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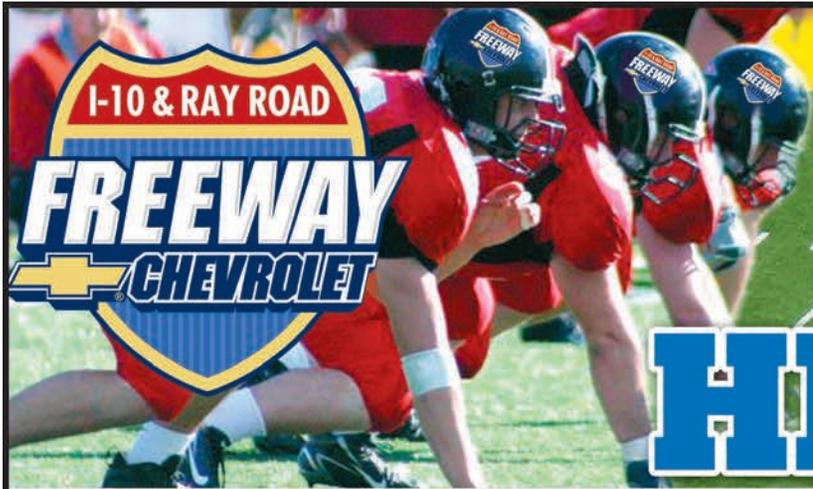
Wrangler NEWS

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Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

.....
The holidays are a tantalizing few weeks away, and the elves at Great Harvest Bakery are getting ready for the usual onslaught of customers eager for the Thanksgiving and Christmas specialties that already are lining the Tempe store's shelves. Bakers include, from left: George Walston, Emma Ttuyac, Ward Walston. (More on Pg. 15)



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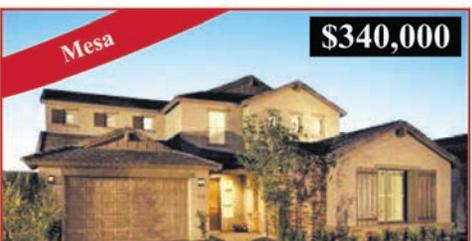
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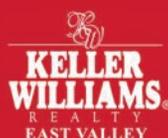
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Semper Fi

New center at
MCC opens the

Veteran Center door to a Marine's expanding future

Reporting by Georgia Swing
Photo by Billy Hardiman

As a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant, Alec Niblett's missions took him to Iraq, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the Philippines. The 27-year-old Tempe resident hopes his current mission, begun this year at Mesa Community College, will take him beyond Earth and into space.

Niblett's goal is to complete a four-year robotics engineering degree at Arizona State University, and space exploration is a special interest. With a Dutch company aiming to colonize the Red Planet by 2023, he said, "I'll go to Mars — if I can come back."

Niblett, well into his first semester at MCC, celebrated his first Veterans Day there Nov. 8 with an early morning run around campus with other military veterans, followed by a grand opening ceremony for the new Veteran Center for Student Success on the Southern and Dobson campus.

Returning to college would have been "substantially more difficult" without the new Veteran Center's support, he said in an interview.

Facing an October discharge from the Marines after eight years of service, Niblett said he walked into the Veteran Center in August and said: "Hey, I'm a veteran and I need to enroll in classes, and I have no idea what I'm doing."

Staff members responded by helping him fill out paperwork and apply veterans benefits to college expenses.

The brand-new, 1,200-square-foot office on the lower level at Kirk Student Center offers computers,

the resources of experts and a glass-walled lounge where veterans socialize, do homework, have meals and watch TV. There, as part of the center's general Veterans Day observance, Niblett and fellow Marines shared a specially decorated cake to celebrate the Corps' Nov. 10 birthday.

One year earlier he was sailing the Pacific as part of a Marine Expedition Unit, providing logistical support and stopping in the Philippines to help train Marines from both countries. He had risen from E-1 to the E-5 rank of sergeant through hard work, study, disciplined behavior and leadership, including a deployment to Iraq from 2008 to 2009.

Being in the military was "kind of the family business," said Niblett, whose grandfathers, father and uncle served and whose younger brother, Blake, is also a Marine veteran.

His father's Navy service took the family from Florida to North Carolina and Connecticut before a career change brought them to Chandler. At age 11, Niblett's parents enrolled him at Kyrene del Sureño Elementary School.

He described himself as a "skinny, scrawny kid" at Mesa Junior High, and of all his friends who together vowed to join the Marines someday, he's the only one who followed through with that branch of service. To him, the Marines represented a pride sometimes mistaken for arrogance, a reputation as "the biggest and baddest."

Analysis

Targeted marketing plan credited with Kyrene override-election win

By Diana Whittle

Voters responded in a positive way to the campaign message of the “Yes, Keep Kyrene Strong” in the recent election to support the Kyrene Elementary School District’s budget override.

While the final election tally was more than 58 percent in favor of the measure, each of the votes received was not taken for granted. Voters were carefully cultivated by a group of dedicated volunteers, who created a sophisticated marketing plan and gave countless hours to implement it.

Spearheading the community outreach was volunteer extraordinaire Rosalie Hirano, according to Kyrene Governing board member Michelle Hirsch.

“Rosalie organized all the volunteers with a work plan and assigned tasks. She kept everything on schedule.”

Hirsch attributes the overall success of the campaign to delivering a consistent message to voters by using a variety of communication techniques.

“We knocked on the doors of Kyrene parents and registered voters to make sure everyone knew about the election,” said Hirsch.

“We also operated a phone bank on Sunday evening to make calls from lists of voters. In addition, we were especially fortunate to receive help from corporate donors that paid for the printing of fliers and yard signs, and mailings of election materials to nearly 40,000 voters.

“The collateral materials were professionally designed and produced by Jennifer Bowen and Dixie Crosser, who donated all their time.”

A first for the campaign was to use the services of consultant, Dr. Angela Cotera, who analyzed past voter data to target key voters.

Her recommendation allowed the volunteers to use the \$30,000 in donations strategically and was able to pay for ads in key publications, including Wrangler News, along with placing two “robo” calls to encourage people to vote in the days before the election.

The final two weeks before the election were extremely critical, recalls Hirano, and the volunteers stepped up their efforts with the guidance of Dr. Cotera.

“We were able to monitor which voters on the Permanent Early Ballot List had returned their ballots and contacted those who hadn’t voted yet to remind them to do so,” said Hirano.

“Once the deadline passed for return of early ballots by mail, we pivoted our efforts to target potential yes voters to remind them to vote, primarily by phone bank.

“A lot of those conversations indicated that voters had either forgotten about the election or did not know the location of their polling place.”

The campaign also made use of social media, including Facebook and Twitter, developed a webpage, and also

— MARKETING, Page 17







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Voters' OK of Kyrene, Tempe Union measures allows planning to start now for future school maintenance

By Diana Whittle

The voters' approval of budget override measures in both the Kyrene Elementary and Tempe Union High school districts, lets administrators breathe a partial sigh of relief.

Although the funds don't actually come into play for several years, planning can progress with the knowledge that the resources will be in place to support the Maintenance and Operation budgets at their current levels.

Voters approved the ballot measures in both districts with more than 58 percent of the vote.

"I just think that the Tempe Union community has an understanding that strong schools mean strong communities, and I am just very grateful for the support for our teachers, our students and our families," said Kenneth Baca, Tempe Union superintendent.

"As a result of this, we can expect to continue the wonderful programs inside and outside the classroom, and continue to provide quality instruction."

Board member Sandy Lowe agreed:

"Tempe Union is a school district where dedicated leaders, teachers and staff are united in the goal of making sure our kids are given the best education possible, and this is recognized by all those families that entrust their kids to this district."

In Kyrene, the continuation of the current override means that approximately \$12 million will continue to support general fund and quality-of-life instruction such as music, art and physical education.

Dr. David Schauer, superintendent of the Kyrene district, said that passage of the override allows Kyrene to continue its current services and programs for families.

"We are very appreciative to those who conducted the campaign, 'Keep Kyrene Strong,' and to the community for demonstrating their strong support through their votes," said Schauer.

The passage of the ballot measure renews existing overrides in both districts.

Overrides in Arizona must be renewed every five years or they begin a two-year phase-down with complete elimination after the seventh year if not renewed. As state funding dollars become tighter, school districts must rely on additional local support for their budget in the form of an override.

"Kyrene has been fortunate to never lose an election except for one time in 2010—and that election lost by less than 100 votes, so we do know that every vote counts," said Schauer.

Typically, Kyrene goes to the voters seeking a renewal prior to the phase-down period of the existing override to allow the district an opportunity to adequately plan programs and services based on available resources.

A second ballot question in this election, also approved by Kyrene voters, concerns future action on vacant land owned by the district known as Club West.

"The current election was successful because it was well organized by a very strong core group of volunteers from the community," said Schauer.

"This group saw to it that Keep Kyrene Strong also was a well-funded campaign by holding fundraising events and asking for donations."

Volunteers also were important to the effort in the Tempe Union district, where the override election approved \$7 million to be used for after-school, athletic and extra-curricular programs, along with facilities maintenance.

Rosalie Hirano is a parent who actively supported campaigns in both districts and shared her observations.

"In both campaigns, it was necessary to explain that the ballot measure was for an extension of an existing property tax for education, not a new one, and that their property rate would not increase," said Hirano.

"We also had to communicate to voters without kids in elementary or high school the impact quality schools has on property values and the value good schools bring to the community as a whole."



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Take note: Our state's biggest daily definitely got this one right

By M.V. Moorhead

We don't want to brew up any controversy among the many fine establishments that serve up a good cup of joe every day in our community. But a "Best Coffee Shop" award from The Arizona Republic is no small achievement, and we'd like to second their choice.

At Wrangler News, of course, we were already longtime fans of Steve's Espresso, at Baseline and McClintock in the Peter Piper Pizza plaza, and can tell you without reservation that the State's Largest Newspaper got it right.

On a recent visit to Steve's, which opened nine years ago this Thanksgiving, my family consumed a medium caramelatte; a chai tea, iced; a small hot chocolate; and a shot of espresso.

We also sampled the ham-and-cheese frittata, a cinnamon roll and a cranberry-orange scone.

Lest you think we're a family of gluttons, let me clarify:

I ate more than half of these goodies. I'm the glutton. The baked goods, all made on premises (except the bagels, imported from nearby Becky's Bagels) had flawlessly balanced flavor and just-out-of-the-oven texture—the scone wasn't a stone.

The beverages, likewise, had a just-brewed vibrancy, refreshing and deliciously sweet but not cloying. The enthusiastic service by our baristas Rachel and Rehnuma was refreshing, too. "We can do anything Starbucks can do, but about 10 times better," Rachel proudly told us.

There are a couple of exceptions to this boast, however—exceptions of choice. Steve's Espresso has a purist streak, so they don't offer blended drinks, for instance.

Blenders are verboten on the premises. Also, most notably and

untypically for the coffeehouse business, Steve's doesn't offer wifi in store. Owner and namesake Steve Schmidt—not Steve Schmidt the Republican political strategist we can thank for Sarah Palin, a different Steve Schmidt—pulled the service from the place, preferring his customers to be connected to the experience of their coffee, and perhaps to each other, rather than to the Internet.

"It was a philosophical decision," says Schmidt, a longtime Tempe resident and ASU grad. "People get angry in a way that would surprise you that we don't have wifi. Everyone thinks wifi is a magical thing. It's a distraction. At the end of the day, it's about what my business is. I'm a coffeeshop, not a virtual office."

Schmidt goes on to note that his business is plagued by what are known as "campers," business people or students who spend little money but large amounts of time working.

"Coffeeshops are one of the most abused spaces around. It's like it's a free public workspace."

His prohibition has ended that in his shop, and he feels it's promoted a friendlier atmosphere in-store. "We have way more talking," he observes, "and we have a card club that comes in once a week to play bridge. It's more social."

Besides, says Schmidt, it's not as if the lack of wifi means that nobody can get online in his store.

"Everybody has an iPhone these days anyway. In my opinion, within a few years offering wifi will be completely irrelevant."

More than anything, according to Schmidt, pulling the wifi has generated media attention for Steve's Espresso.

"At this point," says Schmidt, "when people ask me about it I tell them it's a publicity stunt."

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Sports . . . with Alex Zener

Cross country championship a triple win for Aztecs

Corona's boys cross country team went out Nov. 9 on the hot, hilly course at Cave Creek Golf Course for the Arizona State Division I Championship meet and did what they had set their sights on months ago: Win a state championship.

It was a tremendous outing for the Aztecs, who beat out their next closest competitor, Desert Vista, by 32 points after tallying only 48 points to the Thunder's 80.

What they accomplished was more than just winning a championship, though. The Aztecs not only finished with an undefeated 6-6 regular season record and won their section, but did what no other high school in the state of Arizona has done before. Corona's top three runners, **Nate Rodriguez**, **Ryan Normand** and **Marcus Wheeler**, crossed the finish line 1-2-3.

"It meant the world for us to sweep 1-3," said Rodriguez. "We had never heard of someone doing it before, so just the fact that we had a chance to do it was crazy to think about. I hope we will be remembered for doing it."

Normand, who, along with Rodriguez, has been one of the top runners at Corona for the past three years, set the pace for his teammates.

"Our strategy was to run a smart race because this course is really tough and we didn't want to

burn out on the hills in the first half. We wanted to be able to give it all we had in the second half," said Normand. "We stuck right behind the lead runners for the first mile but then the three of us took the lead at the first mile marker."

"I knew there was a pack of runners right behind me at that point and I just needed to keep the pace fast in order to stay ahead."

"Ryan led most of the race with me a step behind him and Marcus staying in very close proximity to us until towards the last part of the course, where I made my move to go in front," said Rodriguez.

Furthermore, Corona's other two runners, **Patrick Cullings** (20) and **Blake Fischer** (22) finished in the top 25. These two were the X factor because, if they had not chased down and beaten Desert Vista's fourth runner, the Aztecs most likely would not have won. **Slade Sumners** and **Andrew Truswell** also finished the race for the Aztecs but only the top five finishes count toward the total score.

It was Corona's second state championship. The first one was in 1992 when Nate Rodriguez's father, Ari, was on the team that won.

"I ran cross country all four years at Corona," said **Ari Rodriguez**. "My junior year we were second and my senior year we won the state championship."

"I placed eighth in the state the year we won the

championship and I was the fourth runner to cross the finish line for Corona. We only scored 36 points to win."

Both Iowa State-bound Rodriguez and Normand, who has yet to commit to a college, plan on running track for the Aztecs in the spring.

"I definitely plan on running track this spring and taking on some big goals. Going for a few state records," said Nate Rodriguez.

A couple of those state records may be in the 1600m and 3200m track events. It just so happens that Nate's dad Ari set the 1600m state record of 4:10.10 in 1993 that was also fourth in the country that year.

Ari's record is now fifth in Arizona history while his Corona teammate, **Ben Goodman** is right behind him at 4:10.61 according to arizonatrack.com.

Nate may also have his sights on another Corona alumni and his dad's teammate, Nathan Nutters' 1994 record in the 3200m of 8:54.23, which is still the sixth fastest time in Arizona high school history.

Right now, though, Rodriguez and Normand want to relish in what they and their teammates were able to accomplish this season.

"This season has just been amazing," said Normand. "I'm so proud of the team for all the work

— SPORTS, Page 9

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Corona athletes signed college letters of intent Nov. 13. Signers included, from left, Casey Benson, Basketball, Oregon; Ethan Tursini, Wrestling, U.S. Military Academy; Glenn Farina, Wrestling, Cal Poly; Chloe Hacker, Dive, Columbia; Garret Howell Lacrosse, Seton Hill; and Connor MacDougall, Basketball, ASU. — Photo contributed by Kris Cartwright

Sports

From Page 8

they put in to help us win this championship and go undefeated.”

“I have nothing but pride in my teammates for what we were able to accomplish this season,” said Nate Rodriguez. “I can’t imagine a better way to end my senior cross country season. I will always cherish the time spent with my teammates off and on the course. They have truly made every day of this season memorable.”

Corona’s cross country team and individual champion Nate Rodriguez have one more chance to compete and win this season when they compete at the NXN Southwest Regional Nov. 23 at Toka Sticks Golf Course in Mesa against runners from Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Nevada.

Corona’s Girls XC Team

Corona’s girls team finished in 5th place behind Desert Vista, Xavier, Mountain View and Highland placing two runners in the top 15 spots. Most importantly, this season Corona’s team had one runner, **Kelly Naumann**, who placed higher than any other Corona girl runner has in years, if ever, in the state meet.

Naumann dug deep for that extra strength

to push through the last 200 meters and pass six runners to cross the finish line in fourth place, the highest finish for an individual Corona girl runner at a state cross country meet. The next best finish found on aiaonline.org records that go back as far as 1996 was Danica Ganje who finished seventh at the 2008 state meet.

Even more surprising is the fact that Naumann entered the state meet ranked 21st and finished 4th, according to Corona’s girls head coach **Ari Rodriguez**.

“Kelly is one of the most dedicated and coachable female runners I have ever worked with,” said Rodriguez. “When I ask her to do something, I know it will get done. You could not ask for a better athlete on your team.”

All of Naumann’s dedication obviously paid off when she worked her way up from No. 6 runner on Corona’s team last season to No. 1 runner this season, according to Rodriguez.

Mason Swenson, Corona’s predicted pre-season No. 1 runner before injury sidelined her, was the second Lady Aztec to cross the finish line in the 15th spot, followed by **Renee Clary** at 44th, **Grace Ashu** at 45th, and **Sammie Moore** at 61st.

Corona’s last two runners to cross the finish line but whose finish did not count in the final score of 169 were **Mackenzie Harder** and **Kristina Nedlekofa**. This was the first season for coach Rodriguez to head up the girls team, and although he

says it will always be his most memorable, Rodriguez should have an even better team next season when he returns all of his top runners with the exception of seniors Ashu and Moore.

Corona Football

The Aztecs capped off their 2013 season winning three out of their last four games to finish with a 3-7, 2-2 section record by defeating Notre Dame Prep 38-19 in front of their home crowd Nov. 1.

“The kids came together these last four games, worked hard and played together,” said interim head coach **Tim Kelly**. “I’m sad to see it over because we were playing so well at the end and I think with a couple more games on the back end we could have kept winning and given our senior class a great finish to their careers here at Corona.”

Corona came out after warm-ups to start the first quarter against Notre Dame Prep in their last game of the season, ready to show football fans that they were a better team than their record depicted by outscoring the Saints 22-3 in the first quarter with three touchdowns, two point-after kicks and a successful two-point conversion.

Grant Fishburn started the scoring frenzy with a touchdown pass from senior quarterback **RJ Rhiner**. Then a rushing touchdown from **Colin Freeland** and another from **George Wright** with a

Sports

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two-point conversion by Rhiner gave the Aztecs a 19-point, 22-3, lead heading into the second quarter.

Junior kicker **Chris Baker's** two point-after kicks, after the first two touchdowns in the first quarter, went sailing through the uprights to count for two of the 22 points.

The second quarter saw the Aztecs continue to put points on the scoreboard with two more rushing touchdowns from Wright to give him a total of three touchdowns against the Saints and 10 total touchdowns for the season.

Corona was also successful on another two-point conversion during the second quarter when Rhiner connected with a pass to junior wide-receiver **Tyler Stehr**, thus giving the Aztecs a 36-10 lead heading into the locker room at the half.

Corona's saw its 26-point lead diminish to 36-16 with a scoreless third quarter but held on in the fourth to capture the win after **Cassius Peat** was able to record a sack which lead to a safety and an additional two points making the final score 38-16.

Rhiner was 13 for 20 passing totaling 188 yards spread out among seven receivers including Stehr, **Tevin Mayfield**, Freeland, Wright, Fishburn and **Donnivin Moraca**.

The 48-yard pass reception by **Vegas Trujillo**, his only catch on the night, was Rhiner's longest pass.

Although Wright was the leading rusher with

63 yards on 24 carries, **Blake Jones** averaged close to seven yards on the seven times he carried the ball for 45 total yards.

The Aztecs were all over the field on defense, recording more solo tackles than assists, 45 to 42, with 87 total tackles, 13 for a loss of yardage and 10 quarterback sacks.

Peat, who missed the first four games of the season due to injury, was on fire on the defensive side of the ball. He not only led the team in solo tackles at seven, total tackles at 10, but was credited with four sacks.

Like Peat, almost all of Corona's offensive players play big roles on defense including Stehr with 9 tackles, Jones and **Elijah Hassell** with 8, **Travis Longacre** and **Jacob Riedell** with 7, and **Thomas Turley** with 6.

Nothing has yet been announced as far as the coaching staff for next year, according to coach Kelly on Nov. 11.

"I have no idea at this time what will happen," said Kelly. "We are going to get these kids their recognition at the end of the year awards banquet, and I'm sure the administration will do what they think is right on the timetable they need to."

Corona Swim Dive Team State Results

Corona's Swim and Dive teams had six girls and two boys compete in the state championships held this year at the Mesa Aquatics Center Nov. 8-9. The girls team took 15th place out of 29 teams, showing much improvement over last



Kelly Naumann dug deep to pass other runners in the last 200 meters to capture fourth place, the highest finish for any Corona girl runner at a state meet in years if not in the school's history.

— Photo contributed by Chris Huch

— SPORTS, Page 11

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- Run is chip timed
- Course is a scenic loop around Tempe Town Lake
- Participants receive commemorative T-shirts

- ½K Fuzz Run**
- Free for Children 10 and under
- Starts at 8:30 a.m.
- Participants receive play badges

Family Fun

- Event expo
- Free refreshments



Aztec divers look toward next-season growth.

— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

Sports

From Page 10

season's 22nd place finish.

Karilyn Quon was involved in earning most of the 46 points the girls team tallied by finishing 3rd place in the 200 Yard IM and taking 8th place in the 500 Yard Freestyle.

"Karilyn, our young phenom, had a fantastic state meet," said coach **Ron Musgrave**. "Every time she entered the water she improved her times and ended up smiling and happy. The biggest surprise was how she managed to perform so well swimming the anchor leg of the 200 freestyle relay

immediately following her 500 freestyle event."

Corona's girls 200 Freestyle Relay team of **Ericka Boeger**, **Amy Hong**, **Tessa Martinson** and Quon finished 12th. Hong, Quon, **Nicole Holly** and Boeger also swam in the 200 Yard Medley Relay coming in 20th.

Chloe Hacker took sixth place in the 1 Meter Diving event and Holly placed 20th in the 100 Yard Butterfly to round out the swimmers from the girls team who qualified and competed at state.

"I know Nicole was disappointed that she only missed breaking the one-minute mark by .71 seconds in the 100 fly, but I was proud of her positive attitude and tireless work ethic," said Musgrave. "I'm sure, with her

continued training and maturity, she will attain that mark by next season."

The boys team came in 31st place after qualifying only one swimmer and one diver this year for the state swim meet.

Nicholas Quon placed 12th in the 100 Yard Backstroke and 19th in the 200 Yard IM, while **Andrew Tate** came in 23rd in the 1 Meter Diving event.

"Nicholas continues to improve

and we expect great things from him next season," said Musgrave.

"We took a giant step towards building the team and atmosphere I had envisioned possible this year with the support of parents and our coaching staff, including Mike Floyd, our diving coach, and Mike Herrmann, my assistant," said Musgrave.

"I look forward to our continued growth next season.

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MCC

From Page 4

Niblett enlisted in the Marines in March 2005 during his senior year at Mesa High and began vigorous physical training and military studies before graduation. The avid reader took to heart the message of Robert A. Heinlein's military science fiction novel "Starship Troopers" – "that you serve the country you're going to take benefits from."

"I'm the kid who never had to study but always got A's," he said of his high school years. A trumpet player, he said his precision marching band experience served him well later in boot camp drills.

In Iraq, Niblett was stationed at Al-Taqaddum Air Base, known simply as "TQ" – a hub of logistical

support for military throughout the Anbar region. His job involved "beans, bullets and brass," driving a truck to deliver food, water, fuel and ammunition to troops on and off the base.

Coming from the East Valley of Phoenix, he thought he knew hot weather. But disembarking from the plane in central Iraq in July was like "stepping into an oven," he said. "It was probably 130 degrees." On his back he wore an 80-pound pack and in his hands were a sea bag and a box of books the size of a microwave oven. Reading, he said, "kept me sane."

As coalition forces prepared to hand over the region to the Iraqi government, the Marines were tasked with "anything they could do to give the populace the warm and fuzzies," Niblett said. He smiled as he recalled handing out fleece blankets,

stuffed animals and mattresses in a small fishing community, where the village leader kept the children in line with a walking stick while encouraging them to gather as many gifts as they could. That was typical of the child-rearing he observed in Iraqi villages – communal and firm, he said.

He witnessed from afar the only large-scale attack during his deployment: Insurgents detonated trucks loaded with improvised explosive devices in a crowded market, an attempt to dissuade the populace from becoming friendly with coalition forces. Before he could lose access to the Internet, Niblett jumped on a computer to make sure his brother, stationed in Ramadi, had not been injured.

Niblett said the largest personal threat at TQ came from a small number of Iraqi nationals among those who worked on the air base who had the secret purpose of kidnapping coalition troops. "I just kept my knife on me," he said. But, he added, "most of the Iraqi nationals were awesome people."

He became friends with an Iraqi man who set up a hookah stand on base each evening and served tea.

The man told Niblett: "I actually like the fact you guys are here. It was pretty miserable before that." He told Niblett that insurgents had killed his brother when he refused to help them.

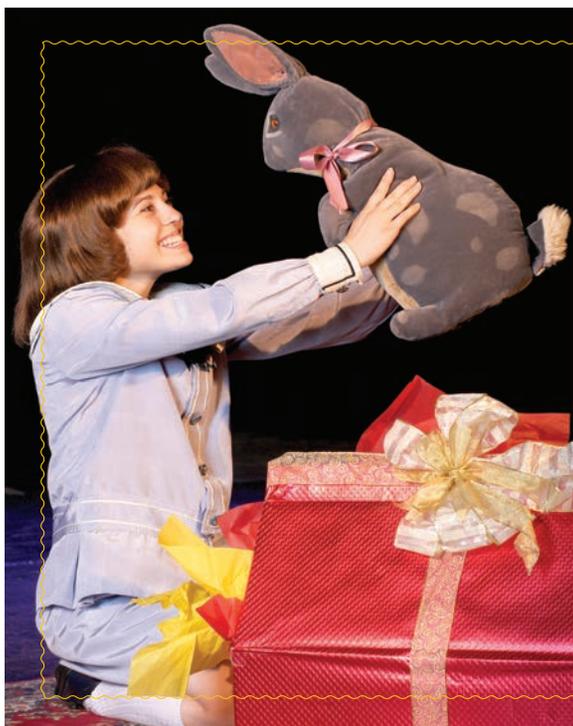
Far from the scrawny kid who vowed to become a Marine, a muscular, 5-foot, 11-inch Niblett sat in the MCC Veteran Center dressed in a brown vintage Star Wars T-shirt emblazoned with a Storm Trooper. He described the "versatile" role of robotics engineering in manufacturing, research and development, medicine and at NASA, laughing as he remembered the inspiration of his career choice: a You Tube video of a modular robot. He watched a robot take itself apart module by module, then rebuild itself, slither along the floor like a snake and climb an obstacle. "Robotics: Sold!" he told himself.

"I would love to be researching and developing robots for different scenarios. Let me see what materials I can use to make this robot, to shield it for dealing with high-radiation areas or lighten it up so it can easily move between heavy gravity places or light gravity places, to be able to handle multiple kinds of terrain...just to be able to get a problem and solve it in some way, shape or form to make the robot work."

He doesn't like being underestimated by those who aren't familiar with the military. "They don't realize that some of us, being the age we are, have been in charge of many people or have management experience," he said.

As a young marching band member in school, he used to volunteer to take part in the Mesa Veterans Day parade, he said, and he's glad people still set aside a day to honor those who have served their country. Now he lives in the Kiwanis Park area of Tempe, and he told of anonymous donors who have picked up his tab at restaurants when he has been in uniform.

On Nov. 8, MCC President Shouan Pan and other state and college officials took part in the grand opening of the new Veteran Center as well as celebrating Veterans Day.



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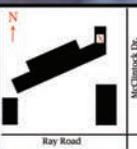
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Tempe Police 'shred-a-thon

Tempe Police are again hosting a Shred-It event to help residents prevent identity theft.

Community members will be able to safely dispose of up to 50 pounds of no-longer-needed personal documents that could lead to identity theft in criminal hands.

Thanks to sponsors Shred-It Waste Management Company and Target, the event is free to those living in the community.

Donations for the non-profit Special Olympics will be accepted in any amount; a receipt will be provided.

Each year, the Tempe Police Department salutes the athletes of the Special Olympics during the upcoming annual Law Enforcement Torch Run, and this is just one additional way to accomplish that goal, according to TPD spokeswoman Molly Enright.

Details:

What: Tempe Police Department Shred It Event
When: Saturday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Tempe Police Hardy substation, 8201 S. Hardy Drive, Tempe.

How It works: Protect your good name from identity theft. Bring personal and confidential papers to be destroyed as you watch.

Nov. 16-17 Holiday boutique

Holiday shopping can be overwhelming at times, between last-minute panicked shoppers and the congested, chaotic environments.

If you're looking for a chance to get in some early holiday shopping in a calm, family-friendly environment, Dayspring Preschool and Kindergarten's free holiday boutique is the perfect answer.

The 29th annual holiday event will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16.

Not only will there be an array of unique items to purchase from 70-plus vendors, but plenty of raffle prizes, as well.

Dayspring Preschool and Kindergarten is located at 1365 E. Elliot Road, Tempe.

For more info: www.dayspringpreschool.com/boutique.

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MCC

From Page 12

Dressed in a red Military Student Alliance T-shirt, Niblett and other members of his college club stood at attention, took photos and helped host the event.

Antonia Adams-Clement, director of educational & special services at MDD, described Niblett as "committed to his academic success. He comes in every day and studies. His mission now is his academic career, and he has his eye on his goal.

And, importantly, he recognizes

that the camaraderie he has in that student space and being part of the military student alliance is very important."

Niblett said he's grateful for the chance to get together with other veterans who've been through the "shared turmoil. We've been through that crappy deployment...not having creature comforts. We've all earned what we got; we worked for what we got."

Though he would advise young people to attend college first and join the military as an officer, he said, "the shared suffering of being the lowest level and hazing the nastiness out of my body is a memory I'm going to keep for a while."

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Good cheer

Nearly 50 Corona del Sol High School cheerleaders staged a massive food-packing event Nov. 5, their efforts resulting in 64 shipping boxes destined for some of the world's most poverty-stricken countries. Cheer coaches Chrissie Wiley and Margie DiCesare said the boxes contained the equivalent of 13,000 meals, enough to feed 37 hungry children for a year.

— Photo contributed by Jill Cohen

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Coming up this month in Tempe

Satisfied users of medical marijuana will discuss health benefits

By Chase Kamp

Since April 2011, when the voter-approved Arizona Medical Marijuana Act took effect, more than 36,000 state residents have received licenses to legally treat various conditions with medically grown marijuana.

The Harvest of Tempe medical cannabis dispensary aims to celebrate these patients and further promote the plant's medicinal uses at its Patient Appreciation Day event Saturday, Nov. 16.

The event, to be held at 710 W. Elliot Road, Tempe, also seeks to raise funds for patients caught in legal entanglements or unable to afford their prescribed medicinal marijuana.

Steve White, board member at Harvest of Tempe and law partner at White Berberian PLC, said several foundations will be on hand to discuss the treatment benefits of marijuana for a slew of serious medical conditions.

Among the groups participating will be the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, HIV Foundation and Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

White asserted that these mainstream health organizations are making their first forays into medical marijuana events like his.

He hesitated to say the groups wholly advocate medical cannabis, but argued that they are beginning to acknowledge the conversations patients are having about it.

Arizona's medical marijuana program got off to a rocky start: Medical cards were issued to patients months before the dispensary program was up and running.

The state is also working out the kinks in regard to marijuana extracts and oils, which are used in edibles and other non-smoking consumption methods that dispensaries advocate as healthier options.

Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery has insisted that marijuana extracts are not covered under the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act.

White argued, though, that it is illogical to decriminalize plants but not its derivatives, effectively limiting the consumption options dispensaries can provide. He also said a big problem for patients in the Arizona program is a complete lack of insurance coverage for their medical cannabis, which may have fewer side-effects than other medications.

"They have to come out of pocket for [medical marijuana], whereas traditional opiates or other medications are covered," he said.

Despite the political controversy of state medical marijuana programs, White said Harvest of Tempe has found no resistance whatsoever from the community in its few years of operation.

"We haven't gotten a single complaint," he said.

He attributes some of it to the city of Tempe's strict regulations as well as program oversight by local police, but mostly due to the group's diligence in following state statutes. "We've tried to maintain a model operation," he said.

State programs like Arizona's are facing less scrutiny from the federal government. The U.S. Department of Justice issued a memo asserting state programs will face federal intervention on only certain criteria, such as marijuana sale to minors or aiding in criminal enterprises like gangs.

White said the Nov. 16 event intends to aid those with questions about the the legal intricacies of the state program, as well as speak to those who question marijuana's medical potential.

For most people who end up changing their mind about medical marijuana, he said, it most often happens through interaction with a patient that has been helped by the treatment.

"When you start to hear [their stories]," he said, "it's very difficult to be an opponent."

Tempe Mayor Mitchell to present view of area's future at Nov. 21 'State of the City'

Tempe's Nov. 21 State of the City Address provides an opportunity for the public to hear from Mayor Mark Mitchell as he shares his thoughts on the local social and economic climate along with his vision for the growth and future of Tempe and Arizona.

"With the year that Tempe has experienced, I could not be more excited to update residents and business leaders on the economic development the city of Tempe has been experiencing.

"The investments we have made in our infrastructure, quality of life and regional partnerships are paying off," said Mitchell.

"Tempe's 'think big' attitude has been key to coming out on top as a vibrant, diverse and business-friendly city."

The event includes breakfast with civic, business and political leaders of the Valley. It will take place Thursday, Nov. 21, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Tempe Mission Palms, 60 E. 5th St., in Tempe.

The public is invited to attend.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., and Mitchell will begin his speech and presentation at 8.

Advance RSVP is required.

Tickets are \$50 for members, \$70 for the public, \$500 for a table of 10.

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Marketing

From Page 5

received coverage in local media through letters to the editor and opinion pieces. Endorsement from a list of prominent elected officials also lent credibility to their efforts.

“Keep Kyrene Strong” received key endorsements from one member of Congress, all three state legislators, three mayors, four city council members and two chambers of commerce—all proved useful in establishing Keep Kyrene Strong as being representative of the community, regardless of political party, and the support from the business community emphasized the importance of investing

in education,” said Hirano.

Hirano says that with the election behind her, it’s still important to keep the campaign message in the public’s eye.

“It was clear from our outreach efforts how much misinformation is out there among voters about the function of overrides and what they mean to our kids’ educations,” said Hirano.

“We will be continuing, through Keep Kyrene Strong and with the support of the district, parents, teachers and the business community, to spread the word on the importance of investing in education.

We have a great community in Kyrene, and a lot of people come here because of our schools. I want to help make sure Kyrene schools can be the best they can be.”

Charlie Brown coming to town Nov. 23

Students from a number of Kyrene and Tempe Union high schools will appear in a district-wide performance of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” scheduled at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Akimel A-al Middle School, 2720 E. Liberty Lane, Ahwatukee.

The story tells of “an average day in the life of Charlie Brown,” one made up of moments picked from Valentine’s Day to the baseball season, from wild optimism to utter despair—all mixed in with the lives of Charley’s friends (both human and non-human) and strung together on a single day, from bright uncertain morning to hopeful starlit evening.

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Walk brings back a mom's emotional memories, plus thanks for being a 10-year survivor \$2 million in donations signal final year for Komen in Arizona

Story and photo by Chelsea Martin

There comes a time in life when virtually everyone is faced with a mind-numbing challenge, one that forces us to either throw in the towel or fight and hope for a better tomorrow.

These unfortunate obstacles arrive unannounced in varying degrees for each individual.

Regardless of the situation, the strength to hold on, united with unrelenting support, is fundamental.

For nine years Tempe resident Bonny Dolinsek has been supporting breast cancer awareness through the Susan G. Komen AZ 3-Day walk. A survivor herself, Dolinsek has devoted herself to the spirited cause. This year marked an exceptional date, she noted, because it's her own 10-year anniversary of being cancer-free.

Ironically, it's also the 10th and final year of the Susan G. Komen 3-day walk in Arizona, historically a milestone ordeal for each and every individual participating.

Before the awareness, the walk, the pink products and the accompanying pride and support existed in Dolinsek's world, the arrival of an unfortunate diagnosis was thrust into her life.

On Sept. 29, 2003, at the age of 32, Dolinsek was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I was completely blindsided by it," she said. "I had no family history of it, and I didn't know anything about it at the time. My first question to the doctors was, am I going to die?"

For nearly two years, Dolinsek's life consisted of continuing surgeries, reconstruction and four separate chemotherapy sessions. She had a dynamic

team of four doctors in central Phoenix: a surgeon, a plastic surgeon, an oncologist and a naturopathic doctor.

"When I was first diagnosed I was bound and determined to get it figured out, and demanded to know what's the next step and the step after that," Dolinsek said. "I was fortunate I didn't have to deal with any setbacks during chemo because typically a lot of woman do. But I kept on fighting and healed very well."

The doctors reminded Dolinsek that chemotherapy would be detrimental to her fertility and chances of conceiving a child biologically, but she could try a year after her last chemo treatment.

"It was February 2005 that I was allowed to start trying, so we went to Las Vegas on Presidents Day weekend; it was my husband's birthday," she said.

"I just knew it was my time and we got pregnant. I always say we hit the jackpot."

When she was recovering from her last chemo treatment, Dolinsek heard about the 3-day walk and knew right away she wanted to get involved. She rounded up a team of 15 close friends and family members before she found out she was pregnant.

"Despite my due date being two weeks after the walk, I was committed to the goal and ended up doing the walk as best I could," Dolinsek said.

"I just remember it being a strong mix of emotions and contractions. I ended up having the baby 10 days after the walk, and I can only imagine the walk had something to do with it."

Bo, Dolinsek's son, is now 8 and looked upon as a special gift by Dolinsek and her husband Scott. She

has not had any other children since.

"That year's walk was emotional and powerful because it was a celebration of the fight I'd won and the gift of our child."

Dolinsek continued to train, raise awareness, support and walk for seven more years. Last year was the first she earned herself a spot on the route safety crew alongside her husband. This year the two will be bicycling along the route with the crew one last time in Arizona.

This year's 3-day walk hosted nearly 1,000 brave, exuberant participants. The event helped raised more than \$2 million this year, totalling \$43 million for the past 10 years.

The Nov. 7 opening ceremonies began in Gilbert at 6:30 a.m.

"The opening ceremony is big and powerful, and they really know how to jump-start the crowd and get you excited to start walking," Dolinsek said.

"During the ceremony there is a group that comes in carrying flags, and they join to raise the survivor flag. It's really emotional. This year my husband was asked to carry the flag that says 'my wife'."

After the ceremony the walkers and crew set off from Gilbert to Chandler and Tempe, completing a 20-mile trek that ends at Benedict Park in Tempe.

Event 360, the company behind the grand event, set up a luxurious camp for the walkers at the park for both nights, there to be found a sea of pink tents, hot showers, warm meals, entertainment and three speakers each night.



Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman

HOLIDAY DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Please note that our next issue of Wrangler News will be delivered starting Thursday, Dec. 5. Advertising and article/photo content needs to reach us by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, to be included in that edition. Thanks, and have a great Thanksgiving holiday!



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Bonny Dolinsek, husband Scott, and 9-year-old daughter Laura Lamberto-White joined the celebration during a stop at Kyrene de los Niños Elementary School in Tempe

Walk

From Page 18

Dolinsek was one of the survivor speakers on Friday. On Saturday the walkers cheerfully marched through the streets and neighborhoods in Ahwatukee, then back to camp. There were plenty of cheering stations and pit stops along the way, including a couple of Kyrene schools: Niños on Friday, Monte Vista and Colina on Saturday.

"We walked through a lot of neighborhoods, and people offer their homes and hospitality to all of the walkers," Dolinsek said.

"Sun Devil Auto gives out Gatoritas (Gatorade slushies); people have spray bottles, and some will even massage your feet. When we walk by the schools the kids hold signs and cheer. There is so much community support it's amazing."

The final day consisted of packing up and finishing the last 20 miles through downtown Tempe and Old Town Scottsdale to the final destination at Scottsdale stadium.

"The closing ceremonies are really neat. All the walkers go out onto the field and all the crew and the route safety members follow," Dolinsek said.

"When the survivors finally walk out, everyone takes one shoe off and raises it into the air. It's really emotional."

The walk forms lasting friendships and memories, as well as everlasting hope for the future and a noticeable difference in the movement toward a cancer-free world.

Dolinsek will never give up hope.

"I do the 3-day walk because I can. I'm healthy, I'm capable, and it's my way of giving back," Dolinsek said.

"I walk because I believe that everyone deserves a lifetime."

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Art After Work takes inspiration from the floral works of Georgia O'Keefe.

The Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts hosts an evening of painting, 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, offering participants a chance to try their hand at their own version of 'Georgia O'Keefe's Got Nothing on Me.'

Art teacher Laura Hukill leads a laid-back class that requires no art experience. Participants relax during a friendly night of art-making, with enough guidance to ensure everyone leaves with a treasured painting.

This month, participants will work with bright reds and cobalt blues to invoke the passion for which O'Keefe's paintings are known.

Price of \$35 includes a 16-by-20-inch canvas, art materials and an \$8 food and beverage voucher. Online registration only. No refunds.

Registration is capped at 25 people and must be completed by noon Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Information: www.tempe.gov/tcaevents.

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Dec. 1 deadline for schools to apply for \$15k cash grant

Arizona's publicly funded schools, including those in the Kyrene, Tempe Elementary and Tempe Union districts, have until Dec. 1 to apply for a \$15,000 cash award as Bookmans Entertainment Exchange opens its 2014 School Challenge.

Bookmans encourages applications from public elementary, middle and high schools throughout the state in support of science, literacy and the arts in the classroom and for after-school programs.

"This allows us to get to know individual schools and the precise issues they face. It informs our outreach efforts so we can help schools meet specific needs," says Sheila Kressler-Crowley, marketing director for Bookmans.

In the challenge, schools describe their innovation, creativity and successes and explain how a financial boost will help them remove obstacles to their goals. Effective applications establish a need and build on the school's strengths.

The online application process ends Dec. 1.

Information: www.bookmans.com/community/school-challenge.

The winner will be announced March 3.



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Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea	Tuesday, Dec. 3rd	7:00pm
Christmas Dessert Concert	Sunday, Dec. 8th	6:30pm
Christmas Eve Children's Service	Tuesday, Dec. 24th	5:00pm
Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday, Dec. 24th	8:00pm
Sunday Worship	Every Sunday	9:30am
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- Nov. 22 - Right Wing, Left Wing
- Nov. 29 - Class Clowns; Tim Bateman "Back from the Outback"
- Nov. 30 - Saturday Night Special
- Dec. 6 - Insane and Sober; Funny Times 10
- Dec. 13 - Ken Kaz, "How the Economy Stole Christmas"
- Dec. 20 - Jon Jesmer

Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.
In the Spotlight

Nov. 17 - Dec. 22
Childsplay: *The Velveteen Rabbit*

Nov. 19, 10 a.m.
Performance with A View:
Voice students of Anne Kopta



Nov. 20, 6-8:30 p.m.
Art After Work:
Georgia O'Keefe's Got Nothing on Me



Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Lakeshore Music:
Amanda Brecker

Nov. 30, 3-10 p.m.
KMLE Country Thunder Launch Fest



Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m.
Performance with A View: *Tetra String Quartet*

Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Songwriters' Showcase X
Special guest: *The Pistoleros*

Dec. 18, 6 p.m.
Art After Work: *The Dance of the Koi*

Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Lakeshore Music
Phoenix Boys Choir:
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Around town

The excitement seemed boundless at the Main Event Entertainment ribbon cutting Nov. 12, hosted by the Tempe Chamber. The oversized amusement center represents an epitome of fun, with arcade games, bowling, laser tag, ropes course, billiards, a full bar, delectable dining options and more. It's hard to find a reason not to visit this new entertainment paradise.



Chandler celebrates another new business with city leaders and golden shovels. Alliance Bank broke ground Nov. 8 at its new location, Ray Road and the 101. Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, along with several City Council members and Chandler Chamber CEO Terri Kimble, were on hand to welcome bank CEO Jim Lundy and Senior Vice President Victor Napolitano to the neighborhood. Alliance is the largest locally headquartered bank in Arizona.



— Wrangler News photos

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Reaching your 'orange zone'

Visual heart monitoring ensures maximum benefit of workouts

By Alison Stanton

Group fitness classes like Zumba and CrossFit have grown in popularity over the past few years.

Many people are attracted to the idea of working out with others, and they enjoy the camaraderie that these classes can offer.

Orangetheory Fitness, which opened in south Tempe in September, wants to take the benefits and fun of group fitness and bring it to the next level—all based on heart rate.

Darien Mathews, a personal trainer and studio manager at Orangetheory Fitness, said the facility offers hour-long workouts that feature about 26 minutes of interval training cardio.

During this time, people are working out on machines like treadmills, rowers, exercise bikes and ellipticals.

Next, Mathews said, people spend around 25 to 30 minutes doing strength training exercises using different types of equipment including free weights of various sizes.

What helps to set Orangetheory Fitness apart from other gyms, Mathews noted, is that during each exercise class, every participant wears a heart monitor that allows the instructor to monitor them on a television screen and make sure everybody is working out at the most optimal percentage of their maximum heart rate.

"At group fitness classes like Zumba, people are not wearing heart rate monitors, and so they are really just guessing how many calories they are burning," Mathews said, adding that at Orangetheory Fitness, workouts are based on different color-coded training zones.

For example, people get into the "green zone" when they are at 71 to 83 percent of their maximum heart rate, which is determined by a person's age, height and weight, Mathews said. Ideally, each participant will stay in this zone for around 40 minutes of each class.

"When people are exercising in the green zone, it will increase the body's ability to use fat as an energy

source. Their bodies are literally using fat for energy, and so we see a high amount of calorie burn and visual results quickly because the workout is so specialized with the types of calories people are burning."

The "orange zone," which is when people reach between 84 and 91 percent of their maximum heart rate, allows the body to burn predominantly carbohydrates, Mathews said, adding that participants spend about 12 to 20 minutes in this zone.

"This zone is beneficial because the body is taking in more energy to recover, and when people are in the orange zone, they are burning more calories and also burning them post-workout."

In fact, Mathews said, most people are able to continue to burn fat for between 36 to 48 hours following their one-hour workout at Orangetheory Fitness. For men and women who work out every other day, this means their bodies will potentially be burning fat on a continuous basis.

The "red zone," happens when someone reaches 92 to 100 percent of his or her maximum heart rate. Because working out at this level of intensity can cause the body to potentially burn protein, Mathews said people should only stay in this zone for a maximum of five minutes.

"We really don't want people to approach this zone, because this is what happens when people overtrain, and they can utilize their own muscle tissue as an energy source.

When we see that someone has gone into the red zone, we can coach them properly on how to slow their heart rate back down."

Mathews, who has been a personal trainer for 12 years, said he is a firm believer in using heart rate training.

"Your zone depends on your age and your fitness ability, so this is something for people of all ages," he said, adding that their youngest member is 15 and the oldest is in the mid-70s.

"A teenager who is in shape might be sprinting on the treadmill to get to the orange zone, but a 65-year-old man next to him might be walking at an 8 percent angle, and also be in the same zone. Every single workout can be modified accordingly."

In order to keep the workout experience more personal and friendly, Mathews said each location limits membership to 500 to 600 people, with just 12 to 24 people per class.

"It's really easy for us to keep up with our members," he said.

"Everyone starts to become friends here, and it's definitely a friendly, family-oriented place. People get excited when they work out together, and we have great music and great instructors."

Orangetheory Fitness is located at 1855 E. Guadalupe Rd. Ste. A-102, Tempe.

Information and locations: 480-300-5683 or www.orangetheoryfitness.com/studio-locations/tempe-arizona.

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Arizona Patriot Guard Riders were on hand for a Veterans Day observance at Chandler City Hall formally honoring military men and women on their return from active duty or as they leave for service.

— Wrangler News photo story by Billy Hardiman



Diversions . . .



Ender's Game

What's playing in Valley theaters

Thor: The Dark World

Chris Hemsworth is once again agreeable as the Marvel Comics version of the hammer-bearing Norse deity.

This time the McGuffin is an amorphous something or other called "The Aether" that has invaded the body of Thor's mortal love interest Jane (Natalie Portman), and is coveted by a race of trolls or goblins or something because it would allow them to take the Universe from Light to Darkness.

Or something like that.

The makers of *Thor: The Dark World*—director Alan Taylor, the cast, which includes Anthony Hopkins as cranky Old Man Odin and Rene Russo as Frigga, and the special effects and design folks—work hard to put on a show for us, deploying otherworldly armies and strange cosmic forces with gusto, like kids playing with action figures.

In the course of the movie, Thor must place his trust his shifty brother Loki, who's locked up in Asgard's rather elegant dungeon.

Sly, droll Tom Hiddleston steals the movie effortlessly in this role, and when his strand of the story is satisfyingly resolved the movie was, for me, effectively over.

But the demands of the blockbuster are such that we're dragged through another interminable round of fistfights and explosions and rubble and sifting ash, just like the finales of *The Avengers* and *Iron Man 3* and *Man of Steel*.

Do they all have to end like that? I can't claim that I didn't sit there enjoying large chunks of this movie's spectacle, but as usual with these big superhero or action movies, I was ready for it to be over at least a half-hour before the filmmakers were done pummeling me.

Ender's Game

Ender (Asa Butterfield) is a war-games prodigy in a future earth that has survived an alien invasion and is preparing for another.

Harrison Ford is the crusty old officer who "trains" him through sadistic psychological testing, and later, through leadership trials at a space station in earth orbit.

Ender prevails, and eventually he and his crew told to prepare for a massive battle simulation against the insect-like aliens.

The release of this long-awaited adaptation of Orson Scott Card's 1985 novel, a classic both of post-video-game era sci-fi and of the "poor lonely misunderstood me" school of young-adult fiction, was clouded by some controversy about author Card's conservative views (mostly unrelated to the novel's content).

Even those of us who might find those views tiresome, however, can still enjoy the movie, a lavish space opera built around a fragile, poignant performance by young Asa Butterfield.

The first half of the film may wear on your patience, with its lengthy depictions of, essentially, high-end laser tag. It's played doggedly straight and humorless, to the point that you may start to feel like giggling.

But at just as you're about to give up, Ender gets a new mentor: Ben Kingsley with a Maori tattoo on his face. And he does what Ben Kingsley does—livens things up.

I found the climactic battle scene to be highly exciting and, in the end, the movie shows a more humane heart than I was expecting.

— M.V. Moorhead



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An interview with the director Student production challenges creative, technical ingenuity

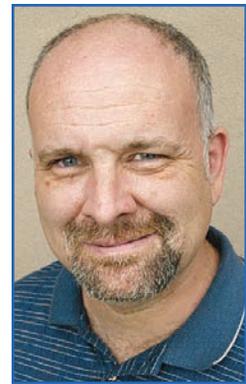
By M.V. Moorhead

Even in these cooler months, Tempe seems pretty far away from rural Maine. But playgoers can get a breath of cool wintry New England air at Almost, Maine, this year's first production at the Marcos de Niza High School Little Theatre. They'll even get a few glimpses of the aurora borealis.

The play, written by the actor John Cariani, debuted at the Portland Stage Company in 2004, had a brief run Off-Broadway in 2006, and has since become one of the most frequently produced high school plays in the country—it's said to

have recently overtaken Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* in that regard.

It's a romantic comedy or, rather, a collection of nine short, eccentric romantic comedies on the theme of "falling in and out of love," all set in the tiny title



M.V. Moorhead

town—fictitious, although playwright Cariani hails from the far-northern Maine town of Presque Isle, which translates as "Almost an Island."

Between these sketches, projected images of the aurora borealis, the famous light phenomenon normally seen only by those at arctically high latitudes, are used as a transitional device.

The show plays Thursday, Nov. 14 through Saturday, Nov. 16, and again Thursday, Nov. 21, through Saturday Nov. 23, in the Marcos de Niza Little Theatre, 6000 S. Lakeshore Drive in Tempe. All curtain times are 7 p.m.

After the opening night performance, audience members who want another cool treat may meet the cast of *Almost, Maine* at nearby Yoyo's Neighborhood Yogurt on Guadalupe. Mention Marcos de Niza while ordering, and part of the proceeds from your purchase price will benefit the school's Choir and Drama Program.

After the Thursday, Nov. 21, show, the cast and crew will be at the Dairy Queen at Rural and Elliot, and the same deal will apply.

I recently had the chance to learn a bit more about Marcos de Niza's *Almost, Maine* from the director, Patrick McChesney.

Wrangler News: Tell me about why you chose *Almost, Maine*.

Patrick McChesney: Usually we do larger shows that have name recognition and use the large stage for the performances. However, this year, due to complications of scheduling and the desire for something different, I decided to choose a play that could be performed in the drama room (a.k.a. The Marcos de Niza Little Theatre).

While reading the play, I found myself getting pulled in to the many plots presented through the various vignettes. I love it when I read plays and I can either emotionally connect to the story or begin to envision the production elements of costumes, sets, etc. I loved the author's style.

WN: Are your actors attempting New England accents?

PM: We decided not to create characters that were "backwoods" Maine or use New England accents because the playwright requests that anyone producing the play be respectful of the characters by treating them as everyday individuals. He did not want the characters to be over the top or cliché. However, since they do live pretty far away from "civilized" areas, we did take some costuming liberties since the citizens of *Almost* would probably not be fashion templates.

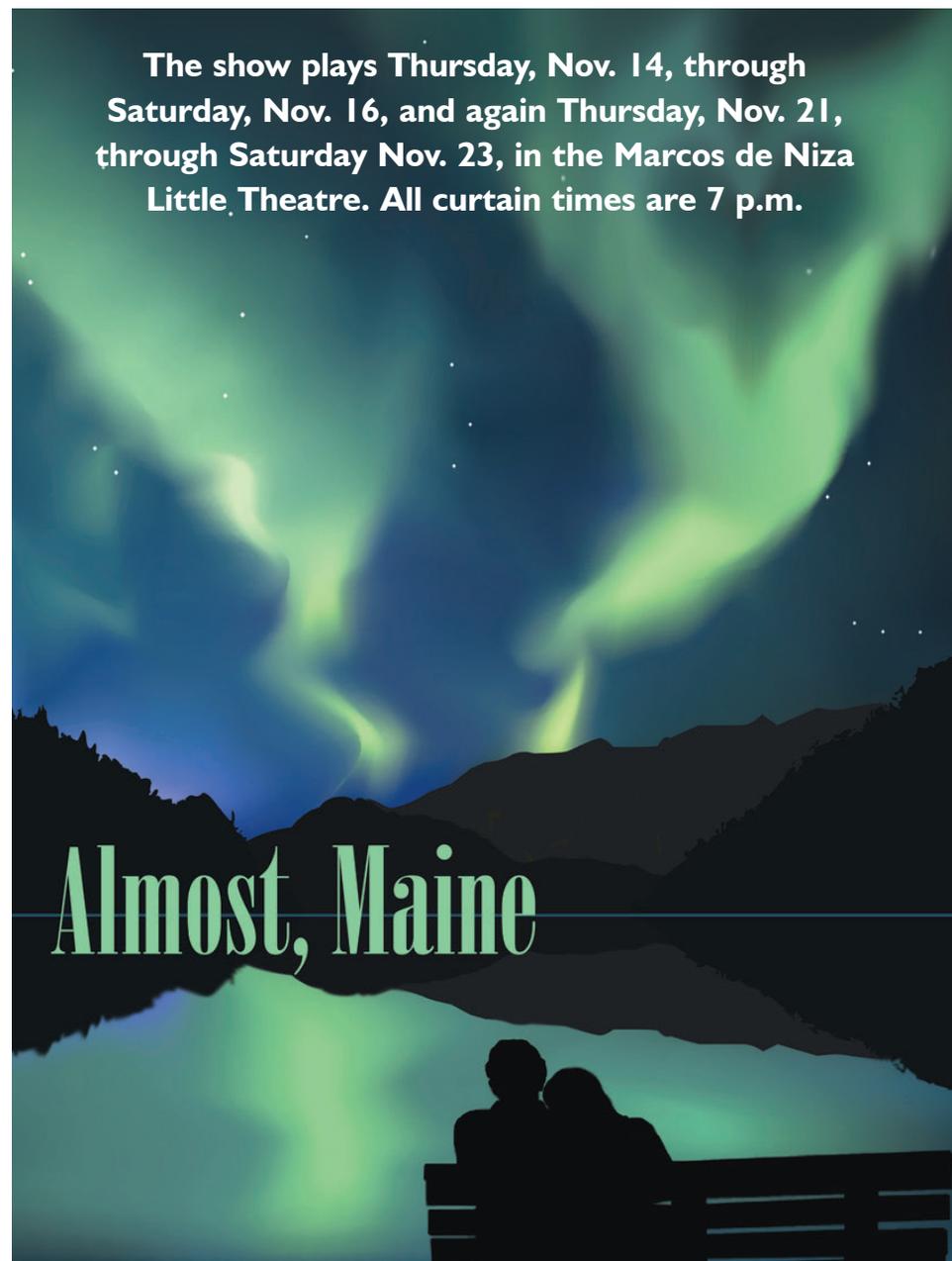
WN: How are the aurora borealis effects being accomplished?

PM: We plan to use audio visual projections that we purchased from a company called Drake Creative, that created different aurora borealis looks for each scene in *Almost, Maine*. They are very cool. In addition, when getting the scripts, rights and royalties from Dramatists Play Service, we also secured the rights to use the composed music by Julian Fleisher that was created for this production. Ultimately, we hope to entertain the audience with a lot of sensory experiences.

WN: In light of recent controversies, I'm wondering how you handle judging the appropriateness of a play for high school students?

PM: When I first started at Marcos de Niza some years ago (13 to be exact), the principal sat me down and we discussed the themes and social issues that could be or should not be

The show plays Thursday, Nov. 14, through Saturday, Nov. 16, and again Thursday, Nov. 21, through Saturday Nov. 23, in the Marcos de Niza Little Theatre. All curtain times are 7 p.m.



Almost, Maine

presented at a high school... at least our high school. We came up with a list of "no-no's," and that list is used every time I select a show.

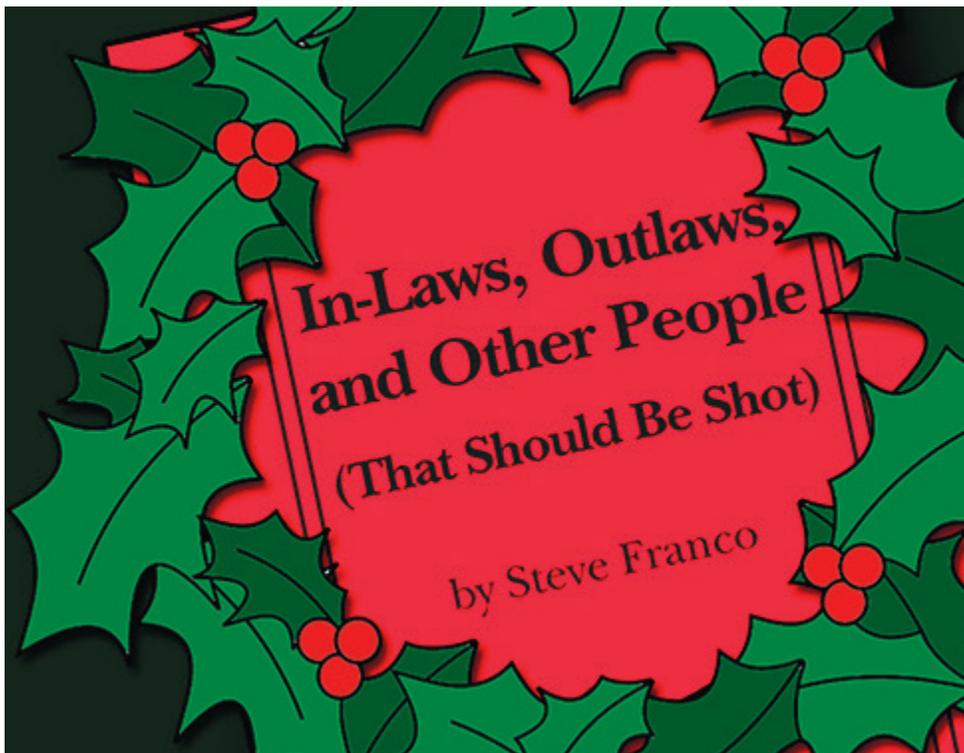
Although theatre is usually a place that can represent real life, and many times pushes the envelope of social issues to teach or preach, the high school stage should be a place for young people to produce quality works and learn the craft to grow individually and professionally.

We have a conservative audience and, frankly, many plays are just not appropriate for young children, so I have to be mindful of content and plot.

Plus, most of the colleges and universities will give young actors that exposure if they decide to pursue theatre.

'ALMOST, MAINE' cast members

- J. Cole Shryock as "East" and as "Randy"
- H. Tubtun Hernandez-Elense (Tuni) as "Jimmy" and as "Pete"
- Clark Shaeffer as "Steve"
- T.J. L'Heureux as "Lendall"
- Dominic Bonelli as "Danny"
- Zach Mauch as "Dave"
- Linesey Allemang as "Glory" and "Marci"
- Sara Higginbotham as "Sandrine" and as "Hope"
- Alice Gadau as "Marvalyn" and "Suzette"
- Alexandra Boles as "Gayle" and as "Rhonda"
- Reina Montalbo as "Kris" and "the waitress"
- Gina Hoyt as "Ginette"



Comedic 'In-laws' to be staged Nov. 22 by Corona players

The holidays are a special time of year for everyone to enjoy. The colorful decorations, delicious baked goods, joyful jingles and a visit from the relatives are just a few of reasons to embrace the spirited season with a remarkable intensity.

Despite the utter chaos from the big ol' extended family, there is one thing that no one wants to deal with: a run-in with a couple of impulsive criminals.

Corona del Sol High School's TheatreWorks department presents a story that unravels that very situation in Steve Franco's comedic play "In-Laws, Outlaws and Other People."

The play will be directed by Corona students Christa Gerdes and Aaron Hunt, supervised by faculty members Nick Taylor, technical director, and Chris Carter, director.

The scene opens at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve for the Douglas family's annual dinner.

After robbing a neighborhood liquor store, high-strung and irritable Tony and his dimwitted sidekick Vinny find themselves in need of a place to

hide out.

Using a ruse to gain entrance to the Douglas' home, they suddenly find themselves forced to hold hostage an ever-growing list of unique, oddball Douglas family members.

From smart-aleck teenagers to nosy neighbors and bickering adults—the laughs (like the flow of people) are non-stop, and it doesn't take long to wonder who is holding whom hostage.

The participating actors/actresses are:

Beth – *Maddie Voigt*; Bud – *Sam Pope*; Bunny – *Jackie Ellis*; Dad – *Bailey Vogt*; Emily – *Cassie Nathanson*; Henley – *Jacob Seldon*; Janet – *Cat Martin*; Leo – *Esai Luna*; Mrs. Draper – *Angelica Rojas*; Mrs. Wakowski – *Kylie Rose*; Paul – *Nate Cortes*; Rose – *Madi Laboy*; Tony – *Daniel Karbon*; Tracy – *Jenny Nitzky*; Vinny – *Ross Wheelless*.

The holiday comedy is at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22, and Saturday, Nov. 23, at Corona.

Tickets are \$5.

— *Chelsea Martin*

Boutique grand opening scheduled Nov. 16

Who doesn't enjoy shopping with a fun twist?

Area residents can join Pieces of 8 Boutique for its grand opening at its new location Saturday, Nov. 16 from noon to 4 p.m.

The festivities will feature wine

tasting, snacks, prizes, music, a fashion show at 1 p.m. and a grand opening sale.

Pieces of 8 Boutique is located at 9030 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe (southwest of Warner Road behind Bashas).



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The Last Word

The Meltdown, The Recovery, and where the real estate market is headed

By Jeff Lucas

The five-year Meltdown (2006-11): How bad was it?

Easy (very easy) credit in the form of no-documentation loans. Very low mortgage interest rates. A booming economy. All combined to create what Allan Greenspan, in hindsight, called “irrational exuberance.”

In each of the years from 2003-2006, builders built and sold more than 40,000 new homes in metro Phoenix.

During the same period, resale home prices rocketed by more than 50 percent Valleywide and resale volume ballooned to 90,000-plus units annually. Single family home prices in



Tempe/Chandler peaked at \$192 per square foot in July 2006.

And then the hyper-inflated, over-built residential market collapsed.

Within two months of the peak, values declined five percent and the downhill train ride continued through the first quarter of 2011. Tempe/Chandler average prices hit bottom at \$100.55 per square foot, a decline of 52 percent from peak values.

Through 2007-2010, distressed sales—that is, bank-owned or short sales—accounted for more than 60 percent of total sales.

No group of homeowners and no price sectors were immune from the meltdown. And, more than 200 homebuilders in metro Phoenix went out of business and/or fled from the Phoenix “Katrina.”

The Recovery (2011-Present): Great good news for sellers and buyers

The metro Phoenix residential market collapse presented huge opportunities for individuals with cash or credit as well as for institutional investors.

A large percentage of Phoenix-area homes were selling for prices substantially below replacement cost—especially in outlying area such as the city of Maricopa, where home which originally sold for an average of \$145 per square foot were selling 75-80 percent below their original sales prices.

From 2009-2012, cash buyers accounted for 40 percent or more of total sales. Investors, together with traditional buyers, fed the demand side of the market and metro area prices began to recover and “active” inventory was drawn down by the opportunists and by the fact the home builders were building fewer than 1000 homes per month through the downturn.

Average Tempe/Chandler home prices, which bottomed out at \$100.55 per square foot in early 2011, have rebounded to an average of \$142.50 in the third quarter, 2013, an increase of 42 percent over the past 27 months—

an average monthly appreciation of 1.55 percent.

Once again, we have been in an “exuberant” recovery mode as a reaction to five years of depreciation/distress and a substantially undervalued residential market.

The level of appreciation that we have experienced during the last 27 months of recovery—an average of 18 percent plus annually—is not healthy or sustainable in the long term.

We’ve been there and don’t want to re-visit a meltdown scenario.

The “great good news” for sellers and buyers is that the residential real estate market is approaching “balance.” In the past six months,

“active” inventory has moved from a 2.5 month supply (a strong “sellers’ market”) to a four month supply—a “balanced” market is a 4-6 month inventory supply. With the increase in home prices, investor participation has plummeted from more than 40 percent of total sales to 20 percent and heading lower. With the “demand” side of the market weaker, we expect to see “active” inventory to continue to move toward “balance” and appreciation in the “normal” range of 4-6 percent annually.

In spite of the strong recovery that we have experienced in the past two plus years, the Phoenix metro residential housing market (and the Tempe/Chandler market) remain undervalued. In June, 2004, just before the “irrational exuberance” found traction, the average single family home price in Tempe/Chandler was \$117.60 per square foot historic appreciation in the Tempe/Chandler residential market is in the range of 4.5 percent annually.

If you compound 4.5 percent annual appreciation from June, 2004, to present, the average price of Tempe/Chandler residential real estate

would be approximately \$175 per square foot. Although our marketplace has recovered substantially, current average price per sqft stands at \$142.50, 23 percent below what an “orderly market” with 4.5 percent appreciation would have brought us.

What lies ahead for the Tempe/Chandler housing market?

Following the long recession, housing market meltdown, uncertainty over the health of the economy and job market, and frustration over the inability of the federal government to get things done, the mood of many consumers is “cautionary.” However, I believe that residents of Tempe and Chandler—and residents

of the other East Valley cities—live and work in an economic environment which is substantially healthier than most of the country.

There is evidence of a lot of economic growth which creates jobs, stimulates all sectors of the local economy, and results in warranted and sustained optimism.

Consider the existing employers in our immediate marketplace which are the drivers of our local economic engine: Intel; Chandler and Ocotillo—two major construction projects under way; Honeywell; MicroChip; ASU; Chandler’s Bank of America Campus; the Price Road Technology Corridor—one of the premier growth corridors in the Southwest. And new business projects announced or under way: Cubs multiplex; GoDaddy at ASU Research Park; Apple; and State Farm Insurance at Tempe Town Lake.

The Tempe/Chandler residential market is again finding its “balance.” Distressed properties, which several years ago were in excess of 50 percent of all sales, are now less than 10 percent and will continue to decline.

There is currently a four month inventory supply of re-sale homes. I anticipate that the supply of homes will continue to increase through spring 2014.

And, as long as interest rates “behave,” I expect that the demand side will increase proportionally and Tempe/Chandler should be in a balanced market with a 4- to 6-month inventory supply through 2014 and a historically “normal” 4 to 6 percent annual appreciation.

The future for housing is bright. Time to put on your shades.

Jeff Lucas is principal at The Lucas Group of Keller Williams Realty East Valley.

Would you like your ideas to be heard? Wrangler News invites you to submit topics for discussion in this new forum, “The Last Word,” for which we have reserved the last page in each edition.

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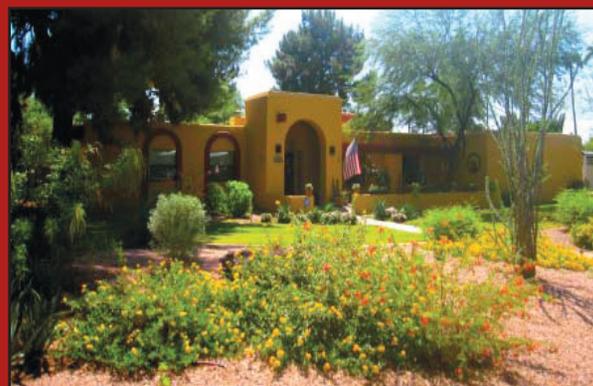
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This heavenly home has a popular UDC Ritz floor plan with 4 bedrooms and 2½ baths. Upgraded with tile floors in all the right places. Well-maintained kitchen offers a granite island. Large, formal living and dining rooms with cozy family room and fireplace - even a wet bar. Plantation shutters, Pella windows, Roll-a-Shield, and surround sound both inside and out make this house move-in ready. It backs up to the greenbelt for extra privacy.



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