.

The selection is both timely and optimal for the Valley. Prior to his 2010 arrival in metro Phoenix, Steve acquired extensive knowledge and multimodal experience working at several large public transit systems in the U.S.

He also now understands the Valley's transit

environment. For passengers, this new leadership will translate into greater value as bus and rail are united in an administrative capacity.

For the taxpayer, it will mean a more prudent and constructive use of public dollars. We believe that Steve is committed to keeping the service on the streets, while also being mindful of system expansion.

Steve has an understanding for the service that riders expect, whether it is light rail, bus or Dial-a-Ride. He has an incredible intellectual investment and hands-on background in public transportation that will benefit the region.

He has served in leadership roles at TriMet in Portland, Port Authority in Pittsburgh, Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority.

I believe that his expertise will greatly favor our transit system and protect the investment that we've made to expand and regionalize local services. The momentum to drive regionalism can't be ignored or denied any longer. When Proposition 400, the half-cent countywide transit sales tax, was approved by voters in 2004 they were giving us the green light to develop a regional transit system.

Steve will begin his leadership by working to combine and streamline the agencies, while ramping up transit system satisfaction. The entire Valley has a major mission ahead in leading these agencies,

which have intense day-to-day operations serving more than 245,000 passengers daily. This is a new era for public transportation in the Valley.

Steve will be managing significant regional bus and rail projects that will impact our region for years to come. We will be watching with great anticipation as the evolution of regional transit unfolds.

This year, as METRO light rail breaks ground on its first extension in Mesa, adding 3.1 miles to the existing 20-mile line, the unification of RPTA and Tempe transit operations will be under way.

To accomplish these and other major feats, he will reorganize agency structures to maximize roles and responsibilities, paving the way for new opportunities within both organizations.

For the passenger, taxpayer and visitor, this equates to a transit system that is more relevant and, undeniably, truly regional.

Tempe Councilmember and south Tempe resident Shana Ellis is a member of the Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority and METRO light rail Boards of Directors. Ellis served as chair of the working group that hired Steve Banta to replace the retiring RPTA executive director, Dave Boggs.



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New start for high-rise development

Ryan Companies US Inc. says it will build and begin leasing the third office tower at Hayden Ferry Lakeside in Tempe.

Ryan will develop the 10-story, 250,000-square-foot, Class A office tower at the corner of Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway. The building was designed by architectural/urban planning firm The Davis Experience in 2007 and has made several design enhancements to the building.

"This upgraded, clean, slightly more contemporary design is the appropriate design to complete the project and leave it looking forward, well into the 21st century," said Mike Davis, the firm's founder and director of design.

The land is currently owned by an entity affiliated with Sunbelt Holdings, which acquired the property from SunCor in 2010. The Sunbelt entity will sell the land to Ryan for the tower.

The building is the first commercial high-rise to be break ground in downtown Tempe since 2007. The timing of this building could not be better, say city sources. Much of the office space in downtown Tempe is



now leased, leaving fewer space options for large companies to locate.

"We are pleased to partner with Ryan Companies on the next office tower at Hayden Ferry Lakeside," said John Graham of Sunbelt Holdings.

"We believe the more than 900 jobs that will eventually be located there will serve to enhance demand for additional residential and commercial development on and around Tempe Town Lake."

Hayden Ferry Lakeside was conceived in 1999 by SunCor Development as a Town Lake's first development. The project consisted of three office towers and four residential properties. During the last 13 years, SunCor completed two of the planned office towers and two condominium towers.




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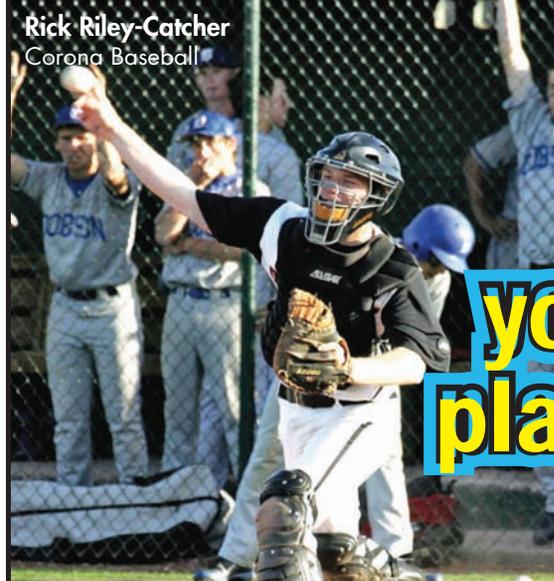
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Coming up

March 19 — Kiwanis Recreation Center Offers Swimming Lessons and Water Safety — Kiwanis Recreation Center is offering swimming lessons at the Kiwanis pool, located north of Guadalupe Road off of All-American Way. During each class, students will earn skills including water safety, how to swim, breath control, treading water and water confidence. Lessons are available for children as young as eight-months-old, as well as adults. Each class consists of eight sessions and is offered in the evening for \$46. Parents also have the option of Saturday morning classes for \$35. For class times and registration information, visit www.tempe.gov/brochure or call 480-350-5201.

March 24, 12 to 8 p.m. — Great American BBQ and Beer Festival — Come out to enjoy the ultimate BBQ experience, featuring craft beer, music and kids activities. Families can enjoy live entertainment from national and local artists, kid's zone, farmers market, custom Harley Davidson bike show, eating competitions and themed activities of a traditional backyard BBQ. Proceeds

benefit Downtown Chandler Community Foundation. Tickets are \$10, and free for kids ages 12 and under, and the event will take place in historic downtown Chandler. For more information, visit www.chandlerbbq.com.

March 24, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Free Fishing Festival for Kids — Children in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to attend this free fishing event at Kiwanis Park, located on northeast corner of Guadalupe Road and All-American Way, to learn techniques from fishing pros in special tanks and in Kiwanis Lake. The event is sponsored by Angler United, the city of Tempe and Arizona Game and Fish. Fishing licenses are not required during the festival, and fishing equipment will be provided, though families are encouraged to bring their own. Registration is required and will be taken on-site before the event. Registration forms are also available at www.anglersunited.org.

March 27, 6 p.m. — Tempe Leadership Class Recruitment — Tempe Leadership is looking for emerging leaders who live or work in Tempe to

participate in this year's leadership class. A recruitment reception will be held March 27, at Studio 5C, 502 S. College Ave, on the third floor. The reception will provide an overview of the program and the selection process. To RSVP, call 480-736-4281. Applications for the class are available at www.tempeleadership.org and are due by April 27.

March 30, 4:45 to 9:30 p.m.; March 31, 12 to 9:30 p.m. — 13th Annual Chandler Jazz Festival — This free event returns to downtown Chandler featuring worldwide touring musicians and many of the best performers in Arizona. The festival will feature 12 indoor and outdoor performance venues, 35 bands and 170 jazz musicians. The main stage is located in Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, located on the west side of Arizona Avenue, south of Chandler Boulevard. Information: 480-782-2735.

March 31, 7 a.m. — Chandler Century Ride — Chandler's largest bicycling event will take over the streets and bike paths during this all-ages event to help celebrate the city's 100th birthday. The event will include three, non-competitive bike rides of varying distances that showcase the city and promote bicycling in the community. The event will include a family-friendly, 7.4-mile ride along the Consolidated Canal on the city's Paseo Trail, a 39-mile intermediate route and a 65-mile advanced bike route. Registration is required by March 28. For

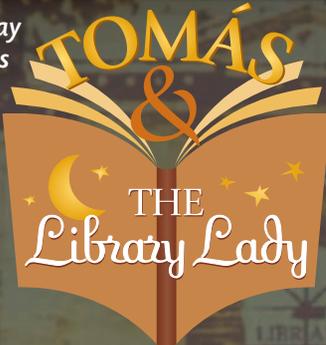
more information and maps of bike routes, visit www.chandleraz.gov/centuryride.

April 4 through 18 — TUHSD New Textbook Adoption — New textbooks supporting various subjects taught in the Tempe Union High School District are available for public review and comment after having been presented to the governing board on March 21. Board members will vote on recommended textbook adoptions on April 4.

April 2, April 3, April 4, April 5, April 6; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Free Event at Zounds Hearing of Tempe — Current hearing aid wearers and those suffering from hearing loss can join the free open house event. Visitors will receive a free hearing evaluation, learn about the newest digital hearing aids on the market and be able to trade in hearing aids (any brand) for newer technology. Factory-direct pricing available only during open house events. McClintock and Elliot (Safeway Shopping Center) 7650 S. McClintock Dr. Call (480) 751-4232.

April 7, 10 a.m. — Arizona Community Church Eggstravaganza! — Fifth-grade kids and younger are invited to spend Saturday morning on an Easter egg hunt during ACC's Eggstravaganza. Arizona Community Church is located on the northeast corner of McClintock Drive and Knox Road.

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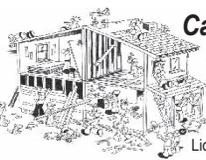
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