

Wrangler News



Dec. 15, 2012 -
Jan. 11, 2013

Vol. 23, No. 25

Making a big
community
a little bit smaller.



Dr. Kenneth Baca, Dan Nero and Corona principal Brent Brown took turns at the traditional Salvation Army kettles in hopes of generating a Christmas-giving bounty. PS: It worked! Story, Pg. 4

Wrangler News photo
by Dee Myers

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Average \$2.41 per month increase Jan. 1 adjustment coming for Tempe water customers

Tempe residents will see a small increase next year in their water service rates – about \$2.41 more per month, from \$44.27 to \$46.68, for a typical single-family household.

The increase is part of the city's annual water rate adjustment process, designed to make sure each customer pays the appropriate share for services received.

The Tempe City Council approved the rate adjustment, and the new rates will go into effect Jan. 1.

The adjustment allocates the costs of producing

and delivering water among the city's various water customer categories, which include single-family and multi-family residential customers as well as commercial, industrial and landscaping customers.

The rates are based on the volume of water consumed by each customer category and the cost to produce that water.

The council considered modifying payments for both water and sewer services, but opted to increase only water rates, using some of the water fund balance to offset a sewer rate increase.

Tempe has performed annual cost-of-service rate

studies since 2006, working with Red Oak Consulting, an industry leader in utility finances.

The study uses a complex model that looks at the most current financial information to identify the amount of revenue needed to operate the city's water utility in the next fiscal year, as well as projections for the following nine years.

Tempe is transitioning from a long period of focusing on federally mandated water quality changes, specifically the Safe Drinking Water Act, to a phase of now focusing on maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure.

Chandler's downtown community center gets a new look

Chandler's newly remodeled downtown Community Center is now open to visitors following dedication ceremonies by Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and City Council members.

The center, at 175 E. Commonwealth Ave., has been a fixture in the downtown area since it opened 26 years ago.

With rentable multipurpose rooms and an open courtyard, it has hosted

many of the city's recreation classes and has been a popular location for various special events, including weddings, receptions and traditional Quinceañeras.



Photo courtesy Chandler Public Information Office

Remodeling of the 2,600-square-foot courtyard was designed to improve the facility's functionality and enhance its rental appeal, according to

recreation manager Barbara Young.

In addition to a new paint scheme, the area features a performance stage, bench seating, umbrella-covered tables and chairs.

The old courtyard's water feature was removed to provide more usable space.

Landscaping was redesigned and lighting was improved. The \$314,000 project was completed in six months by the contractor, SDB Inc.

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\$2,000 in donations make it a red letter day for Corona Red Kettle vols

Cover story

Students and faculty supporters of Corona del Sol's Red Kettle Club reported a red letter day after a 10-hour bell-ringing campaign to raise funds for the Salvation Army's Tempe operations.

Cherie Wilkinson, who coordinated the effort, said Corona volunteers collected more than \$2,000 for the annual program to raise funds for

needy area families.

Among the Corona volunteers were Dr. Kenneth Baca, superintendent of the Tempe Union High School District; Brent Brown, the school's principal; and Dan Nero, Corona's longtime athletic director.

More volunteers will donate time prior to Christmas at Christmas Angel warehouses to help with the holiday food drive.

Dropoff time extended for tax credit donations

Offices of the Tempe Union High School District will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, for the convenience of those who wish to drop off last-minute tax-credit donations.

Contributors who drop by will be treated to refreshments. The required forms are available at www.tuhsd.k12.az.us, and staff will be available to answer questions.

Donations also can be made online. The Arizona Tax Credit Program allows Arizona taxpayers, regardless of whether they have children in school,

to donate up to \$400 to a school of their choice in support of extra-curricular programs such as after-school clubs, sports, arts and music.

An individual filing a tax return may contribute up to \$200, and married couples filing jointly may contribute up to \$400.

Tax credits represent a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the actual state tax owed, as compared to a tax deduction, which reduces total taxable income from which the tax owed is calculated.

TUHSU offices are at 500 W. Guadalupe Road.

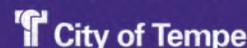
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www.tempe.gov/familyactivities

Foul odor disrupts classes 200 students moved to temporary quarters

By Diana Whittle

Unpleasant odors wafting into the classrooms at Kyrene Middle School last month caused administrators to temporarily relocate 200 sixth graders to neighboring C.J. Waggoner Elementary.

Though that “temporary” status at first was expected to span only a matter of days, officials now say the kids will have to remain in their new quarters until after the first of the year.

The origin of the smell turned out to be cracked sewer pipes—a normally routine maintenance job that quickly gained priority status.

Both schools are on the same campus at 1050 E. Carver Road, which allows for a seamless transition between the two facilities, said Nancy Dudenhoefer,

Right now the district is operating under a ‘run to failure’ repair policy, which means that equipment is repaired or replaced only as it becomes inoperable.

— Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Calles

Community Relations Assistant Manager for the Kyrene district.

“The principal of each one of the schools is really pleased with the solution to this unforeseen problem,” Dudenhoefer said. “Even though (KMS) students changed classrooms to Waggoner, they can still eat in their normal cafeteria and use their own library.”

Limiting disruptions to classroom instruction is a top priority of the district, says Dudenhoefer, so it was lucky that the schools are in proximity to one another and classroom space was available.

Although the problem was quickly resolved by the two principals, it didn’t escape the notice of school-district administrators.

“In spite of our best laid plans, maintenance issues can and do occur,”

said Jeremy Calles, chief financial officer for the Kyrene district, whose responsibilities include facility maintenance over 2.6 million square feet of instructional space.

“The current problem at Kyrene Middle School is not a lack of routine maintenance but of the daily wear and tear at an aging facility.

“The larger issue, however, is how to keep up with repairs at all 26 schools, as our district faces a looming budget deficit this year of \$8.9 million. This is in addition to cuts last year of nearly \$5.6 million in capital funds that were to be used for school upkeep.”

Calles says that right now the district is operating under a “run to failure” repair policy, which means that equipment is repaired or replaced only as it becomes inoperable.

Budget issues are facing all Arizona school districts, but the frustration is greater in Kyrene where voters did approve a \$116 million bond sale in 2010.

Usually, school districts sell bonds to help pay for maintenance of their property. However, the recent drop in the area’s property values prohibited the Kyrene district from selling those bonds. An appeal to the state legislature to amend the law stalled last spring.

“As a result, our capital budget issues continue to snowball, and now they’re impacting Kyrene’s operating budget for maintenance,” explained Calles.

“One way that Kyrene parents can help the district is to contact legislators and get involved in community groups that are discussing educational issues in Arizona.”

The Arizona State Legislature is expected to introduce the bond discussion again.

Parents and other concerned residents in the Kyrene Corridor can help to ensure the bill gains greater support by writing letters, sending emails or making phone calls.

Information on the Kyrene district website includes a sample letter to use and the contact information for legislators. For more, log-on to www.kyrene.org


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Sports . . . with Alex Zener

Holiday matches will test wrestlers' durability

Corona's wrestling team has started this season on top, winning every match including a first-place at the Southwest Showdown. Not only have they won every match but nine of their wrestlers have lost only two or less matches in their quest for another state championship.

"Freshman **Bridger Barker** (170 pound weight class), junior **Ethan Tursini** (160) and senior **Josh Caliendo** (220) are all undefeated at 12-0," said coach **Jim Martinez**.

"Another freshman, **Alex Carrillo** (106) and junior **Zach Walton** (145) have 11-1 records, and then we have four other wrestlers, sophomores **Matt Churchill** (120) and **Brix Kronborg** (195) and juniors **Glenn Farina** (138) and junior **Michael Clare** (182) with 10-2 records."

The Aztecs recently defended their Southwest Showdown Championship with an 8-0 record, defeating Marcos de Niza 56-15 in the quarterfinals, Skyline 42-30 in the semis and Chandler 40-33 in the finals to bring home another championship trophy.

"We beat defending Division 1 State Champion Chandler in the finals," said Martinez. "Altogether we had five undefeated wrestlers, but the match was decided in the 285 pound weight class. **Darius Ryan** injured his knee in the first match so our 220 pound wrestler, **Josh Caliendo**, moved up a weight class and got a pin in 46 seconds." Carrillo and Tursini were selected to the All-Tournament Team, according to the Martinez.

Last week Corona faced Chandler in a dual meet with Basha, once again coming away with a 39-26 win against the defending state champions. The Aztecs first had to wrestle in a competitive match against Basha that resulted in a close 35-28 victory.

The Aztecs were scheduled to wrestle at Brophy against Brophy and Mountain Ridge Dec. 13 and then take a break for finals. During the holidays they have two tournaments scheduled—first the Moon Valley Tournament Dec. 21-22 and then for a second consecutive year, The Clash, a national tournament, in Rochester, Minn., Dec. 28-29.

Corona basketball — The Aztec basketball team currently has the same record it had this time last year when it went 31-1 to win the Division I state championship. It's too early to predict anything, but that championship team also lost its only game early in the season in the Fear the Hops Tournament during the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Aztecs have won five games in a row after losing that one tournament game to Gilbert. That loss showed the players how important it is to play together as a team.

"We didn't make a lot of adjustments," said coach **Sam Duane**. "The guys just got a better understanding of their roles and about playing together better, but I think rebounding has been a huge key to our success."

When Corona rebounds, it give the Aztecs,

who are smaller but quicker than last year, a chance to get in rhythm, knock down three-point shots and play aggressively on defense as evidenced in their game last week against then No. 4 ranked Dobson. CdS defeated Dobson, 72-64, even though the Mustangs have three potential D-I recruits on their roster.

The Aztecs, though, have two players on their roster who not only do a good job leading the team but are keys to winning on both ends of the floor. Junior guard **Casey Benson**, a bit overshadowed by **Caleen Robinson** last season, has taken on a different role this season.

"Casey's role, like everyone else coming back, has changed this season," said Duane. "He now looks to score more and has become more of a leader on the floor for us. He is adjusting very well to being the target of defenses."

If the Dobson game is any indication of Benson's ability to light up the scoreboard, he is going to have even more of a target on his back the rest of the season. He drained baskets at will, racking up 28 points, several of them treys.

"My focus is to become more of a leader, helping my team keep our composure throughout games and staying together as a team," said Benson.

"In the Dobson game, I just wanted to keep taking good shots that were within our offense and to try not to force anything."

If Benson is getting a lot of attention for his offense, senior **Bryan Siefker** is the defensive specialist of the team. He is especially effective when it comes to guarding the opponents' best player and taking charges.

In the Dobson game, he literally took Colorado-bound Jaron Hopkins out of his game, causing him to be in foul trouble the entire time. Hopkins ended up fouling out early in the fourth quarter.

"He (Hopkins) is such a great player that you have to pick what to take away from him," said Siefker. "We felt like we should take his drive away and make him a shooter."

This is exactly what Siefker did. He took charge after charge when Hopkins tried to drive to the basket. Taking charges is nothing new for Siefker. He did it all last season and has continued to do so this season. How does he do it?

"Bryan, probably one of the most underrated players around, is intelligent, has great court awareness and knows where to be on the floor," said Duane. "He's a mentally tough kid who understands the value of a great defender. He takes pride in being one of the best defenders in the state."

"He beats the offensive player to the spot every time and takes the hit right on the chest just about every time we are going the other way with the ball," said Benson. "He never backs down from a challenge and always does a tremendous job every game on whoever he is guarding."

Siefker also does a great job helping Benson lead the team; he's an offensive threat for the Aztecs and a very humble player.

"I want to keep my teammates focused and just get the job done," said Siefker. "When playing defense, I tell my teammates you can't be afraid of contact. I've always been good at taking charges. A lot of it is how you sell the call."

Benson and Siefker would be nothing without the rest of the team accepting their roles, including teammates **Adam Gleave**, who had 12 points, and **Braden Tennyson** and **Cassius Peat**, who added 10 apiece in the Dobson game.

Currently No. 3 ranked Corona was scheduled to play at Casa Grande Dec. 11 and then at home against Hamilton Dec. 14 before playing in the Mesa Holiday Shootout over the break.

Corona girls basketball — Corona's girls basketball team took second place at the Desert Edge Tournament after losing to Millennium in the championship game 48-41, according to head coach **Andrew Strom**. **Taylor Kalmer** and **Sammi Moore** made the All-Tournament team.

In addition to Kalmer, who leads the team in scoring at close to 20 points per game hitting 50% of her three-point shots, and Moore, who hits over 42% of her three-point attempts and leads the team with 3.7 assists a game, **Lauren Lucky** is playing very well, according to Strom.

"Lauren had a great tournament for us," said Strom. "She is averaging 14 rebounds a game after six games."

So far CdS has had different girls contribute points every game, including **Kaelin Shaffer** who averages over 10 points a game. **Haley Langille** and **Lucky** have been racking up the blocks with four each while **Vicky Sanford** is averaging over two assists a game, second to Moore who averages close to four. The Lady Aztecs are working on dealing with pressure but are developing more chemistry and playing well together according to Strom.

The Lady Aztecs had a 4-3 record with three games to play before they take finals. Up first was Casa Grande, Dec. 11, then at Hamilton, Dec. 14 before a home match against Chandler Dec. 15. They are once again scheduled to play in the Prescott Tournament over the holiday break.

Marcos de Niza basketball — The Padres started the season hot, winning four games in a row and ending up ranked No. 5 in Division I, but then losing two in a row to ranked teams, Gilbert and Mesa, dropped the Padres out of the top 10.

Marcos started off by surprising Mesa Mountain View, 78-75, outscoring the Toros 23-15 in the final quarter to pull out the win. Senior **Richaud Gittens** scored 24 points and dished out 7 assists. The Padres then went on to easily defeat Mountain Pointe 65-47. Senior **Devin White** stepped up



Corona's soccer team is planning on competing in AZ Soccer Showcase over the holiday break Dec. 27-29 and Dec. 31. Team includes, front row: Leo Santos; bottom row: (#16) William Conboy, Trevor Rusher, Brendan Schnieder, Ellis Ruditi, Thiago Pinheiros, Dylan Conboy, Brandon Johnson; middle row: (hands on his knees) Dakota Summers, Jeremy Ramsland, Alex Blasco, Ryan Castellano, Cole Richwine, Dylan Huch, Cary Schwartzstein, trainer Kelly Zimmer; back row: Keith Williamson, Alex Kyroudis, Aaron Flegenheimer, Johnny Osgood, Yago Martin, Grant Galan, Ryan Koenig, Darren Moore, coach Brent Havins, coach Dan Salas.

— Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright

against the Pride, scoring 22 points with 4 assists and 8 rebounds. White shot 75% from outside the arch, making three out of his four 3-point shots.

Marcos was on fire in their third straight win, defeating Mesa Westwood 70-36. The team played superior defense, shutting down the Warriors' offense by only allowing them to score 1 point in the second quarter and 14 total points in the first half.

Tyler Lazenby led the team with four assists and **Kelsey Trevino** had three, while **Nathan Goudeau** and **Luke Lamb** each blocked a shot. Senior **Stefan Tellis** contributed 12 points in a game where most of the team saw playing time including senior **Quinton Blue**, juniors **Connor Stark**, **Kelsey Trevino** and **Nick Ortega**, sophomore **Sean Wood** and freshman **Nkeal Harry**.

The Padres won another tight game, their fourth straight win, 56-55, when they were finally able to knock down two free throws in the final seconds of the fourth quarter taking away any chance the Pride had to win their first game of the season.

Mountain Pointe thought they had a come-from-behind home court victory in the making after the Padres, who led by as many as seven points in the fourth, failed to make free throws down the stretch and let Mountain Pointe back in the game.

The Padres had three players in double figures, White, Gittens and **Anthony Varela** with 16, 15 and 10 points respectively. Varela made both of his three-point attempts to shoot 100%. Marcos had

19 total rebounds, five by junior **Dom Krane** and two players, **Rahqir Wilson** and Gittens with three assists each.

Marcos had a tight game against No. 7 ranked Gilbert, the only team Corona has lost to all season. Unfortunately, they Padres had a slow start against the Tigers and were down at one time by as many as 12 points before the Padres cut the lead to only three heading into the half, 26-29.

The Padres outscored Gilbert by six points in the third quarter to lead 44-41, but could not sustain the effort, eventually losing by two points, 54-56. Gittens led Marcos with 17 points, followed by Krane with 11.

In the Padres' second loss, No. 3 ranked Mesa High School had a good first quarter, outscoring the Padres 17-11. Although Marcos did pull within four points at one time, they never took the lead, ultimately losing 63-72.

The Padres were scheduled to play at Desert Vista Dec. 11 before taking a break for finals. They are then scheduled to play in the Horizon Tournament Dec. 20-22 and next at the McClintock Holiday Invitational Dec. 26-29. The next regular season game will be at home against Desert Ridge Jan. 8.

Corona boys soccer — The Aztecs were 2-2-1 after the first two weeks of the season, first losing to Desert Vista, then winning two in a row before losing to Perry in the second round and tying Gilbert in the quarterfinals of the Tempe Diablos Soccer

Tournament Dec. 3-5.

Corona scored first against Desert Vista on a goal by **Trevor Rusher** but was tied 1-1 in a highly competitive rival match when a new rule passed by the National Federation of High School Associations took its toll on the final outcome.

The rule states that two yellow cards on a player equals a red card, which means the player must sit out the rest of the match and is suspended for the next match.

The kicker is that the team must now play shorthanded the rest of the game. Two Aztec players each received their second yellow cards in the second half, which meant that they not only had to sit out the rest of the game but left their team playing nine against 11 the last 10-15 minutes of the game.

The Thunder scored the go-ahead goal with about three minutes left in the game to defeat the Aztecs 2-1. The Aztecs defeated Desert Ridge, 2-0, Nov. 30 on goals by **Brendan Schnieder** and **Ryan Koenig**, then went on to defeat Red Mountain in the first round of the Tempe Diablos Tournament Dec. 3.

Leo Santos, **Jeremy Ramsland** and **Cary Schwartzstein** scored goals in the first half. CdS did not advance to play in the semi-finals after tying 1-1 with Gilbert.

The Aztecs were scheduled to play at Mesquite Dec. 12 and at home against Dobson Dec. 15 before competing in the AZ Soccer Showcase Dec. 27-29 and Dec. 31.

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Latter-day Saints leaders shed light on some commonly held misconceptions

Story & photo by Chase Kamp

David Lesueur and Jennifer Wheeler, local leaders in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, clearly have heard many of the questions people ask about the Mormon faith, a sect of Christianity that has been discussed even more frequently since the presidential nomination of LDS church member Mitt Romney.

Speaking at a "Who's Your Neighbor?" diversity talk organized by the city of Tempe, the two answered questions from the audience regarding topics like the Book of Mormon, the role of missionaries and the church's efforts to discourage the use of substances like tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs.

Some audience members posed less commonly asked questions, like why many Mormons stockpile food and supplies, sometimes as much as two years' worth.

Lesueur, a church elder, dismissed the commonly held notion that Mormons follow the practice in anticipation of some kind of divine societal breakdown, an explanation that was echoed by Wheeler, who explained that the practice is tied to the church's deeply held family values.

"That supply is generally not used for an emergency catastrophe, but personal catastrophes," Wheeler explained.

"If there's a job loss or an illness, (those families) can be self-reliant."

Ginny Belousek, the city's senior diversity specialist, has been organizing quarterly talks like this one since 2004, saying that dispelling misconceptions and bringing diverse groups together are the series' major goals.

"You know all about your own lifestyle, heritage and culture," Belousek said, "but you might have somebody on the same block that you don't understand where they're coming from."

Mormonism is distinguished from other Christian faiths by its adherence to the Book of Mormon, a holy text believed to have been given by God to the prophet Joseph Smith in the 1800s. "We believe after Christ's death, over



the next 400 years, much of the practice of his church morphed," Lesueur explained, saying the Book of Mormon represents a restoration of Christ's intended practices to LDS members.

Lesueur said Mormons also believe family relationships made in this life can be continued in the next one. "Those sacred relationships are eternal in nature," he said.

"We believe there are only a few things we can take with us to the other life, and among them are those familial relationships."

The diversity talks have examined a range of different lifestyles, stemming from ethnicity, faith and sexuality.

Belousek said one of the particularly topical talks explored the growing popularity of tattoos and piercings.

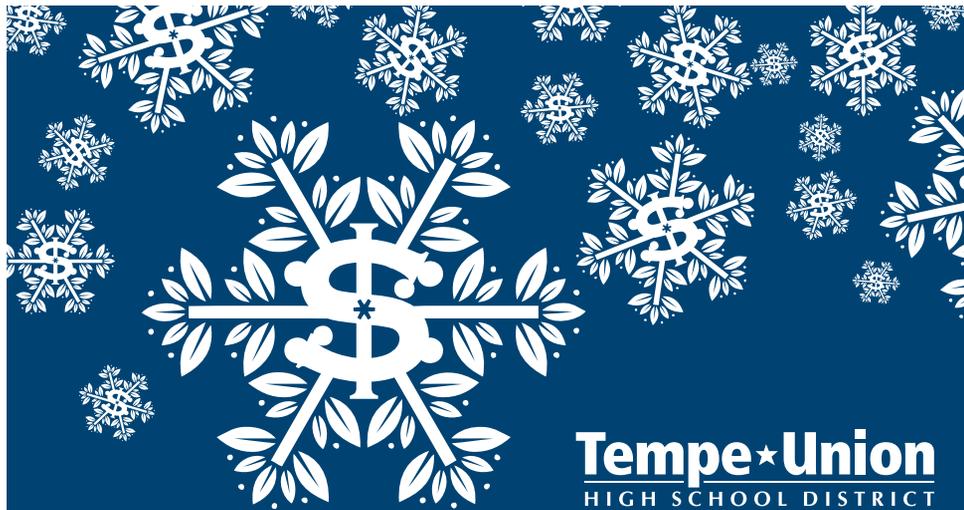
"A lot of people don't understand why all these 20-year-olds are getting these tattoos," Belousek laughed.

The discussions can also be heartwarming, Belousek said, like a recent program on military veterans.

"The programs on social issues like homelessness or mental health really get people thinking about who their neighbors are and how they can help," she said.

The talks are available for anytime viewing on the city of Tempe website, Tempe.gov, and some are shown on Cox Cable Channel 11.

The next "Who's Your Neighbor?" workshop will explore Pacific-American culture and will take place Wednesday, March 20, in the Tempe City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.



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Valley dentists return from humanitarian visit to Mexico

Free care brings smiles — and hope — to kids

As fall wound down, so did one of the busiest times of the year for a west Chandler dentist and his colleagues—not from the usual rush of patients but for a humanitarian trip that has become an annual ritual for the group.

Dr. R. Kris Putrasahan, along with a couple of other Valley dentists and their families, pack their cars and drive to a town north of Rocky Point, Sonora, to offer free dental care to about 30 disadvantaged children.

“It’s difficult to describe the joy and satisfaction of being able to help others in need,” says Putrasahan.

“Every time we make this trip to Mexico, we come away with a sense that we have been the recipients of tremendous blessings from these children.”

Putrasahan and the other professionals see the young patients, ages 5 to 18, at Esperanza para los Niños (translation: Hope for the Children), a non-profit home for kids whose parents are unable to care for them.

Thanks in part to the dentists’ ongoing visits, the children typically have good oral hygiene. Most receive a free regular check-up and cleaning and, if necessary, sealants.

In the United States, a general dentist’s fee for such procedures would be \$275 to \$300.

Occasionally, says Putrasahan, a child needs a filling or, rarely, an extraction. More extensive

‘Every time we make this trip to Mexico, we come away with a sense that we have been the recipients of tremendous blessings from these children.’

— Dr. R. Kris Putrasahan

work is referred to local dentists, many of whom offer a reduced fee.

The collaborating dentists here also have donated money for some of the treatments they refer out.

Supplies and products for the trips are donated by the dentists’ individual practices, including Putrasahan, who joined the group in 2010; his wife, Maya; and their children Josh and Marisa.

Other dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants have gone at various times over the years as well.

Family members pitch in where needed, helping when there are not enough dental assistants, preparing meals and playing sports and other activities with the children.



Volunteers Marie and Lynda, above, members of the delegation that brings dental services to families in Rocky Point, Sonora.

Dr. Martin and Marisa, photo at left, provide a little TLC to their youngest patient.

— Photos courtesy Maya Putrasahan, Logos Dentistry

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- Noninvasive diagnostic testing modalities for PAD
- Surgical and endovascular (minimally invasive) treatment options for PAD

Dr. Paul Vaughn is fellowship trained and board certified in Vascular Surgery and a member of Society for Vascular Surgery.

After graduating from Arizona State University, he attended the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans.

Dr. Vaughn completed his general surgery residency at Banner Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, followed by vascular and endovascular surgery fellowships at Louisiana State University and the Arizona Heart Hospital.

He was recently named Top Doc, by *Phoenix Magazine* for vascular surgery for the fifth straight year (2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008).



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Discerning Diner

Is a memorable pie crust in your future? Find out here

Editor's note: Those of you who called and emailed last month to offer thanks for the one-time—or so we thought—reinstatement of our popular 'Discerning Diner' column have forced us to rethink the one-time part. So, henceforth on special occasions, we're going to revive some of our longtime columnist's previous offerings and bring them back to the pages of Wrangler News. (Only the back of her head is shown to ensure her so-far well-kept anonymity).

Not long ago, a friend and I had dinner at Duane's Prime Steaks and Seafood, at the Mission Inn in Riverside, Calif. Duane's is a terrific old-school steakhouse, a place where you can get (and we did) Oysters Rockefeller, lobster mashed potatoes, and steak with béarnaise and bordelaise



saucers. If you want a special evening in Riverside, Duane's is where it's at.

The reason I mention it, however, is because the maitre d' had, prior to my arrival, read one of my Thanksgiving food columns online.

Remember that one? The one about the mating habits of top-heavy turkeys?

The thing about the Internet is this: You can't control what you're known for.

Well. This year we're talking about pie crust, and we're going to strive to maintain a G rating.

Pies have remained a holiday staple—a fixture on the American landscape generally—despite the fact that no one really makes them anymore.

At least, we don't make them like we used to.

Back in those days when "lunch" was called

"dinner," industrious homemakers churned out pies for breakfast, dinner and supper. But the only person getting in serious pie time these days is Mrs. Smith.

For that, I blame the crust. In the modern world, the humble pie crust has two strikes against it.

First, it's perceived to be high in empty calories. No argument there.

But pie crusts are also thought to be difficult, and that's not necessarily true.

I grew up in a household that relied exclusively on refrigerated Pillsbury pie crusts (a product toward which I'm still quite nostalgic). The first time I was confronted with making a crust from scratch was in college, when I tackled a recipe for mocha-pecan pie.

Directions for the crust went something like this: With your fingers, cut six tablespoons of cold butter into one cup of flour until the mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Stir in ice water (about 3 tablespoons) until the dough hangs together. Pat into a ball, enclose in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 15 minutes. On a lightly floured surface, roll into a 10-inch circle. Transfer to your pie pan.

That's it. I didn't know enough to be scared, and the crust turned out fine.

To be sure, pie crusts can be as complicated as you'd like. The recipe I now favor for my holiday pies calls for salted butter, unsalted butter and shortening in exacting proportions, plus small amounts of salt and sugar. It's two pages long and takes six hours from start to finish.

(And I like it. Why? Because I'm insane.)

There are also tricks for making any pie crust better. To minimize shrinkage and maximize flakiness, for example, use a two-step process before baking the pie shell:

After the dough has been rolled out and laid in the pan, let it relax in the refrigerator for 20 minutes,



then freeze it briefly before baking.

But the fact is, even a basic butter pie crust, simply made, is pretty good. If you use the preceding recipe, your pie may not

win a prize at the county fair, but you probably won't be disappointed with it.

A few things to keep in mind: the butter should be cold when you cut it into the flour. (You can also combine the butter and flour in a food processor.) Mix in as little water as possible, and don't knead the dough, or you'll make it tough.

Chilling the dough makes it easier to roll out. When you roll your dough into a circle (with a rolling pin, naturally, though I've used clean wine bottles in a pinch), use a minimum of flour; just enough to keep it from sticking.

Follow your recipe's instructions for pre-baking the shell, if necessary. A Pyrex pie plate makes it easy to see when the bottom is nice and brown.

Finally, if you want to get fancy, glaze the crust: beat together one egg yolk and a tablespoon of heavy cream, then brush this mixture on the crust before baking. It will give it a beautiful golden finish that's every bit Blue Ribbon worthy.



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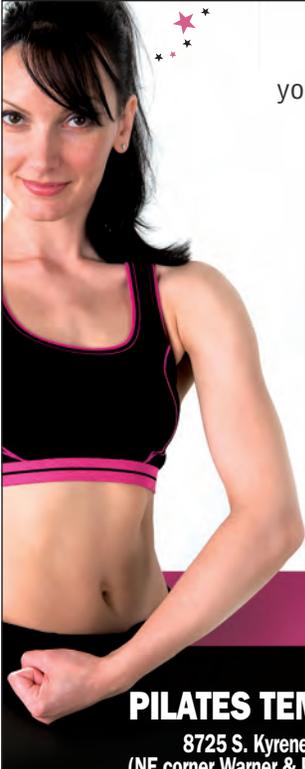
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Holiday transit schedule

Valley Metro buses will operate on a Sunday schedule on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Light rail will operate on a Sunday schedule Christmas Day only. Customer Service will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day. Information: 602-253-5000 or www.valleymetro.org.

Drive benefits world's needy children

Bethany Christian School wants its students to learn how to serve and share.

In November, kindergarten through third-grade classes assembled shoe boxes full of gifts for needy children in third-world countries via Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. This month, fourth- and fifth-graders are hosting a toy drive for Phoenix Children's Hospital.

New toys are being collected at the school and will be delivered to the hospital before

Students in 6th-8th grades will partner with Sun Valley Community Church of Tempe to collect items for people who are homeless through I-Help, a project of the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.

Information: 480-752-8993.

2 Kyrene schools in family fund-raising venture

Pueblo Middle School's PTO and Paloma Elementary School's PTA have partnered to host a fund-raiser that encourages families to have fun while being active together.

The Saturday, Jan. 12, event will mark the fifth annual family-friendly running event that includes a chip-timed 5K and a 1.3-mile run.

Entry fee includes a t-shirt, finisher medal, post race refreshments and a free raffle.

Information: <http://familyfitness5k.blogspot.com>.

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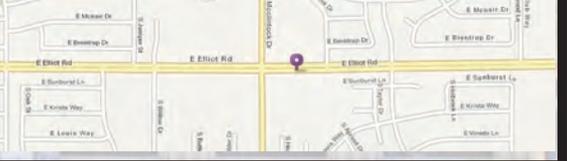
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| Third Grade | How much is 99 plus 99 plus 99? |
| Fourth Grade | Count by $1\frac{3}{4}$ from 0 to 7. |
| Fifth Grade | Which is greatest: $\frac{17}{18}$, $\frac{23}{30}$, or $\frac{18}{19}$?
(Explain how you got your answer.) |
| Sixth Grade | Halfway through the second quarter, how much of the game is left? |
| Seventh Grade | How much is $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ of 250? |
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Jazz series concludes with Christmas Concert

Christmas concert features jazz pianist

Celebrate the holidays with pianist Bob Ravenscroft's Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 21 in the TCA Studio.



Ravenscroft brings a spiritual element and meditative reverence for the environment to his music, but he draws upon an extensive jazz writing, arranging and performing background to create "live" compositions, enabling his audiences to virtually become part of the creative process.

Lakeshore Jazz announces Winter/Spring schedule

- Jan. 19 – The New West Guitar Trio
- Feb. 9 – Eddie Daniels & Roger Kellaway
- Feb. 23 – Billy Childs Ensemble
- March 9 – Karrin Allyson Quartet with the Scottsdale Community College Jazz Orchestra
- March 23 – Dominick Farinacci Quartet
- April 5 – Snarky Puppy
- April 20 – David Friesen Circle 3 Trio with special guest, Larry Koonse
- May 10 – Terrel Stafford Quintet featuring This Side of Strayhorn
- May 31 – Cyrus Chestnut Trio with Special Guest Stefon Harris

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Showing at TCA

- Dec. 15-23 – Childsplay: "Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!"
- Dec. 15 – Class Clowns Comedy
- Dec. 21 – Lakeshore Jazz Series: Bob Ravenscroft Christmas Concert
- Dec. 22 – Have a Heart Comedy Charity Event
- Jan. 4-5 – From the Desk
- Jan. 6 – Saving Arizona Blood Drive
- Jan. 9 – Arizona Wind Symphony: Cornerstones
- Jan. 11-12 – Desert Dance Theatre: "The Gathering"

Schedule is subject to change ~ updates: www.tempe.gov/TCAEvents



Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!



Briefly

New chief operating officer at Chandler Regional

Chandler Regional Medical Center has announced the appointment of Jane Hanson as its new chief operating officer, with responsibilities also including Mercy Gilbert Medical Center.

Both are part of the Dignity Health network.

“We are very pleased to have Jane join our team,” said Tim Bricker, president and CEO of the two facilities. “Her experience and expertise will be a welcome addition to our organizations.”

Hanson will be responsible for overseeing the operational performance at both centers to ensure quality care, patient safety, physician and employee satisfaction and engagement, Bricker said.

Hanson spent 17 previous years in hospital administration, most recently serving as chief nursing officer at Providence Medford Medical Center in Medford, Ore., and at Cascade Healthcare Community in Bend, Ore. Earlier she was director of patient care services at St. Charles Redmond Medical Center in Bend, Ore. Hanson holds a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Lewis and Clark State College and a master’s in health sciences administration from the University of Southern California.

Kids amass 1,500 miles under teacher’s guidance

Summit School of Ahwatukee’s before-school running club is at no lack of inspired leadership, it seems. The club is guided by Kathy Dean, a physical education teacher who has received recognition for her achievement in helping improve school wellness by serving as a Fuel Up and Play 60 program adviser.

The program is sponsored by the National Dairy Council and the National Football League, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 2010-11, 90 students ran or walked more than 1,500 miles, 10 of them completing the equivalent of a full marathon.

The kids put Summit among the top 35 schools in the U.S. in the Let’s Move in School program, developed by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Overdue-book amnesty for giving food to needy

Feed the hungry and pay Tempe library fines without taking a dollar out of your wallet. Just open the pantry and bring what you can.

From now through Dec. 31, for every item of non-perishable food brought to the Tempe Public Library, the city of Tempe will take a dollar off the tab for overdue materials.

People who don’t have fines will be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by Friends of the Tempe Library, such as author-signed books, gift cards to the Connections Café and more.

The food will benefit non-profit Tempe Community Action Agency, which operates a volunteer community garden, a food pantry and other programs to serve Tempe’s neediest residents, the majority of which are families with young children.

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Longtime faculty adviser Tim Smith, center, is surrounded by this year's competitors as Corona del Sol High School hosted 350 students Valley-wide to show off their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution.

— Wrangler News photo by Preslie Hirsch

'We the People' competition draws an enthusiastic crowd — again

By Preslie Hirsch

At Corona del Sol High School, it's common to find crowds of support for sporting events. But on Dec. 8, the parking lot was packed for a different reason. It was a day that almost 350 students, from 14 schools across the Valley (plus their families and coaches), had been looking forward to: this year's "We the People" regional competition.

We the People, also known as Competition Government—or, in the students' vernacular, Comp Gov—is comprised of seniors with an acknowledged thirst for knowledge about the Constitution.

The program began 25 years ago to coincide with the month and day of the Constitution's signing 200 years previously.

About 60 Corona students applied last school year; only 30 made the cut. Members of that elite group have been studying their assigned unit since the end of the last school year, when their names were announced.

Jovonnie Quintero, a student on the Comp Gov team, said participation requires a broad commitment to understanding the U.S. Constitution, as well a sense of academic competitiveness.

"We the People is a civic education class that contains six units, each specializing in different aspects of the Constitution.

"It ranges from the philosophical foundations the framers had to the issues the Constitution faces today," he said.

Mastery of a daunting list of required material is a must.

"For competitions, we have three questions, each dealing with different topics of your unit. The judge will ask you one of the three questions, you present your speech.

"Afterwards, you have a six-minute rebuttal session. They look for things

like responsiveness, constitutional application and balance. They evaluate you as a unit, and whichever school has the highest scores wins the competition."

Corona placed first at the regional competition on Dec. 8 and will now prepare for the state competition, scheduled Jan. 12. The winner at that event will advance to the national competition, scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C., in April.

The Corona team has made it to nationals 13 times since getting started with the program in 1987; during that stretch, it has placed four times among the Top 10.

While the participants do much of the preparation on their own, their guidance comes from a Corona faculty member, Tim Smith, who has overseen the students' participation since the program's birth, and has been coaching the team since 1994.

"I have been impressed with the level of dedication this team has shown in preparation for competition and their first place finish at the (Dec. 8) district competition," Smith said.

Corona history teacher and We the People assistant coach Lisa Adams, who's been involved in the program for 20 years, has high anticipation of what's to come for the team.

"The hope is always that our students will be successful and are able to win the state competition," she said.

"Arizona is a very strong We the People state; we are very competitive. It comes down to who has the best day at State. As is Corona's tradition, our team is very strong and very capable."

As much as the faculty members and school administration express pride in the team's accomplishments, the school's younger students see the competition as a "carrot on a stick" to challenge their own academic mettle.

Junior Laraib Mughal said he plans

— WE THE PEOPLE, Page 23



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Diversions . . . with M.V. Moorhead

Reborn 'Hobbit' replete with touches of 21st Century modernizing

When I heard that Peter Jackson's movie version of *The Hobbit* was to be another trilogy, I must admit that my heart sank. A trilogy was understandable in the case of Jackson's massive adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* because the novels were, well, you know, a trilogy.

But *The Hobbit*—the only book of Tolkien's I've ever read—was a one-off, stand-alone work, self-contained, expansive but not overflowing. The tale's subtitle is *There and Back Again*, but Jackson's first third, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, doesn't even quite get us *there*, let alone back again.

The thought of this deferred gratification made me a little grumpy, but having seen the film, my reaction is—what the heck, why not? If Jackson wants to give *The Hobbit* this crazy, geeky, hyper-detailed treatment, and has both the imaginative and technical resources to offer one lushly splendid sequence after another, then sure, I'll go along for the ride.

Sword-and-sorcery isn't a genre I have a particular fondness for, but Tolkien was a terrific storyteller, and Jackson is at least as good in his art, so this first *Hobbit* movie leaves you feeling in good hands, even if it's not your usual cup of tea.

First published in 1937, and often classed as a children's book, *The Hobbit* is the story of Bilbo Baggins, a member of the titular race of short, burrow-dwelling folk of a mythic fairy-tale past.

Hobbits have big, hairy, usually bare feet and are characteristically comfort-loving, unadventurous sorts, but Bilbo gets pressed into service by his friend Gandalf, a human wizard, to go on a quest with a band of warrior dwarves to recover a treasure lost generations earlier to a dragon, Smaug.

The unassuming Bilbo's role in this band is as its "burglar," and though he has no experience at larceny, he discovers a talent for it, and for other daring skills.

The episodic adventures involve encounters and/or battles with elves, trolls, orcs (goblins, that is), giant wolves, giant eagles, sled rabbits and other fanciful beings. Bilbo, charmingly played by Martin Freeman (and, in the frame story, by Ian Holm as an older hobbit), engages in a dual of wits with the lost, corrupted cave-dweller Gollum.

Here as in the earlier films, Gollum is played, behind the CGI, by Andy Serkis, and again he's the most compelling character:



chilling yet deeply pitiable, and strangely likable.

So I found the movie highly entertaining, and if you're a Tolkien freak you probably will even more so, though of course if you're a Tolkien freak my recommendation is unlikely to mean much to you either way.

But there was something about this movie I found distracting, even though I realize that it's likely a generational and Pavlovian response.

The screening I saw was in 48-fps 3D, a high-frame-rate format which gives the images undeniable clarity and focus. But it also gives them, for me, the over-lit look of old-school broadcast video footage—much of the time,

despite the beauty of the compositions and the kinetic smoothness of the action, it was hard for me to shake the sense that I was watching an unusually well-made episode of *Masterpiece Theatre* from the '70s.

Or an episode of the Tom Baker vintage of *Dr. Who*. Or of *Days of Our Lives*.

I recognize that this probably has to do with my own childhood TV-watching associations, and that it's unlikely to bother younger viewers. But if you grew up watching TV in the '70s, this *Hobbit* may bring you perplexing flashbacks of *All in the Family*, *Sanford and Son* and *Barney Miller*.

'Arthur Christmas' pokes fun at some of Santa's most enduring myths

Literalism is the joke behind the 2011 computer-animated feature *Arthur Christmas*. It's right there in the poster: "Ever wonder how 2 Billion presents get delivered in 1 night?"

Two billion kids have wondered the same thing, and also how reindeer can fly, and how Santa gets down the chimney, etc.

According to *Arthur Christmas*, nowadays it's accomplished via a massive, technologically sophisticated process involving a city-sized, rocket-powered sleigh, and countless elves operating like commandos, rappelling down the sides of buildings and through windows, SWAT-team-style, to plant gifts and leave traces that simulate Santa's visit.

The real Santa (voiced by Jim Broadbent) is at the center of it all, as an ineffectual figurehead, hustled here and there by the elves. The real brains of the outfit, and his itching presumptive heir, is his son Steve (Hugh Laurie), who runs the show from a palatial mission

control back at the North Pole and resents his father's refusal to retire and pass him the reins. The retired senior Santa (Bill Nighy) watches and scoffs at the newfangled spectacle from his rooms.

The title character is Santa's recessive younger son, who works answering letters, and truly cares about the kids. When Arthur (James McAvoy) learns of a glitch in Steve's system—a little girl in a small town in Cornwall hasn't been given her bicycle—he's appalled that his father and Steve are prepared to just blow it off, as within the margin for error.

With just a few hours left before sunrise in England, Arthur and his grandfather set out to make the delivery old-school, using a sled, reindeer, a gift-wrap-obsessed elf and a bit of magic dust. All does not go smoothly.

It does go hilariously, however. This blend of "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus" with *Apollo 13* is one of the more inventive Christmas movies I've seen in a long time. If you and your kids missed it last year, it's worth

checking out on video.

A product of Aardman Studios—the folks that brought us the *Wallace and Grommit* films—it's dizzyingly imaginative on a visual level, and despite the sentimentality inherent in the storyline, it isn't mawkish, probably because it's so bracingly honest about creeping institutional impersonality.

I also liked the shades of gray in the characters—Arthur is lovable but clueless; without his less warmhearted, more competent relations he'd be helpless.

The crotchety Santa emeritus, also lovable, has his own selfish reasons for



wanting to make the run, and Steve and father aren't presented as soulless. In reality, of course, the charming tradition of giving Christmas gifts has degenerated over the decades into an angst-ridden consumerist

nightmare driven by a technological juggernaut far more pitiless than that depicted in the film, with Santa Claus, that fascinating composite of diverse cultural traditions, reduced to its mascot. *Arthur Christmas* carries, and is deepened by, a rueful awareness of this corruption under its merry, bright surface.

— M.V. Moorhead


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We the People

From Page 19



to go out for the team next year after hearing about how much her peers enjoy it.

"I love the idea of having so much knowledge about one topic and being so passionate about it, not necessarily debating but voicing your opinion about it. Comp Gov gives you the chance of doing just that," she said.

"I hope to gain valuable skills of speaking; more knowledge about our Constitution, our laws and our government and, of course, a group of friends."

Alex Karr was one of a number of the school's alumni who dropped by to watch the competition and to cheer on this year's participants.

"I was in the program last year, and

it was one of the best experiences of my high school career. It actually has made me consider going to law school, or at least continue studying the Constitution and participating in government some way.

"I'm even going to intern with the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education in the spring because I want to help out with the program," she said.

"I'm thrilled Corona won; they really worked hard and their presentations were stellar. I was blown away by their skills, even so early in the competition."

Faculty adviser Smith used the occasion to suggest that parents of current and prospective team members consider making a tax-credit donation before midnight Dec. 31 to help the program remain financially viable.

"If the community would like to support our team they can make a contribution to our Youth in Government Club," he said.

"Contributions will go towards supplies and resources needed to support the team."

Quintero, among the other supporters and students, expressed her excitement over the team coming out on top at the competition.

"We won District! It was such a great moment because it showed how much work every one put into this," he said.

"Everyone in that class is so dedicated and we all strive to do our best.

"All the hard work paid off, and I'm really proud of everyone in my class."

Kids baseball camp coming to Mesa Community College for six weeks

Mesa Community College is hosting a six-week baseball camp starting Sunday, Jan. 13. Mesa Head Coach Tony Cirelli will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy.

Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to six

players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and base-running at a cost starting at \$99 for six weeks.

Space is limited. Registration is under way now. For more information, visit www.USBASEBALLAcademy.com or call 866-622-4487.

Church service offers solace to those experiencing a difficult holiday

Individuals who are struggling with grief, the loss of a loved one, divorce, illness, depression, job changes or other issues—or who are just overwhelmed by the chaos of the holiday season—are being invited to

attend a service of peace, comfort and hope at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6400 W. Del Rio St., Chandler.

Information: 480-899-4249.



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City of Tempe Page

December 2012 - January 2013



Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl is Dec. 29

Tempe is proud to be the host city for the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl on Saturday, Dec. 29, at Sun Devil Stadium. This year, TCU takes on Michigan State.

Formerly known as the Insight Bowl, the game has become a must-see for fans and a favorite destination for teams. The renowned Big Ten and Big 12

conferences, annually among the national leaders in attendance and television ratings, each send one of their top teams to Tempe.

The 24th Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl kicks off at 8:15 p.m. Tickets start at \$25.

Call 480-350-0911 or visit www.fiestabowl.org.



Celebrate New Year's Eve in downtown Tempe

Mill Avenue in Tempe will be completely open for business this New Year's Eve – a new twist for the state's most popular place to ring in the new year. Revelers and families are invited to come out for

an evening of responsible celebration.

For the first time in many years, there will be no gates around Mill Avenue, no admission fee and no street closures around downtown Tempe on Dec. 31.

Area restaurants and nightclubs will offer entertainment and extended premises for the night.

The city and Downtown Tempe Community (DTC) are partnering with Radio Disney for family entertainment from 6-9 p.m. on a stage on Seventh Street, west of Mill Avenue.

Children's activities and food trucks also will be in the area. At 10 p.m., the stage will transition to showcasing two local bands.

Two fireworks shows will light up the downtown at 9 p.m. and midnight.

Those coming to Mill Avenue on Dec. 31 are encouraged to use public transportation or take advantage of taxi services that will be in the area. Visit www.millavenue.com/newyears eve for more details on the celebration.

For transit information, visit www.tempe.gov/streetclosures.

Tempe intends to work with the DTC and community members to plan a block party for next year.

A committee of residents and downtown stakeholders will be formed in early 2013 to advise on the event.

City of Tempe holiday collection schedule

Tempe wants residents to know about adjusted solid waste collection schedules due to the city-observed holidays of Christmas and New Year's Day.

If your regularly scheduled collection day falls on either of these holidays, your trash or recycling will be picked up on Wednesday of

that same week. Christmas collections will shift to Dec. 26 and New Year's Day collections will shift to Jan. 2.

Residents must have containers at the curb by 6 a.m.

For a list of recyclable items, visit www.tempe.gov/recycling.

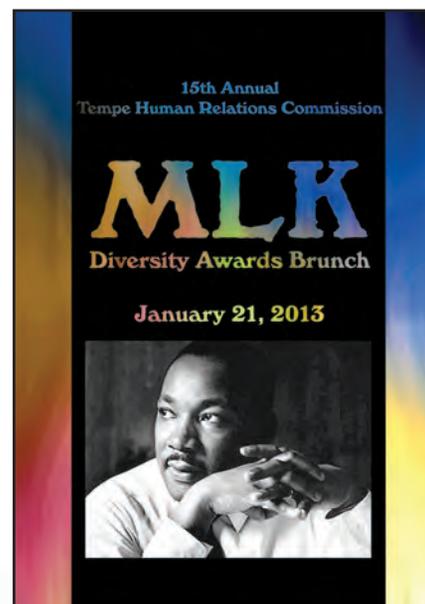
Christmas tree drop-off at four Tempe sites

Residents can recycle Christmas trees at the following locations, 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Jan. 27, 2013:

- Tempe's Household Products Collection Center, 1320 E. University Drive
- Kiwanis Park parking lot west of Kiwanis Park Recreation Center, 6111 W. All-America Way

Before dropping off Christmas trees, remove tree stands and nails, ornaments, lights, garland and tinsel. The trees will be chipped and recycled into compost materials.

For more information, call 480-350-4311, email tempe311@tempe.gov or visit www.tempe.gov/recycling.



MLK Diversity Awards Brunch

All are invited to attend the 15th Annual City of Tempe MLK Diversity Awards Brunch on Monday, Jan. 21, at 9 a.m. at The Buttes Resort, 2000 Westcourt Way.

The keynote speaker will be Cody Williams, Maricopa County Justice of the Peace, in the South Mountain Justice Court. The awards brunch honors community members and groups that demonstrate a commitment to honoring and celebrating diversity in the Tempe community.

The cost of the event is \$5 each for the first 500 people who RSVP. Call 480-350-8979 for registration information.

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Please note that you will receive your next issue of Wrangler News Jan. 10-12, 2013, following our holiday break. News and advertising reservation deadline for that edition will be 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4. Our offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1. As always, thank you for your support and Best Wishes for a happy, joyous Holiday Season!

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Compadre teen-parenting program beneficiary of Diablos' \$10k grant

Tempe's charitable Diablos again have shown their generosity with a \$10,000 grant to the Tempe Union High School District's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program, housed at Compadre Academy.

The grant was awarded to help ensure the program's continuing ability to serve as a successful drop-out prevention service.

Compadre's program offers pregnant and parenting female students, as well as parenting male students, a supportive and safe environment.

Participants may take parenting and pregnancy classes for elective credits and learn how to care for their babies. They can also check on their babies between classes when the infants are in the onsite childcare.

With the assistance of the grant from the philanthropic Diablos and contributions from community organizations and businesses, the program provides services and educational opportunities for 200 students who district officials say might

otherwise have dropped out of high school.

"The Diablos are excited to be able to help provide the kind of support that will allow these students to overcome the challenges that might otherwise hold them back," said Diablos President Greg Stainton.

"We encourage others to join the Diablos in helping to fund the great work being done by the dedicated staff at Compadre."

Stainton said the Diablos, a Tempe-based civic organization, are prepared to provide matching funds up to another \$10,000 for the program if Compadre is able to raise additional funds, which could be generated if businesses and community members join the effort.

The TUHSD non profit foundation also has established a fund to ensure the continuation of this program and is accepting donations.

Information: Dianne Welling, coordinator of business partnerships, dwelling@tempeunion.org.



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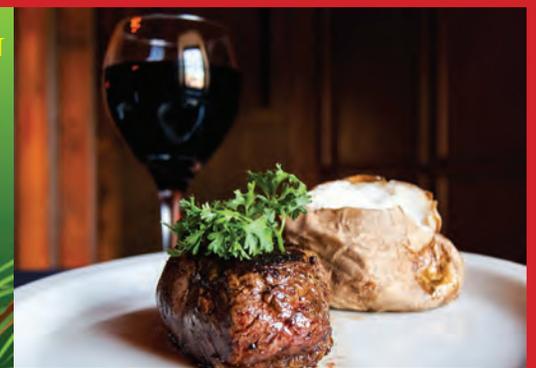
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Wrangler NEWS

Published since 1991 by Newslink LLC
Don Kirkland, President

Publisher/General Manager: Carmel Bonitatibus
Contributing Writers: Alex Zener, Alison Stanton, Sally Mesarosh, M.V. Moorhead, Diana Whittle

Advertising Consultants: Patrick Bonitatibus, Brandy Williams

2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 102, Tempe, AZ
85284-3497 • Warner Century Plaza
Hours: 9-5 Monday-Friday

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Wrangler News is printed on partially recycled newsprint with ink made from 98% soy content

Printed by The Arizona Daily Star. For print quotes contact Chuck Morales, production manager, at 520-573-4463 or John Lundgren, print operations manager, at 520-573-4469.



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