

## Little faces, lotta love

Kyrene schools superintendent Dr. David Schauer has said this will be his final year with the district. In the days following the Governing Board's acceptance of his decision, he took a few minutes out of his summer schedule to reacquaint himself with the classroom environment that helped launch his career in education. Schauer discusses what he believes the district has achieved under his tutelage and what remains to be done when his successor takes over in July 2016. Q&A with Diana Whittle on Page 4.

Photo by Billy Hardiman / Wrangler News



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# Retiring superintendent Schauer looks at schools' past, future

Recalling his early days in education, how he made the transition from classroom to role as district's top exec

**Interview & commentary**

**By Diana Whittle**

Photo by Billy Hardiman

*Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David K. Schauer, the chief executive for the high-performing school district for 10 years, announced he will retire in July 2016.*

*With Dr. Schauer at the helm, Kyrene established a reputation as an "A" ranked school district.*

*When faced with several years of budget cuts, as a result of decreasing state funding, Schauer partnered with the district's Governing Board to minimize the effects of budget reductions on classrooms and student instruction.*

*As a result, the district consistently scores in the top tier for the budget percentage that is spent on instruction.*

*Schauer successfully navigated through other challenges during his tenure, including responding to changes in state learning standards and testing assessments, and reacting to increased competition from other educational institutions. Kyrene's projected enrollment decline was mitigated by aggressively marketing the benefits of a Kyrene education and by providing increased educational choices.*

*Schauer began his educational career as an elementary teacher in Illinois, after receiving a bachelor's degree in elementary education from*



**Dr. Schauer discusses art integration in classrooms with Kyrene teachers.**

— Photo by Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

*Illinois State University. He came to Arizona in 1996 to become the principal of Aprende Middle School, a position he held for six years.*

*In 2002, Schauer was selected to be assistant superintendent for instructional services and served in that role until he was named superintendent in 2006. As he prepares for the next phase of his life, Schauer shared a bit more about his initial decision to become an educator and the potential obstacles the district may face.*

**Q: What attracted you to the field of education?**

"My grandfather was a school principal and my mother was a teacher, so I had good role models as a young child about doing this work. I found that in middle school and high school that I enjoyed helping my friends and kids that lived in the neighborhood do their homework, prepare for tests and complete activities. This helped me know when I became a young adult that this might be the profession for me."

**Q: Did you aspire from an early age to achieve a leadership position?**

"No. As a matter of fact, I never thought of myself as a leader. When I began to master the knowledge and skills that were necessary to be a good teacher, my principal and peers began to ask me to share those things that were working well in my classroom. This work with adults in a 'consultant' role began to help me realize that I had something to offer others and

that becoming a leader, who would support students and other educators, would be appealing to me. This led to advanced degrees and educational leadership roles, including high-school reading consultant, director of professional development, and then school and district leadership roles."

—SCHAUER, Page 15

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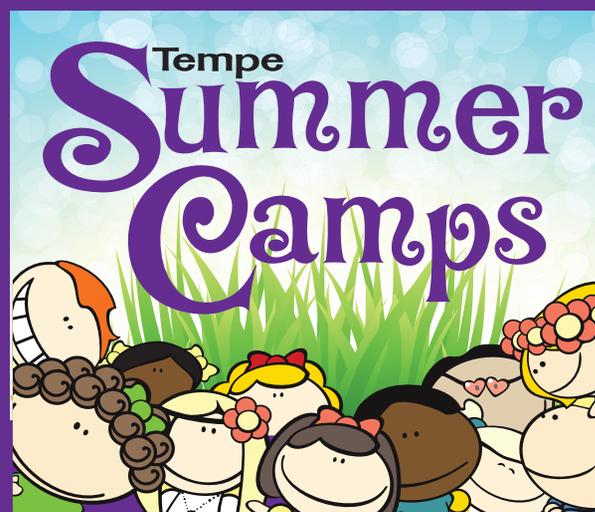
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# Hookah fans breathe new life into an ancient tradition

By Jonathan Xavier

A glance at the list of over a dozen hookah flavors offered at Habookah Hookah lounge in Tempe reads like a Hawaiian shaved ice menu. From guava to blueberry muffin, just about anyone's palate can be satisfied at this new-school style hookah lounge started by Cody Bahner.

"This business really just grew out of a hobby of mine. My friends would throw parties, and I would end up going and setting up hookah and food for everyone; we always had a lot of fun just sitting around sharing the hookah and enjoying the big game or just talking.

"A friend and I realized this could be a cool business idea so I worked out a business plan and waited for the right time to launch Habookah."

Bahner comes off as a cool young guy with a friendly personality and a knack for cleanliness developed from his years working in restaurants.

All of these qualities come through in the lounge. It's spotless and has ample couches and comfortable chairs for people to relax in as they smoke with their friends. The lighting is soft and dimmed and the paintings on the wall are of an abstract and psychedelic nature.

"I just really wanted Habookah to be something different," said Bahner. "Most of the hookah lounges I had been to around here are more Middle Eastern-themed, which is fine, but I saw a need for a different kind of lounge.

"Additionally, either the service or the cleanliness at these establishments was always a bit lacking in my opinion. I designed Habookah by myself and wanted it to be a different kind of place. My clientele ranges anywhere from 18 to about 45 years old.

"Once I even had an 83-year-old woman in here. The thing they can always depend on here is great service, cleanliness and a mellow environment to socialize and relax in."

Bahner says that hookah really started to gain popularity in the U.S. in the early 2000's.

Hookah lounges are often seen as an alternative for underage kids who can't go out to the bars or clubs. However, older patrons appreciate the mellow mood of a hookah lounge as a laid-back alternative to the bar and club scene.

When it comes to the health effects of hookah, opinions and studies are all over the place.

Proponents of hookah note that it does not have all the extra chemicals that cigarettes are packed with.

Detractors, though, are quick to point out that hookah still contains nicotine since it is a tobacco product and subsequently poses health risks.

An occasional criticism of hookah lounges in particular is that they spread germs and disease.

"I clean all the mouthpieces and all the parts with all natural products," says Bahner.

"People can even switch the mouthpiece out when it's their turn to smoke."

Habookah Hookah lounge opened just this year but is already experiencing a steady flow of customers and glowing online reviews.

"I just really want people to come here and enjoy the atmosphere. Hopefully in the near future we can do some fun events like an open-mic night.

"We have big things coming for hookah lovers."

*Habookah Hookah Lounge is at 6340 S. Rural Road, Suite 111, Tempe. Hours are 3 p.m.-midnight Sunday-Thursday and 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday. Phone: 480-252-9670.*

## Chamber schedules Business Journal workshop on ways to grow new business

*Phoenix Business Journal* will present an hour-long workshop with PBJ Audience Development Executive Barbara Barnstead discussing how to get qualified sales leads, maintain accurate contact information and develop networking strategies to grow new business.

The program, being offered through the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled 8-9 a.m. Friday, June 26.

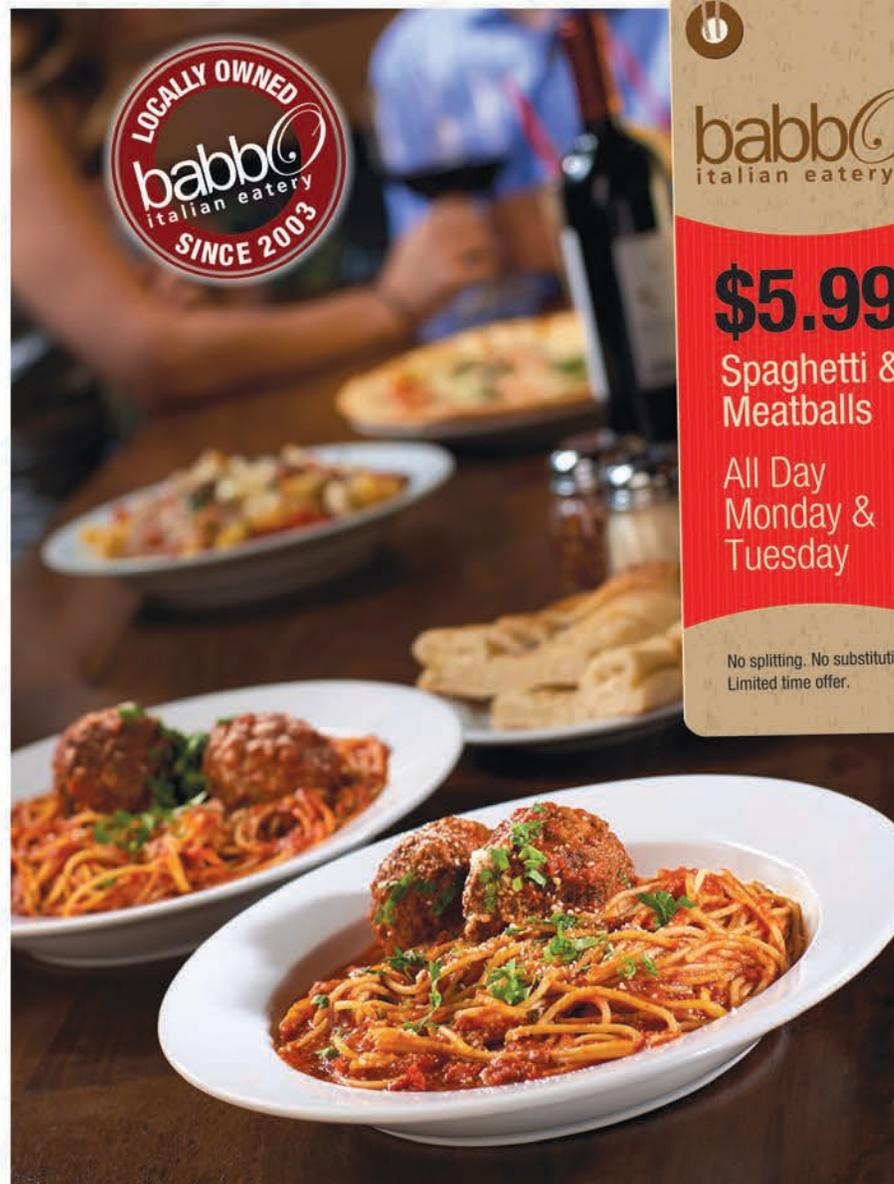
Those who attend will be offered suggestions on how to get plugged into the local business community, promote the company and get connected to customers who need its products or services.

The interactive, hands-on session will be held at chamber offices, 25 S. Arizona Place, Suite 201.

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In the library of his south Tempe home, Dr. Flavio Marsiglia reviews the materials he utilizes to help individualize substance-abuse training in the countries his team visits.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

## So. Tempe prof honored for ASU global drug-awareness initiative

### *Develops strategies that tap into the local characteristics of targeted U.S., worldwide populations*

By Joyce Coronel

South Tempe resident Dr. Flavio Marsiglia has joined the ranks of the most pre-eminent college members at U.S. colleges, honored as a Regents' Professor for the 2014-2015 academic year.

A native of Uruguay, Marsiglia, who teaches social work at Arizona State University, first came to this country during the mid-1980s as part of an exchange program for social workers.

Now, 30-plus years later, he has established a worldwide reputation for his substance-abuse prevention programs among middle-school-age youth, including those in the Kyrene School District.

According to the highly regarded members of a nationwide selection panel that reviewed the accomplishments of hundreds of potential honorees, Marsiglia's initiatives have led to a measurable decline in drug use and high-risk behavior among youth in Phoenix and in more than 30 other states and foreign countries.

What sets Marsiglia's approach apart is that it's culturally grounded to meet kids where they live—to connect with them by taking into account the social, family and economic environments that affect them directly.

"Our concern was making prevention programs

for kids [that are] relevant to them," Marsiglia told *Wrangler News*.)

"A few years ago we used to believe that one program would be the answer. But kids need to recognize themselves in the intervention, to (be able to) say, 'It's about me.'"

In Mexico, for example, students couldn't connect with videos that featured non-Mexican children and that had voice-overs in Spanish.

Marsiglia was able to get funding for a new set of videos and worked alongside the University of Guadalajara to produce them.

Mexican students wrote the scripts, acted in the videos and did the camera work. "We are testing now to see if the new videos got better results," Marsiglia said.

In Spain, his social work students decided they wanted to work with the Gypsy population to help children resist substance abuse. "We're ready to start that project in August. It's an underserved, misunderstood population not only in Spain, but across the continent," Marsiglia said. "We hope we can do something to serve them."

In China, local officials are seeing a spike in drug abuse among students whose parents left rural areas and migrated to cities in search of jobs.

Marsiglia sees a similarity to the struggles of Mexican migrants. Migrant parents, whether Chinese or Mexican, tend to have a more traditional outlook.

Suddenly, he says, parents in those countries are faced with kids who are talking back to them and who have often assumed the adult role in the family. It's the kids who have adapted to the new surroundings, and families need new strategies to avoid the pitfalls of drug abuse.

Marsiglia's program, dubbed "Keepin' It R.E.A.L.," teaches kids strategies about how to resist drugs. The strategies he presents weren't dreamed up in an ivory tower either.

Marsiglia said his team, part of an ASU department entrusted with the project on the basis of a federal grant, interviewed students who were not using drugs and asked them how they avoided becoming ensnared in substance abuse.

"We said to them: 'We are sure at one point or another you got an offer. What did you do?' Then they told us. We analyzed all the stories to see the most common strategies being used," Marsiglia said.

Scare tactics and preaching might make parents feel good, but they don't work, Marsiglia said.

So what does? Turns out that's how Keepin' It

— Continued on facing page

R.E.A.L. landed its name: Refuse, Explain, Avoid and Leave. Each of the four strategies is accompanied by a video.

There's also a teacher's manual, student workbook and a parenting component.

"We emphasize family functioning, and a big part of that is parent-child communication," Marsiglia said. He's concerned that many children spend way too much time alone or fixated on their computers and cell phones.

Keeping children involved with positive activities and interacting with people is important, he said. And it's also a good idea for kids to have other adults involved in their lives: grandparents, aunts and uncles and others who serve as role models.

"Talk to your child," Marsiglia emphasized. Too many parents don't establish good communication with their children early on, then expect to have deep conversations about drugs, alcohol and sex when a child turns 12.

"Always tell the child, 'All topics are good topics. You can always talk to me. Anything that happens to you, I care about. Any ideas, any thoughts, you can share them with me. I'm here to listen to you,'" Marsiglia said.

The "Keepin' It R.E.A.L." 10-week program has been used in Arizona's

American Indian population as well as in Spain, Mexico and Uruguay, from which he just returned. Marsiglia will be heading to China soon to discuss the program with officials there who say they are eager to find an effective means to deal with a growing substance abuse problem in that country.

Saying he did not expect the kind of recognition that goes along with the Regents Professor prize, Marsiglia admitted he is humbled and grateful to have been named a Regents Professor.

"I was very surprised that I have been selected at my age and this stage in my career," Marsiglia said.

"I don't see it as my award — it's an award that is given to my wonderful colleagues, my students and, more than anybody else, our community partners, because my work is possible only because they help me."

Marsiglia is the Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health at the Arizona State University's School of Social Work and director of the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center.

He coordinates an ongoing international scholars exchange program at SIRC and conducts research and training in partnership with universities in Mexico and Spain.

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## Tempe joins forces with animal defense group to reduce number of feral cats

### Trap-neuter-return program focuses on reducing uncontrolled feline roaming

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These are cats that are either abandoned, stray or don't belong to anyone and are left to roam the streets and reproduce.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimates that there are tens of millions of these cats across America.

Many times, they are taken to shelters that end up euthanizing them since the wild cats cannot be adopted. It's a tragic situation and one that the Tempe City Council is seeking to address through an agreement with the Animal Defense League of Arizona.

The city will encourage residents to get feral or outdoor cats spayed and neutered through ADLA's Trap, Neuter and Return program.

"Tempe and its residents are concerned about the outdoor cat population and the strain that it can put on neighborhoods," said Tempe Councilmember Kolby Granville.

"This cooperation between Tempe and the ADLA can help further the TNR program while addressing the issue in the most humane way possible."



The TNR program allows outdoor cats to be captured, spayed or neutered and then returned to their existing colonies. Throughout the country, TNR is quickly becoming recognized as the most effective approach to decreasing free-roaming cat populations. Because free-roaming cats are sterilized in large numbers, TNR reduces the number of kittens born and, over time, reduces the size of a community's free-roaming cat population.

The ADLA will establish a Tempe-specific fund that allows residents and businesses to make charitable donations for TNR activities within city limits. The average spay/neuter costs \$25, but donors will be able to give in any increment they choose.

These funds will be used to organize volunteers and choose one or two feral cat colonies in Tempe to institute a TNR operation. The city will help spread the word about the program with promotional materials and inclusion in community outreach events.

"Tempe City Council worked closely with community stakeholders to come up with the right solution for residents in our city," said Tempe Vice Mayor Corey Woods.

"Residents can make a strong impact with their donations since these funds will be routed directly to Tempe neighborhoods."

Residents who have questions regarding feral or outdoor cats, or who may be in need of TNR services, can contact Tempe 311 at 480-350-8311 for a referral to the ADLA hotline. For more information about outdoor cats in Tempe, visit [www.tempe.gov/outdoorcats](http://www.tempe.gov/outdoorcats).

For more information about ADLA and its TNR program, visit [www.SpayNeuterHotline.org](http://www.SpayNeuterHotline.org).



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## Scholarship honors memory of popular CdS grad

For most kids, turning 18 is a notable milestone. For Shaye Busse, a 2015 graduate of Corona del Sol High School, it was absolutely unforgettable.

That's because the honors student was presented with a \$1,000 check toward his tuition at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Busse received the check as recipient of The Blake Norville Smile Scholarship. The annual scholarship honors the memory of Norville, a 2006 graduate of CdS who died unexpectedly two years ago.

According to the Tempe Union High School Education Foundation, the scholarship is awarded to a Corona student "who most epitomizes the qualities that made our dear friend Blake so special — community leadership, academic acumen and a positive, outgoing personality."

With a 4.0 grade point average, Busse was an honors student, ranking 10th in a class of more than 600. He played soccer all four years and men's volleyball for two. He belonged to the National Honor Society, was president of the Spanish honors society

and treasurer of the math club.

More than his academic prowess and extracurricular activities, though, the selection committee—and Busse's teachers at Corona — saw something more.

Sarah Blechacz had Busse in her honors exercise physiology course during his junior year. She described him as having a "brilliant mind" but noted in her letter of recommendation to the scholarship committee that his "enthusiasm and inquisitiveness are unpretentious...Shaye understands that true knowledge is lived and takes time to develop."

Lisa Busse, Shaye's mom, said she found out about the scholarship award when Shaye texted her a photo showing him holding the oversize check. On his birthday, of all days.

Busse will attend UCLA this fall and plans to major in biology and minor in Spanish. He hopes to attend medical school after that so that he can achieve his "lifelong dream of helping as many people as possible." In the future, he'd like to conduct research to help fight cancer.

## Information workshops set for kindergarten parents

Parents interested in learning more about Kyrene's kindergarten programs are being invited to attend one of two informational meetings scheduled this month and next. The meetings are for parents with children who will turn five by Sept. 1 and who would like to consider one of Kyrene's elementary schools.

Principals and staff will present

information about kindergarten and answer questions parents may have about the program. Meetings are scheduled:

**Thursday, June 25, 6-7 p.m.**, Kyrene de la Colina, 13612 S. 36th St., Phoenix.

**Thursday, July 16, 6-7 p.m.**, Kyrene de la Paloma, 5000 W. Whitten Drive, Chandler.



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## A shocking tale, revisited

How the Glendale vs. Coyotes saga jolted our writer into recalling his own memorable moment

By M.V. Moorhead

This month Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers allowed himself to be “tased” by a Coyotes fan as a charity stunt to benefit the 100 Club of Arizona.

“It hurt,” His Honor remarked of the experience. “It hurt bad.”

Well, I could have told him that. Readers of *Wrangler News* with long memories may recall that I was tased, or tazed, or tasered, or whatever the proper term is, by officers of the Chandler Police Department back in 2003. I wish I could boast that this was due to some rowdy behavior on my part, but no, I volunteered to be zapped by the boys (and, of course, girls) in blue.

This was part of a presentation to members of the media designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the weapons, which were then becoming part of the Chandler PD’s repertoire, by then-Sgt. James Halsted.

I wasn’t actually shot by the wire probes that deliver a five-second blast of 50,000 volts, incapacitating

the target without inflicting any lasting harm. Instead, I and several other members of the media allowed ourselves to be hooked up to alligator clips and delivered a quarter-second jolt—just a taste.

I vividly remember the first volunteer, who I believe was some ink-stained old vet from *The Arizona Republic*. When he got his zap, he barked an obscenity and his knees gave out. He then apologized for his language, to which one of the Chandler cops replied “It’s OK, it does have a tendency to induce Tourette’s.”

A lovely young reporter from one of the Spanish-language channels went next. She squealed, kicked out one leg like a Rockette, and then her legs gave out as well.

And then came my turn. They clipped one wire to my collar and another to my pants, counted to three and let me have it.

I can still remember that sickening feeling of the current snaking down the side of my body. My reaction, I regret to say, was less dignified than that of the lady who preceded me but

slightly more restrained than the old guy’s shriek. I said, mildly enough, “Oh God,” in a whimpering voice, as I sagged.

Later that day, I was telling a coworker, a young “extreme sports” type, about the experience, and he was appalled at my feeble response.

“Tell me you didn’t say ‘Oh God,’” he said with disgust. Alas, I had to disappoint him.

In the column I wrote at the time, I said that “...afterward, as far as I could tell, I was no worse for the wear.”

That was true, but at the time I didn’t mention that, despite assurances to the contrary from Sgt. Halsted, my side hurt for the rest of that day.

If I had to choose between being tased and being shot with a bullet, I’d take the taser every time, of course.

But even so, I say again as I said back then—and as I would have advised Mayor Weiers, if he had asked me—if anyone ever points one of those things at you, think hard before you allow them to pull the trigger.

## Area Hilton honored for 4th year in a row

Hilton Phoenix Chandler is on a roll. For the fourth time in five years, the hotel has been honored with the Connie Award from Hilton Worldwide.

Named in honor of Conrad Hilton, the founder of Hilton Hotels & Resorts, the Connie Awards recognize leading hotels in each brand of the Hilton Worldwide portfolio. The awards are bestowed annually to the hotel in each brand with the highest combined customer survey scores in categories including loyalty, service, condition and cleanliness.

“We all believe that when you set solid goals, create strong plans and execute like it’s nobody’s business, you can achieve anything in business and in life,” said J. Green, the property’s general manager.

“Being nothing but the best is our motivation moving forward. If that means we make it four, five or six in a row, then we will take it. Either way, we will drive toward our goals as a team and have a whole lot of fun doing it.”

The property was singled out among 279 Hilton properties in North and South America with fewer than 500 rooms.

The hotel’s consistent winning streak in receiving this award demonstrates the commitment of management and staff to ensure each and every guest who walks through the doors of Hilton Phoenix Chandler is completely satisfied with their stay, said Green.



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Dawn Stantus expresses wonderment at the dazzling array of lighting in the showroom that's her home away from home. Store (right) features an array of styles, choices.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

# Couple's brilliant idea: Light up your life

By M.V. Moorhead

Photography by Billy Hardiman

Considering that “Let there be light” is You-Know-Who’s very first line in the Bible, you’d think that more people would aspire to the lighting business.

Torren Stantus and his wife Dawn came to it circuitously, and through Premier Lighting they have been working to elegantly lighten up the Valley for more than a decade now.

“There’s something about Tempe I’ve always loved,” says Dawn, a Payson native who’s now an area resident.

“I had an aunt in Buena Vista (Ranchos), and I always had it stuck in my head that I wanted to raise a family in South Tempe. I love it!”

Dawn moved to Tempe at the age of 18, and met Torren, a Washington native and ASU Construction Management student, while she was working at University Mechanical and Engineering Contractors.

Torren’s college friend Collin Herdt, meanwhile, had grown up in Tucson, where his parents ran Northside Lighting.

“About a year after college,” recalls Dawn, “the guys got together.” Their project was a Valley-based version of Herdt’s family business, supplying wholesale lighting for construction.

Shortly thereafter, the business was expanded to a retail outlet, and in the years that followed, more have been added. There are now Premier Lighting locations in Scottsdale, Glendale and Colorado Springs, along with Tucson’s Northside Lighting; Premier bought the store when Herdt’s parents retired.

“When our business was three years old,” says Dawn, “we went to China and started importing our own Premier Lighting line.”

But Premier carries a rich variety of products of all sorts. Wander into the Scottsdale location, for instance, off North Scottsdale Road near Kierland Commons, and you’ll immediately be struck by the feeling that, to paraphrase Dorothy, you aren’t in Home Depot any more.

The front of the store, with its grand and ornate chandeliers and lamps, offers décor suggestive of a fairy tale—Cinderella and Prince Charming could waltz through these rooms.

Brands in this part of the store include Swarovski and Schonbek. Toward the rear, the styles grow sleeker and more modern, though no less elegant. Brands back here include WAC Lighting, Modern Forms and Vermont-based Hubbardton Forge.

The store also carries high-end

— Continued on facing page

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furniture, paintings, mirrors and other room-brightening articles, as well as decorative ceiling fans.

"I have a couple of fans that are six feet wide," says Dawn. "In Arizona, that's like a wind turbine. They push some serious air."

Premier even caters to the light-bulb nostalgia market—who knew that light-bulb nostalgia existed?

The sentiment has been brought on, says Dawn, by the rise of LED lighting.

It's left people longing for "those big glass bulbs with the visible filaments."

Thus Premier carries the "Nostalgia Era" line from Luminance. Big, retro designer bulbs with filaments that glow yellow, they look like something out of Jules Verne's dreams.

In general, however, Stantus grants that LEDs have opened all sorts of new design possibilities.

They allow, for instance, "for wooden fixtures, because with LEDs, the heat from the light doesn't dry out the wood...With LEDs coming out, there's going to be a big modification in our industry."

Information: Premier Lighting, 15507 N. Scottsdale Rd., Suite 140, Scottsdale. Phone: 623-907, 2669.

Chandler Mayor  
Jay Tibshraeny

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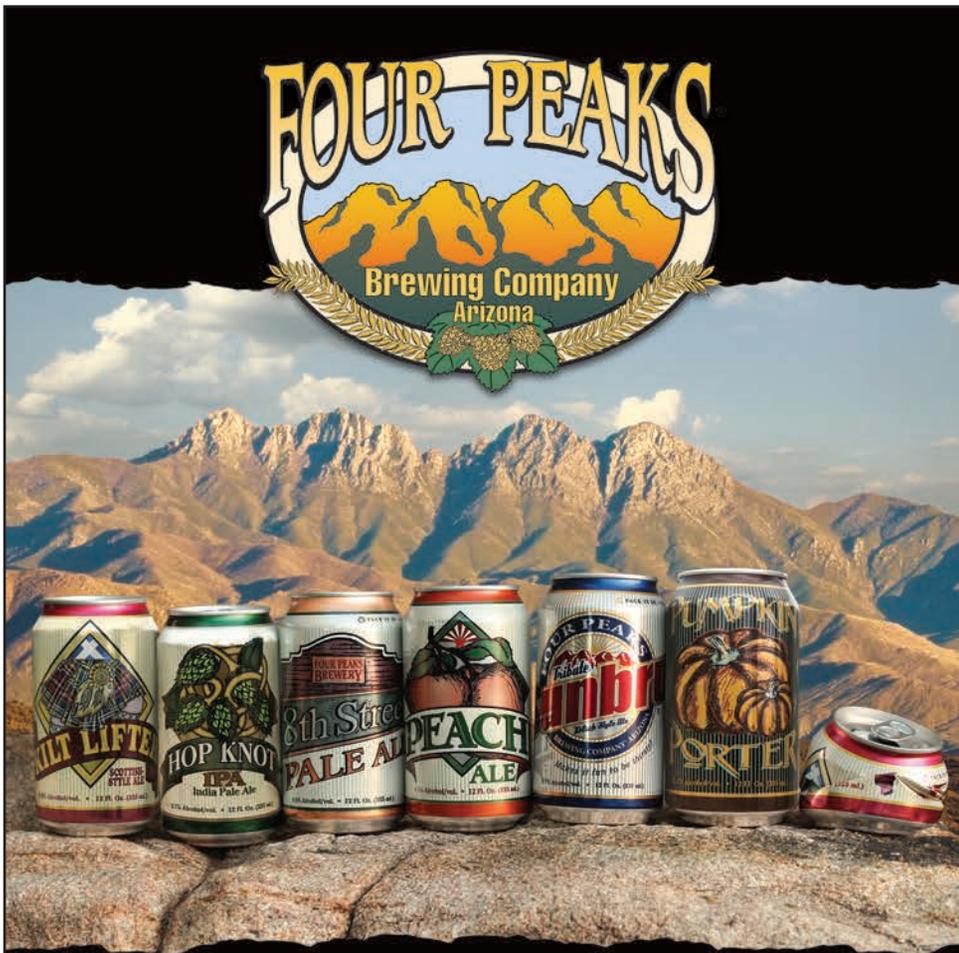
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## Diversions . . . By M.V. Moorhead

### Latest Pixar offering delves intriguingly into human mind

#### Opening this weekend

**Inside Out**— This animated feature dramatizes the workings of the human mind by personifying the emotions, in this case those of a 12-year-old girl named Riley.

Working in a NASA-like mission control is our heroine Joy (voiced by Amy Poehler), a radiant Tinkerbell-like sprite determined to keep Riley happy. Her colleagues are Fear (Bill Hader), Anger (Lewis Black), Disgust (Mindy Kaling) and frumpy, blue-skinned Sadness (Phyllis Smith).

The team's job is to create memories, here seen as tiny transparent globes glowing with their emotional coloring—gold for Joy, red for Anger, and so forth. Joy tries hard to keep Sadness from touching Riley's memories and tingeing them blue, but when Riley moves from Minnesota, where she has a best friend and plays hockey, to San Francisco, Joy finds it

harder to suppress Sadness.

Eventually the emotional crises that come with a move during childhood cause Joy and Sadness to get separated from the headquarters, leaving Fear, Anger and Disgust in charge. The rest of the movie concerns their Bunyan-esque journey through Riley's personality to take over again in headquarters.

The conceit of this movie isn't new. It wasn't new as the premise of the early-'90s Fox sitcom *Herman's Head*, and wasn't even new as one of the funnier segments of Woody Allen's 1972 *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask)* or the 1970 movie of Norman Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

But it's possible that no one's ever done this idea quite as well as *Inside Out*. One's expectations for Pixar's features tend to be pretty high, but even so I wasn't prepared for how

— DIVERSIONS, Page 23

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BEST SMALL BUSINESS SAYS AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS CHAMBER  
*Four Stars says Arizona Republic*

# Schauer

From Page 4

**Q: What challenges do you see for educators of the future?**

"Time is a huge issue for educators. The traditional agrarian calendar was designed for a different age. Teachers need lots of time for reflection, goal-setting and planning. There is currently very little time for this and teachers have to work into the evening and weekends to prepare high-quality learning experiences for their students. We are moving into a crisis situation with a teacher shortage because of the challenging working conditions and low salaries.

It is time to transform the 'industrial model' of education, where we group students by chronological age and teach groups a common set of standards to a 'personalized' approach that has a greater focus on the learning needs of the individual child, so we have a system that accommodates the needs of each student instead of a rigid system that students must conform to."

**Q: What do you view as the key achievements of the district during your tenure?**

"Bringing groups of people with varied interests and widely different perspectives together to work on behalf of all of the children in Kyrene has been important.

When I first began in this position, this district had adversarial relationships with key groups of employees and parents. I was able to build bridges with these groups through educating them about the work of the district and encouraging everyone to take collective responsibility for major areas, such as the impact of state funding on the budget and creating the best possible working conditions for our employees with limited resources.

In addition, publicly acknowledging the achievement gap we have between various groups of students and

setting bold goals to close that gap has been very important.

Creating the 'Strategic Blueprint' with measurable goals to guide all of our work has also been critical to our success. Kyrene has stabilized enrollment, endured large budget reductions, been designated as an A district and received very favorable audits from various state agencies in the past decade under my leadership. The team that works directly with me has made this happen."

**Q: What is your proudest moment after a career devoted to education?**

"When I got my doctorate and my Dad, who is now 91, told me how proud he was of this accomplishment, it made me very happy."

**Q: What are the most significant changes that educators now face than when you began in the profession?**

"The negative publicity that often takes place around public education makes it difficult and could be preventing capable and talented individuals from entering the profession.

When I first began in 1977, I was very proud to say I was a teacher and people would always be encouraging and supportive of the work I was doing.



Schauer gets reacquainted with the classroom where he started his career in education.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

Sadly, that is not the case today, but various groups are working at the state and national levels to change this. "

**Q: What makes the Kyrene district unique?**

"The community here and the kids we serve are truly amazing. We have strong parental and community support for what we do and I could not ask for a better environment in which to work.

**Q: What are your plans for retirement?**

"I have a lot of energy and enthusiasm for making continued contributions to the field. I will most likely do that as a consultant or work in some other educational-related capacity."



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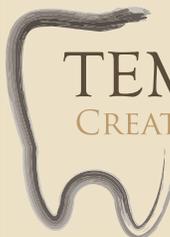
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## Tempe Chamber Annual Luncheon to Celebrate Businesses and Leaders

Reflecting on the past year while looking forward, we celebrate and share our vision for the upcoming year at the Annual Luncheon.

We'll introduce our new Chairman of the Board along with the incoming Board of Directors and Committee Chairs and honor those who are moving on from their terms of service. Presentations by our leadership and an awards ceremony for our members add to the enjoyment of this plated luncheon.



Our keynote speaker is Ted Simons, Emmy Award-winning Host and Managing Editor of the Arizona Horizon news program on PBS Channel 8. He has worked in television and radio in the Phoenix area for more than 30 years as a news director, morning show host, reporter and sports director. He grew up in Washington, D.C. during the tumult of the Vietnam War era. Amid riots and the aftermath of assassinations, the young boy would use the family coffee table as a desk, and anchor the nightly news before an imaginary audience.

The long-time Valley journalist began working at Arizona Horizon in 2007. He has interviewed everyone from Charlton Heston to former President Bill Clinton and continues to serve the community bringing in-depth news and public affairs reporting to Arizona.

Register today and come together with influential community and political leaders at this engaging and enjoyable afternoon.

The Tempe Chamber Annual Luncheon is sponsored by the following:

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## STAY IN THE LOOP!

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[www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org)

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### Local Businesses Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize 12 local companies who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of membership with the organization. Ranging from 25 to 40 years, these companies are models of success in their industry and the community. They will be honored in person at two events.

#### ★ 25 YEARS ★

Delta Diversified Enterprises  
Mesa Community College  
Brown & Brown Insurance  
Corporate Job Bank Personnel Services  
Ray the DJ, LLC

#### ★ 30 YEARS ★

Southwest Gas Corporation  
Patterson Properties, Inc.  
Costco Wholesale  
Serrano's Mexican Food  
The Buttes, a Marriott Resort

#### ★ 40 YEARS ★

Law Office of Glynn W. Gilcrease Jr.  
Stuart Siefer - JAMN Jazz Productions

On June 24th representatives will gather for a celebration toast during the Business After Hours mixer at Copper Blues, located at 930 E. University Dr. The event takes place from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and concludes with a group toast and a prize drawing.

On July 16th the companies will be formally recognized at the Tempe Chamber Annual Luncheon, featuring Ted Simons of PBS Channel 8.

The public is invited to attend both events. RSVPs are necessary and can be made online by calling 480.967.7891 or visiting [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org).



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## By the numbers: Summit math students among state's best



Winning math students, from left, Eric Wilda, Elena D'Avanzo, Emma Lee and Mayari Merchant with their teacher Christy Menard.

— Photo courtesy Summit School

Algebra may be a high-school level class, but middle school students at Summit School of Ahwatukee seem to thrive in advanced coursework.

This year seventh grader Emma Lee earned the highest score in the state on the Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics annual state-wide algebra competition.

Emma shares Summit's renown with an impressive contingent of students from Tempe/West Chandler neighborhoods, a number that surpassed the 14 percent mark during the school year that just ended, according to school officials.

Emma's Summit School math classmates also excelled. Mayari Merchant tied for the fourth highest state score.

Elena D'Avanzo and Eric Wilda placed in the top 10 percent of all Arizona students taking the exam.

Their teacher, Christy Menard, said she was thrilled but not surprised.

This is the fifth year that Menard's students have placed in the top 10 percent, or in the top four state scores.

"My students have an amazing aptitude and attitude about learning

and excelling," said Menard. "They are wonderful young adults who love the challenge, are respectful and collaborate to support each other to be the best they can in and out of class. They make my job as their teacher extremely fun and rewarding."

Student Mayari Merchant agrees: "My friends and I have such a healthy competition betwixt us that we push each other beyond what we think we are capable of."

D'Avanzo credits her teacher and classmates, "I have always loved math but Mrs. Menard helped to expand my love for the subject and enrich my learning. Having a class filled with caring friends inspires me to better myself and encourage others."

And what does Arizona's first-place recipient think?

"Math class with Mrs. Menard is a place where all students can interact with each other, and get to explore new ways to get to the solution, explains Emma Lee with a warm smile.

"Friends like Mayari, Elena, Eric and all my classmates at Summit will be with you all the way, until you can solve for 'x.'" — Kathy Konrad

### 46,500 . . . and counting!

Wrangler News is celebrating its 23rd year of publishing, and it's been a fascinating journey. Happily, the growth which has accompanied us during that nearly quarter of a century illustrates that news **BY** local people **ABOUT** local people remains a powerful incentive for those of us who disagree with the claim that 'print doesn't work.' Based on nationally accepted formulas, Wrangler News reaches 46,500 prospective readers every time it's printed — quite a change from the meager 5,000 papers we delivered to homes back in 1991.

We're looking forward to continuing our reign as this community's favorite newspaper, and we hope you'll join us in what we think is a deserved celebration.

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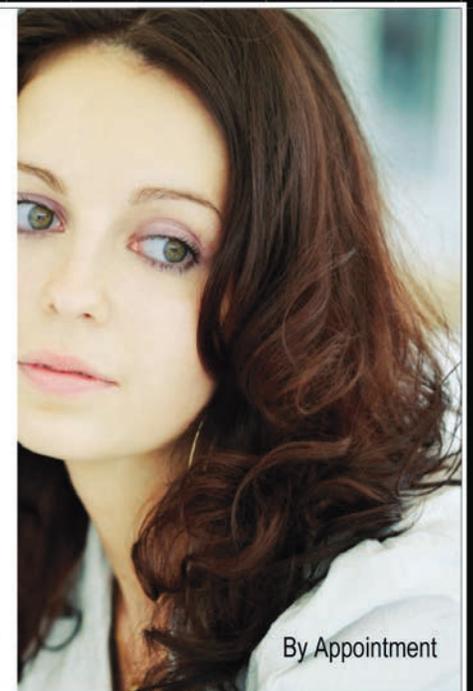


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## Donate to Chandler's largest school drive

The end of the school year means the beginning of preparations for Operation Back To School Chandler, our citywide effort to provide disadvantaged students with the school supplies they'll need when returning to the classroom.

Backpacks, school supplies, shoes, socks, underwear and uniforms are being sought from individuals, families, service organizations, businesses and faith communities.

The drive will culminate in a July 18 event where the backpacks and donated items will be distributed to needy elementary, middle and high school students.

Information on how to get involved is available online at [www.backtoschoolchandler.org](http://www.backtoschoolchandler.org) and includes donation locations and a list of supplies needed for various grade levels ranging from pre-school to high school.



Operation Back to School Chandler is spearheaded by the City's Community Development Office and For Our City-Chandler, led by Vice Mayor Kevin Hartke and part of the civic non-profit corporation, CARE Inc.

## Chandler seeks Census workers

The City is working with the U. S. Census Bureau to hire up to 500 workers to conduct a Special Census in Chandler to update our population numbers. This new count will help Chandler qualify for state revenues we need to provide essential services such as public safety, street and park maintenance, neighborhood and recreation programs, water distribution and treatment, trash collection and other important activities.

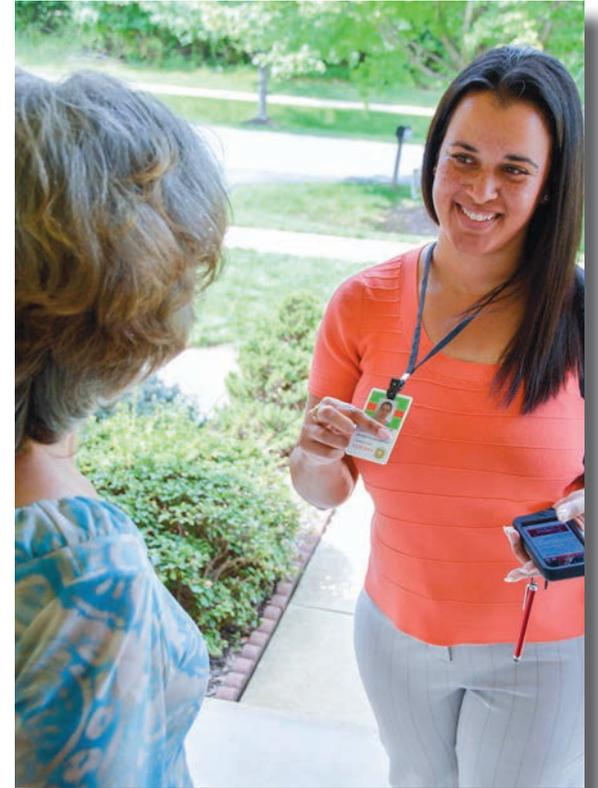
Local residents are needed to work on our Special Census. The U.S. Census Bureau pays enumerators \$16.25 per hour, plus mileage and paid training. Enumerators are asked to work 25-40 hours per week when people are home, usually evenings and weekends. Supervisors and crew leaders also are needed.

Enumerators visit households and collect a few facts about each member such as name, age, and relationship to the householder.

All information remains strictly confidential. Workers must be U. S. citizens at least 18 years old with a valid driver's license and phone.

The Census Bureau will conduct job testing soon. Job requirements and an application can be picked up at Sunset Library or from the City's website at [www.chandleraz.gov/census](http://www.chandleraz.gov/census). Those selected will be invited to attend a paid training class and then given a work assignment that lasts four to five weeks.

For more information, call 480-782-3260.



## Chandler . . . in brief

### Summer reading program

It's time to make this summer a blockbuster - filled with adventure, mystery, thrills, romance and more!

This summer, you can be a hero at your Chandler Public Library!

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to participate in the annual Summer Reading Program (SRP), which runs from June 1 through Aug. 1, 2015.

The program is for all ages - from pre-readers, to student youth, teenagers and adults. By reading, playing games, going to library events and community activities, participants collect badges and earn

points they can redeem for some great rewards.

Start your summer reading adventure now!

Register for an account so you can start logging your reading immediately.

Sign up at any Chandler Public Library or online at [www.chandlerlibrary.org/srp](http://www.chandlerlibrary.org/srp).

### Residents' generosity is A-OK

Each month, thousands of Chandler residents kick in a little extra money when paying their utility bill so that their neighbors in need can receive essential services, such as food, shelter, clothing, medical

services and transportation.

These voluntary donations are part of the Acts of Kindness (A-OK) program, which exemplifies the compassion and generosity of the people of Chandler.

A-OK is funded primarily through contributions of \$1, \$2, \$5 or any other amount that customers add to their monthly utility bill payment. All of the money raised goes back into the community to help individuals and families in need through the efforts of local social service agencies.

There are several ways for you to make an Acts of Kindness donation; for details, call 480-782- 2280, or visit [www.chandleraz.gov/aok](http://www.chandleraz.gov/aok).

## EVENTS

### Read About Chandler Fireworks Restrictions

[www.chandleraz.gov/fire](http://www.chandleraz.gov/fire)

### JUNE

22 — Council Study Session  
Council Chambers

25 — City Council Meeting  
Council Chambers

### JULY

4 — Chandler July 4th Fireworks Spectacular  
Tumbleweed Park

6 — Council Study Session and Regular Meeting  
Council Chambers

9 — City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

16 — Cardboard Boat Regatta, Arrowhead Pool

18 — Operation Back To School Chandler  
Chandler High School

25 — Verano Sano  
(Safe Summer) Arrowhead Pool

For details on these events, visit [www.chandleraz.gov](http://www.chandleraz.gov)  
Chandler Special Events Hotline: 480-782-2735

# Got milk? D-backs' Aaron Hill visits Tempe Y to help make sure



In celebration of June Dairy Month, Arizona Milk Producers partnered with D-backs player Aaron Hill, United Food Bank and Shamrock Farms to help get milk to those in need in Valley communities. Experts say one in four children go hungry in Arizona, and kids often don't have access to nutritious foods like milk in the summer when school is out. The month-long Arizona Milk Producers program encourages the community to get involved and help give to the Great American Milk Drive, a national program that provides milk to Feeding America food banks. The kick-off event was hosted at the Tempe Family YMCA on June 4.

Wrangler News photo feature by Billy Hardiman



# Sports

with Alex Zener • Photos by Billy Hardiman

## Basketball news abounds despite seasonal lull Bagley, Barcello under a recruiting microscope

It doesn't matter if the high schools are out for summer when it comes to Corona's boys basketball program. The Aztecs have two dominant players who seem to be in the news almost weekly.

**Marvin Bagley III**, named National Freshman Basketball Player of the Year by MaxPreps.com and All-USA Arizona American Family Insurance 2014-15 boys basketball Big Schools Player of the Year after averaging over 20 points and 10 rebounds per game while helping Corona win its fourth straight state championship, recently received his 16th scholarship offer.

The No. 8-ranked overall player by Scouts.com received his latest scholarship offer from the 2015 NCAA basketball championship Duke University after he paid an unofficial visit earlier this month.

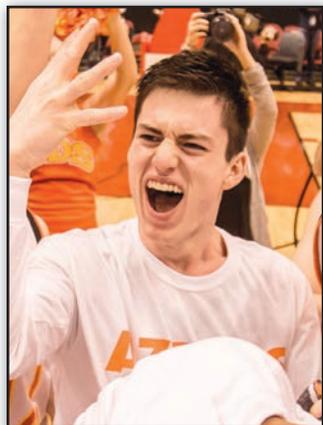
His other recent top-tier offers include Kentucky and UCLA.

As only a sophomore this fall, Bagley will have plenty of time to come to a decision, which may even include Arizona State University, where his grandfather, **Joe Caldwell**, was a legendary basketball player selected to the ASU Hall of Fame and the PAC-12 Hall of Fame.

Caldwell, known as "Pogo Joe" or "Jumping Joe" for his leaping abilities, has not only attended all of Bagley's games but may have unintentionally given him aspirations to be a best basketball player he can be as well.



Marvin Bagley III



Alex Barcello

Caldwell won a gold medal in the 1964 Olympics and was an All-Star in the NBA and ABA—one of the few players to have this distinction.

University of Arizona has their eye on 6-foot-10 Bagley as well but he is in no hurry to make a decision.

It also appears he is in no hurry to leave Corona either, stating he plans on staying put and giving his best effort to

the Aztec team.

Corona's other stand-out player, **Alex Barcello**, is also being heavily recruited.

Barcello, at last count, had received 14 scholarship offers. Six of those came in the two days following his outstanding performance at the Adidas Gauntlet Series in April where he averaged 24 points a game.

Coach Sean Miller offered him a scholarship to the University of Arizona after he scored 51 points in an epic battle against Perry toward the end of the season.

Corona defeated Perry 106-92 despite the 47 points Perry's stand-out guard Markus Howard scored.

Howard, an incoming junior this fall, recently decided to leave Perry for Finley Prep, the basketball prep high school in Las Vegas, after the Pumas were knocked out of the state championship playoffs his freshman and sophomore years without making it to the finals.

Corona's sixth man on last season's championship team, **Isiah Bolden**, signed a letter of intent at the spring signing date to play basketball at South Mountain Community College next fall.

Bolden started and played major minutes when **Cassius Peat** was injured toward the end of the season and was the first player off the bench the rest of the season, often knocking down three's when the Aztecs needed a boost.

Corona's exceptional distance and cross country runner **Kelly Naumann** signed a letter of intent to run track and cross country at Iowa State.

Naumann, who decided to get serious about distance running during her sophomore year, had a stellar junior and season, running both cross country and track for Corona.

Originally running the shorter distance in the 800m run, Naumann started liking the longer distances when she went out for cross country the



Isiah Bolden



Cassius Peat

first time her junior year.

This past spring she broke a school record in the 3200m run. She then went on to record her fastest times in the 1600m and 3200m runs at the state championship meet in May.

Naumann finished fourth in the 1600m run, with her fastest time of 5:02.69 and fifth in the 3200m running her fastest time this season of 10:48.78.

Naumann plans on studying in a field related to sustainability and environmental sciences, ultimately working in the environmental field to design and develop environmentally friendly programs to help neighborhoods in establishing sustainable practices.

Corona girls basketball player **Haley Langille** signed a basketball letter of intent with Chandler-Gilbert Community College.



Kelly Naumann



Haley Langille

Playing the forward position, the 5-foot-8 Langille played in all 30 games during the 2014-15 season, averaging 6.5 points and 5.4 rebounds a game.

As a three-sport athlete at Corona, Langille gained notoriety as the point-after kicker for the Aztec football team her senior year. She made 10 out of 12 attempts scoring 10 points which made her the fourth leading scorer on the team.

### Softball Awards

Corona's sophomore catcher **Haley Vallejos** was selected as part of American Family Insurance's All-USA Arizona high school girls softball team.

Vallejos started and played in all 26 games of the season earning a .579 batting average scoring 22 runs on 46 hits. She not only led the team in hits, at 46, but also led the team in home runs at 12 and RBI's at 36.

As the catcher for the Aztecs, she put out 150 batters on 193 chances or 96.4 percent of the time.

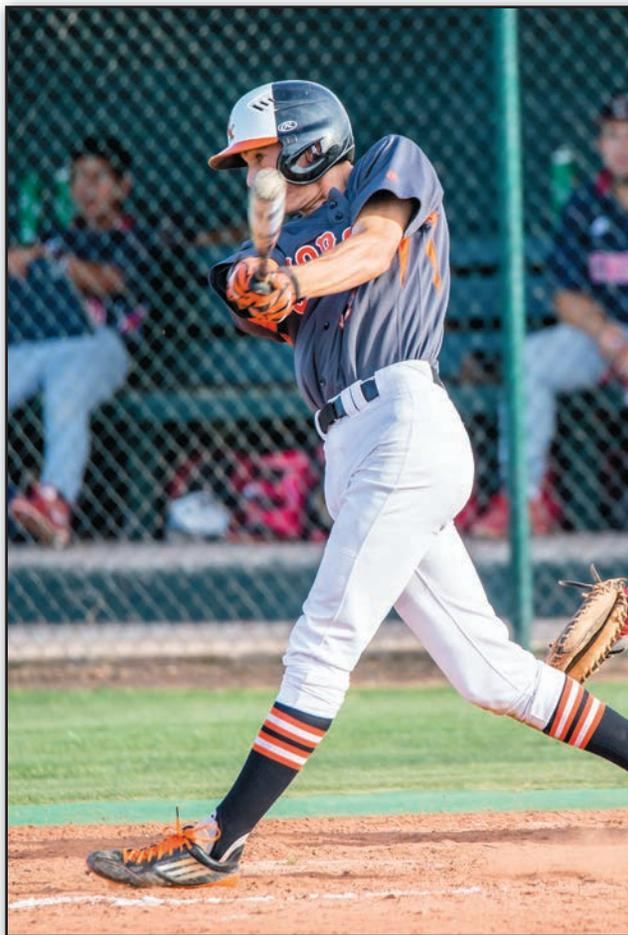
**Taylor Miller** and **Maggie Jackson** were selected to the 2015 All-Tribune Softball second team.

Miller, a sophomore playing third base, batted .636 with 15 RBI's while senior outfielder Jackson batted .435 with 15 RBI's.

### Baseball Awards

Corona's **Ryan Novis** was chosen as one of the top baseball players in the state, irrespective of division, to be part of the American Insurance All-USA Arizona high school baseball team.

Playing outfielder, Novis was known for his



Corona's Ryan Novis

aggressive skills as Corona's lead-off batter, averaging .500.

He helped ignite the Aztecs' offense, providing momentum for them to go farther than expected in the state championship playoffs, scoring 33 runs and 18 RBI's over the season.

Novis, a junior, was also selected to the Division I All-Arizona first team and the 2015 All-Tribune Baseball first team.

Corona pitcher **Quinn Flanagan**, as a sophomore, won six out of seven games with 1.56 ERA's, was selected to the Division I All-Arizona second team and the All-Tribune first team.

Sophomore catcher **Matt Asta** made honorable mention Division I All-Arizona first team and the All-Tribune first team with an ERA of 2.58 while driving in 17 runs batting .325.

Corona's **Connor McCord** was selected as honorable mention for the All-Tribune Second team.

Marcos de Niza had two baseball players recognized by the Tribune.

**Nick Leach**, the Padres' freshman second baseman, was a first-team all-section pick and the All-Tribune second team pick after hitting .425 with 31 runs and 19 RBI's over the season.

Freshman shortstop **Maxwell L'Heureux**, from Marcos de Niza, received honorable mention on the All-Tribune team.

McClintock's junior baseball player **Gianni Guaglianone** won honorable mention on the All-Tribune baseball team.

Guaglianone played in 24 of the 25 games over

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# Trever Allen scores again



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Trever Allen, left, and Julie VandeBerg receiving Insight Award from Dave Tilson in 2010.

— Photo by Kris Cartwright

A second member of Tempe's venerable Allen baseball family is picking up where onetime Seattle Mariners third baseman Jamie Allen left off.

First-team All-Pac 12 outfielder Trever Allen, who graduated from Corona del Sol High School in 2010 and then moved on to success at ASU, has been selected as the 2015 Senior CLASS Award winner in baseball, and has been drafted by the Los Angeles Angels.

Trever's dad Jamie was drafted by the Mariners in the 1979 Major League Baseball Draft.

He was selected by the Minnesota Twins in the 1976 Major League Baseball Draft, but did not sign. During an exhibition game in 1982, as a member of the Triple-A Salt Lake City Gulls, Allen drew a walk to win the game against the Mariners.

The senior Allen made his Major League debut in 1983 at the Kingdome against the Baltimore Orioles.

He went one-for-four in the game. In that season, his only one in the big leagues, Allen hit .223 with four home runs, 10 doubles and 21 RBIs in 86 games.

With his latest recognition, Jamie's son Trever seems to be following in his dad's footsteps.

The CLASS Award, using an acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School and now won by Trever, honors the attributes of NCAA Division I senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition.

The program is designed exclusively for college seniors who are utilizing their complete athletic eligibility, remaining committed to their university and pursuing the rewards a senior season can bring.

Award winners are determined by a selection process that includes NCAA Division I college coaches in each respective sport, national media and fans.

To be eligible for the award, a student athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

Said Allen:

"It's truly an honor to receive this award; God blessed me with the ability to play baseball, and as I look back on my time spent at ASU, it's clear that I could not have had a better experience, both on and

off the field.

"The help and support I received from the staff to ensure I flourished while in school was more than I could have asked for, but the best part was the guidance they gave to help me thrive as a man.

"They set me up for success in more than just athletics, and I cannot thank ASU enough for its huge impact on my life."

As a redshirt senior, Allen graduated with a degree in interdisciplinary studies in May 2014 and began graduate-level work while completing his standout career on the baseball field.

A four-time letter winner, the three-time All-Pac 12 honoree helped the Sun Devils to a 34-19 record while tallying a .307 career batting average and becoming just the 17th member of ASU's 200-hit, 100-RBI, 20-HR club.

As a member of a loaded ASU squad, Allen was one of nine Sun Devils to be selected in the MLB Draft, going to the Los Angeles Angels in the 25th round.

Always a threat at the plate, Allen finished his career with 230 hits, including 37 doubles, 12 triples and 22 home runs, and, in 2014, became the first Sun Devil to lead the team in home runs in consecutive seasons since Brett Wallace in 2007-08 and just the seventh in program history to do so.

"Trever's career is marked by accountability, work ethic, leadership, a commitment to service and excellence both on the field and in the classroom," said ASU Head Coach Tracy Smith.

"His numbers on the field over the past four years speak for themselves. He is a living testament to the importance of doing things the right way and the successes that come when a young person commits themselves to a team and a purpose."

In his five years at Arizona State, Allen made an impact that went beyond academics and athletics.

Regularly involved in community activities, Allen volunteered his time in activities such as bagging food for the homeless, cleaning up trash around Tempe, helping with ASU baseball camps and installing lockers and painting benches at the school's new baseball stadium.

Also involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at ASU, Allen served as a senior mentor for freshman student athletes, helping them learn time-management skills and adjust to collegiate life.

# Diversions

From Page 14

deeply imagined this movie is, or how emotionally potent. Or, for that matter, how wise: the theme is emotional gestalt, and the role of sadness in a healthy personality.

I walked out of the theatre feeling like I'd seen a masterpiece, and a few days later this doesn't feel like an overreaction. It may be the best movie I've seen all year. My only concern is that *Inside Out* is so fast and complex that some of its subtleties may get past smaller children—the gags about abstract thought could leave a college kid studying for a psych final feeling confused.

But even so, the movie is so full of color and comedy that kids will likely enjoy it even if they don't entirely get it.

## Still playing

**Jurassic World**—The premise of this fourth *Jurassic Park* film is that Jurassic World is now up and running as a major international tourist attraction, with dinosaur petting zoos and boat excursions and a Sea World-style show with a mosasaurus leaping for a hanging shark like a porpoise leaping for a sardine.

It also has, for that matter, a Starbucks and a Pandora jeweler and a gallery sponsored by Samsung—this movie has more product placement than *Clueless*, and to a similarly disingenuous satirical point.

The park's geneticists have created a 50-foot tall dino-hybrid monster dubbed Indominus Rex. This toothy titan breaks free, kills people and other dinosaurs, sets other creatures free in the wake of his destruction, and generally unleashes pandemonium.

So, how is it? Look, I'm a dinosaur geek, so it's hopeless asking me for a balanced view of a dinosaur movie. But I remember being intrigued by the choice of the director, Colin Trevorrow, whose only previous feature was the sweet but low-key romantic time-travel comedy *Safety Not Guaranteed*.

He seemed like an offbeat choice for a special-effects-bloated spectacle.

Trevorrow was just the right choice, as it turned out. He has a peculiar sense of humor and, better yet, no significant sense of decorum, and after setting us up with a relatively straight-faced opening quarter, he starts putting funky little spins on notions from *King Kong* to the Japanese monster flicks to the earlier films in this series, and he gradually lets the movie go crazy and messy. In a good way.

The showpiece dinosaur scenes have a buoyant exuberance that's really fun. The one in which two boys, riding in a transparent observation sphere, are bounced around like a pinball between a herd of panicking ankylosaurs is ready made to be a real ride in Universal's actual theme park.

*Inside Out* is rated PG and *Jurassic World* are rated PG-13. Both play at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.



Tempe Sister Cities delegates, from left, Jeff Shores, Patty Garcia, Kara Welch, Dawn Agnew.

## Tempe Sister Cities delegates to depart soon

*Kia pai tou haerenga! Glücklich Reise!* That translates to “happy travels” in Maori and German.

Delegates representing Tempe Sister Cities for the 2015 Summer Educator Exchange will be traveling to New Zealand and Germany soon.

The delegates to Regensburg, Germany, are Dawn Agnew, a social

studies teacher and academic coach at Mountain Pointe High School, and Kara Welch, Tempe Elementary School District Literacy Coordinator. Jeff Shores, principal at Hudson Elementary School, and Patty Garcia, second-grade teacher at Fuller Elementary School, will head to Lower Hutt, New Zealand.



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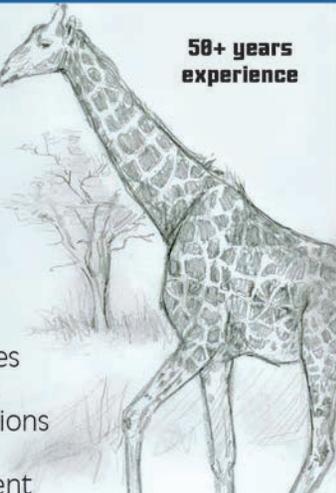
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# The Last Word



A semi-regular Wrangler News feature in which we publish views on topics we think will be of interest to our readers

By Don Kirkland

*Editor's note: The following commentary by Wrangler News founder Don Kirkland first appeared in our issue of June 12, 2012. We are printing it again this year as a tribute to dads everywhere.*

As Father's Day has approached in years past, we've featured dads whose lives have proved inspirational to their sons and daughters—men with special achievements, special contributions, special memories shared by those who know or knew them.

All of which caused me to wonder why, in our 25 or so years of honoring our dads on these pages, I'd never considered writing about my own.

The most likely reason, I suppose, is that he didn't fit the mold we've typically used.

His achievements, considerable though they were in his early days, diminished somewhat after I was born, a result of his long and, I'm sure, painful battle with rheumatoid arthritis that came upon him at a relatively young age.

Any special memories that might have existed, another of our unofficial criteria to qualify for

Father of the Year in the small universe of this little hometown newspaper, were limited as a result of his illness, which no doubt stood in the way of him being a dad in the traditional sense: not many ball games, not much father-son camaraderie—simply said, not much to remember.

All of which these many years later seems to have given me the motivation to know more of the man about whom I know so little.

Tracing the history of this son of a small-town railroad worker and his stay-at-home bride—together they fathered nine children—is complicated by the many years that have passed. My dad, the next-to-youngest, was born in the late 1800s. Because a large number of census records from 1890 were lost in a fire 21 years later at the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C., at least a decade of relevant data is missing.

That leaves the stories told by my mother, herself now gone for 20 years; a few fragmented bits of information culled from online genealogical searches; and, of course, my own limited memory.

James N. Kirkland seemed destined to follow in the footsteps of the other members of his family: the railroad was the economic engine of this little Missouri town not far from St. Joseph. Somehow, though, the early days of his career took him to The Associated Press, where he worked for a number of years as a telegrapher and sometimes news writer.

Although no one in the family has ever talked in detail about this connection to AP, the letters he sent in later years seemed consistent with the skills a writer would possess. Those letters became, in fact, the only significant link I would ever have to this man about whom I ultimately would know so little.

As my father's condition worsened in the late 1930s, as the economy struggled to regain traction and as political turmoil leading to World War II grew even more worrisome, my parents—I was four years old—decided to move my mother, our housekeeper Mrs. Britt and me from Missouri to California, where the economy was much healthier.

The plan, as I've heard it described, was to get us settled in L.A., wait for my dad's condition to improve and ultimately be reunited. My mother did find a place for us to live—in those days, as

unimaginable as I've always found this—no one would rent to a family with children. We ended up in a one-bedroom hotel room just west of downtown, where my mom fixed meals on a hot plate with smuggled-in bags of groceries (no cooking was allowed, although she always thought the manager knew what she was up to and let her get away with it).

It was during this time, which included the bombing of Pearl Harbor, air raids and a lot of scary nights, that my dad began his regular stream of letters. In those days, that's how people communicated. Sure, there was long-distance phone service, but phones were a newfangled technology that just didn't get used unless somebody died or was about to. Besides, I'm sure he didn't have one, nor did we.

Although his letters weren't on a one-per-day schedule (in those days, mail was delivered twice a day) there definitely were a lot of them—some to me, more to my mom. The ones to me were eloquent expressions of what I've always felt represented a father's admonitions to a son, albeit one out of reach, out of touch.

Those to my mother, as she showed them to me years later, also were beautifully written, with a closeness woven between the lines that left no doubt about my father's enduring love.

The war ended, we found a small rental house, Mrs. Britt returned to Missouri, I entered fourth grade—and the letters seemed to arrive less frequently. I'm sure we knew, but never said aloud, that my dad's days were numbered.

He was being tended to at a home run by the Little Sisters of Charity, and it was that surrogate family that was with him to the end. From the time we arrived in California until the day he died in the late 1950s, I never saw him again.

That's one of the reasons his letters have remained a personal treasure these many years, and why, yellowed and timeworn, they form an unbreakable connection with someone I otherwise could have hardly known. So thanks, Dad, and Happy Father's Day.



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