



Batter up!

There's nothing like spring training baseball at Tempe Diablo Stadium with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Be there for the first pitch of the season on Wednesday, Feb. 25, when the Angels play the Chicago White Sox. The last Angels game of the season at Diablo Stadium is April 2.

All proceeds from ticket sales, parking, concessions and merchandise at the Feb. 25 game will directly benefit the youth sports and education causes supported by the Tempe Diablos.

Last year's Charity Game raised more than \$47,000 for Diablos charities.

Tickets for all Angels home games are available

at Ticketmaster.com or at Diablo Stadium, 2200 W. Alameda Drive. Tickets range from \$6 to \$27.50.

For more details, visit www.tempe.gov/diablo.For more information on the Tempe Diablos, visit www.tempediablos.org.



Find Valentine's Day gifts in Tempe

T's Valentine's Day and your special someone deserves something as unique and wonderful as they are.

Tempe businesses have romantic gift ideas for everyone – here's a sampling of just a few:

Love Potion – Name a fragrance after your honey. The mixologists at Lotions and Potions, Fifth Street and Mill Avenue, will blend a scent with your direction and name it whatever you like. Add your essence oil to lotion, or wear it as perfume or aftershave. www.lotionsandpotions.com

A Girl's Best Friend – It still isn't the dog. It's jewelry. Build a bracelet especially for your best gal with handcrafted Italian Murano glass beads. Combine them with sterling silver for a stunning look that everyone

will compliment. Berning's, located at McClintock Drive and Warner Road, makes these one-of-a-kind pieces. www.bernings.com

It's Not A Cookie, Really — It's a macaroon, the most luscious, delectable, amazing treat in the universe. And it's locally made with organic ingredients at Essence Bakery, at University and Hardy drives in Tempe.

They come in five flavors like raspberry, carmel cream and espresso. A nicely wrapped box of 24 smaller macs is more than a treat. It's practically an out of body experience. www.essencebakery.com

More Valentine's gift ideas are available at www.tempe.gov/business/gifts.

Help manage roof rats by harvesting citrus

any citrus lovers in Tempe wonder two things when their homegrown harvests arrive in the backyard:

"How will I ever eat all this fruit?" and "What can I do to prevent roof rats?"

Both questions can be answered each Saturday, Jan. 31 through March 28, at the annual Arcadia citrus collection from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Scottsdale Elk's Club, 6398 E. Oak St.

Donated citrus is delivered to food banks, senior centers and charities.

One of the most effective ways to prevent roof rats from taking up residence in your yard is to pick up all fruit and nuts from the ground, and to harvest all citrus promptly and completely.

For more information on the Arcadia citrus collection or on roof rat prevention and control measures in Tempe, contact the Neighborhood Services Division at 480-350-8234 or neighborhoods@tempe.gov.

Residents can also visit www.tempe. gov/neighborhoods/roofrats.htm.

2009 Regional Unity Walk is in Tempe

Residents are invited to join the cities of Tempe, Chandler, Mesa, Gilbert, Scottsdale, Phoenix and Arizona State University in the 2009 Regional Unity Walk.

Participants will gather Saturday, Feb. 7, in a short walk that begins at two different Tempe locations.

The groups from the two locations will merge and walk towards the Tempe Art Park for a morning of celebrating the unity of our communities.

Families, community organizations, scout groups and church groups are invited to participate. Walkers are

encouraged to carry signs celebrating the community's diversity and unity.

Residents of Chandler, Gilbert, Phoenix and Scottsdale are to meet at the Tempe Town Lake Marina. Residents of Tempe and Mesa and Arizona State University staff/faculty are to meet at ASU Lot 59.

Free T-shirts will be distributed at the assembly points. Participants must report to the assembly locations at 10 a.m.

The walk will begin at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/diversity or call 480-350-8979.

2009 Tempe Neighbor of the Year Awards

Tempe residents are encouraged to nominate their neighbors for the city's 2009 Neighbor of the Year Awards.

oog Neighbor of the Year Awards.

The nomination deadline is Feb. 23.

The annual awards are the perfect opportunity to recognize those special community members who work diligently and often behind the scenes to make our neighborhoods great.

For more detailed information and guidelines, or to obtain a nomination form, go to Tempe's Web site at

www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods or contact the city's Neighborhood Services Division at 480-350-8234 or neighborhoods@tempe.gov.

The Neighbor of the Year Awards will be presented by Mayor and Council at the start of the 2009 Neighborhood Workshop, a free half-day event to be held Saturday, April 18, at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave., from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

Happy New Year!









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MOVE-IN READY AT \$425K.

Accentuate the positive Math teacher's casting call could produce TV's next hit reality show

By Tracy Doren

igh school: Everyone has been, is now going or will go through the experience.

That explains why a reality series portraying an almost universal milestone seems to have such wide appeal.

John Goux, a math teacher at Corona del Sol High School, has seized the opportunity to cash in on the reality television phenomenon.

Goux says the idea grew out of his work with students in Corona's Air Quality Club. During a brainstorming session, one member said something better than a bake sale was needed to help meet the \$17 million cost of improving the school's air-handling system.

Looking around a room representing the diversity of practically every American high school, Goux realized he had an ideal cast of characters for a television show.

But taking the concept from an idea to something more concrete requires time and a lot of energy, Goux says he found out.

Goux admits that he knew from the start



Reality show cast and producers include, from left, front, Alan Lee, show creator John Goux, Bree Purdy; middle, Bailey Isenberg, Leah Valenzuela; rear, teacher Mike Wehrli, Pablo De Leon, Evan Althiede.

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he needed to set his show apart from the other teen reality shows, like *The Hills* and *Laguna Beach*, for it to be a standout in an already over-saturated market.

The first step was writing a treatment, an outline for what would become the basis of the program. The cast was meant to represent the diverse student population at Corona—the jock, the cheerleader, the genius; the in-between.

Trying to represent the whole school would be a challenge, Goux says he discovered.

Rather than the usual casting call, the students were hand selected based on their involvement at school.

From the first seed of the idea, Goux says he knew the students who were representing Corona were nothing like the characters on other programs.

The kids were demonstrating that they cared about their school and wanted to leave it a better place than they found it.

Over the years, Goux says, he has often been faced with the public's

misconception of teen-agers, an impression he feels will change if people get to know some of the kids he works with.

Often, when people find out Goux is a teacher, the first question he says he is faced with is how can he stay sane working with high school students.

His response: 95 percent of teens are "really good individuals", he says. "They care about their community, their friends and their world; they really would like to make the world a better place."

That is specifically the message he is out to share with the production of the forthcoming reality series *American High School*.

What sets this particular show apart from others is that it will exhibit the positive side of high school rather than the frequent darker side.

It is precisely this element that apparently has intrigued some major production companies after network screeners viewed a 1½-minute trailer of the show.

According to Goux, the storyline

intertwines concepts of such shows as *The Real World* with *Extreme Home Makeover* and *American Idol*.

Each episode is anticipated to include an opportunity for the students to either give something back or learn something new that will enhance their life or the lives of others.

The extreme makeover concept includes building a new bookstore to alleviate the space crunch that is now such a problem.

Wall Construction, a Tempe-based company, has already agreed to donate the labor for the project.

In the vein of *American Idol*, Goux envisions having a prominent celebrity work with the students in choir or drama to help them realize their dreams

The time and effort spent has not gone unnoticed by a number of people who have been willing to donate their time and effort to see that the project gets off the ground.

Talent agents in Arizona have donated time and services to represent the kids who have been cast in the production, and a prominent New York entertainment attorney has donated her expertise with legal matters involving Hollywood production companies.

Both Janet Napolitano and John Huppenthal have thrown their support behind the project by offering tax credits to companies that are willing to come to Arizona work on film and entertainment projects.

According to Goux, all of these elements working together give *American High School* a good chance of being picked up as a mid-season replacement in the current television season.

Regardless of how the project progresses, Goux says he's glad to have had a chance to share the brighter side of the high school experience...a refreshing view, he thinks, in a world that seems to focus more often on the negative.

To view a trailer and learn more about the project, visit www. myamericanhighschool.com









Living with risk: An eye-opener for young visitors to Israel



Young members of Temple Emanuel in Tempe hiked to a waterfall in Golan Heights during what they found to be a once-in-a-lifetime tour of Israel. Group included, clockwise from top, Carly Kastner, Josh Anson, David Oberstein, Trevor Harvey, Ryan Shanken, Briana Wagner and Nathan Scherotter.

— Photo contributed by Nathan Scherotter

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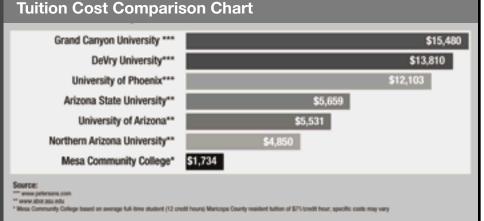
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By Nathan Scherotter

ver winter break, several of my friends from Temple Emanuel and I traveled to Israel for what turned out to be a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

As part of a group of 40 college students from all over the United States, for 10 days we went on a cultural, educational and spiritual journey through an area of the world rich with history, religious significance and conflict.

The trip we took was sponsored by Taglit-Birthright Israel which, according to its website, provides a gift of first-time, peer-group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26 from around the world.

Taglit-Birthright Israel is a unique partnership between the people of Israel through their government, leading Jewish philanthropists and local Jewish communities. The donations to run this program have reached as high as \$120 million in a year.

We were able to see and experience many of the historical sights that have been written about for thousands of years – Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall, the Dead Sea, the Golan Heights, plus lots more.

However, our trip was even more unique and interesting than what I had expected.

Just days before we left, Israel declared war against Hamas, a terrorist group in the Gaza Strip, southwest of Israel. This caused my family and me great concern about the safety and security of the trip.

However, we were reassured by the precautions that the Birthright trip organizers take on each and every trip to mitigate the risks.

The land of Israel has been an area of disagreement and war for thousands of years. While we were there, the country was hit with missiles, and

Continued on next page



Israel responded with attacks of its own. Yet, at no time during my stay was I worried about my security. It was exciting, of course. Not only were we learning about the history of Israel—we were part of it.

Our days were filled with walks through beautiful mountains, exploring busy markets and sampling the traditional cuisine of falafel and shwarma.

We received daily security updates, and only one scheduled hiking activity had to be cancelled due to precautions in the area on that day. We had to take extra care when going into public places. It was the first time I had ever seen security forces with automatic weapons in a public shopping mall. But that is normal there. Israelis know they are always at risk, and the government does whatever is considers necessary to try to keep Israeli citizens as safe as

possible. To minimize the danger during our trip, we were accompanied by an armed soldier from the time we got off the plane until we departed for our return home—standard procedure for every group on a Birthright trip.

In Israel every citizen who grows up in the country must serve in some part of the military. Five soldiers between the ages of 18 and 24 actually joined us for five days of our trip, which was a unique experience in itself, giving us an opportunity to learn what it is really like to be a young adult in Israel and participate in a war. One of the soldiers had to leave our trip for a day to attend the funeral of his friend, who had been killed in action.

We even had the honor of attending services for another soldier who died after being hit by friendly fire. And while it was obvious we were tourists at the funeral, the group thanked us for showing our support.

While there have been protests in many parts of the world, every person we spoke with defended their country's attacks on Gaza as a means of protecting the Israeli people and their land.

Overall, it was an eye-opening trip. To see the beauty of the land, the awesomeness of the ancient historical sights, the rich culture and the spirit and passion of the Israeli people made for an amazing experience I won't soon forget.

Editor's note: Nathan Scherotter is a 2007 graduate of Corona del Sol High School and a regular contributor to Wrangler News. He currently is a business major at Arizona State University.

DON'T LET PAIN KEEP YOU FROM ACHIEVING YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

Dear Friend,

Confessions are tough. Real tough. But sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know, when I meet people in town they usually say, "Oh, yeah, I know you. You're Dr. Steve. I've seen your ad with that picture of you and the two cute little girls." Well, I'm the guy on the middle.

YEARS AGO, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME THAT CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER.

Let me tell you my story. It's years ago and I am a young college student feeling indestructible, but one day I developed little red spots all over my legs. In my case, it came on suddenly. It started after a hard day of training for a long distance road bike race. At first I thought nothing of it, but soon after I woke up the next day I realized that the spots were getting worse. I was scared; they were starting to appear on my arms and stomach.

I was very concerned and immediately went to see my primary care physician. He was puzzled by my problem and told me that if it doesn't hurt or itch, don't worry about it. This disturbed me because the spots were not going away and I was embarrassed by their appearance. In spite of his "recommendation," I decided to continue seeing all different types of doctors over the next year to find the answer. I was poked, prodded, and given prescription medication with horrible side effects and no results.

After hearing about my story, a classmate of mine told me about a doctor he knew. This new doctor does an exam, takes some films, and then "adjusts" my spine. The adjustment didn't hurt; it actually felt good. Within a short time, the spots began to disappear and I could train again without new spots appearing. Oh, did I mention that this doctor was a chiropractor? It worked so well for me, and I was so impressed with the other "miracles" I saw in his office, that I eventually went to chiropractic school myself.

Now for my daughters in the photo. They have been adjusted since birth. I adjust them when I feel they may be getting sick, or sometimes just to keep them "tuned up." The amazing thing is that now I get to help hundreds of people every week with problems like I had and other things, like allergies, athletic injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, migraines and other headaches, arthritis and joint pain, back or neck pain, sciatica, fibromyalgia, and injuries from car accidents, just to name a few.

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF MY PATIENTS HAVE TO SAY:

"Dr. Steve changed my life. He helped eliminate my constant neck pain and headaches when nothing else seemed to help. Dr. Steve did this without using drugs or surgery. I can't thank him enough!"—Casey R. of Mesa



"I was suffering from leg problems, fatigue, and restricted range of motion. Dr. Steve's knowledge on sport injuries has benefited me. I have my life back again, without pain. I am glad to be a part of his program because I know things will continue to be great for me."—Mario C. of Chandler

"For the past eight years I have lived in pain and have had a headache on a daily basis. I have gained my quality of life back. I no longer have headaches. I sleep beautifully at night and wake up rested and pain-free. Life is wonderful without pain. Thank you Dr. Steve for giving me my life back."—Andrea P. of Tempe

ALL RIGHT, ON TO MY CONFESSION...

Over the years, I've taken credit for helping hundreds of people. Babies with chronic ear infections, moms dealing with intense

migraines, men bent over with agonizing back pain, women suffering with fibromyalgia and carpal tunnel syndrome, and seniors who were crippled with horrible joint pain and arthritis. But the truth is, I didn't cure all those people. It's your body that does the healing. We just help it along, and fortunately we get tremendous results. In fact, most of the people who come to see us not only get rid of their aches, pains, and other symptoms, but say they feel better than they have in as long as they can remember!

IT SHOULDN'T COST AN ARM AND A LEG TO CORRECT YOUR HEALTH

Mention this letter between now and February 28, 2009, and receive our entire new patient evaluation for just \$27. That includes x-rays, computerized spinal exam ... the whole ball of wax! This exam could cost you as much as \$250 elsewhere. Further care is also very affordable, and you'll be happy to know that we work with all insurance companies and offer very reasonable fee plans that your whole family can afford.

HERE ARE SOME OF MY QUALIFICATIONS

I graduated from the University of Arizona in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology, then Southern California University of Health Sciences in 2005 with a Doctorate degree in Chiropractic. I have published articles in leading health publications and have been trusted to care for professional athletes. Global Chiropractic is one of the most popular natural health offices in the East Valley, where we help thousands of adults and children every month. The office is warm and child-friendly, and we try our best to make you feel right at home. We provide a wonderful service at a reasonable fee.

Our clinic is called GLOBAL CHIROPRACTIC and we are located on the southeast corner of the 60 freeway and Rural Rd. Our phone number is 480-491-7241. Please call us to make an appointment today. We'd love to help you, and look forward to seeing you soon.

 $-Dr.\ Steven\ Enriquez,\ D.C.$

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To Mom, with love

Sugar cookies, cupcakes, made with love. And what better time for Ariana Gonzales to show it than Valentine's Day. Kids at Kiwanis Park Recreation Center can get a head start on this year's gifts in a class Saturday, Feb. 7, taught by registered dietician Katie Mcwhirter. 'It's fun to get messy, and they don't have to clean up the mess,' says McWhirter. Best of all, she says, 'They get to take home a ton of goodies.' Class, which is limited to 12 students ages 6-12, runs 3-4 p.m. Fee includes class and materials. Information: 480-350-5201.

— Photo by Stephen Denton

Neighborhood News & Notes

Crisis, gift or both? Dark parking lot sheds light on what's good about life

By Tracy Doren

"Oh, what a night. Mid-January, back in 2009. What a very special time for me, 'cause I remember what a night."

ith apologies to Frankie Valli, but somehow his song popped into my head while I was thinking about the rescue of my poor, stranded car from the parking lot at Gammage Auditorium last week.

This adventure-inpursuit-of-a-theme-song started with a trip to see *The Lion King* with my daughter and her Brownie troop.

We arrived in plenty of time to find our seats and settle in for what turned out to be a truly spectacular production.

— Continued on next page

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The characters came to life on stage in a way I couldn't have imagined. The singing, dancing and costumes, likewise, were indeed memorable.

We enjoyed the 2½-hour show, then ventured backstage for a once-ina-lifetime chance to meet the actors and be regaled with some behind-thescenes secrets.

Although it was well after our bedtimes, the promise of an "inside look" had been an opportunity we couldn't pass up.

By now, the clock was inching up on 11. The other girls' moms loaded their kids into waiting cars and, with all safely ensconced, my daughter and I rolled into our own car, ready to zip home for what had become some much-needed sleep.

While I was thankful to see that the parking lot was now less congested, a long line of cars at the exit would have been better than the long night that

was to ensue.

When I put the key into the ignition of my usually reliable little SUV, I found the whole steering column to be hopelessly locked.

While annoying, it was nothing more than a minor, sometimes-recurring problem easily solved by giving the wheel a bit of a wiggle. I thought. Wrong—my usual wheelwiggling workaround wasn't doing the trick this time.

By now the nearly deserted parking lot was practically empty, and my limited bag of automotive fix-it tricks, as well as my options, had seriously dwindled.

Who did I know who might come to the aid of a stranded mom and her sweet little Girl Scout at so late an hour? Although I have an address book full of friends and family I can count on in a pinch, knowing just the right one to call after 11 on a weeknight doesn't

fit my predetermined emergencyrescue plan. In this case, only one regular night-owl came to mind: my amiable coworker, Kyle Maki.

The assumption turned out to be accurate. Kyle was awake and surprisingly glad, at least so it seemed, to rise to the occasion. He was quickly on route, and my daughter and I huddled near the comatose car to await the arrival of our knight in shining armor.

But now a new dilemma: Was this where our good fortune would end? Out of the shadows, in what seemed a bit menacing given the late hour and desolateness of the parking lot, came a group of teenage boys, headed directly toward us.

Oh, oh, I thought. Here comes trouble. As it turned out, a more thoughtful and well-meaning group they couldn't have turned out to be, even trying to Google some solutions on their Blackberrys. No luck. But their thoughtful aid was appreciated, providing my daughter and me with a pleasant diversion from the cold as we waited for our ride.

Minutes later our rescuer showed up, and we were safely headed home.

Finally, an hour later, lying in bed waiting for sleep to attack the flow of adrenaline, I reflected on the exhausting series of events.

It had been, despite a few moments of borderline misery, a curiously rewarding experience, cast with both friends and strangers.

So here's what I concluded: Sometimes you're given a crisis, sometimes you're given a gift. Sometimes it's both. I'm wondering if the people in that airliner that landed on the Hudson River might have come to the same realization.

Like Frankie said, "Oh, what a night."

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Wrangler News

'The Valley's Best Community Newspaper'

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With new president, students' win provides a well-timed 'insider' view of government Class to compete in U.S. finals after emerging as Arizona's best

By Alex Zener

Remember Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, the 1939 comedy-drama starring Jimmy Stewart about one man's effect on American politics? It was nominated for 11 Academy Awards, won for best screenplay and became an enduring American classic.

Fast forward 70 years, to 2009. Turns out that Corona del Sol High School has its own Mr. Smith: Timothy Smith, that is, who is not only going to Washington, D.C., but taking along 27 students from his Competition Government class.

Corona's team, comprised of students from Smith's class, won the coveted "We the People" state championship.

The entire team, under Smith's guidance, will represent Arizona at the national finals April 25-27.

Although it was Corona's 10th state title, it is the first one since 2001.

Dobson High in Mesa has "held, cherished and hoarded the title for the past eight years," according to team member **Lizzie Shafer**.

Smith says the the goal of his senior Competition Government class every year is to win the state title. More importantly, he adds, is the effort to increase the students' understanding and appreciation for the workings of America's constitutional democracy.

"Comp Gov helped me get an insider's view of government; understanding how the cogs of the machine work," said Shafer.

"I feel that understanding our government lets me take an active role in my life, and not just smile and nod as it governs me. I now see a budding vision of the big picture—where a bill or act is coming from—how it benefits the country as a whole, not just me."

Another team member gained a different perspective on government affairs from Smith's class and this "We the People" competition.

"I never knew how much time, how much effort, how much leadership it took for our nation to be where it is today," said **Jocelyn Hu**. "The class has given me tremendous respect for

Continued on next page



Corona del Sol Competition Government instructor Timothy Smith, left, with the 27 students who will accompany him to national 'We the People' finals April 25-27 in Washington, D.C. The students won the Arizona competition last month.



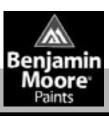
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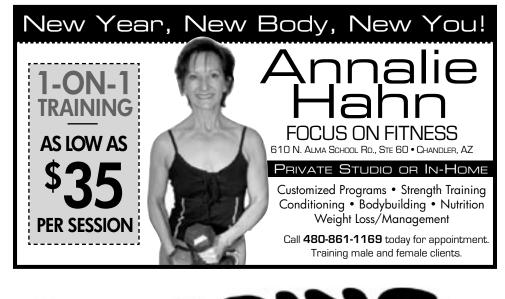
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Competition

From Page 10

the foundation of our government, and I now see it in a totally different way.'

The "We the People" competition consists of six units of four to five students each who have to be prepared to answer questions in front of a panel of judges composed of attorneys, judges and other professionals from the community.

The competition setting simulates a congressional committee, providing an opportunity for students from each unit to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles.

"Each unit or panel provides a four-minute opening statement for each question, followed by six minutes of a sort of cross-examination by the judges," said Smith.

The class is scored by the overall performance of all the units-60 possible points each—for a possible total of 240 points."

Competition Government classes have an innovative instructional design developed so students not only learn about the institutions of American constitutional democracy but, at the

same time, discover the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights-all while preparing as a team for the "We the People" competition.

"Competition Government isn't vour typical class—it's self-motivated but still team oriented," said Shafer.

"I'd say my homework mostly consisted of reading the textbook, as well as countless other government histories, researching specific court cases and their contexts, and paying attention to current events to construct a cohesive understanding of government, in its evolution and current application."

Corona had high and consistent scoring throughout the competition, held at Arizona State University West in Glendale to beat Dobson High School by 50 points. Hamilton High School took third and Prescott High School was fourth.

Corona's team came together and supported each other throughout the competition, according to Smith.

"This year's team not only had the desire to win, but also the will and determination to be successful," said Smith.

"I overheard a judge remark about how one of the Corona teams

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'warmed their heart' because they were such knowledgeable and passionate presenters."

Students who won the state championship and will now be headed to Washington with Smith in April are Ahmed Aboul-Nasr, Hannah Augee, Kaitlyn Beaudet, Katherine Cai, Christine Dyster, Seth Garrison, Siddesh Gopalakrishnan, Paul Gu and Abby Henderson.

Also, Jocelyn Hu, Derek Hurang, Shelly Jackson, Rachel Kultala, Wyatt Larkin, Elizabeth Lee, Vishal Maini, Eric McKay, Hari Menon, Alex Nunez, Vincent Park, Smitha Ramakrishna, Lizzie Shafer, Pankti Shah, Mike Swindle, Molly Yang, Jake Yocham and Zeyang Yu.

In order to make the trip to Washington D.C., the Competitive Government class will need to do some fundraising to reduce the cost of the trip for the students. Smith says he is hoping to get community support to send the team to the finals. Information: 480-752-8888, x 85274

Correction

A story in our last issue referred to boundary changes that could impact high school attendance areas. The proposal by district officials should not have been called a boundary change but rather a change in how existing boundary rules are interpreted. A statement in the same story should have said Marcos de Niza principal Frank Mirrizio hopes to recruit students from other districts, not neighboring TUHSD school. Board members were scheduled to meet on the plan Jan. 21.

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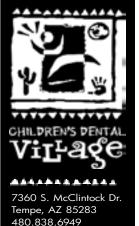
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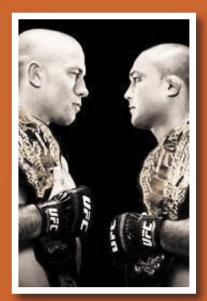
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Valley audiences among few in U.S. to see adaptation of Leonard novel 'Killshot'

All of a sudden, Mickey Rourke is everywhere. Not two weeks after his Golden Globe win for *The Wrestler*—and by the time this sees print, he will likely have an Oscar nomination for the same role—he shows up as a polite, soft-spoken murderer in *Killshot*.

Based on a novel by Elmore Leonard, *Killshot*, which opens here in the Valley (and reportedly *only* here) this weekend, had a troubled production history—reshoots, a couple of years on the shelf, the removal of a significant subplot involving actor Johnny Knoxville.

It would likely have gone directly to video had it not been for Rourke's recent comeback.

I, at least, am glad it's seeing even a slight release. I wouldn't claim that it's a classic, but it's a nasty, unpredictable thriller for grown-ups, directed by the Brit John Madden with some feel for its Michigan and Missouri locations, and it gathers an unusually fine cast to play Leonard's shady and/or rueful characters.

In addition to Rourke, Diane Lane, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Thomas Jane, Rosario Dawson and Lois Smith are set in a violent whirl. Even Hal Holbrook has a short but memorable role as an old mobster before the opening credits.

Holbrook's chilly scene sets the tone for the acting that follows. Rourke is scarily convincing as the laconic Native American hitman Armand "The Blackbird" Degas.

His mild inflections and the leathery, masklike quality that his face has taken on in recent years—a friend of mine says he's beginning to resemble Leona Helmsley—only make him more believable as this joyless killer, haunted and isolated by his own obsessive insistence on leaving no witnesses.

For my money, Diane Lane is the sexiest woman in American movies, precisely because she doesn't push how sexy she is. As the hapless realtor heroine in *Killshot*, having had the misfortune to see Armand's face while he was committing some of his mayhem, she spends much of the film in terror and peril, and it's a testament to her poise that she keeps her bearings in these unglamorous circumstances.

Generically handsome Thomas Jane is competent as the construction worker husband from whom Lane is separated, and Rosario Dawson is touching as one of the sadder excuses for a moll in all of noir.

Only the usually reliable Gordon-Levitt, so first-rate in *Brick* (2005) seems slightly off here; he's a little heavy-footed as Armand's brainless, obnoxious



Thomas Jane and Diane Lane star in John Madden's 'Killshot.'

— Photo courtesy The Weinstein Company / George Kraychyk

accomplice.

Killshot seems well worth a look for crime-film fans and for fans of these actors, but it's far from the best adaptation of Leonard on film.

That, I think, remains Quentin Tarantino's 1997 *Jackie Brown*, based on Leonard's *Rum Punch*. It's less true to the letter of the novel than some adaptations, but far more true to the Leonard feel.

'Killshot' is showing in or near the Kyrene Corridor at Chandler Fashion Center, Arizona Mills Mall and Superstition Springs Mall.



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'Cinderella Affair' promises fairytale solution to girls lacking a prom dress

With the economy tighter than usual, some girls are finding that extras like a beautiful prom dress may not be a reality this year. A fairy godmother-like program is under way to help make sure these girls have a fairytale evening.

The Cinderella Affair, now in its seventh year, offers high school juniors and seniors a chance to choose a dress to wear on their special night at no charge

The event is an all-volunteer project staged by the East Valley Women's League in collaboration with Tempe Community Council.

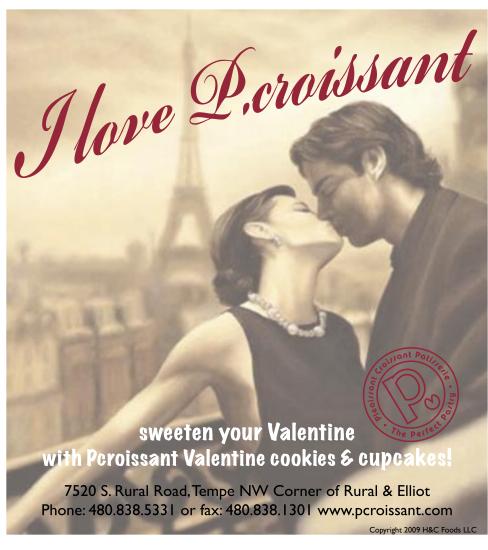
From Feb. 6 through 20, the sponsoring organizations will hold their annual drive to collect gently worn dresses. Drop boxes will be placed at several locations in several east Valley communities.





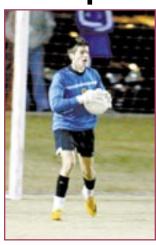
Kyrene board ready to face new year of challenges, opportunities Newly installed members of the Kyrene School District Governing Board include, standing, from left, Ellen Shamah, Michelle Hirsch and Ross Robb; seated, continuing members Rae Waters and Patrick McGill. Robb was voted president, Hirsch vice president.

— Photo courtesy Kyrene School District





'Exceptional' season so far for CdS soccer



Goalkeeper Matt Bersano.

— Photo by Kris Cartwright

Corona del Sol boys soccer team is having an exceptional season at 13-2, with a seven-game winning streak on the line more than mid-way through the season.

And, as if things could not get any better, the Aztecs recently beat Desert Vista for the first time in three years. Leading up to the Jan. 16 home match, Corona was o-6 against Desert Vista.

Desert Vista's soccer team is typically well organized, with good forwards and fast wings.

However, this season the defense and midfield players were not as strong as in the past, according to Corona goalkeeper Matt Bersano.

The Aztecs scored early when Casey Phillips chipped a free kick over to an oncoming Josh Von Allworden, who scored on a slide kick past Desert Vista's goalkeeper for a 1-0

Desert Vista tied the score at 1-1 on a miscommunication in the Aztecs' back line, and then the Thunder took a 2-1 lead and the momentum

on a free kick that lead to a Desert Vista goal. Corona wasn't able to get a break until AJ Stojanovic tied the score at 2-2 and took the momentum back after his shot at the far post slipped past the Thunder's goalkeeper with 13 minutes left in the game.

Both teams moved the ball up and down the field but Corona finally got a break with 1:57 left.

Trever Allen capitalized on a Desert Vista error when the Thunder's goalkeeper came out too far to cover the ball. Allen was right there to tap

the ball past the goalkeeper, then dribble it straight in for the winning goal and a 3-2 score.

So what's different this season? Not too much, it appears.

Although Corona lost 11 seniors to graduation, 14 players with considerable varsity playing experience returned from last season.

"I think experience and maturity has a lot to do with our success so far this season," said Coach Dan Salas.

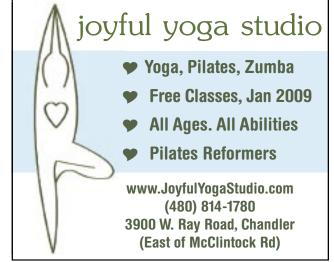
"Most of the players on the team were starters or played significant minutes in games last season."

Some of the returning experienced players are junior forward Trever **Allen**; senior team captain Matt Widjaja; sophomore goalkeeper Matt Bersano: junior defender **Garret** Baker-Slama; junior defender Josh Von Allworden; junior defender **Kevin Biniazin**;

- SOCCER, Page 27







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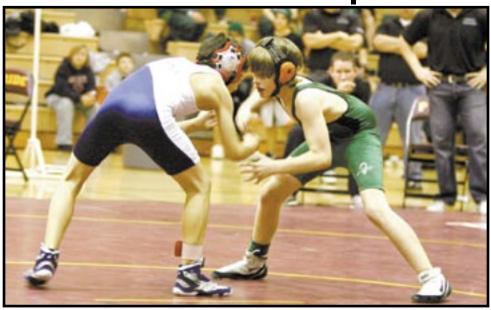
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Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

KMS wrestlers sweep conference championships



Coleman Griffith, right, is 11-0 this season and has 11 pins to his credit.

- Photo by Kris Cartwright

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Tyrene Middle School's wrestling team sent its opponents to the mats with six first-place finishes, defeating Aprende, Altadena, Akimel A-al, Centennial and Pueblo middle schools to win the conference championship Jan. 17 at Mountain Pointe High School.

Coach **Patrick Hoddy** and his five coaches had 44 determined boys on the team this year from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The Scorpions competed in 17 weight classes in the conference championship, winning six first-place finishes, two second-place, five third-place, two fourth, one fifth and one sixth-place finishes.

Taking home first-place medals were **Trysten Griffith** in the 75-pound weight class, **Coleman** Griffith at 85 pounds, Rodriguez Begay at 95 pounds, Glen Farina at 100 pounds, Graham Schmoker at 115 pounds, and Jesus Morales at 127 pounds.

- NOTEBOOK, Page 18







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Lady Aztecs take 2nd in Nike finals

By Alex Zener

Members of the Corona del Sol Lady Aztec basketball team have felt the agony of defeat several times this 2008-09 season, but were thrilled when they were able to put together enough wins to take second place



Nicole Coggins scoring on a lay-up.

— Photo by Kris Cartwright

in the Blue Division of the Nike Tournament of Champions, played at several Chandler high schools Dec. 27-30. Corona beat Salpointe Catholic and North Torrance, Calif., before falling to Chandler Hamilton in the finals.

Corona trounced Salpointe Catholic Dec. 27 at Perry high school's gym. The Lady Aztecs defense held Salpointe to two points in the first quarter and only allowed Salpointe to score 12 in the first half.

Corona had no problems scoring points and led 31-12 at the half. Not much changed in the second half, and Corona put the game away 62-32.

Kim Pestalozzi led all scorers with 15 points. Andrea Beaird had 13, Nicole Coggins 11, Katlyn Mason 8, Sydney Vanda 7, Cecilia Yocham 4, Taylor Godfrey 2 and Alicia Jack 2.

Nicole Coggins came out hitting nothing but net in the Lady Aztecs semifinal game Dec. 29 against North Torrance, with a game-high 18 points leading all scorers and putting Corona in the Blue Division finals against Chandler Hamilton Dec. 30.

Andrea Beaird contributed 14 of Corona's 65 points, and Pestalozzi had 12, Vanda 8, **Susan Plasencia** 6, Godfrey 5 and **Jessica Pena** 2.

Corona led at halftime 35- 25 and

- NIKE, Page 27

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Notebook

From Page 16

Trysten Griffith, an 11-year-old sixth grader, has been wrestling for seven years. Trysten has nothing but good memories about his first middle school season because he has more pins at 12 than anyone else on the team. He also has an 11-0 record. (That's right, he hasn't lost a match all season.)

"Getting into shape and running all the time is the most challenging part about wrestling," said Trysten.

"I have played a lot of sports but nothing is as hard as wrestling because it's not only physical but mental."

Trysten's brother, 14-year-old Coleman Griffith, is also 11-0 this season and has 11 pins to his credit. One of his highlights of wrestling, according to Coleman, was being coached by Henry Cedullo, a Gold-Medal winner in wrestling at the 2008 Olympics in China.

Coleman, who will be headed to Marcos de Niza next year, hopes to play football as well as make the wrestling team.

"I love football, and I have found that wrestling has really helped me in my football game," said Coleman. "Wrestling helps me with my balance, which is really important in both sports."

Although 13-year-old Glen Farina was 9-1 in the regular season, he came away with a first place medal in the 100-pound class after pinning three opponents. His only loss this season was a bit of a fluke.

The only match I lost this season was to a kid I had on his back," said Farina.

"He flipped me and ended up winning the match. It made me mad because I knew I was better than him."

Finishing in second place were **Justin Riethmann** in the 155-pound class and Bryan Giron at 180 pounds. Both wrestlers had a 7-3 record in the regular season but made it to the finals in their respective weight categories, winning second-place medals.

Riethmann, a 13-year-old eighth grader, has been wrestling for only three years and loves the sport.

"I initially tried out for wrestling for the workout," said Riethmann. "Now I love wrestling despite all the hard work on conditioning and the roughness of the sport."

Third-place finishers include **Riley Reyburn** in the 80-pound weight class; Jay Moore at 90 pounds; Zachary Roybal at 108 pounds; Billy Clemens at 120 pounds; and Vinny Vital at 200 pounds.

Roybal, a 14-year-old eighth grader, only tried wrestling because his friend recommended it.

'My friend **Rod Begay** asked me to go out for wrestling with him because it would be fun," said Roybal. "It is fun but I have also gained confidence and strength from wrestling. I'm even learning how to fight through the anxiety you get before a match.'

Billy Clemens started wrestling six years ago after attending a Corona wrestling camp.

Clemens has been wrestling opponents above his weight in the 120-pound class all year but enjoys the uniqueness of the one-on-one competition that wrestling offers.

"I play football and baseball but wrestling is unique," said the 14 year-old Clemens.

"It's only about you and the other guy on the mat. Whose the strongest and the quickest. Working harder than the other guy. No other sport is like it.'

Fourth place went to **Jason Lachober** at 137 pounds and **Mike Clare** in the 146-pound category. Lachober has the second most pins on the team, along with Begay, Farina and Morales at eight. Rounding out the Kyrene wrestlers were fifth-place finisher Cody Putensen at 70 pounds and Manny Martinez was sixth at 165 pounds.

What's made this season's KMS wrestlers so successful? "I attribute our success this year to our depth as a team and our coaches," said Coach Hoddy.

"Our coaches have great rapport with each other and they all know how to bring out the best in all the wrestlers."



KMS wrestling team, bottom, from left, Coach Justin Clare, Coach Matt Lawson, Jay Moore, Riley Rayburn, Cody Putensen and Coach Kyle Leslie; second row, Graham Schmoker, Jesus Morales, Billy Clemens and Trysten Griffith; third row, Zach Roybal, Kaden Mendoza, Cole Richwine, Jason Laschober, Glenn Farina, Ethan Tursini, Chris Tate, Mike Clare, Rod Begay and RJ Rhiner; fourth row, Justin Riethmann, Bryan Giron, Manny Martinez, Vinnie Vital, Taylor Lott and Coach Patrick Hoddy; above, Coleman Griffith. Photo contributed by Gerri Dee Griffith

"Coach Kyle Leslie, coach Justin Clare, coach Matt Lawson and coach JT Mendoza are unbelievable in their personal character, knowledge of the sport and interaction with the kids," said Hoddy.

"I've had a great time coaching with them and I can't imagine coaching with anyone else."

Additionally, coach Hoddy acknowledges that parental backing throughout the season is a factor that motivates the coaches.

"I think our parental support throughout the season has motivated us as coaches," said Hoddy.

"Parents always are close by to help in any way. We're lucky to have them and we've made some good friendships along the way too.

The team will be next competing for the state championship in the 2009 Arizona Junior High School Wrestling State Championships in Tucson Jan. 30-31.

"The competition at the tournament will be challenging because all the schools have excellent wrestlers and coaches," said coach Hoddy.

"I think we have as good a chance as anybody to win because our kids have gone above and beyond what we asked of them. They're a special group of wrestlers and we're proud of them regardless of what happens."

This season has been a special one for Kyrene Middle School wrestlers, parents and coaches but as most coaches agree, athletes grow and move on but it's the memories that last.

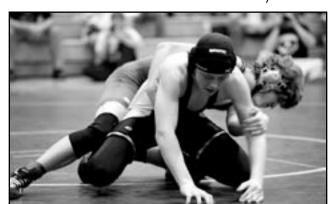
"I think what I'll remember most about this season is when one of our wrestlers came from eight points behind and pinned his opponent with seven seconds left in the match," said Coach Hoddy.

"To most it was just another match, but for this particular wrestler it was two years of hard work and disappointment in exchange for three minutes of glory. Most kids would have hung up their shoes a long time ago. Now that's a wrestler."



Champion Aprende Middle School wrestlers, from left, Mauricio Madrigal, 200 pounds; Zach Turner, 70 pounds; Patrick Buck, 120 pounds; Kortland Turner, runner up, 108 pounds; Nic Plott, 155 pounds.

- Photo contributed by Chris Huch



KMS wrestler Justin Reithmann, top, who has been competing only three years, finished the tournament in second place.

— Stephen Denton / Wrangler News

Diablos set Feb. 7 for next 'Capers'

empe's notable Diablos have a reputation for putting on a great party, and the best part of the equation is that their social wizardry serves up more than a good time to their guests.

Since 1968, the organization has raised nearly \$2 million, all of which helps fund a number of charities that predominantly serve the youth of Tempe.

Casino Capers is a signature event for the Diablos. This year it takes place Saturday, Feb. 7, at a location that is yet to be announced.

Setting the stage the week before the event is an undertaking of no small magnitude—transformation from warehouse to glitzy casino requires creativity, manpower and know-how. Over the history of the event, staging the scene has become a well-orchestrated symphony.

The bar, the décor, the gambling paraphernalia, along with the other ingredients that create a magical event, remain locked up in storage until a week before the big event.

When the time comes, the extreme makeover seems to come together in hours. Labor is donated by members of the group, and it all comes together seamlessly for the formal event.

The public is invited to participate in the event by purchasing tickets and enjoying the cocktails, dinner and auction—all in the name of charity.

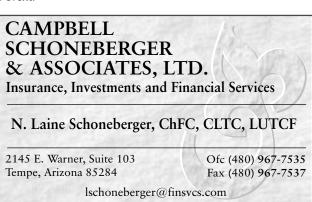
For more information or tickets visit www.tempediablos.org



"Brainstorm," an Emmy award-winning academic quiz show that turns local high school students into celebrities, has returned to the local airwaves, this time featuring three students from Corona del Sol High School as competitors. Fifty-four teams from the Phoenix and Tucson areas are competing in rounds of three, with the winner of each round advancing to the playoffs. A championship match will determine which team is the smartest. Competing from CdS this year are, from left, **Siddesh Gopal, Derek Huang** and **Achyut Patil**. Cox Cable sponsors the event.















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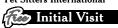
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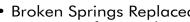


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Announcements

Miscellaneous—Mom's Club/Playgroup - Tempe Early Explorers invites moms and kids to join us in exploring activities together in our community. Online event calendar and RSVP option. Have fun and form new friendships! Email lalamiles@gmail.com, Website http://www.meetup.com/Tempe-Early-Explorers/ 2/7

Special Event—MILITARY VEHICLE SHOW SWAP MEET, January 24th & 25th, 8am-4pm, Arizona National Guard 52nd Street & McDowell, General Admission is Free, Parking is a \$5 donation, Jerry 480-497-9722 www.armytrucks.org 1/24

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Insurance — Farmers Insurance Group. Mark Davis Agency. 480-831-6762. www.farmersagent.com/mdavis2/ See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Miscellaneous — Copier Center of Arizona. Serving the Valley since 1979. We offer service and supplies for most copiers and printers. 602-274-6460. See *our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services*.

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and abatement technology to clean and sanitize your ductwork. Also offering \$100 Video Camera inspections. Call us today and see what is inside your ductwork. 480-279-4944. Air Quality Consultants Inc. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Cabinetry/Counters — Crown Molding Installation. For before and after photos please visit me at www.ineedcrown.com. Ken O'Brien, independent craftsman, (480) 299-0136. Since 1995. Not a licensed contractor. Local references available. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Cabinetry/Counters—Countertops, Granite/Marble Slab. \$\$\$\$ave! 480-255-0106 Licensed and Bonded 11/09

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Decorating—Tempe-based Interior Designer: Paint and color consultations, window treatments, custom bedding ensembles, space planning, upholstery facilitation, furniture and accessory shopping services. Experience includes kitchen and bath remodeling and model home merchandising. Degreed professional with many trade and client references. I use only the finest installers and workrooms. Call Vanessa MacDonald at Reclamationz Designs. 480-620-6627 or email at vanmac@cox.net. Reclaim your space—reclaim your life! 3/7

Doors — PatioDoorRepairs.com Roller replacement, track repair/replacement. Sun Valley Patio Door Service. Cell Phone 602-482-0605. 5/09

Doors— Southwest Door Refinishing-480-947-3878 Doors/ Refinishing, repainting, repairs. Gates/New Wood Slats, refinishing, repainting, Small carpentry, painting and repair jobs, Experienced and Reliable, Quality Workmanship and materials, Small jobs welcome, not a licensed contractor See *our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services*

Electrical — Rio Electric Multiple fan installations starting at \$45 per fan. 6" recessed can installation at \$80. We can do all residential electrical work! Call for more information: 480-620-0654. 1/09

Electrical — Al Davis Electrical Services Inc. All types of electrical work: Ceiling fans, additional fixtures, outdoor lighting, extra circuits, repairs, upgraded breaker panels. Residential & commercial. Free estimates. 480-940-1828. Cell: 602-549-1869. Licensed, bonded, insured. ROC #192047. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

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Handyman — Dave's Handyman Service. 602-295-3991. "Ask us if we can do it." Electrical, plumbing, doors & windows, drywall, painting, home remodeling. Lic. #169409ROC. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

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Handyman — Mi-Son Handyman Home Repair/Remodeling. Specializing in kitchen/bath remodeling, electrical/ceiling fans, carpentry, plumbing, flooring, paint & roofing. We do it all, including trash removal, hauling, lock change, Specializing in foreclosures, landlord, property management and Realtor needs. No job too large or small. 480-707-1221 or 602-330-5445. Call Mike or Sonia for estimates. Not a licensed contractor. 6/09

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Painting — Vic's Painting We use Dunn Edwards Paints. Interior/Exterior Specialist. Experienced. Clean. Honest. Quality/Guaranteed. Not a licensed contractor. References available. Free Estimates. Call 480-820-5797 or 480-710-0034 Today! Visa/Master Card accepted. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — L. Hardy Painting. Interior/Exterior painting, drywall, drywall repair and texture coating. Free estimate. Call 480-963-2498. Lic. #34/137206. We accept Visa and MasterCard. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

Painting — Chad & Son Painting Inc.-Interior, Exterior, Residential, Commercial, Free Estimates, Drywall repairs, texture, power wash, popcorn ceiling removal, quality wood staining, color matching, repaint and new construction, wall paper removal and installation, epoxy coating and painting, licensed+bonded+insured roc# 208062 and 208063, call 602-790-5073, chadandsonpainting@gmail.com. See our ad in Guide to Neighborhood Services.

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Call us 9-5 M-F at (480) 966-0845 if you have questions. Thank you.



Business Briefs

Entrepreneurs get a boost in 'fast-track' training session

Intrepreneurs in south Tempe and other parts of the city have an opportunity to improve their bottom line and increase their chances for success with FastTrac, a comprehensive family of workshops and programs that help hone the skills needed to create, manage and grow successful businesses.

Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 27. Fee for the intensive nine-week program is \$150, including materials. Interested entrepreneurs and wouldbe entrepreneurs can register at www. arizonaft.com.

The program provides smallbusiness owners with insights, strategic visioning guidance, professional networking connections and other resources, preparing them to create a new business or expand an existing enterprise.

"Helping businesses succeed is important to the city of Tempe, and the kind of intensive training FastTrac offers is extremely helpful," said **Sheri Wakefield-Saenz**, city of Tempe economic development director.

Class sessions take place at the Community Development offices, 21 E. Sixth St., from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Information: 602 910-5622 or Francine@stealthmode.com.

Winter golf leagues

rosswoods Indoor Golf is launching winter golf leagues. Players of all levels are encouraged to join. The 10-week couples league runs through March 26, with the 18-hole, alternate-shot format with handicapping giving everyone an opportunity to win.

A mens skins league allows play any time Tuesday through Sunday, with results posted online.

Crosswoods features more than 35 courses and multiple practice venues for game improvement. Information: www.crosswoodsgolf.com

Crisis training offered in Fire Department class starting Feb. 5

When disaster strikes, a community can quickly find its public-safety resources overwhelmed.

That's when neighbors tend to rely on each other for assistance, knowing that a quick and proper response can mean the difference between life and death. What would you do?

How would your neighborhood respond if forced to handle its own emergency situations for hours or even days after a disaster strikes?

The best answer is preparedness, say national experts. The Chandler Fire Department offers a free training program, Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, to help residents know how to respond in a crisis.

The next seven-week class session is scheduled 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb.5, at the Chandler
Fire Training Center, 3550 S. Dobson
Road.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age, and registration will be accepted through Feb. 2.

Information: 480-782-2116 or www.chandlercert.org

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Nike

From Page 17

finished the game up 15 at 65-50.

"It was great to win the first two games and get some of our confidence back," said Pestalozzi. "We had lost so many games leading up to this tournament because we had a really difficult schedule before the holiday break."

Although Corona lost to Hamilton in the final game 41-70, the Lady Aztecs took second place, and Coach **Andy Strom** was happy with the 2-1 showing of his team in this prestigious tournament.

"The high point for our team over the winter break was winning second place in the tournament," said Andrea Beaird. "It was exciting because we got a chance to play for fun and we worked well as an overall team."

The Lady Aztecs had been on a five-game losing streak before putting together three wins in a row, counting the two wins in the tournament. They beat North 46-33 Dec. 15 when Beaird pulled down 12 rebounds and Pestalozzi had five assists.

"The girls have been working really hard in practice and in games," said Strom. "We have had a very tough schedule and the girls have remained positive throughout some hard times."

Corona lost to Hamilton again Jan. 6 at home, 53-73, despite a 20-point

outing by Pestalozzi, a 15-point, fiveassist game by Coggins and 12 points, eight rebounds and four steals by Andrea Beaird.

"Nicole Coggins has played very well all season and has been the primary ball handler for the team," said Pestalozzi. "Andrea Beaird has also been helping the team with her rebounds and points in the paint."

The Lady Aztecs recently put together a two-game winning streak at home by beating Yuma Gila Ridge 66-35 on Jan. 13 and Boulder Creek 48-45 on Jan. 15.

The Lady Aztecs played two tough away games the week of Jan. 19, first against a 14-2 St. Mary's team and then against the Red Mountain Lions on Jan. 22.

Central region play may be a welcome change for the team because they start off playing Mountain Pointe, a team that had only two games halfway through the season on Jan. 27 at home. Next CdS will face Desert Vista at home on Jan. 30 before continuing Central region play at Basha on Feb. 3. The key to winning some of these tough games the rest of the season may be ball control, according to Strom.

"Our key is not turning the ball over, which is leading to too many easy baskets for the other team," said Strom.

"If we limit those turnovers, we have a chance to be good. I'm really proud of our desire to be successful. Now we have to execute."

Soccer

From Page 15

junior mid-fielder **Derek Rusher**; and junior defender **Joey Cavaretta**.

"Trever Allen is our leading goal scorer and continues to push as one of the top forwards in the state," said Coach Salas. "Goalkeeper Matt Bersano is key to our continued success. He has been outstanding and has skills beyond his years. Matt's consistency has been the biggest factor in his and consequently, our success."

"Our goalkeeper Matt Bersano and midfielder Derek Rusher are both key players to our success this season because they never accept losing as an option," said Allen.

Other returning and new varsity players who have stepped up their game this season and been a valuable surprise for coach Salas include **Biniazin**; sophomore mid-fielder **Bryan Hoyt**; and sophomore forward **Casey Phillips**.

"Sophomore **Brian Hoyt** has taken control of the midfield and improves every game," said Salas. "Junior defender **Kevin Biniazin** did not see a second of playing time in the first four games, then got his chance and has made the most of it. He's our anchor on the defensive back line and has finally started to realize his potential."

"Sophomore Casey Phillips has been so consistent as a player," said Salas. "He comes to every game ready to play."

One upside to the season so far has been the amount of experience all the Aztec players have been getting, according to Salas. So far the Aztecs have played in 15 games and each player at one time or another has seen playing time, including junior mid-fielder **Dylan Harris**; senior forward **Kaue Martins**; junior defender **Chris Murray**; senior defender **Jackson Allen**; junior mid-fielder **Daniel Van Vleet**; sophomore defender **Greg Ketterer**; junior defender **John Magana**; senior mid-fielder **Nic Salhuana**; sophomore defender **Shay Connor**; and sophomore goalkeeper **Patric Prey. Austin Haas** is out with a torn ACL for the season.

In addition, the Aztecs are four out of four in penalty kick shoot-outs. Corona beat Dobson, Mesa, Washington and Brophy in overtime penalty-kick situations. Altogether the Aztecs have outscored their opponents 43 goals to 16, including a 6-0 win Jan. 5 over Desert Mountain where sophomore right wing **Nick Cavaretta** scored a "hat trick" or three goals.

The Aztecs were 2-0 in the Central region after beating Mountain Point 3-1 on Jan. 14 and Desert Vista 3-2 on Jan. 16. The week of Jan. 20, the Aztecs played two Central region foes: Jan. 21 at Basha and Jan 23 at Mountain Pointe. Only three games will remain in the regular season including Camelback at home Jan. 26, at Desert Vista Jan. 27 and senior night at home against Basha Jan. 29.

The team to beat in the Central region appears to be Desert Vista but Basha could be tough.

"I think our chemistry is improving because we are winning," said Salas. "The guys are believing in and trusting each other more and more. They are a great group of guys that love to have fun and joke around.

"But when they need to bring it, they are all business."







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