

Sept. 19 - Oct. 2, 2015 • Vol. 26, No.18

# Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read Local.

## WELCOME HOME, ANDRUS

Former Corona del Sol athlete Andrus Peat returned to the Valley as a New Orleans Saint, once again wearing a #75 jersey — the same number he wore as an Aztec.

Story and  
more photos,  
Pg. 12

COVER PHOTO BY BRUCE YEUNG



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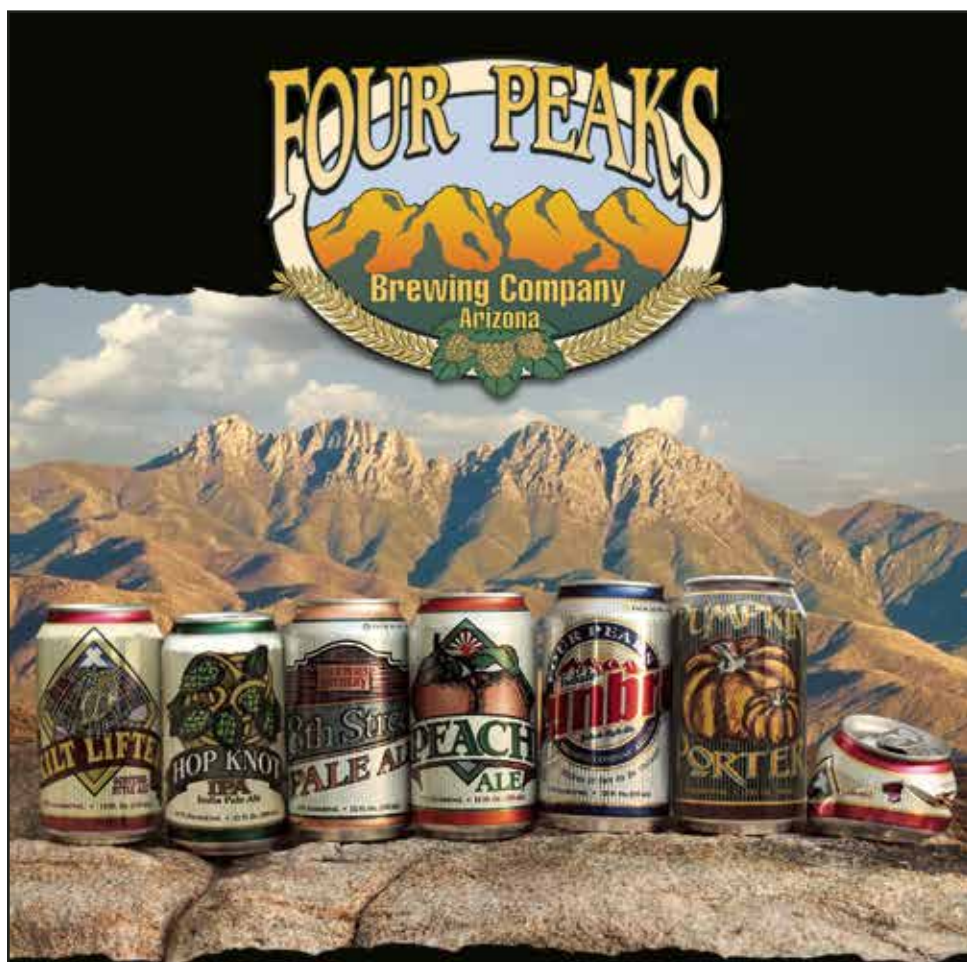
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## Transitions

### A tribute to a departing friend, plus a welcome to some new faces

For those of you who have noticed the absence of our young photographer Billy Hardiman and the appearance of some new names among our contributors, we wanted to give you a brief update.

Billy graduated from high school in May and is now enrolled as a freshman at ASU. As a result of the demands of pursuing a degree in electrical engineering, his interest in photography will be taking a back seat for a while.

While Billy indicates he will continue to do some occasional freelance work for us, it's certainly more important to him—and to us—that his energies be directed at succeeding in his chosen field.

We miss seeing Billy on his routine visits to our office, but we won't soon forget all the enduring qualities he brought to us, and always will be glad that we were able to help him navigate his way to a promising future.

We first met Billy in 2013, when his mom was still transporting him in the family van. He had come to our office

to volunteer to shoot photos for us, just to get some experience. Within just a matter of days, we became aware of the breadth of interest he had in learning and put him on salary, gave him the keys to our company car, managed to get him White House press credentials to photograph President Obama during the chief executive's visit to Desert Vista High School, even set him up on a paid-vacation schedule—one of many deserved perks that, we all knew, must have been the envy of his teenage friends.

Now that Billy is off on a new adventure, we know he'll be well positioned to concentrate on his career goals and able to save his passion for photography until it can supplement what many have told him will become an equally rewarding profession with substantially greater returns than what he might have expected behind the lens of a camera.

Should you wish to have copies of any of the photographs taken by

— TRIBUTE, Page 5



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Billy checks out the photo ops from a perch overlooking last year's fireworks display at Tempe Town Lake.  
— Wrangler News photo by (who else?) Billy Hardiman

## Tribute

From Page 4

Billy during the 2½ years he was on our payroll, feel free to email editor@wranglernews.com with your request. We have an extensive digital collection of those photos, and they are available at no charge other than a modest handling fee.

We also can provide information about the availability of Billy's Wrangler News photos through a vendor for an additional charge with many more size and print options.

With Billy's departure, we welcome a small roster of new staff contributors whose talents illustrate how we've been able to build what we hope is an earned reputation for providing quality community news.

Ana Ramirez holds a degree in photojournalism from ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She has been a photo-journalist at respected newspapers in both Texas and Arizona, with additional experience in the creation, implementation and management of social media strategies.

Alex Wagner, a longtime Warner Ranch resident, has experienced the Tempe/West Chandler community from his earliest days as a student at Mariposa Elementary and Pueblo Middle School and, ultimately, at Corona del Sol High School. He is a skilled news and feature photographer currently also pursuing a career in videography.

As Alex's talent shows up in this and future issues, you'll see evidence of a path that already appears to point in a promising direction.

Johnny Coronel, also a Corona alumnus and currently a sophomore at ASU with plans to pursue a law degree, joins us as a contributing writer with a particular focus on local government. His insight into matters politic, coupled with an analytical mind and the ability to look beyond the obvious, will give us and our readers a view that we hope will increase understanding and provoke discussion.

Kody Acevedo is currently enrolled in ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism, with specialization in sports reporting.

He served an internship at The Arizona Republic and AZCentral.com, where he handled breaking news assignments and feature stories for both print and online venues.

Kody will be writing about a wide range of topics, not the least of which will be some in-depth sports reporting involving our area high schools.

Finally, a highly regarded local professional, Bruce Yeung, brings his talents to our readers via special-assignment photos that we know will become lasting favorites.

His experience, evident in a number of national magazines, ranges from sports to weddings to graduation and family portraits, as well as to photos for a wide range of other occasions.

To all of these energetic, committed and highly motivated contributors, we offer our sincere welcome, with the desire that their work will help you to better know and appreciate our Tempe/West Chandler community.

Finally, to our good friend Billy, we offer our appreciation for him providing his talent and enthusiasm, and of course for the abundant other contributions he made during his time with us. *Carpe diem*, Billy.

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# Discovering fried green tomatoes: 'Like running into a long-lost friend'

*Our former Discerning Diner reminds us of an irresistible end-of-summer treat*

*Editor's note: Our longtime Discerning Diner has been missing in action, on these pages at least, for several years now, but we still receive requests for reprints of her columns, particularly at times of the year when readers remember her discussion of a special seasonal favorite. In this case, the request involves those end-of-summer treats called fried green tomatoes. Because our days of summer are on the wane, hopefully anyway, we retrieved one of our Discerning Diner's columns from earlier years and brought it back to life. Here's what she had to say when this column first appeared, immediately following a visit to one of our area's best known farmers markets:*

**I** took home a lot of good food that day from the market, but the highlight for me was the green tomatoes.

Have you ever had fried green tomatoes? Personally, I knew the dish as a movie long before contemplating it as something to eat.

When I finally whipped up a batch on a lark, I was delighted to discover something quite unlike anything I'd ever eaten before: pleasantly sour and almost as addictive as the eclairs I sampled at the

same event.

I think it's because fried green tomatoes *are* so distinctive that rediscovering them late each summer is like running into a long-lost friend.

And their "season" does demand a few words of explanation. Because green tomatoes are nothing exotic — just red tomatoes picked before they're ripe — they should theoretically be available before red tomatoes are.

Of course, in early summer, the promise of the first red tomatoes is irresistible, so no one's going to pick them before they're ready.

Late in the season, though, you're going to get tomatoes that just won't ripen before the first frost. And thus they're eaten green, a richly metaphoric way to end the summer.

Green tomatoes are good in chutney, as ketchup and even in green tomato pie, but their best-known preparation is fried.

Fried green tomatoes are also incredibly easy to make, so if you're lucky enough to score some green tomatoes, don't be intimidated.

Here's the drill:

Fill a frying pan with vegetable oil to the depth of a quarter-inch. Heat it over medium-high heat until the oil is very hot—as with all frying, having your oil sufficiently hot is key.

Wash and dry two green tomatoes and cut them

into slices about one-third inch thick. Use your judgment here: if the slices are too thin, they'll be mostly batter, but if they're too thick, they won't cook through.

Sprinkle the tomato slices with salt.

Spread a half-cup or so of cornmeal on a plate. (You can also use flour, but cornmeal will give a distinctive crunch.) When the oil is hot, press each side of each tomato slice into the cornmeal and quickly transfer to the frying pan.

Fry for a few minutes on each side, until the cornmeal crust is golden and crisp. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towels and sop up any excess oil.

That's it! Enjoy them immediately as is, or with lemon juice or mayonnaise to accompany.

I like serving fried green tomatoes with basil mayonnaise, which is simply mayonnaise whirled in a blender with fresh basil, freshly pressed garlic, lemon juice and salt. If the mayonnaise is homemade, so much the better.

Fried tomatoes also make killer sandwiches, a la the vegetarian cookbook author Deborah Madison. To make them, spread slices of good, crusty bread with mayonnaise, top with fried green tomatoes and eat at once.

Bye bye summer, hello nirvana.





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# Kyrene studies validate achievement lapses among minorities; new approach could set a benchmark

By Diana Whittle

The Kyrene School District has a reputation for innovation and high academic outcomes. Now, it hopes to build on that status by being first in the state to also focus on educational equity.

Recent internal data show that success in learning doesn't come easily for all children—particularly when divided by racial and ethnic backgrounds or a lack of English-language proficiency.

In both reading and math scores, Hispanics, Blacks and Native Americans showed achievement gaps when compared with White or Asian students.

It's a statistic that administrators hope to reverse by adopting a new Equity Strategic Plan that will help to ensure educational equity.

Jim Verrill, the district's new director of instructional resources, led a presentation to the Governing Board to introduce the new instructional concept.

The central concept of the plan is to provide research-based instructional strategies that assist teachers in closing students' achievement gaps or learning barriers.

Verrill says that by implementing the equity model, the district will be taking a strategic approach to develop more personalized learning opportunities.

"We want to make sure that practices are in place to support learning for all students—regardless of social predictors such as race, socio-economic status, language proficiency or disability," said Verrill.

The Equity Strategic Plan was inspired by the work of the Equity Team, an ongoing group of staff that has been in place in Kyrene for the past several years, under the leadership of Dr. Adama Sallou.

As the assistant director of equity for the district, Sallou says her role is "to focus on issues of supporting all students to have high-quality experiences and to help staff to understand the different needs of students coming from varied backgrounds."

The new concepts of equity education will become part of the district's Strategic Blueprint, which is a document that outlines the districts' priorities in instruction.

While some barriers that students face are beyond the control of the classroom, embracing the learning needs of an increasingly diverse community of students, to ensure both academic achievement and personal growth for every student, must become a priority, stressed Sallou.

"The Equity Team reviewed research in the field and other districts around the country, who also exhibit gaps in student achievement," said Sallou.

Arizona is similar to districts in other border states, including Texas and California, where the enrollment numbers show a "majority minority" student body.

It takes courage for Kyrene to recognize a challenge in the district and to create a new discourse to say all students are capable of improving their academic achievement, said Sallou.

Once the proposed equity plan is implemented, it is expected to close the achievement gap by three percent every year.

Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David Schauer says that the state doesn't release data on student achievement by race, so Kyrene will be a trend-setting district by undertaking this work.

"I expect we will be looked to as an example of the need for equal instruction for minority students," Schauer said at the board meeting.



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# Making a difference

## 15 years later, Children's Cancer Network thrives as a potent source of help, hope

Story and photo by Joyce Coronel

**P**atti Lutrell knows too well the agony that rends a parent's heart when a cancer diagnosis is made. When her son Jeff was 5 years old, he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Out of this nightmare was born an organization that brings hope, help and healing to families in similar straits.

The Children's Cancer Network features innovative programming and activities, like an afternoon dubbed "Superhero Fort Building." Kids with cancer gathered at the organization's West Chandler headquarters to build forts and win prizes. The event took place during National Childhood Cancer Awareness month, which

continues through September.

"It's a family event to celebrate cancer awareness and bring families together, to create positive memories and have a lot of fun," Lutrell said, but it's what goes on behind the scenes that's key.

As the kids are playing, she's watching the parents talk. A father who's active in the group was connecting with a mom whose child's cancer journey has just begun. It's moments like these that make Children's Cancer Network so unique.

The seeds for the group were planted in 2000 when Lutrell's son was receiving a bone marrow transplant at the University of Arizona Medical



Patti Lutrell, left, with Brenda Vanderbur, a partner in cancer collaborative.

Center. A girl in the next room died, and her family didn't have enough money to buy gas for the return trip to Phoenix.

It's not an uncommon scenario. Cancer is a catastrophic illness that quickly drains a family's financial resources. Items like fuel and groceries add up, and families often come up short.

"My daughter Jenny, who was just 16 at the time, was blown away by that—a family, after going through so much and having to worry about something like money to put gas in their car. So she told me that night that we were going to make a difference," Lutrell said.

When Jenny was a senior at Corona del Sol High School, Children's Cancer

**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.

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Network held its first fashion show-luncheon and auction.

"It was her vision that kids would be part of the solution for helping other families and that would be part of their healing, so that's still our signature event today," Lutrell said. "That first year we raised about \$10,000." Funds were split between helping patients in the bone-marrow units at UA Medical Center and Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Now 27, Jeff Lutrell is a student at The Art Institute of Phoenix and three classes away from graduation. It's been a roller coaster of a journey, Lutrell says. Jeff has had both recurrences of leukemia and secondary cancers, but for now, he's doing well.

Brenda Vanderbur remembers attending the fashion show 10 years ago, when the organization was taking root.

"You go and think, 'Oh, yeah, I'm helping.' You never think it's going to be you that's going to need help."

But in 2014, it was Brenda who turned to Children's Cancer Network for support. Her son Ridge, a Corona student, was diagnosed with leukemia. She and her husband were taking turns staying with Ridge around the clock, and that meant lots of daily trips from their West Chandler neighborhood to Phoenix Children's Hospital and, later, to Mayo Clinic Hospital in the far north Valley. Ridge was hospitalized for eight months, and all that

driving added up to a lot of trips to the gas station, too.

At Phoenix Children's, the family received an admission bag from Children's Cancer Network. The bag contained a gas card and other essentials, plus contact information for Lutrell.

Brenda remembers that first call.

"I called her and I couldn't even talk," Brenda said. "She answered the phone and I totally just started blubbering—I couldn't even speak. She said, 'This must be a mom that's new to cancer.'"

That's how the friendship between the two women began. These days Brenda finds herself volunteering to help other families.

"I had somebody to cry my heart out to that understood, and we developed this relationship. The support...I really can't even explain how much it means to talk to somebody who's been there and understands," Brenda said.

"I think that's why I feel the need to be involved and to give back to help others. You find healing sometimes that way, in helping others and in sharing your story."

Lutrell says it's those connections between parents that make Children's Cancer Network so special.

One family turned to the organization for help after their insurance company denied coverage for treatment at a Houston-area hospital. They were able to receive gas money for the father and brother to

make the drive, and Lutrell is still working on getting airfare for the girl to make the trip. Meanwhile, she's introduced them to families who have already completed treatment.

"Prior to meeting other families, you feel like you're really alone. And you don't ever want anyone to feel that they're alone. You want to make sure they know that's there's a listening ear and resources and help," Lutrell said—even after the cancer journey takes a terrible twist.

Sometimes, there isn't a cure. Sometimes, the cancer kills.

After a courageous struggle, Ridge passed away last April. Brenda said she's grateful for the outpouring of community support and especially for the support of the Children's Cancer Network.

The organization has given \$70,000 in gas and food gift cards so far this year. They've also been approved as a charitable organization for Arizona's tax credit.

That means taxpayers in Arizona who file singly can give up to \$200. For a couple, the credit is up to \$400.

"People who have not been through it, they sympathize, but you can't get the full magnitude of it unless you've (been in a similar situation)," Vanderbur said. "That is what's so helpful — the support from people who have been there and walked that walk." For more information or to volunteer, call 602-717-9139 or visit [ChildrensCancerNetwork.org](http://ChildrensCancerNetwork.org).



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<b>Oct. 9</b>	<b>Big Hero 6</b>	<b>PG</b>
<b>Oct. 16</b>	<b>Strange Magic</b>	<b>PG</b>
<b>Oct. 23</b>	<b>Paddington</b>	<b>PG</b>



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Your family will have a bewitching good time at Tempe's 38th Annual Family Halloween Carnival. The event features carnival games, live entertainment, face painting, food booths, train rides, inflatables, "Tot Town" a toddler friendly play area and more!

Be sure to dress up and participate in the annual Halloween costume contest.

**Admission to the Family Halloween Carnival is free.**  
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# Beautifying their high school campus is the goal of 'Leave your Mark with the Arts' visionaries

By Deborah Hilcove

At Tempe's Corona del Sol High School, a sand volleyball court is being transformed into an outdoor art gallery.

Located mid-campus, the abandoned court and surrounding area became an eyesore with drainage problems during torrential monsoons, and posed potential health hazards.

Two art teachers—Brynne Evans and Megan Knight—envisioned a more beautiful campus and a permanent showcase for student art.

With design and project supervision donated by Tom Brown and John Kane of Tempe-based Architekton, an award-winning architectural design firm, the idea for an environmentally friendly and sustainable structure is taking shape.

The first phase was completed during the summer. Sand was removed, drainage pumps installed and a concrete foundation laid. A concrete platform was built for staging performance art, dance, drama and music productions.

Originality and sustainability are hallmarks of Architekton.

Working with recycled materials and incorporating an open design ensures that functionality and aesthetics are balanced with cost effectiveness.

Evans and Knight note that the concrete area can be hosed clean and the openness precludes air conditioning. Gesturing toward the concrete's perimeter, Evans says, "Those are reclaimed bricks from another campus renovation. They're part of our

fundraiser, 'Leave Your Mark with the Arts,' and can be personalized."

The second phase is shown in an architectural rendering. Tall, evenly spaced steel rods, forming picket-like partitions, hold Plexiglas cases for artwork. Although solar lighting is primary, electrical



outlets allow sound systems, special stage lighting and technology applications. Three canvas sails float over the pavilion, providing shade and weather protection, as well as creating shadow patterns—what Frank Lloyd Wright called "eye music."

Concrete benches will provide seating, encouraging informal chats, as well as supervised classroom research and assignments. For example, math, science and sustainability classes might examine the unique design of the structure and

its cost effectiveness or study the solar lighting or analyze wind speed to test the shade sails. English classes might create poetry or write essays on sustainability or perhaps compare and contrast the pavilion and adjacent brick buildings. Social science classes may discuss community responsibility, green building, and ecological stewardship. Other classes might be encouraged to interpret the structure through music and dance.

However, before this second phase can proceed, the Fine Arts Department must raise \$30,000 for materials. It's a daunting task, and community support is much needed and appreciated.

Students have designed T-shirts proclaiming, "I Heart Art." The fundraising campaign, "Leave Your Mark with the Arts" is underway, too. Continuing the theme of "reuse and recycle," reclaimed bricks will be inscribed and personalized by Striking Stone, a Phoenix company.

The \$50 Crown bricks have been installed around the gallery perimeter and the \$100 Aztec bricks will surround the center stage.

"This will be a space that showcases and inspires our visual arts students," said Evans, noting that the fundraiser "allows everyone to be included in the project."

And the final phase? Evans smiled, "We're targeting May for an inaugural student art show."

Information: Corona del Sol Outdoor Art Gallery Facebook page or [www.tempeunion.org](http://www.tempeunion.org).

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Mariposa's  
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Hat Day

Wrangler News photo essay by Ana Ramirez

Kyrene de la Mariposa Elementary School first grader Natalia Hoffman showed off her Ninja Turtles loyalty while spinning a mean hula hoop.



Third graders Alex Gurney, M.J. Jamanlia and Christopher Buck obviously didn't hesitate to get into the mood of the celebration.



First grader Jadyn Gillenwater wore a red hat covered in multi-colored fluff balls, which may (or may not) have appealed to the fashion preferences of at least one bystander.



# Cover story

## For a high school hero, a return to the place he still can call home

Story by Kody Acevedo

Photos by Bruce Yeung

In fall 2011, Andrus Peat dressed in Corona del Sol's orange, yellow and black every Friday night as a member of the Aztec football team. Four years later, he returned to the Valley from his new NFL home to play football, this time sporting black, white and gold—the colors of the New Orleans Saints.

Peat's football career came full circle at University of Phoenix Stadium Sunday when the East Valley native made his debut in New Orleans' 31-19 loss to the Arizona Cardinals.

Although local fans had hoped for more, Peat's role in Sunday's game didn't amount to much. He played a few snaps as an additional offensive lineman in short-yardage situations. But, best of all, he played in front of his friends and family just minutes away from his high school alma mater.

Corona del Sol Assistant Principal of Athletics Dan Nero said the school is proud to call Peat an alum. He said Peat is someone kids can look up to, not only as a player but also as a gentleman.

"It sure does give a boost to our football program to have an NFL player drafted in the first round," Nero said. "It's always nice to have someone like that be recognized as an Aztec alum."

Nero said Peat's talents were well recognized during his time at Corona.

"He was very quiet, polite and soft spoken, but when he got his 'motor' running—watch out," Nero said. "By sheer size, yes, he had college and pro football as a possible future."

Arizona State University Student Nick Marciano, who graduated from Corona a year after Peat,



Andrus Peat, No. 75, demonstrates how his 6-7, 316-pound stature gives him plenty of power to get the job done.



Peat, No. 75, was no stranger to Saints quarterback Drew Brees, No. 9, also a Stanford University alumnus.

— Continued on the facing page



**"A great family supporting him, good fortune not having any major injuries, and a ton of hard work and dedication has had awesome results.**

**Asst. Principal for Athletics Dan Nero**

.....

remembered Peat as one of the nice guys.

"He was a big, gentle giant who wouldn't say much," Marciano said. "He was very humble."

Marciano added that Peat's performance on the field kept the crowds coming to watch the Aztecs every Friday night.

"We didn't have the best high school football team, so he helped keep a lot of people from getting disinterested," Marciano said. "It was insane to see how big Andrus was compared to other high school players."

Peat, who measures 6 feet 7 inches tall and weighs in at 316, was rated as a five-star college prospect by Rivals, a sports site dedicated to covering college recruits, during his time at Corona. He was named a USA Today All-American and received the Frank Kush Lineman of the Year award.

After graduating from Corona in 2012, Peat went on

to have a successful college career with the Stanford Cardinal. He played in 13 games his freshman season, during which he averaged 20 snaps a game at left tackle.

In 2013, Peat played in every game and was chosen to the All-Pac-12 second team. He was also voted the team's Most Outstanding Sophomore.

Last year, Peat was voted second-team All-American by the Associated Press in what would be his final season with the Cardinal.

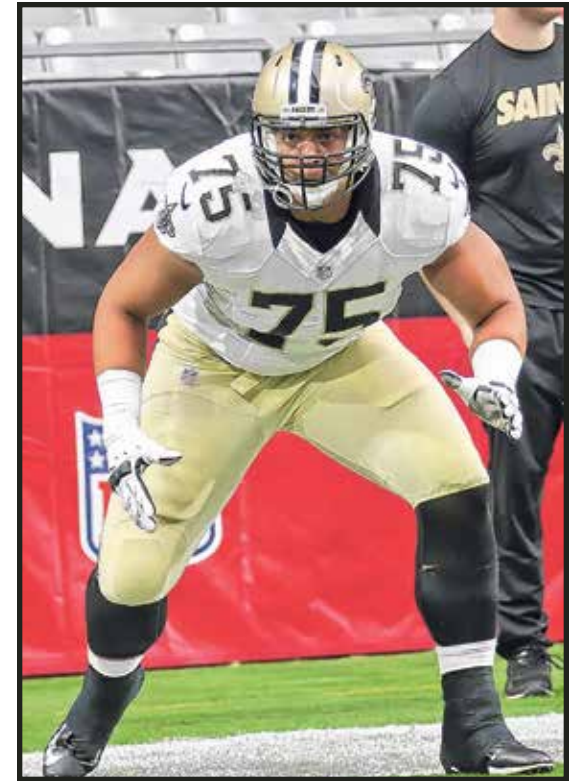
He opted out of his senior year to enter the NFL draft. At the time, Peat said it was a long and hard decision, but he was ready to take the next big step in his life. Peat was selected by the Saints in the first round of the 2015 NFL Draft as the 13th overall pick. Nero said it's extremely rare to see someone be as successful as Peat.

"The stats I have heard are remarkable—less than five percent of high school players make it to Division I college football, let alone a great institution like Stanford," Nero said.

For Peat, football runs in his veins. His father, Todd, played six seasons in the NFL with the St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals and the Los Angeles Raiders in a career that spanned 1987 to 1993. His brother, Todd Jr., played football for the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers as well as high school football at Corona. Nero said the Peat family has helped build a strong foundation for Andrus' young career.

"A great family supporting him, good fortune not having any major injuries, and a ton of hard work and dedication has had awesome results," Nero said.

**Andrus Peat: A 'big, gentle giant.' But don't tell his NFL team opponents.**



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Chandler Mayor  
Jay Tibshraeny





# Tempe Action agency's I-HELP initiative brings dignity to area homeless



You've seen them on street corners around town: faces lined with care, holding cardboard signs. Those who are homeless often look defeated.

The East Valley's I-HELP program, an outreach of Tempe Community Action Agency, is making a difference in the lives of area homeless with an innovative way of restoring dignity and hope.

The I-HELP program provides the only homeless shelter in the city limits and acts as a safety net for those with nowhere else to turn.

One such individual, Antonio, is an example of how the program can help rebuild lives.

Antonio found himself homeless after a bout with cancer and two years of chemo and radiation treatment left

him unable to hold a fulltime job.

That, coupled with some poor financial choices, led to a dwindling bank account. He used funds he'd inherited to pay for the medical costs that insurance didn't cover—but that left him broke.

The next thing Antonio knew, he was being evicted from his apartment in Casa Grande.

He'd beaten the cancer and managed to find a job in Tempe, but it wasn't a realistic commute. Antonio managed to stay in a hotel for two weeks, but when the money ran out he wound up sleeping in his car, where he fell victim to pneumonia and bronchitis.

Completely out of options, he turned to I-HELP for assistance.

There, case managers helped him with shelter, showers, food and financial-management skills. Within a couple of months, Antonio became the head peer monitor of the shelter program.

He helped with daily activities, assigning chores, handling intake paperwork and bag checks, and more. Next, he attended a 12-hour course of "Train the Trainer" for financial literacy. He began holding bimonthly classes on what he learned in the course, along with weekly classes

on encouragement and the responsibilities of being in the I-HELP program.

After seven months, Antonio began preparing to leave the program and was able to transition out of the shelter services and into his own apartment.

Today, say I-Help counselors, Antonio is still living on his own and is doing well. He and members of his local church congregation are now meal providers who come to I-HELP to serve dinners for the clients.

"I-HELP allowed me to maintain my full-time employment and obtain a place I call home with restored dignity," Antonio said.

"My experience at I-HELP was cathartic and changed my perception of being homeless."

To assist I-HELP in its work to transform the lives of area homeless, an Oct. 23 event is being held at the Four Peaks Tasting Room, 2401 S. Wilson St., 6-9 p.m.

The festive party brings together Tempe leaders, residents and business owners for an evening of food and drink as well as musical entertainment by Walt Richardson. Tickets are \$85 now through Sept. 30 and \$100 beginning Oct. 1.

Information: [tempeaction.org](http://tempeaction.org)

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# Diversions

## At Childsplay's Wayside School, the fun promises to be 30 stories high

By M.V. Moorhead

The academic year is well underway, and if your kids are having a hard time adjusting to their school, maybe they need a taste of Wayside School to put things in perspective.

After all, Wayside School is 30 stories high (though it has no 19th floor), with only one classroom per floor.

More disturbingly than this architectural eccentricity, however, is the ability of a certain teacher to change misbehaving students into apples.

Dreamed up back in the late '70s by children's author Louis Sachar, Wayside School has been chronicled in three popular books for children, notably *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* (1978), *Wayside School is Falling Down* (1989) and the impossible-sounding *Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger* (1995).

Sachar also created two whimsical math-related volumes, *Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School* (1989) and *More Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School* (1994).

Now Valley audiences can savor the strangeness of Wayside School as live theater, when Childsplay presents John Olive's theatrical adaptation of *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*.

The production, which features such Valley vets as Katie McFadden, Debra K. Stevens and Angelica Howland, "combines elements from different books," according to director Dwayne Hartford, though it takes its title from the first of the three tomes.

"The world of *Sideways Stories* is weird and wacky. Trying to create some of those moments is challenging," admits Hartford.

"We spent a bit of time trying to figure out how to show Miss Zarves. I think our ultimate solution, while different from the book's, will be appropriately fun, weird and just a little bit scary."

Hartford has been solving theatrical challenges for 23 years at Childsplay, where he is Associate Artist and Playwright in Residence.

The Maine native studied musical theater at the Boston Conservatory and directing at Boston University, and his own plays, which range from the

teen-suicide drama *Eric & Elliot* to the WWII-era drama *The Color of Stars* to a stage version of *A Tale of Two Cities* to the musical *Rock the Presidents*, have been produced throughout the country.

Having spent so much of his career in the children's-theater field, Hartford has come to appreciate its advantages.

"What I love most about performing for young audiences is that young people are very honest. You know very quickly if they are into the show."

This tough honesty is balanced, however, says Hartford, by an uninhibited imagination and responsiveness that adult audiences may lack—and that is a particular asset for visitors to the bizarre world of Wayside School.

Young theatergoers, says Hartford, "are very willing to go wherever the story takes them. I feel privileged to be able to create theatre for this audience."

*Sideways Stories from Wayside School* is recommended for audiences 6 years old and up.

It runs Saturdays at 1 and 4 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 18.

Call 480-350-2829 or go to [tca.ticketforce.com](http://tca.ticketforce.com) for details.

### Free Chandler Art Walk invites zombie wannabes

Downtown Chandler will look like something out of a Stephen King novel at the upcoming Third Friday Chandler Art Walk on Friday, Oct. 16. Guests are encouraged to dress like zombies, and complimentary face painting will be provided by artists dressed as the Frozen princess Elsa and the conquering hero Captain America.

Among the clamor of the live music and shuffling of zombie feet, guests will find Valley artists selling their handcrafted wares. Guests can expect to find wooden pieces, paintings, jewelry and pottery.

The family-friendly event is free to the public, and is hosted by Downtown Chandler Community Partnership.

The event starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 10, with face painting lasting from 6 to 9 p.m. Location for the event is AJ Chandler Park (west), 3 S. Arizona Ave..

Information: [www.downtownchandler.org](http://www.downtownchandler.org) or email Karli@downtownchandler.org.





Aztecs' first home game of the 2015 season yielded a win over St. Mary's, a victory that was to set the stage for what seems to be emerging as a potentially winning season. Coverage, pages 17 & 18.

*Sounds like a case of deja vu all over again*

## Seven-year drought ends for Aztecs with 9/11 defeat of Buena

Report by Alex Zener  
Photo by Kris Cartwright

**I**t has been seven long years since Corona's football team felt the way they did after defeating Buena 49-3 on Friday, Sept. 11, to start the 2015 season 3-0. Coincidentally, that historical year, 2008, was the last time the Aztecs had a winning season.

Defeating Buena gave the team that special feeling which previous players, who had been part of six losing teams and three changes in coaching staffs after longtime mentor **Gary Venturo** retired, yearned for but wondered if it would ever happen again.

Many who witnessed the decline of Corona's once-proud football program felt the beginning of a transformation, as well — especially after going 1-9 last season with then-new head coach **Cory Nenaber**. What a difference a year makes.

"Going 3-0 has been a great start to the season," said Nenaber. "I am so proud of how hard our kids have played and that they are seeing the benefits of all the hard work in the off-season."

When Corona defeated Westwood 35-7 in the first game of the season, the players were feeling good

and fans were pleasantly surprised. When the Aztecs defeated then-undefeated St. Mary's in their second game, 55-26, after scoring 49 unanswered points due to an incredible defensive effort, the players' confidence started to grow and others outside the program started to take notice. (*See additional coverage on page 18*).

When Corona led 42-0 with 11 minutes to go in the third quarter against Buena, the players were ecstatic, and the fans, many of whom endured a long bus ride to Sierra Vista only to wait another 90 minutes for the game, delayed by lightning, to start, couldn't stop smiling.

The Aztecs, who dominated from the first kickoff to the final whistle, needed only 39 plays and 17 first downs to score seven touchdowns, three by **Cameron Brice**, the team leader in points per game, and two by **Jacob Goodwin**, one rushing and one through the air from senior quarterback **Austin Freese**.

**Mason Carroll** and **Jalen Bryant** scored the other two rushing touchdowns while **Austin Delaney** scored the first six point-after-kick points and **Paul Da Rosa** kicked through the goalposts the

last one.

The Aztecs moved the ball on the ground so well that quarterback Austin Freese only attempted eight passes, completing five, including a 57-yard pass caught by Goodwin to score a touchdown. **Jacob Rose** caught two passes for 27 yards while **Dylan Freese** and **Kaden Carter** each caught one.

The Aztecs have a bevy of running backs who were successful rushing the ball against Buena for a total of 370 yards on 25 carries or an average of almost 15 yards a carry. Besides Goodwin, Carroll, Bryant and Brice, who each scored rushing touchdowns, **Hunter Olson** and **Riley Breiten** both were credited with rushing yardage.

The defense, which has been on fire since the season started, once again played exceptionally well against Buena, recording 85 tackles, four sacks and a blocked field goal.

"Our defense has been spectacular so far this season," said Nenaber.

Brice led the team with nine solo tackles and three assists for a total of 12 tackles against Buena. **Alex Sheppard** and **Logan Hatton** each had four solo



## Sports

From Page 17

tackles and three assists for a total of seven tackles, while **Kress Jacob** and **Kobee Marion** had six total tackles each.

**Daunte McEwen**, the team's sack leader averaging two sacks a game, was credited with one of the four times Buena's quarterback was sacked behind the line of scrimmage. **Riley Burgmeirer**, **Logan Smith** and **Brandan Arrington** each had a sack.

When the Colts got close enough to score, Corona's defense stopped them cold. McEwen even fought through their front line to block one of Buena's field goal attempts.

The Aztecs, one of the three unbeaten teams in Division II, have been moving up the rankings after every win, but will probably need to win a few more games and earn more respect to break into the top 10.

Corona was due to face off against Tucson's Sahuaro High School at home Sept. 18. The Cougars, currently 2-1, will give the Aztecs another chance to build their confidence and move up in the rankings before competing against their Section V opponents starting in mid-October.

### Marcos de Niza Football

The Padres bounced back after losing their first game to Division I opponent Mountain Pointe to go 3-1, after defeating McClintock 49-7, Tempe 22-14 and last week Cienega 49-6, and break into the top five rankings in Division II.

Marcos scored 34 unanswered points in the first three quarters before the Bobcats were able to score a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Quarterback **Nazareth Greer** had a good night, completing 12 of 22 passes for 285 yards resulting in one touchdown caught by **Shaun Richards**. Greer rushed for two more touchdowns and Richards ran in his second opportunity of the game.

Juniors **Zyayre Moss** and **Marcus Naisant** scored the other two rushing touchdowns, while senior **Avery Sanders** led the team in rushing yardage with 58 yards in five carries.

Richards was the leading receiver with 154 yards on five passes, with the longest reception of 62 yards. **Trysten Griffith** and **Montre Williams** each caught two passes for 25 and 59 total yards respectively.

The Padres were scheduled to host Deer Valley at home on Sept. 18. The Skyhawks should be fired up to play after their most recent 42-7 loss to Westview. On Sept. 25, Marcos will be

at Glendale Mountain Ridge.

### Tempe Football

The Buffaloes responded with a solid 21-7 win against Desert View in an away game Sept. 11 after losing to Marcos de Niza 22-14 the week before.

Quarterback **Damian Triana** completed seven of 13 attempts including his longest, a 95-yard reception by **DeAndre Hughes** in the first quarter, to put Tempe up 7-0.

After Desert Vista answered with seven points of its own, Triana connected with **Bilal Muhammad** for a 14-yard reception just before half time to once again take a seven-point lead at 14-7.

After holding the Jaguars scoreless in the third quarter, **Miguel Mendoza** ran the ball in from one yard out early in the fourth quarter to score Tempe's third touchdown of the game resulting in a 14 point lead.

**Travis James** and Triana led the team in rushing yards with 61 and 57 yards respectively for the game while **Donnell Card** broke away for a 25-yard gain on the ground.

**Johnathan Ibarra** connected on all three point-after kicks.

The defense played well against Desert View, especially when they gave the offense a boost on three occasions with interceptions by **Bobby Manning**, **Derrieon Wheaton** and **Muhammad**.

**Joey Savage** was named Player of the Game for his defense, including nine solo and seven assisted tackles to total 16 tackles, four of which resulted in a loss of yardage, and one quarterback sack.

Other players with solid defensive games included Hughes with 9 tackles, **My-King Johnson** with 8 tackles and two quarterback sacks and **Jordan Davis** with 7 total tackles. **Alejandro Castro** was credited with the fourth quarterback sack of the game.

**Andrew Coronado** was named the other Player of the Game for his play on special teams.

Tempe was scheduled to play Marana at home Sept. 18 before playing at Maricopa on Sept. 25.

### Corona Swim and Dive Team

The Aztecs, who easily won their first swim meet Sept. 3 against Saguaro and Coronado, may be already seeing the advantage of having the largest number of athletes come out for the team since coach **Ron Musgrave** took over in 2012.

"We have 95 swimmers and divers on the team this year," said Musgrave. "We are very encouraged by the

returning athletes and the 37 new athletes to our program."

Returning swimmers expected to continue having an impact on the program include seniors **Karilyn Quon**, **Bryce Arrington**, **Simon Werkhoven** and **Andy Zhou**, juniors **Jacob Stewart** and **Kalie Allen** and sophomore **Ben Quon**.

"Karilyn has been a big part of Corona's team since she started as a freshman," said Musgrave. "I expect her to participate in several events and by the time state rolls around determine which events she wants to swim including the 500 freestyle, 200 IM and 100 backstroke."

Werkhoven, who was a state qualifier in the 100 breaststroke last year along with teammate Zhou also swims the 200 freestyle.

"Bryce Arrington only started swimming with us last season but has already dropped significant time in his 50 and 100 freestyle events," said Musgrave. "I expect him to be a contender at state for both individual and relay events."

Musgrave is expecting Stewart to be a major factor qualifying in the 500 and 100 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke at state while Allen should qualify for the 100 breaststroke and 100 fly.

"Ben is the third Quon sibling to swim at Corona," said Musgrave. "I expect him to qualify and have his choice of events to swim at state, including the 50, 200 and 500 freestyle and 200 IM."

The best diver on the team this season is **Warren McElroy**, who should be in competition for the state title, according to Musgrave.

Werkhoven, Arrington, **Justin Caccamo**, Karilyn Quon, **Nicole Oberbilig** and **Carson Pyatt** are the senior captions expected to help Musgrave and assistant coaches **Mike Herrmann**, **Lori Schmidt** and dive coach **Mike Floyd** work with the newcomers.

"We have an exciting group of freshman swimmers to watch mature and decide on their favorite events," said Musgrave. "**Dylan Edge**, **Reese Latto**, **Nick Canney** plus twins **Haley** and **Zoe Johnson**."

Haley and Zoe are freestylers who should be valuable in our 50 and 100 freestyle events and relays."

Corona was scheduled to compete at Gilbert Sept. 17 and in the Chandler Invitational Sept. 19. Chandler and Gilbert are the two teams Musgrave thinks should be the Aztecs main competition this season.

Up next the teams will be at Chandler Sept. 24, at home against McClintock Sept. 30 before competing in the Brophy Invitational Oct. 3.

## Commentary

# Aztecs 'ready for prime time' as season evolves

By Kody Acevedo

For the Corona del Sol Aztecs, their Sept. 4th 55-26 victory over the St. Mary's Knights scored more than just another win: it marked a moment in history.

The win over the Knights propelled the Aztecs to start the season 2-0, something they haven't accomplished since 2008 when they finished the year 9-3. Since then, they have not won more than five games in a single season.

Last year, Head Coach Cory Nenaber's team started the season in DI with a 30-27 win over Sierra Vista Buena. They went on to lose every game after that and finished the year 1-9.

After switching to DII in the offseason, the Aztecs knew they could be a better team. They went to work immediately out of the gate, picking up a 35-7 win over Westwood on Aug. 28 to start the season. The following week, Corona shifted its attention to St. Mary's.

By game night, the Aztecs were ready for primetime. Their performance proved they could be a winning program once again.

"I thought we played really well for three quarters," Nenaber said when asked about his team's performance. "I was really proud about how fast and how physical we played tonight."

The game started with a bang for the Aztecs.

In the first few minutes, Knights junior quarterback Erik Espinoza threw an interception to Corona sophomore cornerback Kobee Marion.

The Aztecs offense took full advantage of the great field position. Senior quarterback Austin Freese immediately handed the ball off to junior Cameron Brice who scored the first touchdown of the night.

"Getting pressure on [Espinoza] was definitely key," Nenaber said. "We knew that was going to be important."

The Aztecs didn't stop there. Senior linebacker Cade Kieffer intercepted the ball on the Knight's following drive and got the Aztecs within striking distance yet again. Corona managed to make its way back into the end zone and took a 14-0 lead.

On the Knight's following drive,

— Continued on the next page



Corona senior cornerback Jacob Onofrio picked off a bad Espinoza pass and ran it 35 yards for a touchdown to give the Aztecs a 21-0 lead with six minutes left in the first quarter. "To intercept the ball and take it to the house or to the one [yard line], I mean it's huge when you can start inside your own five multiple times in the first quarter," Nenaber said.

That six-minute period defined the entire night for the Aztecs. They ran with their lead and left the Knights in the dust.

"I'm really happy for our kids," Nenaber said. "They've put in so much work and I'm just really happy for them. They are starting to see the rewards."

The Aztecs were beaming with excitement down on the field after the game.

Senior tight end Riley Burgmeirer said he was still trying to process the thought of being 2-0.

"It's still kicking in," Burgmeirer said. "We had a great week of practice and our coaches really did a great job preparing us for this game."

The Aztecs offense ran the ball in the end zone four times and completed two touchdown passes. One of those passes was caught by senior wide receiver Dylan Freese, brother of quarterback Austin Freese.

Dylan said he was happy to share the touchdown and the win with his brother.

"It's cool, we've been doing it together for a while," Dylan said.

"Before high school we would mess around at the park together, it's just pretty cool."

While it's still early in the season, the Aztecs are riding high. All they want is for their school to be proud of them.

"We want to make this community and this school proud, and I think we are on the way to doing that," Nenaber said.

"Tonight was a really good night for us."

## St. Andrew to host health, wellness expo

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Faith Community will host its fifth Health & Wellness Expo from 4:30-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11.

The free event will feature more than 30 booths covering a range of health and wellness topics.

Demonstrations, massages, informational handouts, treats and door prizes will be available, and parish nurses will provide free blood pressure screenings.


Flu shots will be available at the Walgreen's booth. More than 3,000 people are expected to attend.

Booths will feature local businesses and non-profits, as well as diagnostic facilities, various medical doctors, chiropractic entities, massage therapists, insurance representatives and other health and wellness providers.

Whole Foods will offer healthy samples and cooking presentations.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Faith Community is a parish of more than 4,700 registered families and is located at 3450 W. Ray Road, Chandler.

Information: 480-899-1990 x136 or [www.standrewchandler.com](http://www.standrewchandler.com).



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Watch our next issue for news about the Contreras Agency's Saturday, Oct. 17, Pumpkin Patch celebration. 9 a.m. to noon at Contreras State Farm offices, 2145 E. Warner Road, Tempe.

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## Casting an eye for veterans

Tempe resident Carly Leonard, a U.S. Air Force veteran and staff member at Mesa Community College's Veterans Service Center, chats it up with a participant in the 32-mile roundtrip ride that began at MCC's main campus at Dobson Road and Southern Avenue, and stretched all the way to the college's Red Mountain campus and back. The day began with opening ceremonies and featured a shorter 5k run/walk/ride, also at the Dobson Road campus. Members of the public, alongside students, faculty and staff, took part in a day of musical entertainment, food, service-dog demonstrations and activities for children, including bounce houses and a rock gym. The Phoenix Veteran's Administration Health Care System partnered with MCC for the event, and staff shared information on eligibility and enrollment for health care services.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex Walker

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# City of Chandler NEWS+Events

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

## Celebrate rich Hispanic and Native American cultures

Chandler residents are invited to come experience Chandler's Native American and Hispanic traditions this fall at a variety of cultural events. Mark your calendar for the Downtown Chandler Art Walk from 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18. The City is joining the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership and has added mariachi music, ballet folklórico dancers, food and a variety of art vendors in addition to the traditional Friday Art Walk line-up.

Chandler also is the home to the 16th annual Mariachi Festival & Folklórico Festival, presented by C.A.L.L.E. de Arizona, on Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Chandler Center for the Arts. This show will feature music and traditional dances of Mexico featuring folkloric dancers from Ballet Folklórico Quetzalli-AZ and Tradiciones Dance Co. Joining them will be two popular Mariachi ensembles: Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar and Mariachi Sonido de Mexico. For tickets, visit [chandleraz.gov/hhm](http://chandleraz.gov/hhm).



In collaboration with the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program, the City of Chandler and its Human Relations Commission will host the Chandler Indian Art Market on Saturday, Oct. 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11, at AJ Chandler Park. This free, two-day event is a unique way to experience Native American culture and a way of life that has been handed down from generation to generation.

Native American art from throughout the southwest can be purchased at the event and there also will be food, entertainment, artist demonstrations and educational wisdoms of Arizona Indian tribes. Vendor applications are available online at [chandleraz.gov/diversity](http://chandleraz.gov/diversity). The deadline to submit an application is Thursday, Oct. 1. For more information about vending opportunities, call Tricia Helbing at 480-782-4358.

Residents also are invited to the 2015 Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program. Contestants will compete for the title of Miss Indian Arizona at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Chandler Center for the Arts. The event provides scholarships to young American Indian women, encouraging them to pursue their educational goals. Tickets to the pageant are available by calling 480-782-2680 or visiting [chandlercenter.org](http://chandlercenter.org). For more information about the Scholarship Program, visit [missindianarizona.com](http://missindianarizona.com).

## Wastewater, reclaimed water and solid waste rates change Oct. 1, year-round rate schedule implemented

Starting Oct. 1, 2015, the City of Chandler will no longer switch between a winter and summer rate schedule for water and reclaimed water. Instead, a single, year-round rate structure will be implemented. In addition, rate increases will take effect for wastewater (nine percent), reclaimed water (18 percent) and solid waste (six percent) services. Chandler water rates are not changing at this time. The City's utility rates were reviewed as part of the recently completed Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process. Even with these changes, Chandler continues to maintain some of the lowest cost of service rates (utility charges, staffing levels) in the Valley. For more information, visit [chandleraz.gov/budget](http://chandleraz.gov/budget).

What residential customers might expect from new rate structure:

		Single Family Residential
Enterprise Fund	Rate Increase	Monthly Bill Increase
Water	None-0%	\$0.00
Wastewater	9%	\$2.18
Reclaimed Water	18%	N/A
Solid Waste	6%	\$0.90

## At Your Library

Sunset Library, 4930 W. Ray Road

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Add flavor to your dinner table. Grow herbs!

Did you know there are more than 40 different basil; 200 different lavenders; or that annual herbs in four season climates are tender perennials here in our desert gardens? The Herb Lady will help you grow and use herbs successfully, year round.

Thursday, Oct. 8 at 1:30 p.m.

Life on a Cattle Drive

Youth ages 6 to 11 can join the Chandler Museum for a celebration of life on the cattle drive. Try your hand at being a cowboy or cowgirl with cattle drive, roping, and branding activities. The Chandler Museum's four panel Chuck Wagon exhibit also will be on display. For details, call 480-782-2800. "Whoppee-ti-yi-yo!"

Monday, Oct. 12, all day

Library closed for staff training.

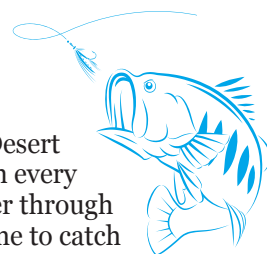
Online resources available at [chandlerlibrary.org](http://chandlerlibrary.org).

## One Fish, Two Fish...

Desert Breeze Park Lake

660 N. Desert Breeze Parkway

Did you know the lake at Desert Breeze Park is stocked with fish every two weeks from mid-September through June? This month is a great time to catch Largemouth bass, Sunfish, and Channel catfish. Details on the Community Fishing Program are online at [chandleraz.gov/parks](http://chandleraz.gov/parks).



## EVENTS SEPTEMBER

- 18 Downtown Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West, 480-855-3539
- 21, 24 City Council meeting, Council Chambers, 480-782-2180
- 26 Dragon & Butterfly Bash, Environmental Education Center, 480-782-2890

## OCTOBER

- 3 Oktoberfest, Downtown Chandler, 480-855-3539

- 3 Mariachi Festival & Folklórico Festival, Chandler Center for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 10 Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program, Chandler Center for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 10-11 Indian Art Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 480-782-2214
- 15 Sonoran Sunset Series, Veterans Oasis Park, 480-782-2890
- 16 Downtown Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West, 480-855-3539
- 19, 22 City Council meeting, Council Chambers, 480-782-2180
- 24 G.A.I.N. Event – City Bus Tour, 480-782-4354

- 24 For Our City – Make A Difference Day, 480-782-4354
- 24 Chandler Mayor's Day of Play, Tumbleweed Park, 480-782-2669
- 24 Veterans Health Care and Benefits Expo, Chandler Center for the Arts, 480-558-2052
- 30 Halloween Spooktacular, Downtown Library Plaza, 480-782-2669
- 31 Downtown Concert Series, Downtown Chandler, 480-855-3539

For event details, visit [chandleraz.gov](http://chandleraz.gov) or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 480-782-2735.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny & City Council

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## Tempe Chamber Hosts Opportunities for Professionals, Community Members

### MUST-ATTEND CHAMBER ACTIVITIES

#### Hot Topics and Lunch is Sponsored by SRP

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**Date:** November 19, 2015

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

#### SRP Presents *The Drought in Arizona. What's Next?*

**Date:** November 19, 2015

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

#### Lunchtime Learning Form

*Telling Your Company's Story, Presented by Cary Pfeffer*

**Date:** November 12, 2015

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

#### Holiday Health: *How to Party Without the Pounds with Dr. Zorensky*

**Date:** December 10, 2015

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

#### Admission for Hot Topics and Lunch and the Lunchtime Learning Forum:

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

For location details and to RSVP, call 480.967.7891 or visit [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org)



#### 2014-2015 Women in Business Mentoring Group

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce and its Women in Business Council are proud to present the 2015-2016 Mentoring Program.

Through the program, selected participants will gain an understanding of their true self through assessments and workshops. They will learn how to assess their values, create a vision for their life and live with purpose and passion.

They will benefit from the program by developing into stronger, more capable leaders while increasing their business acumen and learning how to grow into positions of greater importance and value.

The Mentoring Program will take place from December 2015 through May 2016 and culminate with a graduation ceremony at the 2016 Women in Business Conference. Monthly organized events are complemented by one-on-one meetings and outings between the mentors and their protégés.

Various workshops and activities will be scheduled to contribute to the protégés' individual development plans and to create an atmosphere that enhances the relationships and communication techniques between the program participants.

Applications are being accepted now through Oct. 14, 2015. To apply download the application at [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org).



#### 2015 State of the City Address with Mayor Mark Mitchell

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# Film Fare with M.V. Moorhead

## 'Scorch' sequel a more horrific offering than its predecessor

Opening this weekend

**The Scorch Trials**—The screen version of James Dashner's novel *The Maze Runner*, released a year ago this month, was about a bunch of teenage boys with no memory, living in an encampment surrounded on all sides by an enormous maze that only opened during daylight hours.

At the end they got out, to find they were test subjects of an evil scientist (Patricia Clarkson) in a post-apocalyptic society.

The new sequel follows the surviving boys, and one girl, as they escape from yet another sinister complex, only to find themselves in the Scorch, the godforsaken, sandblasted ruin of an American city.

As they try to reach a (possibly mythical) resistance, they're beset by zombies (here called "cranks") and other menaces, and are pursued all the while by the scientist's minions.

The first film was fairly routine masochistic young-adult-fiction melodrama, but that mysterious maze gave it a certain fascination, at least until everything was overexplained toward the end. *Scorch Trials* doesn't have anything that tantalizing.

It's just a jumble of sci-fi chase movie tropes. Everything seems to have been borrowed from other movies—*The Omega Man*, *Logan's Run*, *The Road Warrior*, *Coma*.

Director Wes Ball, who also helmed *The Maze Runner*, manages the big action scenes well, and several fine character actors—Giancarlo Esposito,

Aidan Gillen, Barry Pepper, Lili Taylor and Alan Tudyk, among others—provide some energy.

Most of the kids are attractive but on the uninteresting side, with one big exception: a young actress named Rosa Salazar joins the gang about midpoint, and gives *Scorch Trials* a much-needed dose of soulfulness.

My 13-year-old, in fairness a better representative than I of this movie's target market, liked it better than I did.

But be forewarned, parents: Despite the PG-13 rating, it's more horrific and violent than you, or your kids, might be expecting.

### Still in theaters

**The Visit**—M. Night Shyamalan's latest is a "mockumentary," and if you're put off right away by the idea of sitting through another exercise in that overused device I don't blame you.

But it's not oppressive here, in part because the cinematography, by Maryse Alberti, is rich and warm—the teenage heroine evidently has *really* good video cameras—and in part because said heroine gives her younger brother a second camera, so we get more than one angle.

Becca (Olivia DeJonge) and her brother Tyler (Ed Oxenbould) are sent by their divorced Mom (Kathryn Hahn) to visit her long-estranged parents in rural Pennsylvania while she goes on a cruise with her new boyfriend.

Becca decides to shoot the visit, not only because

she's an aspiring filmmaker but because she's hoping to get what she calls "The Elixir" for her Mom: A statement of conciliation from her parents for whatever it was that caused the estrangement back in the day.

Nana (Deanna Dunagan) and Pop-Pop (Peter McRobbie) meet the kids at the train and take them to the handsome farmhouse where their mom grew up. Their hosts are a charming old couple, but Pop-Pop warns them not to go in the cellar—because of the mold, he says—and to stay in their room after 9:30 p.m.

And thus, gradually, the creepy stuff starts. Nana and Pop-Pop alternate—one does something freaky, gross or inappropriate, and the other gently, soberly explains it to the kids as "sundowning" or whatever.

The thriller pacing is expert, and the cast is excellent, especially the lovely DeJonge and the hilarious, freestyling Oxenbould (both Australians, by the way).

It's a nervy, imaginative gem of a horror picture that steadily, cunningly builds to a well-engineered twist and a hair-raising finale.

Best of all, *The Visit* is fun—Shyamalan's touch here is playfully macabre, even scatological, and the audience responds with persistent giggles that are both nervous and genuine.

As Nana explains, when Becca comes upon her having a laughing fit:

"I have the Deep Darkies. You have to laugh, to keep the Deep Darkies in a cave."

## Briefly

Summit School of Ahwatukee is one of 15 schools in Arizona and 525 nationwide that have been recognized for their efforts in creating an active school environment and increasing physical activity and PE opportunities for students.

Let's Move! Active Schools, a sub-initiative of First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* campaign, announced its 2015 National Award honorees.

The award is the top physical activity and physical education distinction for K-12 schools. It celebrates a commitment to integrating at least 60 minutes of physical activity before, during and after the school day.

"These schools are raising the bar by creating Active School environments where students are happier, healthier and higher-performing," said First Lady Michelle Obama in an accompanying announcement. This is the second time Summit School of Ahwatukee has received the honor.

"We owe so much to our physical education teacher Kathy Dean, who has worked tirelessly to help create a culture of health and wellness at

Summit," Head of School Patrick O'Brien said.

Ever wonder what goes into making beer? Here's your chance to find out. Four Peaks Brewery is offering tours of its 1340 E. 8th St. brewery and a satellite tasting room at 2401 S. Wilson St., Tempe.

Either way, the tours are limited to 20 people each; cost is \$10 per person. You'll need closed-toe shoes to participate, so be sure to leave the sandals and flip-flops at home. You'll want to park your young kids at home, too, because participants must be over age 21. This is a beer-tasting tour, after all. Teens ages 14 and up are admitted if they're accompanied by a parent or guardian, but they'll need to pay the price of admission.

Each tour includes two taster tickets good for one 16-ounce beer each, though that excludes some specialty and seasonal options.

More information: [fourpeaks.com/tours](http://fourpeaks.com/tours)

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.

School officials say the program will allow their children to take learn about their Jewish heritage

culture and holidays.

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, and are offered for children aged 5-13. To schedule an appointment School to tour the facility, call 480-855-4333 or e-mail [info@chabadcenter.com](mailto:info@chabadcenter.com).

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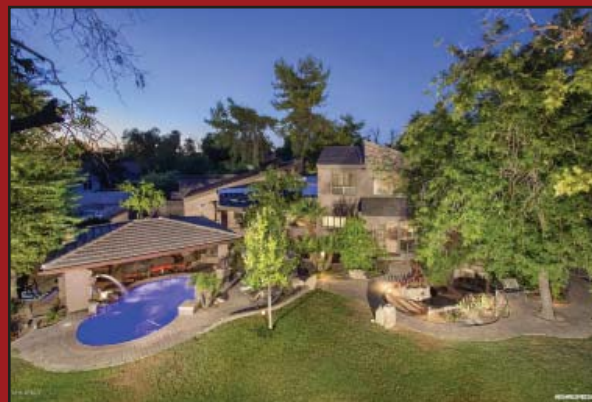
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