

# Wrangler NEWS



When life throws  
a curve ball — the  
story of a teen's  
determination  
to beat the odds

Story & photo by Alex Zener

**Kyrene Corridor Edition**  
April 3 - 16, 2010  
Vol. 21, No. 8

***Serving South Tempe and  
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**A**s someone who had played baseball and loved the game for as long as he could remember, Brett Butler thought he knew all about curve balls.

That was until life threw him one.

Unknown to all but family and friends, Brett developed a brain tumor that caused him to experience seizures starting in the third grade. By his sophomore year in high school, the seizures were occurring so frequently that they began having a serious impact on his life.

— *Continued on Page 27*

## Nurse gains national recognition for her work with the terminally ill Specialty focuses on easing patients' final days

By Geri Koepfel

To assist people who have a potentially life-limiting or terminal illness, there's a field of medical specialty called palliative care.

Registered nurse Bonnie Morgan, who works for Hospice of the Valley and at Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers, recently was recognized by her peers as one of the most distinguished practitioners in this field.

She was inducted as a fellow of palliative care nursing in March by the national Hospice and Palliative Nurse Association at an annual professional assembly in Boston, Mass.

To be honored, nurses must have been members of HPNA for five years, have worked at least five years in this area of specialty, and have made a significant contribution to scholarship in the field.

"It's the best award I've ever gotten in my life," said Morgan.

"It's very humbling; very challenging," she said, adding that now she is thinking about what more to do to contribute.

Two of Morgan's colleagues wrote letters of reference to the association. One is a nurse from Chicago who was on the national certification board with Morgan, who served for seven years and was president for two.

Another friend co-wrote a book with Morgan titled *Pain Management: The Resource Guide for Home Health and Hospice Nurses*. It was published in 2008.

Morgan has been a nurse for 40 years and became interested in palliative care after being laid off from her job as director of education at Desert Samaritan Hospital (now Desert Banner) in 1990. She found a part-time job as a home infusion nurse, giving intravenous medications



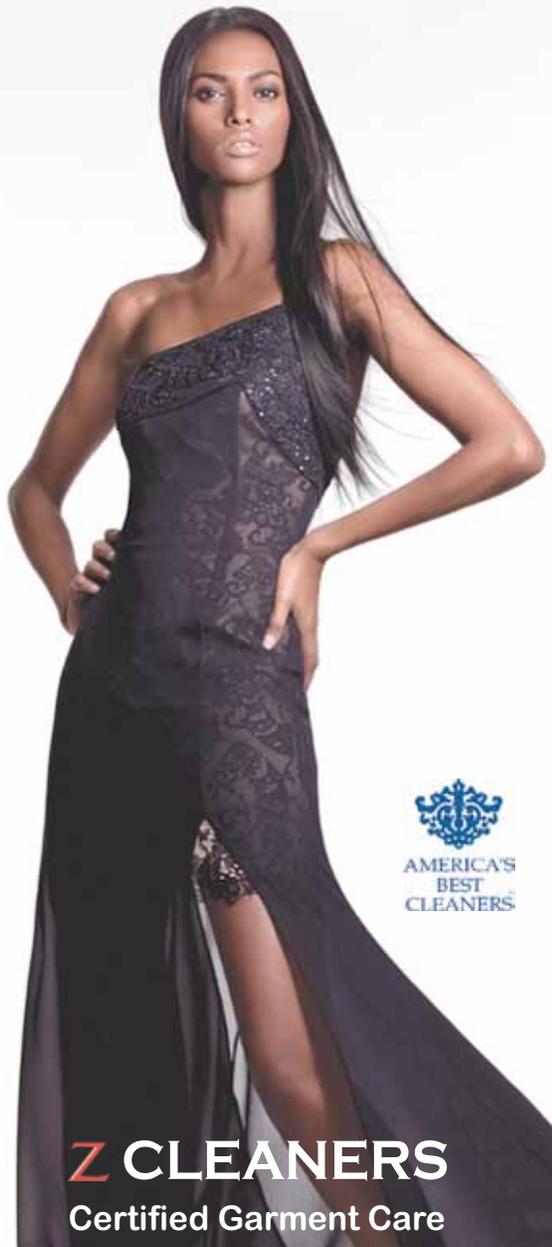
Bonnie Morgan's passion for hospice nursing has taken her to such exotic locales as Nepal, where she continued her training.

and nutrients to patients in their homes.

"I absolutely fell in love with it," Morgan said. "I was really drawn to people who were dying; who had terminal illnesses." It was "very powerful," she added.

That led her to work in hospice care starting in 1994. She joined Hospice of the Valley in 2000,

— NURSE, Page 8



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With the approach of the end of the school year, Chandler Regional Medical Center is looking for students ages 14-18 to participate in its volunteer programs.

"We have a variety of service opportunities available this summer," said Barb Farmer, manager of volunteer services for the hospital.

"It is a great opportunity for teens to get an inside look at what it's like to work in the healthcare industry and, at the same time, make an important impact on our patients, staff and visitors."

Some of the service areas where "volunteers" can participate include delivering flowers, mail and newspapers; working in the gift shop; performing clerical duties; assisting at the nursing stations; and running miscellaneous errands around the hospital.

CHW requires volunteers to serve a minimum of 40 hours over the summer. Upon successful completion of the program, they receive a certificate, a copy of their hours and a letter of recommendation.

Information: [www.ChandlerRegional.org](http://www.ChandlerRegional.org)

### Training center open

eXtreme Bodyshaping celebrated its opening with an open house and ribbon cutting on April 1.

The event also signaled the start of the gym's trademark program, 10 weeks of group training that culminate with a \$1,000 prize for the person deemed to have made the greatest transformation during the program.

Franchise owner Randy Edwards developed the program using the tenets of Tae Kwon Do while incorporating resistance training, fitness kick-boxing and nutrition to help participants meet their goals.

Each class is approximately \$6 and the fees include boxing gloves, wrist wraps, an XB course manual to log workouts and meals, plus three fitness evaluations.

The gym is at 4939 W. Ray Road, Chandler. Information: 602-885-1512.

### Dayspring artfest

Dayspring United Methodist Church launches its inaugural Festival of the Arts on the weekend of April 16-17.

Church officials say the event is designed to provide an opportunity for both Dayspring members and neighboring residents to experience a variety of visual and performing arts. Gourmet cinnamon rolls and coffee will be served on Saturday morning; grilled burgers and dogs midday.

A three-course buffet will open the event at 5:30 p.m. Friday.

The church is at 1365 E. Elliot Road, Tempe.

Information: 480-838-1446.

### Donor drive starts

Blacker Orthodontics offices in Tempe and Chandler are heralding the arrival of spring with donation drives designed to help local charities.

The Tempe office, located at 6200 S. McClintock Drive, is accepting donations for Tempe Youth Resource Center.

The organization provides intensive casework assistance for homeless youth under the age of 21.



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# Longtime DQ trainer, franchise-owner says pride motivated project Store's new look reinforces schools, community connection

By Slim Smith

Twenty years ago, Bill Sladek sat in the kitchen of his parents' home on a small Minnesota farm, reading the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* classified ads, when a particular ad caught his attention.

"It said a major franchise was looking for people to travel and train employees," said Sladek.

"Well, I had grown up on a farm and had never traveled much, so the idea appealed to me."

With that ad in hand, Sladek went to the local bank and got a small loan. Part of the money he used to buy a nice suit to wear to the interview.

Appearances are important, Sladek realized back then. It worked. He got the job with Dairy Queen as a trainer.

In the past two decades, Sladek has gone from traveling the country to help open Dairy Queen franchises to a job as a regional director and, finally, as a franchise owner.

And appearances still matter.

Toward that end, Sladek has just finished a substantial remodeling job at his Dairy Queen store on the northwest corner of Rural and Elliot.

The lobby and dining room were closed for eight weeks for a make-over that included new floors, tables and chairs and fixtures.

This store was built in 1986 and I've owned in since

1999," Sladek said.

"Over that time, we've done a few things here and there, adding some neon lighting, small things, but nothing big like this. It needed an update."

For many of Dairy Queen's 5,600 independently owned franchises, there is a re-model clause that mandates that store owners remodel after a certain period of time.

Sladek's contract did not carry that clause, but he decided to update his store anyway.

"You know, a big part of Dairy Queen's whole concept is that they are very community-oriented and I really

believe in that idea. Every franchise really tries to make those connections with the community, with the schools especially. We're very involved in our schools in the area because it's a big part of who we are," said Sladek, who also owns a Dairy Queen store in Mesa.

"I think having a nice, appealing atmosphere matters when you are part of a community.

"I didn't have to do the remodel, but I felt like it was a way of telling our customers that we're proud to be here and want you to feel good about us, too."



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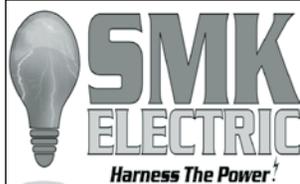
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# Outcome of sales tax measure won't affect Kyrene board's OK of all-day kindergarten

By Mark Moorehead

School districts, according to Kyrene school officials, are competing with each other for students, and the competition begins with five-year-olds.

Thus, to help stem the flow of declining enrollments, members of the district governing board voted March 22 to fund the \$2.5 million cost of full-day kindergarten in the 2010-11 school year, reversing an earlier decision to discontinue funding for the program.

The unanimous vote was in response to a concern that had been expressed by some parents that they might consider moving their children to other districts where all-day kindergarten would remain.

According to Karin Smith, the district's chief financial operations officer, there were 1,694 full-day kindergartners in the district as of March 1.

Free all-day kindergarten has become the latest victim in Arizona's ongoing budget crisis. Legislators

estimated that reducing kindergarten to half-day sessions would save the state \$218 million.

When this cut was announced, most local state school districts cried foul, recognizing they would be forced to pay this cost; consequently the legislature agreed to place a 1 percent sales tax increase proposition on the May 18 ballot, allowing taxpayers an opportunity to pass the measure needed to provide enough revenue to continue funding all-day kindergarten.

To underscore the importance of all-day kindergarten, Kyrene board members decided they will continue funding the free program regardless of the whether the May 18 sales tax proposition passes or not.

They agreed that, in addition to attracting more students to the Kyrene school district, all-day kindergarten offers a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that provides a foundation for lifelong learning and helps make

— Continued on the next page



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Passage of the 1 percent sales tax on May 18 does not mean Kyrene School district will be lifted out of the red, however.

“Even with the increased sales tax, Kyrene’s budget deficit will be \$6 million,” Smith said. “However, we have addressed (that) deficit with a combination of efficiencies, including a pre-pay function where liability insurance is paid in advance and 20-25 percent of health insurance is paid in advance, along with a continuation of use of cash reserves and fewer teachers due to declining enrollment,” she said.

If the tax increase fails, Smith says the deficit will be \$11.8 million and the district will be required to submit a new budget proposal to the school board by June 22.

In the meantime Kyrene officials are trying to get the word out that full-time and part-time kindergarten classes are available and that interested parents should sign up their child as soon as possible.

For admission to kindergarten, it is required that children be five years old before Sept. 1 of the current school year.

Kindergarten orientations are on-going and a list of dates and times is available at <http://www.kyrene.org/aboutksd/kindergarten.htm>.

Kyrene also offers kindergarten early entrance age exceptions for children who turn five between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 if it is determined to be in their best interest. Half-day kindergarten will be also be offered in Kyrene.

For more information call 480-783-4175.

## Coloring contest again joins park movie series

Wrangler News will hold its annual Kids Coloring Contest in conjunction with the city of Tempe’s 31st annual “Movies at the Park” series.

Each Friday through May 21, a free movie will be shown at Kiwanis Park on All-American Way in Tempe.

At each movie, children under age 12 will have the opportunity to participate in a coloring contest, with weekly prizes awarded from various Kyrene Corridor businesses. Each week’s contest picture, which will be drawn from a character or scene in that week’s movie, will be available at the movie.

The picture will also be published in Wrangler News.

Awards will be given in two age groups – 6 and under and 7-12.

Entries for any of the weekly contests can be turned in through May 31.

The movie series begins on April 2 with the movie “Coraline”. Future movies are: April 9, “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs”; April 16, “Chuck Jones Animation: An Evening of Laughter”; April 23, “Up”; April 30, “Monsters vs. Aliens”; May 7, “G-Force”; May 14, “Where the Wild Things Are”; May 21, “A Bug’s Life.”

All movies are free. The movies, which will be shown on the largest inflatable screen in Arizona, will start at dusk, approximately 7 p.m. on the west side of Kiwanis Lake near the fire pit. Kyrene Corridor Rotary Club will again operate a concession stand during the movies.

Information, 480-350-5200 or visit [www.tempe.gov/rec](http://www.tempe.gov/rec)

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# Nurse

From Page 2

where she was director of education for 10 years and is now a clinical educator. In her role, she provides nurse orientation, continuing education, program development and pain management education.

As a member of the palliative care team at Chandler Regional, she goes all around the hospital providing consultation.

"We're talking with patients and

their families about goals for care; we're managing their symptoms; we take a holistic approach," she said, adding that they also manage psychological, social and spiritual needs in addition to physical ones.

"We're such a death-defying society," Morgan said, "We're all going to die, so to help someone have as peaceful and as comfortable a death as possible is very satisfying.

"We try to identify what patients and their families want with the time they have left. Almost always we can help them achieve their goals."

One patient, she said, wanted to visit San Diego with his family one last time. They'd been every year for 15 years to a little motel overlooking the beach. He did it.

Morgan last year took a five-day trip to Kathmandu, Nepal, to learn about their practices in hospice care, and plans to make more international visits to work with dying patients. Her husband, Mark, is a minister at Vineyard Church in Gilbert, and the church has branches and connections worldwide.

Working with people at the end

of their lives has made Morgan think more about her own life, she said.

"It makes me think more about what I'm giving my time and energy and money to now," she said. "What am I investing in? It makes me more aware of the time, this day, living in the present moment, as opposed to being worried about the future. I have two sons (twins Matthew and Michael, 30) and four little granddaughters, and it makes you more aware of the gifts you've been given. I think it makes you more sensitive; it makes you more real."

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Coraline



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## Longtime Chandler venue now in So. Tempe

By Geri Koeppel

A popular restaurant that's been in Chandler for more than 15 years will be a south Tempe neighbor after a big move early this month.

RigaTony's Authentic Italian, formerly on Arizona Avenue, is relocating five miles west to the northeast corner of Warner and McClintock roads, taking over space that was most recently occupied by 3 Margaritas.

"I like this area; I live in this area," said owner Mike Lopercio, whose home is less than a mile from the new restaurant. "I fell in love with this place right off the bat."

His lease was up at the old location, he added, and he wanted a building where he could "retain all of the character and flavor of RigaTony's, but inject some new elements."

Some of the new additions include:

An Italian market at the front entrance where customers can purchase items such as sauces, salad dressings and cheeses out of a deli case;

A larger bar area with arched windows looking into the

**'At the end of the day, it's all about the quality of the food... We truly are proud of every dish we put on the plate.'**

— Owner Mike Lopercio, RigaTony's

kitchen to provide more of a "bistro" experience;

A piazza room with snazzy black-and-white floor tiles and a glass garage door that opens to a large patio;

An outdoor patio complete with misters, heaters, a cobblestone floor, and greenery providing an Italian garden feel;

A large dining area called the "Hall of Fame," an homage to famous and accomplished Italian Americans; and

Tony's room, a private dining area for about a dozen with a parlor feel, complete with crystal chandelier, family photos and an antique radio that plays music.

"It's an artier, jazzier version of RigaTony's," Lopercio said. "More of an uptown feel. We tried to stay true to the RigaTony's feel in our dining rooms, but the bar will be more of an updated feel."

Behind the scenes, the kitchen takes up about one-third of the building, but that doesn't mean the chefs will do anything differently. The food and prices, Lopercio said, will not change – although new additions might pop up later.

"We're bringing the same pots over," he said. "We're cooking the same sauces in the same pots. But with a bigger kitchen, we will be having more fun down the road."

Lopercio said almost all of the e-mails he's received regarding the move insist, "Don't change the food, don't change the food." The RigaTony's antipasto salad with Italian vinaigrette and the homemade pastas – including rigatoni and ravioli – are customer favorites.

Beyond that, Lopercio added, the e-mails say one of two things: We're glad you'll be closer to where we live, or, even though you're farther away, we're still coming.

Sharon Tanquary, who lives in Chandler on the Tempe border, is in the "glad-you're-closer" camp.

"I love it," she said. "I think that from the outside, the place looks beautiful. It looks like a nicer restaurant."

She goes to the Chandler location nearly every Friday, but said now that it's closer, "We might start going again on Wednesday for dinner, when kids eat free." She has four children and said they "beg to go there" when the family eats out.

Tanquary's friend Amy Clark of Gilbert is a "farther-but-we're-still-coming" customer.

"They have that family feeling," she said. "They have the same people at the front greeting you with a smile. It's like seeing relatives....In my opinion, it's nice to support a local restaurant."

Lopercio hopes to keep that image alive.

"At the end of the day," he said, "it's all about the quality of the food. The fanciest building and the best service and everything is meaningless unless you have great food. We truly are proud of every dish we put on the plate."

RigaTony's is at 1850 E. Warner Road, Tempe.

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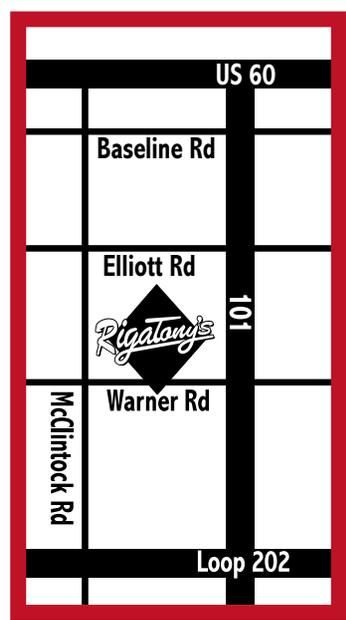


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# Marcello's unveils novel support-our-schools program

By Slim Smith

In the mid-1990s, Tony Romano began to look for a place to put down some roots. Born in Argentina, he moved with his family to New York when he was 10. Now, as a young man, it was time to establish his own home.

"I did my research," said Romano. "I looked around for a place not only where I could start my restaurant, but where I could live and raise a family. I was looking for some place that was growing, where there were going to be opportunities."

Two of those places, Atlanta and Miami, were growing, but for reasons that Romano did not find compelling.

"Atlanta was growing because of the (1996) Olympic Games, but I knew that would be temporary," Romano said. "There was some growth in Miami, too, but it was mainly rebuilding from (Hurricane

Andrew)."

That left Romano with his third choice: Tempe, Arizona.

Now, 16 years later, Romano's roots reach deep into south Tempe.

Last year, Romano paid off the mortgage on his restaurant, Marcello's Pasta Grill at 1701 E. Warner Road, Tempe. He has raised his own family here. His brother and parents have relocated to the community as well.

As a means of giving back to the community that welcomed him in all those years ago, Romano has always been active in supporting the community.

And now he's hit on what he believes is his best idea yet at a time when the need is greatest.

"The schools are really having a tough time," Romano said. "You talk to coaches and music teachers; they'll tell you their budgets have been cut in half. School

principals are trying to stretch every dollar and there's never enough. I wanted to do something."

An idea began to ferment in Romano's mind as he watched school kids try to raise funds through selling magazine subscriptions and candy or holding car washes.

"I thought maybe I could do something that would help raise money so the kids wouldn't have to do that sort of thing," Romano said.

After six months of planning, Romano is ready to unveil his grand idea – the "Support Your 'Hood" discount card.

Here's how the plan works: Participating schools and organizations will be sending their members/students a discount card. One side of the card will carry the school/organization's name and logo; the flip side will bear the Marcello's logo.

When patrons arrive for a meal at Marcello's, they will present their card to their hostess and 15 percent of the total food purchase will be donated to the school.

"We worked out a program on our computer," Romano said. "When we get the card, it's scanned and 15 percent of the bill is credited to the school. At the end of the month, my wife runs the program and cuts a check for each school, based on those sales."

**'The closest thing I could find is where a restaurant would share part of the sales. Ours is every day, year-round.'**

— Owner Tony Romano

So far, two schools, Corona del Sol High School and Kyrene Del Cielo Elementary, have signed up for the discount program. The Tempe Diablos and Tempe Family YMCA, two organizations also heavily involved in education, have also joined the program. Romano hopes to have Marcos de Niza come aboard shortly.

Romano says that, as far as he knows, nothing on this scale has been offered previously.

"The closest thing I could find is a deal where a restaurant would share part of the sales on a given night of the week or something like that," he said. "But with us, it's every day, year-round. I haven't seen that anywhere."

Romano said he's eager to see how the Support Your 'Hood program will work.

"I'd really like to see it do well because I know what it could mean to the kids," he said.



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## Play ball!

South Tempe Little League launched its 2010 season at Tempe Sports Complex, attracting more than 400 players from 35 teams, plus a large contingent of parents, coaches, volunteers and just general onlookers. The league has dedicated this year's season to the memory of three Little League dads – Clint Blaser, Steve Carlson and Eric Treese — who had been active in the league over the years and who died in 2009. The men and their work for the league were saluted during the ceremonies.

— Wrangler News photos by Alex Zener

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### Italy, through the lens of Byron Bruce

Enzo's Gelato & Coffee Bar is hosting an inaugural art show of the work of local photographer Byron Colt Bruce. Bruce's exhibit will feature photographs taken during a tour of northern Italy, including vistas from such landmark locations as Vicenza, Verona, Este, Padua, Venice, Bassano, Del Grappo and Bugano. The exhibit runs through May 2 at Enzo's, 5055 W. Ray Road, Chandler.

— Photo courtesy Byron Bruce



### 3rd annual Easter Egg hunt coming to Kiwanis Park

Tempe's third annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 3, at the north soccer field at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way.

Children ages 10 and under are welcome to participate in the free event. The Easter Bunny will be roaming and available for pictures.

Tempe police and firefighters will be on hand with staff, equipment and giveaways starting at 8 a.m. The event will continue to 10 a.m.

Young children must be accompanied by a parent. All children are encouraged to bring their own baskets or sacks to collect eggs, but Campus Corner will provide bags as well.





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## Recycling day coincides with Earth Month 2010

The city of Tempe invites residents to help the environment by participating in a free recycling event Saturday, April 10, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tempe Household Products Collection Center, 1320 E University Dr. Residents are invited to participate in:

**Shred-A-Thon** – Bring your confidential documents to be securely shredded and eliminate the potential for identity theft.

**E-Waste** – Recycle your technology equipment, such as calculators, cameras, computers and monitors, DVD, video records, stereos, telephones and televisions. Console televisions surrounded by wood or metal cannot be accepted. For additional information on what can be recycled visit [www.tempe.gov/hhw](http://www.tempe.gov/hhw).

**Bag Central Station** – Bring your plastic shopping bags to have them recycled. For more information visit:

[www.bagcentralstation.com](http://www.bagcentralstation.com).

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No cleats, spikes, hiking boots, sandals or dress shoes. Information: [www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com).

Each person who participates in this recycling event will receive a free Tempe reusable shopping bag. Information: [www.tempe.gov/recycling](http://www.tempe.gov/recycling) or 480-350-8145.

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The second annual Cielo Extravaganza, held Feb. 25 at Ashley Manor in Chandler, raised a little more than \$26,000, money organizer say will be used to support classrooms at Kyrene del Cielo Elementary School.

Combined with the \$23,000 raised at last year's event, the fund-raiser has added almost \$50,000 to aid the school and its programs.

"Last year, the money was used for skin cancer and sun awareness projects at the school," said Marjean Steinkamp, who has been co-chair of the Extravaganza with Kelly Katsiris for both years. "This year, with the budget cuts the school is facing, the money will be going to support classrooms."

Steinkamp said the event built on last year's first Extravaganza.

"Like most things, it's always better the second year," Steinkamp said. "Both years, it has turned out to be an amazing event and the community support has been great both years."

Steinkamp said the event raffle alone raised more than \$6,000, with 250 people attending the event, a small increase over last year's turnout.

"We're very pleased," Steinkamp said. "The community support and the support from our sponsors were incredible."

While there are no firm plans in place to continue the event, Steinkamp said she hopes the Extravaganza will be held against next year.

"I really hope they have it again," she said. "It's an amazing event for Cielo."

## A Cielo 'fun'-raiser

Supporters of Kyrene del Cielo's silent auction at The Castle at Ashley Manor generated plenty of fun — and \$26,000 in funding for school programs. On hand, among others, were, above, Joyce Whitted, Linda Buns and Ruth Kent; right, Rich Dubek, who donated his emcee services; event planners Kelly Katsiris and Marjean Steinkamp; and school principal Michael Deignan; musician Greg Blumenthal; and new puppy owner Lora Hulsman.

— Photos by David Stone



# Screen Gems . . .

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## 'Clash of the Titans'

The original *Clash of the Titans*, released in 1981, was the last film to date to showcase the work of the stop-motion animation master Ray Harryhausen.

It was a loose retelling of the Greek tale of Perseus, slayer of the Gorgon Medusa, with such other mythological wonders mixed in as Pegasus, the Graiai or "Stygian Witches," even the Kraken, a sea-monster borrowed from Scandinavian folklore.

It wasn't Harryhausen's best movie (that impressive honor, for me, goes to *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*) but the creature effects were superb nonetheless, and the script, by Beverley Cross, struck a fine fairy-tale tone, playful but not campy.

Harry Hamlin played the valiant Perseus, and the cast was full of the slumming likes of Burgess Meredith, Maggie Smith, Claire Bloom, Ursula Andress, Sian Phillips and even Sir Laurence Olivier, as Old Man Zeus himself.

The film has been remade, with Sam Worthington of *Avatar* taking over the role of Perseus, and Liam Neeson stepping into the omnipotent sandals of Zeus. The remake also features fantasy creatures realized by the computer-generated special-effects technology that rendered Harryhausen obsolete.

Or did it? There are those of us who feel that even the best, most rock-solid convincing CGI effects (and the best, like those in, say, *Jurassic Park*, are very good indeed) lack the whimsical charm, and the human warmth, of Harryhausen's painstaking stop-motion technique. I suppose the attitude is the cinematic equivalent of being a vinyl record buff in the age of the CD, but I can't help it; there's nothing like the jerky stylization of stop-motion for me.

Since the new *Clash of the Titans* movie checks off most of the original's high points, and since its CGI effects are at the most lavish and extravagant level, it was a nice chance to compare-and-contrast the Old School and New School in state-of-the-art special effects.

Old School wins for me, I'm afraid. The special effects here are grand enough, but there's also a phantom chilliness about them, a lack of tactility. The original film's monsters bristled with personality: Harryhausen's personality.

In a sense, he was an actor, performing through his minutely poseable puppets. The creatures in the new film, even though some of them are clever in design, are digital shadows lacking this humanity.

There's an exception to this, a lovely moment in which a giant scorpion, carrying a howdah on its back, slips a little while climbing up a rocky path.

It's the briefest of fleeting details, yet it gives a sense of reality to the fanciful that is lacking elsewhere. It's a true Harryhausen touch.

These personal preferences aside, the film is solid enough on its own terms. The French director, Louis Leterrier, does much the same job here that he did on 2008's *The Incredible Hulk*: impersonal but efficient. This *Clash* is less of kids movie than the original, however. It's been made grimmer, more gory and more macho, in the manner of *300*, and it has some patches of nice writing.

The male-bonding banter between the hunks who accompany Perseus on his quest is sort of amusing, and Perseus is given a fine, short-and-sweet pep talk to give the lads before they take on Medusa. The new *Clash* isn't a classic, but as a total-immersion fantasy spectacle, I'd say it gave me, on balance, more fun for less of a tired backside than *Avatar*.

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# City of Tempe Page



## Efforts continue to balance Tempe's 2010-11 budget

Tempe is transitioning from a five-month effort to collect ideas and feedback on balancing the city's 2010-11 General Fund to a customary series of public hearings before a final June 10 City Council vote on the budget.

Since late October, community members have submitted feedback via e-mail to the City Council and through an online form available at [www.tempe.gov/budgetplan](http://www.tempe.gov/budgetplan).

Residents and city employees also expressed their views at a series of forums in November and February.

"We have made a sincere effort to solicit the input of our community and they have responded with good ideas and a constructive assessment of Tempe's needs and priorities," said City Manager Charlie Meyer.

"Though none of us likes the degree to which we must scale back, the City Council took care to incorporate the input of our community in finding a way to move Tempe forward."

City Councilmembers reached tentative consensus March 4 on a plan to balance an expected \$33.7 million deficit in the \$186 million General Fund budget by reducing staff, implementing new revenue ideas, cutting or curtailing programs and asking residents if they want to approve hotel bed tax and sales tax increases.

The Council is awaiting the result of the May 18 General Election to see if voters approve a two-tenths of a cent increase (from 1.8 percent to 2 percent) in the city's sales tax. The tax would expire in four years and it would exempt food for home consumption.

The Council's consensus enabled city staff to begin the process of formulating the actual 2010-11 General Fund budget document. This spring, as it does every

year, the Council will formally consider the budget during a series of scheduled public hearings. Visit [www.tempe.gov/budgetplan](http://www.tempe.gov/budgetplan) or [www.tempe.gov/clerk](http://www.tempe.gov/clerk) this spring for the confirmed hearing dates and times.

Under the plan tentatively approved by Council, Tempe would:

- Eliminate 113 full-time positions, resulting in reduced hours of operation at the Tempe Public Library, increased Kid Zone and driving school fees, reduced staffing for the Police horse mounted unit and more.

- Retain 67 Police, Fire and Court positions previously identified for elimination. These restorations are possible because of \$5 million in employee furloughs, \$3 million in renegotiated healthcare costs and \$1.8 million in assorted other cuts and revenue-generating ideas, such as eliminating car allowances.

- Retain 71 more full-time positions if the May 18 sales tax measure passes. The items that would be restored in this scenario include the Police gang squad and narcotics investigation squad, the Fire dive team function, staff and operating hours at the Cahill Senior Center, funding for human service needs, and more.

The number of eliminated positions does not equate to an equal number of employee layoffs, since some positions are currently vacant.

Tempe will continue to provide an array of 2010-11 budget-related information at [www.tempe.gov/budgetplan](http://www.tempe.gov/budgetplan). To submit feedback on the budget process moving forward, community members can attend one of the spring budget public hearings or contact the City Council at [www.tempe.gov/elected](http://www.tempe.gov/elected).



## The HAWK has landed

Tempe's newly completed Western Canal multi-use path, which provides new opportunities for bicyclists, joggers and pedestrians to enjoy parks, schools and other destinations, includes unique pedestrian beacon signals called High-intensity Activated crossWalks, or HAWKs.

This signaling system is designed to make crossing easier for pedestrians and bicyclists while minimizing the wait time for motorists.

The pedestrian beacon signals are located just north of Elliot Road at the Western Canal and Rural Road and McClintock Drive. How does it work?

### Pedestrian/Bicyclist

- When you approach the beacon signal, a solid "don't walk" symbol will be displayed.
- To cross the street, press the button to activate the beacon signal.
- After several seconds, the pedestrian "walk" symbol illuminates.
- When the "walk" symbol is illuminated, you may cross the street while watching for oncoming traffic.
- After the "walk" time is complete, a flashing "don't walk" symbol will

appear and you should finish crossing the street.

- Do not begin to cross the street during the flashing "don't walk" symbol.
- Once the beacon signal cycle is complete, a solid "don't walk" symbol is displayed.

### Motorist

- The beacon signal will flash yellow for several seconds and then change to solid yellow, letting you know that you need to prepare to stop.
- The beacon signal then turns solid red letting you know that you must stop.
- The beacon signal then displays an alternating flashing red light.
- After coming to a complete stop and making sure there are no pedestrians in the crosswalk, you are then allowed to proceed through the crossing even though the beacon signal is flashing red.
- Once the pedestrian is safely through the intersection, the signal will turn off.

To download additional information on how to use the HAWK please visit, [www.tempe.gov/tim](http://www.tempe.gov/tim) or call 480-350-2775.

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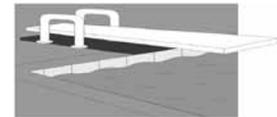
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## Transportation/Automotive

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**Thank you!**

## Getting geared up for Bike Month

April marks Tempe's 19th annual celebration of Bike Month. The city's transportation program, Tempe in Motion, celebrates Bike Month to encourage people to use bikes as an alternative mode of transportation.

Bike to Work and School Day is set for Thursday, April 22, from 6:30 to 8 a.m. All riders will receive free breakfast snacks and the first 50 riders at each breakfast site location will receive free artist-designed T-shirts. Mayor Hugh Hallman and Tempe City Councilmembers will lead the community ride from Whole Foods Market to the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. Fifth St., at 7 a.m. Experienced bike commuters from Tempe Bicycle Action Group will lead inbound rides from each breakfast site location to the Transportation Center.

Breakfast site locations include: Back East Bagels (northwest corner of Southern Avenue and McClintock Drive); Berning's Fine Jewelry (southwest corner of McClintock Drive and Warner Road); IKEA (northwest corner of Warner Road and Priest Drive); REI (southwest corner of Southern Avenue and Priest Drive) Tempe Transportation Center (northwest corner of Fifth Street and Forest Avenue); Wildflower Bread Company (southwest corner of McClintock Drive and Guadalupe Road); and Whole Foods Market (northwest corner of Rural and Baseline roads).

Additional Bike Month events include the Great Bike Chase, REI Bike Drive, TBAG's First and Third Fridays rides and Bike to BBQ at Papago Park. For more information about Bike Month events, visit www.tempe.gov/tim or www.biketempe.org or call 480-858-2215.



**For Sale** — Immaculate 2007 BMW 328 xi (all-wheel-drive) 2-door coupe, 28,000 miles with warranty. 6-cyl engine, front & side airbags. Garaged and pampered by loving original owner. Automatic front/rear air, multi-function steering wheel, moonroof, cruise, power front seats, satellite radio, retractable headlight washers, tire pressure monitor. Titanium silver metallic with brushed aluminum trim. This car is an absolute joy to drive. Private party. \$29,900. Call 480-694-4141 to see, drive or receive an emailed photo.

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## Wrangler News

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Phoenix magazine, August 2007

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# Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

## Aztec girls, boys tennis teams take home coveted championships

**Corona Tennis** — Both of Corona's tennis teams repeated as the City Tennis Tournament champions in the meet held March 26-27. All the high schools in the Tempe Unions High School District are represented at this tournament.

For the Corona girls' team, it was the fourth straight year the Lady Aztecs had won this event.

Corona took five out of six individual finals matches and all three doubles finals matches in the tournament ultimately scoring 76 points to Desert Vista's 27 and Mountain Pointe's 20 points according to coach Carol Sandvig.



In the singles event, **Kelsey Lawson** won the No. 1 championship, **Lauren Hacker** No. 2, **Roopa Krishnaswamy** No. 4, **Drew Blasco** No. 5 and **Yonit Upart** No. 6. **Maia Castiglione** was the No. 3 singles runner up.

In the doubles competition, **Lawson** and **Castiglione** took home the No. 1 doubles championship, **Hacker** and **Krishnaswamy** the No. 2 doubles championship. **Blasco** and **Upart** won the No. 3 doubles championship.

The girls tennis team played at Millennium on March 30 and at Basha on April 1. The Lady Aztecs have two more matches before the state tournament. They will play their last home match April 6 against Dobson and then they will be at Highland April 8. All matches start at 3:30.

**Boys Tennis** — Corona's boys tennis team repeated for the third consecutive year as champions in the boys tournament held at Corona this year. The Aztecs won eight out of the nine finals matches on Saturday, the final day of the tournament, resulting in 76 total points. Coming in second was Desert Vista with 25 points, followed by Mountain Pointe with 24,

McClintock with 5, Marcos de Niza with 2 and Tempe High 0 points.

**Alex Lawson** defeated Desert Vista's Ahmad Saleem in the No. 1 singles, 6-2 7-5. **Kyle Ogren**, playing No. 2 singles, defeated Nathan Keso of Mountain Pointe, 6-2 6-0. **Daniel Larsson**, No. 3, defeated Mountain Pointe's Chris Elliot 6-3 6-1. No. 4 singles **David Choi** defeated another Mountain Pointe player, Takeshi Miura, 6-2 6-1 while Corona's No 5 **Cole Libera** was defeated in three close sets by Desert Vista's Mohammad Saleem. CdS's No. 6 **Thaminda Edirisooriya** defeated Mountain Pointe's Monty Roth 6-1 6-0.

The Aztecs won all three doubles matches. **Lawson** and **Ogren** beat Desert Vista's No 1 doubles team 6-0 6-4, **Larsson** and **Choi** beat Desert Vista's No. 2 team 6-3 6-1, and **Libera** and **Edirisooriya** outlasted Mountain Pointe's No. 3 team 3-6 6-3 7-5.

The boys played at home against Millennium on March 30 and against Basha on April 1. T

he Aztecs will play at Dobson on April 6 and will have their last home match against Highland April 8. All matches start at 3:30.

**Corona Track and Field** — The Corona boys and girls track and field teams competed in the 70th Annual Chandler Rotary Invitational held March 26-27 at Chandler High School to mixed results.

The girls team placed 12 out of 41 teams. **Megan Benson** and **Briana Vaifale** both took high honors by placing second in their events while **Nick Siefker** placed the highest on the boys team.

**Benson** came in second in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 15:18. **Vaifale** threw the discus 117-10 to take second place.

**Siefker** placed eighth in the 110 meter hurdles for the boys team.

Both teams are battling injuries but Coach Tim Kelley hopes to have more athletes ready to compete at the Sun Angel Classic held April 8 and 10 at Arizona State University.

The next big track meet will be the Queen Creek Invitational held April 16 at Queen Creek.

**Baseball** — Corona's baseball team took second place in the Mesquite/Gilbert Spring Tournament held March 13-18 in Gilbert.

The Aztecs defeated McClintock, Red Mountain, Skyline and Mountain Pointe scoring 35 runs to 16 runs by the opposing teams. The only team the Aztecs lost to was Desert Vista.

The Aztecs currently have a 9-5

record and are ranked No. 7 in the state heading into the second half of the season. Sophomore **Kyle Jorgenson** is leading the team in batting average hovering around .50, on-base percentage of about 50% and an over .975 slugging percentage.

In Corona's 5-4 win over Central region foe Mesquite on March 23, left-handed pitcher **Greg Ryan** struck out seven batters and led the team with

three hits. **Heath Dwyer** had two RBI's.

**Trever Allen**, **Diego Gonzales** and **Andy Nist** each had one hit. **Chris Gammon** scored two of the five total runs while **Jake Creedon**, **Aaron Siple** and **Tyler Garcia** scored one run each.

**Wrestling** — On March 7, **Ryan**

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# Notebook

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team.

**Ortiz** (47-1) wrestled two-time state champion Dave Wilber (42-5) from Mingus. Wilber was ranked No. 29 in the nation for seniors.

“Blake beat Wilber 6-2 in one of the most exciting matches of the afternoon with a last second takedown and near fall to beat the buzzer,” said head coach **Jim Martinez**.

“His win over a nationally ranked opponent capped off an almost perfect year for Blake.”

**Fulton** (44-5) wrestled two-time 2A state champion Mark Mabry (28-1) from

Benson.

“Sam won his match on a 4-2 decision,” said Martinez.

“Sam won the last 14 matches of his high school career with 7 falls, 2 technical falls and a major decision.”

**Boys Basketball Awards** — Senior forward **David Whitmore** and senior guard **Kyle Noon** were named Honorable Mention on the 2009-10 All-Tribune boys basketball team.

Whitmore and sophomore guard **Calaen Robinson** were all named to the Arizona Republic Honorable Mention Class 5A boys basketball team.

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**Miller, Blake Ortiz** and **Sam Fulton** wrestled in the Arizona Senior All-Star Match at Grand Canyon University.

**Miller** (46-2) wrestled up a weight class against Heath Boers (41-2) from Williams Field who placed second at the 2010 State Tournament in the class 4A-II division at 160 pounds. Miller won his match in a 6-4 decision over Boers 6-4. Ryan finished the year with 29 falls for the season to lead the

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# Brett

## From Page 1

Brett and his family decided in fall 2007 that something needed to be done to minimize the effects of the seizures, so he opted for brain surgery. Things didn't go as well as hoped, however, and Brett awoke from surgery paralyzed on his right side.

"I was in the hospital for about a month," said Brett. "I had to do in-patient physical, occupational and speech therapy because the surgery also resulted in cognitive issues."

Even though Brett was facing months of physical therapy to regain some movement on his right side and be able to walk and talk again, he made it back to school right after winter break. Confronted with not being able to play sports again, Brett decided to concentrate during that first year of recovery on the other benefits life had to offer.

"The most remarkable thing after my surgery was probably all the new doors that opened for me," he said. "Instead of focusing on baseball all the time, I decided to try my hand at theater, student council and choir."

### A recurring dream

Even though he now had things in his life besides sports, lurking in the back of his mind was the desire to be part of a team again. Once Brett regained some movement on his right side, he started out running as part of Corona's cross country team, fueled by the desire to just be part of some sport and prove he could do it.

Once he developed confidence on the cross country team, he started working with his dad to resume his pursuit of sports.

"The thought was always in the back of my mind that I could play baseball again," said Brett. "But I mainly focused on trying to get more and more movement each day. The doctors said that I would not likely be able to participate in sports, but I wanted to prove them wrong."

And that's exactly what Brett Butler did. Twenty six months after brain surgery changed his life, Brett has become an active member of Corona's varsity baseball team, even though he says he's still not back to full movement on his right side.

"I am a lefty pitcher and my left side was unaffected so I can still fire the ball in there like before," said Brett. "But my right hand is less than 50 percent, so the hardest thing for me is catching the ball with my glove. Sometimes I just catch barehanded with my left because I can't get my glove there in time."

Corona's head baseball coach Dave Webb agrees.

"Brett's left arm is strong and it has allowed him to work on being a spot-up pitcher and not a power guy," said Webb. "Brett learns a little each day about his limitations, but is dogged in his pursuit to overcome them."

Although Brett has made three appearances on the mound for the Aztecs so far this season, he's hoping to get up to bat soon.

"It is great just being a part of the team again," he said. "I'm reuniting with the guys I grew up playing ball with—it's phenomenal."

It's also good for the team to have Brett back, according to Webb.

"Brett has taught the rest of the Corona team about perseverance and not to sweat the small stuff," said Webb. "Brett has and continues to inspire everyone. He wants to contribute in every way possible, and I love him for that."

Brett is the first to tell you that he would not be where he is today without the work, persistence and encouragement from his parents and physical therapists.

"I would like to give credit to my parents who have helped me through this 'bend in the road' and gave me encouragement when I felt like giving up," said Brett. "Also, the Neuro Institute, where I go to physical therapy. They have pushed me hard to get better over the last two years, and it has become my second home."

So much so, Brett says, that he plans on going into physical therapy as a profession.

"After being in therapy for two years, it really hit me that this profession is what I want to do," said Brett. "It is a rewarding job and you make great friendships out of it. So I am studying kinesiology at ASU next fall." Brett's doctors still don't think he'll ever get 100 percent of his movement back on the right side, but he's shooting for 85 to 90 percent. Brett is set to graduate from Corona in May with a 3.8 GPA. He doesn't mind telling his story, even though it can be emotional at times to relive the memories. "I don't feel like I did anything that special," said Brett. "I know people have said that this is amazing and inspiring, but I'm just living my life the best I can." Brett also would like people to learn not to take anything for granted.

"I had to start from square one, learning how to walk, talk and do things one-handed," said Brett. "I never used to think about the movements I did with my body because it just came natural; now I've learned to cherish everything and never take anything for granted."

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# Sales tax vote will impact Kyrene School District budget

Education is a large percentage of the state budget and subject to Arizona's economic climate. The good news is that Kyrene has excellent fiscal management and has been proactive in maximizing savings. The district has had wonderful community support in approving overrides and bond initiatives. Kyrene is proud to maximize dollars spent in the classroom and is well **above** state averages in dollars kept in the classroom. The district is also well **below** averages in administrative spending. Currently Kyrene is in the process of developing two budget scenarios.

**Plan A assumes that Proposition 100, 1% sales tax initiative, passes on May 18, 2010.** If no additional cuts come from the State, Kyrene will experience an approximate \$6M deficit which can be managed for one year through a conservative 2009-10 budget

that prepaid allowable expenses thereby reducing expenditures for 2010-2011, by utilizing restricted and unrestricted reserves and through identifying increased efficiencies. This means Kyrene will not experience overall class size increases or across the board base pay reductions for employees.

**Plan B assumes that Proposition 100 does not pass on May 18th.** This lack of additional revenue from the State would almost double the Kyrene deficit to \$11.8M. At that point, Kyrene would have to implement more drastic measures like increased class sizes, employee pay reductions, and changes to programs.

Community and Employee Forums will be held beginning the week of April 5, 2010. For exact locations, dates and times and more information about the budget process go to [www.kyrene.org/budget](http://www.kyrene.org/budget)

## Summer Academy expands classes and hours

This summer you have more ways to support your child's personal and academic growth through Summer Academy classes. There are 2 sessions:

**June 7-July 1 and July 6-July 30**  
**Grades K-8**

Summer Academy for grades K-8 includes two more hours and families can register for morning, afternoon, or both.

New courses offered this year include: Soar to Success, Junk Box

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