



Kyrene Corridor Edition

Jan. 26 - Feb. 8, 2008 • Vol. 18, No. 2

Wrangler News



At Kyrene de la Mariposa School, a crowd assembled for one big birthday celebration. See Pages 1 and 27.

— David Stone / Wrangler News

To a favorite teacher, a sad goodbye



Students at Kyrene de la Paloma School offered a tearful tribute to popular teacher Ron Eiler, who died Jan. 12 after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer.

David Stone/Wrangler News

Teen serious about run for Tempe mayor's job

By Adam Schifter

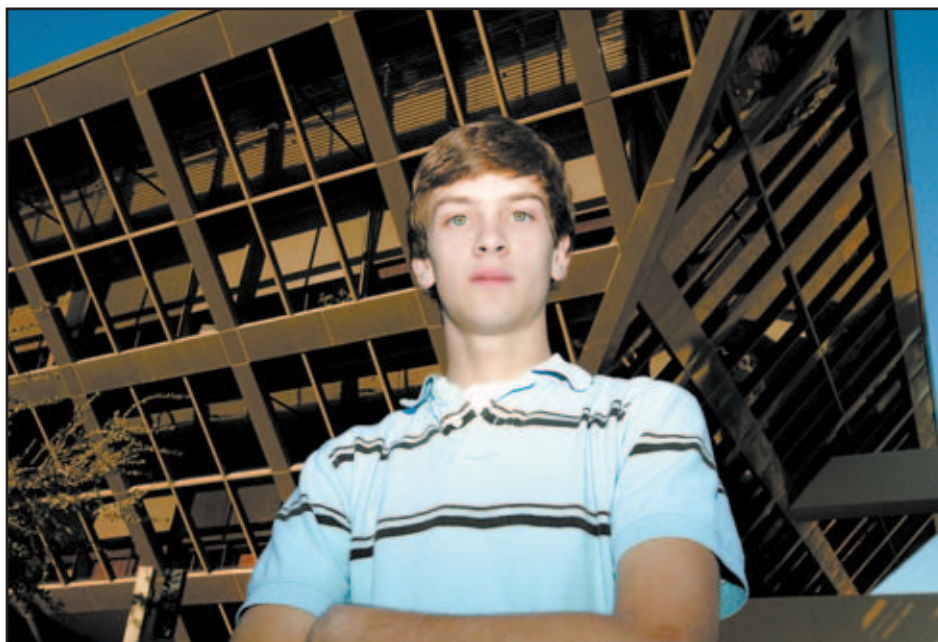
Change: It's a word you hear in practically every candidate's oratory now that election season is in full swing. Mike Huckabee uses it; Hillary Clinton uses it; Barack Obama bases his entire campaign on it.

But among these and other familiar names, there's one political hopeful who says he truly represents a new way of government doing business: **Derek Lull**.

On the surface, Lull seems to be your basic, everyday teenager. A senior at Corona del Sol High School, he runs for the school cross country and track teams and plays for the marching band during the week. On weekends, he enjoys hanging out with friends and catching an occasional movie.

Don't be deceived, though. Lull is different;

— TEEN, Page 7



Tempe City Hall provides a backdrop for the political aspirations of youthful mayoral candidate Derek Lull.

— David Stone/Wrangler News

'Challengers' celebrate School marks a 20-year milestone

By P.J. Standlee

Pictures tell stories about people, and the pictures that were being flashed across the screen at Kyrene de la Mariposa school's 20th anniversary dinner-party Jan. 17 told stories about a lot of people and about a

school.

To the tune of *Star Wars*, each photo showed students, teachers, staff, guests and the school from the very beginning, before ground was broken and construction began,

— MARIPOSA, Page 27

Small Wonder

Beats Gary Hall Jr.'s record

By Alex Zener

Adam Small, a 6-foot 3-inch, 187-pound high school senior with a wingspan of 6-foot-6, belies a name that suggests anything but big—especially in the realm of competitive swimming.

Small is a huge success as a swimmer, an achievement that could lead to him becoming Corona del Sol's first Olympic swimmer.

Not only has he set numerous meet records, school records,

— SMALL, Page 10

Group suspends efforts to launch business bank

Investors' money is returned in full

Area board members of Infinity National Bank, which announced plans more than two years ago to open a new, business-oriented banking institution on McClintock Drive just north of Elliott Road, have withdrawn their application for a charter.

Investors had completed construction of the banking center and

— BANK, Page

Mr. Ron Eiler: 1960-2008

Students, staff and parents at Kyrene de la Paloma Elementary School remembered their teacher, **Mr. Ron Eiler**, as "truly special" and created a memorial to him in front of the school.

He succumbed to pancreatic cancer on Jan. 12.

"Everyone has that one special teacher in their lives that leaves an imprint on you forever," said parent **Martha Garner**.

"For my kids, that is Mr. Eiler."

School staff member **Patsy Garcia** remembered Eiler as "funny-sarcastic," with a nickname for every child he encountered: "Triple T," "Qball," "Going to the Market,"



Teaching had a fun side, too.

were among the monikers he invented.

A former senior accountant at Allied Signal/Honeywell, he spent 12 years as a teacher — years, all agreed, that won't soon be forgotten.



An outpouring of happy memories of a departed friend in front of Kyrene de la Paloma School.

— David Stone / Wrangler News

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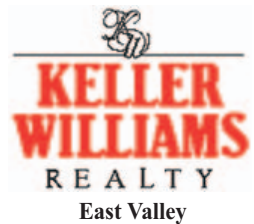
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Circle G at Riggs - Chandler

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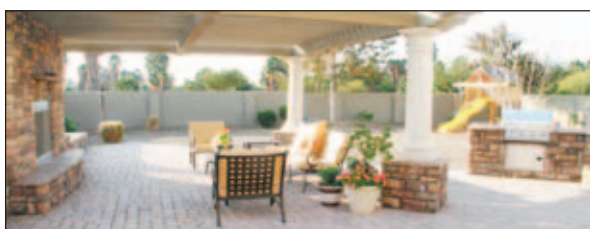
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Tempe recycling celebrates 15th year, expands list of acceptable discards

By Ben Arredondo

The holiday season is over and we're all working on our New Year's resolutions.

I have one we can all make that will benefit the city of Tempe, leaving our neighborhoods better than we found them.

Regular and proper use of recycling services that the city provides can make for greener, cleaner, healthier neighborhoods.

I'm working with my fellow councilmembers to expand the recycling options the city offers and to spread the word to our residents.

Let's all resolve to increase our recycling efforts, which will help keep our alleys clean and divert tons of waste from landfills.

The city of Tempe's neighborhood recycling program celebrates 15 years this month.

Over the years, the program has been expanded to include 35

schools, more than 230 businesses and a growing number of multifamily housing complexes.

When combined with the city's neighborhood recycling drop off sites, our recycling program diverts more than 15,000 tons of material from the landfill each year.

A little known fact is that the city pays for what we throw away. We get paid for what we recycle.

This year, we're adding new recyclable items that you can place in your blue bins or at our neighborhood recycling drop off locations.

Tempe residents can now recycle all plastic containers with code symbols 1-7.

It's now okay to recycle foil food containers, bar soap, detergent and soda boxes.

Keep your eye out for recycling containers at all major events. And, of course, continue to make use of our Household Products Collection Center so that materials like fertilizer, paint,

household chemicals, etc. do not end up in our alleys or in the trash or recycling bins.

One of the more creative recycling options the city offers residents is our partnership with Nike. I would like to encourage all residents to participate in the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program, which collects and recycles all brands of athletic shoes, as well as byproducts from the manufacturing of outsoles, into a material that's used in sports surfaces like soccer and football fields, basketball and tennis courts and tracks.

By partnering with Nike to collect shoes, Tempe will have an opportunity to have this type of surface installed in the community.

There's still progress to be made. The city is working on a separate program to recycle plastic grocery bags. We're also developing a rigid plastics drop off program so that you can recycle old toys and plastic storage bins.

So let's all think before we throw. Next time, instead of throwing away that plastic water bottle, recycle it. Don't put a sofa in the alley; consider donating it to someone or some organization that can use it.

Have some left over paint or lawn care products? Take it to the Household Products Collection Center and someone will put it to good use.

Visit the city's website at www.tempe.gov/recycling for more information on these programs and locations.

This type of collaborative effort and partnership is essential to the well-being of neighborhoods. Please contact me at (480) 350-8834 or ben_arredondo@tempe.gov with any news and ideas about your neighborhood.

I welcome the input and the opportunity to make a positive impact.

Ben Arredondo is a longtime member of the Tempe City Council.

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Life's Little Gems . . . with M.V. Moorhead

Did you bypass 'Heart Attack Grill'? No problem — healthier fare awaits

A year or so ago there was a small flap over Heart Attack Grill, a Kyrene Corridor burger joint with a "naughty nurse" theme.

The enormous sandwiches—Single, Double, Triple and Quadruple Bypass Burgers—were served by waitresses in altogether unconventional, ahem, versions of nursing uniforms. The menu was limited to burgers, fries, non-dietary soda, beer and cigarettes.

If you finished a Quadruple, supposedly they pushed you out in a wheelchair.

The Arizona State Board of Nursing and, later, the Center for Nursing Advocacy squawked about the place, less over its nutritional ghastliness than over the "naughty nurse" shtick—many nurses are weary of the stereotype, feeling it makes their workplaces more perilous and discourages both women and men from entering the profession.

Needless to say, the groups might as well have charged the Heart Attack

Grill a fee for the publicity they generated for the joint—coverage everywhere, from Dateline to Fox News to Japanese TV.

And they might as well have glued "Kick Me" signs to their own backs for the degree of sympathy with which their complaints were met.

Through all of this, I had never happened to visit the place, even though I am, God help me, a burger fiend, and I certainly have no objection to scantily clad young women.

The Tempe location flatlined some months ago, to be replaced by Putsy's, a chicken-and-steak grill whose healthier fare already seems to be attracting a likewise healthy lunch and early-dinner crowd.

As to the fate of Heart Attack Grill, I happened to pass another one of its former locations last week, at the southwest corner of Thomas and 44th Street in Phoenix, and noticed that the place had changed names.

It's now called "The Grill Next Door."

Maybe the promise of massive cardiac failure, I thought, didn't turn out to be quite as effective a long-term marketing strategy as they had hoped. It was about lunchtime. I stopped in.

The friendly waitresses—they self-consciously call the customers "honey"—still wear absurdly short and low-cut white uniforms with white fishnets and red garter belts, though the nurse headgear now seems to be gone.

The burgers are now called "Single," "Double" and so on, omitting (as far as I could see) the word "bypass." I asked my waitress what the guy next to me was having—a patty roughly the size of a NASA satellite dish, on a bun several stories tall—and was told it was a single. I ordered that, with fries and a bottle of Coke.

It almost seemed, looking around, as if the nursing groups'

complaints had been capitulated to, albeit grudgingly. I asked my waitress how long they had been The Grill Next Door.

"Couple weeks."

"Why the name change?"

"The people that ran the place split up. One kept the name, the other kept the location."

Oh.

Anyway, the burger, blanketed by two kinds of cheese and a produce department-worth of lettuce, tomatoes, onion and pickle, was tasty. So were the thick, crispy fries. So was the blessedly non-Diet Coke, enjoyed straight from the old-school bottle.

Oddly enough, the restaurant's web site, heartattackgrill.com, still calls its locations by the original name, and still claims to have a location in Tempe.

Maybe the founders just can't give up hope that one of these days, they'll be able to perform CPR and revive the concept.



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Teen

From Page 1

he is running for mayor of Tempe. Even though he didn't collect the required number of petition signatures to get his name on this year's ballot, Lull believes he can be successful as a write-in candidate.

And that, it turns out, would be one for the record books.

At the ripe age of 33, **Neil Giuliano** was elected mayor of Tempe in 1994, making him the youngest person to hold the position in the city's history.

When the polls open on March 11, Derek will have been legal for less than a month, breaking Giuliano's record by 15 years if he wins.

"A younger viewpoint would be refreshingly opposite to the way things have always been done," said Lull, "and I would certainly represent that change."

As a lifelong resident of Tempe, Lull says he understands the issues and is confident that he has the necessary tools to fix them.

Because of increasing property taxes and a downward housing market, Lull suggests that Tempe is becoming more and more inaccessible

to younger families, rendering as useless the opportunities and services that the city has to offer.

"I want to see Tempe as an admiring city to young families. I want them to be able to afford the property taxes, and take full advantage of our great schools. I want Tempe to be a family-oriented community for all citizens to enjoy."

Lull also believes that greater community involvement in crime watch and prevention, reduced sales taxes and audits of the city's budget would help to make his vision a reality.

"I want citizens to feel comfortable with their local politicians," said Lull. "We need a user-friendly mayor and city council who would listen to residents, and I can offer exactly this."

In the fall, Lull plans to enroll at ASU where he will continue to pursue his interests in government and economics.

He hopes that maybe, just maybe, he will even have the opportunity to put these lessons to practical and efficient use as mayor.

"I need to spread my word to let Tempe voters know that they have a choice, and that they don't have to accept the incumbent. A vote for Derek Lull is a vote for change; the choice is yours to make."

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The secret to success in decorating with patterns lies in carefully selecting and mixing your decorating items. Just like in life, too much of a good thing will definitely create a busy and overdone "look." Rather, by using a bit more discipline in the creation of your "look," you will be more likely to produce a carnival of color and pattern, rather than a riotous clash. I always suggest that it's best to first select a color scheme and then build your decorating plan around it. By using a solid color bedspread or sofa in a wonderful textured fabric and adding some patterned pillows with some colorful trim, your room will look alive with color and style without the busy-ness.

So, if your room is crying for a fresh new look, bring on the patterns! Your rooms can "bloom" in a variety of ways. The choice is simply up to you! —Peg

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Voting: How we got our current system, where we go from here

By Julia Perez

On Super Tuesday this coming Feb. 5, Kyrene Corridor voters and their statewide neighbors will have an opportunity to vote in the Presidential Preference Election.

As the day approaches, I couldn't help but remember the voting challenges of the presidential election in 2000.

A review of voting technology suggests we've been striving for improvements throughout time.

In the early years of our country, voters were sworn in and called out their choices vocally, which were then tallied in poll books. With this method, however, an individual's vote was not private, and concern over bribery or intimidation led to reforms.

In 1804, the 12th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution called for a vote by ballot for president and vice-president, with the term ballot referring to a slip of paper.

Some states adopted paper ballots early on, while others, like Missouri, continued to use voice voting until 1863, almost 100 years after the election of George Washington.

The paper ballot evolved as political parties provided preprinted ballots, often using distinctive paper, color or a written style.

Yet, an individual's vote was not private, and it was possible to insert more than one vote in the ballot box.

The Australians found a significant solution with their secret ballot in 1858, when an election was held using government-provided paper ballots for all candidates.

Cases of voting fraud were still reported, however.

Thus the voting technology evolved to include mechanical voting machines, which also have imperfections.

The third International Conference on Electronic Voting will be held in August in Austria.

The aim is to bring together e-voting specialist from academia, politics, government and industry.

In the U.S., our neighbors in Colorado are considering all-mail voting. California is struggling with delays due to counting absentee ballots. In Ohio, the American Civil Liberties Union has sued the largest county, Cuyahoga, over its plans to have ballots counted in a central location, which would not allow voters to check their ballots for mistakes.

Meanwhile, Maryland switched to a paper-less touch-screen system after the 2000 elections.

However, state officials are now moving to the optical scan method to allow for a manual recount.

Here at home we are not considering any of these advanced technologies.

The Maricopa County Department of Elections has expressed concern over potential Internet fraud.

Instead, we will continue to use the

optical scan technology approved by the secretary of state in 1996.

Early voting is gaining popularity, and the vote is counted as long as it is received by 7 p.m. the day of the election.

County officials say that, in previous elections, 30 percent of ballots were cast early but couldn't speculate on the upcoming election, given that both political parties were both opting for early ballots.

Will future elections include casting a ballot via the Internet or using EVMs much like an ATM? Voter fears and concerns will likely be more difficult to overcome than any technical issues.

Kyrene Corridor resident Julia Perez works fulltime as an engineer and writes a periodic column for Wrangler News to help shed light on the complexities of modern technology.



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Long hours, hard work, family tradition help build success for pizza entrepreneur

By P.J. Standlee

It's rare indeed to find a true family restaurant amid all the big franchises and corporate chains, but there are some, such as Crusty's Pizza on the northwest corner of Ray and Elliot roads. You just have to look closely enough.

Crusty's owner, **Erik Palen**, took a chance four months ago when he decided he'd rather be his own boss, and took up the family business.

He quit his job as an auto mechanic and found a previous pizza business that had closed, leaving behind all the equipment Palen needed to get started.

"It's been a lot of fun," Palen said, despite working 60 to 74 hours per week to jump start his fledgling business.

"I had almost everything I need to get started. From a month after I had the idea, I quit my job and opened the store."

Palen's family had been in the pizza business for 10 years and in the restaurant business for 27 after moving to Arizona from Michigan.

The original Crusty's pizza is a destination mom-and-pop store, run by Palen's parents, in Camp Verde.

After getting started, Palen's mother, Paula, came in to help get the new family business off the ground.

The hand-tossed pizza, thus the name Crusty's, and a 50-year-old pizza sauce are the staples of Palen's business.

"When I was a kid, we used to go to the other restaurants in town and try everything on the menu," Palen said.

"But my dad would order a cheese pizza. All the toppings on the pizza are pretty much the same. It's the crust and the

sauce, the core, that makes it taste good."

Palen said the family uses only fresh vegetables for their pizzas — never anything from a can or package — hand-tosses his pizzas, and keeps a spotless kitchen.

"I think if people find that I have a better product, it will go to the top."

With all the pizza chains nearby, Palen said he goes door-to-door to meet other business owners, a strategy that worked for his father, Karl, when he opened the family's first restaurant. He also advertises in *Wrangler News*.

Being able to meet the needs tastes of the customers is key to a successful mom-and-pop business, Palen said.

"I try to get people to come in and try us just once," he said. "Everyone has their favorite place, and second and third; I just need to be on that list."

Pizzas can be made to order for vegetarians and vegans, and the lunch menu includes a large square slice and drink for \$2.99 or two slices and a drink for \$4.99.

Crusty's is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The store's phone number is (480) 755-2250.

'I try to get people to come in and try us just once. Everyone has their favorite place, and second and third; I just need to be on that list.'

— Owner Erik Palen

Kyrene Corridor Diversions

'Cloverfield' ultimate 'guy flick'



By M.V. Moorhead

Catastrophe strikes New York City in *Cloverfield*. But the makers and hypsters of the film have carefully contrived to conceal, through elliptical trailers and TV ads and that unhelpful title, the precise nature of that catastrophe.

Maybe you would prefer to go into the film with no more foreknowledge than that with which the studio has seen fit to tease you.

If so, I'll just say that *Cloverfield*, though no particular cinematic landmark, is an entertaining specimen of its genre, and advise you to **stop reading now**. No whining if you read on.

OK: The story centers on a group of fetching, well-heeled twenty-something Manhattanites throwing a surprise party for one of their number, Rob (Michael Stahl-David), who is soon to leave for a new job in Japan.

He arrives, and quarrels with Beth (Odette Yustman), the girl he loves. She leaves. His friends are talking to him about this unhappy situation when, suddenly, the earth starts to shake, skyscrapers start to topple, and huge chunks of debris rain down into the streets. One of these chunks is the head of Lady Liberty.

So obviously matters are, like, kind of serious.

The vandal is a colossal beastie resembling a cross between a pit bull, an eel, a kangaroo, and maybe a hairless (and more attractive) Donald Trump.

As he (or she?) continues to wreak havoc, and the military, trying to play defense, wreaks still more, Rob, his friend

Hud (T.J. Miller) and two young women from the party (Jessica Lucas and Lizzy Caplan) try to reach Midtown so that Rob can rescue the trapped Beth.

The conceit is that we're seeing all this through the eye of a videocamera held by Hud, who was documenting the party and just kept shooting.

In short, the film is *Blair Witch* meets *Godzilla*. This is just as artificial a narrative contrivance as the epistolary novel—for one thing, this camera has one heck of a battery—but it seems to give a special immediacy to scary movies, and it makes the apocalyptic special effects in *Cloverfield* really convincing, especially in a terrifying sequence on the Brooklyn Bridge.

The film is really no less silly than any other monster picture. It has little of the social resonance of last year's *The Host*, from South Korea.

The devastation of Manhattan inevitably calls to mind 9/11, of course, and some may find this tasteless, but there's a national psychological precedent—the original Japanese *Godzilla* (*Gojira*) came out in 1954, just nine years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In any case *Cloverfield*, directed by Matt Reeves from a script by Drew Goddard, isn't trying for social commentary.

It is, rather, a masculine love story. Rob's Quixotic quest to find Beth, even though he knows she may well be dead already and that going back for her will probably kill him, is a classic male romantic fantasy. It's what you want to tell the girl you're in love with: If a monster attacked the city, I wouldn't evacuate without you.

Small

From Page 1

city records, Arizona high school and Central Region records in his 11 years of swimming competitively, Small's most impressive accomplishment so far was the Arizona State Class 5A-Division I record he set in the 50-yard freestyle once held by Olympian gold medal winner **Gary Hall Jr.**

Although several swimmers, including Small, had come close, Hall's 13-year-old Arizona state record of 20.30 seconds, set in 1994, was thought to be insurmountable until Small swam it in 20.22 seconds in the state meet in November.

Small not only won the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle (45.42 seconds) in the state meet, but also broke the Wolves Classic record in the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke this past season. He was named Boys Swimmer of the Year by the *Arizona Republic*.

He is a member of the U.S. junior national team which recently

traveled to Australia over the winter break to compete against Australia, Japan, China and New Zealand at the Victoria Swimming State Championships. Small was in a town called Geelong before the five-day meet in Melbourne, where "I did fairly well," he said.

"Right now is kind of the middle of the season, and I am preparing for the Olympic trials this summer. So for being mid-season, my times were pretty decent."

Small is also a national qualifier in the 50 freestyle (23.32) and 100 freestyle (51.96).

So what big plans does Adam Small have for his future besides the Olympic trials this summer? He has committed to an athletic scholarship at the University of Arizona after considering several other programs, including the University of Texas at Austin.

"It was a tough choice but in the end I decided the Arizona swim team was one of the best in the nation, and it was a better place for me to go."



— Photo by Kris Cartwright

Small said.

The upcoming U of A recruiting class, ranked by some as the best in the nation, will include, in addition to Small, **Marshall Dilworth, Austin Thompson and Sam Weinstein**. Small is expected to contribute right away.

When can Corona expect to see its first Olympic swimmer?

"Making the Olympic team in 2008 would be a really, big, long shot, but I will be at the trials," Small said.

Small also isn't overlooking his chances on the 2012 team, which he feels "may be my best shot after four years of collegiate swimming experience."



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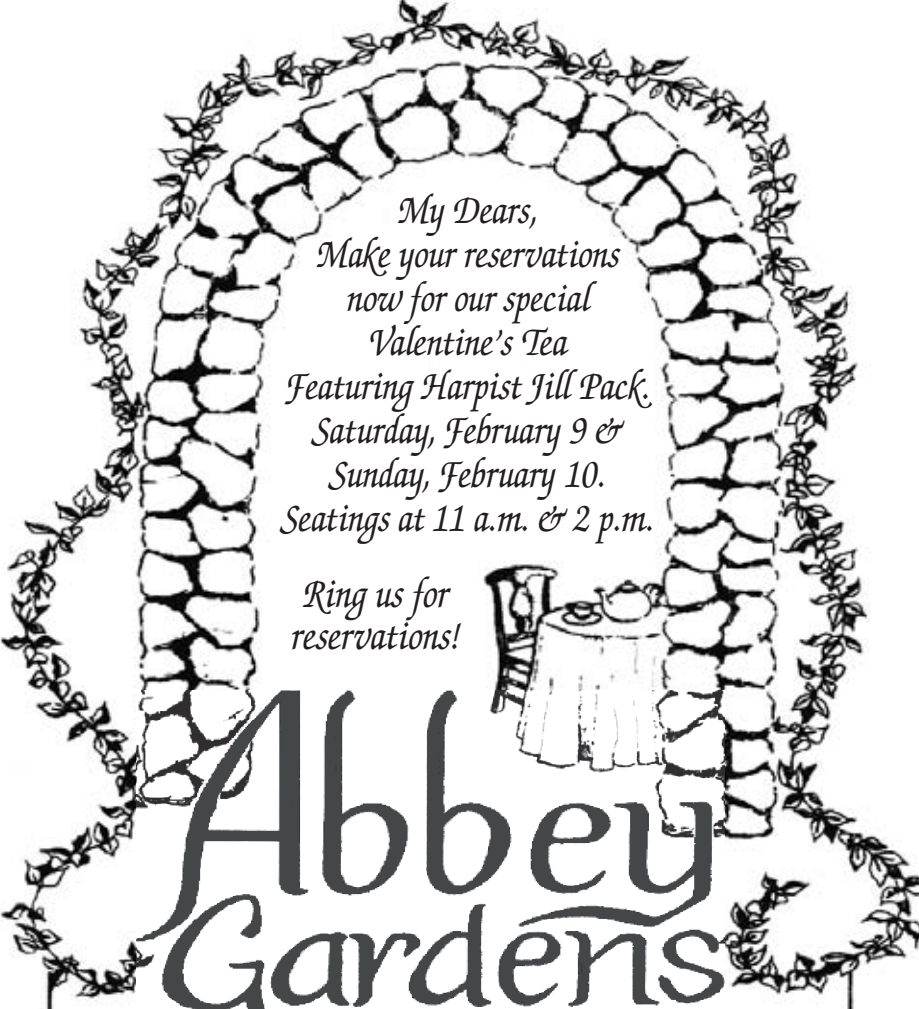
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Project salutes agency that brought Eagle Scout to U.S.

Ryan King, 15, has a special connection with a Scottsdale adoption agency. At four months old, he arrived in the U.S. from South Korea through Dillon Southwest and was placed with a Tempe family.



"I feel very strongly about giving back to the...agency that brought me here," Ryan said about choosing the benefactor of his Boy Scout Eagle project.

Under Ryan's leadership, the orientation room at Dillon Southwest underwent a makeover.

"Ryan's Eagle project will serve Dillon Southwest

for many years to come," said Dillon Director **Marsha Usdane**.

Ryan and his team installed the shadow boxes and a full-size wall map in October. The project took five months to complete.

Ryan has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 172 since he was 11.

He has served as a patrol leader, attended scout summer camp, performed community service projects, participated in numerous camping and backpacking trips and assisted other scouts with their Eagle projects.

Ryan earned a total of 21 merit badges to qualify for Eagle Scout recognition.

Ryan was honored at an Eagle Court of Honor

ceremony Jan. 12 at Dayspring United Methodist Church, attended by former scoutmasters, fellow scouts, friends and family.

Ryan is a freshman at Corona del Sol High School.

Future plans include college and continuing his involvement with scouting.

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Confessions of a Financial Advisor

by **Kevin A. Kaesberg**



Q: I am a single lady and don't have a large amount of money. I do have an IRA, a 401k plan where I work, and some savings. I want to plan for retirement. Would I be able to afford a financial advisor to help me? —S.G., Mesa, AZ

Many people fear they do not have enough money or assets to inquire about financial advice from a professional. There are some financial professionals who have asset, net worth or account minimums, but there are others who are open to helping those who want help and recognize the financial world is not a realm in which they wish to become knowledgeable in.

How do you know which professionals are appropriate for you and your current needs? Simply ask. Professionals who have minimums or asset requirements often make these decisions for business purposes. This is neither bad nor good, but just the way it is. I am confident there are professionals who are willing to help those wanting help. You must see value in the services and advice they are providing as they will not be for free.

If you are unsure how to start looking and what to look for, contact me and I will help you find an appropriate financial professional.

Q: I have a mortgage called an option ARM and am concerned about adjustments to my payment and interest rate. I am hearing of horror stories of people having severe difficulties making their payments, sometimes losing their homes. What options do I have to

avoid my payments and interest increasing to unsustainable levels? —T.A., Tempe, AZ

Creative loan programs certainly didn't help our current residential real estate situation. Option ARMs and other loans worked out great for the first few years, but now people are starting to see the actual cost of purchasing a home on a teaser type of mortgage. You are not the only one concerned or feeling these pressures.

Assuming monthly income is not enough to handle significant payment adjustments, the first solution to pursue is refinancing into a different loan program, most likely a 10, 15 or 30 year fixed. Interest rates on mortgages are historically low and now may be an opportunistic time to take advantage of those rates. Unfortunately, many can't refinance as they purchased their home in the last few years when home prices were higher than they are now. A new lender will most likely not loan more than the current value.

If refinancing is not an option, you may wish to contact your current lender and attempt to renegotiate your current loan. This may include a potential "short sale", where the lender will allow you to sell the home at the current market price and waive the remainder of the loan. You may or may not be successful in this endeavor. Keep in mind there may be potential tax implications in short selling.

If your home is worth the same or more than your current mortgage you can sell your home outright in the current market.

Foreclosure is your last resort. A short sale does not negatively impact your credit as much as a foreclosure. Try the aforementioned solutions first before settling on foreclosure.

If you are unsure of your current loan type or its conditions, it is important that you find out. There can be drastic implications due to potential "recasting" of loans allowing negative amortization. If you need help finding qualified professionals who can help facilitate and advise you on any of these solutions or your current mortgage, please contact me.

If you are looking for real world solutions to your real world problems, contact me. From 401(k)s to yield curves, shoot me a question, I'll get you an answer!



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Sew nice

Members of Girl Scout Troop 1141, based at Kyrene Middle School, filled some of their winter-break hours gathering stockings to be sent to a U.S. Marines platoon stationed in Iraq. The stockings were sewn by members of Sun Lakes Cabin Quilters. Troop leader is Carrin Rowe.

— Contributed by Sandy Lopez

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Disability doesn't dampen couple's enthusiasm for wordly adventure



Story and photo by P.J. Standlee

Imagine reading about a vacation trip to Thailand with an itinerary that includes a three-hour elephant trek across a national park, a sojourn into Bangkok's famous markets and temples, a visit to a Buddhist monastery where tigers are rehabilitated, a chance to discover the handicrafts of local artists and the opportunity to go scuba diving or parasailing on a sandy white beach.

Now back to reality. You are Pecan Grove Estates resident **Bonnie Guzelf**, and you have primary lateral sclerosis, a variation of Lou Gehrig's disease, which has placed you, unwillingly, into a wheelchair and presumably dashed any hopes you might have had for such an exotic vacation.

Many people might shrug their shoulders and plan for tamer vacations, but Guzelf said she didn't take "no" for an answer and started researching companies that specialize in helping plan trips for disabled tourists—an industry niche that Guzelf thinks would flourish if more people sought after it.

By the time Guzelf's quest had ended, she had found Bangkok-based Wheelchair Tours to Thailand, whose owner, Prasang Thongwung, said "yes" not only to some of her priorities but to them all.

For travelers with disabilities, anything, it seems, was possible in the kingdom of Thailand.

So, just prior to Christmas, Guzelf and her husband Philip, who is an ordained Buddhist monk, got their chance of a lifetime.

"All of the things he told me I could do there [Thailand]," said Guzelf, "were the things that

people tell me I can't do here [U.S.]."

Ironically, in a country that has almost no laws to make places accessible to disabled people, Guzelf said, the difference is in the attitude of the people and the lack of legality.

In Thailand, people are willing to aid and even carry people who are disabled so they can access hard-to-reach places or even enjoy such activities as

elephant treks.

In the U.S., according to Guzelf, many people hesitate to help the disabled in a similar fashion for fear of being sued.

Before her disease side-tracked her traveling ambitions, Guzelf enjoyed traveling with her

— ADVENTURE, Page 14

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Adventure

From Page 13

husband and had visited such foreign destinations as Kenya, Greece and Egypt.

"My disease progressed to the point where I had to use a wheel chair," she said. "But I still wanted to travel, so last year we went on a cruise, which was pretty easy, but I had problems with the land travel."

Getting in and out of places, such as cars, boats, hotel rooms and visiting historical buildings that were not designed with disabled people in mind made traveling difficult.

Even Guzelf didn't realize the problems of access for people with disabilities until she herself became disabled.

Since then, she says, "I feel I have become an advocate for people who are disabled. Before this happened, it was totally off my radar."

Gaining access to buildings and services is essential to keeping a productive life for people with disabilities. Not being able to access government buildings, such as the post office on south Priest Drive, Guzelf said, makes life frustrating.

That's why Guzelf said she was in shock when Grant told her she would be able to participate in even seemingly inaccessible activities during her two-and-a-half week vacation.

"I was, like, you know I can't walk!" laughed Guzelf about the activities the company said were possible.

"I asked if I can really do this, and they said, 'yes, you can.'"

Guzelf said she and her husband had been planning the trip for two years. He wanted to see

the country's temples; she wanted to see the nature and wildlife of the country.

The vacation package includes access to top destinations and more remote places by van, train, boat and elephant.

It also helps tourists choose disability-friendly accommodations, such as the Redemptorist center in Pattaya that boast 44 rooms with the disabled traveler's needs in mind.

Guzelf said she was looking forward to meeting the people of Thailand and learning about their culture, but she hoped the experience would encourage her to keep doing the things that most other people take for granted.

"I'd like to come away with the knowledge that I can still do the things I have always enjoyed," she said.

"Meaning that being a person with a disability doesn't make me a different person."

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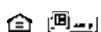
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The exhibition, featuring more than 400 pieces of artwork, is scheduled Feb. 4 through March 27.

A free public reception will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Library Program Room (lower level).

Tempe Public Library is at 3500 S. Rural Road. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed Feb. 18 for Presidents Day).

Information: (480) 350-5287.

Program aids state's impoverished

Tempe Community Action Agency is collaborating with Tempe Public Schools and United Food Bank once again to sponsor Tempe Empty Bowls, scheduled next on Feb. 22 and 23.

The event involves students at Tempe schools who design clay bowls that are sold for \$10 and allows parents to convey an awareness of community issues and programs to their children, say planners.

Arizona has more than a million individuals considered to be at 125 percent of the federal poverty level, according to agency officials.

The non-profit, Tempe-based agency serves as many as 600 families with food resources every month, using a local food pantry to distribute food bags each day for a total of more than 26,000 pounds a month.

TCAA receives food supplies from local food banks; including United Food Bank, which are replenished mainly through government funding, grants and private and corporate donations.

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The rehabilitation of seven-plus miles of streets will begin Jan. 28 as part of Chandler's annual street repaving program.

The repairs will occur along 90 sections of residential and collector streets, as well as one section of Ray Road between Dobson Road and Arrowhead Drive.

General contractor Nesbitt Contracting Co., Inc. will be paid \$1.6 million for its work on the streets, all of which are located in the northern portions of the city.

The work will involve removing the

top two inches of old asphalt and replacing it with new pavement.

This type of repair becomes necessary when the existing pavement is in such condition that the street can no longer be maintained with slurry seal or micro seal applications. The project is to be completed by fall. Notices to homeowners and businesses fronting the streets will be provided in advance of the work.

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Kyrene Corridor Sports

Lady Aztecs reach new goals

By Alex Zener

The Corona del Sol High School girls soccer team had an outstanding holiday break, winning the Dobson Holiday Tournament, its second tournament championship so far this season, by beating Xavier 3-1 in the championship game avenging the team's only loss this season.

The Lady Aztecs not only won the championship with a 6-0 record, but did it with astounding ease by attaining victories over Flagstaff, Highland, Mt. View, Red Mountain, Gilbert and Xavier scoring 22 goals to 4 by the other teams combined.

This season's CdS team seemed to have found its identity over the break and is now poised to repeat its third run in as many years for the State 5A-I Championship.

"It will be a tough road, but we are prepared," said Coach **Matt Smith**.

In addition to establishing itself solidly in the running, the team is starting to play more consistently, with several players stepping up their game during the Dobson tournament.

"**Courtney Mayers** had a great week with 6 goals and 2 assists," said **Smith**.

"**Brittany Cole** had 3 goals and 6 assists," said **Smith**.

"**Hailey Hayes**, as goal keeper, had a good week with 3 shutouts and only giving up 4 goals. **Alexis Burkhart** had a solid week with 2 goals and 3 assists."

Cole, Mayers and **Burkhart** play soccer positions, such as striker and midfielders, that give them opportunities to score goals but they are not the only positions that score on CdS's team.

It appears that defenders can also take shots at the opponent's goals.

"The star of the tournament may have been junior **Angela Williamson** who, in addition to playing great defense, had 3 goals as a center back," **Smith** said.

Corona's record is currently 19-1-1 but may be 21-1-1 by the time you read this article.

After the break, CdS won 6 matches outscoring their opponents 43 goals to 3.

The only teams to get anything past keeper **Hayes** was Mountain Pointe scoring 1 goal on Jan. 9, Desert Vista 1 goal on Jan. 11, and Mountain Pointe 1 goal on Jan. 18.

"Mountain Pointe played a very inspired game and might have won in regulation on Friday night, Jan. 18, were it not for a couple of great saves by **Hayes**," said **Smith**.

"We scored twice in the first 3 minutes of overtime, once by **Angela Williamson** and once by **Lexie Schroeder**."

CdS only has two regular season matches left before the state tournament starts.

CdS was due to play at Desert Vista, Central Region co-champions with CdS last year, on Jan. 22.

A win against DV would make them the Central Region champions for the fifth time in a row.

If they lose to DV, they must beat Basha at home on Jan. 24 to once again be co-champions with Desert Vista.

The Jan. 24 game will be the last regular season home match, and CdS will pay tribute to 10 senior players and their parents.

Seniors honored, in addition to **Cole**, who has over 200 points and is ranked number one as the all-time point leader in Corona girls soccer, passing **Patti Reed Smith**, include **Mayers** and **Burkhart**, who have both passed the 100-point mark, **Nicole Burt**, **Sammie Lloyd**, **Nicole Javey**, **Este Rea**, **Lindsay Dorweiler**, **Megan Larson** and **Krista Hoffer**.

If the Lady Aztecs prevail to three-peat and win the 5A-I state championship again this year, it will not only be a story-book ending for the senior girls, some who have played in the past two championships, but a grand going away present for assistant coach, **Tyler Carpenter**, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Carpenter and **Smith** were assistant coaches at Mesa Dobson during the 1990s before **Smith** took over as head coach at Corona in 2000.

Carpenter joined **Smith** as one of Corona's assistants in 2002.

Carpenter, who has helped the Corona girls soccer team win 120 out of 144 matches during his tenure, will leave a big hole to fill.

Says **Smith**, who won the Far East Region and Arizona State Big School Coach of the Year, was also a finalist for National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Girls Big School Coach of the Year:

"I will miss having one of my best friends there who is quick to notice and point out when I make a mistake."

Coach credits improved teamwork for girls' basketball record

The Lady Aztecs have won seven of their last 10 games and made it to the finals in the Red Division of the Nike Tournament of Champions held in Chandler over the holiday break.

Corona played well the entire tournament despite battling injuries, and



— Photo by Kris Cartwright

3 wins for wrestlers

Corona del Sol High School's wrestling team has won three major matchups in the second half of the season.

Corona wrestlers won the McClintock tournament over the holidays, with 10 competitors placing against 26 teams. Every wrestler in Corona's line-up scored, amassing a cumulative 237 points against the next best team, Mesa Westwood, at 168 points.

CdS also won its own 16th Annual Aztec Duals wrestling tournament Jan. 11-12 at the home gym. The Aztecs hosted a nine-team tournament, winning 8-0 as a team to take the first-place trophy with eight of the CdS 14 team members on the all-tournament team.

Sophomore **Mike Howard** (191) won a championship medal and made the all-tournament team in his first year on the varsity squad. Other titlists and all-tournament members were defending state champions **Trevor Stapp** (heavyweight) and **Ryan Miller** (127).

Also included were state runner-ups from last year, **Derek Felton** (154), **Luke Macchiaroli** (217), **Justin Cullins** (105), **David Hoover** (137) and **Travis Fulton** (162).

Corona's varsity squad also took first place in the Tim Van Horn Invitation Tournament Jan. 18-19, held in Payson.

CdS competed against Fountain Hills, Gilbert Higley, Coolidge, McClintock, Williams Field, Gilbert Highland and Chandler Seton Catholic squads to take home the championship.

At the start of the season, Coach **Dan Vibber** thought that his team was going to be extremely competitive, but winning three tournaments in a row has given the team an added incentive to try not only to win the Central Region title but to repeat 5-A state championships in several weight classes and be in the running to capture

the state 5A-I team title.

Vibber has a good chance to meet those expectations because he has five returning state medalists from last year's squad.

Junior **Luke Macchiaroli**, in the 215-pound weight class, was state runner-up last year and state champion the year before, and is off to a great start this year with a 25-0 record.

Another returning state medalist is senior **Trevor Stapp** (280), who was state champion and state tournament MVP last season. Sophomore **Ryan Miller** (125) was state champion in his weight class last year as a freshman.

The Aztecs received a lot of help in the consolation bracket from varsity wrestlers to help win the team tournaments.

Returning seniors **Trey McAlister** and **Skyler Fish**, along with juniors **Jordin Pagel** and **David Hoover**, have varsity experience and are expected to continue contributing to wins the rest of the season.

Varsity lineup newcomers, also expected to pin some opponents during this season, are freshman **Ryan Cox**; sophomores **Justin Cullins**, **Blake Ortiz**, **Brad Spadafor** and **Mike Howard** and juniors **Kevin Etchells**, **Patrick Szajna** and **Sean Larsen**.

Vibber hopes to have established his best line-up for when the Central Region matches start in a dual meet Jan. 23, against Mountain Pointe and Desert Vista.

Feb. 7 will be the State Preliminary Individual Tournament at Desert Vista, with the full tournament taking place Feb. 8-9 at the Jobing.com Arena. State will be the next week, Feb. 11-16.

Vibber is expecting Desert Vista to be the team to beat, with several other teams, including Mesa, Dobson, Highland and Red Mountain, looking good in the preseason for the state matches.

— By Alex Zener

Pat Reed. "The girls are figuring out they all need each other to win and that the team's final score is the most important one."

The Lady Aztecs lost late in 2007 to

— TEAMWORK, Page 19

Teamwork

From Page 18

Gilbert Mesquite in the Nike Tournament Red division final despite being within 3 points at 51-49 in the fourth quarter on a basket by **Jordyn Wentis**.

Corona resorted to fouling in an attempt to get the ball back in their hands so they could score points. Mesquite responded by making their free throws when Corona put them on the line and the Lady Aztecs could not make up the difference losing 66-60.

Kim Pestalozzi, Corona's leading scorer at 12.8 points a game, and **Wentis** had team high points with 16 points each.

Since placing second the Nike Tournament, CdS has won three out of four losing only to St. Mary's. The Lady Aztecs beat St. Luis 81-27, with **Alex Leake** providing 13 assists, second best in CdS girls basketball history dating back to 1979.

Leake followed that performance with 8 assists in the win against Boulder Creek, 58-29. On Jan.17, Corona beat Red Mountain, last year's 5A Division I state champions, 73-55.

One of the factors helping Corona win

is the improvement in the team's guard play.

"Our guards are playing extremely well, and all four can start on any given day with any of the forwards," noted Reed.

Pestalozzi and **Wentis** lead the team in 3-point shots and are the leading scorers, along with **Nicole Coggins**, currently tied with **Wentis** at 8.9 points a game. In addition, **Leake** not only leads the teams in assists at 4.6 a game but in steals at 2.9 a game.

Guards are not the only Lady Aztecs stepping up their game.

"**Ali** and **Andrea Beard** are probably my biggest surprises," says Reed. **Andrea Beard** is a force to be reckoned with in the middle with almost one block a

game and leading the team in rebounds.

"She is a great finesse player and sees the whole court," said Reed.

In addition, **JuQoya Cook** has been crashing the boards when she is on the floor, averaging almost five rebounds a game and more than four points a game.

Corona is hoping to keep its train on track going into the highly competitive Central Region part of the season. Desert Vista and Basha are favored but, says Reed:

"We will be the surprier."

Region play started Jan. 22 for the Lady Aztecs at Mountain Pointe and will continue Jan. 25 at Desert Vista. The next home game will be Jan. 29 against Basha.

— By Alex Zener

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First month is free. Piano teacher with 15 years experience will come to your home. References available. Lessons for all levels from beginners to advanced. 7 years to adults. 2 recitals per year. Please call Sandra 480-969-9244 2/2009

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For Sale/Retail

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For Sale/Private Party

Broyhill plaid burgundy/green couch and matching burgundy chair. Deb. 480-861-4484. 2/9

Miscellaneous

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Large 3000 sq ft facility with padded floor available for rent 6:00am to 4:00pm. Located on SE corner of Ray and Kyrene. Call Glen for details (480) 570-1086. 3/22

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Tempe Oasis neighborhood, beautiful single level 4 BR, 2 BA, 3 car, pool, spa, oversized yard, many upgrades, granite, wood/tile throughout, looks/feels new. \$495,000. By Owner 480-831-6650, MLS 2835823 1/26

Neighborhood Sales

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Elliot Road closed to Jan. 28

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State Farm vice president of agency Mike Dannewitz, with agent Mary Contreras, right, presents check for \$150,000 to Banner Children's Hospital.

— Photo courtesy Mary Contreras

A 'proudest moment'

State Farm Insurance agents across Arizona say they made a positive impact on the lives of their customers during the fall months with a major increase in life insurance sales. They made an even bigger impact on the lives of children.

From Aug. 1 through Nov. 30, area State Farm agents wrote more than 6,000 life insurance applications.

According to a program announced early last year, money was allocated to help fund the Banner Children's Hospital School each time a policy was written, helping children keep up with their schoolwork while recovering from illness or injury.

A check for \$135,832 to fund the program was presented to Banner Children's Hospital

during ceremonies Jan. 18.

The donation will help hire one full-time and one part-time teacher, install interactive distance learning equipment so that classroom teaching can be video streamed into the child's room, and purchase computer equipment and materials so teachers can e-mail homework back and forth.

Agent **Kevin Smith** led the effort to fund the school on behalf of State Farm.

He and his wife spent a month living in the Banner Children's pediatric ICU when his daughter became ill and needed surgery three years ago.

"We've taken a dream to reality," Kevin said.

"For my fellow agents to wrap their arms around this project and make it happen has been one of the proudest moments I've ever had."



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Mariposa

From Page 1

when only desert and small roads surrounded the school site.

One picture shows students and teachers celebrating the opening of the school. Another captures students and teachers preparing for a field-day race. Another photo shows an astronaut receiving a plaque from the school. There are balloon releases, a float of the space shuttle Challenger, which was the inspiration for the school's nickname, and students participating in Thanksgiving activities. All of this in 20 years.

"Schools are people, too," said retired principal **Wanda Land**, who opened Kyrene de la Mariposa in 1988—in addition to two other schools—after having worked in the Kyrene district for 20 years.

"I love history—world history or American history. To me, this is an historical event, and I have an opportunity to see a lot of people I haven't seen in a long time, and to celebrate," said Land.

The school, which was scheduled to open in 1987, was still under construction during the first few months of the school year.

Students and teachers were divided into two other schools and had to wait until January, when construction was completed, to move in.

"It was a challenging experience when we opened the school," said Land. "The teachers had to move the desks, books and supplies over."

When the school was finally ready to open, students were bussed in from their host schools to their new home.

"The staff, students, and parents all stayed positive, so it ended up being a good experience," reflected Land.

Throughout the school's history, there have only been four principals. Three teachers, **Norma Cruz**, **Bryan Raak** and **Amy Wurtz**, have worked at Mariposa since its opening day.

The current principal, **Marianne Lescher**, said the same small but tight-knit community of parents, students and teachers exists today, and makes the school stand out from other, larger schools.

"I would say the kids and the families and the teachers all work together," Lescher said. "The kids know that the families and teachers are always there for them. It's very much a school and community partnership."

In 2004 the school won the Arizona A plus Award from the Arizona Education Foundation, which an important event for the school, said Lescher.

To pay homage to the school's long history, students and teachers organized activities and events Jan. 17 and 18.

Plans for the two days of celebration included a family night dinner party; guest appearances by former students, teachers, principals and Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman; a fifth-grade musical titled *American Pop*; photos and scrapbooks from 20 years of the school's history; a 20 year T-shirt fashion show; a birthday cake; and the introduction of a new mascot, an astronaut.

Even the school's nickname, the Challengers—derived from the space shuttle that exploded shortly after its launch in 1986, killing the first to be teacher in space, Christa McAuliffe—pays homage to history.

Asked what was the best part of the school's birthday party, **Naomi Johnson**, 9 and a third-grade student, said:

"I would say we can all remember the good times we spent at Mariposa, and all the things we worked on and how hard we worked because we are an A-plus school."



Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David Schauer (above, second from right) helped former principal Dr. Darlene Pany and other staff members blow out candles; In photo at left, Ev Michell, Dr Pany, Cheryl Bromich, Dr. Marianne Lescher and Janet Tobias joined the celebration; and a new school mascot in astronautical gear (below) was introduced to a crowd of enthusiastic students.

— David Stone/
Wrangler News





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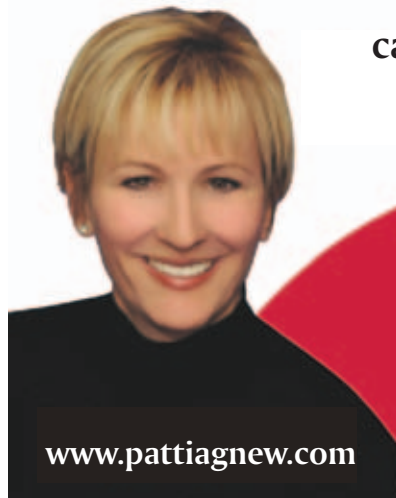
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