

Wrangler NEWS

Think Local.
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Aug. 16 - Sept. 5, 2014

Vol. 25, No. 15

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Our newly expanded
Diversions entertainment
pullout starts on Page 13

**Paper flowers
blossom from
creative hands &
minds at the Kids
& Art workshop
that took place at
Tempe Center for
the Arts.**

More, Page 23

*Wrangler News photo
by Billy Hardiman*



The 2014s Gotta Go Now!

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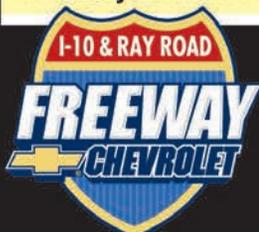


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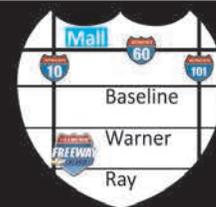
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08 Chevy Cobalt #140386A \$7,988	14 Chevy Spark #140743A \$11,888	10 Chevy Traverse AWD #140198B \$14,888
11 Chevy HHR #141387A \$8,888	11 Chevy Cruze #141642A \$12,488	11 Chevy Impala #141771A \$14,888
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Tempe – Carver Ranch Estates

4 Bdrms / 3 Bath, 3,592 sf. Welcome home to one of the finest neighborhoods in Tempe. Every amenity you would expect...huge great room, gourmet chef's kitchen w/ granite counters, stunning master w/ dream master bath, volume ceilings, carpet and tile, cabinets galore. An extra-large 3 car garage with workspace. Covered patio with landscaping to perfection! Timeless low maintenance brick home. Offered at \$795,000



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Sun Devil kickoff luncheon previews a promising season

It looks like it's going to be a big season for the Sun Devils.

The Arizona State University football team was just ranked 18th in the preseason Amway Coaches Poll—a sign of good things to come as the team wraps up its practice sessions in Tempe and at Camp Tontozona in Payson.

Now that they've returned to Tempe, the team and Coach Todd Graham will prepare for what has become one of the season's biggest inaugural events, the ASU Sun Devil Football Kickoff Luncheon.

Presented by the Sun Devil Club, Alumni Association and Tempe Chamber of Commerce, the luncheon event offers the public insider access to hear from the coach and team.

Q and A sessions with team stars and Coach Graham will bring fans

front and center with the energy and action of the new season.

"Voice of the Sun Devils" Tim Healey and Rose Bowl-winning QB Jeff Van Raaphorst emcee as Graham welcomes his players, coaches and other guests in kicking off the new season.

The 14th annual ASU Sun Devil Football Kickoff Luncheon will be held 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Aug. 22 at Tempe Mission Palms Hotel.

RSVPs (required) can be made at tempechamber.org or by calling 480-967-7891.

A week after the luncheon, the team begins its season and defense of its Pac-12 South championship at Sun Devil Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28 vs. Weber State.

— Sean Donovan

'Character area' study group will convene in south Tempe

A workshop focusing on the strategies and priorities Corona/South Tempe character area will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25 at Arizona Community Church.

According to Nancy Ryan, who directs the program for the city of Tempe, character areas are geographic sections of the community with distinctive, recognizable characteristics that are different from neighboring areas.

These distinctive personalities may come from a variety of characteristics, including age and style of housing; buildings, roads and bridges; retail shops and restaurants; parks and recreational amenities; street trees and landscaping; bikeways and transit routes.

In the first quarter of 2014, city staff members began a public-planning process for the Corona/ South Tempe character area, working with residents and businesses to identify neighborhood amenities, gaps and attributes and develop a vision.

Planners involved in the project are seeking resident input for the draft plan, hoping to hear from all who live, work, learn and play in the area.

Arizona Community Church is at 9325 S. Rural Road, at the northeast corner of Rural and Knox roads, across the street from Corona del Sol High School.

Information: On the web at tempe.gov/characterareas; by phone at 480-350-8096; or via email to nancy_ryan@tempe.gov.

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Briefly . . .

Aug. 16 meeting for down syndrome parents

A parents-and-schools partnership program sponsored by DS Network for down syndrome parents will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at Bella Rose Estates, formerly Ashley Manor, 1380 S. Price Road, Chandler.

Laura Chapnek, chair of the organization's partnership program, and Su Rogers, a teacher with a focus on inclusive practices, will host an open discussion about modifications and accommodations to help affected children in the classroom.

Registration is available online at dsnetworkaz.org. Respite is not provided.

Firehouse Subs campaign yields 1,500 cases of water for charity

Firehouse Subs received what its manager called a substantial amount of support during the annual H2O for Heroes drive at the Albertson's at Ray and McClintock.

Each year the first-responder-themed restaurant fundraises and collects water for various area fire departments.

This year the drive's donations were raised for the Tempe Fire Department to honor its efforts, especially during the summer months.

Firehouse's General Manager Tom Medrano says he was grateful for the support, specifically from Corona del Sol High School, and extremely pleased by the overall outcome.

"A huge thanks to the Corona basketball, football and wrestling

booster clubs, which coordinated and purchased 1,500 of the total 2,298 cases that were collected at the end of the drive," Medrano said.

"Without Corona's help, we would not have made our goal of 2,000 cases. Thank you to Corona and our community."

Fair housing study Aug. 19

Tempe is conducting a fair housing study to analyze possible impediments to fair housing within the Tempe community.

The study is required by HUD for receipt of federal funds for housing and community development.

Tempe seeks to receive public input on fair housing issues, priority needs, practices and policies.

Meetings are scheduled from 10-11 a.m., 2-3 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the Tempe Public Library.

Information: 480-350-8960.

Lucky Break ticket giveaway features Cards' sold-out game

South Tempe restaurant Lucky Break is giving away tickets to the sold-out Cardinals Monday Night Football game on Monday, Sept. 8.

Those interested can sign up at the restaurant or visit the Lucky Break Facebook page at www.facebook.com/luckybreakaz.

No purchase is required.

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It's pure family fun . . . plus a chance for kids to see some of their Disney favorites. Showing this month at Tempe History Museum are **The Black Caldron (Saturday, Aug. 16)** and **The Little Mermaid (Saturday, Aug. 23)**. The free program starts at 1 p.m. and is sponsored by the Tempe Public Library and Whole Foods Market.

— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman



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Construction of Chandler Regional Medical Center's 96-bed patient tower is designed to vastly increase the hospital's ability to serve neighboring communities. — Wrangler News file photo photo by Billy Hardiman

For East Valley health care, the beginning of a new era

Chandler Regional celebrates a long-awaited expansion

Chandler Regional Medical Center has put the finishing touches on a massive, two-pronged expansion of its Dobson-Frye Road campus that includes a five-story, 96-bed patient tower and the addition of Level 1 trauma services to a now enlarged Emergency Department.

Dignity Health, which has overseen the hospital's growth since it opened 50 years ago, will hold a community celebration of the project's completion from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23.

The \$125 million project, for which development spanned 2½ years, includes a new, larger emergency department with Level I trauma services and two helipads. The addition will also allow the hospital to expand its radiology department, surgical services and intensive-care unit.

Hospital officials say the addition of the

171,000-square-foot building will add more than 200 permanent, full-time jobs and expand a comprehensive menu of services.

The project was launched to help keep pace with population growth in the area and, with the Level I addition, enable quicker access to trauma services when minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

Included in the Aug. 23 celebration will be tours, face painting and appearances by Arizona Cardinals cheerleaders.

Said one official: "Chandler Regional is truly a community hospital; our new tower and services exemplify the East Valley's considerable growth. We are proud to expand and continue serving our community's health care needs."

Chandler PD scheduled for updated accreditation review

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies will review the Chandler Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services as part of an annual, voluntary process enabling the department to become accredited again this year by the national sanctioning organization.

The Police Department achieved accreditation for the first time in November 1996 and was reaccredited in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2011, according to Public Information Officer Sgt. Joe Favazzo.

Since that time, he said, the department has submitted annual reports attesting to its continued compliance with the standards under which it was initially accredited.

The assessment team is composed of law-enforcement practitioners from similar agencies throughout the nation.

The review team will review written materials, interview individuals and visit offices and other sites where compliance with commission standards can be observed.

A public information session will be held at 5 p.m. Aug. 19 at the Police Department's Main Station at 250 E. Chicago St.

Agency employees and the public are also invited to offer comments by calling 480-782-4107 on Wednesday, Aug. 20, between 1 and 3 p.m.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the accrediting commission's standards, a copy of which is available at the front desk of the Police Department's Main Station.



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Five more floors of humankindness. Let's celebrate.

You're invited to celebrate our new tower on Community Day on Saturday, Aug. 23 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Join us for tours, light refreshments and family activities.

Chandler Regional's new tower includes:

- a new, larger emergency department with Level I trauma services
- five floors with 96 additional private rooms
- an expanded surgical department with six new operating rooms

Learn more about Chandler Regional Medical Center at DignityHealth.org/Arizona.



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Chandler Regional Medical Center



City's new PR guru no stranger to Chandler or his chosen profession

By Diana Whittle

The city of Chandler has announced that Matt Burdick is its new communications and public affairs director. Burdick assumes the high-profile position from Nachie Marquez, who recently was promoted to serve as the city's assistant city manager.

Burdick's broad-ranging responsibilities will include directing communications for all city departments, along with video production, oversight of the city's website, publications and other initiatives designed to enhance the Chandler's image locally, statewide and nationally.

Burdick has worked for the Arizona Department of Transportation since 1996 and became a Chandler resident the same year.

His educational background includes both bachelor's and master's degrees from ASU. Burdick was born in Iowa, but moved to the Valley as a teenager and graduated from Mesa's Mountain View High School.

His immediate family includes wife, Laura, daughter Olivia, and son Quinn.

Following is a Q&A examining the plans and hopes of Chandler's new communications leader:

— COMMUNICATOR, Page 10




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Communicator

From Page 9

What interested you about moving into city government after such a long tenure at a state agency?

"I had the opportunity to work with the city of Chandler, its residents and businesses during the development of the Price and Santan freeways.

Those experiences provided me direct insight into the way in which Chandler city government is run, the quality of its employees, and the policy direction set by the mayor and council.

I know that I live in a great community and that I'm joining a quality organization that serves its residents, businesses and employees with pride.

This opportunity allows me to bring my skills and experiences to the City of Chandler to keep residents, businesses and stakeholders informed through timely communication and useful information that benefits the community.

I'll have the opportunity to develop communication programs that will help build upon the efforts of the mayor and council, all city departments and employees along with Chandler businesses, residents and stakeholders, as well as

shaping the image and direction of this community."

What similar experiences will you bring to the city?

"I am accustomed to working with people of diverse professional backgrounds – public safety, engineering, finance, legal, technology and administrative – to communicate on behalf of an organization.

I also am experienced in communicating with elected officials, journalists, business officials and residents using a variety of communication methods and tools.

I have experience in all facets of communication and the responsibilities of directing a department-level communication organization for a government agency.

I'll use my skills and experiences to lead the high performing communication team already established at the city of Chandler. So, in that respect, there will be similarities.

I understand the proximity of city staff to its elected officials, businesses and residents. In my prior job, decisions and communications had to be balanced to serve a statewide audience.

My new position will require me to be highly knowledgeable about Chandler, establish relationships in the community and understand how best to share news and information.

The breadth of topics that I'll be involved with, from a

communication standpoint, also will be broader to cover all city services, economic development issues and tourism, rather than focused on transportation and its related programs exclusively."

ADOT has a strong track record in public participation and community outreach. What lessons did you learn from working directly with residents that will be valuable in Chandler?

"Public involvement and community outreach has been a significant part of my career. No one likes to be surprised by a project and its impacts. It's vital to establish relationships and communication channels beyond the life of a specific plan or project.

The key is to communicate with people before, during and after a project. Doing so helps to understand the impact of decisions on a project, how best to communicate with them and then obtain the lessons learned to apply on future projects.

Visual and in-person communication is important to help people understand an issue, communicate how their input will be used to make decisions and to keep people informed as the project progresses."

What do you see as your role in working with city leaders and will that differ in any way from your contact with elected officials?

"My role is to lead a communications department that provides assistance to the City Council, city manager and city departments to disseminate public information, manage issues that arise, and provide communications services that help the city fulfill its mission, achieve goals and support day-to-day operations.

The development and production of city communication materials, ranging from news materials and video productions to publications and web content, will continue to be a primary area of focus.

Doing so effectively contributes to a high-performing organization and creates a positive image of Chandler among employees, residents, businesses, visitors, civic groups and other governments.

I understand the importance of communicating with the mayor and councilmembers. As a communication staff, we'll continue to provide information and assistance to the City Council to communicate information, answer questions from residents and work to research and resolve issues.

Our assistance also will extend to the development of a variety of written correspondence and the production of Cable Channel 11 shows."

What is your philosophy on releasing public records and replying to media inquiries?

"Chandler is recognized for providing open, honest and timely communication.

Using technology and communication tools, like its website, Chandler makes information easily accessible to the public. Staff members actively seek to provide assistance to residents and answer inquiries received in-person, by phone or via the web site, email and mail.

Chandler communication staff has developed and maintained strong working relationships with the media to effectively disseminate newsworthy information to residents and businesses.

It also uses a variety of city-managed communication tools to provide useful municipal information to residents, businesses and visitors.

This organizational commitment to communication and proactive efforts to make information accessible is one of the reasons I was attracted to work for the city of Chandler.

I've experienced the benefits of this approach as a resident and I'm committed to sustain this philosophy. I'll also listen to suggestions and explore opportunities to improve upon this philosophy."



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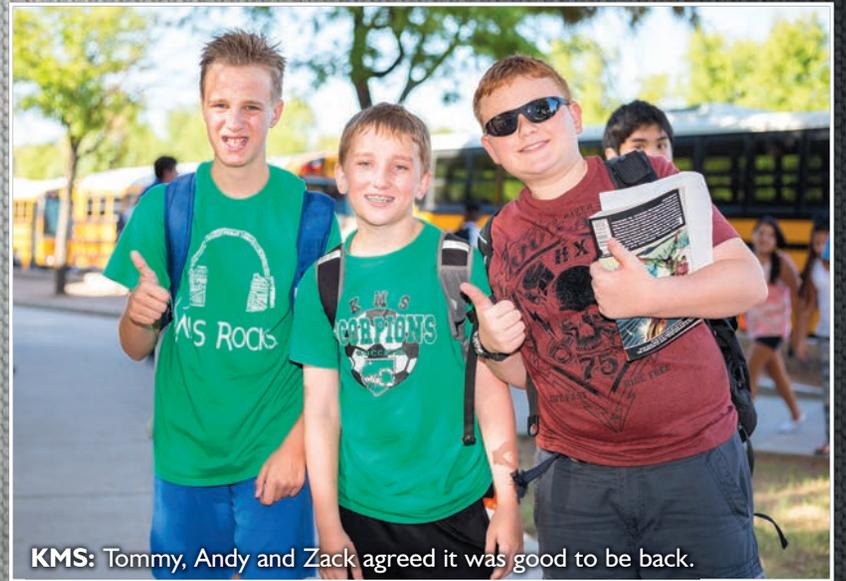
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MARCOS: Friends shared stories of their summer adventures.



KMS: Tommy, Andy and Zack agreed it was good to be back.



KMS: Jazmine Gaona and Megan Downs



MARCOS: A happy ending for summer.



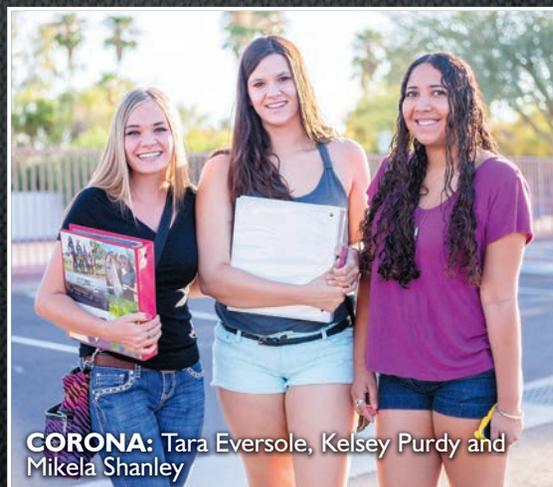
KMS: Leah, Olivia and Eliada



CORONA: Amberlie Schurmann and Caitlin Martin



KMS: Ready to go



CORONA: Tara Eversole, Kelsey Purdy and Mikela Shanley



CORONA: Stephen Eversole, packed up

It was back-to-school day, and smiles nearly everywhere suggested the kids were ready for the challenges — and the fun — that awaited. Wrangler News photographer Billy Hardiman was on hand for the big event at Corona del Sol, Marcos de Niza and Kyrene Middle School.

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Dignity Health Urgent Care in Ahwatukee, Gilbert, Maricopa or Queen Creek.

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Tempe updates monsoon-cleanup plan; pickups will resume on Aug. 18

The city of Tempe has been assisting residents with emergency clean up service associated with the severe monsoon storm that hit this area July 13.

In order to manage this special collection operation as responsible as possible—both financially and environmentally—residents were asked to place out only green organic material generated from the storm damage, primarily tree related material.

To date, city officials say tens of thousands of dollars have been saved in landfill costs, and more than 1,000 tons of material diverted from the landfill. This will be processed into nutrient-rich compost that will be used in city parks, sports fields, rights-of-way and community gardens.

For those who still have material that has been placed out for collection but has not been collected—palm fronds, items in black plastic bags, oleanders, and other mixed waste/debris—several options are available for completing the cleanup process between now and the end of August:

Regularly scheduled bulk and brush collection for August will take place as scheduled:

- Area G — west of Rural Road — will start on Monday, Aug. 18.
- Area H—east of Rural Road—will start Monday, Aug. 25.

Material can be left at the curb until then or it may be brought back onto the property and replaced at the curb prior to the scheduled collection dates.

All material must be placed by 6 a.m. on the Monday of the area's collection week.

City officials note that, due to the severity of the storm damage and recognizing that residents had more than just tree damage, the August collection will be mixed.

- Owners may arrange for removal of remaining material through lawn or tree services;

- Materials may be transported to either city of Tempe transfer station free of charge. For more information visit www.tempe.gov/city-hall/public-works/recycling-and-solid-waste/transfer_stations.

- Plastic bags may be placed in your 90- or 300-gallon trash bin each week.

Mixed Waste/ Bulk Trash

Materials that are too large or bulky to fit in black/green garbage container or blue recycling container, including:

- Furniture, non-Freon appliances, such as washers and microwaves, and other items too large to fit in the trash bin;

- Oleanders, palm fronds, bagged grass and weeds, and other bagged items; and

- All Green Waste items, as listed above. (Note: Green waste collected during mixed waste collection will not be composted.)

Questions or requests for storm damage collection information should be referred to 480-350-4311.

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Diversions

A look at what's happening in our Tempe/Chandler neighborhoods



Newly promoted manager of Chandler Center for the Arts, Michelle Mac Lennan, sees the growth of niche audiences as an opportunity to expand the center's appeal.

Chandler Center for the Arts names veteran staffer as its new general manager 3-day extravaganza marks a quarter century of success

By Michelle Hirsch

A cultural gem is celebrating its silver anniversary right in our backyard, and area residents are invited to join in.

Chandler Center for the Arts is kicking off its 25th year with a three-day celebration of performances and activities for all ages and interests—all free.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22 with a “Plugged In” concert, featuring top picks in youth bands in the Valley, the celebration continues from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday the 23rd with free activities that include live music on three stages, vendor booths, make-and-take art projects, balloon artists, videos and a giveaway of two CCA event ticket vouchers to the first 200 patrons.

The fun continues into Saturday, starting at 7 p.m. with the Music of Motown starring Joe Bourne and a 10-piece band, and wrapping up “¡Flamexico!” style—a mix of Spain’s Flamenco and Mexico’s Mariachi at 3 p.m. Sunday.

With the anniversary, Chandler Center for the Arts has another reason to celebrate: the arrival of a new general manager, Michelle Mac Lennan.

While new to the GM position, Mac Lennan isn’t new to CCA or the arts. Her passion and involvement in performing arts in the Valley began with family influences and continued as a high school student immersed in school theater.

Prior to transitioning into her new job, Mac Lennan worked for more than 15 years as CCA’s assistant manager, program and events coordinator, and patron-services director, with a brief term as fine

arts coordinator at Tempe Center for the Arts and several years with ASU Public Events at Kerr Cultural Center.

Mac Lennan’s stint in performance, management, operations and event programming provide her more than just breadth of experience; they build a foundation from which she can embrace CCA’s successful history and help set the stage for positive changes.

Looking ahead, Mac Lennan wants to explore niche markets to identify performances and events that will appeal to a diverse community of loyal arts patrons and entice new ones. She’s inviting people to contribute on committees and in focus groups to help increase community engagement and outreach.

Center

From Page 13

With a successful career in performing arts management on her resume, Mac Lennan reveals that, in her junior year of high school, she briefly dropped out when, not unlike some teens today, she wasn't interested in typical high school classes.

When she learned she couldn't audition for the next high school production if she wasn't in school, she promptly returned to her high school education. Mac Lennan credits her involvement in high school theater and the arts as the motivation she needed to complete school.

Recognizing the connection of quality arts education to student engagement and success, Mac Lennan lists among her priorities a stronger focus on arts education in the local community.

She highlights CCA's Connecting Kidz programs that offer a number of opportunities for youth, and looks forward to expanding the connections with Chandler-area schools.

Harnessing her passion for the arts, experience in operations and programming, and with a strong commitment to community engagement, Mac Lennan is poised in her new position to successfully lead Chandler Center for the Arts in celebrating its impressive 25-year history while reaching for new stars in the years ahead.

South East Valley Youth Football

Fundraiser will help broaden services to kids

By M.V. Moorhead

Like the run-up to Christmas, football season seems to start a little earlier every year. Indeed, with increased coverage of the draft, spring leagues, training camp and preseason, it's starting to seem like the football year starts stirring to life a few weeks after Super Bowl.

Still, with the Cardinals back in action, there's a bit of extra football buzz in the air, even in broiling-hot August.

Here in our neighborhood, a good way to kick off the season in earnest might be to go party in support of South East Valley Youth Football at the organization's fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 23.

An adult social and mixer with both silent and live auctions, it runs from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at The Foothills Golf Course, 2201 E. Clubhouse Drive in Ahwatukee.

South East Valley Youth Football is an association member of Phoenix American Youth Football, which in turn is a National Tournament Conference Member of American Youth Football, a national

youth partner of the NFL.

The South East Valley organization represents, according to its marketing director, Patrick Buehl, some 400 of the Phoenix organization's 8,000 members Valleywide.

Buehl's own kid is one of them.

"I've got an 11-year-old that plays out of Desert Vista," Buehl says.

The non-profit, volunteer-run outfit's ground-level task is to equip young players for the football programs of Corona del Sol, Marcos de Niza, Tempe High, Desert Vista, Mountain Pointe, McClintock—in short, all of the schools in the Tempe Union district.

"We work from the playbooks of these schools," says Buehl, "so that by the time the kids get there, they already know the playbook."

SEVYF also provides training for sideline cheer, and for dance corps. Buehl is quick to note, however, that the organization's efforts go far beyond just athletics and team spirit.

"The biggest benefit," says Buehl, "apart from incredible

football experience—and I honestly believe we're the best at teaching the game of football—is that we're into academics, and we teach these kids how to give back to the community."

With regard to academics, says Buehl, the formula is relatively simple: "If they don't perform in school, they don't play for us. They love to play, so they (follow our requirements). That's what's nice—they check themselves academically."

Beyond academics, Buehl rattles off a list of benefits kids can take from the SEVYF experience: "Self esteem, working as a team, education values, football skills, positive reinforcement, core social values, leadership, giving back and gratitude."

As for that giving back to the community part, SEVYF stresses making sure that no kid is denied the chance play football—or cheer, or dance—because of financial limitations.

In light of all this, the Aug. 23 fundraiser seems worth marking on your calendar.

Go to sevyf.com for details and contact information.

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'The Living Receiver'

Valley rock circuit discovers a new post-hardcore contender

By Chase Kamp

It's hard to know from where they come, but good ideas tend to pay off over time. Idiosyncratic post-hardcore outfit The Living Receiver, whose intricate and somber songs are gaining attention in the Valley rock circuit, tend to let inspiration come instead of chasing after it.

The Chandler-based band, made up of three friends who met in the halls of high school and started playing four years ago, took its name from the ominously philosophical cult film *Donnie Darko*. Guitarist Raul Ibarra admits it was adopted mostly because it sounded cool.

popular music must involve the proliferation of emo, screamo and post-hardcore in the desert for the last 15 years.

Resembling a more poetic and often romantically fixated cousin to punk, these subgenres are characterized by complex song structures and lyrics with a particular emotional intensity paired with hard rock or metal styles.

The Phoenix suburbs have produced some of the country's biggest names in these subgenres, starting with definitive emo pop band Jimmy Eat World in the late '90s and the eventual incubation of national acts like Scary Kids Scaring Kids and Eyes Set to Kill.

The Living Receiver is certainly a product of this lineage.

Their songs also invoke the riveting dynamics of math core team Fall of Troy and the lyrical verbosity of screamo legends Thursday.

Yet The Living Receiver distinguish themselves through fluid song structures that still feel approachably linear, like the rapidly passing scenery of a drive through a big, unfamiliar city.

"We've never sat down with a clear idea behind [a song]; we always have a complete blank canvas," Ibarra said.

"It doesn't deprive the song of going where it needs to go."

The band's most recent work, *The Leftovers EP*,



showcases this flexibility with an added twist: each song has a different guest vocalist.

The singers included friends and members of other local bands, as well as Rolly Peralta, The Living Receiver's original singer who moved to Portland, Ore.

While each singer manages to bring his own character to the songs, Ibarra noticed an interesting lyrical parallel from all the contributions.

"All the vocalists ended up writing about something similar: feeling stuck. Everyone [involved] is in their early 20s.

"It's at a boiling point. Everybody is striving to change things from the way they are."

The Living Receiver is currently working on a new EP set to drop in September. They trust what's coming next. Probably because there are good things ahead.



Chase Kamp

"But now the whole idea of being receptors—not really being an individual consciousness but receiving it from somewhere else—that's a pretty big idea behind the band," Ibarra said.

This willingness to invite revelation, and to trust a good idea when it arrives, is evidenced by the band's richly complex songwriting style. Though they're not afraid of a high-reaching chorus, the band's songs tend to

amble in interesting fits of structurally surprising guitar turns and textured, blocky rhythms.

This might be one reason why the band is becoming a mainstay at the history-rich Nile Theater in Mesa, the bedrock of the Valley's post-hardcore scene.

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Kyrene district's director of transportation, Eric Nethercutt, photo at left, welcomes the addition of 25 propane-powered buses to his existing fleet. The expected \$2-per-gallon savings in fuel costs are expected to represent a major contribution to the district's financial bottom line. Also new to the recently arrived buses is the addition of 3-point seat belt harnesses, designed to improve passenger safety.

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman

Propane-fueled buses added to Kyrene fleet

By Diana Whittle

Kyrene officials expect to see more “green” when they look at their customary yellow school buses.

This after the purchase of 25 environmentally friendly, propane-fueled vehicles, cost of which was slightly more than \$3 million, an expenditure funded by previously approved bond dollars.

As part of the district's cost savings initiatives, the Kyrene Transportation Department selected the propane buses, which minimize harmful exhaust fumes and reduce transportation fuel costs by

about 50 percent, said Eric Nethercutt, director of transportation.

“The cost of propane is nearly \$2 per gallon cheaper than diesel fuel. If the funds are available, the district hopes to convert the entire fleet of 133 buses from diesel to propane over the next few years,” said Nethercutt.

Ferrellgas is Kyrene's propane supplier and reports that propane is the leading alternative fuel in the United States, the third most commonly used vehicle fuel in the world, following gasoline and diesel.

It's also a domestic fuel that is certified green, with 91 percent of propane supplied by U.S. production and another seven percent from Canada.

“Another benefit of propane buses is they are much quieter than diesel to operate, which makes

it easier for bus drivers to hear and talk to students while the bus is in motion,” said Nethercutt. The 25 new Kyrene buses are planned for use on longer routes to maximize savings in mileage.

Of the new buses, eight are equipped for special-needs students and include wheelchair lifts, Nethercutt reported.

These buses hold 23 passengers, while the remaining 17 buses could hold up to 72 passengers. All are equipped with three-point seat belt harnesses for improved student safety.

Mesa was the first school system in the state to adopt propane school buses in 2012. Other local districts using propane include Phoenix Union and Glendale Elementary.

Bus drivers received extra training on operating the new propane buses, said Nethercutt.

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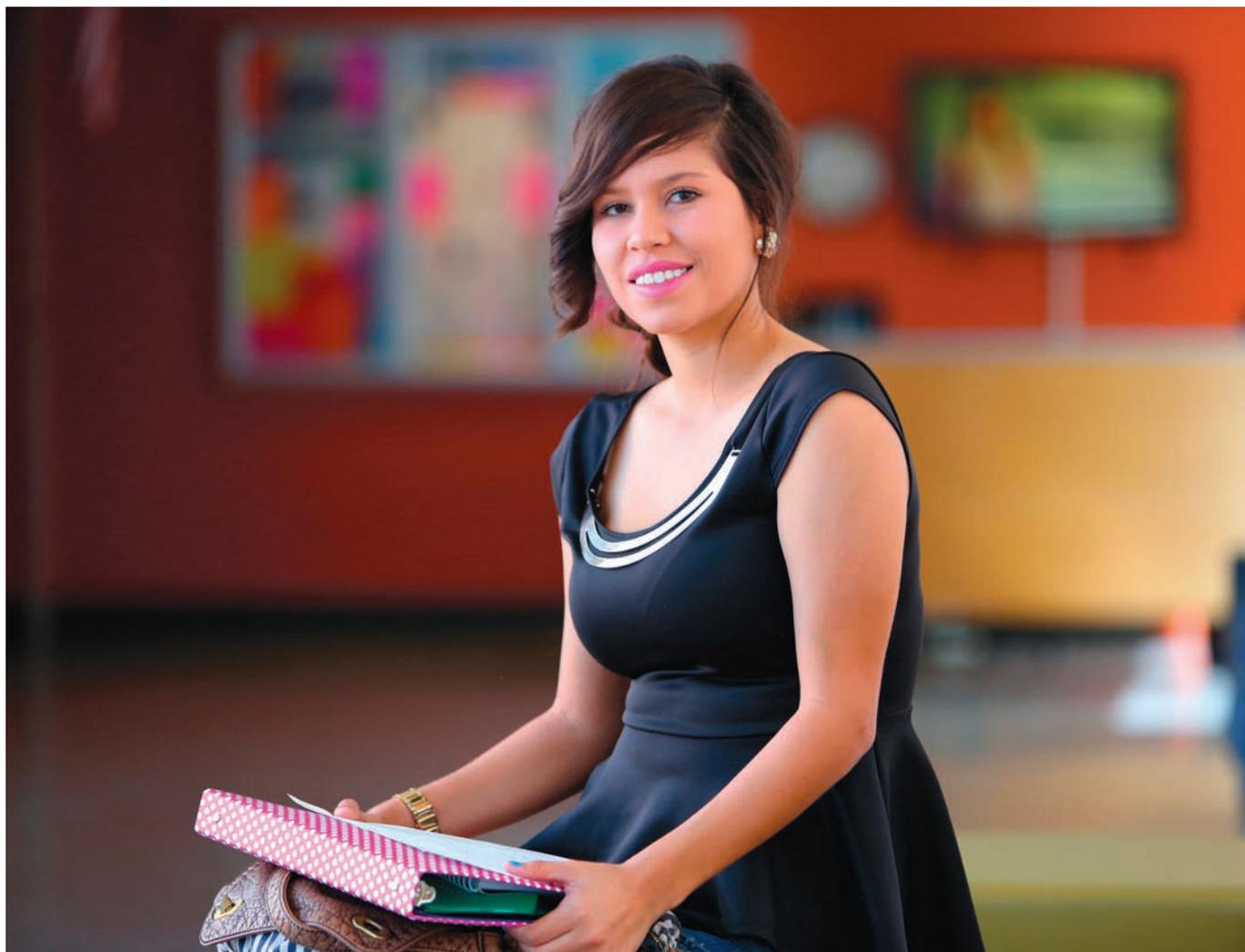
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Film Fare

Despite auspicious heritage, 'Giver' fails to give expected results

New this week

The Giver—In the future, people live in a homogenized, insipid “community” in which life is carefully programmed and deep emotions, positive or negative, are suppressed through daily doses of medication.

An adolescent boy, Jonas (Brenton Thwaites), is assigned to be the new “Receiver of Memories,” the repository for the recollections of the human race from which everybody else is protected, and which are transmitted to him in psychic blasts for the current repository, an old man called “The Giver.”



M.V. Moorhead

The great Jeff Bridges plays the title role in this adaptation, directed by Phillip Noyce, of a much-honored young adult novel by Lois Lowry of 1993, and there's nothing especially wrong with his sly, growling performance.

There's plenty wrong with the movie, however. I can't speak to the quality of the novel, but what made it to the screen is a rehash of Huxley's *Brave New World*, with dashes of *Logan's Run*, *The Island* and a

couple of episodes of *Twilight Zone*.

It's less enjoyable than any of these, however, and toward the end the story simply collapses into a pile of implausibility and absurdity.

When it comes to the price of a ticket, think twice before becoming a giver.

Still in theaters

The Hundred-Foot Journey—If Oprah likes your book, you've got it made.

A few years ago she took a shine to Richard C. Morais' tale of a rivalry between an established upscale restaurant in provincial France and the upstart Indian place a hundred feet across the road, showed it to Steven Spielberg, and now it's a lavishly produced movie directed by Lasse Hallstrom, with a cast led by Helen Mirren and Om Puri.

After leaving Mumbai under tragic circumstances, and a brief stay under the flight path at Heathrow, the Kadam family settles in a small town in southern France, mainly because the brakes on their wreck of a vehicle fail there.

Gruff, handsome Om Puri plays the widowed patriarch, who insists on opening “Maison Mumbai” in the ruin across the road from Le Saule Pleureur, a classical-French place with a Michelin star. It's presided over by Mirren as the elegant, imperious Madame Mallory, who at first attempts to sabotage

the new enterprise.

But the star of the Kadam family is Papa's son Hassan, a culinary prodigal so gifted that Madame Mallory wants him to cross the road and learn the Ways of the Heavy Sauce, in hopes that he can help her to a long-coveted second star.

Lushly photographed by Linus Sandgren and goosed along by another rousing score from A.R. Rahman, *The Hundred-Foot Journey* is, I suppose, the most calculated and shameless sort of unthreatening cross-cultural feel-good/foodie movie.

But it gives good value as such; the setting is idyllic, the cast is splendid—not just Puri and Mirren but also Manish Dayal as the open-hearted Hassan and the charming Charlotte Le Bon as his besotted love interest—and there's just enough conflict to keep the story going but not so much as to spoil the pleasant atmosphere.

And, of course, the food looks wonderful: The movie left me with a serious taste for sea urchin.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles—Like the Transformers, the TMNT came along in the mid-'80s, when I was already old enough to find them annoying, so I don't have a nostalgic attachment to them. I was surprised, therefore, to find myself sort of enjoying this new film version.

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Laird as a send-up of by-the-numbers comic book clichés, the four are sewer-dwelling New Yorkers, each named, for some reason, after a Renaissance Old Master: Raphael, Leonardo, Donatello and Michaelangelo, and parented by a sagacious old rat, Splinter, who trains them in martial arts, he says, as an alternative to the distractions of pop culture—the best, and nerviest, joke in the movie.

The lads are pitted against a villain in robotic samurai armor and his legion of henchpersons. Their Lois Lane equivalent is plucky TV reporter April O’Neill, played in the new film by

Megan Fox.

In what appears to be an attempt to market the film to girls, April is very much the lead role here, and this approach proved effective with my own 12-year-old, who grumbled about the prospect of sitting through a movie for boys but got caught up in it all the same.

The Giver and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* are rated PG-13; *The Hundred Foot Journey* is rated PG. All three play at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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Wrangler News is celebrating its 23rd year of publishing, and it's been a fascinating journey. Happily, the growth which has accompanied us during that nearly quarter of a century illustrates that news BY local people ABOUT local people remains a powerful incentive for those of us who disagree with the occasional suggestion that 'print doesn't work.' Based on nationally computed formulas, Wrangler News reaches 46,500 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. PS: If you agree, perhaps you'll mention Wrangler News to your favorite provider of quality products and services. Businesses that support

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PLAY LEARN LIVE GROW

Sports

National acclaim for Corona coaches Kelly, Martinez

By Alex Zener

Two of Corona's coaches received national recognition this week: One was selected for a lifetime achievement honor while the other was recognized by his peers nationally for his coaching at the high school level.

Corona's head track and field coach, **Tim Kelly**, who took over a waning program six years ago and turned it around winning the boys state championship in 2014, said he was surprised when notified Aug. 12 that he had been selected as the Arizona High School Track and Field Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

"I had no idea I was even up for this coach of the

year award," said Kelly. "I am tremendously honored and surprised."

The USTFCCCA has traditionally recognized only the nation's top college track and field coaches but decided this year to start recognizing the best coaches at the high school level.

Kelly is one of the first 50 boys and 50 girls high school track and field coaches, one from each state, honored by the USTFCCCA for their successes during the 2014 track and field season. These 100 coaches were selected by a committee of experts from around the country.

"Being the first coach in Arizona to receive this inaugural award makes it really special," said Kelly. "I am blessed to be recognized by the USTFCCCA and my peers."

According to the official USTFCCCA announcement, this award is the most prestigious award that a high school coach could ever attain.

Winners were selected in each state based on a number of criteria, including their team's performance over the season along with the state championship results.

Some state championship factors used in determining the selection included the number of events for which student-athletes were qualified, how many individual championships were won, the number of points and how this season's performance compared to previous years.

Corona's boys team certainly helped Kelly in this respect, qualifying athletes in every event and winning five individual state championship events



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including three races by **Nathan Rodriguez** and one by **Tevin Mayfield**, along with the third consecutive championship in the 4x800 relay race.

The boys team also amassed 89.5 points to defeat their next closest opponent, Desert Vista, by 26.9 points.

Kelly improved Corona's track and field program by not only getting more kids to come out for the team but in changing their attitude toward competing and winning. His success in doing just that is the reason he won this award but, as usual, he will say it was the kids and assistant coaches who deserve the credit.

"My thoughts go immediately to those who made this possible," said Kelly—"all six years of kids who helped build Corona's track and field program to what it is today. There are too many to name, without leaving someone out, but it was their determination, leadership and hard work that did it."

"It started that first year when we had 110 kids come out for preseason camp to the freshmen this year to the assistant coaches and parent support," said Kelly. "They are the ones who have made this program what it is."

Coach Kelly's achievements have not gone unnoticed by Corona's athletic director.

"(He) has led our kids in the classroom and in several sports over many years here at Corona," said Dan Nero. "Our track program has really blossomed with Tim and the other super-coaches in the program."

"The best news is that with his leadership and help from the other coaches, our girls team is poised to join the boys and be among the best in the state in the next couple of years."

Kelly, a Corona graduate, has been a coach and history teacher at the school for 20 years.

"I also owe this award to the people at Corona who supported me and to the kids who trusted me and who allowed me and my assistant coaches to have a positive impact in their lives," said Kelly.

The Arizona girls high school coach of the year award went to Desert Vista's Cassandra McKenzie.

Kelly and McKenzie will be up for the national high school coach of the year to be selected by a panel of experts later this month from the 50 boys and 50 girls coaches who were named coaches of the year for their individual states.

Martinez inducted into Hall of Champions — Corona's head wrestling coach **Jim Martinez** will be recognized as one of the most influential athletes in the history of Greco-Roman wrestling on Oct. 18 when he will be inducted into the Alan & Gloria Rice Greco-Roman Hall of Champions at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Dan Gable Museum in Waterloo, Iowa.



Coach Tim Kelly

The induction ceremony will be held at Kennedy Center on the campus of Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Martinez, who took over Corona's wrestling program five years ago when long-time coach **Dave Vibber** retired, has notable credentials to be a high school wrestling coach.

After a successful high school career in Minnesota, Martinez wrestled for the University of Minnesota from 1979 to 1982, during which he was named as an All-American two times and won a Big Ten Champion in 1979, which he credits as the turning point in his wrestling career.

"The summer of 1978 was a low time for me. I had quit school and almost ended my wrestling career after having a cyst removed from my neck," said Martinez. "People who cared about me were able to convince me to regain my eligibility for the winter semester."

"I went on to win the Big Ten championship that year," said Martinez. "I credit overcoming that hardship to win the championship as a turning point in my career. It gave me the confidence and belief that I could go on to win a national championship."

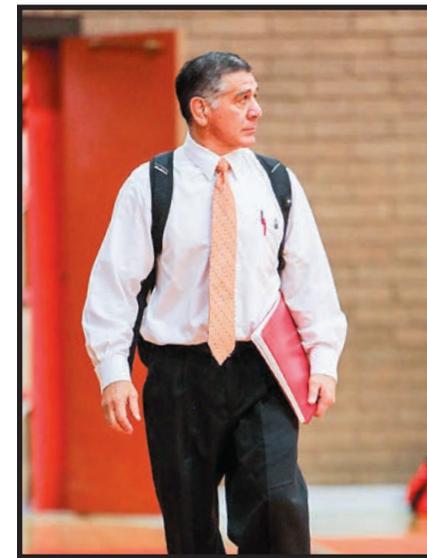
Martinez then went on to win a bronze medal at the 1984 Olympics in the 149.5-pound weight class and took third place at the 1985 World Championships in the same weight class. He also made the Greco-Roman world teams in 1983, 1986 and 1987.

"Last week was the 30th anniversary of the day that I received my bronze medal," said Martinez. "I remember, as I got up from the mat after pinning the Romanian wrestler, looking into the stands and seeing my whole family there celebrating with me."

My family was a big part of my success as a wrestler. Having them there is what made that moment so special."

As part of the fifth induction class, Martinez is being recognized as a pioneer for Greco-Roman wrestling in the United State and for pushing Greco-Roman wrestling to new heights, according to the official announcement.

"I don't believe there is any higher honor than to be recognized and included in the Hall of Champions



Coach Jim Martinez

with a group of wrestlers such as Rulon Gardner, Jeff Blatnick and Steve Fraser, all Olympic champions," said Martinez.

"It is truly an honor that humbles me."

How did Martinez, one of only 15 people to be inducted as Alan & Gloria Rice Greco-Roman Hall of Champions, end up coaching at Corona?

"We are very glad to have coach Martinez leading our

— ZENER, Page 22

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If you have any questions about my campaign, please feel to contact me at shana@shanaellis.com. I ask for your vote on or before August 26th.

Shana

Shana Ellis
for
Tempe City Council



www.shanaellis.com

Printed by Shana Ellis for Tempe City Council



Little League baseball with an international flavor unfolded at Chandler's Snedigar Sportsplex when a championship-caliber team from Tainan City, Taiwan, played Chandler's National Little League team.

Both teams competed in regional tournaments for the right to play in the annual classic Little League World series in Williamsport, Penn., but failed to advance.

Their spirits were nonetheless high, fueled by the knowledge that another opportunity to don their caps and gloves in front of cheering fans had come their way.

Chandler worked with the local Taiwanese community, the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and Governor's Office to organize the goodwill tour and cultural exchange involving the mayor of Tainan City and Tainan's Little League team. The games were free to the public.

During their visit to Arizona, the Tainan players were scheduled to engage in cultural exchanges with Chandler youth, visit several professional baseball facilities, receive recognition at a Chandler City Council meeting, tour the Grand Canyon and meet with Gov. Jan Brewer.

Chandler City Councilman Jack Sellers was on hand to greet members of the championship Little League team from Tainan City, Taiwan, who were visiting the city as part of a cultural exchange and goodwill trip. Representing the Taiwan group were Hung Jung Chinn, principal of Tainan Municipal Sie-Jin Elementary School, and Michelle Chang, president of the Taiwan Benevolent Assn. of Phoenix.

— Photo courtesy Jim Phipps, city of Chandler Public Information Office

Zener

From Page 21

wrestling program at Corona, said Corona Athletic Director **Dan Nero**.

"Jim was in private business in Minnesota and here in Arizona when Coach Vibber retired and we were fortunate to hire him. He has been a fine part of our staff in the classroom and as our head wrestling coach ever since."

Corona swim and dive team — The Aztecs return 55 swimmers and four divers from last season's team with a number of new members who are committed to improving the team's success when competitive swim meets start in early September.

"We coaches all agree that our team strength this season will be how committed and driven our team is towards achieving personal and team bests,"

said head coach Ron Musgrave.

"We feel truly blessed to be able to work with such kind, hard-working, great kids."

Spearheading this team commitment will be senior leaders **Nick Quon**, **Simon Werkhoven**, **Hannah Watts**, **Tessa Martinson**, and **Nicole Holly**.

"Our seniors are a tight group with plenty of plans to make this year their best while setting a solid example to those looking up to them," said Musgrave. "Nick, in particular, has really stepped up as a captain this year with endless ideas toward making this season better than his last three."

Nick Quon, who is predicted to once again qualify for the state tournament in the backstroke and individual medley, and his sister, **Karilyn Quon**, also predicted to once again qualify in the 500 freestyle and individual medley, will be setting examples for their younger brother, **Ben Quon**, an incoming freshman.

Musgrave is expecting **Jacob Stewart** to have dropped time off the clock in his events after spending the past nine months competing in club.

The Aztecs' weaknesses may be lack of depth unless the athletes new to the team can pick up the slack.

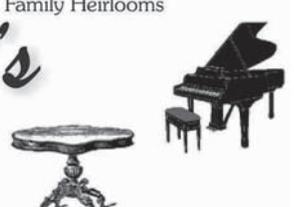
Regaining some of the points lost to graduation on the diving team may be Marcos de Niza transfer **Gabe Zeller-Lopez**.

"Our dive coach is currently hopeful that we will have quite a few new dive team members to work with this season," said Musgrave. "Gabe is very talented on and off the board, and should be a great asset to our dive team."

The Aztecs will start their season Sept. 9 at Hamilton followed by Sept. 11 at Basha before their first home meet against Marcos de Niza on Sept. 18. All home meets are at Nozomi Pool at 250 S Kyrene Road, Chandler. Most meets start at 4 unless otherwise noted.

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COVER STORY

Tempe Center for the Arts' series titled 'Summer of Love: Family, Friendship and Devotion', which will continue through Sept. 13, features colorful and endearing artworks about love created by national and local artists, both young and old. Among the young art entrepreneurs were Gabriella, left, and Lilly Sabo (cover photo), who learned how to make their own paper flowers as gifts for special loved ones.

Among other classes was instruction on making ceramic sculptures, botanical prints and drawings, children's book illustrations and contemporary paintings and installations.

The exhibition also features historical and contemporary displays about symbols of love by such prominent organizations as the Desert Botanical Garden Archives and Tempe History Museum, and by such homegrown entrepreneurs of their own artistic creations, Bobbie's Flowers of Tempe.

Artists included Gene Almendinger, Marco Albarran, Denise Currier, Esmeralda Delaney, Wendy Hodgson, Molly Idle, Sandra Luerhsen, Frank Ybarra and art students from Tempe high schools.

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



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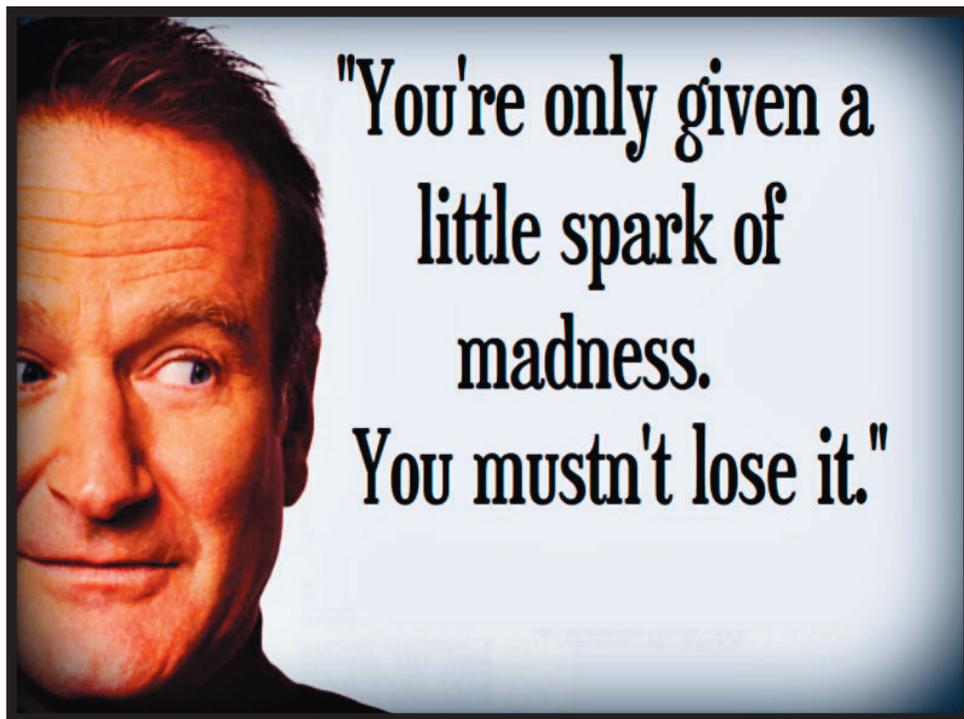
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The Last Word

A retrospective of some of Robin Williams sadly unacclaimed great films

By M.V. Moorhead



Like everyone else, I was shocked and saddened by the death of Robin Williams, apparently by his own hand, after a lifelong, off-and-on struggle with depression and addiction.

I'm a big fan, but his biggest hits—*Dead Poets Society*, *Good Will Hunting*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Good Morning, Vietnam*—aren't, on the whole, my favorites.

Some of what I think is his best, funniest, least sentimental, most ebullient work was in films that were ignored by audiences and panned by critics.

Below are some examples of the

underrated or neglected "other" Robin Williams, which I would encourage you to give another look.

The Adventures of Baron Munchhausen—In his brief role as The King of the Moon, whose head and body are disconnected, in Terry Gilliam's uneven but fascinating 1989 fantasy, Williams may have taken his fast talking, haywire routine as far as he ever did; he was like Mork squared, or like a live-action version of the Genie in *Aladdin*.

This is one of several films on which Williams worked under a pseudonym—Bob Goldthwait's notorious *Shakes the Clown* was another. Under his own name, Williams later gave an immensely

touching performance in Gilliam's *The Fisher King*.

Hamlet—Williams was just right for the foppish, fawning courtier Osric in Kenneth Branagh's full-text version of Shakespeare's masterpiece.

Pity he didn't get to do more Shakespeare. He was also excellent in a funny, quietly intense turn as the psychiatrist in Branagh's *Dead Again*.

One Hour Photo—Mark Romanek's odd little thriller about a lonely, alienated snapshot developer who becomes fixated on a seemingly picture-perfect family of customers is sad, unsavory and ultimately unsatisfying.

But Williams brings so much gravity and pathos to the part that it's essential viewing.

The Birdcage—This hilarious and sweet American version of *La Cage Aux Folles* was a hit, certainly, but much of the attention went, rightly, to Nathan Lane as Albert, the maternal drag queen.

It's possible that the quieter excellence of Williams as the father posing as straight for his conservative future in-laws was a little overlooked. His scene with Lane on a bench, while a ship passes behind them, is one of the best he ever played.

Being Human—Bill Forsythe's reincarnation drama, in which Williams played five people—or rather, the same person in five different lifetimes—doesn't quite add up, but Williams is great in all of them.

As a prehistoric man in the opening segment he has a moment, screaming "Mine! Mine!" as he sees his family being abducted, that's emotionally shattering.

Cadillac Man—Williams is a philandering, hustling car salesman who finds himself frantically trying to manage a hostage situation when jealous husband Tim Robbins brings a gun into the car dealership where he works.

This 1990 comedy with dramatic overtones from director Roger Donaldson (of the upcoming *The*

November Man) shows Williams as an irresponsible but essentially humane guy trying to stave off disaster.

Moscow on the Hudson—Williams plays a Soviet circus musician who defects in the middle of Bloomingdale's in New York in Paul Mazursky's comedy-drama. This performance was one of the first to demonstrate his remarkable range.

Popeye—Williams is buried in the title character's persona in Robert Altman's live-action version of the cartoon.

But he gives amusing, stoic line readings, and his warmth and sweetness shine through the makeup.

The Survivors—Michael Ritchie's satire of survivalists and gun nuts was poorly received, but its picture of the sort of chaotic modern life that breeds such reactionaries is mercilessly funny and original—it starts with Williams getting fired from his job by a parrot.

Williams was rarely as precise in his manic style as he is here, and he seems all the crazier with Walter Matthau as his straight man.

The Best of Times—This football comedy, directed by Roger Spottiswoode from a script by Ron Shelton, is my favorite Robin Williams movie, but it doesn't seem to be anybody else's.

It's about a group of middle-aged men who get bamboozled into replaying a high school football game in Taft, California, by the bank manager (Williams) who dropped what would have been the game-winning pass back when. Williams is at his very best here.

He never seems to be self-consciously playing the sad clown—something that, for all his great talent, he was quite capable of doing—and thus he's truly lovable and poignant. And, of course, magnificently funny.

M.V. Moorhead is a longtime contributor to Wrangler News. He was chief film critic for Phoenix New Times for 10 years and also writes regularly for Phoenix magazine.



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