

Wrangler

NEWS

Kyrene Corridor Edition

April 18 - May 1, 2009

Vol. 20, No. 8

***Making a big community
a little bit smaller.***



**A toast to the fine
art of cooking:
'Wow, that
was good!'**

Candy Lesher leads her students, lately including Bobby Hudson, in their pursuit of culinary perfection. Lesher's Kyrene Corridor classes draw on the talents of some of the Valley's top chefs.

Photo by David Stone

Story by Geri Koeppel, Page 4

Sign police

Chandler's code-enforcement teams have launched a crackdown against so-called 'bandit' signs that have proliferated in recent weeks on public rights-of-way. City officials say violators will be given a 'reasonable' number of days before non-complying signs are confiscated. Residents have complained that signs are distracting and an eyesore.

— Stephen Denton/Wrangler News



Chandler cracks down on curbside 'bandit signs'

“Bandit signs,” a pejorative though widely accepted name for those small, temporary advertising markers frequently found cluttering roadsides, tacked to utility poles and anchored in street medians, are now the focus of increased enforcement by the city of Chandler.

According to sign officials, who launched their crackdown April 18, city code prohibits the placement of such signs in public rights-of-way.

Officials say random signs not only can create distractions for drivers and pedestrians but contribute to litter problems and detract from the city's appearance. Such signs are inexpensive and easy to erect, say officials. They can be hand-made or purchased from local or national companies.

Under the new campaign, signs will be tagged with a bright-orange notice advising “SIGN VIOLATION; NOTICE FOR REMOVAL.”

Removal and recycling of the illegal signs will occur a few days after the violation notice is attached to the sign. Code enforcers say this will give the owner time to remove the sign and help educate others who may be thinking of posting such signs that bandit-type signs are illegal when placed in the right-of-way.

To prevent weekend-only placement of the signs, a code inspector has been assigned to Saturday enforcement.

Enforcing random-advertising prohibitions has been difficult due to the growing number of signs, limited information about those who post them, and distant locations for owners and/or posting companies. An informal survey by the Code Enforcement Unit has found that many bandit signs are for products, businesses and services from non-local companies or individuals.

According to a department spokesman, many of the businesses being advertised also are not properly licensed or do they pay required city taxes.

Ace to join SRP's safe CFL-disposal initiative

Ace Hardware's south Tempe store will help make it easier for electric customers to properly dispose of compact fluorescent light bulbs, or CFLs, thanks to a cooperative working relationship with Salt River Project.

“Our recycling centers in Ace Hardware stores make it easy for customers to turn in their CFLs after their lifecycles,” said **Debbie Kimberly**, SRP's manager of Energy Efficiency and Policy.

Kimberly said that, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than the typical incandescent bulbs and produce 75 percent less heat.

“I am excited for the partnership,” said **Jan Blanco**, manager of the Ace Hardware store in the shopping center at the southeast corner of Baseline and McClintock roads.

We are pleased to announce that Sal Flores was ranked ninth in Arizona in the *Barron's* list of Top 1,000 Advisors in February 2009.¹

And in November 2008, Sal ranked 12th in *Registered Rep's* 2008 list of Top 100 Independent Advisors.²

Raymond James Ranked “Highest in Investor Satisfaction with Full Service Brokerage Firms” in the J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Study.³



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¹The *Barron's* list is a state-by-state ranking of America's top financial advisors. The rankings reflect advisors' assets under management, revenue generated for their firms, quality of service and regulatory records. The rankings were produced by Winner's Circle, a research organization that *Barron's* acquired last fall. ²Advisors for the *Registered Rep* list were ranked strictly by assets under management, although 60 percent of those assets must belong to retail clients as opposed to institutional clients. If the advisor is a member of a team, he or she must be the founder or leader of that team. ³Raymond James received the highest numerical score among full-service brokerage firms in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Full Service Investor Satisfaction StudySM. Study based on responses from 4,528 investors measuring 19 investment firms and measures opinions of investors who used full-service investment institutions. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in April-May 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. Past performance is not indicative of future results. ©2009 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC 09-BR675-0007 ML/DAB 4/09

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Owning a home is possible with this attractive open floor plan featuring 3 bdrms / 2 bath, family room, formal living, loads of tile, neutral décor, multi-pane windows, a refreshing pebble tec pool & a convenient location. **DON'T WAIT - CALL TODAY!**



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A gorgeous custom home located on a Chandler county island with no HOA. This home features newer stainless steel appliances, granite, neutral décor, 9' & vaulted ceilings & so much more. Not only beautiful but energy efficient, as well with 2x6 construction, thermal pane windows & N/S exposure. Nestled on a home site of more than an acre & offers a sparkling pool, circular drive & horse privileges. **ONLY \$425K.**
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A REAL GEM

This great 3 bedroom plus a loft & 2 1/2 bath home will be a beginning you won't forget. Kept well and nicely decorated this home is conveniently located to freeways, shopping, restaurants, etc. Within walking distance to the community pool too!
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And all that's nice! With features like newer carpeting, red oak flooring, newer deep stainless steel kitchen sink with a newer faucet & disposal, a built-in media niche in the family room & so much more nestled on corner lot with a sparkling pool. Just in time for summer! **MOVE-IN READY AT \$250,000.**
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This is a charming 4 bedroom / 2 bath home loaded with gorgeous tile, granite countertops, ceiling fans & more. Just in time to splash in to summer with your very own refreshing pool & spa! You'll want to hurry! Call for pricing details.

Cooking class stirring up Kyrene Corridor food scene

Reenergized studio creates a venue for some of Valley's most 'fabulous' chefs

By Geri Koeppel

A group of 11 people eager to learn about Southwest cuisine perched on bar-height chairs at a granite counter, watching intently as chef Mary Sue Fowler prepared achiote shrimp tostadas.

As she stirred in toasted cumin and explained why she prefers roasted garlic, the dish came together in front of everyone's eyes.

"This is a great little pass-around appetizer when you're having your cocktail parties this summer, before it gets too hot outside," Fowler said.

Expect the culinary bar to be set higher at spring flings and poolside barbecues now that Cooking Studio AZ is in the neighborhood. It offers ongoing classes by notable chefs such as Fowler, the executive chef at Sam's Café in the Biltmore from 1999-2005.

Cooking Studio AZ started inside SunWest Appliance Distributing on Kyrene Road south of Elliot Road in February after Phoenix cooking school and store Kitchen Classics closed. Owner Shauna Halawith planned to move the popular classes to SunWest, the Southwest's exclusive Viking distributor showroom, which houses a stunning demonstration kitchen.

Other opportunities for her arose, though, and in stepped Candy Leshner, a chef and former editor of *Food & Life*

magazine. She was the first instructor at Kitchen Classics and taught more than 200 classes a year.

Her background in cooking, teaching and media is put to use at Cooking Studio AZ. As director, she facilitates and leads classes, publishes a monthly newsletter and caters meals for special events.

"All of the experience pulls in, and you take a job, and suddenly all of it comes into play," Leshner said.

Some of the instructors she's recruited aren't household names, but have impressive pedigrees. Rachel Albert-Matesz developed recipes for Barry Sears, creator of the Zone Diet. Anne-Marie Blanco worked as Emeril Lagasse's pastry chef.

Others, such as James Beard Award-winning Vincent Guerithault of Vincent's on Camelback, are local icons.

Though classes are not hands-on, the audience learns more than how to assemble a dish. Leshner moderates and asks questions, and instructors give handy hints. At Fowler's "Superb Southwest" class, for instance, students learned to cook shrimp until they turn into a "C," not an "O," so they're not overcooked.

They found out the difference between Mexican and Italian oregano (Mexican is milder). And they witnessed how to remove a mussel's



Instructor Mary Sue Fowler, who was executive chef at Sam's Café at the Biltmore for six years until 2005, kept her students' rapt attention during an explanation of how to prepare achiote shrimp tostadas, a recipe from her popular Superb Southwest class.

— Photos on this and facing page by David Stone/Wrangler News

"beard."

They also get to eat all of the finished products.

"I really liked dessert," Debra Poty of Mesa said of the toasted piñon shortbread cookies with tequila-soaked berries. "The fruit – wow, that was good."

Some who used to attend classes at Kitchen Classics followed the instructors to Cooking Studio AZ and now are regulars there.

"We always get such a variety," said Katherine McNally of Phoenix. "The chefs are fabulous, the food is fabulous. We enjoy coming for the social aspect of it as well. We've met a lot of friends." Her father, Ray, added: "I've learned so much going to these different classes. It's incredible."

See facing page for location, class schedule and registration information.

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Cooking Studio AZ

Where: SunWest Appliance Distributing, 8370 S. Kyrene Road, No. 107, Tempe

Hours: 6:30-8:30 p.m. weeknights; check schedule for specific classes

Cost: \$29 to \$59, depending on class

Information: www.sunwestdist.net (register for online newsletter and receive a \$10 discount certificate) or 480-784-6611.

Instructor/Director Candy Leshner: Experience finds a new home.

Summer camps offer plenty of variety

Kyrene Corridor youngsters can keep their minds and bodies active this summer at fun and educational sports, enrichment and cultural camps.

Camps begin the end of May and run through August, with a range of starting and ending dates to fit a variety of schedules.

Parks and Recreation-sponsored sports camps can help young athletes of all abilities improve their game in soccer, volleyball, basketball and tennis, say planners.

Kid Zone enrichment programs, full-day

camps held weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at local schools, provide opportunities for children entering first and continuing through eighth grades.

City of Tempe cultural camps teach visual and performing arts and allow youth the opportunity to exhibit their talents to family and friends.

A detailed list of Tempe's summer camps, including fees and registration instructions, is available at www.tempe.gov/rec. Sports camp information: (480) 350-5200. Kid Zone: (480) 350-5400. Cultural Camps: (480) 350-5287.

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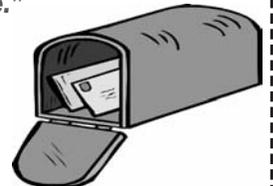
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Workshop #1 - Wednesday, April 29, 2009

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- Natural, cultural, historic and archaeological resources
- Transportation, trail connections and wayfinding including ADA accessibility
- Environment and native habitats
- Structures and facilities for renovation and/or restoration
- Park activities and education
- Sustainability for the park

Your Participation is Valuable to the Planning Process!

The public is encouraged to participate in one of the two sessions held for each of the three public workshops. The second and third workshops will be held on June 15 and August 20, 2009.

Phoenix Zoo

Stone House Pavillion
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
455 N. Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008

OR

Supai Middle School

Cafetorium
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
6720 E. Continental
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

www.DiscoverPapagoPark.com
Project Hotline (480) 391-6800
Email: info@discoverpapagopark.com

**Can't make it to the workshop?
Participate Online!**

For more information, to sign up for project updates, or to participate online at your convenience for each of the three public workshops, please visit the project website.

Update

Funding, safety remain schools' top concerns

Editor's note: In this letter to the Kyrene community, updated on April 14, Dr. David Schauer, superintendent of the Kyrene School District, offers his commentary on two major issues facing the district in the coming weeks.

If you are following the news from the legislature, you know that no decisions have been made about the level of educational funding that will be provided for next year, although it is most certain that reductions will occur.

This puts school districts like ours in a very difficult position because we have to plan for the unknown and make difficult decisions that provide the needed flexibility for whatever happens.

Recently the Governing Board approved a Reduction in Force process for continuing first-year teachers. This action was unusual and unprecedented. Decisions needed to be made at that time because law required that we notify

continuing teachers if they will not be receiving a contract by a deadline of April 15.

We are looking at "across the board" salary reductions for all employee groups, which includes teachers, administrators and support staff. We are also considering changing the existing class size ranges. In addition, a long list of other budget-saving ideas is posted at www.kyrene.org/budget.

Many of the ideas were received from staff and community members.

It is hoped that the stimulus money coming to Arizona could lessen the need to take these actions, but we have no clear information on what we can expect. I wanted to be sure you knew about this because changes could need to be made that will not be popular or welcome. A Kyrene Governing Board study session took place April 14, at which many of these options were discussed. Further

discussions will be scheduled by the Governing Board at a date that has not yet been determined.

Safety inspections

The other update is related to the safety of our school buildings across the district. After the roof collapse at Waggoner, I asked for inspections at all schools that are more in-depth than those required by our state.

This work is being done by Gervasio and Associates, an independent structural engineering firm. These inspections are under way and outlined on our website at www.kyrene.org/ksdnews/inspections.

As of April 14, the following schools have had the initial inspection:

Mirada, Paloma, Pueblo, Milenio, Lagos, KMS, Cielo, Aprende, Brisas, Sureño, Manitas, Mariposa, Niños, Norte, Cerritos, Altadeña, Sierra, Estrella, Monte Vista and the remainder of the Waggoner campus.

Any issue the inspectors discover is immediately addressed and the affected school community receives a letter to ensure that accurate information is provided. So far there are four schools that have required some preventative maintenance.

However, in each case we have been assured the buildings are safe for occupancy. The letters to each school community are on the Kyrene structural inspection page at www.kyrene.org.

The safety of our students and staff members is a top priority and we will not knowingly allow anyone to be in an unsafe environment.

We continue to anticipate the final structural engineering report about the Waggoner roof collapse and when we receive it will schedule a community meeting in the form of a Governing Board Study Session (similar to the last one about this topic). We will also post the report on www.kyrene.org.

I will continue to communicate about the latest information on both the budget and the structural inspections through school newsletters, community letters, e-mails and by updating the district website.

It is most important that we work closely together as a community as we face these challenging times.

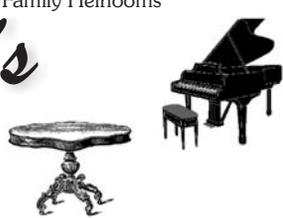
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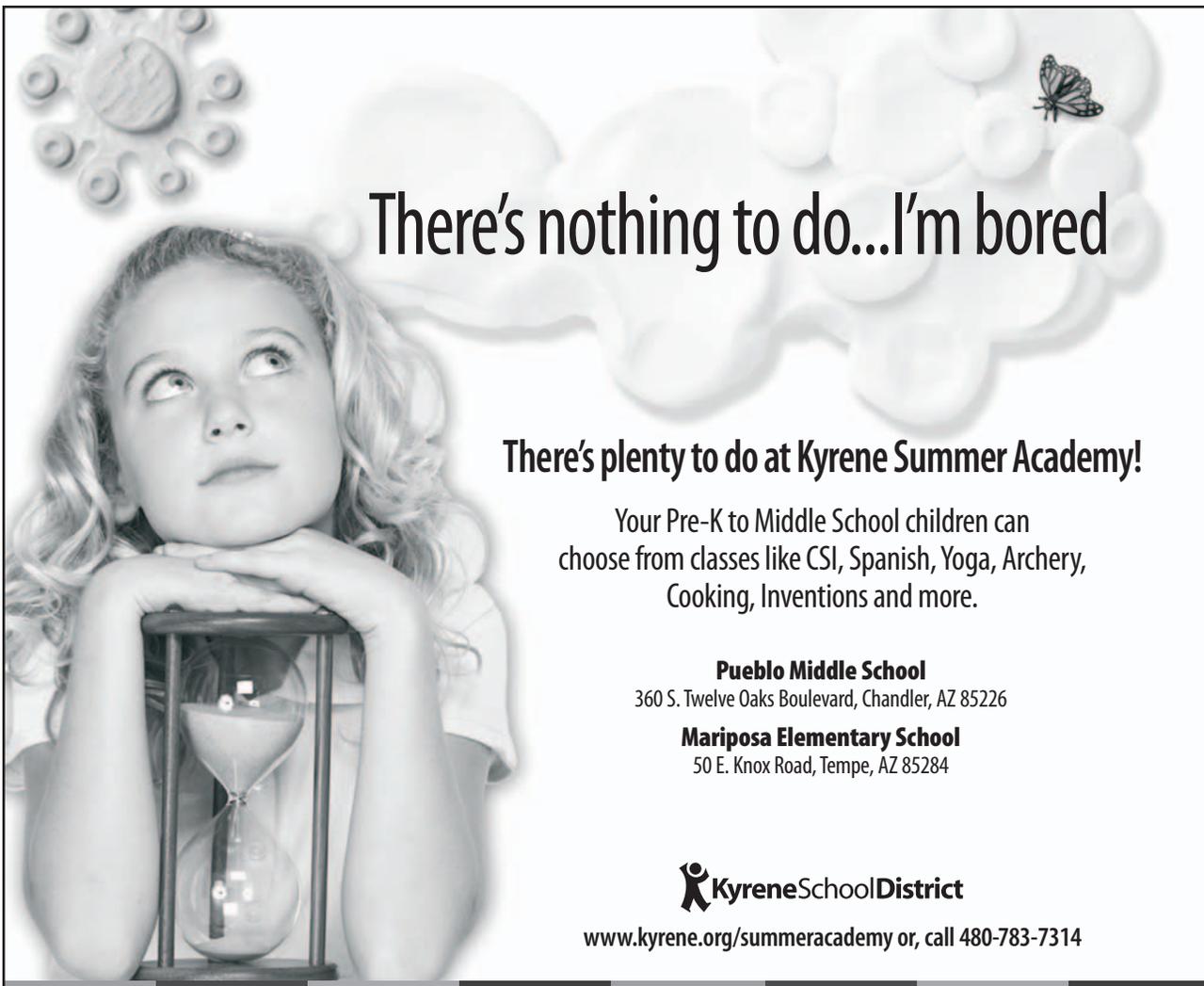
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Coloring Contest

Children 12 and under

All entries must be submitted by May 22, 2009. Entries can be dropped off at any of the following locations: Tempe Parks & Rec Office (2nd Floor Public Library), Wrangler News, Landis Cyclery, Love Child, Dairy Queen, Sign of the Whale and Brilliant Sky Toys and Books.



Name _____

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Age _____ Phone # _____

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7-12 WINNER

Prize package including a Movie Bundle to Pollack Tempe Cinemas, Family Jump Time Passes to Pump It Up, Family 4 Pack to Kiwanis Wave Pool, \$10 Sign of the Whale Gift Card, FREE 8" ice cream cake from Dairy Queen, FREE Cookie at Great Harvest Bread Co and FREE Fiddlesticks Batting Cage session.

MOVIES in the PARK is a FREE family movie series Friday evenings at Kiwanis Park. Showtime begins at dusk. Next up is *Madagascar 2* on April 24 and *Wall E* on May 1. Movies play weekly through May 15. For more info call 480-350-5200 or visit tempe.gov/events.

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Economy causing increase in crime around rental, vacant properties Workshop explores ways neighbors can spot potential problems

By M.V. Moorhead

When you think of an occupation that might involve wandering into a crime scene or being threatened with violence, you think of a police officer, a detective, maybe a journalist. You probably don't think of a Realtor.

Yet Realtor and property manager **Tammy Billington** has just such war stories, and she wants to do something about it.

"I've walked into houses where I've had knives pulled on me; I've had houses where I walked in to

find double homicides," says Billington, president of the local chapter of the National Association of Residential Property Managers.

"The problem is, now that the economy is harder, the crime rate is rising."

In response to this, Billington and her colleagues are hosting a "Crime Free" seminar from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, April 27, at the Remax Achievers office at 333 N. Dobson Road in Chandler.

Area attorney **Denny Dobbins** of the International Crime Free Association, Arizona Department of Real Estate Assistant Commissioner

Janet Blair and Chandler Mayor **Boyd Dunn**, among other legal and law enforcement folk, will offer hints for property professionals and neighbors at this free event on how to both spot and prevent criminal activity connected to vacant or rental properties.

The first hour deals with drugs, the second with gang activity, the third with the role of Neighborhood Watch. The day-long event will also touch on such issues as vandalism, burglary, identity theft and

— CRIME, Page 18

DON'T LET PAIN KEEP YOU FROM ACHIEVING YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

Dear Friend,

Confessions are tough. Real tough. But sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know, when I meet people in town they usually say, "Oh, yeah, I know you. You're Dr. Steve. I've seen your ad with that picture of you and the two cute little girls." Well, I'm the guy on the middle.

YEARS AGO, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME THAT CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER.

Let me tell you my story. It's years ago and I am a young college student feeling indestructible, but one day I developed little red spots all over my legs. In my case, it came on suddenly. It started after a hard day of training for a long distance road bike race. At first I thought nothing of it, but soon after I woke up the next day I realized that the spots were getting worse. I was scared; they were starting to appear on my arms and stomach.

I was very concerned and immediately went to see my primary care physician. He was puzzled by my problem and told me that if it doesn't hurt or itch, don't worry about it. This disturbed me because the spots were not going away and I was embarrassed by their appearance. In spite of his "recommendation," I decided to continue seeing all different types of doctors over the next year to find the answer. I was poked, prodded, and given prescription medication with horrible side effects and no results.

After hearing about my story, a classmate of mine told me about a doctor he knew. This new doctor does an exam, takes some films, and then "adjusts" my spine. The adjustment didn't hurt; it actually felt good. Within a short time, the spots began to disappear and I could train again without new spots appearing. Oh, did I mention that this doctor was a chiropractor? It worked so well for me, and I was so impressed with the other "miracles" I saw in his office, that I eventually went to chiropractic school myself.

Now for my daughters in the photo. They have been adjusted since birth. I adjust them when I feel they may be getting sick, or sometimes just to keep them "tuned up." The amazing thing is that now I get to help hundreds of people every week with problems like I had and other things, like allergies, athletic injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, migraines and other headaches, arthritis and joint pain, back or neck pain, sciatica, fibromyalgia, and injuries from car accidents, just to name a few.

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF MY PATIENTS HAVE TO SAY:

"Dr. Steve changed my life. He helped eliminate my constant neck pain and headaches when nothing else seemed to help. Dr. Steve did this without using drugs or surgery. I can't thank him enough!" —Casey R. of Mesa



"I was suffering from leg problems, fatigue, and restricted range of motion. Dr. Steve's knowledge on sport injuries has benefited me. I have my life back again, without pain. I am glad to be a part of his program because I know things will continue to be great for me." —Mario C. of Chandler

"For the past eight years I have lived in pain and have had a headache on a daily basis. I have gained my quality of life back. I no longer have headaches. I sleep beautifully at night and wake up rested and pain-free. Life is wonderful without pain. Thank you Dr. Steve for giving me my life back." —Andrea P. of Tempe

ALL RIGHT, ON TO MY CONFESSION...

Over the years, I've taken credit for helping hundreds of people. Babies with chronic ear infections, moms dealing with intense migraines, men bent over with agonizing back pain, women suffering with fibromyalgia and carpal tunnel syndrome, and seniors who were crippled with horrible joint pain and arthritis. But the truth is, I didn't cure all those people. It's your body that does the healing. We just help it along, and fortunately we get tremendous results. In fact, most of the people who come to see us not only get rid of their aches, pains, and other symptoms, but say they feel better than they have in as long as they can remember!

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Kyrene Corridor *News & Notes* . . . with Tracy Doren

Is your business making a positive impression? Now's the time it should be

Things That Amaze Me, Chapter 1:

Even though this would seem an ideal time for businesses to reach out to the community, to improve service, to ensure that customers are left with a positive impression, such initiatives don't yet seem to have achieved universal acceptance.



The result, say some I know, is that our expectations have reached a point where we accept mediocre as good, where we find our threshold of

disappointment being nudged higher with each frustrating exchange.

On the occasions when we actually get what we asked for, we almost feel lucky. Oh, it isn't just getting home, opening the bag from the drive-

through and finding that the chicken sandwich you ordered has been replaced by onion rings.

It's a whole range of service-related experiences that make you wonder what ever happened to the way our society used to do business. I worry that the concept of providing service with a smile has become one of those things our grandkids will read about in their history Kindles.

Some of my concerns, admittedly, seem benign enough, among them the dreaded expired-coupon dilemma. Although I've always believed the coupon was a way to bring customers through the door, some businesses apparently see it as a privilege that can be taken away just as impersonally as it was offered, the expiration date an irrevocable deadline, not an invitation that says, simply, "Come on in and get acquainted."

In my apparently flawed way of looking at life in general, it seems logical that businesses would use coupons to get people in the door, so if a date has passed but the customer is ready to spend precious dollars, why should the small print make a difference.

Maybe I'll reflect on it some more and figure out where my thinking has veered off base. As always, feel free to share your thoughts with me by emailing tracy.doren@wranglernews.com.

OK, so back to the issue of reaching out to the

community, making people respond favorably to their interaction with the rest of us—you know, feel-good stuff.

It's what we were thinking about when we heard that the Arizona Cardinals, whose home away from home is right here in our back yard, contribute \$675,000 a year to the community by way of rent they pay the city of Tempe. That seemed like a chance for us to say something nice about them. Maybe even put their photo on our cover.

The Cardinals, it turns out, didn't share our enthusiasm. After making numerous attempts to reach their public relations (?) staff, we received a terse email saying they "politely declined" our offer, although I'm not sure they knew exactly what our offer was because we never had a chance to discuss it.

Well, so much for positive impressions (see above).

Let's hope that my observations are limited to a few isolated experiences, that businesses don't overlook the value that accrues from strengthening customer relationships, that my grandchildren can enjoy a discounted lunch even if their coupon has expired, and that the Cardinals have another spectacular year.

Fair-weather friends seem to go into hiding when the rainy season arrives—and it always does.

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Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

Boys tennis accrues 15-0 record, emerges No. 1 in rankings

Déjà vu! Corona's boys tennis team is once again undefeated and No. 1 in 5A-I power ranking points late in the season.

The only thing the Aztecs covet the rest of the year is a different outcome in the state tournament. Corona lost last year in a close 5-4 match to Desert Vista in the 2008 semifinals.

This week the Aztecs have a good chance of repeating as Central region champions in the tournament held April 16-17.

The Aztecs are 15-0 in the regular season and took home the championship trophies in both tournaments they competed in this season: the Metrocenter Kiwanis Invitational and the recent Tempe

City Tournament.

The Corona del Sol boys tennis team smashed the competition for the second year in a row and repeated as City Tournament champions Mar. 27-29 at Desert Vista high school. The Aztecs swept all nine matches in the finals.

The Corona team amassed a total of 72 points against the other five Tempe Union

high schools including Mountain Pointe, Desert Vista, Marcos de Niza, McClintock and Tempe.

The No. 1, 2 and 3 singles finals were all played against Mountain Pointe players.

Garret Dunn defeated the Pride's No. 1 player, **Andy Nguyen**, by default when Nguyen forfeited the match because of an ankle injury. Corona's No. 2 singles

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player, **Alex Lawson** flattened Mountain Pointe's **Richie Snelling**. **Kyle Ogren**, the Aztec's No. 3 singles player crushed Mountain Pointe's **Brandon Tse**.

Daniel Larsson, Corona's No. 4 singles player defeated Desert Vista's Kim. **Ben Duong** won over Desert Vista's No. 5 singles player Chen. **David Choi** also defeated Desert Vista's No. 6 singles player Olague.

Corona's doubles matches were not so easily won. The Pride's Nguyen came back from his ankle injury to team up with Tse to play against Corona's No. 1 doubles team of **Garret Dunn** and **Kyle Ogren**. Nguyen and Tse took the first set 7-5 but then the Aztec's Dunn and Ogren came back strong and won the second set 6-0. Dunn and Ogren held on to win the third set 6-2 and the match.

Corona's No. 2 and No. 3 doubles team continued the Aztecs dominance by defeating two other Mountain Pointe doubles teams.

Winning at the No. 2 spot for the Aztecs were senior **Ben Duong** and freshman **Alex Lawson** against the Prides Snelling and Vithana. Junior **Daniel Larsson** and junior **Cole Libera** defeated Mountain Pointe's No. 3 doubles team of Petcher and Wen.

The Aztecs should enter the state tournament as the No. 1 seed when the 5A-I team matches starts April 20. If the Aztecs win their first-round match, they will play on Wednesday, April 22.

These first two matches will be played on the higher seed's home courts which should be at Corona. The team aspect of the state tournament will continue with the semifinal matches April 27 and the finals April 28 both played at Paseo Racket Center in Glendale. Matches are scheduled to start at 3:30 both days.

On April 24-25 the individual state matches will begin. Both singles and doubles will be held April 24 at Scottsdale Ranch Park. The matches will continue April 25 at the Gene Autry Sports Complex in Mesa. The individual state matches will finish up May 1-2 at the Paseo Racket Center.

Information about both the team and individual state tennis tournament and match results can be found as the Arizona Interscholastic Association website at <http://www.aiaonline.org/athletics/brackets.php>.

Girls net team wraps up its season with a 14-1 record

Corona del Sol High School's girls tennis team ended the regular season with a 14-1 record and a No. 2 spot in the 5A-I power rankings. The Lady Aztecs' only loss was to the No. 1 Xavier. They took second place in the Metrocenter Kiwanis Invitational in late February and first place in the City Tournament.

The Lady Aztecs were crowned Central region champions for the sixth straight year, with senior **Danielle Hoyme** going undefeated in both singles and doubles. Add to the mix junior **Kelsey Lawson** who went undefeated in both singles and doubles the entire season.

The team also won its sixth consecutive Tempe City Championship held at Mountain Pointe High School March

27-28, defeating the next two closest teams which tied for second, Mountain Pointe and Desert Vista 68-29.

Singles champions were junior **Lawson**, senior **Hoyme**, senior **Libby Vogt** and sophomore **Yonit Upart**. Corona's No. 1 singles player, **Lawson**, also plays in the No. 1 doubles position. **Lawson** and **Danielle Hoyme** won the No. 1 doubles championship at the City Tournament.

"One of the keys to our team's success this year has to be **Kelsey Lawson**," said **Hoyme**. "We always know we have one singles match clenched automatically because of her."

—TENNIS, Page 12



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Tennis

From Page 11

Winning championships in the No. 2 doubles spot were sophomore **Lauren Hacker** and **Libby Vogt**. Also winning doubles in the No. 3 position were senior **Michelle Wellnitz** and **Yonit Upart**.

"I am very pleased with the outcome of the two tournaments we've played in so far," said **Hacker**. "I think that we have performed very well so far this season, and if we keep working hard, I only expect us to get better as the season progresses."

The Lady Aztecs have lost only one regular-season team match, and that was to tennis powerhouse Xavier on Feb. 24. They did take second place in the Metrocenter Kiwanis Invitational held Feb. 27-28 but were without their No. 1 singles and doubles player Kelsey Lawson.

"Coming in second at the Kiwanis tournament was great because there were some really good teams playing in it," said **Vogt**. "I ended up playing mixed doubles with **Cole Libera** from the boys team and we got first place defeating the Brophy/

Xavier mixed doubles team in the finals."

In the 5A-I state tournament which starts with the team matches April 20 is where the Lady Aztecs will likely meet some of the best tennis players in the state.

"Our team's goal is to keep improving and to do well in state. If everyone is healthy we should be competitive against our main state competition, Xavier, Salpointe and Mesa Mountain View," said **Lawson**. "One of the strengths of our team is that we are deep at No. 3-6 and strong in our No. 1 and 2 positions."

"Our main strength, though, is that we have a great coach in **Carol Sandvig**, who knows what she's talking about," said **Lawson**. "She runs a great practice and knows how to make us better."

The Lady Aztecs will have a chance to use their depth when the state team tournament continues April 22. The semis and finals will be played at the Paseo Racket Center in Glendale April 27-28. The first two team matches are to be played at the higher seeds' home courts, which will most likely be Corona's.

The State 5A-I individual tournament will start April 24-25 and then continue May 1-2 at either the Paseo Racket Center or Ironwood High School. Find information about location and match results at <http://www.aiaonline.org/>.

Disability honors announced

Six students from Marcos de Niza High School are among 10 citywide being honored for outstanding achievement by the city of Tempe's Commission on Disability Concerns and Tempe Community Council.

The awards will be presented during afternoon ceremonies at Pyle Adult Recreation Center on April 30. A keynote address will be delivered by Randall Howe, assistant U.S. attorney in the Appeals Division for the District of Arizona.

The awards recognize community members who have overcome significant barriers to succeed in the workplace, as well as companies that support employing people with disabilities in the workplace and all aspects of community life.

Marcos students to be recognized include Raymond Martinez, Nancy Derby, Charles Calhoun, Nico Douglas, Jonathan Pugh and Francisco Kuipers.

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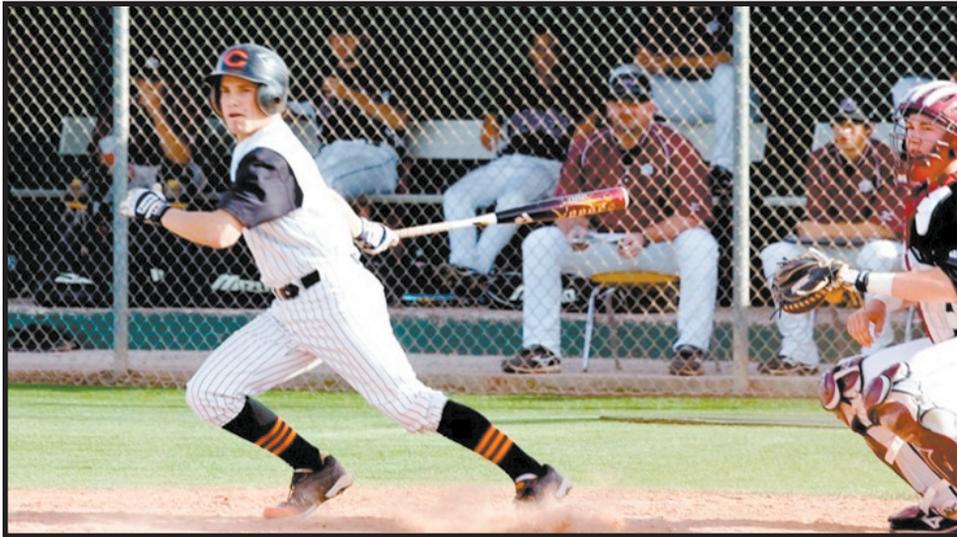
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Kirby Pellant shared one of eight RBIs against Brophy.

— Photo by Kris Cartwright

Rebound nearly rescues Aztecs

By Alex Zener

Corona's baseball team was highly touted when it beat Brophy 8-3 on April 1 but woke up to the reality of its tough schedule by losing two games in a row—first 16-6 to Horizon, then 5-3 to Desert Mountain.

The Aztecs then were able to rebound and win three games in a row before falling April 14 to No. 1-ranked Desert Vista at Tempe Diablo stadium.

Corona was able to defeat Brophy with strong pitching and sizzling bats. Relief pitcher **Greg Ryan**, in his second outing of the season, retired nine of Brophy's 11 batters, which resulted in the Broncos leaving 10 men on base. Corona was trailing 3-2 heading into the fifth inning before the batters woke up and scored four runs in that inning alone to move into the lead and take control of the game.

Altogether, the Aztecs' No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 hitters (**Mike Felton, Kirby Pellant,**

Tyler Giannonatti, Trever Allen and Greg Ryan) had eight RBIs.

The Aztecs soundly thumped Central region foe Mountain Pointe April 7 by 10 runs (13-3) and April 9 by 9 runs (13-4). The April 7 win was a confidence booster especially since the Aztecs were able to score nine runs in the third inning alone. Altogether the Aztecs had 16 hits out of 31 times at bat with three players hitting homes runs. **Giannonatti, Evan Ritchey** and **Andy Nist** each hit a homer.

April 9 the Aztecs actually were behind 2-3 after the first inning but battled back outscoring the Pride 11-1 in innings two, three and four. No one on either team scored after the fourth inning. The win gave Corona a 2-0 Central region and 15-4 overall record setting up a non-region game against North Canyon (12-5 record) on April 13. Corona won that game 6-2.

The season so far has been a bit bumpy

— BASEBALL, Page 14

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Baseball

From Page 13

but the Aztecs are intent on regrouping and finishing out the rest of the season strong. **Kirby Pellant** broke the season RBI record held by Corona's Nate Combs for years. It appears that a few more players may be within striking distance of Combs's record too and may pass it before the end of the season.

"As of late, Andy "Da Bomba" Nist has stepped up with some out of the blue power and has been a wall behind the plate," said senior **Marshall Gottlieb**.

"**Evan Ritchey** has had a hot stick and has two home runs in the last three games. If the guys at the bottom of the order can stay hot we should continue to do well."

"Pitchers **Trever Allen** and **Tyler Giannonatti** have helped us get back on track and have been solid in the starting rotation," continued Gottlieb.

The Central region is never easy and the Aztecs are going to need to stay on track while playing their remaining schedule which includes two more games against No. 1-ranked Desert Vista and two more games against No. 2 ranked Mountain Pointe before the state tournament. Corona cannot overlook another Central region foe Basha. The first of three games against Basha is scheduled April 21 at Corona.

So far the Central region teams are right in the thick of the 5A-I power point rankings. Desert Vista slipped below Phoenix Brophy to second place after losing to Basha last week. Corona has the same record as Desert Mountain but is ranked below at fourth. Basha moved up from ninth to fifth this week and Mountain Pointe slipped from fifth to eighth.

The rankings will undoubtedly change because not all scores have been reported on the Arizona Interscholastic Association website.

Title hopes inch closer after dual meets

By Alex Zener

All the hard work is beginning to pay off for the Corona del Sol track and field team as it starts its move up closer to the front runners in the 5A-I pack with improved finishes in two recent meets.

The Aztecs received their first-place track invitational finish since 2003 at the fourth annual Basha Co-Ed Relays held April 3 at Basha High School. CdS also finished third in the 20th Tempe Wynn Zucco Relays on April 9.

At the Basha Relays, Corona's **Kyle Benson** and **Nick Siefker** came in first and second in the 110 meter hurdles. The girls team also added points in the 110-meter hurdles with freshman **Megan Benson** coming in third and junior **Sydney LeMieux** in fifth place.

In the 100-meter dash **Brendon Tunstall** finished ninth and **Michael Lange** was 12th. On the girls side, **Irene Ashu** was fifth and **Taylor Johnson** was 10th. The girls 1600-meter run had Corona's **Christina Freeman** crossing the finish line third and **Kristin Stroble** seventh. **Josh Coulter** and **Daniel Wrapp** finished eighth and ninth respectively for the boys team.

The Aztecs also did well in the Basha relay events. The boys 4 x 800 team made up of **Garrett Baker-Slama**, **Michael Seal**, **Wade Hooke** and **Matt Whitlatch** came in second. Coming in first in the girls 4 x 800 relay were **Morgan Dorweiler**, **Danieca Ganje**, **Sydney Buck** and **Danielle Lemieux**.

The Aztecs also placed two teams the 4 x 100 relay. The girls team of **Irene Ashu**, **Megan Benson**, **Taylor Johnson** and **Precious Woods** took third while the boys team of **Michael Lange**, **Kyle Benson**, **Austin Crothers** and **Brendon Tunstall** were sixth. Corona's mixed 4 x 100 meter relay team placed second.

Both the girls and boys teams took first place in the shuttle hurdle relays. The boys 4 x 70 meter team was made

up of **Seifker**, **Michael Swindle**, **Conrad Laboy** and **Kyle Benson** while the girls 4 x 60 meter team included **Sydney LeMieux**, **Tadessa Smith**, **Alexandra Haun**, and **Megan Benson**.

In the 800 sprint medley relay the boys team of **Crothers**, **Lange**, **Tunstall** and **Laboy** crossed the finish line in second place while the girls team of **Johnson**, **Precious Woods**, **Ashu** and **Dorweiler** were third.

Corona athletes also finished strong in the distance medley relay where **Danielle LeMieux**, **Sydney LeMieux**, **Stroble** and **Ganje** finished first in the girls event while **Baker-Slama**, **Nicholas Woods**, **Seal** and **Whitlatch** were second.

Basha also threw in some fun with a mixed 40-meter dash mascot race. **Kyle Benson**, racing incognito as Mr. Aztec, crossed the finish line first humbling Mr. Ed, Waldo Wildcat, Mr. Firebird, Mr. Pride, Mr. Cougar, Bruiser Bear and the Death Padre.

In the Basha mixed shot put relay, **Mike Stahl** finished strong in second place with **Jon-Paul Dyament** right behind him in third. **Briana Vaifale** came in 22nd overall but was the top girl finisher with a 36-01 throw actually besting three boys in the competition. **Valerie Hackett** was 37th in the mixed shot put.

The Aztecs were well represented in the mixed discus throw relay. **Briana Vaifale** had a state-qualifying throw for third place overall behind two male counterparts. Her discus throw of 132 was farther than 19 boys and also longer than her two fellow Corona team mates **Jon-Paul Dyament** and **Chase Cartwright** who finished seventh and eighth respectively. **Amy Foster** finished 27th overall in the event.

In the mixed long jump relay, senior **Tunstall** finished eighth, **Todd Lewis** tenth, **Kaylin Villocino** 31st and

— TRACK, Page 15

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Track

From Page 14

Kiley Tomsen 37th out of 46 jumpers. **Lewis** took second in the mixed triple jump relay followed by **Austin Malm** 12th, **Lauren Milovich** 36th, and **Tomsen** 43rd.

Malm tied for fourth in the mixed high jump relay jumping 5-10 followed by **Siefker** tied for 11th, **Milovich** tied for 29th and Corona volleyball standout **Bethany Jorgenson** tied for 40th place.

The Basha mixed pole vault relay found Corona's **Dustin Baize** coming in fifth, **Danae Cook** 25th and **Alyssa Woelfel** took 28th place.

Last Thursday the Aztecs competed in the Tempe Wynn Zucco Relays where both the boys and girls team came in third behind Chandler and Hamilton.

This meet was special because the top nine finishers in certain events got to run in the Sun Angel Collegiate meet April 11, according to head coach **Tim Kelly**.

The Corona's girls team had several athletes finish in the top nine, including **Megan Benson** who finished eighth in the 100 meter dash and **Danica Ganje** and **Dani Lemieux** who finished third and sixth respectively in the 1600 meter run. Benson also finished sixth in the 100-meter hurdles along with **Sydney LeMieux** who came in eighth.

Taking third in the girls 4 x 800 relay were **Ganje, Dani LeMieux, Katie Huch** and **Morgan Dorweiler**. The 4 x 400 relay team of **Dorweiler, Lakevia Stormer, Huch** and **Sydney Buck** added a fifth place finish setting a personal record time of 4:13.93 edging them closer to qualifying for state according to coach Kelly.

The Corona boys team had two athletes qualify for state with a strong showing in the 1600 meter run. **Matt Whitlatch** crossed the finish line in first and **Garret Baker-Slama** was third. **Nick Siefker** finished fifth in the 110-meter hurdles.

The Aztecs only have one regular track meet left in the season, April 22, at home against Basha and Valley Christian. The rest of the season they will be competing in a variety of meets before the Central region championships May 5 and 7 and the 5A-I State championships May 13 and 16.

On April 24 Corona will be competing at the Tribune Invitational held at Westwood.

Then April 25 will be the Freshman Showcase at Desert Vista. April 29 will be the Freshman/JV City Meet and April 30 the Varsity City Meet at McClintock.

Information about Corona's track team can be found on Corona's athletic website at <http://www.aztecatletics.com/> or the team's website <http://staff.tuhsd.k12.az.us/coronatrackandfield>

Weekend match holds hope

By Alex Zener

The Corona del Sol boys volleyball team has been practicing and playing hard for first-year head coach **Brynne Evans**. The Aztecs have a 6-3 record heading into this weekend's McClintock Charger Tournament.

The Aztecs began the season with five seniors and eight juniors but only one legitimate returning starter, **Austin Peck**, from last season's team. Coach Evans also has two freshmen on the varsity team.

Alex Davis and **Scott Burdick**, both freshmen, have proven that they deserve time on the court" said coach Evans. "I see their confidence and leadership capabilities continuously growing."

Two players who missed last season, **Steven Law** and **Tyler Liss**, have come back to play out their senior year.

Steven Law, one of our team captains, is a dominant player" said coach Evans. "His strengths lie in his passing and hitting."

Tyler Liss, our other captain, has come back as a senior and has been a strong mental player for the team," said coach Evans. "He has a great work ethic and is ready to play

whenever or wherever needed."

The team also has some players that can be called on to put up a big defensive block or generate offensive kill numbers.

Riley Heywood and **Alex Deem** are our two strong middle blockers this season," said coach Evans. "Riley averages over two blocks a match while Alex is just under two blocks a match."

"Steven Law leads the team in kills averaging over seven kills a match while Riley Heywood is close behind at six kills a match."

Last season's starting outside hitter, Austin Peck, is currently the Aztec's setter.

"Austin Peck has stepped up as a new setter for us this season," said Coach Evans. "He is doing remarkably well, averaging over 18 assists a match."

Also new to the team is junior **Josh von Allworden**, who plays on Corona's boys soccer team. Von Allworden comes off the bench to provide a spark to the team and play the opposite or right side-hitter position.

Josh von Allworden decided to give volleyball a chance this year," said Evans.

— VOLLEYBALL, Page 29



Austin Peck sets up a shot for Stephen Law (rear)

— Kris Cartwright



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Meet your neighbor Mom provided inspiration for floral-shop owner's passion

By Jeremy Banks

Nahid Rad is the owner of Flowers by Rad, a floral shop on the corner of Warner Road and McClintock. Making floral arrangements has become a passion—and she says she owes it all to her mother.

Ten years ago, Rad was living a different life. She was working in real estate, across the country, in New York. And one day her life changed.

"My daughter was going to (Arizona State University) and one day I got a phone call that she

had been in a rollover accident and it was life and death," Rad recalled.

"I came to Arizona right away that night, and by the time I got there in the morning I found her tied to every machine and everything Band-Aided up. I said 'God, if you let her live, I will never leave her sight again. And literally she lived. Eighteen days later, she walked out of the hospital, and I never left Arizona."

Rad kept her promise and stayed in Arizona with her daughter Claudine. The two were later joined by

Rad's mother, Effie, who moved from New York. Rad was very excited.

"(Effie) said I'm going to come to Arizona too," Rad recounted. "So you've got three generations of women living under one roof."

Rad's mother, a year after moving to Arizona, started having health problems.

"She became ill and she started having complications," Rad said. "Eventually she developed dementia, osteoporosis. She had high blood pressure. Then she broke her hip and had to have a hip replacement."

Rad quit her job in real estate to take care of her mother full-time. They spent hours together and enjoyed many special moments.

"It was probably the greatest thing I've done in my life," she said.

The two made flowers together and decorated the apartment with flower arrangements. They later began making arrangements for neighbors.

"Within two or three months, I knew I had a niche," Rad said.

Effie realized it, too.

"She gave me the confidence. She made me feel I'm good at what I do and I should pursue it. She definitely gave me the courage," she said. "She was always the backbone, saying 'You're good. Keep going. Expand.'"

Rad began selling her arrangements in furniture stores.

"It was selling real good," she said.

After her mother's death, Rad carried out Effie's wishes. She expanded, doing floral arrangements from her home.

"I felt like she wanted me to continue," Rad said.

She gained a number of clients and soon enough it became a business. She opened a store in Chandler Fashion Center, where she experienced more success. However, she closed the store due to change in ownership at the mall. Rad returned to real estate, but her true love kept calling.

In February, she opened Flowers by Rad, and she believes she is in a position to provide something special. She would like to create high-quality flower arrangements at an affordable price. Her arrangements are creative. She said she has never struggled to come up with a design.

"It just comes out of my head. I get inspired," Rad

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said.

“One day I was in Mexico and I saw a village. I came back and I created the Mexican village. My mind doesn’t have limitations if I let it go.”

Rad has a special gift. She’s excited about sharing it with the community. However, without her mother, she knows her talent would have never been realized.

“If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t be

doing this. She blessed me with the talent that I can really create anything anybody wants and make sure when they leave there’s always smiles,” Rad said.

“When I work and I make the arrangements for other people’s mothers, I feel like each arrangement that goes out, I’m sending it to my mom. And I think, ‘Mom, these are all for you. I love my mom so much.’”



Nahid Rad says she owes her passion for flower arranging to her mother, who helped her realize her talents and encouraged her to pursue them.
— Tracy Doren/Wrangler News

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Crime

From Page 8

crime safety.

While she hasn't been chased away by a knife-wielding squatter, Billington's Remax colleague **Kris Cartwright** has her own grim tales of real estate biz nightmares.

"I went into one house where people had taken the French doors off the back of the house," Cartwright recalls.

"There were wood plank floors that they had pried off with a crowbar, and they'd taken the bathroom fixtures. Anything they could sell, they'd taken."

At a location near 48th Street and Baseline, says Cartwright, "They'd taken the copper plumbing from the attic. Somebody turned the water on for the house inspection and it flooded the attic. People are just breaking into these homes and taking whatever they can."

She's also seen vandalism:

"There's been graffiti at a vacant bank-owned home at Chandler and McClintock."

Occupied rental homes can have crime-related issues as well.

"I was showing a rental at Baseline and McClintock and the house looked like a whole family had been living in every room," Cartwright says.

She also remembers taking clients to see another rental property in which "there were beds all over the house, in the dining room, in the living room, and there were people lying in bed. We just left."

Cartwright offers her own tips to neighbors:

"If there's a vacant house in your neighborhood, pick up the newspaper; if there's a branch down, clear it. Mow the lawn if you want. Do anything you can to make the place look less vacant. If it goes to a bank sale, and you're worried about it going for rock bottom, do what you can to

make it look nice, because that affects everybody's property values."

The April 27 seminar is free, though seating is limited; call Tammy Billington at (602) 577-9330 if you're interested in attending.

She states her ambition for the event simply: "We could help lower the crime rate."



Tammy Billington, area Realtor and property manager, at an area home that hasn't been affected by vandalism...

— David Stone / Wrangler News



... and Kris Cartwright at a home where obvious vacancy invites trouble

Cartwright surveys damage at a vacant house that will need extensive repair before being ready for occupancy.

— Tracy Doren / Wrangler News



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Lakes women launch second campaign to aid abandoned pets

Economic conditions are affecting Arizona's pet as well as its human population, and members of the Tempe Lakes Women's Club are coming to the rescue.

The women will host their third annual community pet-supply drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Lakes Beach and Tennis Club, 5501 S. Lakeshore Drive.

Donation bins also are available through April 24 in the main lobby of Chapman Chevrolet/Isuzu, 1717 E. Baseline Road.

"The silent victims of the economy and foreclosure crisis need our help," said **Tamara Reddy**, who chairs this year's effort.

According to Reddy, the current downturn is resulting in the Arizona Humane Society experiencing an increase in pets being brought to the shelter. Last year, say AHS officials, the number of calls requesting help for animals abandoned in homes after the owners moved out doubled to more than 3,500 from the previous year.

To help the women's club in its efforts, children at nearby Rover Elementary School collected pet food and supply donations, the winning class entitled to a pizza party for their efforts. This marks the second year of the students' involvement.

On this year's wish list are bleach, Windex, dryer sheets, laundry soap, paper towels, soft cat toys, washable cat beds, litter pans, canned cat and kitten food, and chicken and beef broth.

For dogs: toys, leashes, Nyla-bone and Kong-brand toys, puppy food, hard and soft treats, Cheerios and bandanas.

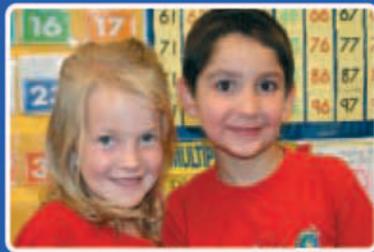
For hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs and other miscellaneous pets: rabbit mats, Pig-loo critter houses, water bottles, food for domestic ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils and rabbits, and untreated wood chew sticks for little critters.

Information: Tamara Reddy, (480) 456-8696 or Denise Rentschler, (602) 329-1955.

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Taste of Greece festival May 1-3 at Town Lake

Five students from Corona del Sol High School and one from Marcos de Niza are among recipients of this year's coveted Flinn Scholarships.

Winners from Corona are Katherine Cai, Derek Huang, Vishal Maini, Smitha Ramakrishna and Molly Yang. Lauren Johnson, a student at Marcos, also was honored.

The Flinn Scholars program offers top Arizona high school graduates full-ride financial benefits to attend one of the

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Film Faze . . . with M.V. Moorhead

Plenty of laughs in '17 Again' but not from teen idol Zac

The maxim, often attributed to George Bernard Shaw, that youth is wasted on the young is presumably itself wasted on the young.

And yet it's been the basis for a whole sub-genre of teen comedy: those many fantasies in which middle-aged people, by some supernatural or science-fictional means, get to go back and re-live their high-school experience, now armed with the savvy of adulthood.

The gimmick is back with *17 Again*, in which Zac Efron plays a hot-shot high-school basketball star who, back in 1989, abandons his chance at a

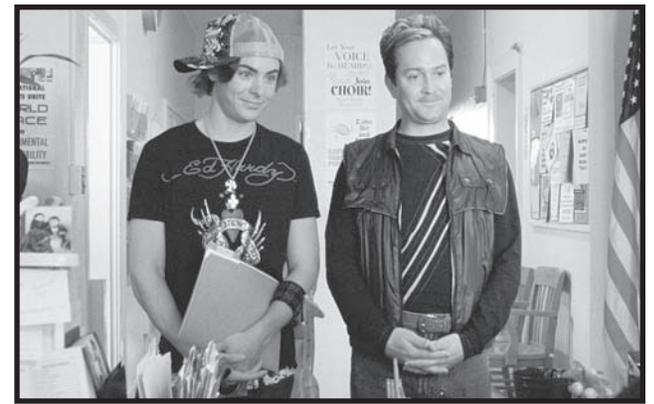
scholarship to marry his girlfriend when he learns she's pregnant. Twenty years later—today, that is—he's grown up into salesman Matthew Perry. He feels bitter and cheated by life, he's distant from his teenage daughter and son, and his wife, grown up into Leslie Mann, has very rightly kicked him out of the house for his whining, and understandably wants a divorce.

Being a child of the late '80s, the guy might well have seen *Like Father, Like Son* (1987), *Vice Versa* (1988) and *18 Again!* (also 1988), and not been surprised when a mystical Janitor (Brian Doyle-Murray) transforms him back into Efron.

But apparently he didn't get to the movies much back then. Anyway, he re-enrolls at his old school, where he's quickly back in the big-man-on-campus groove—a star on the hoops team, pursued by the ladies, putting bullies in their place.

Some broad comedy ensues, silly but innocuous enough. Yet the focus of the film, oddly, is on the guy's attempt to reconnect with his family in his 17-year-old form—he gives paternal comfort to his daughter (who develops a crush on him; eeewww!), helps his son get girls, and tries to make time with his grown wife. It all came across, for me at least, rather unsavory and embarrassing. (By the way, shouldn't the daughter be out of high school 20 years later?)

Directed by Burr Steers from a script by Jason Filardi, *17 Again* seems meant, principally, as a



Zac Efron, Thomas Lennon in '17 Again'

showcase for young heartthrob Efron, of the *High School Musical* films and *Hairspray*. He puts on quite a show, dancing, doing Harlem Globetrotter-style tricks with a basketball and leaping around like Errol Flynn, not to mention doing a solid approximation of Perry's snarky yet self-deprecating delivery.

He tries too hard at times; his attempt at a tearful heartfelt speech near the end of the film is cringe-inducing. But he's certainly not a lazy performer.

Still, the film is stolen out from under Efron by Thomas Lennon (of *Reno 911!*), who plays the grown-up version of his best pal, now masquerading as his father.

Lennon's character is a sci-fi/fantasy geek who made a fortune in computers and has the money to indulge his geekdom, filling his house with props and artifacts from *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*. He doesn't need to return to adolescence; he never left. But when he sees the gorgeous principal (Melora Hardin), he's instantly smitten and attempts to court her in preposterous ways.

This subplot isn't any better-written than the rest of the movie, but Lennon's nerdy aplomb made me laugh so often that I eventually came to wish the movie was about him.

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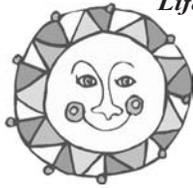
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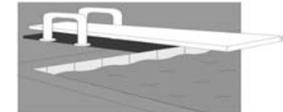
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Gates/Fencing — Gates & Fences from A to Z Perimeter, LLC. We Build or fix any fence. Iron cedar gates, stone veneer, stucco, ornamental iron, paint & repairs. Licensed, bonded and insured. Call 480-786-8826. ROC# 221545, #221546. See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

Gates/Fencing—Custom Fences and Gates, Ornamental Iron Fabrication, We offer all types of fences, view fence, pool fence and others, 4x6 iron wood combo gate \$289, www.customfenceandgates.com, licensed, bonded, insured, ROC#230087, 602-254-8379 See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

Handyman—We Do It Services. Handyman jobs, property maintenance, phone jacks, painting, window washing, pressure washing, furniture assembly, hauling. Free bids. I do what

your husband puts off! Greg 480-491-2373 Not a licensed contractor. AZ 32121 12/19

Handyman — Handy Man Dan for all your home and yard repairs, call Dan at 480-763-8379. Carpentry, plumbing, painting, electrical. I do it all. Specializing in the Kyrene Corridor. Local Resident with over 20 years experience. Not licensed contractor, just a perfectionist. Free Estimates. 8/09

Handyman — Dave's Handyman Service. 602-295-3991. "Ask us if we can do it." Electrical, plumbing, doors & windows, drywall, painting, home remodeling. Lic. #169409ROC. See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

Handyman — Honey-Do Handyman - Electrical, plumbing, install ceiling fans, fixtures, entertainment systems, phone jacks and do most repair jobs. Clean, neat and dependable. 25 years experience. Not a licensed contractor - make your list and call Ron 480-233-1834 or 480-736-1599. See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

Handyman — Mi-Son Handyman Home Repair/Remodeling. Specializing in kitchen/bath remodeling, electrical/ceiling fans, carpentry, plumbing, flooring, paint & roofing. We do it all, including trash removal, hauling, lock change, Specializing in landlord, property management and Realtor needs. No job too large or small. 480-707-1221 or 602-330-5445. Call Mike or Sonia for estimates. Not a licensed contractor. 6/09

Handyman — John Purchase's Handyman Services – Let an experienced handyman take care of your small household repairs, renovations and alterations! Electrical, plumbing, carpentry, ceramic tile, drywall, door and window unit replacement and more - just ask! Licensed contractor, #ROC183671 ("C-62: Minor Home Improvements"). 30 years experience. Top quality work and Building Code compliance. (480) 921-3217. See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

Hauling/Cleanup — Hauling, cleanup, remove dirt, rocks, concrete, unwanted items, junk, tree trimming and tree removal. Decorative rock spread. Call John for a free estimate. 480-231-3162. No job too small. 3/10

House Cleaning — Immaculate Cleaning Services. Count on us to provide you with superior quality service. Affordable and dependable. "The best in the East Valley". Satisfaction guaranteed. No hidden charges. Call our licensed professionals 480-734-7783. See our ad in *Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

House Cleaning — Personal Touch Cleaning Service. Affordable service with quality and reliability. 23 years experience, all supplies furnished. Call for free in-home estimate. Yes, I do windows. Excellent references. 480-838-4066 or 602-481-7000. Dar. 12/09

House Cleaning — Desert Dusters Housecleaning. Let your dirt and dust answer to us. Weekly, bi-monthly, one time, referrals. Family owned and operated. We take pride in our work. Call for an estimate 480-423-9526. 4/18

House Cleaning—"JENNIFER'S HOUSE CLEANING" Not enough time in a day?? Call 480-833-1027 for a free phone quote. Super dependable. Weekly, Bi-weekly, Monthly. References avail. 15 years experience Bonded- AG0601, Insured-46871 It's a CLEAR Choice!!! Call 480-833-1027 10/24

House Cleaning —House cleaning with affordable rates. Years of experience cleaning homes. Attention to details, honest and reliable service. Same person every time, English speaking Marilyn 480-430-5097 5/2

House Cleaning—Family-owned. Non-toxic house cleaning safe for children, pets and those suffering from allergies. Please call for a free estimate! 602-561-2388 5/2

Landscaping — Custom Landscape Blueprints save you money. Yard overgrown? Dirt backyard? Work with a professional landscape designer before hiring a contractor or starting your

do-it-yourself projects. Carolyn Walstad Landscape Design 602-679-9273. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Landscaping — Tedesco, Tree MD – 15 yrs of service, Tempe/Chandler. “We are dedicated to the craft and science of tree work”. Pruning, Fertilizing, Problem Solving. Owner operated. Personal service, Insured, Bonded Arborist. 480-544-5693. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Landscaping — John’s Landscaping. Quality & service guaranteed. Sprinkler/irrigation systems, rock installed, new lawns, palm/bush/tree trimming, concrete/block wall, free estimates. 480-615-0474. 4/4

Landscaping — Greg’s Landscaping - Free Estimates. Landscape design and installation. Sprinkler/irrigation and repair, landscape cleanup and hauling, tree trimming. 480-962-4167. 11/09

Landscaping — Yard cleanup and maintenance Trees/Shrubs Trimmed Lawn Service Debris Removal Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one time clean-up Call Rob (602) 431-1305. 6/09

Landscaping — Valley Landscaping Services. Quality maintenance at affordable at affordable prices! We’ll keep your lawn in “tip-top” shape. Trimming palms, stump removal, drip system/sprinkler repair, rock spreading and more! Weekly and bi-weekly services. References available. www.valleylandspagingaz.com. Call Carlos 480-228-0077. 3/10

Landscaping — Landscape maintenance: We provide quality work, dependable service, and we have English-speaking foremen. 10% of our profits are donated back to the community. Free quotes. KJE Landscape Maintenance www.KJELandscape.com 480-586-8445. 3/10

Landscaping — Get Her Done Yard Care and Maintenance - One time clean-up or weekly or monthly service available. Free Estimates. Quality work at reasonable rates. \$10 Discount on first service over \$60. Call Eric 480-907-8278. 02/10

Landscaping — Lawn Core Aeration: SAVE WATER and promote spring green-up. Reduce soil compaction and eliminate thatch build-up. Dethatching/Power-raking/Fertilization (480) 940-8196 www.ThePLUGman.com ROC #212226 All credit cards See our ad in guide to Neighborhood Services

Landscaping—Phoenix Desert Landscaping – Landscaping clean-ups, lawn service, palm tree trimming, skinning palms, tree removal, weed removal from rocks, pre-emergent, sprinkler systems, sprinklers & drips, time clocks, leaks, paint, gravel, driveways, sidewalks, block, flagstone. Nine years experience. Call 602-690-3813 3/10

Landscaping—Landscaping Maintenance & Irrigation Repair Service; Create/beautify new or older lawns & plant life. Specialize in sprinklers, drip lines, timers & Valve/pressure issues. Please contact Art @ 480-710-8738 or e-mail art210@cox.net 5/16

Landscaping— Affordable Yard Maintenance, Mowing, bushes, trees, planting, clean-up, drip/sprinkler/valve/timer repairs, Free Estimates, Owner operated, Call Vicky 480-430-5805, Chandler resident, serving the East Valley for 14 years. 5/16

Landscaping—CORONA LANDSCAPE - Installation, Maintenance and Repairs. Complete installations, Makeovers, Commercial and Residential Maintenance, Landscape, Lighting, Sprinkler and Drip systems, Irrigation Timers, Granite and Boulders, Flagstone, Pavers, Plants, Trees and SOD. We show up. Ed 602 373-9100 4/18

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Landscaping—Grass Guys, Your home of the \$39 per month grass service is now offering total lawn and pool care. Grass service, full service, pool service, weed control. Call 480-644-0101 or www.mygrassguys.com See our ad in guide to Neighborhood Services

Miscellaneous—PARTY PONIES, CART RIDES/ SADDLE RIDES, GREAT FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES, SPECIAL EVENTS, GRAND OPENINGS, FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL OR EMAIL DAVID KENT 480-345-9090, DKENT100@YAHOO.COM 4/4

Miscellaneous— Your Video Legacy. A “My Legacy” is a professionally video taped and edited interview sharing your life and your stories for loved ones and future generations! A one of a kind keepsake/collectible that documents your role in your family’s history. Contact CAZ Productions at 480 292-9082 for rates and more information. 5/2

Painting — DZ Paint – A painting company with quality painters and affordable prices. Whether it’s your home or your office, you name it, we’ll paint it. Accent walls, garage floors, interior and exterior, commercial and residential. Give us a call for a free estimate. Licensed and Bonded. ROC #191520 (commercial), ROC #191519 (residential). Daniel 480-326-0851. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting—Tyler’s Decorating Remodel with color, an affordable solution to update your home! Specializing in complete interior painting, faux finishes, Venetian plasters, textured plasters, and wall finishes. Color specialist/consultations available. Details and the right color make the difference! For a free estimate, call Tyler at 480-940-7775 3/10

Painting—Residential painting – Looking for a new look? Look our way! Already Done Custom Home Painting, Complete interiors/exterior, Re-texturing, Wallpaper and Acoustic ceiling removal. Call Mark 480-233-8233 10/09

Painting — Brassberrys Painting & Coating-Interior/Exterior Repaints, 32 Years Experience in the valley. Quality Products Used. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Commercial and Residential. Current References Available. Licensed/Bonded/Insured. Res. Lic#ROC107686. Com. Lic #ROC127135. Call 480-892-0463. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — Village Painting – Interior/Exterior painting, drywall repair with texture matching, custom faux finishes, and cabinets. Small jobs also welcome. (ROC#069679) CALL (480) 814-1588. Visa/Mastercard See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — Vic’s Painting We use Dunn Edwards Paints. Interior/Exterior Specialist. Experienced. Clean. Honest. Quality/Guaranteed. Not a licensed contractor. References available. Free Estimates. Call 480-820-5797 or 480-710-0034 Today! Visa/Master Card accepted. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — L. Hardy Painting. Interior/Exterior painting, drywall, drywall repair and texture coating. Free estimate. Call 480-963-2498. Lic. #34/137206. We accept Visa and MasterCard. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — Chad & Son Painting Inc.-Interior, Exterior, Residential, Commercial, Free Estimates, Drywall repairs, texture, power wash, popcorn ceiling removal, quality wood staining, color matching, repaint and new construction, wall paper removal and installation, epoxy coating and painting, licensed+bonded+insured roc# 208062 and 208063, call 602-790-5073, chadandsonpainting@gmail.com. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting—Burden Painting Inc., “Leave the Burden to Us” Interior/Exterior Painting, Dry Wall Repairs and texturing. Free

Estimates Licensed, Bonded, and Insured. ROC# 153491, 153492 Call Darrell Burden 480-892-1190 4/10

Painting—Interior/Exterior Painting, Repair of Drywall and Stucco, Power Washing, Dependable, Experienced, Free Estimates 602-690-3813 6/27

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Plumbing — Plumbing sales & service. Free estimates. No job too small. Local Tempe company for 20 years. Water heaters, R.O. systems, water softeners, slab leak location & repairs. Drains cleaned. City-wide Plumbing. 480-966-8795. www.citywideplumbing.us See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Plumbing — Above All Plumbing Services. “Integrity in Plumbing.” Commercial/Residential. Now serving the East Valley. Our goal is to be your plumber of choice for your every plumbing need. Call (602) 414-0880 today or visit us on-line at www.AboveAllPlumbingServices.com. ROC# 220963. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Plumbing — City-wide Plumbing & Service Co. Slab leak repairs, electronic leak detection, water heaters, RO systems & water softeners. Free estimates. 480-966-8795. www.citywideplumbing.us. Contractor’s lic. #C-37 064 954 & L-37 086 764. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Plumbing — Stevens Plumbing, Inc. Heating & Air Conditioning. Complete plumbing, heating and A/C service and repair. Electronic leak locating and slab leak repairs. Repipe and reroute experts. Sewer/drain video inspection & replacement. ROC#S082241C37. 480-345-2862. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Plumbing — Frederick & Sons LLC, Plumbing and A/C specialists, serving the East Valley since 1980, Clogged drains, seasonal a/c checkups, full a/c service, heat pump repairs, water heater repairs/ installs with haul away, garbage disposers and faucets, 24 hour emergency service, roc#241512, 245339, www.plumbingprosaz.com, family owned and operated. Call 480-332-6589 See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services

Pool Care — Arizona Oasis Pool Service & Repair. LLC. Weekly or Bi-Weekly service, full service or chemicals only, repairs, pumps & filters. Insured, dependable & trustworthy. Professional family owned business. 480-694-1518. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Pool Care — Complete pool care-full weekly service-low cost-including chemicals-chemical only service-green pool clean up-DE/Cartridge cleaning-salt cell cleaning-repairs-acid wash-bonded & insured – honest and reliable- Call Tom 602-332-5342 or 480-940-1805 Baja Pool Care See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services

Pool Care — Over 29 years in the pool industry with reliable and dependable service. Additional services include pump, motor, filter and DE grid replacements. Hayward vacuum cleaner repairs. Call Charlotte 480-838-9102 2/10

Pool Care— VIP Pool Service, Custom Pool Restoration, New Pool Interiors, New Tile, Water Features, Wireless Controls, New Cool Deck, Flagstone, All Repairs, Enhancement for all budgets-Local Resident, licensed, bonded, insured, ROC 202312. Call 480-840-4625 4/4

Remodeling — JAK Construction Inc.. – Specializing in all phases of construction. Rain gutters, Downsprouts, Aluminum and Vinyl siding, AZ rooms, kitchens, baths, room additions, overhang trims/eaves. We love small jobs! Garage floor coatings, Flagstone – vinyl chip & more. Solid colors, cool deck. Call (480)

820-8711. Licensed, bonded and insured. ROC #112275. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Remodeling — Remodel contractor- R. Child Custom Carpentry, LLC. Plans to completion, carpentry, additions, patios, decks, concrete, drywall & stucco. Best prices for quality work. Since 1998. ROC B216115. 480-215-3373 5/16

Remodeling — Cafarelli Construction offering residential and commercial work since 1974. Interior/Exterior, Kitchen & Bath, Room Additions. Licensed, bonded & insured. Lic#088929/101012. We are dedicated to the beauty of your home. 480-839-4452. 0/0

Remodeling—English Building Company, LLC. General Contractor, Your Neighborhood Contractor, Remodeling, Additions, Kitchens, Bathrooms, See Project Pictures and Customer references online at www.englishbuilding.net, Tempe Navtive., Licensed, Bonded, Insured ROC 189470 Call today for a free estimate 480-603-8813 See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services

Roofing — Bill's Awning and Construction. Reroof with lightweight stone-coated steel shingles, shakes or tiles. New roofing, reroofing, leak repairs, shingles, coatings. Free Estimates. Quality Workmanship. Ask for Cliff Frazier. 480-986-1606. Licensed, bonded, insured. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services

Roofing —Need a new roof? Tear offs, re-roofs, flat, repairs on all types. Call me for all your roofing needs, 5 year warranty, Kretz Contracting, ROC#155224 Call Roger 480-233-0336 4/18

Remodeling — Custom Remodeling Specialist. Whole house remodels, kitchens, baths, bedrooms, counters & cabinets, tile & carpet, garages, offices, patios, room additions and much more. John C. Erickson – owner. Over 20 years experience. Licensed (ROC#171687), bonded & insured. JCE Company, LLC. 480-200-9037. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services

Sprinklers — Sprinkler Repair- Repairing valves, drip systems and timers. Harris Gardening. 480-303-2404. Serving the East Valley area since 1977. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Stucco Repair — J & R Stucco and Painting, Homes and block walls, patches, Paint Interior/Exterior, 10 years of experience, Free Estimates Call Richard 480-227-6922 for stucco or Jaime 480-258-4606 for paint. 4/18

Tile/Granite — Granite and Tile Installations, Counters, Floors, Backsplashes, Tub Surrounds, Custom Showers designed for you. Discounts on most material. With over 20 years of experience you'll get great quality and service. Free estimates. ROC#189096, ROC#064108. Call 480-203-6147. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Tile/Granite — Professional Tile Installation—Floors, Showers, Backsplashes, Patios, Tub Surrounds. Reliable Service, 25 years experience, Call Now for a Free Estimate. Ask about our specials, A-1 quality tile installation. 480-626-3191 5/2

Tile/Granite — Tile and Stone Installations. Lic., bonded and insured. Serving the valley since 1974. Discounts to Wrangler readers. Free estimates, call Bob Lukert. 480-510-4650. 6/10

Windows — Window Tinting and Accessories, Auto/Home/Business, High quality work at affordable prices! Over 15 years experience, lifetime warranty films, call for a free quote. 480-980-1198 4/18

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EXPERIENCED, FIVE STAR SERVICE SERVING THE EAST VALLEY. LICENSED & FULLY INSURED, W/ REFERENCES AVAILABLE. WRITTEN ESTIMATE W/O HIDDEN CHARGES, OWNER OPERATED, JOSEPH ALBERT CELL 480-228-5453/480-634-8466 5/2

Personal Services

Adult Care — Adult Transitions Inc. Assisted Living Services. Supervisory, Personal and Directed care for special needs. Our impeccable commitment to quality provides peace of mind: residents', yours and ours. Please come tour. (480) 730-9110. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Adult Care — Fairview Assisted Living Home. A residential elderly care home. Privately owned and operated, committed to provide the highest quality of care. 2371 E. Fairview St. Chandler. 480-560-2434/773-5155 or email altonaga7@aol.com. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Health & Beauty — MOMENTUM Salon & Body. 480-940-7377. momentumsalonandbody.com. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Health & Beauty — Stop Bedwetting. Celebrating Children Life Coaching for Children. Lori Ulman BS.ed, CLC 480-206-7226. Child oriented! No drugs! No contracts! See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Health & Beauty — Issa Certified Fitness Trainer. Specializing in women's health and fitness. I bring the equipment to your home. You will see results. 1 hr. \$50.00. 1/2 hr. \$30.00. Call Rose 480-993-7080 today for your free 1/2 hour fitness evaluation/body fat analysis. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Tutoring/Instruction — Piano Instruction by Melodie L. Acker, NCTM Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, Music Degree, ASU School of Music, President, East Valley music Teacher's Association, 480-940-0621. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Tutoring/Instruction —First month is free. Piano teacher with 15 years experience will come to your home. References available. Lessons for all levels from beginners to advanced. 7 years to adults. 2 recitals per year. Please call Sandra 480-969-9244 6/13

Tutoring/Instruction—Christian Music Teacher offers piano and voice lessons at \$60.00 per month. We teach all ages and levels. Please call Michelle 480-821-9630 12/09

Miscellaneous — Images by Stone. Family portrait, weddings, commercial, special events. David Stone 480-329-5892 www.imagesbystone.com. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Miscellaneous — Hypnotherapy – A safe and gentle way to make behavior changes. Stop Smoking, Lose Weight, Relieve Anxiety, Improve Study Habits. Board Certified Hypnotherapist. Call 480-838-1184. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Pets

Pet Services — Pet Sitting. Have your pet pampered and cared for in the convenience of YOUR home. Bonded, insured. Member Pet Sitters International. References Available. Call Janice with Mrs. Doolittle, 831-9388. 2/10

Pet Services — Sue's Pet Friends – Loving care in your home. Free initial visit. Daily and overnights available. Insured, Bonded, Member ASPCA & Pet Sitters International. 480-628-6958. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Pet Services — Pooper Scooper. Hate that poop? Love your pup! Call Mrs. Doolittle and she'll clean it up. Bonded and insured. 480-831-9388. 2/10

Pet Services — Happy Tails! Pet and House Sitting Service. While you're away, let the pets play. Licensed, bonded and

insured. Serving the Kyrene Corridor. Liz McBride 480-444-6684. HappyTailsPetandHouseSitting@gmail.com. 12/09

Pet Services—Pets Will Play-When you are away, your pets will play! We provide many pet services for all pets while you are at work or out of town. Our services include: walking, playing, feeding, potty breaks and doggy doo doo clean-up. Please contact us for more details or to set up a free consultation. We can't wait to meet your pets! Website: petswillplay.vpweb.com Email: petswillplay Phone: 602-317-5119 5/2

For Sale

Miscellaneous—FOR SALE 18 CUBIC FOOT REFRIGERATOR \$225, 27 CUBIC FOOT REFRIGERATOR \$125 CALL 480-705-0033 5/2

Miscellaneous—AZ D-Backs, season ticket holder owns infield box seats (btwn home and 3rd) aisle seats. Catch a foul ball, \$35 per seat, call now for best selection, Call Alan 602-738-7401 5/2

Transportation

For Sale—1990 VW Golf- very clean inside and out, ice cold a/c, 5 speed trans, 4 cyl, red with grey cloth, alloy wheels, 97000 miles, runs as good as it looks, one owner, if your looking for a car to save you money this is it! must sell fast, \$3500 or reasonable offer, Call Dave at 602-410-9388

Auto Parts & Service — Protect Your Car's Interior: Call for a dealer near you! (480) 967-1675. Retractable Sunshade – no storing or rolling needed. Custom dashcovers – reduce glare and protect. Protect your seats – from kids, pets and spills. Dash Designs, Inc. 6014 S. Ash Ave. Tempe. www.dashdesigns.com. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services

Real Estate

House for Rent—4 bd/2 ba, 2700 sq. ft., upscale neighborhood, split floor plan, family room with office area, 2 fireplaces, 3 min. from 3 freeways, pool service included, non-smokers please, avail. immediately, call 480-897-0448 4/4

House for Rent—Immaculate 3 BR home in Gold Canyon Area with pool custom Mexican burnt adobe backyard landscaping with firepit. Fully furnished with high end furnishings all purchased new in 2008. 52" plasma tv...2 car garage, gated community. No pets, no smoking, \$1300/monthly, first, last month and security deposit. 6 month lease or longer. Includes pool and yard maintenance. Call Loren 206-399-3020

Office/Retail for Rent—Office condo available, brand new, great location, street visibility, 1021 sq. ft., \$24.00/sq. ft., Design to suit your needs. Located at Kyrene/Warner. Call 480-496-0828

To place your text & online ad in Wrangler News

You can place a classified ad in both print and online versions of Wrangler News (with such eye-catching enhancements as bold or centered type and a photo, if you like) on our website at www.wranglernews.com. Cost is \$20 for 30 words, plus a small additional charge for additional words or any enhancements you choose. \$20 pays for your ad in TWO CONSECUTIVE ISSUES. Check out our discounted rates for multiple insertions. Best of all, your ad begins running on line, available to anyone who visits the site in search of a product or service, before it is printed in the next issue of Wrangler News **Call us 9-5 M-F at (480) 966-0845 if you have questions. Thank you.**

Volleyball

From Page 15

"His quick learning and competitive attitude are just two of his strengths. The rest of the team is always fired up when he enters the game. They enjoy seeing him make great plays and it brings the enthusiasm of the rest of the team up a notch."

Rounding out the team are senior defensive specialists **Tres Kwilosz** and **Ben Hauber** and senior opposite hitter **Brandon Lake**. Junior opposites **Chad Mortiz** and **Andrew Bollard** and outside hitters **Gavin Haws** and **Sione Letoi** contribute in the kill and block categories.

The Aztecs will play in the McClintock Charger tournament this weekend and then at Desert Vista April 21 and at Tucson on April 22.

They will then host Brophy April 23 before continuing Central region play. The Aztecs will host Mountain Pointe April 28.

Science education 'a must,' says educator

By Emily Jacobson

Let's face it: the American educational system needs some help. With limited funding and outdated expectations, public schools in the U.S. have repeatedly fallen short of the mark in math and science.

Meanwhile, the growth rate of jobs requiring math, science and computer technology is said to be increasing at five times that of other occupations.

While not noted for our educational system in Arizona—we rank pretty low in national surveys—there is still some hope that the system can be reenergized.

Among those pursuing new educational frontiers are Sonoran Science and Paragon Science academies, both focused on boosting academic performance to produce graduates who can compete effectively for future technology careers.

Work on the program started in 2000, when a group of engineers, scientists, university professors and physicians established the first Sonoran Science Academy in Tucson with an enrollment of 75. Classes accommodated children in grades six through eight, with

grades K-12 added later.

Now, comfortably established in two key Arizona locations, the academy works to challenge its students with rigorous and accelerated classes, while directing the academic focus to math, science and computer technology.

New campus planned

After its initial success, Sonoran Science Academy subsequently developed an affiliation with Paragon Science Academy in Chandler, and plans to open the doors of yet another location in Ahwatukee in fall 2009.

The philosophy of science-oriented educational professionals at the Sonoran Science Academy, says Dr. **Mehmet Argin**, the schools' director, is to begin college preparation at kindergarten and offer an education that will better prepare youth for careers in science.

With a doctoral degree in electrical engineering, Argin is one such educator and an example for his students. As director of Sonoran Science Academy in Phoenix from 2004 to 2008 and principal of Paragon Science Academy in Chandler since 2008, Argin also will guide the Ahwatukee school



Dr. Mehmet Argin: Thinking globally
— David Stone/Wrangler News

when it opens later this year.

"Education was always a passion in my life and I am able... to integrate my science background with education," he said.

Under Argin's direction, Paragon increased its enrollment from 230 students to 450 for the 2009-10 school year, with many remaining on a waiting list.

According to Argin, parents have seen the benefits of Sonoran's emphasis on high expectations and demanding academics. Contrary to a concern he says is sometimes heard, while science and math are stressed, language arts are not ignored. All grades start at least one level above the average in both mathematics and language arts.

Moreover, students finish the lessons of two math books a year and have at least an hour of daily assignments. Due to the school's small classes, Argin says students receive "individual attention," which creates what he terms a "friendly atmosphere between instructors, parents and students."

Children attending the schools have won several prestigious awards, and the Sonoran Science Academy has been rated by *US News & World Report* as one of the best high schools in the nation.

Argin shares his belief that increased standing and respect will accrue to Americans on the international stage of science and mathematic accomplishments as a result of the advent of science academies like SSA and PSA.

"[We] will make an international impact because we are thinking globally and acting locally," he says, adding however:

"To compete globally, science education is a must."

Enrollment for grades K-6 is presently open for the new Sonoran Science Academy Ahwatukee.

Tuition is free, however enrollment is limited.

Information: (480) 814-1600.



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Commentary: a 'grass roots' hope for world friendship

By Mark Moorehead

As the world gets smaller and countries become more interdependent, good relationships between nations are no longer taken for granted, even between old friends. They require constant nurturing. This is where the Tempe Sister Cities program plays a vital role.

At its inception in 1971, the non-profit organization set its sights on making a significant contribution to global peace through contact and interaction with cities of similar size in other parts of the globe.

Instead of reaching out to other cultures by sending large donations, favored by many well-funded private and public organizations, Tempe Sister City founders prefer the grass roots approach on a more personal scale or, as their motto succinctly states, "bringing the world together, one

friendship at a time."

At the heart of the Tempe organization is the High School Student Exchange Program, offering juniors in Tempe area high schools an opportunity to meet their counterparts from eight other countries around the world and develop an understanding of a host country, its people and culture.

Corona del Sol High School juniors **Ian Casper** and **Coby Bruckner** will be among 28 students from Tempe participating in this year's exchange. Casper is heading to Germany and Bruckner to New Zealand for five weeks with a host family. When each returns from his respective ambassadorial tour of duty, the high school junior from the host country family in turn travels back to spend five weeks in Tempe.

Tempe Sister Cities has linked arms with eight other dynamic cities on four different continents, including the most recent addition, Cuenca, Ecuador (as of this month). The cities, similar in size to Tempe, are Skopje, Macedonia; Regensburg, Germany; Lower Hutt, New Zealand; Zhenjiang, China; Timbuktu, Mali; Beaulieu sur Mer, France; and Carlow, Ireland.

Student delegates are chosen in a manner akin to a college admissions effort. "It's a long process that begins in December," said Bruckner.

"First, we have to submit an application and a 500-word personal statement explaining who we are and why we think we're qualified to represent the program. A committee then reviews the application. If you're selected you have an individual interview followed by a group interview which includes family members.

"After this you have to help make preparations for a big dinner at the Hackett House. You also have to do volunteer work at the Hackett House, which is operated by the Sister Cities," says Bruckner.

The cultural cross-pollination process really goes into high gear when the delegates from the other countries arrive in Tempe," says junior Casper. "They get together with all 28 of us (Tempe delegates) and we take them to the Grand Canyon, to California, downtown Tempe .

"We have pool parties, get to know each other and have a lot of fun." Past participants claim lifetime friendships are a consequence of this experience.

While the student exchange program is central to the mission at Tempe Sister Cities, the organization also supports its sister cities on another level. For example, Sister City Timbuktu in Mali experienced extreme drought in the 1980s which decimated the population and threatened the survival of the city. Water had to be carried long distance in pails to most homes. The Tempe Sister City organization came to Mali's aid by completing four working wells and committed to completing three more.

If that were not enough, there is also a Tempe Sister City educator program that sends Tempe Union High School District teachers on a three-week program in the summer to one of the three host sister cities to promote professional education growth and understanding of the people from those countries.

So whether you're a student or a teacher, there's an opportunity to learn and promote good will in the world through Tempe Sister Cities.

As a non-profit organization, Tempe Sister Cities relies on donations and fundraising events to support its programs.

Its next fundraiser is a car wash at a local gas station on Saturday, April 25, at the northwest corner of McClintock and Elliot, Tempe. It's a worthy cause and quite a bargain; you can get your car washed and promote world understanding at the same time.



Ian Casper



Coby Bruckner

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City of Tempe

May 2009

Page



Tempe renews free youth transit passes

On May 11, the City of Tempe will begin issuing new transit passes to current and new participants of the Tempe Youth Free Transit Pass program.

The new passes are valid July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. The program allows youth ages six to 18, who live in Tempe, free rides on all Valley Metro bus routes and METRO light rail. A parent or guardian must accompany the youth and bring the

youth's birth certificate when registering. Registration will be held at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, on May 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Passes are also available at the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth St. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For information, call 480-858-2350 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim. For transit routes and schedules, call 602-253-5000 or visit www.valleymetro.org.



Prepping for Tempe Public Library renovation

Tempe Public Library patrons may notice preparations for a 15-month interior renovation project—the first-ever overhaul to the 20-year-old building—that will transform the facility into an even better environment for learning and community interaction.

Throughout April, library patrons will see workers getting ready for the start of construction in mid-July. Workers will shift books on the main floor to make room for Youth Library materials, which will be relocated from the lower level to the main floor until December. The library will remain open during the renovation, which is anticipated to conclude in June 2010.

Tempe voters authorized the sale of bonds for the \$8 million renovation during the city's May 2006 General Election.



Tempe's Capital Improvement Program budget is separate from the city's operating budget; bonds are repaid through secondary property taxes. Highlights of the renovation will include:

- An expanded Youth Library with kid-friendly furniture, colorful walls, an interactive play area and a family computer space.
- A cool new Teen Center with spaces for studying and special library programs.
- An improved Computer

Commons with study rooms, two computer labs and more computers.

- More seating and more areas for quiet study and reading.
- An additional entrance on the library's north side for increased accessibility.

Follow the progress of the project via a special renovation Web page available at www.tempe.gov/library.

Census canvassers visit Tempe neighborhoods

In preparation for the 2010 Census, U.S. Census Bureau workers are canvassing neighborhoods throughout the country to verify addresses and information that will ensure all residents receive the questionnaire next year.

Tempe residents may see the census workforce in their neighborhoods with a laptop or hand-held computer device.

The electronic devices are used to verify structures and to collect GPS coordinates for more accurate information.

Census workers can be identified by their U.S. Census Bureau badges and bags.

The census takes place every 10 years and counts everyone living in the United States.

All information that census workers obtain is kept confidential and is not used for any other purpose.

For more information, visit www.census.gov or contact the Phoenix census office at 602-427-0660.

Send the kids to camp in Tempe this summer!

Valley youngsters are invited to keep their minds and bodies active this summer at Tempe's fun and educational sports, enrichment and cultural camps. Camps begin the end

of May and run through August, with a range of starting and ending dates to fit every schedule.

Parks and Recreation's sports camps help young athletes of all abilities improve in soccer, volleyball, basketball and tennis. Kid Zone enrichment programs are full-day camps held weekdays from 6:30 a.m.

to 6 p.m. at local schools for children entering first through eighth grades. Cultural camps teach visual and performing arts, and allow youth the opportunity to exhibit their talents to family and friends.

A complete list of Tempe's summer camps, including fees and registration instructions, is available

at www.tempe.gov/rec.

For more information on Tempe's sports camps, call Parks and Recreation at 480-350-5200.

For details on Kid Zone's summer programs, call 480-350-5400. Call 480-350-5287 or visit www.tempe.gov/arts for more information on Tempe's cultural camps.



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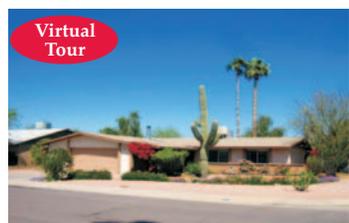
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