

Wrangler NEWS

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Aug. 15 - Sept. 4, 2015
Vol. 26, No.16

LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT ISSUE
OF WRANGLER NEWS
ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 5



Once an Aztec always an Aztec . . . Former Corona del Sol star athletes returned to their alma mater to help varsity coach Cory Nenaber build a winning team for this year's football season. Returnees included, from left, Justin Clare ('06); Dusty Nenaber ('99); Sean Thornton ('02); Brandon Sisson ('03); Coach Nenaber ('97); Michael Pollak ('03); Billy Woodmansee ('01); Sebastian Bernal ('10); & Chase Cartwright ('10). Not pictured: Preston Claytor ('04). For more on the upcoming season see Alex Zener's Sports Notebook, Pg. 15

Wrangler News photo by Kris Cartwright

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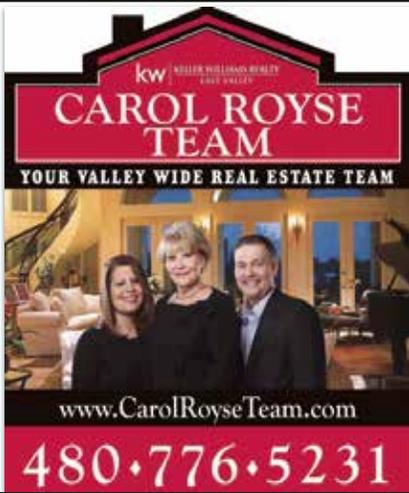
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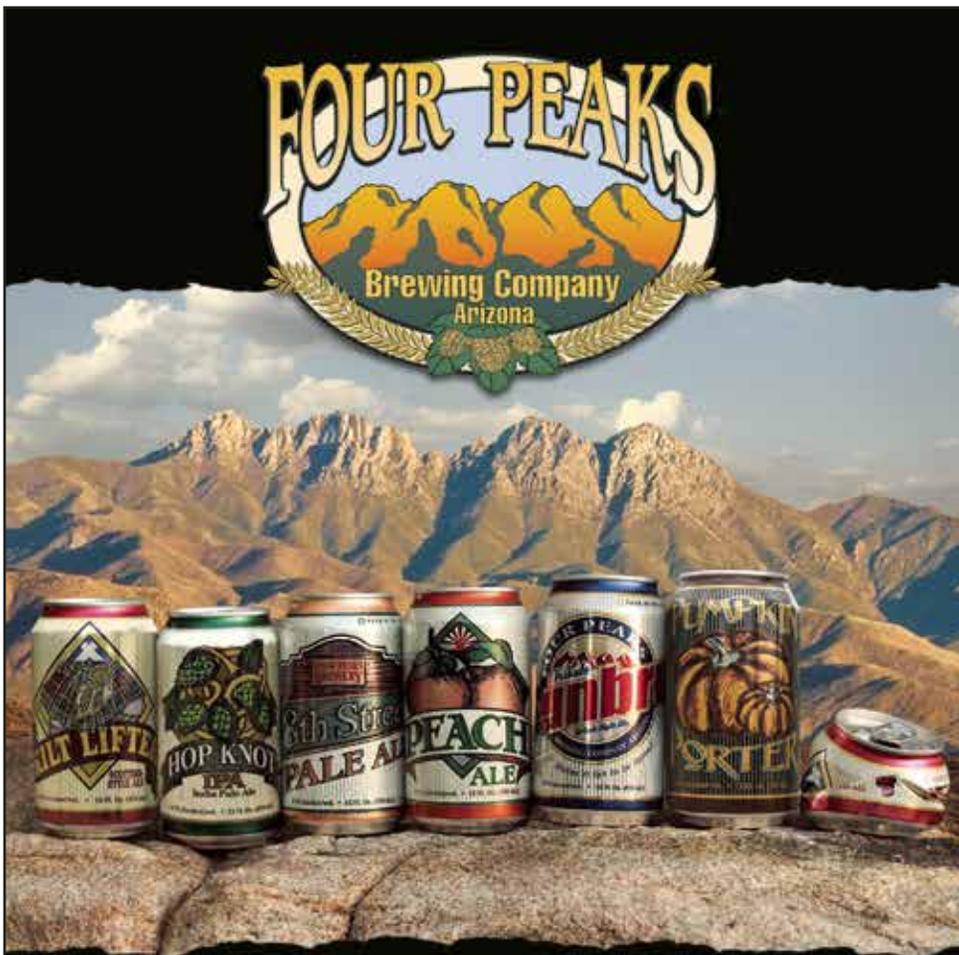
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West Chandler delegation to join pope's U.S. welcome

By Joyce Coronel

When the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics visits the U.S. next September, West Chandler residents will be among those on hand to greet him.

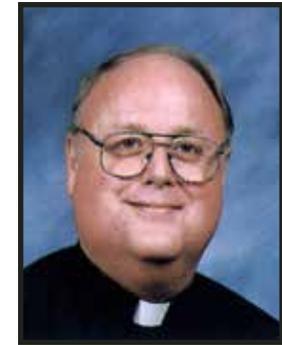
Pope Francis, elected two years ago, seems to have captured the world's imagination with his humble ways and blunt — and at times surprising — commentaries. He not only made the cover of *Time* magazine but has been featured on the cover of *Rolling Stone* — no small achievement in a publication that isn't known for lauding religious leaders.

Father John Coleman, pastor of St. Andrew Church, will lead a group of 30 parishioners on a journey to Philadelphia to see the pope at a Sept. 26 festival and a Sept. 27 outdoor Mass expected to draw a million participants.

Founded 30 years ago when Ray Road's speed limit was 50 miles an hour and sheep and horses grazed in the vicinity, St. Andrew's is home to

4,000 families that worship in the expansive, mission-style church.

John Scheibt is one of them. The retired information technology professional has belonged to St. Andrew's since the very first Mass, held in a nearby junior high on Super Bowl Sunday in 1985. He's never seen a pope before and said he's enthused about the trip.



Father John Coleman

When the late Pope John Paul visited the Valley in 1987, Scheibt said his parents and son went to see him, but he himself didn't attend.

"I didn't realize what a great experience it could be. I thought it would be a big crowd and be real crazy. OK, so I missed one of them — I can't miss it again. I get another chance,"

Wrangler NEWS

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St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in West Chandler.

Scheibt said.

Coleman said the upcoming trip to Philadelphia will be the first time he's seen Pope Francis in person. The new pope, he said, has caused a stir.

"I guess you could say he shook us up a little bit but I think that's good. We could use a little shaking up. Sometimes we get so caught up in the rules that we forget why we have them in the first place," Coleman said.

In particular, he noted the pope's compassion for those who are divorced.

"I know priests that won't deal with them at all. So I'm hoping that maybe that will change. They're quite vulnerable when they finally decide to come to us."

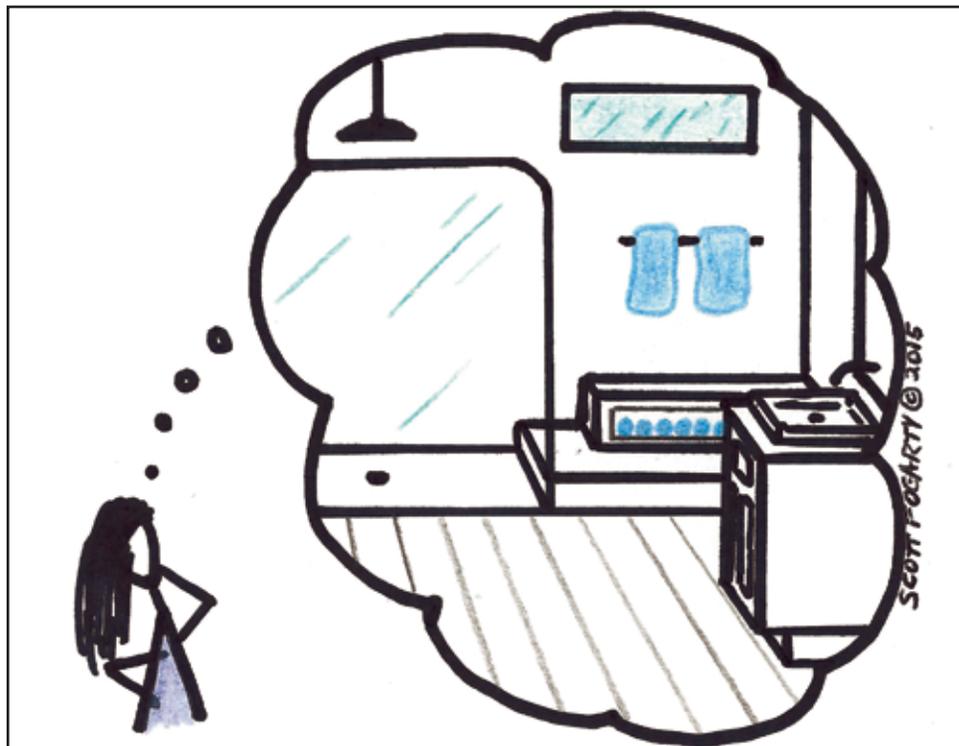
As for Scheibt, he says he's not sure

yet what he thinks of Pope Francis, but he agrees the church's leader is size large when it comes to compassion.

"I'm concerned that a lot of what we hear about the pope is filtered through the reporters," Scheibt said. "I think he's misunderstood a little bit. I want to hear it for myself and see what's going on. I do like what I've heard."

The group from St. Andrew's will tour Philadelphia and visit Villanova University before heading the Festival of Families Sept. 26. Pope Francis arrives in Washington, D.C., Sept. 22 where he will visit the White House.

He'll also travel to New York to address the United Nations and visit the 9/11 memorial.



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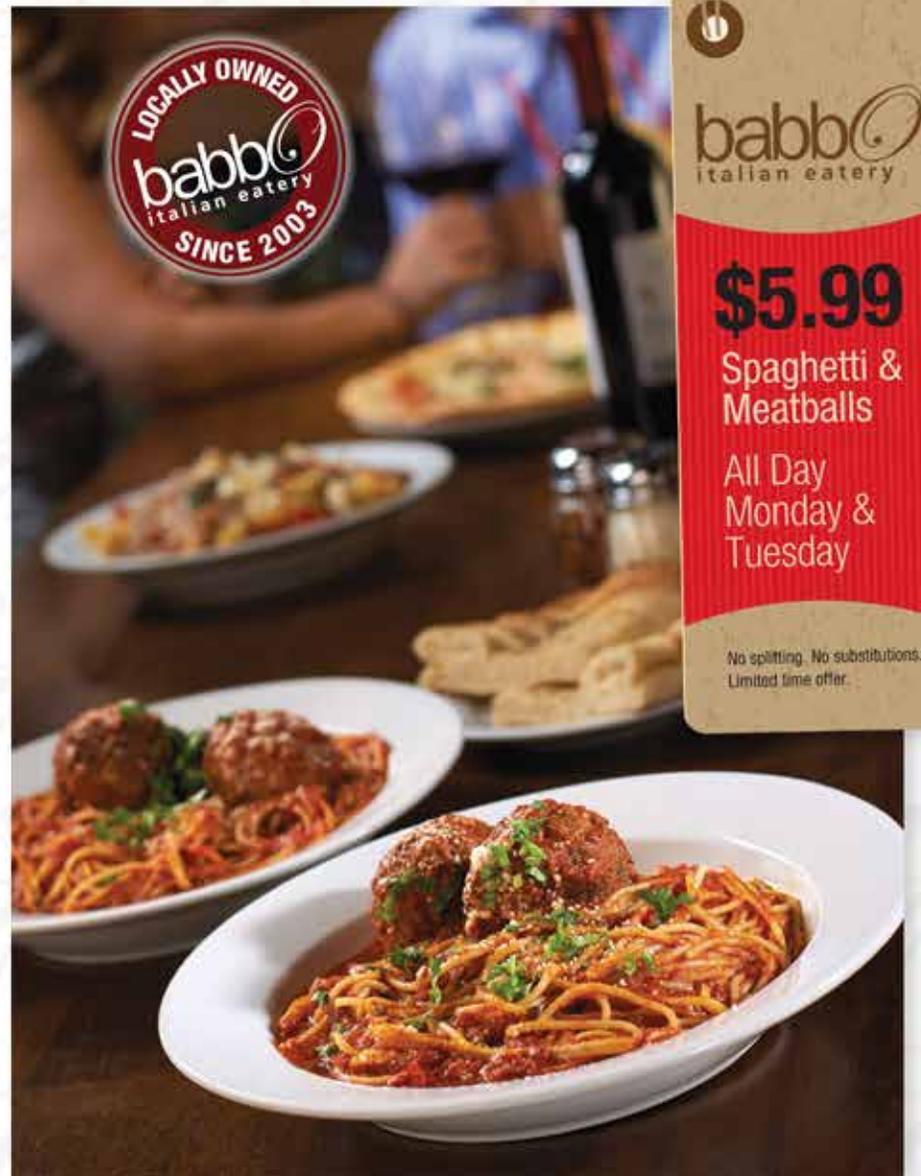
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And you thought nothing much happened at our Kyrene schools during summer break

Security teams take advantage of vacation to enhance campus safety



Eric Nethercutt shows KTA principal Dr. Marianne Lescher newly implemented security modifications.

By Joyce Coronel

Students in the Kyrene School District returned to class this month and noticed things had changed a bit from when they began their summer break.

Seven Kyrene schools had their lobbies remodeled, for one thing. All Kyrene school offices have now been upgraded in an effort that began last summer with funding from the 2010 capital bond election. Schools now have two lobbies: one for students and one for visitors. Access to the rest of the school is now through a “buzzable door” controlled by office staff.

“People see our schools are closed in the summer and think that nothing’s happening, but that’s the furthest thing from the truth,” said Nancy Dudenhoefer, assistant director of community relations for the district.

“While everyone may get to take a one-week vacation, the seven weeks that our schools are not having kids in them, many other things are going on.”

Eric Nethercutt, director of transportation and facilities for the

— Photo by Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

— SECURITY, Page 7

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Security

From Page 6

district, said that Kyrene's standing security committee is always looking at ways to improve safety.

"Security is more of a journey than a destination. After the Sandy Hook tragedy, we decided to really look deeply at our schools," Nethercutt said.

The Sandy Hook incident of December 2012 was the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

In an incident that grabbed worldwide headlines, a lone shooter entered an elementary school in Connecticut and took the lives of 20 kindergarteners and six adult staff members.

"We worked with Phoenix Homeland Defense Bureau and one of the recommendations they made was, in the spirit of continuing to increase security at already secure schools, that we take a look at our front offices," Nethercutt said.

For over a year, the security committee worked with architects and construction experts to come up with a design. The goal was to add a layer of security but still maintain a warm and inviting atmosphere for students.

In the past, a parent, vendor or visitor could check in at the front desk, and at their discretion could walk to any door in the school.

The remodeling in the Kyrene district means there is now a separate, secure visitors' lobby at each school.

Parents, vendors and visitors must check in at the front counter with staff who will buzz them through a door after they are approved for entry. Exterior doors have a scanner pad and require a badge to open. There are still one or two doors at each school that are keyed, Nethercutt said.

With some 18,000 students in the Kyrene school district — and thus about 36,000 parents — Nethercutt allowed that "the human condition leads to a lot of things going on in families.

One thing that does impact at times is custody battle. That's not the reason we did this, but it adds up to many reasons why we felt the need to add that extra layer of security and have a little bit more control over the front office."

If a parent involved in a custody battle comes to the school to pick up a child, staff will check to see if he or she is authorized to do so.

"It's an awkward conversation but our front office staff would say, 'No, you're not allowed.' In the past they may have just gone ahead and walked in the school anyway.

They can't do that because the front offices are secure and no one will let them into the hallway," Nethercutt said.

Other security enhancements at Kyrene schools include modification of fencing at some schools, installation of intrusion alarms and video surveillance and modifying buildings so that all classrooms that opened to the outside now open to an internal corridor.

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Helping women learn to be 'masters of their own destiny'

By Diana Whittle

Retired Chandler Police Chief Sherry Kiyler, who will deliver the keynote message at a coming Chamber of Commerce Women in Business session, asks a simple question with a perhaps not-so-simple answer: "Who Says You Can't?"

The talk is designed to be part inspirational and part motivational as she hopes to encourage women to be the "masters of their own destiny."

Kiyler successfully demonstrated that approach throughout her nearly 40-year career in law enforcement. From 2004 until 2013, she served as chief for the Chandler Police Department, where she was responsible for a staff of nearly 500 sworn and civilian personnel, and all law enforcement functions in the city.

"The real message of my presentation is that most things are not 'can and cannots.' They are 'want tos and don't want tos', or 'shoulds or should nots'. We need to be careful about allowing others to decide what we can and can't do," said Kiyler.

Kiyler says she originated the idea a few years ago for a presentation she was asked to do for Intel.

"I decided I wanted to talk about how we sometimes let people tell us we 'can't' do something. That was certainly my experience early on in my law enforcement career—so many times between family to friends, to peers—many people said I couldn't do that job," said Kiyler.

"Over time I realized that it wasn't that I couldn't, it was that they did not want me to do it."



Retired Chandler Police Chief Sherry Kiyler

She says that it took her a long time to realize that personal choice is the main driver in career direction, as long as they exhibit physically and mentally capability.

"My hope is to share my journey with others and perhaps help them with theirs," said Kiyler.

She began her municipal law-enforcement career in Phoenix, where she spent more than 31 years with the police department, retiring at the rank of commander in 2004.

She then moved to Chandler to continue her public service. Now, she remains active by serving as a member of a law enforcement federal monitoring team. In recognition of her civic commitment, she believes strongly in giving back and continues her community involvement.

"Over the past several years, I have personally raised over \$20,000 for Arizona Special Olympics by rappelling down a 27-story building in downtown Phoenix and I will continue this tradition this December," said Kiyler.

In 2016, she will serve as the chairperson for the International Law Enforcement Torch Conference for Special Olympics to be held in Phoenix.

In her spare hours, Kiyler spends time with family, as well as pursuing a number of hobbies, including creating stained and fused glass design.

Chamber president Terry Kimble says the Women In Business event offers a different program each month to assist women in relationship building, networking and establishing business opportunities.

The event is scheduled for noon, Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the SoHo63, 63 E Boston St. in Chandler. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$35 for guests and can be ordered online at www.chandlerchamber.com



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Mentor Chris Rossi with some young proteges in Future for Kids program

Retired teacher never gives up in quest to build a 'Future for Kids'

By Joyce Coronel

Debbie Jacobs spent 18 years teaching before she retired last year, but she never stopped caring about children.

After spending nearly two decades in the classroom, she knew that many kids face steep challenges. Whether parents are unemployed, struggle to pay the bills or are simply not around, children can flounder.

Oftentimes, parents are so busy coping with their own issues, the children's needs go unmet.

"Too many of our young are at risk educationally, socially, physically and mentally," Jacobs said. All of that can really take a toll on young lives.

Jacobs decided she wanted to do something about it.

That's when she discovered Future for Kids, a non-profit organization that focuses on helping kids through programs and camps that focus on academics, athletics and ethics.

"Volunteering with Future for Kids, you know you make a difference," Jacobs said. "The children who attend regularly look forward to participating in the program."

And why wouldn't they? Future for Kids sports and fitness camps are held throughout the year and feature professional athletes, coaches, healthy breakfasts and lunches as well as free T-shirts and a DJ playing high-energy music.

It's all meant to show kids that physical fitness can be fun. Both pro and college athletes cheer the campers on and stick around to sign autographs. Even Sparky, Arizona State University's indomitable mascot, mugs for photos with participants.

Thrown into the mix, an array of motivational speakers share some of the challenges they themselves faced and overcame through a mixture of courage, fortitude and hard work.

Retired National Football League player Rodney Smith, founder of Future for Kids, had a strong adult mentor who encouraged him to follow his dream. Smith worked hard and attended the University of Nebraska where he played ball and focused on academics. That experience led him to eventually work alongside two other NFL players to develop Future for Kids. Since 2002, the organization has touched the lives of more than 130,000 children and their families.

Some of those families live in Tempe and participate in the cornucopia of activities for at-risk youth. There are out-of-schooltime programs, summer youth sports and fitness camps, a week-long summer program, basketball camp and winter games sports session. Ninety four percent of the kids say they hope to return to the program. With one

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For area's well-known Venturo family, bracelet was 'a gift from the grave'

By Debbie Hilcove

Vickie Venturo ignored the insistent ringing of the telephone. It was late; the number was out-of-state.

"Please don't hang up," the voice said. "I have information about your father, James Paul Younger, right?"

Venturo recalled the conversation.

"July 19, 2014. He gave a Facebook site. My jaw dropped when I saw the picture of a silver military bracelet, engraved with my dad's name and on the back, 'Love, Bobbie.' I knew it was his. We have pictures of Bobbie."

The caller put Venturo in touch with Uwe Benkel of Heltersberg, Germany, who supervises a volunteer organization that excavates military airplane crashes, especially from World War II.

The privately funded Search Group for the Missing, *Arbeitsgruppe Vermisstenforschung*, labors under the motto, "Bring the boys back home" and tries to restore personal items to relatives of soldiers from any country.

"It was a very long night, Venturo said. My husband, Gary, and I immediately made plans with our friends, Joe and Dorothy Young. Just this past May, we traveled to Germany."

The four Americans drove from Frankfurt through the heavily wooded, hilly Saarbrücken district where they met the Benkel family, as well as Tim Flaus and Cornelia Inden, at a biergarten called The Fat Duck.

"There really were fat ducks on the pond and they did serve duck," Venturo laughed. "I didn't have any, but the menu offered duck schnitzel."

During lunch, she talked about her dad, who retired from Tempe High School after 30 years teaching and coaching baseball. He passed away in 2008.

But the Germans wanted to know about the war days.

Venturo explained that her dad had enlisted in February 1943, just after his 19th birthday. He was sent to London, knowing there was a "big secret."

Although he and his friends celebrated the Normandy invasion that had taken place in the recent past, they had no idea they would soon be landing there.

The German army was retreating from France, pursued by Allied troops. Sgt. Younger and the rest of his infantry division crossed the River Saar and entered German territory, fighting their way through the tangled underbrush and dense forests.

It was somewhere here, near the village of Kleinbittersdorf, that Younger lost his bracelet, perhaps snagging it in the heavy undergrowth. Not long after, a villager found it, keeping it safe for nearly 70 years.

When she read about the group's success in returning items to soldiers and their families, the finder gave Flaus the bracelet.

After lunch, Benkel summarized his organization's mission. Outside the restaurant, music played and children laughed.

"They're enjoying a school holiday," Benkel explained. Today is our Father's Day. Appropriate for our ceremony."

He nodded and Flaus handed Venturo a dark blue jeweler's box.

"My hands were shaking," she said.

"And then I opened it—and saw the bracelet. Chills! I felt like my dad was standing over my shoulder. It truly was a gift from the grave."



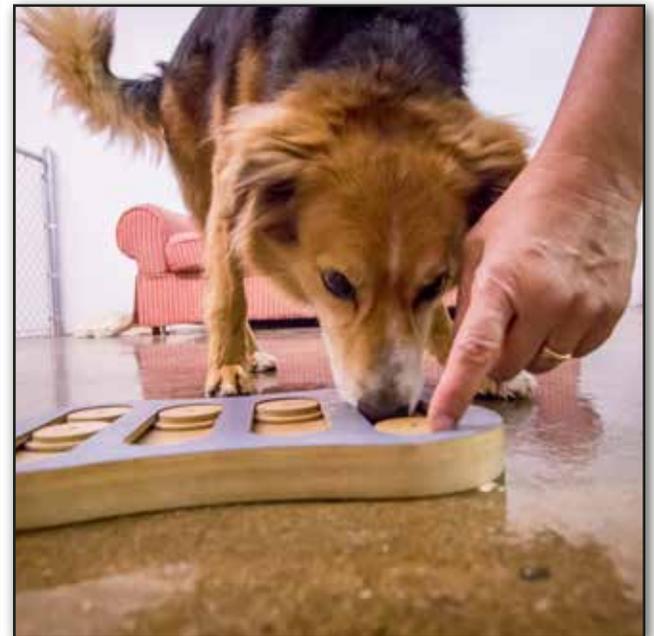
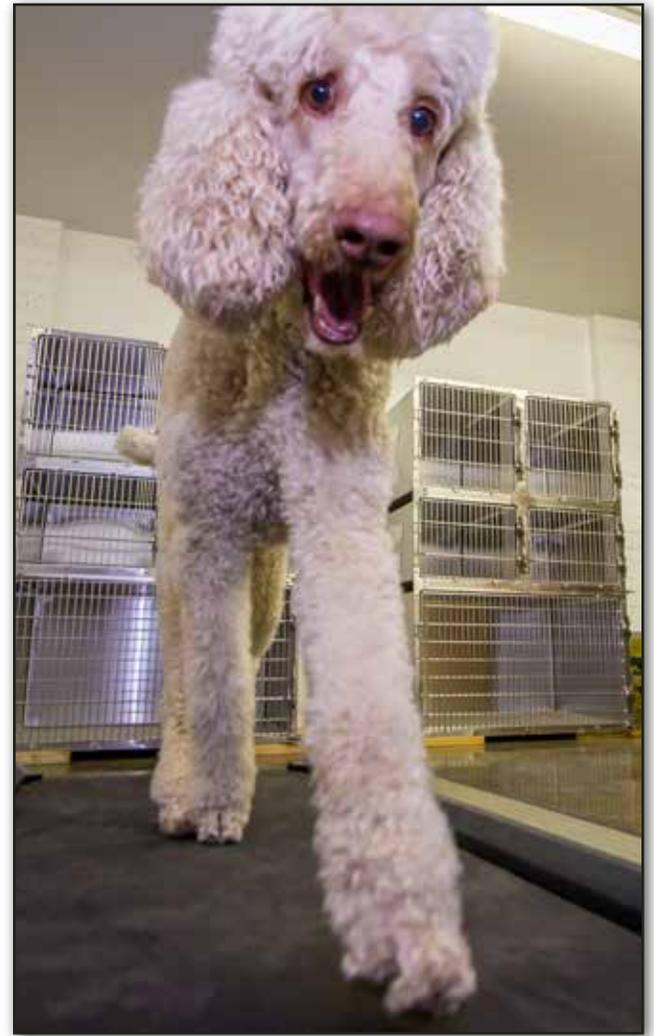
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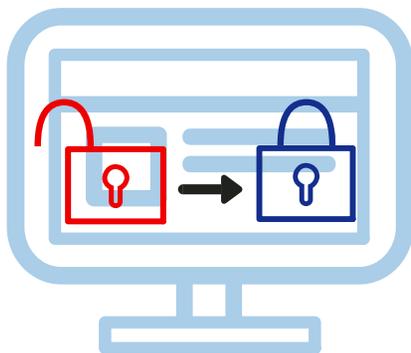
If there were any of God's creatures who could enjoy the Valley's summer heat, these guys likely would take the cake or, in this case, the hose, we'd guess. In their new vacation home at Arizona Canine Center, a 4-acre, 9,000-square-foot pet resort and training site at 1535 N. Dobson Road in west Chandler, the dogs in Nathan and Aerik Braaten's temporary custody might as well be staying at The Ritz. The place is cage-free with indoor and outdoor access, and staff on duty 24 hours a day. Sorry, rowdy behaviors are relegated to the nearest Motel 6. The new site represents a continuation of the same training and care regimen that had been available for six previous years at the Way to Wag center at McClintock and Elliot in Tempe. Information: 480-838-1517.

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



Tempe Chamber Hosts Opportunities for Professionals, Community Members

How Secure is Your Company?



Cybercrime is a growing threat to individuals, businesses and the nation. FBI Special Agent Paul Schaff will present a workshop on how to best protect your company and assets from increasingly sophisticated criminals and attack.

Hot Topics and Lunch is Sponsored by SRP

FBI Presents Cyber Crime: How to Protect Yourself and Your Business

Date: August 27, 2015

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hampton Inn & Suites, 1415 N. Scottsdale Rd., Tempe, AZ

Admission: \$25 for Members in Advance | \$35 General Public | Lunch included

To RSVP, call 480.967.7891 or visit www.tempechamber.org

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(9 Guests) - \$700/table

To RSVP, call 480.967.7891 or visit www.tempechamber.org



Arizona Football Means Business

By Sean Donovan, VP of Media & Program Development, Tempe Chamber of Commerce

Football season is on its way and with it comes a welcome influx of fans to the stadiums, hotels and amenities in the Valley.

Local businesses are busily getting ready for Cardinals and Sun Devils football supporters. They know that loyalty to the red & white and maroon & gold translates to a lot of green.

How much money are we talking?

A recent study completed by the Seidman Research Institute, W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University, determined that the 2015 Super Bowl XLIX, the Pro Bowl and related events resulted in a gross economic impact* of \$719.4 million locally. That's almost a 31% increase over Super Bowl XLII which also took place in Arizona.

While the impact of regular season Cardinals games isn't near that mark, it's still a significant source of revenue as both locals and fans from out of state spend their money on tickets, food, beverages and the game day experience.

Locally, Arizona State University fans will enjoy some exciting new enhancements to Sun Devil Stadium this year. By the September 12 home opener game, the first stage of its \$256 million renovation will be complete and ready for the new season. An improved student section, better WiFi, doubled restroom sizes and improved concessions are just the start of the improvements fans will see.

In Tempe, each ASU home game brings an additional \$10 million into the local economy from spending by visitors and residents alike on hotel rooms, dining and entertainment.

Clearly, football is good business for Arizona. The community recognizes this and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce agrees. We continually work with local businesses to ensure that they enjoy a positive economic climate and a share of the revenue.

And when we get the chance, we like to kick back and celebrate with other fans. That's why on August 20 we're pleased to host the **15th Annual Sun Devil Football Kickoff Luncheon** as we rally the faithful.

"Voice of the Sun Devils" Tim Healey and Rose Bowl-winning QB Jeff Van Raaphorst will interview Head Coach Todd Graham and team stars. Guests will meet Sparky and get the chance to have a player or coach sit at their table during lunch. We invite you to attend and be a part of this energetic and fun afternoon.

We're confident it's going to be a winning season, not only for the Sun Devils, but for the entire city of Tempe as well.

* The gross economic impact is defined as the direct amount of spending by visitors and organizations arriving from outside the state to participate in or create events directly related to the Super Bowl, as well as the indirect and induced impacts of those expenditures. Resident and local business spending was not included.



2015 Volunteer of the Year

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce named Frank Woertz, independent agent with State Farm, its 2015 Volunteer of the Year at the Chamber's Annual Luncheon event on July 16. Frank has been a dedicated member, serving on the Chamber's Business Development Council and chairing the Ambassador Committee since 2014.

Congratulations, Frank!



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Muchas Gracias



Another principal in Tempe High School's 100-plus-year history has moved on to a new challenge—and new opportunities. To celebrate Mark Yslas' contributions to the school during his nine-year tenure, friends gathered for an informal going-away party, at which they cited his 'time, talent, effort and support.' The school boasted a 10-0 football team and an A+ rating under Yslas' guidance. The departing principal is the new superintendent of the Alhambra Elementary School District.

— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

For HOA newbies

Chandler offering free sessions for those wanting to learn more

For those who serve on an homeowners association board, or are thinking about it, Chandler's free Homeowner's Association Academy is a way to network and learn from experts knowledgeable about HOA management.

The academy features a series of four classes focused on a variety of topics, including amending association documents; rental properties in HOAs and Chandler code enforcement; collection of assessments, fines and penalties; and the proper way to conduct association meetings.

For the first time, the free classes will be held during the early afternoon hours from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Thursday from Sept. 3-24, at the Environmental Education Center, 4050 E. Chandler Heights Road.

Lunch will be provided to



participants.

Applications may be downloaded at chandleraz.gov/neighborhoods and are due Friday, Aug. 28.

For more information, call 480-782-4354.

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Mentors

From Page 9

mentor for every four children, participants get the individualized attention they need and the positive role models who inspire them to succeed at school, at sports and in the community, noted Jacobs.

Crystal Rope's two daughters have just finished their second year with Future for Kids and she says she's seen a big change in them. The girls, who were 9 and 12 when they began participating, are happier and more outgoing these days. They're doing better in school, too.

"I believe it's made a really big difference," Rope said. "Before they were really quiet. I think by being in this program they were able to meet other kids and learn about the importance of physical activity and teamwork."

One of the aspects of Future for Kids that she especially appreciates is the emphasis on themes like

leadership, integrity, excellence and education. Future for Kids encourages lifelong learning, healthy living and diversity.

"They are happy kids and are more involved now," Rope said. "They want to help others and they're doing really well at school. One of them was in the spelling bee — she made it to second place — and the other one plays guitar and is involved in the arts."

As for Jacobs, the retired teacher, she says working with young people and making a difference in their lives is a passion of hers. Future for Kids allows her to do with a commitment of just two hours, once a week.

Jeff just finished his second year as a mentor with Future for Kids. "I have been able to work with a small group of kids on a weekly basis and watch them progress as students and human beings. The experience keeps me grounded and puts every other job or activity in my life in the proper perspective," he said.

So. Mountain CC auditioning for choir

Students and community members who love to play an instrument or sing have been invited to audition for South Mountain Community College's choir and performance bands. Auditions are being held now and will remain open until all openings are filled.

Spots are available in the day community choir, evening community choir, day jazz band, evening community band and mariachi band.

Those selected also qualify to receive a scholarship to help cover college tuition, including at the Guadalupe campus.

Performances are held throughout the semester, and each group performs in at least one of the concerts on main campus.

Here is the schedule:

Community Chorus (Evening) meets Wednesdays; 5:30 - 8 p.m., Aug. 26-Dec. 18.

Community Chorus (Day) meets Mondays; 1-3:30 p.m., Aug. 24-Dec. 18.

Community Band meets Mondays; 5:30-8 p.m., Aug. 24-Dec. 7.

Jazz Band (Day) meets Tuesday/Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Aug. 25-Dec. 18.

Jazz Band-Latin Jazz (Eve) meets Tuesdays; 5:30 - 8 p.m., Aug. 25-Dec. 18.

Mariachi Band meets Tuesdays; 5:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 25-Dec. 18.

Contact Desiree Howard, 602-243-8382, to schedule an audition.

Chabad school classes start Sept. 6

Area families will be invited to give their children a chance to learn and experience Jewish life in a fun, warm and exciting environment when Chabad Hebrew School opens its doors to the Jewish community regardless of background or affiliation.

Students will participate in activities like honey dish craft, holiday Cards, Yom Kippur slippers, Succah Hop, kosher label contest, olive oil press, menorah making, Chanukah Carnival, choir, Shabbat meal for parents and students, Purim party, Matzo Factory and more, all designed

to help make Judaism a real part of their lives.

Features include one-day-week classes; no membership required; professional teachers; innovative and stimulating programs; and advanced textbooks and methodologies.

Registration for is now open for the upcoming year. Hebrew school takes place at Pollack Chabad Center for Jewish Life, and will open Sept. 6.

Classes are held Sundays 9:30 a.m. to noon. To schedule an appointment School to tour the facility, call 480-855-4333.

Sports

By Alex Zener • Photos by Billy Hardiman



Pre-season prognostication

Teams fine-tuning strategies for approaching football opportunities

Watch for the Aztecs to play with more purpose, passion and pride this season, according to head coach **Cory Nenaber**.

“We have had over a year now to implement and start to solidify a new culture and philosophy, including new expectations in our football program,” said Nenaber. “Our mantra or slogan for the season is ‘complete submission’.”

The Aztecs had a great turnout in the spring, which carried over into summer, with the players lifting weights five days a week and having some extremely competitive seven-on-seven workouts.

All of which set the stage for a productive and successful summer football camp at Heber Mogollon High School, according to Nenaber.

“Our summer camp was very successful,” said Nenaber. “It was the best one I have ever had as a head coach.”

As part of their new mantra of complete submission, the team focused on three character

Marcos de Niza coach David Campbell, above, shares what he hopes will be some inspirational thoughts with his team during a pre-season practice.

Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

traits: purpose, passion and pride.

“We do everything with a purpose or reason, whether it’s easy or whether it’s hard,” said Nenaber. “We believe we should do it with passion, giving it everything we’ve got.”

“Lastly, we need to carry ourselves and complete every task with pride,” said Nenaber. “It’s who we are and represents what we are all about.”

Everything on the field is mostly positive as well after the Aztecs returned several athletes who played significant minutes last season both on offense and

defense, especially toward the end of the season, according to Nenaber.

“We are light years ahead of last season, both offensively and defensively,” said Nenaber—“Not only as far as what we can do scheme-wise but we have improved our strength level tremendously over the last year, to a man.”

“We have put in a ton of time and work in the offseason, and I believe these workouts have definitely improved our strength as a team.”

The Aztecs return nine offensive players and eight defensive players who played significant minutes last season. One in particular is quarterback **Austin Freese** who played most of the snaps towards the end of the season.

“We are going with Austin at quarterback hoping he can continue to improve this season and get the job done for us,” said Nenaber. “He’s got a canon for

Sports

From Page 15

an arm, he can throw the rock, but most of all he a competitor. He hates to lose.”

“Austin is incredibly competitive and passionate when it comes to winning. He’s also an extraordinary athlete. Those are great attributes to have in a quarterback.”

On offense, the Aztec return running back **Cameron Brice**, who came on strong towards the end of the season averaging about five yards per carry.

The Aztecs are returning four out of their five starting offensive linemen according to Nenaber.

On defense, I think we are going to have some kids who will have big years for us too including **Alex Sheppard, Riley Burgmeier** and **Jake Clemmens**,” said Nenaber.

As far as leadership on and off the field, coach Nenaber will be expecting his quarterback Austin Freese to lead the team.

“You have to be a leader if you are going to play quarterback,” said Nenaber. “There are some other positions where you don’t have be a leader and still be a starter, but not at quarterback.”

Nenaber is also looking for his offensive line to take on some of the leadership roles.

“Our offensive line including **Austin Dixon, Logan Bashford, CJ Schrimpf, Brandon Arrington, Logan Smith, and Matt Fick** had really bonded well together,” said Nenaber. “I’d like to see them take on a leadership role together by



Hunter Olsen of Corona gets one on one with the pad in a pre-season training exercise.

themselves. We want to be able to rely heavily on their work ethic, their passion and how much they have improved to really get things on track as a team.”

Corona has a lot of returning players who have been “through the fire” according to Nenaber and know how low it can be but he also has some younger players he expects to challenge for more playing time.

“We have this sophomore **Kobee Marion** who I think is going to push for some time,” said Nenaber.

“For instance, junior running back **Jaylen Bryant** and juniors **Dylan Connor** and **Kaden Carter** on defense.”

The Aztecs still have a lot of work ahead of them including what to do when they are struggling during games.

“One of the areas we have to figure out is how to handle adversity,” said Nenaber. “It’s a learned trait that we are working on but it’s still something we need to improve on.”

“When things are not going our way or when things are not perfect during game situations, we need to rise to the occasion and figure it out together,” said Nenaber. “We need to find a solution instead of focusing on the problem.”

Corona will be facing off against some different teams this season.

“I think our schedule is a really good one,” said Nenaber. “We will be playing quality opponents which should result in some good games.”

“Our opener against Westwood is going to be an incredibly good test to see where we are at and where we need to go,” said Nenaber. “I’ve really been looking forward to this season.”

Corona’s first game is Aug. 28 at Westwood. Next up the Aztecs will be at home against St. Mary’s on Sept. 4.

Corona Girls Cross Country

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21 or too young Sometimes *no* is the **right answer.**

Parents and guardians: Over 80% of young people ages 10-18 say their parents are the leading influence on their decision to drink or not drink. **THEY REALLY ARE LISTENING!** Talk with them. The sooner you talk with your children about alcohol, the greater chance you have of influencing their decisions about drinking.

Some simple ideas:

- Lots of little talks are more effective than one “big talk.” Big talks can be intimidating. Try everyday opportunities to talk- in the car-dinner or while shopping. Let them know how you feel about alcohol and drugs.
- Show you care about your child’s happiness and well being. When children have parents who listen to their feelings and concerns are more likely to say “no” to alcohol. The conversation goes both ways.



The Tempe Coalition, a partnership between the City of Tempe and Tempe Community Council. For more information www.tempecoalition.org





girls cross country team is setting the goal to finish the season in the top three at the Division I state cross country meet.

It may be a lofty goal after losing **Kelly Naumann**, Corona's top runner with a second place finish at state last season, to graduation. Naumann, on a running scholarship at Iowa State, will be joining Corona's other star runner, **Nathan Rodriguez**, who is entering his second season as a Cyclone.

After Corona's summer running camp, coach **Ari Rodriguez** is excited about the potential of his returning athletes and Corona's incoming freshman runners.

"We have a lot of returning talent and leadership that will keep us focused and competitive," said

Rodriguez.

Leading the pack is junior **Renee Clary**, followed by seniors **MacKenzie Harder** and **Alexis Artiaga**. Sophomore **Riley Wright** is the fourth returning runner from last season's team expected to have an impact this season.

"Renee took 20th at state last year," said Rodriguez. "She has the potential to finish in the top 10 at state this year which would really help our team move up into the top three. She is definitely one to watch."

"MacKenzie is our most consistent runner," said Rodriguez. "Riley struggled with injury and illness at the end of the 2014 season but I expect her to continue this season and become one of our top varsity runners."

"I anticipate Alexis and Riley will be fighting to be at the head of the pack after being pushed by MacKenzie and Renee as the season progresses."

Rodriguez thinks he has two sophomore runners with the potential to move up the ranks this season as well: **Abby Kordiak** and **Cybelle Cozart**.

"Both Abby and Cybelle had strong track seasons last spring," said Rodriguez. "Cybelle started to turn it on at the end of the track season and continued to put in a lot of work this summer. She is a definite up-and-comer for the team."

Rodriguez is predicting Desert Vista and Xavier to once again be the teams to beat but thinks Corona has the potential to be very competitive with the rest of the top 10 teams in Division I.

Al-Madinah Program



Talent Enrichment Program

A new, innovative gifted-education program that targets linguistically-talented students. Al-Madinah Program was created by Dr. Abdeen and Dr. Zuri at the USM-Universiti Sains Malaysia. Al-Madinah Program implements modern talent and pedagogy theories. The program also incorporates the new creative thinking and talent theory "*Concurrent Thinking*", developed at Taibah University in Saudi Arabia by Dr. Abdeen.

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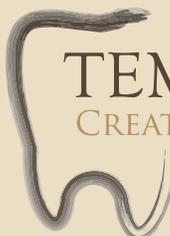
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Film Fare

. . . with M.V. Moorhead

'The Man from U.N.C.L.E.'

Opening this weekend

The feature knockoff of *I Spy* back in 2002 would have been a lousy movie in any case, but it was the more galling if you had any affection for the original series.

The same went for the 1999 version of *Wild Wild West*, and the 2008 version of *Get Smart*.

I was at an advantage when it came to the new movie version of *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, directed by Guy Ritchie and based on the hit espionage series which ran on NBC from 1964 to 1968.

Unlike the aforementioned three shows, I hardly ever watched *U.N.C.L.E.* as a kid, and therefore had no particular nostalgic investment in it.

The show, you may recall, concerned an international agency (United Network Command for Law and Enforcement) in which spies from either side of the Cold War set aside their differences and cooperated to thwart the evil designs of T.H.R.U.S.H. (Technological Hierarchy for the Removal of Undesirables and the Subjugation of Humanity).

Two such agents were American Napoleon Solo (Robert Vaughn) and Soviet Illya Kuryakin (David McCallum), supervised by dry Brit Mr. Waverly



(Leo G. Carroll).

I watched the old show a little in recent weeks in anticipation of the film.

It's on the slovenly and feeble side, but the acting, both of the regulars and the guest stars, was droll and good-natured, and so was some of the writing.

If I had been a bigger fan, maybe I would be outraged by Ritchie's film version.

It's a mixed bag, with style and panache in the directing and designs and acting thrown together with tiresome, even tasteless ideas.

But for me, the style and panache won out.

It's an origin story, about how Napoleon and Illya meet as enemies and are forced to work together to retrieve an atom bomb from some surviving Nazis,

and for about the first half of the movie the two of them brawl and bicker.

This is tedious, but not as tedious as the chase of all-terrain vehicles in the rain that climaxes the film. And the slightly campy tone taken toward a Nazi torturer feels a little queasy, too.

But Ritchie's mastery of scrambling and de-scrambling strands of action through omniscient camera moves, split screens, chronology juggling and wild crosscutting give the film a lot of headlong momentum to get us past these missteps.

So does a heavy dose of mid-'60s period flavor from the cars and the fashions on the several beauties in the cast to the punchy, sexy soundtrack.

Probably the biggest upside, though, is the performance of Henry Cavill as Napoleon.

Cavill seemed like a cipher to me as Superman, but here he has a grand time imitating the ironically stentorian cadences of Robert Vaughn, and he more or less carries the film.

Armie Hammer manages Illya's accent well, but the anger issues with which the character is stuck here cheat him out of the chance to show his suave side.

Hugh Grant comes into the story late as Waverly, and his line readings are a breath of fresh air, though it's distressing to think that Grant is now old enough to play a Leo G. Carroll part.

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Diversions

Babbo: A trip back to the gastronomic joys of Tuscany



At Babbo, Eat Like an Italian is a familiar, and welcome, call to the table.

— Wrangler News photo

By M.V. Moorhead

On the back of the t-shirts worn by the servers at Babbo is a row of three circles, in the cheery red, green and white of the Italian flag. Each bears the image of a Vespa, and below them are the words:

EAT LIKE AN ITALIAN

This is a commandment I'm prepared to obey.

But what, exactly, does it mean? It could simply mean that we should eat a lot of pasta with tomato-based sauces. Or it could mean, eat like a person from Italy—always supposing that there's any one way that Italian people eat. Or it could mean, eat like an American thinks an Italian eats; that is, like an Italian-American from Back East.

I'm not of Italian descent, but I grew up in the Northeast in an industrial city with a large Italian-American population and dozens of mom-and-pop Italian restaurants. I spent my youth eating at these places, and still binge out at them whenever I get back there.

And for whatever it's worth, I think that, though Babbo Italian Eatery is in many ways much like other traditional family restaurants, it's possible to eat like an Italian there quite enjoyably.

The specialty at Babbo is pasta, served in many shapes and covered in many sauces.

Recently I feasted on their basic spaghetti and meatballs.

The sauce had the thinner consistency and slightly more tart flavor I associate with certain restaurants back in my hometown, and the meatballs had a light, moist texture inside, avoiding the oppressive density that can ruin some of the meaty globules I've stumbled onto in other restaurants. On another visit, I had the Italian sausage over penne, with peppers—potently spicy, but hearty and satisfying.

One of my lunch companions had the penne with "marinara," and it was here that we ran into some confusion—not with how Italians eat, but with how they speak.

I had always understood "marinara" to be a simple tomato sauce flavored with garlic and basil. My companion is a vegetarian, but a couple of bites into her lunch realized that the sauce had bits of meat in it.

We asked, and were informed that indeed, the marinara at Babbo is meaty; herbivores must specifically request the vegetarian marinara. To me, this is the equivalent of asking for vegetarian grape jelly, but no matter—we were quickly and courteously supplied with a dish of the meatless, which was yummy, and the meaty stuff went home with me, to be enjoyed for dinner that evening.

Others with whom I lunched at Babbo weren't in the mood for pasta, but they had no trouble finding other delicious options, like the Brussels sprout and beet salad with raisins, almonds and goat cheese, or the smoked turkey sandwich with provolone and cucumbers on foccacia.

The latter came with a side of either pasta salad or "zucca chips," a thinly sliced version of fried zucchini I found surprisingly addictive. There's also full selection of pizzas, ranging from garlic hummus to sweet roasted pear and grape to good old pepperoni.

After all this, we decided to split a tiramisu.

Babbo's tiramisu is the less cakey, more pudding-like sort, with a sublime flavor and a delightfully granular texture. So at Babbo, it turns out you can also indulge your sweet tooth like an Italian.



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- 15 - Water Safety Event, Arrowhead Pool, 480-782-2750
- 17 - General Plan Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, Police HQ, 480-782-3059
- 21 - Free Summer Concert Series - Tres Guitarras, Center for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 22 - Chandler Cultural Foundation Yard Sale, Center for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 22 - Water Safety Event, Hamilton Aquatic Center, 480-782-2750
- 25 - Special Election, Proposition 484, 480-782-2180
- 27 - Homeschool Day, Environmental Education Center, 480-782-2886
- 28 - Free Summer Concert Series - Ritmo Latino, Center for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 29 - Water Safety Event, Mesquite Groves Aquatic Center, 480-782-2750

SEPTEMBER

- 1-30 - Library Sign-Up Month, 480-782-2812
- 4 - General Plan Planning Lab, Chandler Museum, 480-782-3059
- 12 - BMX Bike Event, Espee Park, 480-782-2746
- 16 - Mayor's Listening Tour, Sanborn Elementary, 480-782-2890
- 18 - Garibaldi Night, A.J. Chandler Park, 480-855-3539
- 21 - Council Study Session and Regular Meeting, Council Chambers
- 24 - City Council Meeting, Council Chambers
- 26 - Dragonfly & Butterfly Bash, Environmental Education Center, 480-782-2890

Call the Special Events Hotline at 480-782-2735, or go to www.chandleraz.gov for event information.



Chandler holds water safety events during Drowning Awareness Month

Chandler's Aquatics Division and Fire, Health & Medical Department have been holding water safety events at City pools since the start of the month in conjunction with the Phoenix Children's Hospital's Annual Drowning Impact Awareness campaign.

The campaign encourages safety around water and is Arizona's largest collaborative effort to prevent drownings.

Entrance is free to the public during each event and participants will view a CPR demonstration and short water safety presentation before entering the water.

Remaining events will occur from noon to 1 p.m. on the following dates: Saturday, Aug. 15, at Arrowhead Pool, 1475 W. Erie St.; Saturday, Aug. 22, at Hamilton Aquatic Center, 3838 S. Arizona Ave., and; Saturday, Aug. 29, at Mesquite Groves Aquatic Center, 5901 S. Hillcrest Dr.

Purple ribbons are being distributed at the events to remember those touched by child drownings. Ribbons also are available at Chandler aquatic and recreations centers, fire stations, libraries, the Vision Gallery and Center for

the Arts.

Remember that "Eye to Eye Supervision" is the key to drowning prevention.

Watch children at all times when they are around water, install secured barriers around pools, learn CPR and teach children how to swim.

Water safety tips and drowning prevention information is available on the Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Department website at chandleraz.gov/fire.

For information on pool hours, swim lessons and related programs, visit chandleraz.gov/aquatics, or call 480-782-2750.

Indoor Yard Sale Aug. 22 at Chandler Center for the Arts

If you are ready to clean up around your house, de-clutter closets, make room in the garage, and find new homes for some of your "stuff," let your hard work benefit a great program for youth in our community.

Chandler Center for the Arts will host an INDOOR YARD SALE from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015.

The sale is open to the public, and all funds raised will support the Center's Connecting Kidz programs, which provide free and low fee arts and activity programs for youth.

With your help, the lobby of the Center will be filled with a large selection of donated items:

Dresses and costumes (gently used), small appliances, antiques, working electronics, household decor, collectables, wood furniture, patio furniture, musical instruments, artwork,

At Your Library

Sunset Library, 4930 W. Ray Road

- *Fall Seed Swap, Aug. 24, 5 to 7 p.m.* — Fall planting season is here! Come share seeds and seed starts, meet local gardeners and exchange gardening tips.

You can participate even if you do not bring seeds. Envelopes and markers will be provided. Everyone is welcome.

- *Congressional Casework Team, Aug. 27, 12:30 to 2 p.m.* — Meet with the casework team of Representative Kyrsten Sinema to receive assistance with federal agencies, such as:

Social Security & Medicare, Small Business Concerns, Student Loans, Military & Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service, Passport Inquiries, Immigration, Disability Services, or any other Federal Agency.



office/school supplies, bedding and linens (gently used), tools, vinyl records, watches, costume jewelry, retro toys, games and dolls.

The following items will not be accepted:

Books, CD's, mattresses, shoes, and clothing (other than dresses and costumes). Items can be dropped off at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. (NW corner of Arizona Ave. and Chandler Blvd.), Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon, now through Aug. 21.

Due to limited storage space, large furniture (dressers, bed frames, desks, etc.) and large working appliances (refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, etc.) will only be accepted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21.

Please call 480-782-2689 by Aug. 21 for the large item drop off location. For more information, visit www.chandlercenter.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

Power Plant Employees and Contractors

If you or a family member ever worked at a power plant, you could have been exposed to asbestos.

To keep your right to compensation if you become ill in the future (or have asbestos-related illness today), you must submit a claim by December 14, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.

Energy Future Holdings Corp., Ebasco Services, Inc., EECI, Inc. and certain subsidiaries (“EFH”) owned, operated, maintained, or built certain power plants across the United States and in other countries where asbestos was present. Workers at these power plants (and family members and others who came into contact with these workers) may have been exposed to asbestos.

Anyone who has a claim today against EFH for asbestos-related illness or who may develop an asbestos-related illness in the future, must submit a claim by **December 14, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time** to be eligible for compensation now or in the future.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a fiber which was used as insulation in walls, wires, pipes, boilers, generators, steam traps, pumps, valves, electrical boards, gaskets, packing material, turbines, compressors, cement and cement pipes. Workers responsible for building and maintaining power plants and equipment also wore insulated clothing or gear that may have contained asbestos. Virtually all power plants built before 1980 used or contained asbestos-containing products.

Asbestos-related illnesses can be very serious or fatal and include diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, laryngeal cancer, esophageal cancer, pharyngeal cancer, stomach cancer and asbestosis. Even if your exposure to asbestos was many years ago and you are not sick today, this notice could affect you. Asbestos-related illness can occur decades and even 50 years after the exposure to asbestos that caused the illness.

Which power plants are included?

You or a family member could have been exposed at any of the power plants related to EFH. These power plants were located across the United States and some in foreign countries. For a list of the included power plants, visit the website below or call 1-877-276-7311.

How could this affect me?

You could have been exposed to asbestos if you or a family member worked at any of the included power plants as an employee, a contractor, or in any other role. You also could have been exposed by coming in contact with another person who worked at a power plant (for example, if asbestos was brought home on your spouse or parent’s clothing). You may also file a claim on behalf of a deceased family member.

What do I do now?

If you believe that you or a family member may have been exposed to asbestos at an included plant, submit a claim by **December 14, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time.** Go to www.EFHAsbestosClaims.com to submit your claim online. To get a paper claim form, visit the website or call 1-877-276-7311. Submitting a claim preserves your right to ask for money if you develop asbestos-related illness in the future.

You can submit a claim yourself or you can ask a lawyer to help you. If you are not ill today, completing a claim takes about five minutes.

What if I do nothing?

If you do not submit a claim and later develop asbestos-related disease, you will **not** be eligible for compensation from EFH. Even if you have not been diagnosed with disease or experienced symptoms, you must make a claim to preserve your right to compensation if you develop an asbestos-related illness in the future.

File a Claim Now

Go to www.EFHAsbestosClaims.com to file a claim online or call 1-877-276-7311 to request a claim form be sent to you.



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City of Tempe Page



Healing Field tribute Sept. 11 at Tempe Beach Park

Tempe will honor the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with a display of American flags at the 12th annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park. The free event runs Thursday, Sept. 10, through Sunday, Sept. 13, from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

On Sept. 11, there will be a memorial ceremony at 5:46 a.m. and a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. A moving display of patriotism and unity, Healing Field is presented by the Tempe Exchange Club.



It's time to GAIN with your neighbors



Join fellow neighborhood leaders, neighborhood block watch captains and residents from all over Tempe to do some Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) party planning.

The actual GAIN gatherings happen this fall, but it's time to start planning now! City staff will be on hand to help neighborhoods jumpstart their planning at the GAIN Kickoff Celebration at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Whether this is your first experience or you are a seasoned party planner, there

will be plenty of tips and handouts along with chances to win raffle prizes from our event sponsors and opportunities to win party visits from city departments such as Fire, Recycling and Police.

Pre-register your event at www.tempe.gov/gain or come prepared to do so at the kickoff.

This year's GAIN gatherings will be Saturday, Oct. 17, from 3-7 p.m.

More information is at www.tempe.gov/gain.

Tempe students have help in getting college- and career-ready

College Connect Tempe assists young people in fulfilling their dreams of post-secondary education.

The program provides students and their families with the tools to navigate the college process. Through a series of free workshops, participants learn how to apply for college and how to pay for it through financial aid, scholarships or both.

An upcoming workshop series will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Aug. 15, Sept. 26 and Nov. 14 at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

Series topics will include the college enrollment process, career exploration, scholarship searches, essay writing, FAFSA form completion and more.

College Connect is a partnership of the City of Tempe, Tempe Union High School District, Tempe Elementary School District, Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University, Mesa Community College, Northern Arizona University, Rio Salado Community College, University of Advancing Technology and University of Arizona.

For more information and to register, visit www.collegeconnecttempe.org.



Register for fall programs and classes beginning Aug. 10

The fall issue of the Tempe Opportunities brochure is full of new and continuing classes and programs for all ages and interests.

Class topics include exercise and fitness, educational activities/classes, sports leagues, foreign languages, music, art, theatre and dance.

All of our quality programs are offered at convenient times and locations, at affordable prices.

Tempe has a scholarship program for youth ages 0-17 who are residents of Tempe or Guadalupe, or who are enrolled in a Tempe school.

The brochure can be viewed at www.tempe.gov/brochure.

Registration began Aug. 10 for residents and starts Aug. 17 for non-residents.

Classes begin the week of Aug. 31. For more information, call 480-350-5200.

46,500 . . . and counting!

Wrangler News is celebrating its 24th year of publishing, and it's been a rewarding 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 when we hear 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.

TUHSD financial reporting earns top honors for 25th year

For the 25th year in a row, the Tempe Union High School District has earned a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, presented annually by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

It is said to be the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting.

The award recognizes TUHSD's comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014. Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Diane Meulemans and her staff prepared the report.

"As TUHSD celebrates our 25th year of receiving this award, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to have a supportive community and we take much pride in being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars," said Meulemans.

In a letter announcing the award, GFOA Technical Services Center Director Stephen J. Gauthier said:

"We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting."

The report was judged by an impartial panel to program standards, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure," to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report's contents.

GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals.

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Employment — Local Tempe insurance office looking for a computer savvy person to do computer quoting on a part time basis. \$10.00 per hour. Flexible hours, Mon-Thurs, after training can work from home. MUST have legible handwriting. Call Jim 480 756-0100 or email jsergi@farmersagent.com 09/19

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A love story gone awry

Murderer's lament: 'What by Ishtar's lions are you doing?'

By Deborah Hilcove

Imagine a love story between a beautiful princess and a handsome half-god warrior. It sounds perfect—until he murders her husband and three brothers, destroys her city, captures her and turns her into a slave. This is the tangle Homer created in his epic poem, *The Iliad*, casting Briseis as the prize sought by both Achilles and King Agamemnon during the Trojan War.

When Judith Starkston taught in the Tempe Union High School District, she found *The Iliad* a student favorite. “However, I was always puzzled,” she says. “Briseis is central to the plot. She is a young priestess from a city near ancient Troy. She falls in love with her arch-enemy, the Greek hero Achilles, and yet Homer gives her only a few lines.”

This curiosity is what encourages writers to create, and Starkston’s curiosity led to extensive research. She met archaeologists and learned about DNA from fire pit residue, yielding information about the meats, spices and herbs used by the ancient Hittites.

As the idea for a novel began to form, she toured the eastern Mediterranean, visiting museums and



— Photo by Billy Hardiman/Wrangler News

gaining access to Bronze Age archeological sites, including some in Turkey and the ancient site of Troy. Exploring the rocky countryside and ruined buildings, she memorized the steep mountains, the valleys and waterfalls, the views and smells of Mount Ida and the Aegean Sea.

This research was distilled into her debut novel, *Hand of Fire*, recently chosen as a semi-finalist for

the prestigious M.M. Bennett Award for Historical Fiction.

“While my book is historically accurate, you don’t need to know anything about *The Iliad* to enjoy it. I wrote a broadly accessible novel, raising the big questions of love and war and friendship. It’s a tale about hope and resilience, strength even in the midst of violence.”

When asked about the language in her story, she says:

“Sometimes historical accuracy must be imagined. No one today speaks Hittite. I wanted to portray social classes and show those distinctions in their speech. I created a ‘grammar of mistakes,’ and referred to it as the characters moved through their story.”

She laughs and continues: “It was fun to create swearing. For example, a Hittite in distress can’t cry out, ‘Oh, God!’ or ‘Hell!’ because those belong to the Christian world.

So I invented ‘What by Ishtar’s lions are you doing!’

If offering advice, Starkston suggests an aspiring writer find a community of writers.

“Writing is hard work. It’s grueling and financially unrewarding, with some notable exceptions. Without friends along the way, you’ll never make it.”

Hand of Fire, ISBN 978-1-61179-295-9, is available on Amazon and at many bookstores.

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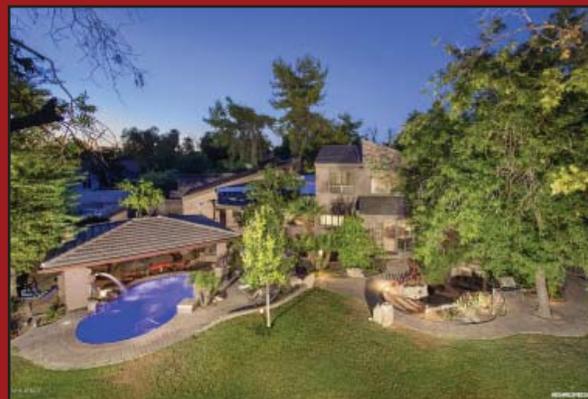
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