

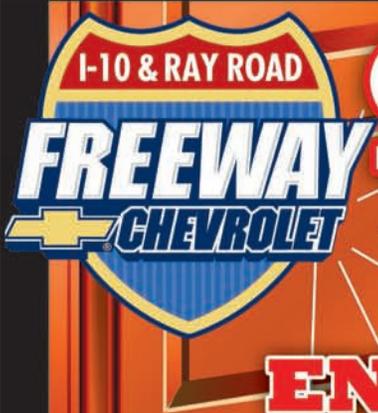
Wrangler NEWS



Drumming up business for Aztec football

Freddy Rivers, left, and Charles Wilson are among 170 members of Corona del Sol High School's elite marching band, one of nine such groups competing in a prestigious invitational Oct. 1. Details, Page 10. — *Wrangler News* photo by Billy Hardiman

.....
Wrangler VIEWS — The Last Word: Your chance to be heard. See Page 31 for details.



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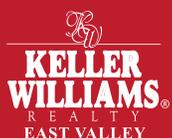


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What does September bring? Another venture along the minefield of a new school year A principal recruits parents to help students achieve

By Ben Nicolls

It's September, which means two things: There is pumpkin in your coffee, and the school year is well under way.

Kids usually don't have much of a problem besides getting up a bit earlier. For parents, it isn't always so simple.

Today it may just be kindergarten, but life moves faster than we'd like it to, and parents want to make sure their children are in a school that takes their care and education seriously.

Principal Spencer Fallgatter at Kyrene de la Mariposa Elementary wants to make sure parents are comfortable with, and have the necessary understanding of, the school their kids attend.

"Coffee with the Principal" is a new event, to be held once a semester—or more often if needed—that welcomes parents to have an honest face-to-face with the big man himself.

It's not intended to replace parent-teacher conferences, rather to provide an opportunity for parents to get a better idea of how the school works and bring up any questions or concerns they might have.

At Fallgatter's opening session of the year, one issue discussed was why the north gate is now closed. When open, it puts the picking up and dropping off of students within walking distance, instead of driving, which during peak school traffic hours can

be a long process, the principal explained.

However, having an additional entrance to the school requires an increase in faculty presence to ensure the safety of students.

In these days of budget awareness, that just isn't something the school can do.

One parent mentioned a previous suggestion to put in a short sidewalk from a nearby cul de sac leading to the parking lot, but even a relatively small project like this has its complications.

First, it would have to be officially approved by the school itself, factoring in the opinions of the residents immediately adjacent to the project, as it would redirect a fair amount of school traffic through the area. Also, Mariposa is a public school and, as with any school, funds are limited. The sidewalk and fencing would cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3,000. Fallgatter explained that while that may not sound like a terribly large amount of money, what money the school does have often comes with strict guidelines on how it can be spent.

Moving on in the noodling session, Fallgatter noted that a significant upcoming event will be Mariposa's application for the Arizona Academic Foundation's A+ School of Excellence program. This is Mariposa's first year eligible since Fallgatter became principal, however one of the requirements is that the principal must have completed a full year at that school.

The process can be long and arduous, but claiming the honor comes with benefits.

Aside from the prestige, the school receives a small cash prize. As well, each teacher becomes eligible for a scholarship to continue his or her own education, which serves to further improve the teachers' level of skill and, as a typical result, the students' ability to learn.

As Coffee with the Principal got into high gear, all seemed to proceed well, with a kind of cozy compatibility prevailing and Fallgatter offering insights into how decision-making occurs.

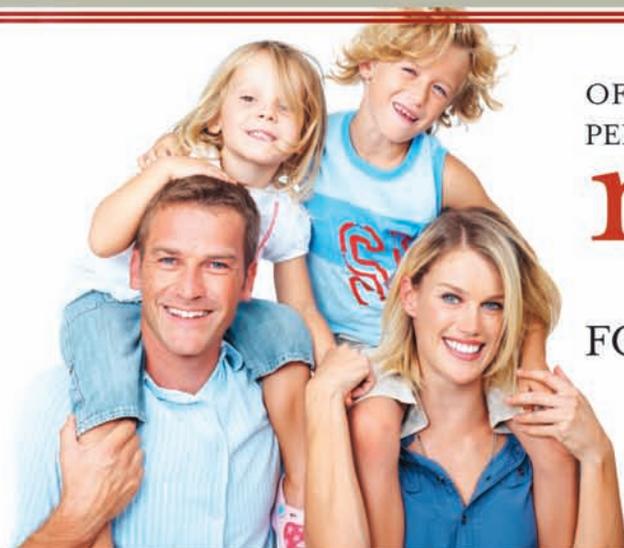
But the entire time wasn't just dedicated to purely administrative issues.

Fallgatter also took time to talk with one parent about an issue specific to her son, who mentioned he had been tutored in one area last year, but was still struggling.

Fallgatter explained that not every challenge a student faces can be dealt with once and permanently overcome. He suggested she call and arrange an individual meeting with him to discuss the issue and work out a solution that fits into her schedule and gets the student back to where he needs to be.

It was easy to see Fallgatter's No. 1 priority is the students themselves; sessions like this one allow direct interaction with parents.

Seeing what is important to them, he concluded, allows him to do that job better.



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At historic flour mill, aspiring artists give a nod to the future



Public art contributor Connor Coffman was on hand for installation of his piece. At the same time, workers (below) put finishing touches on artwork by Liz Graves and Rowdy Durham.

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman

Two new pieces of public art have gone up at the Hayden Flour Mill as part of the new platFORM project, an initiative developed jointly by the cities of Tempe and Chandler, with collaboration from Scottsdale Public Art.

A grand opening for the project was due to take place at the Mill Avenue District's Third Thursday on Sept. 19.

"The intention of the platFORM project is to provide opportunities and

experiences to emerging student artists in hopes of preparing them to qualify for future public art projects while also creating art for the community to enjoy," Tempe Public Art Coordinator Maja Aurora said.

Each piece stays up for a year. Each city involved manages its own projects.

Artist Connor Coffman and artist team Liz Graves and Rowdy Durham now have installed their art.

Coffman is an undergraduate student majoring in Digital Culture at Arizona State University. Graves and Durham are students in the Masters of Architecture program at ASU.

Coffman's artwork, titled Industrial Desert, was dropped onto a metal platform on the corner of Rio Salado Parkway and Mill Avenue.

"My motivation for this piece is very basic and comes right out of the backyard at my parents' house—a giant Saguaro cactus that was on the property long before any structure invaded its neighborhood," Coffman said.

"To me the green represents the positive flow of life through the cactus that is both cool and warm, all at the same time."

Graves' and Durham's artwork, Los Cactus Bailarines, was installed on a concrete platform facing Mill Avenue.

Los Cactus Bailarines is an abstraction of the traditional form of the native Arizona saguaro cactus.

The sculptures also incorporate the Native American tribal dance of fertility by interacting with each other.







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Sports Notebook . . .

with Alex Zener



Corona's girls volleyball team is a young but nonetheless athletic and talented squad made up of players (bottom row) Amanda Macmurtrie, Save Gulstad, Olivia Ortis; (middle) Carly Sutton, Logan Wallerstedt, Danielle Sutton, Erica Ronda and Alyssa Meyer; (top) Hayden Warnock, Desiree Rodriguez, Lauren Forte, Amanda Eno, Alyson Seall, and coach Ben Maxfield. Not pictured: Sarah Zeiner and Baylee Lippencott.

— Photo courtesy Babe Sarver

Skills could compensate for lack of returning VB players

This season's Lady Aztecs may not have experience on their side, with only two starters out of the five returning players, but what they lack in experience could be made up in talent and athletic ability.

"I am very excited for this upcoming year," said coach **Ben Maxfield**.

"We are very young with half the team being sophomores or freshman, but they are very athletic and very talented."

The Lady Aztecs talent was evident when they not only defeated Mesa in the first match of the season but made it all the way to the championship match at Chandler's House of Payne Invitational Sept. 6-7 before losing to Gilbert 21-25, 19-25.

Returning starters for Corona are two senior setters Maxfield is hoping will bring leadership and stability to his young talented lineup: **Olivia Ortiz** and **Sava Gulstad**.

Corona returns also returns three players. Senior outside hitter **Amanda Eno**, junior libero **Alyssa Meyer** and sophomore outside hitter **Danielle Sullivan** did not start but all gained quite a bit of game experience coming in off the bench last season.

In addition, Corona has junior **Alyson Seall**, who plays opposite, waiting to recover from an injured knee she suffered last March. Maxfield is hoping she will be ready to play in October.

Meyer, who moved from defensive specialist to libero this season, has been doing exceptionally well averaging close to six digs a set.

"Alyssa's consistency in passing, as well as her great ability to read the hitters on defense, will help keep us in a lot of rallies and give our talented hitters the chance to score a lot of point," said Maxfield.

— NOTEBOOK, Page 7



Nate Rodriguez and Ryan Normand are predicted to win the boys championship. At this meet, the Chandler Invite, both the girls and the boys won. — Photo contributed by Chris Huch

Notebook

From Page 6

Three of those talented hitters are Sullivan and two freshmen outside hitters, **Erica Ronda** and **Logan Wallerstedt**.

Sullivan was picked by the East Valley Tribune as one of the players to watch this season while Ronda and Wallerstedt should help fill the shoes of three-year starter **Kasey Kiefer** who was lost to graduation last May.

All three have definitely added their name to the kill statistics with Sullivan and Wallerstedt leading the team in kills with 57 each while Ronda is close behind with 53 total kills. All three are averaging over two kills a set.

Another promising freshman is 6-foot-1 middle blocker **Lauren Forte**.

"Lauren is very athletic with the ability to touch 10-foot-2," said Maxfield. "With hard work and the experience she is going to gain playing

at this higher level, I think she has the ability to be a dominating player here in Arizona."

Forte has shown some of that talent already this season by leading the team with nine solo and 16 total blocks in her first 25 sets and earning a spot as one of Corona's leading blockers along with sophomore middle blocker **Hayden Warnock** who has 17 total blocks and Ronda who has 14.

Other members of Corona's young but talented team who have the ability to play different positions include senior **Carly Sutton**, junior **Amanda Macmurtrie** and sophomores, **Sarah Zeiner**, **Desiree Rodriguez** and **Baylee Lippincott**.

"Our main strength may be that we have, from top to bottom, athletic, well-rounded and versatile players," said Maxfield. "Because so many of our players can play more than one position, it will allow our coaches to truly get our most athletic players on the court to give us the best shot at

— NOTEBOOK, Page 8

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Corona took home the championship trophies for both the boys and girls team at the Chandler Invitational Cross Country Meet Sept. 7.

— Photo courtesy Chris Huch

Notebook

From Page 7

winning.”

As usual, the Lady Aztecs will probably be challenged most by Mountain Pointe, Desert Vista, Hamilton and Gilbert but it is Horizon that is picked by the experts to be in the Division I championship match.

As of Sept. 15 the Lady Aztecs are 7-3 but were scheduled to play Desert Vista at home Sept. 16, at Central Sept. 17 and then against Alhambra Sept. 18 before competing in the Tournament of Champions Sept. 20-21.

The next two matches scheduled were at home against Mountain View Sept. 24 before playing at Dobson Sept. 26.

Corona cross country

Corona’s boys cross country team kept their dream of an undefeated season alive by winning their first two meets with excellent performances by **Nate Rodriguez** and **Ryan Normand** who finished both the Sole Sports, Sept. 2, and Chandler Invitational, Sept. 7, as the top two runners.

Rodriguez and Normand, both seniors, who ran almost in tandem in both races, crossed the finish line respectively in 15:08 and 15:09 in the Sole Sports and 15:28 and 15:30 at the Chandler Invitational.

This duo is setting out to prove, with their power and speed, that Corona not only has one but two great state championship contenders

that any team hoping to win a state championship will need to beat.

Rodriguez and Normand not only want to finish each race 1-2 this season and ultimately help the Aztecs win their third overall state championship but nothing says they can’t have a little fun at the same time.

“Running with Ryan offers a unique situation in that we can push and challenge each other but it is also a lot of fun,” said Rodriguez.

“It’s the most fun I’ve had during races. Being able to work and lead races together in what we call our ‘ameba’ builds our confidence for future races.

I can’t imagine a better senior season than being able to run fast times at big races alongside my own teammate.”

It appears the feeling is mutual.

“Running with Nate in races is extremely helpful and fun,” said Normand.

“We can pace off each other and push each other when we get tired. I never want to slow down during races when I have my teammate to run with because I know it’s much harder to run alone.”

To add icing to the cake, so to speak, Corona’s girls team took home the championship trophy at the Chandler Invitational as well.



Alex Zener

Notebook

From Page 8

“Both teams are very excited about how they have performed in the first two meets,” said coach **Ari Rodriguez**.

“But for the girls to win the Chandler Invitational proves to them how all their hard work is paying off. It also helps them be optimistic about fulfilling their goal of placing in the top three at state.”

The top finishers for the boys team at the Sole Sports meet were **Patrick Cullings** in 12th place, **Blake Fischer** in 19th, **Andrew Truswell** in 24th and **Lucas Ykema** in 26th.

The Chandler Invitational was scored using the top runner from each age group.

Corona’s boys team won the title based on **Slade Summers** taking first in the freshman race, Ykema eighth in the sophomore race, **Marcus Wheeler** first in the junior race and Rodriguez first in the senior race.

The girls team won the Chandler Invitational title based on **Sammie Moore** crossing the finish line in 4th place in the senior race, **Kelly Naumann** taking 5th in the junior race, **Mackenzie Harder** 8th in the

sophomore race and **Renee Clary** 12th in the freshman race.

The girls team finished fifth at the Sole Sports where Naumann was the first Lady Aztec to cross the finish line taking 10th place. She was followed by Moore in 28th, **Amberly Ricks** in 51st, **Kristina Nedelkova** was 56th and **Grace Ashu** was 58th.

The next meet for Corona’s two teams will be the Ojo Rojo Invitational, Sept. 21, but coach Rodriguez thinks the Doug Conley, to be held Sept 28, will be the most challenging because the boys team will have to beat the defending champions Rio Rico to win that meet and stay undefeated.

Lacrosse clinic coming to area

Tempe Sports Complex adjacent to the Arizona Cardinals’ training facility will be the site of a free clinic and registration event to be held by East Valley Lacrosse from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.

Boys and girls in grades K-12 are eligible to participate.

Lacrosse teams from Ahwatukee, Tempe, Chandler and Gilbert will be running the clinic, offering demonstrations, drills and giveaways. Participants will take part in drills that stress shooting, passing and catching; defensive play; scooping ground balls; and goal tending.

Equipment is not needed. Information: www.eastvalleylacrosse.com.

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Cover story

Comprising one of the largest marching bands in the state, 170 Corona del Sol High School students turn out early to prepare for statewide band invitationals, coming up Oct. 1. Band members also provide a musical interlude for the Aztecs' home and away football games. **How do the experts view these early-rising teens' dedication, work ethic and expertise? One word at the top of the facing page sums it up . . .**

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman

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Oct. 10 - 7:30 p.m.
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Oct. 11-12 - 7:30 p.m.
Desert Dance Theatre - Arizona Dance Festival
Showcase 2013

Oct. 11 – 7:30 p.m.
Lorie Line: Come Together

Oct. 15 – 9:30 a.m.
Performance with A View: Stu Siefer Trio

Oct. 20 – Nov. 10, 2013
Childsplay presents: The Miraculous Journey of
Edward Tulane

Oct. 21 – 7:30 p.m. - Season Opener
Tempe Symphony Orchestra

Oct. 22 - 7:30 p.m.
ASU Barrett Choir and Choral Union Concert- Music
of Freedom and the People

Oct. 23, 6 p.m.
Art After Work

Oct. 26 – 7:30 p.m.
Class Clowns Comedy Showcase '13-'14

Oct. 26 – 7:30 p.m.
Lakeshore Music - Dee Alexander and the
ASU Concert Jazz Orchestra

Oct. 27 – 7:30 p.m.
Tempe Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Oct. 30 – 7:30 p.m.
Arizona Wind Symphony - Red, White & Blues

Oct. 31 - 7:30 p.m.
AZ Pro Arte presents "Nosferatu: A symphony
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'Amazing'



It's 170 members strong and ready to march. Not for a cause, mind you, but for the sheer enjoyment of it.

As a result, this year's Aztec Marching Band has emerged as one of the largest of its kind in the state.

They didn't get to this lofty position by accident. During the summer, they attended sectional rehearsals, followed by band workouts at Camp Tontozona near Payson.

While it was no picnic, said one band member, it was a lot of fun.

Now eager and fully prepared for the season, the group has based its year's performances on the theme Dawn of an Empire, celebrating the birth of the Aztec civilization. That meant adding such unique instruments as the conch shell and buffalo drums. Sticking to the theme, the color guard performs with brightly colored flags and dance movements.

Now, the groups practice every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:45 to 7:10 a.m. They take to the practice field on Monday evenings and, also during the week, have sectional rehearsals.

Their hard work and commitment are evident in their performance, say those who've seen them.

In the opinion of one observer: "Amazing."

The Marching Band performs at all Corona football games, both home and away. Their appearances are supported by an active and dedicated booster club, which helps with the transportation of instruments, keeps parents informed of upcoming activities, provides hydration at games and, most importantly says one booster, sponsors fundraisers to provide funds to cover necessary band expenses.

Upcoming activities, in addition to the performances at Corona football games, include the Marching Band Invitational on Oct. 1 and several

competitions.

At the invitational, which takes place at Corona, nine bands from around the state, including the Aztecs, will perform.

While not a formal competition, the event serves as the opening prelude to the band competition season in the Valley, where the participating

schools will present for the first time their complete competition shows, and judges will critique their performances.

The public is invited; admission is \$5. Concessions will be available.

Aztec band director is David DuPlessis; percussion/pit director is Scott Werner.

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Speakers bureau topics abound

Program planners for area organizations are being reminded that Chandler Regional Medical Center offers speakers on such topics as free screenings, healthcare for underserved populations, car-seat checks, immunizations and safety clinics.

In addition to programs featuring Chandler Regional, the Dignity Health HealthSpan Speaker's Bureau offers topics focusing on a wide range of topics.

There is no charge for the

programs, all of which are provided by physicians and other health care experts.

Speakers offer presentations about health issues including heart health, women's health, neurology, orthopedics, sports medicine, cancer, sleep disorders, pain management, arthritis and general wellness.

Groups interested in scheduling a HealthSpan speaker can call 480-728-5414 or download a request form at chandlerregional.org.

Racing, sort of, toward the finish line

It may not match the storybook rivalry between tortoise and hare, but Bethany Christian School's 10th annual Turtle Race event on Friday, Sept. 20, may still have a come-from-behind winner.

A bale—go ahead, Google it—of plastic turtles will meander alongside the river that adjoins Arizona Grand Resort, with prizes to the first 25 turtles to cross the finish line, as well as the last, laziest entry.

While the event is open only to families of Bethany Christian School, the community can get involved by adopting turtles for a chance to win prizes. Corporate sponsorships also are available. Proceeds will support the educational programming.

Bethany is a non-denominational private school that has served families of students in K-8th grades since 1995.

The campus is at 6304 S. Price Road, Tempe.



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'Unplug & Reconnect'

Tempe YMCA provides easy way to recycle unneeded electronics

Valley of the Sun YMCA locations statewide, including Tempe, are midway through a campaign of collecting electronics to recycle and donate to schools and nonprofit organizations in need.

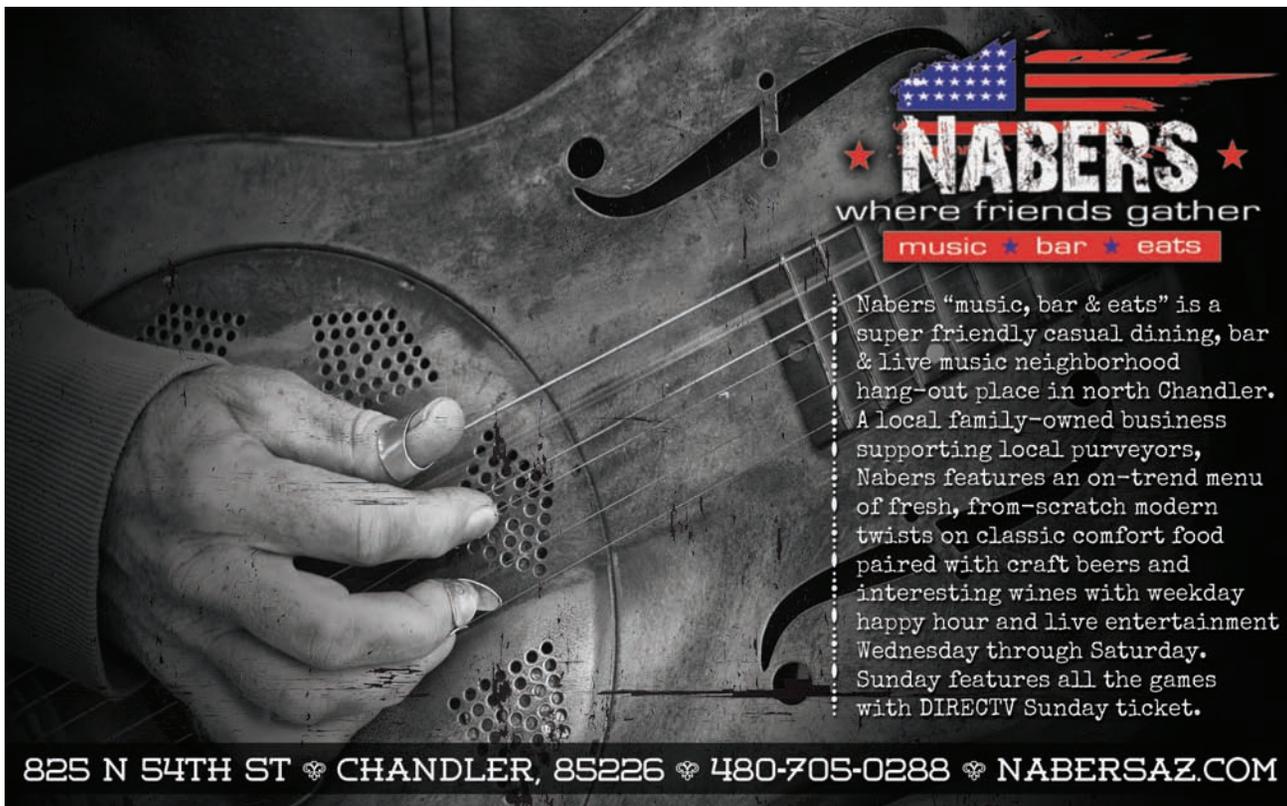
Say local officials:

The "Unplug and Reconnect" initiative brings the Y's pillar of Social Responsibility to life and solidifies its commitment to giving back to the community and those in need.

Through Sept. 30, Tempe and other Valley YMCA branches will have donation boxes set up for used but useful electronics.

Community members are encouraged to participate. Nonmembers who donate will receive \$75 off a membership initiation fee.

Information: www.valleyYMCA.org



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Hunks for rent Entrepreneurial know-how

By **Chelsea Martin**

Youth provides a fresh perspective for business owners learning ways to implement practical strategies while simultaneously providing an opportunity for personal growth and experience.

The world is constantly changing, and the best way to keep pace is to adapt quickly and efficiently to this dynamic society. For some, this is when youth can offer the business world their generation's raw mindset, optimism and enthusiasm.

Mike Neumayr, a south Tempe resident and 2013 graduate of Whittier College in L.A., decided he was capable and motivated enough to own and operate his own franchise.

That's when he discovered College Hunks Hauling Junk and College Hunks Moving in Arizona.

Not only has his business taken off since the August opening, Neumayr has continued to remain loyal to the idea of allowing young individuals the opportunity to work together to run a company.

"The company is pretty much operated by 24-year-olds and under. We have about 20 crew members, and 80 percent of our frontline employees are currently attending college," Neumayr said. "Being able to give these students the resources to make their own decisions and dedicate themselves to growing the business is more than I could have asked for."

Neumayr's father is a franchise owner himself so he was able to easily provide a sense of guidance for his son when Mike decided in his senior year of college that his next phase of life would include the same steps his father once took, years earlier.

The idea consumed him the moment his father spoke of his own rendezvous with the founder and president of the Hauling Junk company at a franchise convention. Neumayr was infatuated with the idea and quickly began researching the company and how to expand and obtain his goal post-graduation.

"At first I thought College Hunks Hauling Junk was kind of cheesy and a weird business concept," Neumayr said. "But then I had the opportunity to speak with other franchise owners and it began to sound like a great opportunity to take over a fragmented market. It definitely caught my eye."

The Arizona franchise has been operating for a year now and the future looks bright, Neumayr says. There are

currently three territories that Mike's company cover: Chandler/Ahwatukee, Tempe and Scottsdale.

The longterm vision is to continue growing and eventually serve the entirety of Arizona.

Neumayr says he's motivated and full of confidence that his franchise will take a leap forward and expand within the next three years.

"If you think about it, the junk removal and moving industry does not have one big dog or main player," Neumayr said. "It is comprised of a bunch of smaller companies, so there is plenty of opportunity for someone to take over and become that household brand name. This is especially true in the junk removal industry because it's definitely not the most glamorous."

Neumayr is determined to stand out in all aspects of his company, from the bright orange trucks, shirts, and hats, to the exceptional customer service and playful name.

Although there are no set "hunk" requirements, Neumayr and his team seek out the clean cut, respectable and knowledgeable type, with a huge emphasis on customer service.

"I always joke that we don't have a screening panel for the 'hunks' yet, but we can eventually include that," Neumayr said.

The feedback tends to remain positive for all the employees, and Neumayr is anxious for the next couple years to unfold to watch their growth. "I always tell the guys heading out in the truck to treat this as if it is their own business," Neumayr said.

"They are in charge of the revenue coming in, the expenses going out, and control of all the equipment. It's empowering on their end."

College Hunks is full of inspiration and determination, and nothing will stand in its way, Neumayr says.

he smooth day-to-day interactions between employees and clients are a top priority for the team, along with hard work, efficiency and positive attitudes, he says.

Notes Neumayr: The key to maintaining success is continually displayed on the youthful, smiling faces and the sense of camaraderie throughout the entire organization.

"Relationships are extremely important to me, and I value each and every one of them," Neumayr said.

"I really do love this job."

Information: 480-526-7020, collegehunksphx@gmail.com, or www.collegehunksphoenix.com

Sunset branch part of U.S. drive to stress benefits of having library card

West Chandler's Sunset branch library has joined in the celebration of Library Card Sign-up Month, a nationwide campaign to stress the importance of having a library card and the benefits that go with it.

Chandler spokeswoman Rosanna Johnson said the observance is designed to call attention to the role of modern public libraries and the resources they make available to library cardholders, including such online and electronic services as e-books, e-magazines, music downloads and myriad databases and educational resources.

In Chandler, ICAN, a nonprofit youth organization, stresses the value of a library card for young children and teens.

ICAN's programs assist students with personal and academic success, including daily homework help and academic assistance, said Johnson.

This month, the organization will

bring small groups of students to the library for tours and instruction on how to use the library's catalog, after which each student receives a library card.

"Partnering with the Chandler library has opened the door for many ICAN youth to receive their first library card," said ICAN Director of Programs Melissa Jimro.

"The excitement of the youth being able to learn about the library as well as take home their personal library card has been contagious. They keep asking us when they can go back to the library to check out books."

The Sunset branch library is at 4930 W. Ray Road, just east of Rural Road.

The downtown, Basha and Hamilton branch libraries also will be observing the month with similar activities.

Information: www.chandlerlibrary.org.



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Our schools: Keeping them strong

By Diana Whittle

Neighbors collaborated with neighbors during a reception—staged, as coincidence would have it, at the newly opened Nabers restaurant in west Chandler—in a show of support for the Kyrene Foundation and its efforts to gain support for an upcoming school override election.

The event gave Kyrene boosters an excuse to socialize and, at the same time, celebrate the launch of a community based-effort called “Keep Kyrene Strong.”

The goal of the campaign is to educate the public on the issues behind an upcoming November ballot measure, at which voters will be asked to approve continuation of the current 15 percent Maintenance and Operation Budget Override, which continues the existing limit that was previously approved by voters in 2010.

If defeated, say Kyrene officials, the loss would result in a shortfall of nearly \$12 million, an amount that currently is used for instructional programs, staffing to reduce class sizes, and for exploratory choices such as advanced placement courses, music, art and physical education.

Currently, Kyrene is an A-rated district with 25 schools serving kindergarten to eighth grade at locations in Tempe, Chandler and Ahwatukee.

Superintendent David Schauer stressed, in a recent message to Kyrene parents, that the district remains a high performer due to dedicated staff and quality programming.

“Kyrene schools provide families with the educational choices they are looking for by offering the traditional



An enthusiastic Kyrene student, top left, helped the Kyrene Foundation kick off its campaign in support of a schools override. Others taking part were, clockwise from upper right:

Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David Schauer; Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton; and Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell.

A gathering of well-wishers including Nancy Branch, principal of Mirada School, and Rosalie Hirano (blue dress), co-chair of the override campaign.

State Sen. Bob Robson, former Kyrene board president Rae Waters and Sen. Jeff Dial.

Contributor Barry Chasse of Chasse Constructions with Mitzi Epstein, former Kyrene board president.

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman.

Kyrene

From Page 16

and leadership academies, self-contained gifted and advanced placement programs along with a dual-language school.”

From an economic perspective, Kyrene’s chief financial officer, Jeremy Calles, says the district is widely respected for its responsible management of the budget, having earned the highest credit rating for an Arizona school district by Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s.

“The override budget measure does not raise homeowners’ property taxes,” said Calles.

“Instead, it only extends the override that now is in place. If approved, homeowners still would pay \$72 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, which is the amount they currently pay.”

“Keep Kyrene Strong” is a coalition of parents, educators, businesses and community members organized to support the Kyrene Elementary School District through passage of bonds and overrides to help ensure a quality public education for more than 17,000 students in Kyrene schools.

Mitzi Epstein, Jennifer Bowen and Rosalie Hiranu are the co-chairs of the Keep Kyrene Strong grassroots movement.

According to Epstein, it’s important for the community to understand that the measure

represents a sound investment for taxpayers.

“Research suggests that strong schools equal higher property values, and strong schools mean a strong Kyrene community,” she said.

The Kyrene election will coincide with another override measure approved by the Tempe Union

High School District, which would extend the existing budget override for TUHSD and authorizes a bond sale, but likewise will not increase taxes or spending.

For more information about the Keep Kyrene Strong Campaign, visit www.keepkyrenestrong.org.

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Diversions

With M.V. Moorhead

‘Wizard’ comes to IMAX; ‘Sharing’ treads touchy ground

Opening Friday, Sept. 20:

The Wizard of Oz—For many Americans of my generation, The Wizard of Oz was an annual event, usually shown on TV on Easter Sunday.

Many of us watch it now, unconsciously mouthing the dialogue and lyrics along with the actors. But

— DIVERSIONS, Page 19

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Diversions

From Page 18

seeing it blown up for the IMAX screen—as it will be, for a one-week release opening Friday, Sept. 20—brings a new meaning to the familiar “See it again for the first time.”

I’ve seen the film dozens of times over the years, but I was struck by how many details from MGM’s extravagant 1939 fantasy based on L. Frank Baum’s novel I had never caught before:

The crowned crane and the toucan in the background of the scene with the talking trees, the bric-a-brac in Professor Marvel’s carriage, the costumes on the Munchkins.

The performances of Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Frank Morgan, Burt Lahr, Jack Haley, Billie Burke and Margaret Hamilton—it was the finest hour for

almost all of them—remain joyous, as do the sometimes darkly comic songs of Harold Arlen, but the real winner in this new version is Toto. On the IMAX screen, he’s the size of Shetland pony, and his expressive performance gets across.

He’s no longer just a fuzzy little smudge, like he was on our black-and-white TV screens half a century ago.

Thanks For Sharing—This comedy-drama follows three Manhattan guys at different stages of recovery from sex

addiction: a veteran contractor, Mike (Tim Robbins) whose lifestyle revolves around 12-Step meetings, his younger “sponsee” Adam (Mark Ruffalo), a hotshot businessman who’s been faithfully “working the program,” and Adam’s sponsee Neil (Josh Gad) a young wreck of an ER doctor who hasn’t even really admitted he has a problem.

Other characters are woven into the story, like Adam’s new girlfriend (Gwyneth Paltrow) from whom he’s hidden his addiction, Mike’s son (Patrick Fugit), a former drug abuser, and a young woman sex addict (Alecia Moore, aka Pink), with whom Neil bonds.

While there’s little consensus in the real-life psychological and medical fields as to what constitutes sex addiction, or if it even exists, the movie, the directorial debut of the gifted screenwriter Stuart Blumberg (*The Kids Are All Right*, *Keeping the Faith*), seems to take at face value the 12-Step Model as the answer to it.

Whether you agree with this or not, Blumberg does get across the desperation with which these men are containing themselves, and the added difficulty they face in getting others to accept their destructive behavior as pathological rather than a character flaw.

Blumberg makes good, rueful comedy out of the unavoidable ubiquity of sexual stimulation in modern culture, and he gets fine performances from his cast.

As the funny, self-loathing Neil, young Gad in particular steals much of the flick from his accomplished co-stars.



M.V. Moorhead

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Diversity guides approach Changing the pace of learning process

By Chelsea Martin

The most admirable aspect of human beings on this planet is the fact that each and every one of us is unique, from our DNA all the way down to our simple quirks and thoughts.

Some notable experts believe that children are guided from an early age to explore the sky's limits with a free and open mind in order to discover their gifts, talents and core beliefs. Thus, there exists an unspoken duty for the parents, teachers and peers of these children to guide and mentor properly in order to create a roadmap leading to success in life and independence to thrive in society.

Each child is different, and there is not a single group of students that can all learn at the same pace, on the same level.

While it's a model for child development, some confess it's simply impossible.

Although standard schooling may allow certain

— ACADEMY, Page 21

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Academy

From Page 20

students to thrive, there are those who seek a different teaching style to fit their needs as closely as possible.

Enter Brightmont Academy, a private institution aimed toward facilitating the specific needs of such students by offering specialized, one-on-one instruction. It's an educational bright spot and has been for nearly 14 years.

Brightmont Academy has grown rapidly, currently operating three locations in Arizona: on west Chandler Boulevard in Chandler, in Scottsdale and in Deer Valley.

South Tempe resident and Brightmont Academy's Outreach Coordinator Sonia Gonzalez is a firm advocate in embracing the children who wish to pursue a closely guided education. Her focus involves making sure it successfully happens, especially with a diverse group of students, each with his or her own complete set of ambitions and a destination to reach.

The process for developing each student's personalized instructional program involves a thorough review of items, such as the child's records, schedule, previous instructional style and other relevant aspects. The institution utilizes a digital curriculum in order to provide a competent teaching approach for each student.

"It's wonderful to have a digital curriculum in this new modern age," Gonzalez said. "We are able to really fill in the missing information and help the students learn quickly. Each student must score an 80 percent or above in order to move on, and the kids tend to move pretty quickly."

Although some parents may feel uneasy toward this teaching style, Brightmont is ready and willing to open its doors to educate anyone who is interested and willing to fully understand the approach. "The concept is very different for Arizona," Gonzalez said. "Parents don't really think of it as truly a one-on-one style, and they don't believe the kids will get as much education in four hours as compared to a seven-hour public-school day. But when they actually come in, visit the campus and tour one of the instructional rooms, they begin to understand, and the idea has rapidly caught on."

The instructional challenge is

personalized for each child to focus deliberately on the areas that are missing in order to confidently strengthen that specific ability.

The possibilities for these children to grow are infinite, says Gonzalez.

"The program is great because it suits all grade and all ability levels," Gonzalez said. "We spend the appropriate amount of time working on every single student's potential level."

The students at Brightmont Academy learn to work independently, yet remain within close proximity to the instructor. Most students are in class for four hours a day, attending for however many days their instructional program and schedule demands.

The eclectic group of students ranges from those with schedules that are divided between a local public school and Brightmont; those in need of additional tutoring in specific subjects; and the full-time one-on-one specialized students.

Some junior high and high school students allocate two hours of their day to English and math, the other two hours studying and practicing with three other students in an independent study lab. Four students are allowed in the lab with one instructor to practice and engage in a deeper level of understanding.

There is no bullying and nothing to be nervous about in the environment the students are engrossed in, coupled with the students' ability to create and sustain healthy life-long friendships, Gonzalez says.

There are plenty of students of various learning abilities, and Brightmont was formulated on the notion that every child should be given the chance to develop the utmost confidence in their education and learning abilities.

While many public schools in the area are long established and admired for the continuous hard work and positive feedback from countless students' success all over the country, Brightmont exists to offer a modern alternative for the student who doesn't seem to flourish under the program that public schools provide.

"The students don't recognize when they are actually learning and the instructors are able to help them conquer that challenge," Gonzalez said. "I was a principal for 13 years before this job, and this is the first time I've ever seen one organization really address personalized instructional strategies."

City Council pair to head Valley Metro

Tempe councilmember Shana Ellis has been elected chair of Valley Metro Rail transit and Chandler councilmember Trinity Donovan has been elected vice chair of Valley Metro for the fiscal 2013-14 term.

Valley Metro is the regional public transportation authority providing public transit and rideshare services in the greater Phoenix area.

The agency receives policy direction

from elected officials representing 15 member cities and the county.

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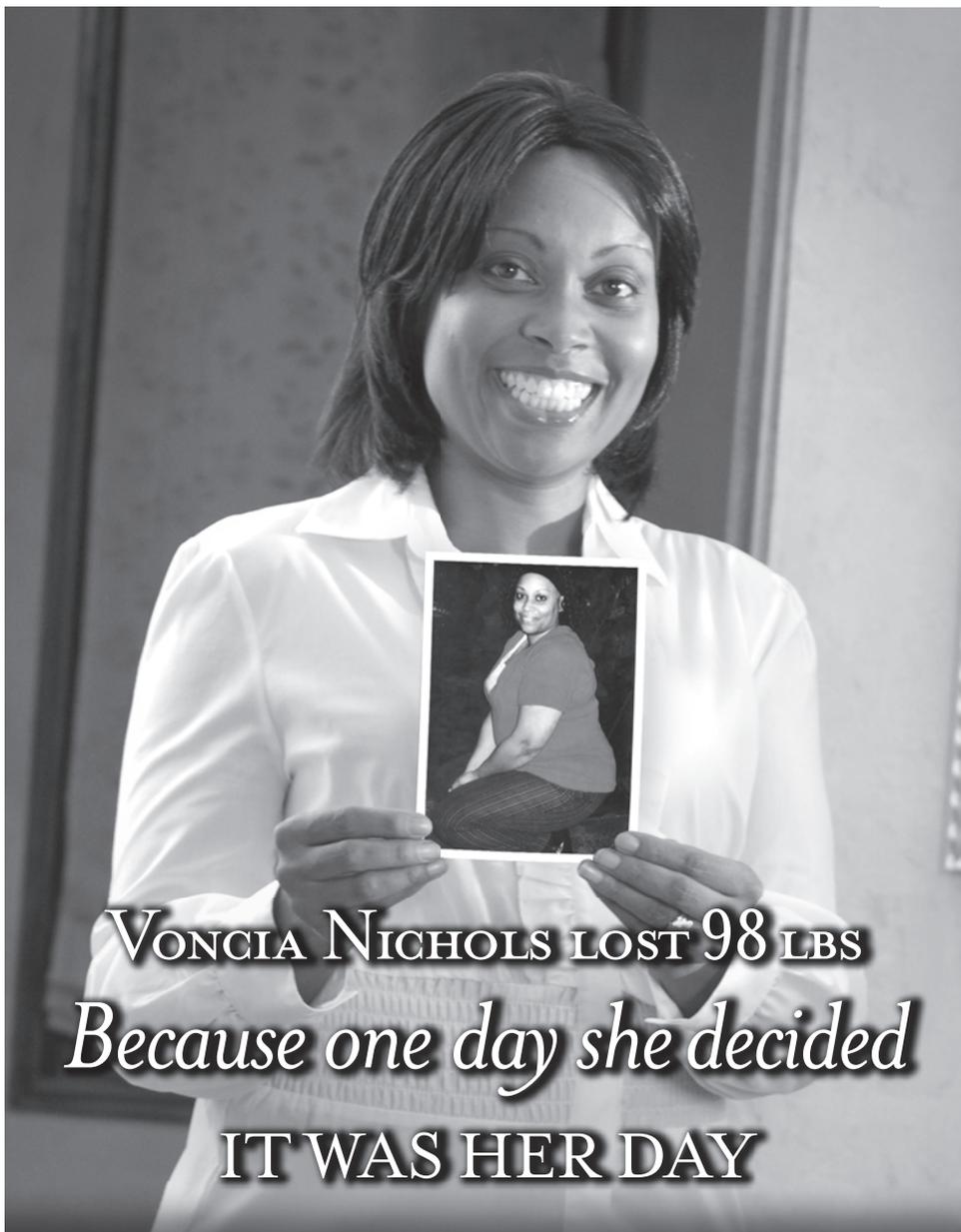


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Sister Cities salutes humanitarians

There's a lot of talk these days about making a difference. On Thursday, Oct. 10, Tempe Sister Cities members will honor four humanitarians whose work is helping the less fortunate around the globe.

At its seventh annual Making a World of Difference event at Tempe Center for the Arts, the sister cities group will recognize Janine Skinner, John Gillan and Brian and Keri deGuzman.

Skinner is the local development adviser for Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit that serves more than 70 countries. She led volunteers in a recent Change the World from Phoenix event, with the goal of packing a million meals in 24 hours.

Her goal is to generate \$1 million in donations to open a larger site that will produce 25 million meals each year with the help of 115,000 local volunteers.

Gillan, an endodontist, has conducted and financed 26 dental missions abroad. He has made two trips to Romania, 16 to Albania, two to Kosovo and six to Cameroon, where he reported modern

dentistry is almost non-existent.

He takes supplies and equipment to the country, teaches local dentists and performs oral surgery in the bush.

The deGuzmans traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and, after seeing children begging on the streets and families living in deplorable conditions, decided to adopt. They now have four children, all of whom they say are thriving in America.

The deGuzmans are planning to open a school in Ethiopia in 2014 and are working to raise funds for the project, through which 2,000 students will be able to receive education.

They also have built a processing center where drought-resistant grains are made into nutritious food.

deGuzman is associate chief of cardiovascular surgery at the Heart and Lung Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.

Reservations to the awards program are \$75 and may be made by calling 480-350-8181 or visiting tempesistercities.org.



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Students from three Kyrene Corridor schools — Corona del Sol H.S., Kyrene and Pueblo middle schools — demonstrated their patriotic fervor as part of a massive 1,000-student combined choral group singing 'The Star Spangled Banner' at the Saturday, Sept. 14 Diamondbacks - Colorado Rockies matchup. Despite what one viewer described as an organizational challenge akin to herding cats, the result provided an impressive display of national pride and a great time for the kids.

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman

Tempe library hosts columnist, author Jon Talton in Sunday, Sept. 22, appearance **News veteran worries that citizen journalists 'can't fill the void'**

By M.V. Moorhead

So why do you hate Arizona? For Jon Talton, it's a question he's had to answer more than once during his career. Truth be told, this guy doesn't talk like a man who disses his home state.

"I'm fourth generation," says Talton. "I grew up in what's now called the Willo District in uptown, in central Phoenix. It was an Eden, a wonderful place to be a kid. It was a much smaller place—surrounded by citrus groves. We didn't need playdates; we had the run of the city."

As to what he misses about Arizona, again, Talton speaks lovingly:

"I most miss my many wonderful friends. My Phoenix friendships are the deepest and most enduring."

The charge that Talton hates Arizona has usually been leveled, he says, in response to his prolific journalism, notably as a columnist for *The Arizona Republic*:

"I was writing about how runaway development was ruining the Valley. I was after a serious discussion about what development was doing to the Valley, not this endless boosterism."

These days Talton is based in Seattle, where he's a columnist for the *Seattle Times*, but he keeps a foot in Phoenix as well, maintaining a condo here and working as a blogger for the Reynolds Center for Business Journalism at ASU's Cronkite School.

He also writes his own column, *Rogue Columnist*. But when he appears at Tempe Public Library on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 22, it won't—at least not officially—be to talk about these journalistic endeavors but rather about his crime fiction.

"I'm going to be questioned by my old high school buddy Mark Scarp [a journalism professor and *East Valley*

Tribune columnist], so I'm sure I'll be questioned about many things," says Talton, "but I'm really there to talk about my novels."

These include thrillers set in Cincinnati and San Diego, both places where he's worked as a newspaperman.

Probably Talton's most notable works, however, especially for Arizona readers, are his David Mapstone mysteries.

Mapstone is a history professor-turned Maricopa County sheriff's deputy who, along with his friend, Chief Deputy Mike Peralta, probes the murderous mischief that's found right here in the Valley of the Sun.

"I was away from Phoenix from 1979 to 2000. My first novel was published in 2001," recalls Talton. "I wrote *Concrete Desert* when I was in Cincinnati, kind of as a love letter home. I never thought I'd live in Phoenix again, but I did."

Thrillers weren't Talton's genre of choice, however.

"I wanted to write serious fiction and historical books," he says, "so I wrote a serious novel and sent it to a hundred places and got a hundred rejections. So I thought, I'll sell out and write mysteries and make a bunch of money, and then I'll write serious fiction."

"But the world doesn't work that way."

Asked for the origin of the character of Mapstone, Talton says, "I wish I knew. He just started walking around in my head." He's also quick to note, of his Mike Peralta, "He's not Joe Arpaio. He's a totally fictional character. I



didn't do any research at all. [The book] wasn't developed as any kind of commentary on the real MCSO."

While crime fiction may not have been his initial ambition, Talton notes that he was "certainly inspired by some of the mystery writers I read when I was younger, especially Raymond Chandler. So it was important to me that Phoenix be a character in my books, the way Los Angeles was a character in Chandler's books."

Although he's written 10 novels, Talton says still can't consider fiction his full-time job.

"I wish," he says, but, because of his journalistic efforts, "My workday is madness."

Novel writing must be reserved for "weekends and nights. I've often wished I was a morning person," he says, adding the suspicion that many of us night-owls harbor:

"If I was a morning person, I'd rule the world."

So as a veteran journalist, what does Talton think of the state of daily newspapers nowadays? He isn't shy with his answer:

"I think the newspaper industry has wounded itself with a thousand self-inflicted cuts," he says, ranging from concentrated corporate ownership to the "dumbing-down" of content to failure to anticipate the impact of the Internet on their business model. "An awful lot of newspapers are in serious trouble, and I worry about it," Talton concludes.

"Having said that, you can't have a functioning democracy without journalism, so the question becomes, who's going to pay for it?"

"It's not going to be done by citizen journalists. It's not going to be done by amateurs. It takes 10 years to make a good business writer, for instance. Who's going to invest in that?"

Talton's talk is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, at Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

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Schools will celebrate 'green' enterprises

Corona del Sol and McClintock high schools are among 25 in Arizona that will celebrate the second international Green Apple Day of Service on Sept. 28 by building gardens and water harvesting systems, planting native seeds, promoting solar energy, beautifying school grounds and doing more to make local schools healthier and more productive places for students to learn.

Students, teachers, parents and community volunteers will come together on a single day to help make these school projects a reality.

Corona received a grant for its Corona Grows project, a culinary herb garden, and McClintock

was recognized similarly for its Solar Energy Café, a roundtable discussion and solar thermal demonstration.

In the Kyrene district, Cerritos Elementary School in Ahwatukee Foothills won a grant for its Go Green Garden Enhancement, which involved garden cleanup and planting.

U.S. Green Building Council - Arizona Chapter has awarded grants to 10 Arizona schools, including Corona and McClintock, for their Green Apple Day of Service projects.

USGBC Arizona received more than \$17,000 in requests for funds, and awarded a total of \$6,150 to 10 K-12 schools in Tucson, Phoenix and Tempe based on the concept that "Where we learn matters."

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Ask the doctor: How to avoid being sidelined by sports injuries

Exercise at any age is beneficial for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. However changes in the muscles, joints and bones are common with aging, making adults more susceptible to fitness and sports-related injuries.



Dr. Timothy Bert

People may find they are not able to perform at the same level they did when they were younger as an adult's body is not nearly as resilient as that of a child or teenager.

Timothy Bert, M.D., an orthopaedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine on the medical staff at Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, answered some common questions about exercise-related injuries:

What are the most common injuries for people who are active? — You don't need to be an elite athlete to injure yourself, as it can happen to anyone at any age, and to almost any part of the body. Most sports injuries fall under two

categories: acute and chronic. An acute injury refers to an injury that occurs suddenly, as a result of a fall, crash or jolt. A chronic injury happens gradually through repetitive motions and ongoing strain on a certain area of the body. It's common for adults who regularly exercise to fall prey to chronic, or overuse injuries, including tendinitis and shoulder impingement.

What can people do to prevent injuries? — Avoid ankle, knee and hip conditions that may result from an ill-fitting shoe by choosing a pair that is comfortable and is specifically designed for the activity you are engaging in. You can also change up your workout routine to prevent overuse and repetitive use injuries and tailor your workout to avoid performing exercises that cause pain. Lastly, remember to drink plenty of water before and during a workout to replace any lost fluids.

Is it necessary to begin a workout with a warm up and end it with a cool down? — It is important to ease into whatever activity you choose to do. Warm up

with a lighter version of the workout you're about to begin and slowly increase intensity, duration and frequency over time. At the end of a workout, walking for five to 10 minutes will bring your heart rate back to normal. Also, stretching after exercise will prevent muscle stiffness.

What should people do if they injure themselves? — Pain during a workout is usually a signal that there is something wrong. Stop exercising immediately if you feel light-headed, weak or are experiencing sharp pains and then RICE — Raise, Ice, Compress, Elevate — the extremity. It's important to distinguish between soreness and injury. If you experience pain that persists during daily activities and/

or exercise, contact an orthopaedist specializing in sports medicine for evaluation and recommendations for preventing future injuries.

Timothy Bert, M.D., is an orthopaedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine on the medical staff at Tempe St. Luke's Hospital. For more information about the available services, call 602-553-3113. The hospital is located at 1500 S. Mill Ave. in Tempe.

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We've added more parts of Tempe to

our distribution, and shortly will expand that even further.

We've attracted some top-notch talent, in writing as well as in photography, and we're delighted with the growth of readership and advertising that has become more and more evident, particularly in these last few months.

In fact, we've been able not only to sustain our growth over the years but to look actively to the future, which is the reason for

this little update.

First, a brief history: Starting with those early Warner Wrangler days, we made a decision to write mostly about our neighbors, our schools, our places of worship and, of course, the small and large businesses that form the nucleus of our community. These were the sources of literally thousands of stories that have appeared in our pages over the years, and we think that by focusing strictly on our neighborhoods, and our neighbors, we've been able to thrive in an industry where many are trying to reinvent themselves to keep pace with a dynamically changing information marketplace.

Not to worry: Nothing is going to change in the way we've always done business.

One of the things we do plan to do, though, is more actively encourage our readers—you—to be involved in what we print. To ask you to share your thoughts on topical community issues.

Do you think putting fences around city parks that adjoin schools is a necessary precaution or an excessive and unnecessary reaction?

Do you think downtown Chandler and downtown Tempe, including Town Lake, provide you with the benefits you want for your family, or do you have ideas that might motivate you to consider those venues more often.

Do you like ASU's methods of dealing with its fraternities, or should more be done? Or less?

Do you feel Tempe and Chandler do a good job of involving the residents of their more distant outreaches—south Tempe and west Chandler, for example—when their leaders ponder solutions to issues that face the entire city?

As you can see, there are lots of things we'd like to hear from you about. We've already lined up some of our two cities' most notable sages to share their ideas. If you'd like to join them on our new Wrangler Views page, please email tracy.doren@wranglernews.com, drop by our offices at 2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 102, Tempe, or call us during regular business hours (M-F, 9-5) at 480-966-0845 to discuss your ideas.

We're holding a page for you. Don't let the opportunity pass you by. *dk*

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A Real Dream Home for You



Gorgeous 6-bedroom, 6-bath custom home with basement in Tempe's desirable Circle G Ranch. Step into elegance! Pecan wood floors, cedar doors, gourmet kitchen with large granite island and breakfast bar. Split master bedroom with sitting area. Outside is an oasis with waterfall and play pool, spa, misting system, kiva fireplace, and built-in BBQ. Insulated RV garage stores all your toys.

The Height of Luxury

This resort style home is a must see! As you enter this custom designed estate you'll be amazed by the exquisite accents, the wine cooler, the custom cabinets and granite gourmet kitchen. No detail goes unnoticed. A jetted tub and travertine shower with 3 heads tops off the master bedroom suite. This 4-bedroom beauty also has an office with exquisite French doors and a media room. The backyard has an outdoor kitchen, a breathtaking pool plus much more.



Lush Horse Property



Rambling Spanish home updated with charm and character. 5-bedrooms, 3-baths on huge lot. Wonderful horse property in exclusive Buena Vista Ranchos Equestrian Community. Quality horse amenities including steel piping, stalls and 4 lush pastures. Perfect country setting in the city! Community offers lighted arenas and over 5 miles of trails.

Perfect Winter Getaway

Worry-free living! Charming 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in gated golf/lake Superstition Springs community. Well maintained with neutral flooring and neutral decor makes this baby move-in ready. Back patio overlooks a soothing fountain and well landscaped common area. Community pool is close by! HOA takes care of everything-landscaping, water, sewer, garbage, cable and pest control.



Absolutely Pristine



Pristine 4-bedroom, 3-bath home with updated decor throughout-travertine tile with gorgeous accents. The large stone fireplace warms a cozy, well-placed family room. Gourmet lava granite countertops and brand new stainless steel appliances. Covered patio overlooks pebble-sheen pool and spa. The well manicured lawn features orange, lemon, pomegranate and fig trees. Near Goodwin Park and in the highly coveted Kyrene School District.

South Tempe Beauty

Great family home located within the award winning Kyrene School District and Waggoner Elementary school. This home has a 3 car garage, spacious living area and a loft. Backyard is easy to maintain and has a sparkling pool! A Hamilton Home, it is one of the best built in the area.



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