

Wrangler NEWS

May 28 - June 10, 2011

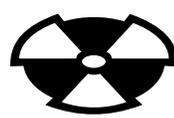
Vol. 22, No. 11

'The Valley's Best Community Newspaper'
Phoenix Magazine — 2007

Honoring our fallen heroes

Story, Page 5

Wrangler News photo of Arizona Community Church music and worship pastor Greg Schaefer by Mark Crudup

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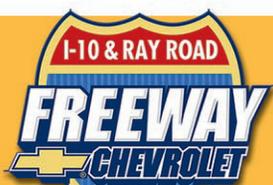
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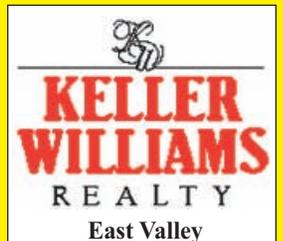
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Kyrene schools now must find other ways to meet \$5.3 million deficit

Music, art, PE survive budget-cutting proposal

By Mark Crudup

After hours of opinionated debate and appeals from parents and teachers over budget concerns, Kyrene district governing board members voted to make no changes to so-called special-area-program scheduling, including physical education, music, art and library.

The board reviewed Superintendent Dr. David Schauer's proposed budget plan, which originally included a cut of \$756,000 based on rescheduling special-area programs, during a study session and board meeting May 24.

In addition to Schauer's recommended proposal were three other special-area scheduling models the board has been reviewing in passionate debate during past study sessions.

Throughout the meeting, governing board members continued to make motions to pass one of four proposals that would modify special-area scheduling to help accommodate a budget deficit facing the Kyrene district for the next year.

However, none received additional support or failed 3-2 in the voting process.

Forced with making budget reductions to account for a \$5.3 million deficit, district officials on May 10 had proposed a list of recommended operational modifications that board members are still grappling with. One such proposal would have made changes to special-area scheduling.

Despite the most recent vote, board members will need to present another new draft late in June and be ready to officially adopt the budget in July.



Kyrene District staff answered questions from Governing Board members during a sometimes heated discussion of school budget issues at a May 24 public meeting.

— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup

Special-area teachers addressed board members during the meeting, expressing concerns over a proposal that would decrease the class time for physical education, art, music and library.

Just after midnight, board member Ross Robb made a motion to eliminate any proposed changes to special-area scheduling, with the board passing that motion 3-2.

In order for the district to move forward with

personnel changes, the board needed to make a decision on the special-area scheduling that night, according to Mark Knight, executive director of human resources.

Currently, 40 teachers issued potential reduction-in-force advisories remain on standby to see if they will keep their jobs.

Special-area schedules will remain the same as last year: Physical education twice per week for 30 minutes; music twice per week for 30 minutes; and art once per week for 40 minutes.

Karin Smith, financial services director for Kyrene, said the district will also have \$250,000 in reserve community funds, which will be available after June 30.

With no changes being made to physical education, music, art and library for the next school year, the district will need to account for an additional \$156,000 in budget deficits, which may include increased class sizes.

Schauer had recommended changing the scheduling to a 50-minute model, which he calculates would save the district \$756,000.

He said this model would provide teachers with the most preparatory time and represents what the majority of district's study teams supported during their study of special-area programs.

With no changes made to the special-area scheduling, the board will continue to look at other list items to make up for the budget deficit.

Summer Day Camps

June 13-17 Camps

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At Arizona Community Church Memorial services honor nation's fallen heroes

Cover story

By Mark Crudup

Flags will be flown and prayers offered Monday in commemoration of the men and women who served—and continue to serve—in the military to protect this country and its citizens.

At Arizona Community Church, activities on Sunday, May 29 will pay special recognition to veterans attending the service, and those who have made supreme sacrifices for the sake of our country and communities.

"I think in the last decade, especially since 9/11, it's given us a whole new appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made by not only the branches of the military, but also our public-service people," said Greg Schaefer, the church's music and worship pastor.

"During the Sunday service before Memorial Day, we are utilizing something we are very excited about to honor those who serve."

The service will be marked by a unique five- to six-minute choral and orchestral music presentation, animated by a video production displaying footage of a spectrum of citizens who have served their country, Schaefer said.

"It's just so moving," he said. "It covers everything from the war in Afghanistan to 9-11, to just daily acts of sacrifice and service that our public-service people offer."

Schaefer said the orchestra consists of 35 members, the majority of whom are college or high school students.

"We have a lot of talent, especially among our students," he said. "They really add a lot of strength and expertise to the orchestra."

Senior pastor Jeff Meyer will follow the presentation with a recognition of veterans and their families attending the service.

"He'll ask them to stand, and we will acknowledge and appreciate those who have served in the armed services," Schaefer said.

"We will particularly remember those who have lost someone; that's the main focus."

The commemorative service, called "Count the Cost" and including a full choir and orchestra, will be at 8:30 and 9:50 a.m. Sunday, May 29.

"It's not overly religious per se, but it does help us grow in our appreciation and understanding of how much people put on the line for us to have the freedoms we do, and also the safety and security of our country," Schaefer said.

The program on May 29, in addition to 8:30 and 9:50, will include a contemporary service beginning at 11:15 a.m. with a worship team and band.

"We're looking forward to the services," Meyer said.

"I think it's important for us to continue this tradition of remembering those who serve to protect our nation and our communities."

Reflections on the sacrifices of those who died to protect America

Commentary

By Jay Tibshraeny

Memorial Day allows us the opportunity to reflect upon and honor those American soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in an effort to preserve our freedom. Their courage and bravery must forever be remembered.

May 30 again marks a rich tradition dating back to the Civil War when organized groups of women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. After World War I, it became a holiday that honored all those who perished on the battlefield, regardless of which war they served in.

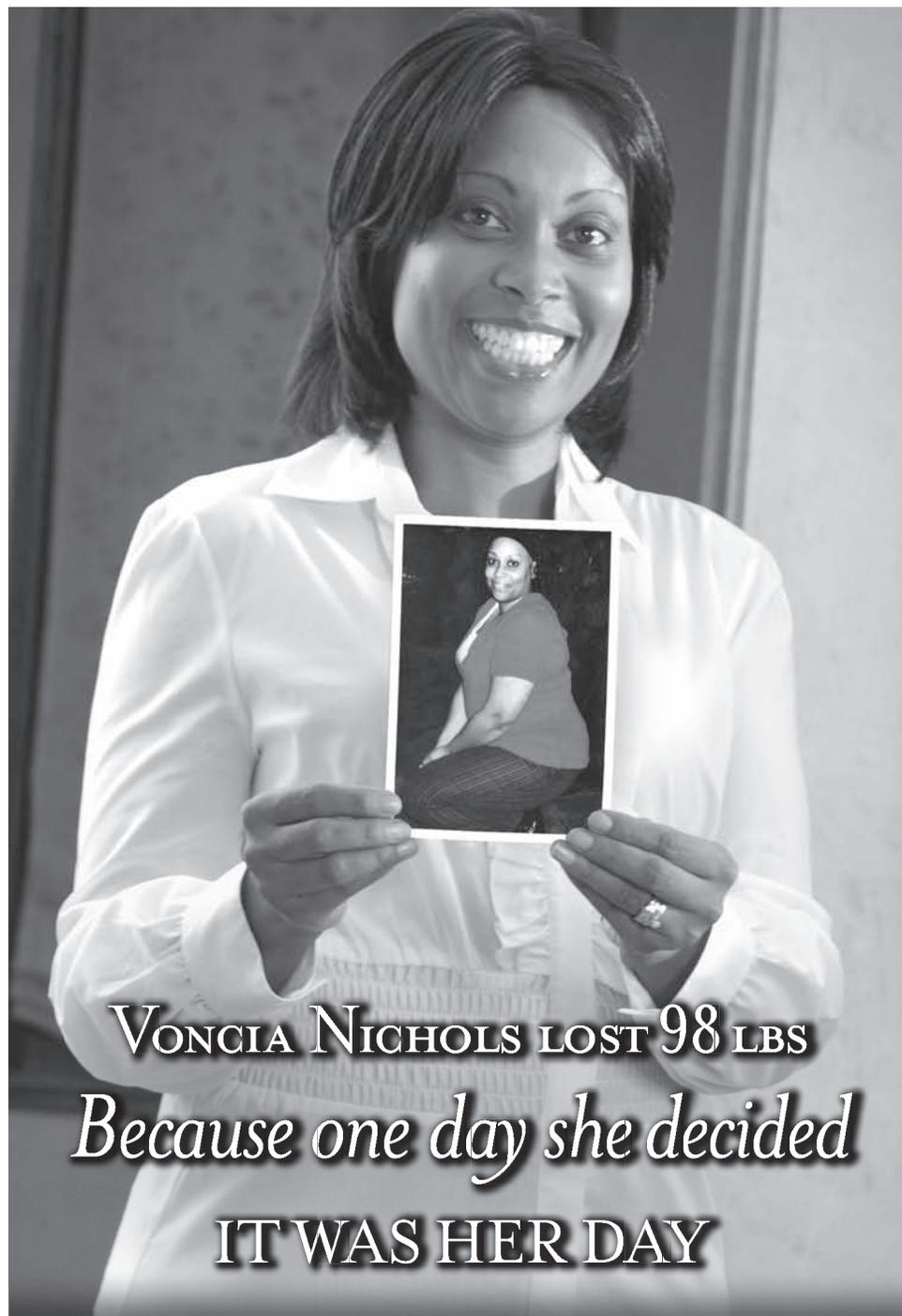
In 1971, Congress created the official holiday, to be held on the last Monday in May.

It is important that we honor the

men and women who have given their lives, but let us also take this time to recognize those currently serving in the Armed Forces as they continue to fight to protect the liberties that we have come to appreciate.

We were reminded just recently of the courage and resolution of our soldiers in the taking of Osama bin Laden in a late-night raid of the compound in Pakistan where he had been hiding. That act helped bring some closure, not just to the families and friends of the victims of 9-11 but to those who have lost loved ones in the war on terror.

There are also great traditions that have arisen from Memorial Day. According to the Website usmemorial-day.org, on the Thursday before Memorial Day, members of the 3rd



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Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

Scorpions score second straight Kyrene district title

Kyrene Middle School's eighth grade baseball team took home its second straight school district championship in the finals played at Aprende Middle School. The same players were district champions as seventh graders.

The Scorpions had a bye in the first round, beat Centennial 11-1 in the semifinals and defeated Aprende 6-4 to win the championship trophy.

"We jumped out fast in our game against Centennial, with solid hitting from **Matt Langmack**, **Kyle Coggins** and **Tanner Wilson**," said Coach **Nick DiFiore**. "Tommy Martinez was solid for us on the hill."

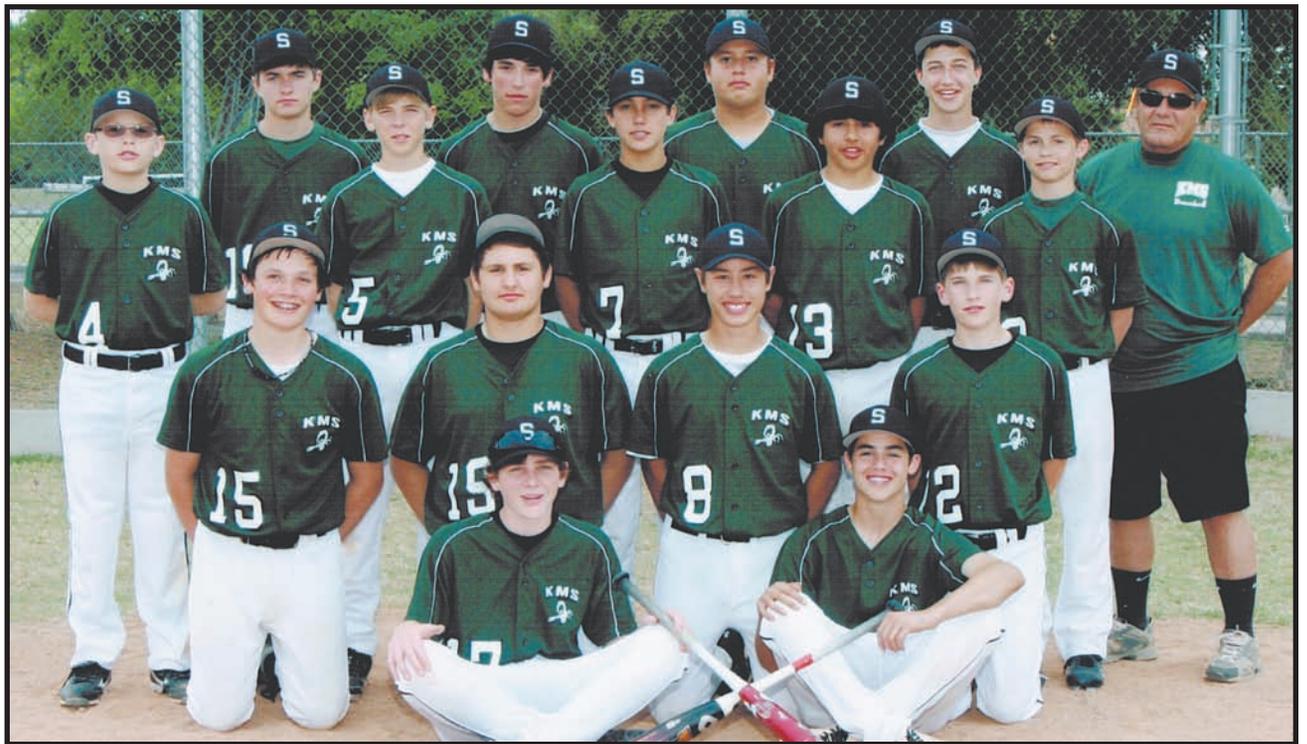
"The championship game against Aprende was well played by both teams," said DiFiore. "**Vinny Vital** pitched us to the championship trophy, with **Kyle Coggins** once again playing big for us at the plate."

This group of players ended their two-year reign with a combined 20-5 regular-season record, according to DiFiore.

"Our standouts for the season included **Christian Broadus** on defense, **Vinny Vital** and **Tanner Wilson** hitting, **Tommy Martinez** and **Vinny Vital** pitching," said DiFiore. "We also had solid play from **Cody Pepp**, speed from **Ben Birk** and timely hitting from **Zach Lawson** which helped set our season."

"Sawyer Bressler, Johathan Fugate, Chad

— NOTEBOOK, Page 7



KMS Scorpion team, coached by Nick DiFiore, has won back-to-back district championships. Players include, from left, front, Tanner Wilson, Ben Birk; middle, Turner Morris, Kyle Coggins, Chad Kahawai, Matthew Longmack; back, Johnathan Fugate, Riley Stanton, Zach Lawson, Sawyer Bressler, Christian Broadus, Vinny Vitale, Tommy Martinez, Dane Rasmussen, Cody Pepp, Coach DiFiore.

— Photo contributed by Jamie Broadus

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Notebook

From Page 6

Kahawai, Turner Morris, Dane Rasmussen and Riley Stanton contributed all season to our team's success."

"We can also credit **Rick Huntley** for helping with our pitchers, and **Jamie Broadus** for all she did as general manager."

"I coached this bunch last year when they won the seventh grade district championship and again this year as eighth graders," said DiFiore. "All I can say is they worked hard and made the game fun all the time."

Corona State Track Results — Corona's girls track and field team moved up in the rankings, finishing seventh this year at the AIA State Track and Field Division I championship meet held at Mesa Community College May 11 and 14.

This finish was the highest the girls team had placed in 10 years, with the exception of 2003-04 when the Lady Aztecs took sixth place in the 5A state meet.

"It was a very competitive state meet where six points separated the girls team from taking fourth place instead of seventh," said head coach Tim Kelly. "It was the same for the boys team. Only seven points made the difference between sixth and our ultimate 11th place finish."

Scoring six points each for the girls team were **Lakevia Stormer**, with a third place in the 400 Meter Dash, and **Dana McKenzie**, taking third in the Girls High Jump. Stormer entered the race as the No. 5 seed but ran a great race, shaving almost an entire second off her qualifying time.

McKenzie's highest jump during the regular season was 5'6" at the Sun Angel meet, which ranked her No. 7 on the 2011 Arizona High School Track & Field Rankings. Stormer should move up to the No. 7 spot on the same list for her 58.22 time in the 400 Meter Dash at the state meet.

Seeded seventh but finishing an astounding fourth in the 4x100 Meter Relay was the team of **Megan Benson, Taylor Johnson, Lakevia Stormer and Gabrielle Dotson**.

Ellen Dunn also had a great 1600 Meter Run, finishing 12th after being seeded No. 16, as did **Lauren Lucky**, who came into the state meet seeded No. 23 in the shot put but finished 12th after putting the shot almost a foot farther at 34-09.25.

Benson took fifth in the 100 Meter Hurdles while **Hallie Swenson** placed ninth in the 800 meter run, both finishing exactly where they were seeded head-

ing into the state meet.

Benson's time of 15:13 in the 100 Meter Hurdles at the Basha Relays ranked her at No. 8 in the 2011 Arizona High School Track & Field Rankings. She is also ranked No. 12 for the 46.24 she ran in the 300 Meter Hurdles at the Tempe City Meet.

The girls 4x800 Meter Relay team of **Sarah Williams, Hallie Swenson, Leann Willittes and Dani Lemieux** also finished exactly where they were seeded at the No. 5 spot. This same team is ranked No. 8 on the 2011 Arizona High School Track & Field Rankings for their 9:53.19 time at the Paradise Valley Relays earlier this season.

Corona's boys track and field team was 11th out of 38 teams at the Division I state track meet.

The Aztecs' best finish was a remarkable 2nd place finish by the 4x800 Meter Relay team of **Michael Seall, Dillion Baker, Cody Jackson**

— NOTEBOOK, Page 8



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Notebook

From Page 7

and **Jared Hirschl**. This team entered the race as the No. 10 seed with an 8:13:20 time but managed to shave off almost 20 seconds to finish in second place at 7:52.39 and earn eight big points towards the team's total.

The 7:52:39 this 4x800 boys relay team ran in the state meet should move them up to the No. 4 ranking on the 2011 Arizona High School Track & Field Rankings.

Corona's other two relay teams that qualified for the state meet also finished higher than seeded in the state meet.

The 4x400 Meter Relay team of Seall, Jackson, **Dominique Branscumb** and **Matt Hayhurst** was seeded No. 8 but actually finished fourth while the 4x100 relay team of **Dominic Mercurio**, **Tevin Mayfield**, **George Wright** and **Stephan Hill** was seeded 12th but finished eighth.

Jackson crossed the finish line in 4th place in the 800 Meter Run after entering the meet as the No. 9 seed while Seall was 15th in the same race.

Nick Seifker took seventh in the 110 Meter Hurdles after coming in seeded No. 11. The Aztecs had three runners finish in the 3200 Meter Run. **Daniel Wrapp** was 12th, with **Jacob Whitney** crossing the finish line right behind Wrapp in 13th; **Jared Hirschl** was 16th.

"Our coaching staff is proud of the dedication these kids gave all season. We will miss the impact and leadership our senior class brought to the program," said Kelly.

"We look to reload, though, in the off season with a younger team. We should have a dedicated group working out in the weight room this summer to be able to get a head start with an early season training regimen."

Marcos Track and Field — Marcos de Niza's girls track and field team had two first place and two second place finishes, giving the Padres an overall sixth-place finish out of 31 schools competing in the Girls State Division II track meet held at Mesa Community College.

Kylee Kieser placed first in the 1600 Meter Run and second in the 3200 Meter Run. Kylee's 11:09.80 finish in the 3200 Meter was good enough to place her No. 5 on the 2011 Arizona High School Track and Field Rankings.

The girls team's other first place finish was the Girls 4x800 Meter Relay team of **Juliana Bennett**, **Natalie Jones**, **Cristal Castro** and **Jessey Tenorio**, while sophomore **Savan-**

nah Whitehead placed second in the Pole Vault.

Whitehead's 10'6" jump placed her at the top of Marcos de Niza's list for track and field records.

Bennett placed ninth in the 800 Meter Run, while Jones came in 11th in the same race.

Other Marcos de Niza state track meet finishers included Jones at 14th and Paige Libsack at 20th in the 1600 Meter Run. Libsack also came in 16th in the 3200 Meter run, while Tenorio was 21st and **Jamie Chan** 22nd.

The boys track and field team placed eighth out of 38 schools with **Martwon Weaver** as the star athlete who competed in three events.

Weaver came in first in the 100 Meter Dash and eighth in the 200 Meter Dash. He also ran the final leg of 4x100 Meter Relay team that placed second.

Other members of the relay team included **Brian Drew**, **Josh Eckley** and **Priest Willis**. The team's 42.18 time was the No. 1 all-time high on Marcos de Niza's track and field school records.

Weaver's 10.67 time in the 100 Meter Dash not only won him a Division II State Championship but placed him second in the school's all-time track and field school records list, just one second off the 10.66 record attained by Marcus Brunson in 1996.

Corona Softball — Five Corona players were selected as part of the 5A-I Central Region all-region softball team. **Katie Tripp** was named to the first team as catcher and **Abby Spiel** to the outfield. Named to the second team were **Taylor Eno** in the outfield, **McKenna Isenberg** as pitcher and **Paige Vallejos** as utility player.

The team finished with an 11-20 regular season record, placing them No. 20 in Power Point Rankings and making it the second straight year the Lady Aztecs did not make it into the 5A state tournament.

Regardless, the relatively young team of three sophomores, seven juniors and only five seniors gained valuable experience that will be helpful next spring.

The seniors, **Alexa Nenaber**, **Eno**, **Tripp**, **Julissa Ramirez** and **Taylor Tometich**, were honored, with a winning score of 13-9, at the final home game against Highland.

Other contributing members included **Nicole Schwalbe**, **Katie Koponen**, **Nicole Giannonatti**, **Danielle Lynch**, **Christy Farrell**, **Lani Redmond** and **Leah Kroeger**.

Despite regrets, Kyrene CFO says she's leaving school district well positioned to weather challenges

Profile
By Don Kirkland

It was nearly midnight and a text message flashed across the face of my cell phone. Could we move the next day's 9 a.m. meeting to 8:30? No problem, I texted back. This was a typical exchange among people who seem to remain on the go, no matter what day, what time.

For the 10 or so years I've known and worked with her, Karin Smith never let the clock or the calendar get in the way of doing her job for the Kyrene School District, whether it was in her early days as an innovator of the after-school Kids Club, a subsequent assignment as the district's chief grant writer (she raised more than \$12 million during that stint), its community-

a solid financial structure and talented people to carry on."

Born in Chicago as one of eight children, Smith came to Arizona when her father was transferred to Phoenix in the early 1990s. She graduated from Thunderbird High School in 1997 and, four years later, from the University of Arizona. Not convinced, however, that a bachelor's degree would equip her with enough of the right stuff for an anticipated lifetime of career ventures,

'Kyrene is one of the best districts in the state, and I'll miss it dearly' — Karin Smith

Smith systematically pursued three more virtually back-to-back degrees at ASU: a master's in public administration, another in education leadership and, in 2008, yet a third, the coveted MBA.

Now, says Smith, with a solid educational foundation and the wide scope of her Kyrene experiences, her new job seems all the more intriguing.

That coming assignment, with Phoenix-based Heinfeld, Meech & Co. PC, is designed to provide leadership and support to the 25-year-old firm's 70-member consulting staff, both throughout Arizona and in a newly opened office in New Mexico.

And while the challenges clearly won't be providing Smith with more leisure hours, she says she'll still find time to keep close tabs on her siblings, four of whom are twins, and a growing horde of nieces and nephews who she says, at last count, numbered 10.

One passion that remains on a back burner, for now at least, is the orphanage in Greece that Smith visited and ultimately "adopted" during two summer breaks. The center, which provides training and compassionate care for young adults with special needs, has been a focal point of support and several trips by Smith and 11 Kyrene volunteers.

As to how the local school district will confront the economic challenges that lie ahead, Smith says she has few concerns.

"Kyrene has positioned itself with a solid financial structure that will prevail through these days of crisis," she says. "I feel like I'm leaving everything in incredibly competent hands."



Karin Smith: Whirlwind schedule
— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup

and media-relations manager or, for the past three years, its director of finance and business services.

The Kyrene period of Smith's multi-faceted career ends June 30 when she leaves the district to become a managing consultant for one of the nation's top government, non-profit and educational-system accountancy firms.

The opportunity, Smith says, no matter how exciting, carries with it some regrets, as well.

"Kyrene is one of the best districts in the state, and I'll miss it dearly," she says, praising collectively its administration, its staff and, not to be overlooked, the support of its community.

"It's been an incredible place to work, and I know I'll be leaving it with

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Chandler launches new online tool 'InfoMap' eases search for city facilities

West Chandler residents in search of various city-operated facilities have a new tool for their efforts with release of the latest version of Chandler's online InfoMap.

The city's website, www.chandleraz.gov, has provided a similar version of the map since 2004, displaying the locations of facilities city officials have identified as having a particular interest to residents, visitors and the public.

The map includes information about fire stations, police substations, wells, sewer lift stations, parks, aquatic centers, libraries, schools and more. Using Geographic Information System technology, the latest InfoMap improvements offer Google-like features and new capabilities.

A quick-search window allows users to select from an extensive list of facilities, and an advanced-search tool allow users to highlight a specific area and search for features ranging from addresses and parcels to trailer parks and park trails.

Selecting "Fire Stations" from the search list, for example, displays a blue dot at every fire station location in the

city.

Hovering over the location with the cursor brings up a brief description, including the date the station was opened, an address and phone number.

Clicking on the dot links visitors to information about the Chandler Fire Department posted on the city's website.

Descriptions of city facilities include any drawbacks to living next to the facility.

For example, the description for Sewer Lift Station includes an advisory that "living near a lift station may include occasional odor, continued low-level security lighting, as well as construction disturbances when maintenance is required."

Information about current zoning cases can be displayed on the map, along with case numbers and addresses.

A Quick Print tool can be used to print maps, and a Mark Up tool makes it easy to add lines and boxes or free-hand drawings.

A slide-bar tool lets users transition quickly from a line map to an aerial view. To view Chandler's InfoMap visit www.chandleraz.gov/infomap.

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Reflections

From Page 4

U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day throughout the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing. That's been happening since the 1950s.

Here in Chandler—and across the country—red poppies have become the symbol of Memorial Day, thanks to local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Auxiliary posts.

The custom was sprung from a poem by Moina Michael, inspired by another poem, "In Flanders Fields."

*We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.*

Living in the United States, it is easy to take for granted our independence. But we must understand that freedom isn't free. Certainly, families with members in the military know this first-hand. So, the next time you have an opportunity, I encourage you to take a moment to thank a soldier and his/her family for the great sacrifices that they make.

— Jay Tibshraeny is the mayor of Chandler

Police nab suspect in So. Tempe bank heist

Tempe Police, with assistance from the Phoenix Police Department, have arrested 53-year-old Forest Clayton Jr., a suspect in a string of robberies that included the May 18 holdup of the Bank of America branch at 1820 E. Warner Road, at McClintock, on May 19.

In addition to the May 18 heist, Clayton has been identified as the suspect in robberies at Comerica Bank, 425 S. Mill Ave. on May 6 and Circle K at 1101 S. Mill Ave. on May 15.

During the May 6 and May 18 incidents, the suspect presented a note; at the May 15 robbery a weapon was mentioned. No weapon was seen in any of the robberies, and no injuries occurred.

Tempe Police spokeswoman Molly Enright said Clayton was arrested May 19 by the department's Criminal Apprehension and Surveillance Team, along with the Phoenix Department's Neighborhood Enforcement Team in the area of 19th Avenue and Van Buren Street in Phoenix. Tempe Police received a tip that assisted officers in locating Clayton after May 18's media coverage.



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Fun Day at Fiddlesticks 'Really good time' ends Aprende's school year

Story and photos by Mark Crudup

Students from Aprende Middle School celebrated an evening of entertainment at Fiddlesticks Family Fun Park during an end-of-the-year Activity Night, leaving with high spirits as they approached the end of the school year.

"It's something for the students to share as a community," said Lynn Martinson, PTSTO fundraising coordinator for Aprende.

"The kids just have a really good time getting together."

About 150 students from sixth, seventh and eighth grades came out for the event to enjoy an evening of

bumper boats, go-cart racing and mini-golf.

Money raised by the kids' parents went to the school in support of teachers, staff and students.

"This was the first time we held an event at Fiddlesticks," Martinson said. "It was a great success."

The school's PTSTO holds three Aprende Activity Night events each year for students.

"Most schools don't do things like that, or rely on the student council to organize events," she said.

"It brings the students together, and they have so much fun."



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Love that game

3rd state title for tennis champ

By Alex Zener

Alex Lawson, a Corona del Sol junior, has won his third straight 5A state championship trophy, defeating Horizon's Nic Montoya in the singles finals at Paseo Racquet Center

in Glendale.

Lawson's other championship trophies were in the doubles competition the previous two years with his long-time partner Kyle Ogren, who is currently playing tennis at Mesa

Community College.

"It felt great to finally become a singles state champion," said Lawson. "Obviously, it was great to win two doubles titles my freshman and sophomore years, but finally getting a singles title felt pretty special."

Lawson, entering the singles tournament ranked No. 1, had to play seven matches over almost three weeks to make it to the finals because new AIA state tournament regulations combined 5A-I and 5A-II into a single Division I.

"The new format was frustrating because the tournament was a much bigger draw this year, and it took much longer to finish," said Lawson. "But with the combination of the divisions it did make the competition tougher, which was good."

Lawson, who made it into the finals without losing a set, actually lost the first set of the finals 3-6 and had some difficulty putting Montoya away because both competitors are familiar with each other's game.

"Going into it I knew Montoya was

going to be a tough opponent. I must have played him at least 10 times in other tournaments, and he's beaten me before," said Lawson. "So losing the first set didn't freak me out or anything. I knew I just had to stick with it and make adjustments to turn the match in my favor."

Lawson's third championship title this season is the sixth state tennis title in the Lawson family. His sister Kelsey won state singles championship titles in 2009 and 2010. His mom, Tracy Lawson, won the state singles championship title for McClintock in 1981.

"McClintock was classified 3A, which was part of the largest school division back then," said Tracy. "I beat Allyson Ingram of Saguardo High School at a Tucson country club in a two-hour battle where I won the big points leading to a 6-0, 6-0 score."

His dad, Slade Lawson, although a talented athlete himself, prefers to be known as his children's "greatest fan."

Corona fans may be hearing the

— TENNIS, Page 15

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Tennis

From Page 14

Lawson name from another member of the family next season. Zach Lawson, Alex's younger brother, will be a freshman at Corona. But any athletic achievements likely won't come from the tennis court. Zach loves baseball and was part of the Kyrene Middle School baseball team that won back-to-back district championships the past two seasons.

Alex Lawson, who started playing tennis with his mom almost before he was three, has a full schedule of national tournaments lined up this summer to play in places like Florida, Michigan, Illinois and California. He's also considering college scholarships, probably out of state, at a large university, but doesn't have any favorites yet.



Corona del Sol tennis player Alex Lawson won his third straight 5A state championship trophy, defeating Horizon's Nic Montoya in the singles finals at Paseo Racquet Center in Glendale.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex Zener

Corona student receives prestigious Flinn award

Corona del Sol student Eric Chang is one of four Tempe Union High School District recipients of this year's Flinn Scholarships.

The Flinn Scholars Program offers top Arizona high school graduates full-ride financial benefits to attend one of the state's public universities.

Competition for Flinn Scholarships is rigorous. More than 400 applications are received annually for the 20 scholarships that are awarded.

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'An incredible act of kindness'

Nearly 100 staff members at Keller Williams East Valley and other allied realty firms amassed their entrepreneurial skills again this year for the company's annual Red Day event: a massive effort to give back to their community.

Beneficiary of this year's efforts was the Tempe-based social services agency TCH, which gave the volunteers a list of five group homes needing their clean-up, spruce-up, fix-up energies.

Group homes provide lodging for men and women with significant disabilities, and some of the residents joined the volunteers at a follow-up dinner celebrating what appeared to be virtually tireless efforts.

The volunteers' combined energies included putting in a new door to provide better access for the residents of one home; refurbishing kitchen cabinets; replacing kitchen lights; painting inside and out; landscaping; building ramps—the list seemed almost endless, said TCH spokeswoman Dawn Hocking.

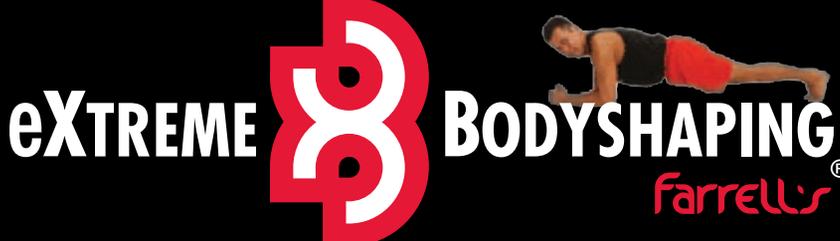
Although the Keller Williams volunteers professed no formal skills, they were joined by tradespeople like carpenters, contractors, electricians, painters and others. "It was an amazing job and they accomplished a ton of work," said Hocking.

Dave Cutty, a longtime south Tempe resident who administers TCH's programs, said he heard positive comments from a number of the participants.

"I was told by many of the volunteers that they felt a real sense of satisfaction in giving back to this community, and they were moved by the positive reaction from the residents," said Cutty.

"This was truly a 'win-win' for all involved – the KW volunteers and their partners, the men and women that live in the homes, the staff who support the residents and the neighbors.

"It was an incredible act of kindness and generosity, and it was evident that the Keller Williams volunteers gained almost more from the experience than anyone else."



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Her 1st novel makes dream of authorship come true

By Mark Crudup

South Tempe resident Cathie Cameron had a dream to hold her own book in her hands one day, and that time has finally come.

Cameron just released her first book, *Dead Enough*, a dark novel set in the east Valley.

"Every now and again, I have these stories in my head," she said. "And I've never put them down on paper, so I just decided to start writing."

Cameron said her husband Gordon self-published a technical book on Trizics, which encompasses a relatively new concept of technical innovation. After watching him wade through the process of publishing his book, Cameron was inspired to write her own.

"It was really my husband who influenced me, because he spent four years writing the technical book," she said. "After watching him go through the process, I thought I would do the same."

Cameron and her husband are originally from Scot-

land, and have lived in Tempe for 15 years.

Cameron said she initially developed the concept for her novel after watching her mother suffer with dementia before she passed away 10 years ago.

"The book is a horror-thriller," she said. "It has to do with the concept of what you experience when you go through losing your mind. It was mainly influenced from watching my mother – your 'self' goes away."

Although Cameron said she did not write much before, other than technical reports for her professional career in litigation, she always had ideas for stories.

"It (the idea for her book) just came to me," she said. "I think I've always had a knack for imagination."

In Scotland, Cameron said she wasn't exposed to a wide variety of authors. However, she began to discover more literature while her kids were going through high school.

"I would read all of the books my kids were assigned to read," she said. "I read just about everything."

Now, Cameron can find her self-published book on bookstore shelves, and on Amazon.

"My husband self-published and he went through a huge learning curve," she said. "So, I self-published my book."

Cameron said many people aren't aware of self-publishing, a service Amazon now provides.

"There are a lot of people just discovering self-publishing," she said. "You can do it through Amazon, but I decided to do it myself after watching my husband go through the steps."

Cameron already has ideas percolating for her next book. "The next book I think I'm going to will be short stories for teenagers; stories that are horror but have a comical aspect," she said. "For me, it's a hobby. I'm not going to make any money from it; it's just something I enjoy doing."

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New technology helps guide Kyrene students in digital age

By Mark Crudup

The days of poster-board projects and flip-chart presentations are slowly fading away in the Kyrene School District, as new software opens opportunities for students to mouse and click their way into the digital age.

Students at south Tempe's Waggoner Elementary School completed projects this year that allow them to combine documents to present information in videos they create using their own animations, text files, pictures, music and voice recordings.

"Here at Waggoner, the professional development focus for this year has been on writing," said Jacinta Sorgel, education technology specialist for the Kyrene District. "So, I have been supporting them with technology to use to publish and post their writing."

The presentation experience for students is much more interactive now, Sorgel said.

The software gives students the ability to record their own written assignments, or have the computer translate text boxes into speech that plays along with their presentation.

"With the Share software, they can put scrolling textboxes, so their entire report can be on their poster," she said.

"They could include videos, graphs, and images."

Erin Dedrick, a second-grade teacher at Waggoner, said the students loved presenting their projects on the digital Smart Board, some even asking to see their peers' projects multiple times.

Students in Dedrick's class didn't hesitate to pick up a laptop and quickly access their past projects to share.

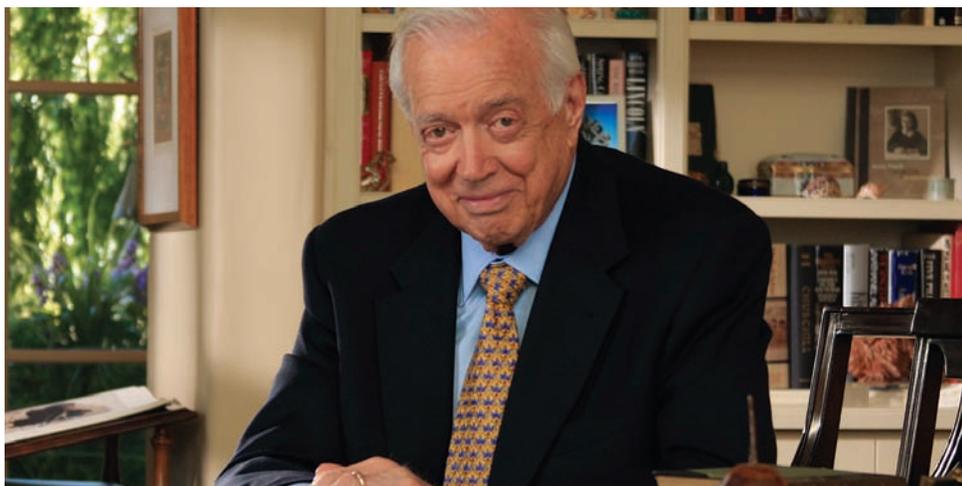
And, with the new software, students can publish with the click of a button, giving parents and teachers easy access to the children's work throughout the school year.

"I think they like it because it's a new tool that lets them produce something that shows their understanding," Sorgel said. "Before, the kids were using PowerPoint for many projects, and I think they just got 'PowerPointed' out."

The second graders use a program called Pixie2 that allows them to illustrate projects with an animated slide show, including a recorded narration of each written report.

Theo, one of Dedrick's students this year, said he liked drawing the background animations for his project

— **TECHNOLOGY, Page 21**



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Technology

From Page 20

on the bee.

"I liked it a lot," he said. "It's fun to put music with my project."

Karin Campbell, the gifted-resource teacher at Waggoner, said her students were motivated to work with

allows the kids to do much more with their project," she said. "It gives them experience in a variety of programs."

Ali Cohen, one of Campbell's students, said she likes working with Share more than using PowerPoint for most projects.

"In the beginning we had to do research, and then we learned a brand new software we haven't worked with before," she said. "We had to make graphs and videos to put with our projects."

Ali's project was on the Holocaust, and included a picture of Anne Frank into which Ali cropped herself using the Share program.

"It really works well for certain types of projects," Ali said.

Sorgel said the Pixie2 and Share software, provided by a company called Tech4Learning, is



another new piece of software, Share.

The Share program allows students to bring in documents from a variety of sources, including Microsoft Word and Excel, Sorgel said.

"This is a lot more creative, and it

easy to use, and students are able to bring a variety of Microsoft documents into their projects using those programs.

"It's very user-friendly for the kids," she said.

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Meet Your Neighbor To employee-turned-entrepreneur, dry cleaning never looked rosier

By Mark Crudup

To Rosalba Cabrera, the future looks rosy, even in an economy that's come up with more than its share of wrinkles for the last few years.

Known as Rosie by most of her customers, the owner of Desert Dry Clean has proven that she understands exactly how to make a business work in a struggling economy.

With more than two decades of experience in the dry cleaning industry, Cabrera has not only survived but thrived, all while she and her husband Juan reared two children.

She worked at the Tempe store, located on the northeast corner of Warner and Rural Road, through three previous owners, and finally had a chance to purchase the business in 2008.

"When the first owners opened, my kids were

little and they needed me more," Cabrera said.

"Then eventually the third owner came, and he said, 'You know what: I have to go. But I'll tell you for sure, you are the one that can buy it, because I think it is a perfect opportunity for you right now.'"

After running the company full-time for the first year, Cabrera said she realized there were opportunities to save money and, at the same time, help keep prices stable for customers, despite peoples' withering finances.

"I haven't changed any prices for about four years now, even with the economy," she said. "We tell our customers that we have to pay a lot for supplies, so if you could help by recycling the hangers, we can keep the prices the same."

Almost every customer at Desert Dry Clean follows up with the request.

"I give them a box, and they bring it back with their hangers," she said. "At some other dry-cleaning services, they use brand new hangers every time. That just hurts everyone – it's a waste."

Prices of the dry-cleaning fluid used in most stores, perchloroethylene, or perc as it's known in the industry, also keep increasing and soon could rise to double the cost, Cabrera said. To keep expenses at a minimum, she uses a sterilizing process to get as much dry-cleaning use with the smallest amount of perc.

"We also purify the perc – we call it a 'cooking' system," she said. "So, we separate the dirt from the cleaning supplies, purify it, and reuse it to save costs. But, we reuse it 100 percent clean."

Employing this method drastically reduces the amount of perc used for dry-cleaning, says Cabrera.

"It's another way to keep the prices the same for customers," she said. "We're also making an effort to be more environmentally friendly, by trying to avoid using unnecessary chemicals."

And the customers keep coming back, Cabrera said.

"I have customers from Queen Creek, north

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Rosie Cabrera and husband Juan have made their business, Desert Dry Clean, a family enterprise.

Phoenix, Casa Grande and even Tucson," she said. "Even if they move away, they still come back."

Running the dry-cleaning business is a stressful, full-time endeavor, Cabrera said.

"My whole family works here; my husband is an electrician during the day, and comes in during afternoons and evenings to help," she said. "And, my kids come in after school."

Cabrera has two children, ages 11 and 17.

"Being in the business for so long, I absolutely love it," she said. "I love everything about my job – talking to customers, cleaning and everything in between."

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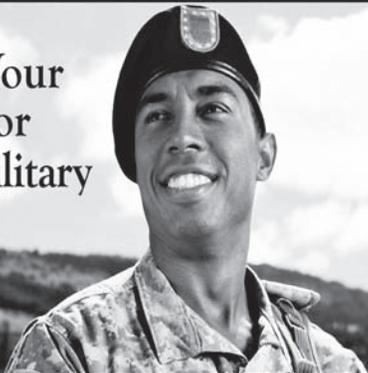
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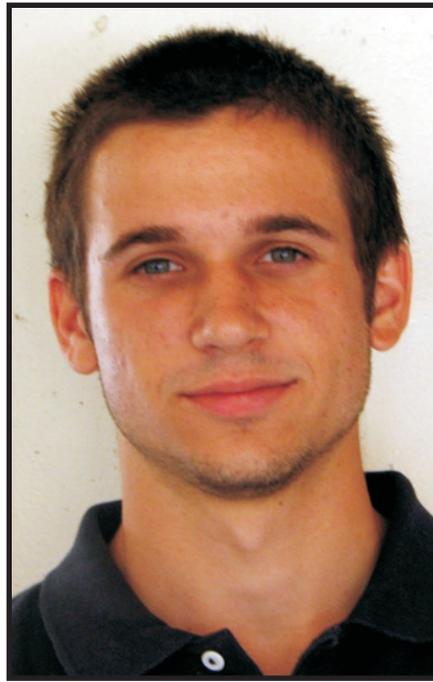


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Editor's note: Nathan Scherotter has been a contributor to Wrangler News since our issue of July 15, 2006, while he was still a junior at Corona del Sol High School. His graduation from ASU marks, at least for now, the end of a long and productive relationship with our newspaper. Nathan is an example of the many talented CdS students who have worked for us during the past 20 years, starting with Nathan Seiter in 1992 and continuing through sports columnist Alex Zener, who will graduate from ASU next year. We know that we have gained from the contributions made by these fine young journalists, and we can only hope that the experience has been equally as rewarding for them, as well. Our thanks—and best wishes—to you all.



By Nathan Scherotter

Over the past few weeks I have been reflecting. As a newly graduated alumnus of Arizona State University, I am ready to embark on the next phase of my life somewhere out in the world.

While I am ready, I also have this melancholy feeling: upset to leave a community that has meant so much to me.

For the past six years, I have contributed to Wrangler News, covering everything from Corona del Sol athletics to public issues to restaurants around town. I have been able to meet interesting and dedicated people who make our community a great place to live, work and play.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have taken the time to read my articles. It means the world to me that you actually care about my

thoughts as a member of the community we live in.

I have lived my entire life in south Tempe and have seen this community develop over the years. It has been an amazing place to call home. This community has shaped who I am and given me many lifelong friends. Being able to share my experiences and point of view through the Wrangler News has been a great pleasure and an honor.

I also wanted to specifically thank Don Kirkland and Kyle Maki for allowing me to have this great opportunity over the years. They both have been a great support to me and allowed me to do what I love to do.

They provide a great service to the community and something that is unique to the area. So once again, thank you everyone for your support and a BIG thanks to Wrangler News.

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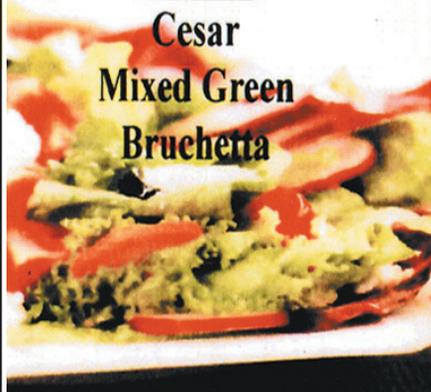
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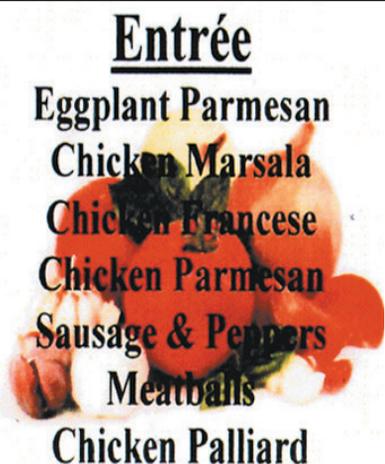
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Diversions . . . with Mark Moorhead

'Meek's Cutoff' a beautifully crafted survival tale, but ending falls short

If you've ever had any romantic notions of being a covered-wagon pioneer on the American frontier, *Meek's Cutoff* will be happy to disabuse you of them.

Set in the 1840s, Kelly Reichardt's film concerns a small party of families led by a hired guide named Stephen Meek (Bruce Greenwood), who has promised to take them on a time-saving "cutoff" to the end of the Oregon Trail.

Low on water, surrounded by vast empty stretches of eastern Oregon desert and terrified of Indian attack, the party begins to grow skeptical of Meek, especially the sharp-eyed Emily Tetherow (Michelle Williams).

As their desperation mounts, they capture a Cayuse Indian (Rod Rondeaux) who had been keeping them under surveillance.

Meek, who reflexively despises Indians, advises killing the man on the spot; Mr. Tetherow (Will Patton) overrules him, on the grounds that the captive could lead them to water.

There really was an historical Stephen Meek, and he really did lead a group of pioneers on an ill-advised route through the Oregon Territory in 1845.

To what extent he otherwise resembled the character in this movie—a self-conscious embodiment of

the "colorful" frontiersman, spinning yarns and getting hopes up—I don't know.

But Meek the movie character is vividly realized. I've never been a huge fan of the Canadian actor Bruce Greenwood, who has always seemed to me far more prolific than interesting.

But somehow he comes to ebullient life behind the long beard and buckskins—his Stephen Meek resembles the prototype of the American reactionary hustler, selling shortcuts to wealth with a side dish of racial terror.

His opposite number here is Mrs. Tetherow, who knows how little her opinion counts with the party as a whole, though her husband is smart enough to know she's worth listening to.

Meek can see her humane intelligence, too, and he can't resist baiting her in mock-gallant terms, though you sense that she touches a guilty nerve in his soul.

Williams, superb in Reichardt's *Wendy and Lucy*, is just as impressive here—she gives us a portrait of a life spent skillfully repressing anger and disgust.

All the actors, for that matter—from the chronically underrated Will Patton to Rondeaux as the handsome, warily smirking Cayuse to Paul Dano and

Zoe Kazan and Shirley Henderson from the other wagons—contribute to a believable period ensemble.

Jon Raymond's dialogue is tinged with lyrical formality in the 19th Century manner, but in the hands of this cast it still sounds like real people talking.

Reichardt's austere, uncompromising direction and editing, and the pitiless sun-baked cinematography of Chris Blauvelt make *Meek's Cutoff* an empathic experience—my desire to see these people find water was intense.

But the film isn't just a grueling survival tale, it's thought-provoking and dramatic, hinging on quintessentially American issues that still feel relevant.

Indeed, *Meek's Cutoff* has just about all the elements one could ask of a classic movie—except an ending.

Reichardt and Raymond build the suspense to an excruciating level, and then the film just stops, like one those beautifully crafted, unsatisfying *New Yorker* short stories that seem to regard resolution as vulgar.

It's a cutoff of a different sort than Meek's party experienced, but it leaves us likewise high and dry.

— *Meek's Cutoff* is rated PG and plays only at *Harkins Shea 14*.

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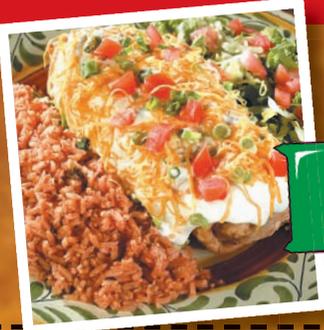
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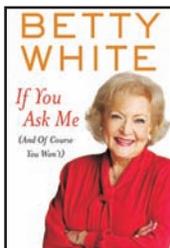
Fifth book proves that, at 89, Betty White still knows how to get a laugh

By Debra Moorhead

I'm a Betty White fan. But, these days, who isn't? Despite her great success on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and *The Golden Girls*, I doubt she has ever been hotter among fans than she is right now.

Within the last year, at age 89, White won a Screen Actors Guild Award for her role on TVLand's *Hot in Cleveland*. She won an Emmy—her seventh—for hosting *Saturday Night Live*, and she has just released her fifth book.

In the last seven days alone, channel surfing has landed me in the middle of two Betty White interviews—one with Katie Couric, another with Joy Behar. Betty mania has also produced a wall calendar and, if my eyes did not deceive me—a comic book.



I received the audio CD of White's latest book, *If You Ask Me: (And Of Course You Won't)* for Mother's Day. In the book, read by the author, White weighs in on such subjects as show business, managing fame and fans, growing older and, what is likely her favorite topic—animals.

She says she always just assumed that her childhood love of animals would evolve into a career, but gratefully acknowledges that show business has allowed her more of an opportunity to promote animal welfare and education than she would have otherwise enjoyed.

Her passion for the animals she has encountered is evident—there's a jovial little lilt in her voice whenever

she talks about them. In one particular story about a horse named Butter-scotch, you can clearly hear her voice break with emotion as she delivers the last line.

And it's her voice—that inimitable voice—that makes these musings so special. I can't imagine simply *reading* this book. The words wouldn't have the same gravitas—or humor—without the voice of their writer. And, it may seem like a little thing, but no one enunciates the way Betty White does. Perhaps that's just the natural result of 70-plus years of performing, but it's a joy to listen to her, and you never, ever miss a word of what she's saying.

Ms. White (or "Mrs. Ludden," as the author states she is often beckoned by photographers on the red carpet, as a surefire way of getting her attention), discusses her frequent talk show appearances, and her admiration of the comedic talents of hosts like Jay Leno and Craig Ferguson.

But she emphatically states, "I am not a comedienne. I'm an actor." And this is one of the few Betty White assertions with which I am prepared to take exception. One of the reasons Betty White has been and continues to be such a welcome guest on talk shows is that one can expect her to be funny. And one is never disappointed. Leno and Ferguson, and their audiences, crave White's wry delivery and spot-on timing which, if possible, is even sharper today than it was when Johnny Carson was her foil in the 1970's and '80's. The majority of actors don't have it, and I'm not sure it can be learned. It's something inherent in a true comic. And, if you ask *me*, Betty White has it.

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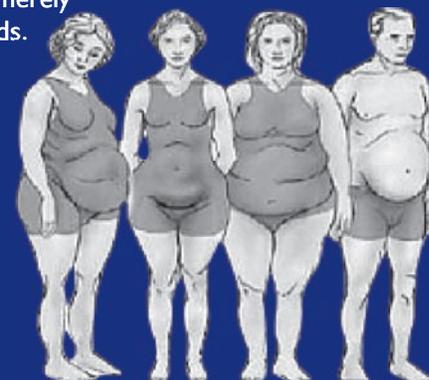
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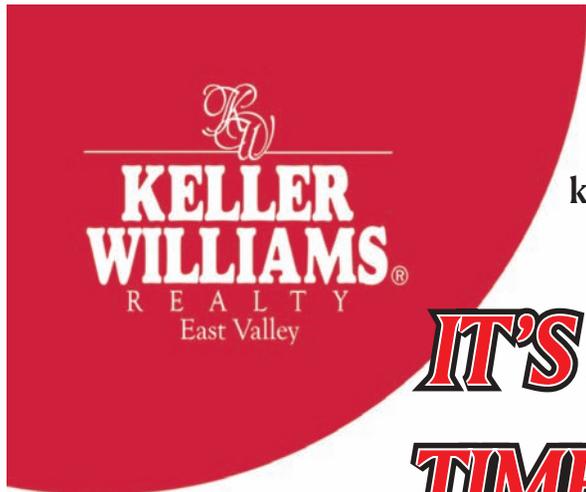
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