

# Wrangler NEWS

July 28 - August 10, 2012 • Vol. 23, No. 13  
Making a big community a little bit smaller.



**Blake Wilson gets a chance to pursue his passion as an aspiring photo-journalist at the 2012 Olympics in London, where he arrived July 24 for a 3-week stay. What will he be covering? Stories he hopes the other media will be more likely to miss.**

*Article by Clayton Klapper, Page 4*

*— Photo courtesy Blake Wilson*

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## Viewpoint

# Bullying as a campaign tactic: 'The kids are listening'

*Editor's note: Dr. Kenneth Baca, superintendent of the Tempe Union High School District, says Tempe's recent election prompted him to consider the subject of civility in all political races and to wonder what ripple effects, if any, may be resulting from an increase in the use of a seemingly no-holds-barred approach to campaigning. The following represents Dr. Baca's view on the subject.*

**By Kenneth R. Baca**

The election season is upon us and I wish to remind everyone that our children are watching, listening and learning.

As school districts across our nation continue to develop and implement policies in response to bullying, I believe that we must reflect on why this has become a national issue. I am not suggesting that this opinion piece will address all the reasons why bullying has seemingly increased. What I do propose is that the behaviors of those in the public eye, sports stars, musicians and, yes, politicians do influence our impressionable youth.

I admire all who seek to serve in local, state and national governments. They are to be commended for entering into a democratic process that can be vicious.

But the brutality of running for office has intensified to the point where many citizens will not make the attempt, because by doing so they risk

attacks on their reputation, character and family.

Our students, with their eyes wide open, observe how we adults behave. It is my belief that adult behavior is part of the problem with the rise in the number of bullying incidents that occur in and outside of our schools.



I am fully aware that bullies have been a part of society throughout human existence. Yet, the intensity of such behavior has increased to a level that some children feel that the only way to escape a bully or bullies is to commit suicide.

It should not be surprising that the rise in social media has given the public another tool with which to intimidate, humiliate and disgrace, and I am not proposing that politicians are solely to blame. However, as an educator, I am cognizant that children are keen observers of human behavior and they are influenced by the conduct of public officials.

Reflect upon the number of political advertisements which intimidate, humiliate and disgrace. Observe the political speeches which often times do not center on the critical issues that face our nation but rather carry a tone of disrespect, dishonor

and dishonesty. Yes, our children observe all of this and, unfortunately, have grown so accustomed to such conduct that they mirror these behaviors in their own lives.

So how does one recognize a bully?

There is no single color, no level of income or level of education which characterizes a bully; a bully comes in all shapes and sizes.

A bully can be young or old, can attend a private, public or charter school, and can speak any language. A bully is a member of every religion and political party. One recognizes a bully by his or her behavior.

We are all human and imperfect. As the leader of a school district, I believe it is my responsibility to self-reflect to ensure that I do not behave like a bully. I ask our leaders to do the same so that when we view a political advertisement or hear a political speech, we observe civility and respect.

Educators will continue to do all we can to prevent a bully from inflicting harm, intimidating the most vulnerable and disgracing someone into submission.

I ask that politicians across our nation do their part to behave in a dignified manner and properly debate the issues in a civil manner so that differences can be resolved for the betterment of society.

Yes, our children are watching, they are listening and they are learning.

Political leaders: how will you choose to behave?

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# Aspiring journalist strikes it big in first major assignment 3 weeks in London covering Olympics

By Clayton Klapper

Life is all about finding one's passion, whether it be sports, music, art or somewhere in between. What's rare is the opportunity to live out that passion and transform it into everyday's work.

For Arizona State University student Blake Wilson, one of life's passions has taken the magical leap to life's reality.

Wilson is studying journalism with an emphasis in business and has earned the opportunity to cover the 2012 Summer Olympics for ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism.

"I'll be pursuing stories outside the typical game reviews," Wilson said.

I'll be crafting stories about people, about their lives and their journey to the Olympics, whether they're athletes, spectators or diplomats."

Wilson is one of 18 Cronkite students accepted through an interview process to cover the games. He arrived in London on July 24 and already is making plans for the three weeks he'll be there.

Instead of focusing on the typical 'who won what' aspect of the games, however, Wilson will be looking behind the scenes to offer a perspective that he hopes other media outlets will be less likely to offer.

It's an approach that fits with his view of journalism, which he says is about the thrill of the catch, meaning the challenge of going into the field and experiencing once-in-a-lifetime opportunities while bringing in unique stories.

"I entered journalism with the intent of learning something and doing something new every day," Wilson said.

"It's not an office job where you just sit around. You're actually out in real life, telling stories. Who doesn't love non-fiction, right?"

Wilson graduated from Boulder Creek High School in Anthem, and chose ASU over the University of Texas, which he had originally favored, because of a scholarship opportunity.

While two of his biggest passions are film-making and photography, he hopes to use his talents as part of a marketing or public-relations campaign after he graduates.

As to laying the groundwork for some future business venture, Wilson



Blake Wilson aims his camera at Elizabeth Tower, formerly known as Big Ben.

— Photo courtesy Blake Wilson

spent last summer at an internship with Forbes Media in New York City where he worked on a daily show called Market Blasters. His emphasis was on marketing, production and editing the show, while learning as much as he could about investing and the business world.

"Most journalists would say it's going to the 'dark side' of media," Wilson said. "I just like the idea of getting my videos and photography recognized and appreciated."

The group of aspiring ASU journalists will have just three days off to explore during their 21-day stay,

— LONDON, Page 14

## 8/10ths of a second doesn't deter former CdS swimmer's plans for 2016 Olympics

By Daniel Rasmussen

Former Corona del Sol swimmer Adam Small participated in the finals of this year's Olympic trials in Omaha, Neb., finishing seventh in the nation in the 50-meter freestyle.



Adam Small

Many remember Small as an all-star of the Corona swim team from 2004 to 2007.

He has since gone on to swim at the University of Arizona for the past four years.

— SWIMMER, Page 5

## 5 'secret' spots Olympics visitors shouldn't miss London's diversity accentuates its appeal

Story & photo by Daniel Rasmussen

London is the most amazing city in the world. Samuel Johnson once said, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life." You've probably seen that quote before, but there's a reason why. It's true. I left Tempe a year ago this month to study in London for four months and I instantly fell in love with the city.

Hopefully the Olympics this year will provide some great exposure for London, although its reputation as one of the great cities in the world has never been lacking. My hope is that many will see beyond Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and Big Ben because, like most big tourist cities, London has so much more to offer than the most popular spots.

London is by no means the place it's typically played out to be. The Royal Family, old Victorian architecture and tea sandwiches are just a sliver of what this city has to offer. London is 100 percent an immigrants' city. I've been to L.A., New York, all the big cities...but I've never been anywhere that every time you walk one block, you walk into a different culture.

Here are five spots that I think show off the best the city has to offer: the diversity, the history and experiences you cannot find anywhere else. Many are in East London, close to the Olympic Park, which is located in Stratford.

**Brick Lane** — Brick Lane is in the East End, a somewhat grittier part of London but still extremely accessible and close to the center. The East End used to be the working class, immigrant part of London and it has the most character of any London neighborhood, I think.

On Sundays this narrow street turns into a market, full of ethnic cuisine (Ethiopian, Halal, Chinese—anything you want), vintage clothing, rare records and random bric-a-brac. The area is also known as "Banglatown" because of the high percentage of Bangladeshi immigrants, and it is the largest concentration of Indian and Bangladeshi restaurants in London.

High-profile hairdressers will leave their upscale salons and do haircuts on the street for 15 pounds, a fraction of their normal price. This place just has a really great vibe. It feels like London. It is by far my favorite market of them all. Right off Brick Lane is Columbia Road, where there is a flower market on Sundays, which is absolutely gorgeous. A must see.

*Tube: Aldgate East or Liverpool Street*

**Primrose Hill** — Primrose Hill is on the northern edge of Regent's Park and is one of the most beautiful spots in London. London is very flat, but this is one place where you can see everything without getting on the overpriced London Eye. The neighborhood next door is one of the priciest in North London, and beautiful as a place to just stroll around. A great place to relax on a sunny day.

*Tube: Chalk Farm*

**Camden Town / Portobello Market** — These markets are two of the biggest tourist attractions in London, and they're also two of the best. Camden Town, in the north, is home to London's punk and hippie culture, with lots of great bars and clubs and a huge flea market that sells random, amazing, pointless things. The symbols of this area are Doc Martens, '90s club kids and Amy Winehouse



Adam Small made the final heat at Olympic trials but was hit hard by pressure on the day of finals.

— Photo courtesy Adam Small

### Swimmer

From Page 4

Small broke the school record at U of A in the 50 free, and is now a 12-time All-American athlete, competing at the highest national and international levels.

"The goals I had set for the last couple of years have been to merely rank as high I as possibly can in the country as well as the world," Small said.

"I took every year one at a time and used the previous year as a stepping stone to improve."

This year at the Olympic trials, Small did well at preliminaries, making the final heat. But he says the pressure hit hard on the day of finals.

"Swimming in the final at the Olympic trials was truthfully one of the most nerve-racking experiences of my life," he said.

"Knowing that the past 4 years were coming down to a 22-second race, it was hard to completely wrap my mind around that and just relax."

Even so, Small finished seventh in the nation with a time of 22.38, a noteworthy achievement. Only the swimmers with the top two times won a spot on the Olympic team; Small's time was 8/10s of a second away from the second-place finisher.

Although he says he was disappointed with the results, Small sees this as another step toward a long future in swimming. His goals are now set on the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

"I learned a lot about myself and now know how to handle myself and what to expect when put in this extremely high-pressured situation," he said.

"I will be fully prepared in all aspects for the next trials and know it will be a much different story for me in 2016."



The open-air market at Brick Lane lies in the middle of one of London's most diverse neighborhoods.

(her house is nearby). Portobello Market is on the opposite side of town, in the west, and many know it from the movie *Notting Hill*. It's just like it's portrayed in the movie: pastel townhouses, antique stores and quaint walking streets. On the weekends it turns into a busy market but it's a ton of fun. Both of these markets are a must see during your time in London.

*Tube: Camden Town (Camden Town Market) and Notting Hill Gate or Ladbroke Grove (Portobello Market)*

**Shoreditch / Dalston** — Shoreditch is the hipster area, but it's also the nightlife capital. This is where all the trendy bars and clubs are located and it's a great place to bar hop at night. During the day, it's the place to go for indie art galleries and vintage shopping. Dalston is a neighborhood just north of Shoreditch. It's an area that used to be a little rough, but the low rents brought in a wave of artists and working-class families that have gentrified the area. There's not much to see as far as attractions go, but if you want a taste of what a real, working-class London neighborhood is like this is a great place to go. Ridley Road Market is held almost every day featuring fresh meats, Caribbean food and Rasta clothing. There's not much here for the tourist to buy, but it gives you taste of an everyday farmers market frequented by people in this area. *For Shoreditch — Tube: Old Street. For Dalston — Overground: Dalston Kingsland*

**The Angel** — The Angel is a popular area in Islington, a borough between Camden and Hackney. This area is great for art galleries, antiques, restaurants and drinks. It has a cozy feel, so for me it's the perfect place to grab a bite with friends and have a relaxing night out. The walk north on Upper Street toward Highbury & Islington tube station is lined with great pubs and restaurants. The tube station houses the longest escalator in Europe (it takes five minutes to ride it all the way down!) *Tube: Angel*

Other areas that are worth checking out: Shepherd's Bush, Borough Market, Regent's Park, Edgware Road, Bloomsbury (British Museum), Brixton (Caribbean area), SoHo, Holland Park, Little Venice.

*Daniel Rasmussen, a graduate of Corona del Sol High School, is in his senior year at Arizona State University. He writes regularly for Wrangler News.*

## Chandler Regional celebrates

# A 51st birthday bash

What began as Chandler Community Hospital with 25 employees and 91 volunteers has evolved more than a half century later into a health care leader in the southeast Valley that continues to grow today.

This year, on July 17, Chandler Regional Medical Center celebrated its 51st year as the focal point of an expansive healthcare system that now goes well beyond the community it was established to serve.

What's more, there's no sign of that growth stopping.

In December 2011, construction began on a \$125 million expansion project, including a new tower that will add 96 inpatient beds for a total count of 339.

The project will add six operating suites and expand the emergency department as well as add a new chapel, dining area, second helipad and 275 new parking spaces. Nearly 200 jobs will be made available as a result of this project.

"This organization has a very rich history, and we continue to add to it each day as we work to expand our facility and bring the best services to our patients, their families and the entire community," said Tim Bricker, president and CEO of Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert medical centers.

**By the Numbers** (July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012)  
Total staff: 1,998; Volunteers: 282; Hospital admissions: 17,521; Births: 3,580; Emergency Department visits: 64,095; Surgeries: 10,167.

Chandler Regional is a member of the Dignity Health family of Valley-wide hospitals.



Peter Menor, vice president of operations at Chandler Regional Medical Center, served helpings of cake — and thanks for a job well done — to staff during celebration of the hospital's 51st anniversary. Chandler Regional is an outgrowth of what was once the town's only major medical facility.

— Photo courtesy Julie Graham

## Move over, Tiger — here comes Bo

By Clayton Klapper

If you haven't heard them before, an abundance of stories recount the practice regimens some professional athletes endured in their childhood to make it to where they are today.

Starting at just nine months old, Tiger Woods golfed with his dad in their garage on a mini-driving range the family built.

Another notable pro, Michael Jordan, shot baskets for six hours every evening while in high school, waking up in the middle of the night to go outside and play alone.

We've learned through many such tales that reaching the ranks of professional athlete takes dedication from an early age.

Bo Dolinsek seems headed down that path. The six-year-old already has shown such a love for the game of golf that a bright future almost certainly lies ahead.

Starting out as a mere toddler, Bo has already competed in and won matches, most recently beating out an 18-year-old playing in the Mandi Luck Memorial Match Play Tournament at Shalimar Country Club in Tempe.

He started playing at age two with a Whiffle ball and a practice club at home.

At four that turned into a beginner's set of clubs and a summer golf clinic for kids. Since

then Bo has been involved in more training and has gained plenty of attention for his skills, including a lot of encouragement laid on by his parents.

"We were very proud of him, not only for competing with kids that were much older but just being able to hang out with them, follow the rules, display his golf etiquette—and all of this for four consecutive days (the length of the Shalimar competition)," said his mother Bonny Dolinsek.

As recently as last summer Bo's father was allowed to accompany him on the course to give him advice and help guide him. This summer, though, it was all up to Bo.

"In the tournament last week at Shalimar, Bo had to do everything on his own including carrying his clubs, club selection and knowing the rules," Dolinsek said.



Bo comes from an athletic family with demonstrable talents, including cousins and uncles. The family's achievements, however, are highlighted by his grandfather John Dolinsek, named most valuable player of the 1969 National Championship Arizona State Sun Devils baseball team and later that same year drafted by the Houston Astros in the eighth round. He went on to play five years of minor league baseball before deciding to give up the game.

Bo has also made friendships along the way, including Katie Conosor, a varsity golfer at Corona del Sol High School. The two have played together on the course despite their nine-year age difference and were able share some time at the Shalimar tournament earlier in July.

After the tournament was finished, his mom said, he was so excited to get the opportunity to play with the older kids that he still wanted to be on the course and was even more excited about the sleeve of golf balls he was given at an awards luncheon.

While his golf game is impressive, it's not yet time for Bo to turn pro: he'll be entering first grade this school year at Kyrene de los Niños Elementary School's Spanish Immersion Academy. So, some of Bo's fans must wonder: How do you say "Eagle" in Spanish? Likely, they agree, one of the first words he'll learn.

# Briefs

## Arizona Community Church to host women's conference

Women Valley-wide will congregate at Arizona Community Church again this year for the Christian Women's Business Conference, a day-long event to help develop the entrepreneurial spirit and its secrets of success.

This will mark the seventh year for the event, which is open to women in business or those exploring the concept of business ownership.

Sessions start at 8:15 a.m. and continue through 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15.

Cost is \$35 per person, which includes a continental breakfast, box lunch, keynote speeches, breakout sessions and networking.

Information: 480-491-2210.

## A new twist on storytelling at So. Mountain College

South Mountain Community College has long been known for its popular storytelling classes. This fall it will offer a whole new perspective on the subject: how to write your own story.

Toni Eubanks, author of *Passage to Womanhood: Journey Home*, will teach The Power of Memoir: Writing My Life Story.

"Everybody has a story worth telling," says Eubanks.

"Whether you want to document your unique experiences, record your family history, heal old wounds or leave a legacy for future generations, this class will demystify the process of putting

your story on paper."

The class will meet 12:30-3 p.m. Tuesdays at the SMCC main campus, 7050 S. 24th St., Phoenix.

Prerequisites have been waived for the three-credit class. Tuition is \$228, plus a \$15 one-time registration fee.

Information: 602-305-5771 or via email to smcc@southmountaincc.edu.

## Fire Department, hospital in joint effort for child safety seats

Chandler Regional Medical Center is among sites providing free car seat inspections and training in cooperation with the Chandler Fire Department.

The program is designed to help ensure that child safety seats are the right size and that they have been properly installed.

The clinics are offered most Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and appointments are available by calling 480-782-2046.

Appointments take approximately 30 minutes for each car seat installation. Unscheduled drive-ups are accepted on a first come, first served basis, as the schedule permits.

The most up-to-date clinic schedule is online at [www.chandleraz.gov/fire](http://www.chandleraz.gov/fire).

## Wave pool fetes grandparents at free Kiwanis Park event

Kiwanis Recreation Center wave pool offers families a fun way to cool down this month. Grandparents will be admitted free on Sunday, Aug. 26, from 1-3 p.m., with a grandchild's paid admission. For more information, call 480-350-5201.

## Police warn of bath salt dangers

Tempe police say they've increased their watch for people who may be under the influence of bath salts, an easily ingestible designer drug that can lead to violent behavior.

Bath salts were banned for sale in Arizona earlier this year after reports of severe reactions among users around the country, including a bizarre case of cannibalism involving a homeless man in Florida.

In traditional use, the term bath salts refers to a range of water-soluble, usually inorganic solid products designed to be added to a bath. They are said to improve cleaning, improve the experience of bathing, and serve as a vehicle for cosmetic agents.

Locally, Tempe police early this month responded to an area south of Guadalupe Road to check out reports of a man running

nude through the neighborhood, jumping fences and throwing himself against walls.

Officers took him into custody, after which he was hospitalized and later arrested on two counts of trespassing.

Sgt. Jeffrey Glover, a Tempe police spokesman, said incidents like this represent concern not only for the department but for the community.

"The irrational behavior commonly displayed by subjects under the influence of bath salts can lead to violent results, including severe paranoia, anxious and erratic behavior with potential for hallucinations, violence and self-mutilation," said Glover.

Residents who encounter anyone exhibiting any of the characteristic symptoms, and thus possibly being under the influence of bath salts, are asked to notify their local law enforcement agency.

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# Mavericks 4-H event boosts funding for starving children

Members of Buena Vista Mavericks 4-H Club, based at the Buena Vista Ranchos neighborhood in south Tempe, are on the fundraising trail again for a cause they've long supported.

The group is selling tickets to Macy's seventh annual one-day Shop for a Cause charity shopping event, scheduled Aug. 25.

BV members are selling passes for \$5 each, with the club retaining 100 percent of every ticket sold. The more tickets sold by the Mavericks, the more money the group will raise for its community service projects, said spokeswoman Hannah Schaefer.

Putting to work the same kind of community spirit, the Mavericks have invited 4-H horse-project clubs throughout

Maricopa County to attend a food packing session this fall for Feed My Starving Children, an organization which provides special food packages for undernourished children in 70 countries throughout the world.

"This year we are planning to pack 10 million meals from our Tempe site, which will be enough to feed more than 27,000 children," said Janine Skinner, who represents the food program. Proceeds from Macy's ticket sales will be donated to FMSC to cover the cost of the food packed during that community service event.

By purchasing a shopping pass to the Macy's event from any Mavericks member, shoppers get a day of discounts, entertainment and special events, at the same time contributing to "helping kids help kids."

Tickets also are available online, at [www.bvmavericks.org](http://www.bvmavericks.org).

"I am grateful that the Mavericks could be a part of this Macy's event," said Schaefer. "This is an amazing opportunity and I look forward to working with both organizations to help others."

The fundraiser, along with the Mavericks' community service event, are examples of opportunities for youth leadership and citizenship provided through 4-H, said Schaefer. The organization participates in projects ranging from horses to livestock to robotics—and lots in between.

It recently began its enrollment campaign for the 2012/13 year, with information available at [extension.arizona.edu/4h](http://extension.arizona.edu/4h).



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## 3 Cronkite grads among candidates for award recognizing best U.S. public-relations campaigns

Their careers may have only recently started, but three graduates of the Public Relations Lab at ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications already have achieved an impressive milestone.

The grads, Cassidy Olson, Rachel Steingard and Samantha Womer, comprise the creative team being credited with

developing a community-wide, educational approach to curbing underage drinking. The campaign has been nominated for honors as part of a PR News Platinum Awards Competition honoring top public-relations initiatives by corporations, agencies and nonprofits worldwide.

The team was led by Dr. Fran Matera, the PR Lab's faculty adviser.

Tempe Coalition, a partnership between Tempe Community Council and the city of Tempe, launched the campaign, titled *21 or Too Young*, with the help of the Cronkite school in December 2011. The campaign included public service announcements for theaters, billboards, community events, wristbands and pledges.

Awards will be announced Sept. 14 in New York City.



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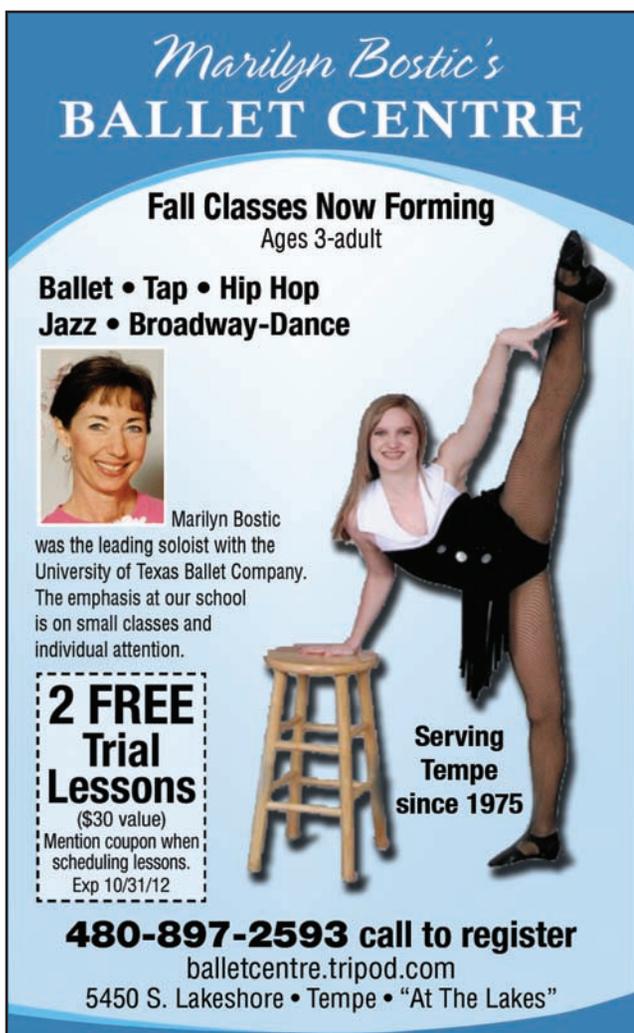
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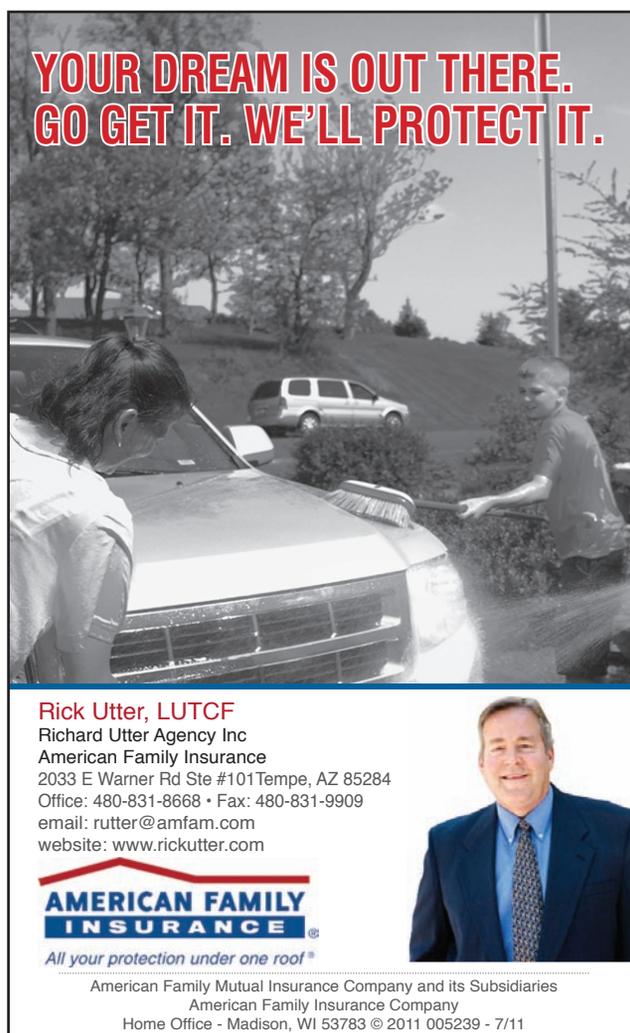
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## Profile: Caroline Jordan 'You made me feel beautiful'

By Alison Stanton

As the owner of a boutique-style clothing store in west Chandler, Caroline Jordan loves hearing from people who say she's made them feel good about themselves.

"I hear it time and again: 'You and your staff made me feel beautiful.'"

"A lot of times customers will say, 'I don't know what looks good on me.' So after we help them find clothing that looks great and helps accent them, they just really light up."

Lizard Thicket, at 3355 W. Chandler Blvd. in the Boulevard Shops near Chandler Fashion Center, will celebrate its first anniversary Aug. 2.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Commerce will start at 5:15 p.m. and Jordan will offer some special pricing in honor of the big day.

Jordan, who moved to the east Valley five years ago, worked in the dental field for 15 years before deciding to open her own clothing store.

"I had been looking for a career change, and had been wanting to open my own business; this really is a perfect match for me."

Jordan said the first Lizard

Thicket store opened 30 years ago in Georgia and was family owned until the owners decided to franchise it.

After learning more about the company, Jordan said she knew she had found the ideal business opportunity.

Along the way, Jordan said she realized that Chandler would be the ideal central location for her new enterprise.

"I looked around and decided that this area didn't have any stores quite like this," Jordan said.

"It seemed like lots of customers are looking for boutiques, and so I thought this would be a great place to open the shop."

Jordan said her inventory consists primarily of "young and contemporary clothing," including dresses, tops, skirts, jewelry, purses and a line of bracelets.

"We have our own clothing lines, and we only get in maybe five or six of each item, so customers don't have to worry about everybody wearing the same thing."

Jordan noted that the limited amount of each type of merchandise also means that if a customer finds something she likes, she should strongly consider buying it right away because by tomorrow the piece might be sold

out.

"Some of our customers have said 'but I really wanted that top!'" Jordan said.

"So they are learning: if they love it, they should buy it."

Jordan and her small team of employees are all interested in fashion and delight in making friends with their clientele.

"We get a variety of customers in the store, from high school and college students to young professionals," Jordan said.

"It's also a great mother-daughter store where both can come in together and each find something that they like. We have such a great variety of styles that everyone can find something that will work for them. We even have grandmas shopping with their granddaughters."

What sets her boutique apart from other clothing stores in the area, Jordan said, is the personalized service that she and her employees offer.

"Our customers are looking for a personal shopper who knows the current inventory and the styles, and we'll help them find outfits," she said.

"Customers will come in and say 'I am going to a wedding shower and I have not shopped in awhile.' They want us to help



Caroline Jordan: A new concept and, for her, a new career.

— Wrangler News photo by Patrick Bonitatibus

dress them and find an outfit for them."

Unlike stores in the mall where customers pretty much fend for themselves, Jordan said her staff knows how all of the store's items fit, and what will look good on different body types.

"They all know that the top in this corner goes with the skirt in that corner and with the belt over there," she said.

As for future plans, Jordan said she would like to eventually

branch out and open another shop.

"This is a central location, and I get customers from all over, but I'm starting to get requests to open another store," she said.

"Eventually, that is a goal of ours, and it's definitely something we are thinking about."

Information: 480-821-4611 or [www.shoplizardthicket.com/chandlerlocation.html](http://www.shoplizardthicket.com/chandlerlocation.html)

## Learning networking skills proves vital to grads' job search

By Sally Mesarosh

Justin Decker and Dana Yanch are Mesa Community College graduates who have found that networking—on both the technical and personal sides—has resulted in lucrative career opportunities within east Valley companies.

Both Decker and Yanch attended MCC's Network Academy, an initiative that offers hands-on training classes in computer networking, system administration, security and communications—collectively rated by the experts as some of the most in-demand technical-career fields.

Many local and national companies, including Insight Enterprises in Tempe, Avnet, Go-Daddy, General Dynamics and others, advertise for employees with these skills.

MCC administrators and instructors connect with these companies and design their classes to reflect what the workforce needs.

Bob Samson, one of the academy's computer instructors, says there is a strong demand for employees with the skills taught as part of the ongoing academy curriculum.

"We are familiar with the workplace environment since we all had many years of practical experience before coming to teach at MCC," Samson said. "The classes have labs involving hands-on activities with real equipment in simulated real-world scenarios."

Instructors at the academy maintain ties to the field by bringing in guest lecturers, providing networking and job opportunities for students.

"Potential employers, some of whom took our classes, routinely contact us and ask us to forward job openings to

the classes," Samson said.

Former student Yanch, who earned an associate's degree in Networking Administration in 2009, now works for Insight as a network architect. He said the program and instructors did a good job preparing him for employment.

"From the first day of classes it was obvious that the instructors teaching the classes had many years of field experience, which allowed the students to glean some very important hints, tips and habits before graduating," Yanch said.

"I felt completely prepared to hit the ground running when I was recruited into my first job after college."

Yanch passed the rigorous Cisco CCIE certification on the first try (the average is three).

The CCIE certification is one of the most sought-after certifications in the ICT industry, worldwide, and attracts substantial salaries, according to Yanch.

"Since graduating in 2009, I have continually recommended the program to every person I have come across who has shown interest in the networking and systems administration field," he said.

"I often go back to my old classes and give short presentations on how effective my training was."

Many students who attend the Network Academy obtain internships as well. MCC student Justin Decker recently obtained his Cisco Certified Network Associate Certification, or CCNA, crediting it to training he received from the academy.

As to Decker, he was a winner in the 2012 Avnet Tech Games, held at the University for Advancing Technology in Tempe, and is currently working in an internship at Avnet.

His manager has told him there is a good chance he will be hired permanently.

"The internship at Avnet was mostly a result of winning the tech games," Decker said.

"Internships at Avnet are difficult to get because they are highly competitive and they provide a laundry list of learning benefits to the interns as well as various employment perks."

Decker said he was also told by a hiring manager at Insight that MCC's Network Academy is the best in the state.

"Not only that, but the low cost of community college tuition and the fact that books are entirely optional keeps the costs really low compared to other avenues of learning about networking," Decker said.

MCC's networking program is just one of more than 32 career and technical offerings with more than 150 associate degree and certificate of completion opportunities.

Phebe Blitz, dean of instruction for career and technical programs at MCC, said the current economy has many people seeking retraining for better job prospects as well as high school grads looking to obtain specific skills that will make them employable.

"People are more conscious about receiving training for specific skills," Blitz said.

"They are much more job-oriented."

— Sally Mesarosh is a media relations representative in MCC's Office of Institutional Advancement

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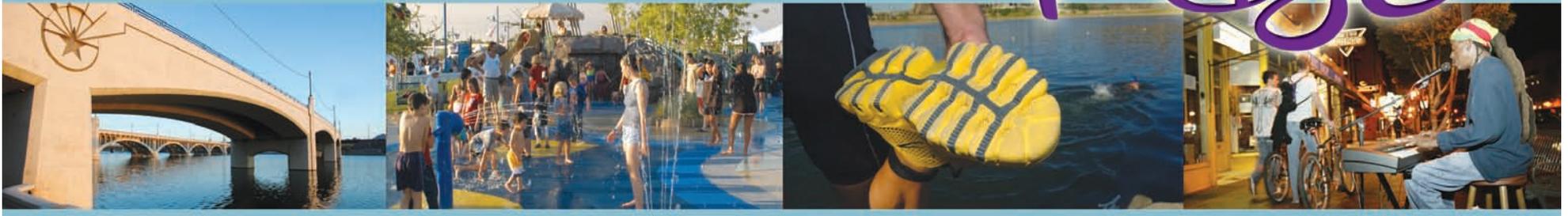
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City Clerk Brigitta Kuiper administered the Oath of Office to three City Councilmembers, from left to right, Joel Navarro, Kolby Granville and Corey Woods.



Former and current Tempe Mayors gathered July 2. From left to right: Harry Mitchell, Mark Mitchell, Hugh Hallman and Neil Giuliano.

## Mayor Mitchell sworn in; new Vice Mayor appointed

Mayor Mark Mitchell has been sworn into office, along with three Councilmembers, and the City Council has appointed a new Vice Mayor.

The swearing-in ceremony, conducted by City Clerk Brigitta Kuiper, took place July 2. Mitchell, a 12-year veteran of the City Council, won the four-year Mayoral term during the May 15 General Election.

Councilmembers Joel Navarro and Corey Woods were sworn in to their second, four-year terms – they were re-elected during the March 13 Primary Election. Councilmember Kolby Granville was sworn in to his first term on the City Council – he was elected in the General Election.

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian was appointed by her colleagues to serve a two-year term as Vice Mayor. According to Tempe's Charter, the Vice Mayor fulfills the duties of Mayor when needed. Two-term Mayor Hugh Hallman, who did not run for re-election, marked his last City Council meeting on July 2. More information about the Tempe City Council is available at [www.tempe.gov/elected](http://www.tempe.gov/elected).

### Help determine Tempe's future

Would you like more open space? More bike lanes? Where should we locate high rises? What kinds of jobs should we try to attract? Should we have more historic districts? If you have an opinion about the kind of city you would like to live in, you should get involved.

General Plan 2040 is the community's vision for the next 30 years. This vision is created by you and your neighbors and, to ensure the plan reflects your point of view, you get to vote on it. That's state law.

The General Plan guides development, land use, sustainability, transportation, mass transit, economic development,

historic preservation, neighborhood enhancement, open space and recreation, public art and cultural amenities and human services.

It is referred to for zoning requests, building permits, economic development decisions, and when designing roads, parks, paths and public facilities.

Two public meetings will be held to gather ideas and opinions on Sept. 24 and Jan. 21. The time and places of these meetings will be announced soon on [www.tempe.gov/calendar](http://www.tempe.gov/calendar). Meeting times, a draft of the plan and an online survey also will be available soon at [www.tempe.gov/gp2040](http://www.tempe.gov/gp2040). For questions, contact Senior Planner Nancy Ryan at 480-350-8096.



### Tempe Briefs . . .

• **Healing Field remembers those lost on Sept. 11, 2001** — Tempe will honor the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks at its ninth annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park. The public is invited to view the display of American flags representing victims of that terrible day. A moving display of patriotism and unity, Healing Field is a free event presented by the Valley of the Sun Exchange Clubs Foundation and the City of Tempe. It is open to the public Sunday, Sept. 9, through Tuesday, Sept. 11. On Sept. 11, there will be a 5:40 a.m. ceremony and a 7 p.m. candlelight vigil.

• **Tempe goes back to school** — Are you an ASU student wondering about traffic safety? Are you a high school junior looking for volunteer opportunities to bolster college applications? Are you the parent of an elementary school student looking for after-school homework help for your child? Tempe has all those answers and more at a dedicated webpage in honor of the annual return of school: [www.tempe.gov/backtoschool](http://www.tempe.gov/backtoschool). The city wants its learners

of all ages to be successful, so look for more back to school outreach throughout August.

• **Kick off ASU football season with discounts and a party** — Did you know that Tempe residents and city employees can purchase tickets to ASU's Aug. 30 season-opener at a discount of 25 percent to 35 percent? It's called City of Tempe Night and it's a longstanding tradition aimed at encouraging the community to support its college team. New this year, you can join fellow Tempe residents before the game in the air conditioned comfort of Old Main for Tempe Tailgate, an expo of city services and programs. Starting at 4:30 p.m., families will be able to indulge in a great tailgate meal at a reasonable price, visit with Sparky, meet City Council members and learn about city offerings. Tailgate tickets will be available at the door or via a special registration site to be announced soon at [www.tempe.gov](http://www.tempe.gov) under the "Hot Topics" heading.

The website will allow participants to pay for game tickets and tailgate tickets at the same time. Game tickets also can be purchased by calling 480-727-3521 – be sure to tell them you're a Tempe resident or employee to get the discounted price.

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**tempe.gov/kidzone**

## London

From Page 4

which Wilson plans to use to track one more passion, art.

“Though I might want to see the usual things, Big Ben, the Stonehenge, I want to do a tour of (British street artist) Banksy,” Wilson said.

“He’s one of the most well-known of his type in the world and his pieces are scattered around London, so I’ll probably take a day scouting out where to find his work.”

So what else is Wilson looking forward to during this adventure?

“I’m excited to have stories to tell,” Wilson said. “It’s something to cross off the bucket list, you know, being in the middle of all of the Olympic chaos.”

## Aug. 6 start for Kyrene schools; Meet the Teacher Nights Aug. 1-2

Kyrene schools K-8th grade begin the 2012-2013 school year on Monday, Aug. 6.

Middle schools will hold Meet the Teacher night from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1. Elementary schools will hold their Meet the Teacher sessions 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2.

Parents and children are encouraged to attend as this is the time when they will meet their child’s teacher, visit the child’s classroom, make arrangements for school lunches, obtain a parent ID badge, purchase a school t-shirt and/or yearbook, sign-up for volunteer opportunities, and more.

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

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*During my term Chandler has*

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## Keep Rick Heumann

Quality Jobs  
 Quality Neighborhoods  
 Quality Education



### KEEP RICK HEUMANN FOR CHANDLER CITY COUNCIL

We need to bring Rick back to continue his work of bringing Quality Jobs, Neighborhoods and Education to Chandler residents.

Rick’s involvement over the past years started from neighborhood activist to now a principal in the city efforts to be the leader in the state for job growth.

#### Here are just a few of the accomplishments and reasons to re-elect Rick Heumann:

Rick took the leadership role in bringing the Chandler education coalition together and drew accolades from the Arizona Republic in efforts for Quality Education.

Rick helped in efforts to bring the innovations project to fruition. A leading technological project in Arizona.

Rick working with staff finished the development agreement to bring the largest Intel fab in the world to Chandler and Quality Jobs to our citizens.

Rick as a strong advocate for Quality neighborhoods fully supports our neighborhood programs office.

These and many more reasons Chandler voters need to bring back Rick for four more years.

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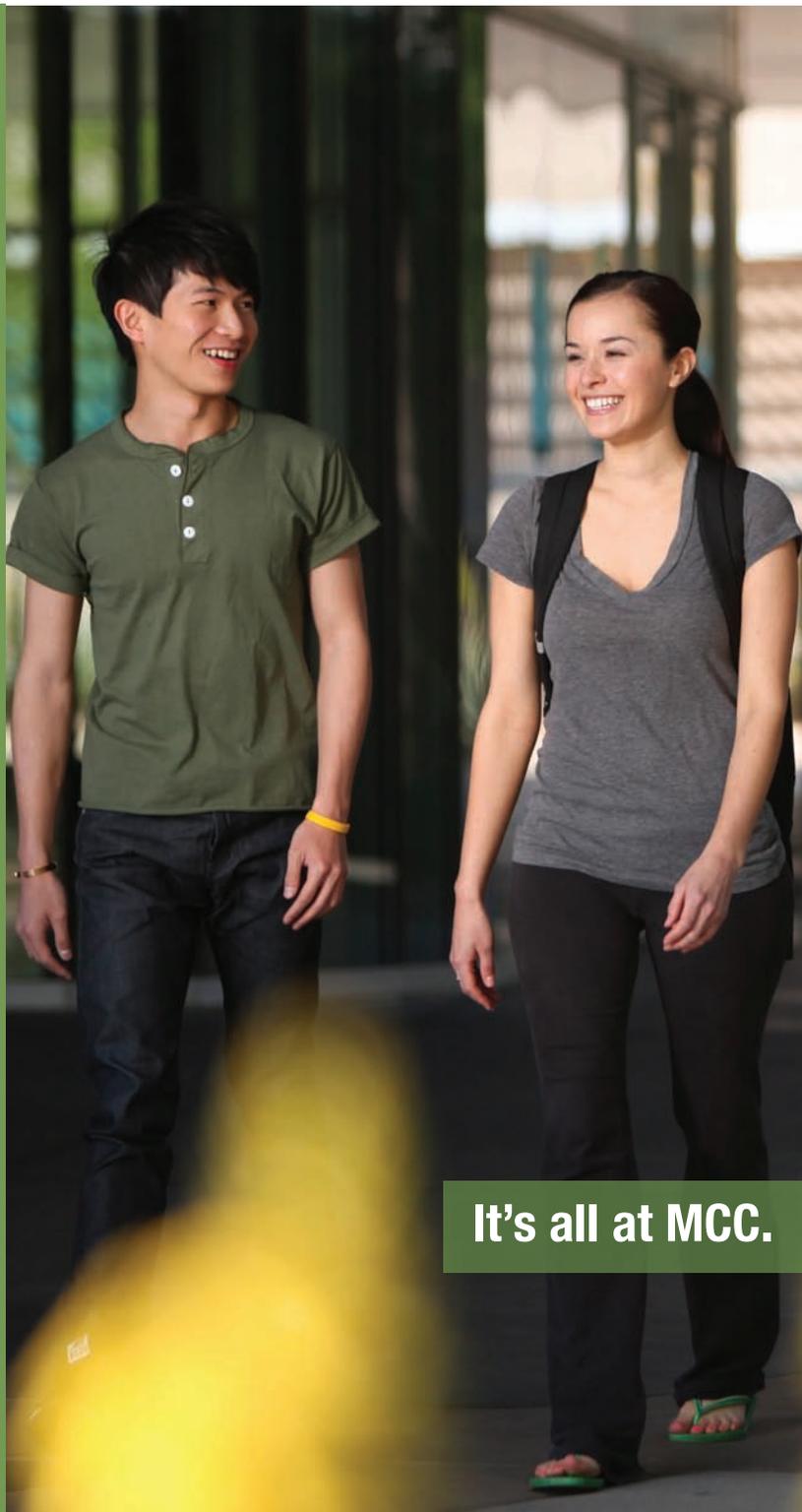
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# Volunteers needed now for coming school year Retirees 'part of a family' when they teach kids to read

Story & photo by Jennifer Pillen Banks

**W**hen Lucy Carrera arrives at Kyrene de los Niños Elementary for her regular tutoring session, the kids say, "It's like grandma's here."

But, adds Carrera, they also know that "this grandma's focused on the task at hand," and that's to get them better at reading.

Carrera is a member of AARP Experience Corps, a national program that engages volunteers 50 and older to serve as reading tutors and mentors. Volunteers in the Tempe program meet with four students individually for a half hour twice a week.

And the program, according to teachers and principals, has garnered impressive results.

Between 88 and 92 per cent of teachers surveyed felt that the volunteers had a significant impact on students' achievement of grade-level benchmarks in reading and on their motivation to learn. And 100 per cent of principals and language arts coaches viewed the program as a "highly effective intervention."

Part of the success is likely due to the consistent schedule and the one-on-one approach.

"Your undivided attention is given to that child," said Carrera.

Gordon Gauss, a retired quality assurance engineer who volunteers at Holdeman Elementary in Tempe, agreed.

"The classrooms are quite large, and it's so easy for kids who are having problems to get lost. These kids really do want to learn. They just need some attention, and one teacher can't give 35 kids all the attention they need," said Gauss.

Carrera and Gauss also praised the sophisticated training the program provides. Prior to each school year



Kids say Lucy Carrera is 'like a grandma' when she teaches them how to read.

volunteers learn new strategies for teaching reading, problem solving and critical thinking, and for managing behavior.

Even Carrera, who is a retired reading specialist, said she still was able to learn new information and approaches from the training. Carrera and Gauss said they typically socialize with the child while they walk to and from the classroom, but once the tutoring session begins, they focus on reading for the full half hour. The tutors start each session by reading to the students from an age-appropriate

book of the students' choice.

"We want the students to hear what good reading sounds like because they might not be getting that elsewhere," said Gauss.

Then the volunteers help the students tackle a specific grade-level book provided by the program by breaking it into smaller chunks.

The students read and reread until they master each section before moving on to the next, then finish by reading the entire book twice.

Once the students realize they can read the book start-to-finish with no help, Carrera said it is an immense boost to each one's confidence and pride.

"You should see their little eyes. They sparkle just like fireworks," she said.

If the program's accomplishments energize the kids to learn, they seem to prove beneficial for the volunteers, as well.

"If you want to do something where you felt you made a difference," said Gauss, "this is a good thing to do."

Saying she wasn't really ready for retirement, Gauss volunteers at several places, tap dances, travels, and continues taking classes as a self-described "professional student."

But at Niños, she said, "I feel like I'm part of a family."

*The Tempe program began in 2006 and places volunteers in five of Tempe's elementary schools. Currently 55 volunteers work with students in grades one through three. As of now, Tempe Experience Corps program is recruiting volunteers for the upcoming school year. Information: Project Director Peggy Goldberg, 480-858-2465, or [peggy\\_goldberg@tempe.gov](mailto:peggy_goldberg@tempe.gov).*

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# Diversions

With M.V. Moorhead

## 'Super-villainy' as real in life as in film depiction

Just as it was difficult to discuss 2008's *The Dark Knight* out of the shadow of the sad loss of Heath Ledger, so it's difficult, for a while at least, to discuss *The Dark Knight Rises* out of the context of the horror at the multiplex in Colorado.

As it happened, I was unable to attend the screening of the film before it opened, so unlike many of my fellow critics, I saw it—Sunday morning, in a theater less than one-third full—with the Aurora shootings in my head.

But in terms of the movie, all the tragedy proves is how much easier it is to be a supervillain than a superhero.

The real world squeezes out the "super" part of super-villainy, however—it's terrifying when somebody tries to realize that sort of big-scale, comic-book-style mayhem, but in the end it's also sordid and pathetic and wretched.

It isn't grand or epic.

And, except to express sympathy to the victims and their loved ones, it probably isn't worthy of even as many words as I've already given it. So let's turn to a far less important subject—the movie itself.

I wish I could report that the new Batman flick by Christopher Nolan, from a script he wrote with his brother Jonathan, is a masterpiece, but I can't.

As with the earlier film, it's a severely uneven mixed bag, polished and handsome but preposterously overlong, confusing, glutted with enough ideas for three or four movies but way too many for one.

Like many, many Hollywood blockbusters of the last couple of decades, it's fascinating, even thrilling in fits and starts, but wearying in the aggregate.

Batman hasn't been seen since the end of *Dark Knight*. Wayne Industries is in the red, and Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale), ravaged both physically and spiritually by the tragic events of the last movie, is going through a Howard Hughes-ish reclusive phase.

Alfred (Michael Caine) keeps pestering Bruce like a Jewish mother to get out and find a nice girl, even if it's the second-story gal Catwoman (Anne Hathaway), who's managed to filch a string of pearls belonging to Bruce's mother.

The principal dastardly duties here fall to a certain Bane, played by the very good Brit actor Tom Hardy, here wasted behind a mask. Bane is like a mash-up of post-Boomer pop villainy, with elements of Darth Vader, The Predator, Hannibal Lecter and especially The Lord



Humungus from *The Road Warrior*—he speaks in the same mushy rumble. But I can't say I found him as scary as any of the above.

Bane is up to something with a huge crew of henchmen in the sewers of Gotham. Eventually he cuts the city off from the outside world and holds its inhabitants hostage for weeks with a nuclear bomb, while imprisoning Bruce in a hellhole prison overseas.

So there are explosions and chases and fistfights and shootouts and abductions and flashbacks and escapes, between and during which the actors spout pages and pages of exposition, much of it hard to follow even when it's comprehensible, which for me was maybe about half the time.

Things aren't much easier on a thematic level—politically, the movie flails incoherently, coming across one minute like an Occupy rant and the next like Wall Street propaganda. Scene after scene is propulsive and exciting in itself, but often I was unsure what had happened, or what I should want to happen.

What redeems *The Dark Knight Rises* is what redeems most overworked movies, if anything does—the acting. Bale is better, or at least less annoying, than he was in the last film, though he's still using that stupid raspy growl when he has the cape and mask on. Between him and Hardy, much of the dialogue sounds like it's coming through blown stereo speakers.

There's no performance on the level of Ledger's in the previous film, but Caine, Morgan Freeman and Gary Oldman each get a few minutes to show what they're capable of without breaking a sweat. Hathaway is certainly not repellent in her Catwoman get-up, but Marion Cotillard casts an even stronger seductive spell as a rival love interest for Bruce.

But it's Joseph Gordon-Levitt, as an intrepid young Gotham cop, who develops more of a relationship with the audience than anybody else in *The Dark Knight Rises*. If there's another film in the series, there's reason to believe he'll figure prominently, and that wouldn't be a bad thing.

*The Dark Knight Rises is Rated PG-13 and plays at Tempe Marketplace, Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion Center and other theaters Valleywide.*

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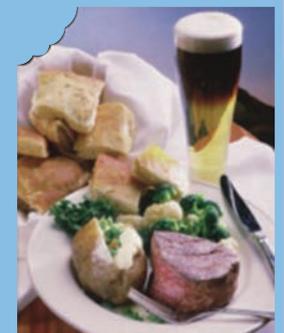
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Published since 1991 by Newslink LLC

Don Kirkland, President

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Advertising: Patrick Bonitatibus

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Wrangler News is printed on partially recycled newsprint with ink made from 98 percent soy content

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