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# Obama picks Phoenix Union's Kent Scribner for Hispanic education post

Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 11:18am MST

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President **Barack Obama** has selected **Kent Scribner**, superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District, to serve on the President's Advisory Commission for Hispanic Education.

Scribner will travel to Washington to attend his first meeting and swearing-in ceremony Oct. 6-7.

Scribner joins a select group of educational leaders nationwide who will work with White House staff, the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies to address the unique educational challenges faced by Hispanics. The commission, originally established by **George H.W. Bush** in 1990, includes representatives from early childhood education, K-12, colleges and universities as well as philanthropic foundations, nonprofit and community-based organizations.

Scribner, 45, is now in his fourth year leading the 26,000-student, 16-school Phoenix Union district. He served as superintendent of the Isaac Elementary District in Phoenix for five years prior to his post with the Phoenix Union High School District.

Scribner is transforming the urban district from focusing simply on high school graduation, to an emphasis on increased rigor and college- and career-readiness.

Under his watch, honors and advanced placement student participation has doubled — increasing by more than 1,000 students.

This year, Phoenix Union will be among the first districts in Arizona to pilot student performance-based teacher and principal evaluation systems.

Angela Gonzales covers health, biotech and education.



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## Nancy Navarro joins Shakira on Obama commission

By: Rachel Baye | 10/05/11 5:07 PM

Examiner Staff Writer

Montgomery County Councilwoman Nancy Navarro, D-Eastern County, will join Colombian pop singer Shakira on President Obama's advisory commission on Hispanic education, the White House announced Wednesday.

Head of the Montgomery County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy committee, Navarro previously served on the county Board of Education.

Also named to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics Wednesday were Kent Scribner, superintendent of Phoenix's Union High School District #210, and Adrián Pedroza, executive director of the grassroots, community-based activism organization Partnership for Community Action.

Navarro did not return requests for comment.

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# Phoenix Union's Scribner selected for Hispanic education post

by KTAR.com (October 5th, 2011 @ 10:44pm)

Kent Scribner, superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District, was selected by President Barack Obama to be a part of the President's Advisory Commission for Hispanic Education.

According to **Phoenix Business Journal**, Scribner will be in Washington, D.C. on Thursday to be sworn in and attend his first meeting.

The commission was originally established by George H.W. Bush and is dedicated to solving the educational challenges Hispanics face in the United States. It regularly works with the U.S. Department of Education and other agencies.

Scribner is transforming the urban district from focusing simply on high school graduation, to an emphasis on increased rigor and college- and career-readiness. Under his watch, honors and advanced placement student participation has doubled — increasing by more than 1,000 students.

Scribner is in his fourth year as superintendent. He also was a superintendent for five years of the Isaac Elementary District in Phoenix.

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Local YouTube Sensation George Lindell Talks Internet Fame, Kari Lake, and How Reality Hits You Hard, Bro

By Benjamin Leatherman Thu., Oct. 6 2011 at 9:00 AM

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Benjamin Leatherman

George Lindell poses in front of his smashed Astro Van.

Getting into a car accident was probably the best thing that ever happened to **George Lindell**.

After the 46-year-old local house painter was involved a nasty wreck in North Phoenix last month, he provided an extremely over-the-top interview to FOX 10 that's been described as the "best crazy car accident description" ever.

In case you haven't seen it, Lindell's recounting of the wreck was ultra-energetic and extremely animated, peppered with phrases like "Bam!", "Foom!", and "Wham!" Plus, he uttered the statement that's become his catchphrase: "Reality hits you hard, bro."

As with any sort of wacky TV broadcast, it was posted on YouTube, went viral, and scored thousands of hits. (As of this writing, it's been viewed more than 285,000 times.)

YouTube video artists **The Gregory Brothers** also saw Lindell's rant and used it for an episode of their popular "Songify This!" series.

As a result, Lindell's become the Valley's latest Internet celebrity. He's appeared on FOX 10 several times, been featured on a few local radio stations, and his friends are trying to land him some endorsement deals and commercial work.

**Jackalope Ranch** recently spoke with Lindell about his over-the-top personality and rise to fame ...

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**What's your reaction to becoming an YouTube sensation?**

It's been so cool man, I'd been living in my damn van.

**Really?**

Yeah, because of the stupid economy. I managed to find a little place since then. It's an apartment below a dude's house and the bank recently repo'd the house, so he's telling me I gotta get out now. Dude, it sucks.

**What's your background?**

I grew up here in Phoenix and went to Maryvale High School. I've been a house painter since I was 11 years old. And I'm good at it. Damn good at it. And I like to do it. I like to work at least 50 hours a week. I can do anything that has to do with paint. I'm an expert on color.

**What did you do after high school?**

I had to go right into painting. My dad was a painter and because my dad had a lot of kids, everyone needed to work.

**When did you start drumming?**

I started drinking when I was 5. Oh yeah, I started playing drums when I was 11 (laughs).

**Okay, when did you start drinking, then?**

When I was 5. Whatever I could steal out of the refrigerator (laughs). It was easy man. I was good at getting whatever I wanted. I could smile at my mom and in the meantime I could be stealing candy right out of the cabinet. I could always trick my mom into anything. I was on the nipple until I was like four years old. Shit, I was smart baby. I was a genius when I was a baby. My dad used to buy six packs of Coors in cans and a lot of time it wound up on the bottom shelf, and so I'd sneak 'em past while my mom was cooking.

**Have you always been an excitable guy?**

I've always had a lot of energy. People think I'm really crazy. But I don't care. I'm a crazy guy. My IQ is like 145. But like my friends, say I like to water the grass when it's raining. My whole family is a bunch of crazies.

**What were you thinking during the car accident?**

I was at a job, setting up everything, getting ready to spray, and I didn't have an extension cord. I left my damn extension cord at home. So as I was going home I was also debating about maybe getting something to eat. So I thought, "Albertson's kinda sounds good. Boston Market sounds even better, but Albertson's kinda has a lot bigger..." BAM! Never saw it coming.

**So was the other driver cited?**

Who knows. The insurance company doesn't want to pay me. They said that the guy who hit me claims his brakes went out, so they don't have to pay me. It sucks, bro.

**How's your car?**

It's a thing of beauty. The doors are all smashed. It's in front of my friend's house.

**Did you ever watch the old Batman TV series, which had plenty of "bam's" and "pow's"?**

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I did watch *Batman*. I thought *Batman* was cool when I was a kid. I probably wouldn't like it as much today if I looked at it.

**Did the YouTube video blow up immediately?**

It went viral right away. There were something like a couple hundred thousand hits in the first three hours. Everybody started playing it right away.



**How long did it take for the Gregory Brothers to create their video?**

They had that thing out in a week. The way that they put together that video was great. It was catchy, hooky, and artistic. Everything they've did was pure art. I'd never even heard of them before. I'd never really watched YouTube before. I don't even have a YouTube account. My internet is so freaking cheap [that] I can't get video. I have that \$40 Cricket Wireless thing that you plug into the computer.

**Who told you about their video?**

Kari Lake on FOX 10 News called me and she told me. She must've been the first to find out. They were doing interviews with the Gregory Brothers. Kari Lakes loves me, she's already called me like five or six times. She tells me everything and she's helping me find lawyers, people to help me.

**So you're selling t-shirts with your catchphrase "Reality Hits You Hard, Bro." How else are you trying to capitalize on your fame?**

My friends are helping me get into commercials or get endorsement deals. They're talking to a publicist and everything. I'd really like to do a Miller Lite commercial. Or a commercial for an accident lawyer. Like, "Hi, I'm George Lindell. Reality hits you hard, bro." It could be fun.

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### Valley high school students learn about Afghan war

by Bob McClay/KTAR (October 7th, 2011 @ 5:53am)

PHOENIX -- Many students at Phoenix's Alhambra High School were just five years old when President George W. Bush ordered American troops into Afghanistan. Ten years later, those students are learning about the war from history teacher Clay Jones.

Jones says he has to explain a lot of the terms associated with the war.

"They've heard the word insurgent. They've heard the word Al Qaeda. They've heard the word Taliban. But as far as the definitions of those words and how they work together and (putting the pieces together) for the war in Afghanistan, kids understanding of what's going on can be anywhere from 'not much' to 'I've just heard those terms before.'"

Jones tells the students that the war started as part of America's efforts to find Osama bin Laden after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

When they ask him whether the war is worth fighting for, Jones uses a quote from former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "Is it worth going and putting out that fire before it comes to our house?"

Jones says the answer is, "Sure it is. Absolutely."

Students who may be considering a military career apparently have the war in Afghanistan on their minds. Jones says they are weighing the possibility that they may have to serve on the front lines..

"It makes that decision more poignant," Jones said.

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### **Phoenix schools chief named to U.S. panel on Hispanic education issues**

by [Maria Polletta](#) on Oct. 07, 2011, under [Arizona Republic News](#)

President Barack Obama has chosen Phoenix Union High School District Superintendent Kent Scribner to serve on the national Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

The commission, established in 1990, is made up of educational leaders from throughout the U.S. who “have a history of leadership and involvement with the Hispanic community,” according to the district. Members work with White House staff, the U.S. Department of Education and other agencies to tackle educational challenges faced by Hispanic students.

This is Scribner’s fourth year as superintendent of PUHSD, where almost 80 percent of students are Hispanic.

Scribner, 45, also has served on the Arizona School District Redistricting Commission and worked with the Arizona Business and Education Coalition. He received the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award in 2008. Scribner was sworn in Thursday in Washington, D.C.

This entry was posted on Friday, October 7th, 2011 at 12:00 am and is filed under [Arizona Republic News](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

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## Phoenix schools chief named to U.S. panel on Hispanic education issues

by **Maria Polletta** - Oct. 7, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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# Letter grades for 1,550 schools in Arizona

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 12:36pm MST - Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 2:00pm MST

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The Arizona Department of Education has released its new letter grading system for ranking schools in an effort to hold them more accountable for student improvement.

[To see the letter grades of 1,550 schools in Arizona, click here.](#)

As a result of legislation, the state developed a new system for measuring academic achievement for schools that uses a different formula than it has under the original "legacy" labels, which include Underperforming, Performing, Performing Plus, Highly Performing and Excelling. These legacy labels will be phased out and replaced by an "A" through "F" score based on criteria that measures student academic growth on the AIMS test.

A school that typically has been an Excelling school may end up with a "B" because that school did not show enough academic growth among its students.

That's exactly what happened to the Bioscience High School, which has been Excelling every year under the old achievement profiles. It received a B under the new grading system.

**Kent Scribner**, superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District, said it is difficult to show academic growth for students who already are starting out at

the 95th percentile of student achievement.

**Eileen Sigmund**, president of the [Arizona Charter Schools Association](#), said charter schools fared pretty well under the new letter grading system.

Only half of Arizona's 524 charter schools received letter grades, she said. Many of those smaller schools that did not receive the letter grades this year will be phased in later. In addition, several charter schools are alternative schools designated by Arizona statutes to take students who are juvenile delinquents. They are held to different accountability standards, she said.



Nearly 80 percent of charter schools earned an average letter grade or better, she said. Of those, more than 70 percent received an A or B.

Crunching the numbers further, 25 percent of the charter schools received an A, while 18 percent of the school district schools received an A.

[To see a video describing the new school achievement labels, click here.](#)

Pick up Friday's print edition of the *Phoenix Business Journal* for more coverage of the new grading system.

Angela Gonzales covers health, biotech and education.

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## 20 districts in Maricopa County seek bonds, overrides

### They're easier to pass in an off-year election, some say

by **Mary Beth Faller** - Oct. 30, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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Asking voters to approve bonds or overrides in an off-year election can be risky because turnout is typically lower, but 20 school districts in Maricopa County are doing it to help make up for the big drop in state K-12 [funding](#).

"It used to be that overrides were designed to pay for extra things, but now because of cuts in funding, for many districts they're part of their basic survival," said Chuck Essigs, interim executive director of the Arizona School Boards Association.

The Legislature cut \$150 million from K-12 education for 2011-12 - the third funding decrease in a row - and has underfunded the state School Facilities Board, intended to pay for building maintenance, for several years.

In Maricopa County, five school districts are seeking construction bonds and 13 are asking voters to approve overrides.

Two districts - Paradise Valley Unified and Phoenix Union High School - are seeking both a bond and an override. They also have the largest bond measures on the Nov. 8 ballot: \$203 million and \$230 million, respectively.

Some school districts believe that asking voters to consider a tax-related measure is easier in an off-year election. They think they can get the message out when there are few other issues on one ballot.

"What's interesting is that in some districts they feel they do better in an off year because they get people who understand the issue to address it, and others feel better in general-election years, when there's better turnout," Essigs said.

Until last year, school construction bonds historically fared much better in general-election years, according to Judy Richardson, vice president of Stone & Youngberg LLC, a financial-services firm that advises districts.

"Schools had a 100 percent passage rate for even-numbered years going back to 2000," she said. "Last year, 77 percent of bonds were approved."

Statewide, voters approved fewer than half the overrides sought by districts in 2010, Richardson said.

"So you can see the impact of the [financial](#) problems and the state of the economy," she said.

Essigs said the most important task for supporters of district bonds and overrides is to educate voters.

"Whether a general-election year or an off year, the committees need to get voters to understand the issues and vote upon the issues and not based on some rumor they've heard," he said.

The Cave Creek Unified School District governing board considered asking voters to support an override in 2010 but waited until this year. The extra time helped the political-action committee LearnYes to reach out to registered voters and work on garnering support from district parents.

"We weren't ready last year," said Steve Hart, chairman of LearnYes.

For most voters in Cave Creek, the district override is the only issue on the ballot this year, as it is in the parts of Scottsdale that are in the Paradise Valley Unified School District. Paradise Valley is seeking both a construction bond and a capital override.

The other type of override is maintenance and operations, which [funds](#) teachers and academic programs.

Richardson said that historically, pursuing a bond and a capital override on the same ballot has proved less successful than a bond and maintenance and operations override.

“If a district has a bond and an M and O override, it doesn’t seem to have too much impact, but when districts try to pass a bond with a capital outlay override, the definite trend is that voters are more likely to approve the bond but not the capital override.”

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Four receive Western Legends awards**

By Carol Broeder/Arizona Range News

Published: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 2:14 PM CDT

Four more legends were honored in Willcox the Friday of Rex Allen Days during the Third Annual Western Legends Awards.

Three of them were presented to men with ties to Arizona - Don Collier, Ron Nix, and the late Stan Jones.

The fourth honoree was Dan Haggerty.

"We're gathered here to pay tribute to the great state of Arizona as it celebrates its centennial, and to honor four remarkable men and their equally remarkable careers: cowboys, actors, songwriters, stuntmen, and musicians," said emcee Charlie Le Sueur, adding, "Pioneers all..."

Composer, songwriter, and actor Stan Jones was born June 5, 1914, he told the audience.

During his career, Jones wrote more than 200 songs, 100 of which were released.

Le Sueur told the audience gathered last Friday evening the story of Jones' life.

He learned to ride horses as a child, "a skill that came in handy later in his life; as did his talent for singing and playing the guitar," Le Sueur said.

He attended the University of California at Berkley for a time, then join the Navy, and after his discharge, held a variety of jobs all over the country," he said.

As a U.S. Forest Service forest ranger in 1948, he was stationed in Death Valley, Calif. Jones was assigned as technical advisor for a Western called, "The Walking Hills," that was being filmed in the area.

"In between filming, he would sit around with cast and crew and play various songs he had written," said LeSueur, adding, "They encouraged him to try to get the songs published, which he did..."

"It was when he was in Death Valley that the future 34-year-old songwriter went on to write what has been called one of the biggest Western hits of all time, 'Ghost Riders in the Sky,' he told the audience.

"Though recorded by many, it was the version recorded by Vaughn Monroe which became a major hit," said Le Sueur adding, "So much so that cowboy actor Gene Autry capitalized on the song's popularity - featuring it in the 1949 movie 'Riders in the Sky.'"

Jones appeared as a singing cowboy, along with Boyd Stockman, Kermit Maynard, Sandy Sanderson, and Cactus Mack.

(Taylor Curtis 'Cactus Mack' Mc Peters was a cousin to Rex Allen Sr., and grandfather of Julie Ream, producer of the Western Legends Awards.)

Jones wrote the movie's score, "and in it, performed his rendition of 'Streets of Laredo,' which went on to become a hit by another famous Arizona Cowboy - our own Rex Allen," said Le Sueur.

While Jones was in Hollywood visiting a friend, actors George O'Brien and Harry Carey, Jr. arranged for him to meet acclaimed



Four (in photos - Don Collier, Dan Haggerty, Ron Nix and Stan Jones) receive Willcox Western Legends awards: Keeter Stuart performs at the awards ceremony honoring his great uncle, Stan Jones. (Carol Broeder/ARN)

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Western director John Ford, he said.

"This led to a lasting friendship between the feisty director and the gentlemanly Jones," said Le Sueur, adding that Jones' songs were used in two 1950s Westerns directed by Ford, "Wagon Master" and "Rio Grande."

"Jones also wrote songs for Ford's classic, 'The Searchers' and introduced the Sons of the Pioneers to Ford, who would use them in many of his Westerns," he told the audience.

"In 1951, Austry again made a movie based on another of Stan's songs, 'Whirlwind,' in which Stan also had a small part," said Le Sueur, adding, "His songs were used in a half-dozen more films over the next few years."

In 1955, Carey, Jr., was hired by Walt Disney for a television series called, "The Adventures of Spin and Marty," he said.

Carey, who had worked with Jones on both "Wagon Master" and "Rio Grande," suggested to Disney that Stan be hired to write songs for the show - "a suggestion Disney followed," Le Sueur told the audience.

In 1956, Jones was hired to play Deputy Olson on the modern-day Western series, "Sheriff of Cochise," later re-named "U.S. Marshal," writing the theme song and even some episodes of the show.

In 1959, he again worked for Ford, writing songs for his Western "The Horse Soldiers," and playing the part of Ulysses S. Grant.

Jones' last role was in 1960 in the movie "Ten Who Dared," with Brian Keith and James Drury.

"He died an untimely death in Los Angeles Dec. 13, 1963, at the age of 49, and was buried at Julia Page Memorial Park in his hometown, Douglas, Arizona," said LeSueur.

"His death was too soon and left too many songs unwritten," he said.

"In 1997, Jones was inducted posthumously into the Western Music Hall of Fame, and tonight will be honored again as he becomes a 2011 Western Legends Award honoree," he said.

Keeter Stuart, whom LeSueur called "a wonderful musician in his own right," said he was proud to accept the award on behalf of his great uncle.

Earlier in the evening, Stuart performed one of Jones' songs, "Burro Lullaby," which he explained, "Stan wrote when he was a Forest Ranger at Death Valley."

Stuart said that while Jones was probably most famous for "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "Burro Lullaby was his favorite song because of his time with his wife Olive in Death Valley."

Another honoree, stuntman Ron Nix, was unable to attend the awards that evening "due to a family commitment," but was able to arrive in Willcox in time for the Rex Allen Days Parade the next morning.

Le Sueur told the audience that Nix "has had a long career as a stuntman and actor."

A Phoenix native, Nix "remains a loyal resident today," said Le Sueur, adding that Nix was a member of the Carl Hayden High School Class of 1961 - its second graduating class.

"Ron started his career at Apacheland - a famous Arizona studio and attraction - where fresh out of high school he worked alongside now famous Western actors such as Peter Brown and Doug McClure," he said.

Nix worked in several films such as "Riders in the Storm," "Natural Born Killers," "Bad Jim," with Jim Brown, "Murphy's Romance," with James Garner, "Charro" with Elvis, "Trial of Billy Jack" and "White Line Fever" with Jan Michael Vincent," he said.

Throughout his career, Nix has appeared in several television series, such as "Young Riders," "Bonanza," "High Chaparral," and "Death Valley Days," said Le Sueur, adding that Nix also appeared in several commercials.

"His experience not only covers over 30 years as a stuntman, actor, stunt coordinator and assistant director, he has also lent his talents to set design and special effects," he told the audience.

Nix built and owned "Cowtown," a Western film location in Northwest Phoenix, for more than 20 years.

"Ron and his wife of almost 50 years still live and work in Phoenix," said Le Sueur.

"He is the proud recipient of the International Clío and Golden Reel Awards and is proud to be adding the 2011 Western Legends Awards to his collection," he said.

Accepting the award on behalf of Nix, was Barb Hutteringer.

The third honoree with ties to Arizona is Don Collier.

"It's appropriate that Don is getting the Western Legends Award here in Willcox tonight," said Le Sueur, calling Collier "a proud Arizona resident for the past 28 years."

"Arizona brought him his biggest claim to fame-his role as Sam Butler, the foreman of 'The High Chaparral,' which was filmed at Old Tucson Studios," he said.

"Don's career has been extensive, and from the very beginning it was obvious that this was a man meant for Westerns. Of the 200-plus appearances in movies and TV, three-quarters of them have been set in the Old West."

Collier's first film was "Western Massacre River" in 1948, followed by "Davy Crockett," "Indian Scout," and "Fort Apache" with John Wayne.

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"Don later appeared in three other films with the Duke and with other Western legends such as Audie Murphy and James Arness," said Le Sueur, adding, "His commanding and very recognizable voice usually has him portraying a sheriff or marshal, as in his starring role in the TV series, 'Outlaws' in the early 1960s."

"Western fans will have seen him on every popular TV show back when Westerns ruled the airways - "Bonanza," "Gun Smoke," "Death Valley Days," "Wagon Train," "The Virginian" and "Branded."

"He's still going strong - working in movies, doing commercials and voiceovers, and a weekly radio show," he said.

Julie Ream accepted the award on behalf of Collier.

Another recipient that evening was Dan Haggerty, whom Le Sueur described as "loved by one and all."

"Husky and hirsute, actor Dan Haggerty is best remembered for playing the title character in the popular television outdoor adventure series "The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams," he told the audience.

"Dan grew up in Southern California and the muscle beach scene," Le Sueur said.

"It was at his family's small wild animal attraction that he learned the family business of animal training - an experience which led to his later success in the movies."

After graduating high school, Haggerty became a movie stuntman and animal handler, also working as a set builder, he told the audience.

"His ease working with animals got him work as a trainer and handler for Walt Disney films, and he worked as a stuntman on Ron Ely's TV show, 'Tarzan,'" LaSeuer said.

Haggerty appeared in countless productions, including David Carradine's film, "Americana," the film classic "Easy Rider," "Grizzly Mountain," "Repo Jake," and "Big Stan," he said.

He had early roles in the films "Muscle Beach Party," and Elvis Presley's "Girl Happy."

"It was his grizzled good looks and winning personality that led him to his most memorable role -- that of the easy going outdoorsman in the independent classic, 'The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams,' which led to the 1997 TV show of the same time," said Le Sueur, describing it as "the role Dan is best remembered - and best recognized for to this day."

Haggerty has many philanthropic causes to which he lends "his time, his work, and his famous name," he said. He is the spokesman for Young Adventures, Angel Flights, and the Lady Bug Ranch Project.

His awards include the "Humanitarian of the Year" award, the "People's Choice Award, a star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a star in Kanab, Utah's "Hollywood of the West," said Le Sueur.

Haggerty's close friend Duane McCoy accepted on his behalf.

At the close of the awards ceremony, singer Johnny Western, who Le Sueur described as a "music legend," performed "Ghost Riders in the Sky," written by Jones.

Prior to his performance, Western told the audience, "Stan was my song writing mentor. I never would have written 'Palladin' without this song. It's the greatest cowboy song ever written."

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## What's up with . . . former Suns guard Gerald Brown

by **Richard Obert** - Oct. 25, 2011 07:16 PM  
The Arizona Republic

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### Gerald Brown

**Age:** 36.

**Personal:** Lives in Buckeye with [wife](#) and two daughters.

**Then:** The 6-foot-4 point guard led Phoenix Carl Hayden to the Class 5A basketball championship in 1993 when the Falcons went 29-1. He later played at Pepperdine, had a 33-game stint in 1999 with the Suns, and played on a two-week, nine-game tour with the Harlem Globetrotters' competition team, playing against major-college teams..

**Now:** He is winding down a long overseas professional career, saying this could be his last season as he awaits a contract. He played in Argentina last year. Once he's done playing, he plans to start a basketball skills developmental program for players of all ages and skill levels.

**Question:** What are some of the strangest things you've seen playing overseas?

**Answer:** Other than some weird-looking [foods](#) or weirdly dressed people, it would have to be some of the fans. Some of the European teams' fans literally would die for their team. I've always thought that fighting or becoming violent over a sport was a bit strange. I'm aware that we do have those types of fans here in the states, but it seems more of the norm in some other countries.

**Q:** What did you learn from the Suns experience?

**A:** Learning how to be professional was the most important thing I learned from my time with the Suns. Knowing what it takes to be a professional basketball player has been vital to my career and its longevity.

**Q:** How special was it be chosen to [play](#) for the Globetrotters?

**A:** Playing for the Globetrotters was cool. I played on the Globetrotters' competition team, so I didn't get the opportunity to learn any tricks. One of the coolest things during that tour had to be the uniforms.

**Q:** What do you recall most from your high school days?

**A:** Besides winning a state championship are my friends. I was fortunate enough to make friends with some people who I'm still good friends with today. Some were schoolmates and some were teachers/coaches. Great times I had at Carl Hayden High School.

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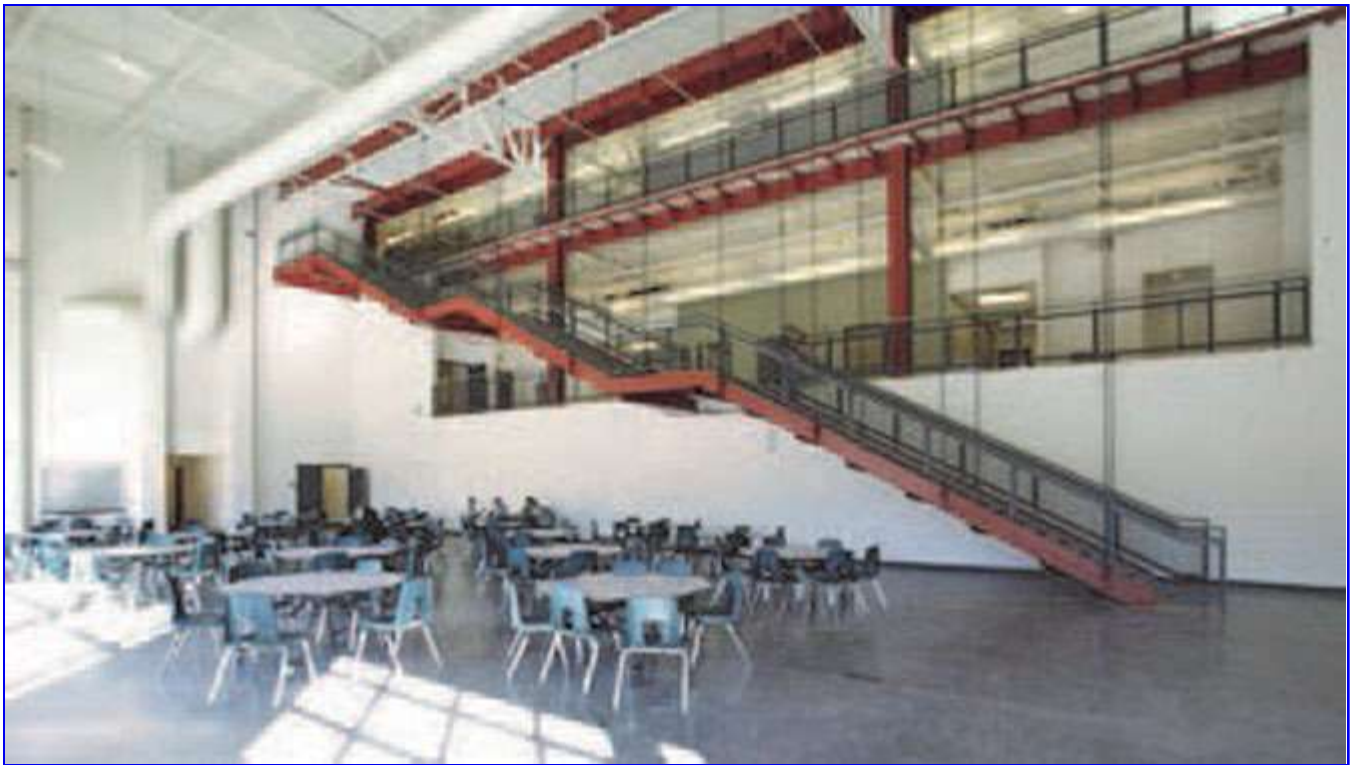
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# Phoenix Union Bioscience High School

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# Obama names Shakira to post

United Press International-Wednesday, October 05, 2011



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WASHINGTON, Oct 5, 2011 (UPI via COMTEX) -- U.S. President Barack Obama has appointed music star Shakira and three others to the President's Advisory Commission on Education Excellence for Hispanics.

Shakira - whose full name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll - is a Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, record producer and dancer. The president also appointed Nancy Navarro, member of the Montgomery County (Md.) Council; Adrian A. Pedroza, executive director of the Partnership for Community Action; and Phoenix Union High School District Superintendent Kent Scribner to the commission.

"I am grateful that these impressive individuals have chosen to dedicate their talents to serving the American people at this important time for our country. I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," Obama said in a statement released Wednesday by the White House.

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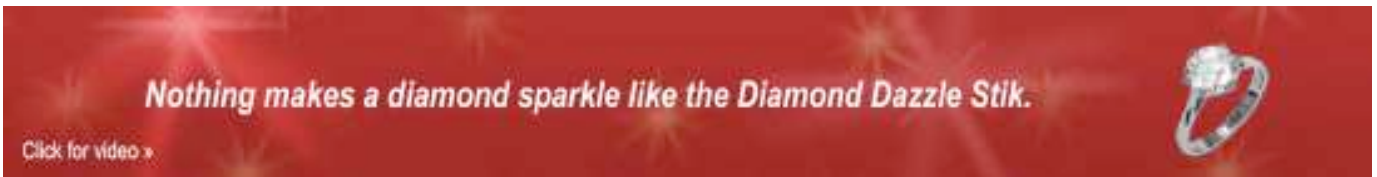


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Greg Hansen: After baseball career, DeWald peaked

Greg Hansen Arizona Daily Star Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 12:01 am | Comments

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[Buy Star photos](#) COURTESY OF TERRY DEWALD

In August and September, Terry DeWald led a 15-person group to the Swiss Alps, where he made his first ascent to the summit of the Monch (13,474 feet).

When last seen in "Bull Durham," Crash Davis was a career minor-leaguer who found his soul in Durham, N.C., and was en route to Visalia of the California League.

If Kevin Costner's character is Hollywood's working image of the player-to-be-named-later, former UA second baseman and Sunnyside High School coach Terry DeWald became the real thing.

If there is a sequel, it should be titled "Bull Durham II: The Happy Ending."

DeWald played for the Durham Bulls in 1968. "The shower scene in the movie is the same shower we used," he remembers. A year later he was shipped to Visalia, a Mets affiliate, whereupon he hit .307, smacked 10 homers, stole 18 bases and made the California League All-Star team.

His baseball career came crashing down when (a) he tore up his right knee during spring training, and (b) his comeback was scuttled when a bad-hop ground ball shattered his nose and almost killed him.

After 278 games, traded by the Mets to the Indians, DeWald left baseball and began a 40-year odyssey that found him celebrating his 65th birthday last month as a climber's guide in the Swiss Alps.

"When I tore up my knee during a spring training game, the doctor told me I'd be lucky to walk again," DeWald says now. "I've had my knees replaced, one in 2008 and the other in 2009, and now I feel like I've got the legs of a 30-year-old. I've been so active that I'm afraid I might wear out these knees, too."

Arriving at Arizona from Phoenix Camelback High School in the fall of 1964, DeWald wasn't much different from any of those who played for Frank Sancet's powerhouse clubs. He wanted to win the College World Series and become a major-leaguer.

It was the same in 1964 as it is today. It was the same for a 1964 second baseman as it is in 2011 for a UA linebacker, point guard or shortstop. There wasn't much thought given to life after sports.

In that sense, any college or high school coach in this community would do well to give his young men insight into Terry DeWald's life-after-baseball story. Losing baseball didn't stop him. It got him started.

"He was a terrific player; he could do everything. I think he would've kept advancing to the big leagues," says former UA coach Jerry Stitt, who was DeWald's teammate in the '60s. "He always seemed a little bit ahead of the game. He was good at figuring things out."

Once his body was broken, DeWald accepted Sancet's advice, got a master's degree and was hired as a teacher and coach at Sunnyside. His interests went far beyond baseball. DeWald is the son of a Time-Life journalist who wrote and took photographs for the Arizona Republic. His mother was employed at the Heard Museum, a jewel of Native American culture.

After baseball, DeWald's life evolved from coach/teacher to that of a man who has become one of the world's foremost collectors and dealers of Pima, Apache and Navajo baskets, artwork and textiles. He is a consultant for prominent auction houses, and an appraiser and lecturer for museums, galleries and national parks.

Off the job, DeWald exchanged baseball for mountain climbing and hiking. His working theory comes from Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can, or think you can't, you're right."

DeWald can. He speaks of climbing the Matterhorn as if he climbed "A" Mountain.

In August and September, he led a 15-person party from the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch to the Swiss Alps, where he climbed the inestimable Eiger (13,025 feet) for the second time and made his first ascent to the summit of the Monch (13,474 feet), both among the highest points in Europe.

"It's not like we're supermen," he says modestly. "A lot of people have climbed the Monch. But it's exhilarating nonetheless."

A lot of people have died climbing the Eiger and the Monch, too, including a pair of climbers a few days before DeWald's group launched its assault on the majestic Alps.

DeWald's most noted piece of local climbing came in 1977 when he became the first man known to traverse the Rincons and Catalinas, scaling every peak, on a three-day, 90-mile, mid-winter excursion. He so enjoyed being in the mountains that his climbing escalated from the Rincons and Baboquivari Peak to Yosemite and the Tetons. And, finally, to the Swiss Alps.

The old ballplayer has made quite a mark wearing a different set of cleats.

"As I look back, one of the greatest things that ever happened to me was traveling from city to city as a minor-league ballplayer," he says. "You not only got to play ball, you got to see different cities and different cultures. It piqued my interest. I discovered there was so much more out there besides baseball. I wanted to see as much of it as I can."

Last month, standing at the top of the Swiss Alps, Terry DeWald could almost see forever - or at least as far as he has come since his days as a Durham Bull.

Contact Greg Hansen at 573-4362 or [ghansen@azstarnet.com](mailto:ghansen@azstarnet.com)

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## Eco-friendly food and table

Posted on [October 5, 2011](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



Students who don't know where their years of education are taking them might want to ask peers at [Metro Tech High School](#) in the Phoenix Union High School District. These students designed, built and operate a fine dining restaurant, The Sustainable Table (pictured above) on campus, integrating green technologies and sustainability into the construction, furnishings and menu.



Students in Construction Technologies did the remodeling and Fashion and Interior Technology students chose the furnishings, lighting and colors. The floor is from recycled milk cartons laid without adhesives. Wood tables and chairs are from sustainable forests.

The tables are from recycled countertops. When the old space was demolished as much of the material was recycled or re-purposed as possible.

Most of the light is from solar tube skylight



throughout, so toxic fumes and unhealthy materials are cucumber, honeydew, lime with a hint of mint.

But a restaurant is for eating and the true test is the



Carpaccio beet salad, honey mustard with micro greens

food. As part of my job, whenever I cover anything involving food, it is my duty to my reader(s) to taste whatever is put in front of me. The gastronomic fact is, the food at The Sustainable Table, prepared by the culinary students, is very good.

What was on the menu? The photos will tell you.

The experience for the students at Metro Tech involved in the project is just as good as the food. The Sustainable Table is just one of 23 sustainability projects at Metro Tech funded by a \$900,000 Science Foundation Arizona grant.

Follow

A campus orchard will ultimately provide figs, apples, citrus, pomegranates and grapes to the restaurant as well as herbs and produce from the garden, which is watered by a rainwater harvesting system.



Pan-seared free range chicken, roasted raspberries, chipotle bulgar, ratatouille with stuffed squash blossom, honey-glazed pecans

“Sustainability projects are an ideal framework for instructional design,” Metro Tech Principal Kate McDonald says. “They provide students an opportunity to collaboratively work on cross-curricular, real-world projects that can present solutions we need in our local and global communities.”

I have a feeling most students aren’t thinking of instructional design or cross-curricular projects. But the real-world part sounds a lot like the better possibility for a job once graduation day arrives.

Senior Danh Vu who put together the rainwater capturing system to water the school garden is now a certified rainwater harvesting technician after taking classes from the [Watershed Management Group](#). He has his sights on an engineering degree from Georgia Tech.

*Story and photos by Dan Friedman*



mini-indulgence dessert

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[High Schools Phoenix](#)

## Central High's Orbelin Arauja running for more than just glory

by **José E. Garcia** - Oct. 21, 2011 04:02 PM  
The Arizona Republic

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The need to run always is present for cross-country runners.

For Phoenix Central High's Orbelin Arauja, running at midnight in Phoenix was the ideal time to escape from the pressures he faces and to train. Central Avenue belonged to Arauja during those really early morning summer workouts, not to the seedy inner-city things he witnessed along his [route](#).

The unorthodox midnight training regimen worked for different reasons for Arauja, a senior who is down to his final two races of his high school career. First, it helped him prove that he's one of the state's better runners this year.

It also gave him some peace of mind.

"Running clears out my mind," Arauja said.

The slender runner wants to continue training and running for a team next year, but there are some financial obstacles.

Arauja and his coach, Paul Bonnett, are doing all they can to get Arauja into a college. He's got the credentials to continue succeeding at the next level.

At the state's most prestigious regular season meet this year, the Twilight [Festival](#), Arauja took second place in his boys race. He has been passing runners and earning the respect of his team since he was a freshman.

Wanting to get in shape for the winter's high school [soccer](#) season, Arauja joined Central High's cross-country team as a freshman. But the family atmosphere he experienced with Central High's team and the gratification he got from running cross country easily convinced Arauja that he belonged in running shoes, not soccer cleats.

At meets, the amicable senior is known for encouraging his teammates as well as his opponents.

"He's such a fantastic kid," Bonnett said. "It's amazing how hard he works."

But Arauja felt before last year's state meet that opponents wouldn't get to see what he's capable of.

His left side was cramping up, and he also felt that his legs were heavy. Add to that the pressure that comes with a state meet, and Arauja was a mess.

But then he started running, and, as it usually happens for him, everything was back to normal. Arauja crossed the finish in sixth place, a career best for him at a state meet.

He's hoping for a top-3 finish at the sectional and state meets this year. After that, he'll probably start worrying again if he'll get a chance to run for another team.

Luckily for him, Arauja can always run up Central Avenue to clear his mind.

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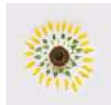
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## Crafts Call for Artists: Be a Vendor at the Pie Social A.R.T.S. Market

By Claire Lawton Tue., Oct. 11 2011 at 1:17 PM

Categories: [Crafts](#), [Events](#)

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Oops. We just drooled.

**Chow Bella & Roosevelt Row** announced their second annual **Pie Social** to benefit Phoenix Union Bio-Science High School arts programs, and this year, they're looking for a few creatives.

In addition to the mass consumption of community and celebrity pies on November 12, the social will include a special **A.R.T.S. Market** for local artists and crafters.



You can read all about the pie-filled event on Chow Bella, but here's a quick rundown: On Saturday, **November 12 from 2 to 5 p.m.**, you can bring a pie (and/or a \$10 donation) to A.R.T.S. Project #1, 408 E. Roosevelt Street, to get five pie-tasting tickets.

There will be a celebrity pie contest with baked goods from Veronica Arroyo / Bourbon Steak; Justin Beckett / Beckett's Table; Tammie Coe / Tammie Coe Cakes; Jessica Cuff / The Coffee Shop; Tracy Dempsey / Tracy Dempsey Originals; Dominic Fasano / Jobot Coffee Shop; Slade Grove / Wicked Bakery; Ella Levinson / Classic Cakes and Confections; Tim & Joan O'Connor / Honey Moon Sweets; Tonya Saidi / Mamma Toledo's Pies & Homemade Desserts; Virginia Senior / Urban Beans; Jennifer Van Inwegen / Creative Butters; Traci Wilbur / Pie Snob.

Arts/craft booths are only **\$25**. Check out the guidebook [here](#) and download the application [here](#).

For more information, visit the [Roosevelt Row website](#) or email [a.r.t.s.market@rooseveltrow.org](mailto:a.r.t.s.market@rooseveltrow.org)

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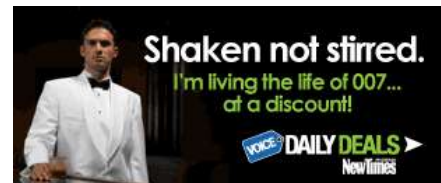
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## Arrowhead Grill chef keeps dream alive amid bad economy

by **Barbara Yost** - Oct. 4, 2011 10:53 AM  
Special for The Republic

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Chef Charles Wade Schwerd owes his success to burritos and beef jerky.

0

The 1987 Maryvale High School graduate is the son and nephew of two men who moved to the West Valley from Idaho and opened a meat-processing plant. Every day, Chuck Schwerd's Red Steer Meats churns out 14,000 burritos for institutions around Arizona - mostly bean and cheese, and mostly for schools.

"I've always been around food," says Schwerd, now 43 and chef-owner of Glendale's Arrowhead Grill, which celebrated its third anniversary in August.

In a tough economy that began to falter just as Schwerd was getting started, his is one of the rare success stories.

Jeff Larson, Red Steer assistant plant manager, remembers the young man he calls Wade working at the plant 25 years ago.

"He'd clean up for his dad and cook the beans," Larson says.

That work forged a foundation in the food industry.

After high school, Schwerd attended the Scottsdale Culinary Institute, graduating in 1989. His degree led to an internship at the Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix. From there, he earned his chops at the Arizona Biltmore and then as saucier at the Wigwam.

Fine dining was satisfying. The resorts were glamorous. But Schwerd's ambition was to work as a sous chef. Valley restaurateur Paul Fleming (who now owns such [restaurants](#) as Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and P.F. Chang's) gave him that opportunity at the Phoenix steak house he had recently taken over: Ruth's Chris.

Schwerd's friends from culinary school needed him. "It wasn't fine dining," Schwerd says.

But he had found that at resorts and hotels, profits were made in room rates, not the kitchen. When it came to food, frugality was irrelevant. He knew that if he ever wanted to run his own [restaurant](#), he'd have to learn to be fiscally responsible.

Inspired by his father, he did want his own place.

"I was attracted to that independent spirit," he says. The elder Schwerd encouraged him to learn the business side of food. "My dad got it right away."

Today Schwerd considers working for Fleming "the best move I ever made." He stayed with Ruth's Chris in the Valley for five years, then was tapped to open one in La Jolla, Calif. When Fleming sold the business, Schwerd instead cut the ribbon on a Ruth's Chris in Irvine, Calif.

Married to a woman who had been raised in the Valley, Schwerd promised her they would give California a try for three years. If it didn't prove satisfactory, they would move back to be near her family.

In 1999, they moved back, and Schwerd went to work for Mastro's steak houses, where Schwerd enhanced the menu with fresh fish dishes.

Seven years later, Schwerd was on the move again when a difference of opinion caused a break between him and owner Dennis Mastro. Schwerd was off to Denver, this time a divorced man, to open Denver Broncos star John Elway's eponymous steak house.

Schwerd's destiny to have his own place finally led him back home. In 2006, he returned to the West Valley, and with his dad began planning his dream restaurant. Scouting locations, Schwerd looked around east Phoenix and Scottsdale, territory he knew well. But he feared those areas were saturated. The West Valley needed him.

Settling on a spot in Glendale, he says, "was like a homecoming." He opened Arrowhead Grill in August 2008.

And then the economy took a nosedive.



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The two-acre lot between Fifth, Sixth, McKinley, and Garfield streets in downtown Phoenix has been watered, tilled, and readied for an upcoming season of sunflowers, and while organizers are still raising money for a project they've dubbed "The Valley of the Sunflowers," they've run into a small issue -- with the birds.

Pigeons that normally flock around sidewalk eateries and along telephone lines in downtown Phoenix have been frequenting the two-acre lot to snack on the seedlings of the project started over the summer by Roosevelt Row with the help of Phoenix Union Bioscience High School and the City of Phoenix Community and Economic Development Department, and Intel.

Kenny Barrett, Project Manager at Roosevelt Row CDC, says the pigeons are eating the seedlings because they have a large concentration of sugar at a smaller size. When the

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plants sprout their second set of leaves, the sugars convert to starches, which thankfully, the greedy bastards don't like as much.

Barrett says the current pigeon problem isn't critical, but measures from temporary cat dens to hanging rubber snakes were considered on the project's [Facebook page](#) and during committee meetings.

Ultimately, the group decided to set a date to gather and hang long strands of silvery tinsel around the field. The bedazzled approach is a semi-common way to deter hungry birds and sky rats (which don't like shiny things) from destroying a crop.

According to Barrett, the high school students and a group of volunteers will be filling in holes in the lot today and will be planting cow peas as green manure for the sunflowers.



The Valley of the Sunflowers really only likes one kind of bird ...

The project is part of the Adaptive Reuse of Temporary Space (A.R.T.S.) Program, which was granted a permit to plant two seasons of sunflowers in the lot and harvest that lot with volunteers from the community and local bioscience high school.

Ultimately, the students will use the sunflowers for future solar and biofuel projects.

To read more about the project and to donate, visit the [Valley of the Sunflowers Kickstarter page](#).

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The Best of Arizona: Funny people

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Comic Steve allen started in radio in Phoenix.

**Bill Mauldin**



He joined the Arizona National Guard and was soon serving in World War II. He became beloved by GIs for his cartoons of foot soldiers Willie and Joe. Mauldin died in 2003.

### **Steve Allen**

A graduate of Phoenix Union High, Allen started his broadcast career at KOY radio in Phoenix. A comedian, author and composer, he was the original host of "The Tonight Show." Allen died in 2000.

### **Bil Keane**

He moved to Paradise Valley in 1959 and within months launched the "Family Circus" comic strip.

### **Erma Bombeck**

This Paradise Valley resident's column on housekeeping and families was wildly popular for 30 years. To wit, on the topic of dirty ovens: "If it won't catch fire today, clean it tomorrow." She died in 1996.

### **Dick Wick Hall**

His columns in the Saturday Evening Post in the early 1920s made famous the town he co-founded - Salome (near Wickenburg). He died in 1926.

- Selected by Bobbie Jo Buel, editor

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By Lynn Trimble

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## From Vietnam to the Valley

Posted on [October 6, 2011](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

“[Speak Peace](#),” a touring exhibit currently being presented by the [Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art](#), was created in partnership with Kent State University’s Wick Poetry Center and School of Art Galleries with Soldier’s Heart, War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City and the Young Writers Program at Arizona State University.

Though the “Speak Peace” exhibit opened only recently in the young@art Gallery housed inside the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, folks from [ASU’s Young Writers Program](#) say they’re proud to have been involved for some time.

Sean Nevin, director of the ASU Young Writers Program, recalls meeting the director of a Kent State writing program at a conference about two years ago when both sat on a panel about teaching writing to kids. Nevin returned to Tempe and got to work writing a curriculum focused on teaching students in grades 9-12 how to write in response to experiencing art.

Several MFA in writing students and alumni worked with Nevin on taking the curriculum to Valley high schools as part of something called “Poetry Central.” Nevin is thrilled that “Speak Peace” includes “poetry written by Valley teenagers who participated in Young Writers Program workshops.”

He notes that participating students came from Carson Jr., Alhambra, Bostrom, Camelback, Carl Hayden, Central, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, Metro Tech, North, South Mountain, and Combs high schools.



Jess Burnquist, ASU MFA graduate and YWP teaching assistant, leading a Speak Peace session with TUHSD students during Poetry Central 2010  
(Photo courtesy of ASU YWP)

“Speak Peace” continues to use the curriculum on their website, and you can [click here](#) to explore it for yourself.

Nevin notes that those who visit the “Speak Peace” exhibit presented by SMOCA can enjoy several of the written pieces created as part of the ASU/Valley schools collaboration.

A work created by Valley students working with the YWP is featured below:

### **Who Knows**

*Who knows if peace will come or not?*

*People are afraid of touching peace,*

*Hands folding so if won't fly away.*

*All that we know is all that we give.*

*We work together to reach the swan.*

*Peace tastes like the victuals of Eden.*

*Peace is the color of fire*

*And the burning motion of time.*

*With fingertips like irons,*

*Peace brands the unborn.*

**–Collaborative poem by students from the Phoenix Union High School District (written at a YWP “Poetry Central” workshop)**

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Renee Simms, ASU MFA graduate and YWP teaching artist, leading a writing exercise with students from the Tolleson Union High School District during Poetry Central 2010 (Photo courtesy of ASU YWP)

“Art works to unite kids across the country and the world,” shares Nevin, who describes the response of youth to art as “a pure one.” Art, says Nevin, allows youth to “share a common language.”

Nevin recalls that the ASU/“Speak Peace” collaboration started near the 40th anniversary of the Kent State shootings, and that many of the students who wrote in response to the artwork created by Vietnamese youth had a parent or sibling deployed in a current conflict.

“It’s sad,” reflects Nevin, “that so little has changed.”

– Lynn

**Note:** Poet [Bruce Weigl](#), who was awarded a Bronze Star for his service during the Vietnam War, will read his work and sign books at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art at 7:45pm on Thurs, Oct. 13. SMoCA will present a guided tour of the “Speak Peace” exhibit at 7pm.

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## Phoenix schools' night classes gaining popularity

by **Maria Polletta** - Oct. 9, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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At 12:45 p.m., the school day at Trevor G. Browne High School is more than half over for most students. But 18-year-old Ali Alcocer's classes are just beginning.

Alcocer, a senior, attends school from 12:45 to 6:50 p.m. after working at a Phoenix glass factory from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"It works for me, because I actually get to sleep for a few hours," Alcocer said during a physical-science class, the fourth evening class he's taken at Trevor Browne since its night-school program began last year.

The high school, 7402 W. Catalina Drive, is one of eight in the Phoenix Union High School District offering non-traditional scheduling. The uptick is significant, according to Phoenix Union spokesman Craig Pletenik, since "just a few years ago, there were only about two or three schools that had evening school."

More than 900 Phoenix Union students are enrolled in at least one evening class.

The popularity of evening school has surged throughout the district as school officials have found that "sometimes the traditional schedule just doesn't work out for certain students," according to Manuel Silvas, assistant principal of registration at Trevor Browne. "The flexibility of these schedules keep them on track, or get them back on track," he said.

Non-traditional schedules cater to students who have scheduling difficulties due to jobs or children, students with academic or behavioral issues, students who need to retake classes or advanced students who want to graduate early. The program also helps English-language learners, who have to spend part of their school day in state-mandated English instruction, keep up with their other classes.

Some students attend only night school, like Alcocer. Others, such as Trevor Browne sophomore Nayely Tapia, 15, do a full day of traditional school followed by night classes to catch up on credits. Four days a week, Tapia is in school from roughly 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"It's a long day," Tapia said. "At first, I didn't like it. But I'm getting used to it and it's less stressful now because I don't have to worry about how I'm going to get my credits back," she said.

Night-school classes are typically core subjects, such as English or science, though some schools also offer prep classes for Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards test. Just like the students, some teachers are devoted entirely to the evening-school schedule, and others teach a mix.

Counselors help students sign up for classes and personalize their schedules. Students can register to attend either one or two three-hour blocks each day, Monday through Thursday.

Intense six-week semesters allow students to make up time and credits. But the chief benefit of the shortened semester - packing three normal classes worth of information into one evening-class session - can be a problem.

Several teachers and administrators said it can be almost impossible for a student to catch up after missing just a few days of night school, so schools must have strict attendance policies.

Still, most students take night classes seriously, according to Jim Gregory, a math teacher at Cesar Chavez High School who has been teaching evening school since 1990. And Pletenik credits evening school with "helping our schools retain students, give them more options, decrease dropouts and improve our graduation rates," he said.

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## 9/11 a high school history lesson

by **Karina Bland** - Sept. 9, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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It was totally silent in Andrea Sargent's classroom at South Mountain High in Phoenix as her first-period American history students watched footage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, leaning forward on elbows, hands pressed to their mouths.

Juniors now and most of them 16 years old, these students were just 6 or so and new to first grade, learning to read and losing their first teeth 10 years ago when first one plane and then another struck the Twin Towers; a third hit the Pentagon outside Washington; and a fourth crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

Their parents likely snapped off the TV to protect them from the images of collapsing buildings, wreckage and falling bodies that seared themselves into the nation's memory.

These teenagers don't remember what it was like to meet loved ones at the gate when they got off an airplane, or visit a cockpit in-flight and shake hands with a pilot, or live in a country not at war. For them, 9/11 is the stuff of textbooks, the last 14 pages in "The Americans, Reconstruction to the 21st Century," published by McDougal Littell Inc. in 2003.

But their teacher, and many others standing in front of classrooms and teaching about the attacks this week, remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when they heard of the first plane crash; and then turned on the TV and watched live as a second plane went into the second tower; and came to the sick realization that this was no accident.

And then felt an unfamiliar fear and had unfamiliar questions and felt the unfamiliar heartache that followed.

In the years since, teachers have put the tragic day into context for class after class of children, giving them age-appropriate information at different stages of their history studies. Because it is history they are teaching, even though they lived it.

"It was weird," says Brian Garcia, 17, of a homework assignment in which he had to interview someone who was old enough to remember 9/11 about his or her experience and thoughts. "You were a part of that time, but you don't really remember, and now you understand what happened."

Brian and his classmates have been studying the 9/11 attacks and the aftermath, economic impact and human cost, and how all of it changed America.

"It's an eye-opener," says Elijah Lucas, 16, who only remembers being at school on 9/11 and seeing his student teacher cry. "It makes you think about how different our lives are now because of what happened on 9/11."

In their textbooks, the last chapter, "The War on Terrorism," details the attacks and discusses security, terrorism and counterterrorism worldwide in a historical context. At this age, students also learn the ramifications of the attacks on the economy, politics and civil liberties.

"The best history lesson - and it can be about the Ming Dynasty - connects questions of power and struggle and social upheaval with what goes on today," says Syd Golston, who manages a \$1 million, three-year Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the Phoenix Union High School District, which includes South Mountain High.

She also is a retired social-studies teacher and past president of the National Council for the Social Studies.

Sunday is the actual anniversary, so schoolchildren across the state are marking anniversary today with special assemblies, moments of silence and tree plantings. In classrooms with doors decorated in red, white and blue, students will be writing essays about freedom, what makes a hero, and the importance of community service.

Arizona state standards for high-school social studies include a mandate that students learn about the 9/11 attacks. However, fewer than half of the states in the nation explicitly require this, according to a forthcoming study by education professors Diana Hess of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Jeremy D. Stoddard of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

It is a complex topic, and the discussions can be controversial, Golston says. For instance, is waterboarding an acceptable way to get information? Should wiretapping of civilians without judicial oversight be used to combat terrorism?

But Golston says she doesn't mind spirited discussions. That's when students learn to listen, respect other people's opinions and debate an idea without attacking the person behind it.

There is a sign in her classroom that reads, "You have the right to your opinion. I have the right to demand that you have one."

"We want to create thinking citizens, and this is a golden moment for it," Golston says.

In Cathy Ballman's senior honors economics class at South Mountain High, students are talking about the economic costs of 9/11, including the billions of dollars spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and enhanced security at home.

"I just think that it was not a waste of money but poorly allocated," says Sergio Avila, 17, who offers that the money could be better spent on education and health care.

But classmate Michael Contreras, 17, disagrees, asking, "What if we get too comfortable and something else happens?"

\* \* \*

Back in Sargent's class, the video has ended, and the students stay quiet as their teacher, her voice wavering, reads them the numbers:

- There were 2,749 death certificates issued for that day (as of February 2005). Of those:
- 343 were firefighters, 23 were police officers.
- Victims were from 83 countries.
- 13 additional people died later of injuries suffered on that day.
- The youngest victim was 2-year-old Christine Lee Hanson of Massachusetts, who was on United Airlines Flight 175 with her parents, Peter Hanson and Sue Kim.

"She was on her way to Disneyland for the first time," Sargent says. And the teacher, whose own daughter is 3, tears up and then apologizes, telling her students she had hoped she wouldn't cry.

Most generations experience one or two life-changing days that everyone remembers always and can tell where they were and what they were doing when they heard about it. The bombing of Pearl Harbor, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy or the Rev. Martin Luther King, the first time a man walked on the moon, the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle. And, Sargent, who is 29, explains to her students that for many people, it was 9/11.

Sargent was a student at Mesa Community College that day, sitting in a film class when she texted her boyfriend, "Good morning!" He responded with a chilling, "Good morning? This is the worst morning in American history. Thousands of people are dead."

"It was unimaginable," Sargent says.

She left class in disbelief and called her dad, who was retired from the Army Special Forces but had once worked at the Pentagon. That, plus the fact that she grew up near military bases, made the day's events even more personal. She teaches about 9/11 every year.

"I think it's super-important that kids not forget the impact that day has had not only on us as Americans but also the ripple effect that reached around the world," Sargent says.

"I do it every year, same as I do with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to help the kids understand that we as Americans have a sense of invincibility, and that sometimes bites us. I tell them that we can't be so arrogant to think that no one can harm us."

Until the 9/11 attacks, war had always seemed to Sargent like something that happened far away. Like so many others, she was unnerved.

"Everybody was in shock. No one knew what to do or what would happen next," she tells her students.

"I remember my family's disappointment in their faces and me looking out the window," says Sabrina Ortiz, 16. At age 6, she had no way of understanding what everyone was so upset about or why her mom didn't send her to school that day.

Since then, Sabrina says, "I think 9/11 has made people more aware of the dangers and more cautious and scared." She's never been on an airplane and doesn't want to be.

Justice Wagner, also 16, thinks the country's reaction to the attacks ultimately showed the terrorists the strength and bravery of Americans.

“Instead of bringing chaos, it brought meaning to the country and united us,” he says.

It was a scary and sorrowful time, but Sargent also teaches her students about the extraordinary sense of unity and renewed patriotism it brought about in Americans.

“After 9/11, there was no African-American or Mexican-American or Asian-American. Everyone was just American,” Sargent says.

Political parties didn’t seem to matter, nor did state lines. American flags flew almost everywhere.

“We were united,” Sargent says. “We have to remember that sense of togetherness.”

Reach the reporter at karina [.bland@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:bland@arizonarepublic.com).

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September 12, 2011 |

7:45 am | [83°](#)[Valley & State](#)• Type Size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)•  [Print](#)**Arizona schools luring students with specialty programs**

Schools enact specialty programs to lure kids, parents

•  [Email](#)•  [Most Popular](#)by [Kerry Ely Snyder](#) - Sept. 12, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic[Recommend](#)

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16

Charter schools, open enrollment and niche programs are luring students from neighborhood schools in a massive school-choice movement sweeping the state and country.

For several years, Arizona [school districts](#) have fought back. Public schools, the only game in town 15 years ago, are competing for students with foreign-language immersion, back-to-basics instruction, online classes and magnet programs in arts, science, engineering and math.

Specialty programs span the Valley's school districts. They include:

- Gifted academies in the Peoria and Deer Valley unified school districts.
- Bioscience and public-safety high schools in the Phoenix Union High [School District](#).
- International baccalaureate programs in the Scottsdale and Chandler unified school districts and the Tempe Union High School District.
- Online and exercise programs in Paradise Valley Unified School District.

The stakes are high in the battle for enrollment. On average, public schools in Arizona receive more than \$6,000 in state funding per student - money they can't afford to lose at a time of severe state-budget cutbacks.

Parents and students say they are looking for educational choices to compete in the global economy.

Pueblo Elementary School in Scottsdale has attracted new students by offering a Spanish immersion program to children starting in pre-kindergarten. The program drew rave reviews from parents, and enrollment jumped from 50 to 150 after the first year in 2006. Every year the enrollment has doubled. Reading textbooks are printed in English and Spanish.

"We thought, 'Man, what a gift to give our daughter,' " said Becky Youman, whose 8-year-old daughter, Sierra Estep, takes part in the immersion program.

Students learn math and science in Spanish and take language arts and social studies in English. They also study Mandarin Chinese as part of the program.

"She wasn't totally convinced (about the school) but then she saw the (playground) slides and loved it," Youman said.

The program, as well as a similar one in Peoria, was modeled after a language-immersion program already in place in the Cave Creek Unified School District.

In Chandler, about 100 Willis Junior High students recently received laptop computers for an "innovation academy." They are part of a yearlong e-learning pilot in the

classroom known as "bricks and clicks." The students use online textbooks, complete homework and collaborate with other students using the new Hewlett-Packard netbooks connected to the Internet through wireless technology.

Older students, meanwhile, said they chose specialty programs because they weren't sold on their neighborhood school.

Alexander "AJ" Whiteman, a 17-year-old senior at Franklin Police and Fire High School on West McDowell Road in Phoenix, said he transferred to the remodeled elementary school as a junior because he always has wanted to be firefighter.

"I went to Central (High School) my freshman and sophomore year, but it wasn't for me," he said. "They (Franklin teachers) came to my school my sophomore year, but I was the only kid who wanted to do it."

His mother toured the school and enrolled her son, who has cousins who are firefighters.

The Phoenix Union school bills itself as the first of its kind in the nation, offering a "rigorous physical and academic high-school education and a head start to a career in public safety." Classes are taught by police and fire professionals in partnership with public-safety agencies.

Whiteman now spends his day at the high school of 300 students studying algebra, American history, English, physics and fine arts. The last two hours of the school day he runs obstacle courses, tends to equipment and runs timed drills wearing the turnout gear used in firefighting. He also is taking a wildland firefighting class at Phoenix College to gain an edge in getting a job as a firefighter.

Fellow senior Maria Campo chose Franklin's police track over Camelback High School.

"Metro Tech (High School) was my first choice, but my parents loved Franklin because it's a small school, and we get more attention here," said Campo, 17.

She plans to return to the Bronx in New York, where she was born, and become a police officer.

"I was always interested in law enforcement ever since I was little," she said.

School officials said they have offered more choices for students to compete with charter schools and the changing economy.

The Deer Valley Unified School District introduced the Renaissance Gifted and Music Academy at Esperanza School, a full-day program designed to stimulate children's intellects.

The Peoria Unified School District announced in May that it was launching four new specialized programs: the Accelerated Academy at Vistancia Elementary, the Gifted Academy at Apache Elementary, University High at Sunrise Mountain and Peoria Traditional School at Zuni Hills Elementary.

The accelerated University High program offers students a chance to earn their high-school diploma by 10th grade and an undergraduate degree by 12th grade.

A key to the immersion program at Pueblo is to teach young children to think critically and to prepare to deal with the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

"I would say we've progressed based on parent requests and a changing world," said David Peterson, superintendent of the Scottsdale Unified School District. "Technology has changed us quite a bit. Parents have become more of an advocate over time. Economics have changed. And we need to meet the needs of our students in the 21st-century world."

In addition to Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, the district offers programs in performing arts, visual arts, science, technology, engineering, math, and International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement classes for college credit.

"Overall I think choice is healthy, but in my opinion, we haven't responded because of competition," he said.



## ASU freshman spends free time researching brain tumors

Posted: Tuesday, August 30, 2011 4:39 pm | Updated: 7:26 am, Wed Aug 31, 2011.

By Stacie Spring, Tribune |

Most high school students spend their summer free time lounging by the pool, wandering through the mall with their friends, watching movies in air-conditioned theaters or playing hours of video games.

For the last three years, Tyler Haeberle has spent a lot of his free time in a laboratory doing research on brain tumors.

"It's a passion," Haeberle said. "I've always treated it like a job, but it's always been a passion."

Haeberle was a sophomore when he was nominated by one of his teachers at Bioscientific High School in Phoenix to the Scientific Enrichment Program for Students, or SEPS. After earning the valedictorian spot at his high school, Haeberle is starting his freshman year at Arizona State University as an honors molecular biology major. Eventually he hopes to earn a PhD and teach and conduct research at a university.

SEPS looks to connect students with an interest in scientific research to mentors who work in research laboratories, said Adrienne Scheck, Haeberle's mentor and one of the founders of the program.

Scheck works as a principal investigator in neuro-oncology research at the Barrow Neurological Institute of Oncology at the St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. It is through her mentorship that Haeberle is able to study the potential influence one particular gene has on the drug resistance of tumors.

"I was given a lot of autonomy to pick my own project," Haeberle said. This came after a few months of learning laboratory safety, protocols and other basics. He conducts his own research, records his own data and eventually will publish a paper on his findings.

This is in conjunction with Scheck's research, which deals in drug resistance and novel therapies in neuro-oncology, or brain tumor-related medicine.

The student researchers enable primary research that wouldn't necessarily be able to be done without them.

Most scientific research is funded by grants and without that money, laboratories can't afford to conduct research. A lot of the time, primary data is needed to even get grant funding, Scheck said. Students can do some of that research that can lead to grants or to projects that would otherwise be pushed to a back burner.

"Tyler's gone above and beyond," Scheck said.

While he was in high school, Haeberle worked eight to 16 hours each week, more than the required six hours per week. This summer, he worked regular hours of 40 hours a week, above and beyond the 4-day minimum.

During the summer, Haeberle conducted experiments that led to data collection, he said. Once he's collected enough and can replicate his findings, he will publish.

That goal, he says is far away, but Scheck seems more optimistic.

"This summer, he came a long way," Scheck said. "Most of our students' best research comes in the summer because they have all day to really dig into their work." The experience has taught Haeberle a number of things, and not just about science.

"It's helped me develop critical thinking, I've learned to ask good questions and I've learned patience - especially patience," he said with a laugh. "I still like doing this even when it's giving me crap."

The application process for SEPS is competitive. Each local high school is able to nominate two students for the program. Students must be

a sophomore, junior or senior in high school. Applicants are required to submit a one-page essay and group interviews are scheduled with future mentors.

Each year generally, 60 students are nominated, 30 to 40 complete the application. Most years there are four to eight open spots.

The number of available mentors is what really limits the program, Scheck said. And they are always looking for additional mentors.

"It's often amazing how much these kids can bring to a lab," Scheck said. "Their hunger for knowledge is incredible."

And they offer more than just free labor, she said.

"It's really cool to get them to use their brain in a way that is different from how they learn in school," Scheck said. "And it gets us (researchers) to think in different ways."

It goes back to the old adage, that there is not such thing as a stupid question.

"But there are such things as naive questions and those are not always easy questions to answer," Scheck said. "And that can be a good thing because it reminds us that there are some things most people don't know." If you are interested in becoming a mentor for SEPS, please contact Adrienne Scheck at [adrienne.scheck@chw.edu](mailto:adrienne.scheck@chw.edu).

Contact writer; (480) 898-5645 or [sspring@evtrib.com](mailto:sspring@evtrib.com)

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# Class ring, owner reunited 26 years later



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by [Maria Polletta](#) - Sept. 21, 2011 12:00 AM

The Arizona Republic



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When Cindy Herzner was a senior at Trevor Browne High School in 1985, she saved up for months to buy a class ring.

But six months after Herzner bought the ring, it went missing. And a few weeks after it disappeared, Herzner assumed she'd never see it again.

Twenty-six years later, she was proved wrong.

Last month, Sandy Neuhaus, a resident of Dyersville, [Iowa](#), found Herzner's white-gold ring buried under six inches of dirt in her yard, entwined in the roots of a dead evergreen tree Neuhaus was struggling to pull out.

"I was moving the dirt when I saw what I thought was a (soda) pop tab," she said.

But after Neuhaus unearthed the shiny object and rubbed off a thick layer of dirt, she

realized she was holding a class ring with the name "Cindy" engraved on it. Neuhaus wanted to return the ring but had no idea how to find its owner.

That's when her daughter, Amanda Kennedy, stepped in.

"I hopped onto Yahoo and typed all the info in," Kennedy said. "It pulled up an electronic yearbook from Trevor Browne. I went through it and she was the only Cindy."

Kennedy finally tracked down Herzner's phone number, but she was nervous about making the call.

"I thought she was going to hang up on me, that she would probably think I was some weirdo," Kennedy said. "But I was just hoping to find the owner and give her some good news. I didn't realize until talking to her that it had been missing for 26 years."

Even more "mind-blowing," according to Kennedy, was the fact that Herzner, who moved to Arizona in 1976, had never set foot in Iowa.

"I have this person calling me, very polite, saying her mom found my ring while digging up a shrub in Dyersville," Herzner said. "I was like, 'Um, where is that?' I had to look it up on a map."

After exchanging information, Kennedy helped Neuhaus arrange to send the ring back to Herzner.

How the ring made its original cross-country journey remains a mystery.

Neuhaus guessed that Herzner had worked at a plant nursery, but Herzner had been working at a [restaurant](#) when she lost the ring. Herzner believes the ring was stolen, though even then, she has "no clue how the ring ended up in Iowa, let alone underneath a shrub."

Herzner said she's happy to be reunited with the ring she saved so long to buy.

"The coolest thing was the ring came two days before my 44th birthday, and it looks exactly like it did the day I lost it," she said. "It was like the best present you could ever get from someone you've never met."

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## Community leaders break ground for new sunflower field

By [Chloe Brooks](#), On Monday, September 12th, 2011 | [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [v](#) [p](#)

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A formal groundbreaking took place Friday for a Roosevelt Row community project that will turn a vacant lot into a field of sunflowers.

The [Valley of the Sunflowers](#) project broke ground Friday at the southwest corner of Sixth Street and Garfield Street. The cooperative effort between the City of Phoenix, the Roosevelt Row Community Development Corporation, Phoenix Union Bioscience High School and Intel will produce two crops of sunflowers, one in the fall and one in the spring. Bioscience High School students will harvest the sunflowers and press the seeds for oil to use in their biofuel vehicle project.

The lot will be used for planting sunflowers while not staging construction for University of Arizona's Biomedical campus, said Kenny Barrett, artist and project manager.

"Many successes come from overcoming challenges," said Barrett. "Projects like these are examples of ideas people are coming up with to solve these problems and use these vacant lots."

The ceremony, which drew approximately 200 audience members, began with a welcome by the project's interim director Cindy Dach. Barrett provided a project background while Mayor Phil Gordon and District 8 City Councilman Michael Johnson spoke words of encouragement.

Also in attendance was District 14 Senator Debbie McCune-Davis, who thanked the audience — comprised mostly of Bioscience High School students — for their loyalty to downtown Phoenix.

"Your participation is a visual demonstration of support for the central city," said McCune-Davis.

The vacant lot is expected to bear two plantings of sunflowers, which have a 90-day growing period. Project coordinators have scheduled the first planting and volunteer day for Saturday, Sept. 17, at 8 a.m.

"Our goal is to engage in more of these projects that allow students to learn side by side with the rest of us," said Dr. Deedee Falls, principal of Bioscience High School. "None of us have all the answers."

Contact the reporter at [chloe.brooks@asu.edu](mailto:chloe.brooks@asu.edu)

September 12th, 2011 | Tags: [City Of Phoenix](#), [Phoenix Union Bioscience High School](#), [Valley Of The Sunflowers](#) | Category: [Community](#), [News](#)



City government officials and community broke ground for the Valley of the Sunflowers community project on Friday. (Kristin Fankhauser/DD)



[News](#)

## Environmental studies popular, but course quality varies

### Interest in environmental science growing, but quality of courses at Ariz. schools varies

by **Cathryn Creno** - Sept. 10, 2011 09:13 PM  
The Arizona Republic

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When Mesa High School science teacher John Jung launched a trial environmental-science program 18 years ago, only about a dozen students signed up.

But at the beginning of this school year, so many students at the southwest Mesa school wanted to study the planet that there weren't enough seats for everyone during the first few days. Jung has more than 100 students in three classes, including an advanced-placement section with 30 students.

Around Arizona, the desire to understand the planet and its ecology is pushing kids to dig harder into algebra, chemistry, geometry and biology. Classes that help students apply science concepts to everyday life are helping students become more green.

In some of Jung's classes, juniors and seniors are using calculators and complex math formulas to determine nations' energy consumption. At Phoenix Union's Metro Tech, students are applying geometry and biology in projects where they harvest rainwater and use it to grow plants. And even sixth-graders at Glendale's Horizon are using basic biology as they study pollution and [climate change](#).

"Everyone talks about pollution and global warming, but nobody explains what is causing it," said Yeltzi Velazquez, 17, a Mesa High senior who took Jung's advanced-placement class last year.

"It was a very hard class, but it became one of my favorites," said Velazquez, an honors student who plans to attend Arizona State University next year.

"The class isn't just about making a grade. It's about your life."

The numbers in Arizona mirror a national trend.

Environmental science is one of the fastest-growing areas of study for high-school students who want to earn early college credits by taking accelerated classes and sitting for national Advanced Placement exams.

Six years ago, fewer than 2,000 schools nationally offered AP environmental-sciences classes, and about 38,000 students sat for the exam, said Kathleen Fineout Steinberg, communications director for the College Board, which administers the tests.

By 2010, schools offering the classes had increased to 3,700 nationally, and the number of kids taking the test was more than 86,000.

But while many of today's students are passionately interested in the environment, some observers point out that not all Arizona schools offer high-quality education in the subject.

The Arizona Academic Standards call for teaching the basics like the "impact of human activities on the environment" starting in the third grade. But some complain schools don't do that very well.

"Federal law is requiring schools to narrow their curricula more and more" and teach uniform basics that are included on standardized tests, said U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva, a southern Arizona Democrat who champions teaching kids about the outdoors and its ecology.

"These days classes in the environment are left as options," he said.

The Arizona Department of Education gives individual districts and charter schools wide latitude in the way ecology is taught, said Jaime Molera, president of the Arizona State Board of Education.

Also, the [quality](#) of what is taught varies from school to school, observed Gabrielle Hebert, director of experiences at the Phoenix Zoo, and Sapna

Sopori, director of the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center in Flagstaff.

“It’s highly dependent upon individual teachers and, of course, what happens at home,” Hebert said.

“For some groups of students it’s obvious that environmental literacy is integrated into their classroom. For other groups, the zoo is brought in as a separate activity with no connection to the curriculum. Although the students are engaged by the program, the way that they engage and how deeply we can explore the content is limited.”

Jung said that at Mesa High, most of his students are average kids who aren’t after AP credit but are drawn to take a physical-science class to better understand issues like air pollution.

His basic class has no tests and no homework. To pass, students must create “concept maps” that by the end of the year show the relationship between their own lifestyles, or “footprints,” and global environmental issues like air pollution and water shortages.

“It’s interesting,” said junior Sion Freestone. “I’m here because I am a Boy Scout. I like the outdoors.”

Jung said one of the most rewarding things about teaching the class has been watching students change their lifestyles over the course of a school year.

“They will come in and say ‘I’m only taking five-minute showers now’ or ‘I got my family to recycle,’“ he said. “It’s fun to listen to.”

Velazquez said she has started shutting the tap water off while she brushes her teeth and now makes sure she sorts recyclables.

“Before, if the trash were closer I would just throw it in there,” she said. “Now I know our resources aren’t going to be here forever.”

Jung’s advanced students learn the same concepts as the basic students, but in a more abstract way. They recently learned to calculate the carbon footprints of nations with equations including population per square foot, per capita income and a figure that showed the country’s technological efficiency.

“It was a very eye-opening class,” said Brenda Aguilar, 17, a senior who took the advanced-placement class last year.

“It’s shocking to learn how many people in the world live in poverty and how the environment affects that. You learn that everything is interconnected.”

Teaching high-school students “how interconnected and complicated” the world is a key mission at a Phoenix Union’s Bioscience High, said science teacher Cory Waxman.

Many students walk into the school with myths and misconceptions about the Earth. Waxman said he has taught ninth-graders who believe humans were on Earth at the time of the dinosaurs until his class sets them straight. “That’s not their fault,” he said.

JoAnn Domitrovich, who teaches sixth-grade science at Horizon School in Glendale, has earned praise from her peers and the Arizona Association for Environmental Education for her fun and scientifically sound lessons about water conservation and other environmental issues.

She says it is not easy to take elementary-school lessons and use them to help kids understand the world we live in.

“I have a biology degree and a strong background in science,” she said. “A lot of teachers don’t have that. If you don’t have a strong science background you can flounder.”

Sopori said she believes many kids apply fantasy from Hollywood or video games to real life. Schools and programs like her education center need to help kids sort that out.

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## [Outdoors](#)

### Fall Garden Events

Sept. 9, 2011 02:31 PM  
azcentral.com

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Now is good time to prepare your fall-plant wish list and to brush up on your gardening skills. Here are local gardening events to mark on your calendar.

• **Soil Prep.** From noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, local gardening guru Gregory Ware will explain all the steps to prepare your fall and winter [garden](#) at Southwest Gardener in Phoenix. Participants will take home enough organic fertilizer and soil sulfur for a 100-square-foot garden. The cost is \$32.

**Details:** 2809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix. 602-279-9510, [southwestgardener.com](http://southwestgardener.com).

• **Wildflower workshop.** From 9 a.m. to noon next Saturday, learn to re-create the beautiful wildflower landscapes you've seen on hillsides. Instructor Judy Curtis will show you how, where and when to plant for a spring wildflower show. Classes are \$25 at the [University of Arizona's](#) Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County office.

**Details:** 4341 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix. 602-827-8200.

• **Vegetable Gardening for Cool Season Harvest.** From 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 20 and 27, learn how to grow winter vegetables in the desert at the Desert Botanical Garden. Learn which plants thrive, how to [plant](#) and care for them and get harvesting tips. The cost is \$62 for both sessions.

**Details:** 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix; 480-941-1225. [dbg.org](http://dbg.org).

• **Growing Vegetables in the Desert.** From noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 2, gardener Gregory Ware will explain the best ways to start a desert vegetable garden, at Southwest Gardener in Phoenix. The \$35 session includes two six-packs of starter plants.

**Details:** 2809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix. 602-279-9510, [southwestgardener.com](http://southwestgardener.com).

• **Fall Plant Sale Festival.** Desert Botanical Garden members can attend a plant sale preview from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 14. The Fall Plant Sale Festival is free and open to the public from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 15 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 16. Garden volunteers and horticulturists will be on hand to answer questions and assist in plant selection. Specialty retailers will also be selling pottery and garden accessories, and a used-book sale will benefit the garden's library. Cathy Babcock says of the fall sale, "It's a one-stop shopping mecca for all your plant needs, including vegetable and wildflower seeds."

**Details:** 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix. 480-941-1225, [dbg.org](http://dbg.org).

• **Fall Festival and Plant Sale.** Maricopa County Master Gardeners hosts its Fall Festival and Plant Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 22. The free plant sale is a joint event with the Metro Tech High School horticulture classes and is being held at the school. Master gardeners will give seminars, demonstrations and gardening advice, and other garden clubs and garden vendors will be on hand. There's also a special children's area, haunted house and pumpkin patch.

**Details:** 1900 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix.

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## Field of sunflowers takes root in downtown Phoenix

### Bioscience students tackle project to raise seeds to manufacture fuel for hybrid car

by **Emily Gersema** - Sept. 22, 2011 08:42 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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Sunflower seeds have been planted and are growing in downtown Phoenix as part of a first-of-its kind project between a community organization and the Bioscience High School.

An estimated 85 Bioscience sophomores joined volunteers and farmers on Monday to poke sunflower seeds into a 2-acre field across the street from the Phoenix Union High School District school at Fifth and Pierce streets.

Most of these students, all members of a science-focus class, have little experience growing [plants](#), but for their high-school science credits, they will get their hands dirty. They will study and nurture this crop of sunflowers to grow seeds for biofuel.

Engineering students there are building a hybrid [car](#) that could be fueled by the oil pressed from the seeds.

"This is just really, really cool," said David Hernandez, 16, of Phoenix, after getting a few seeds to plant.

The project is being led by Kenny Barrett of the Roosevelt Row Community Development Corp., a non-profit group that supports economic growth in the Roosevelt arts and culture neighborhood in downtown Phoenix.

Volunteers from throughout Phoenix have been prepping the crusted soil on the lots, which have been vacant and unkempt for years.

A few patches of grass gave these new farmers hope that this experiment, for the first planting season, will be a success.

Barrett, 29, has called upon friends and experts, including Matt Moore, 35, an artist and farmer who with his family owns Sycamore Farms near Cotton Lane and Bell Road in Surprise.

Moore said Sycamore Farms grows a variety of crops - sorghum, corn, carrots and parsnips to name a few. And the family has plenty of experience growing crops.

Sycamore Farms is a fourth-generation operation - a rarity in the Valley. Most of the old family farmers have moved farther outside of the suburbs to grow crops and raise livestock in the rural areas or have sold out and shut down.

Farming a location like the sunflower plot in downtown Phoenix is a risky endeavor, Moore said. The soil on the lot at Fifth and McKinley streets, just north of the Bioscience campus, has been compacted after years of neglect and is not farm-friendly. Not yet, anyway.

Moore said planting some beans around the sunflowers - an ancient farming technique - will enrich the soil because the beans release a healthful dose of nitrogen as they grow. But he said that even then there is no guarantee sunflowers will bloom this first season.

"This is their journey," Moore said as he watched the students kneel and crumble soil over the seeds they were planting. "It's a real difficult process. If none of these flower this season, then this is a real educational process for the entire neighborhood."

The soil is unforgiving, covered with a thick layer of crust. Volunteers from around the neighborhood have attacked the city-owned property with pickaxes, rakes and shovels over recent weekends to expose softer, more fertile ground. Several pounds of pellet fertilizer and an intense irrigation effort helped to make the earth more pliant and nutrient-rich.

The stink of manure is the smell of money for most farmers, but in the Roosevelt area, it's a whiff of beautification. Barrett said he and his neighbors are [looking forward](#) to seeing a golden field of sunflowers pop up over these next few months, a welcome change for the dusty landscape.

Phoenix officials are loaning the property for free for the project, which is mostly funded by grants worth more than \$20,000 from the Intel

Foundation. The city will begin building the Arizona Cancer Center on the site either late next year or in 2013.

In the meantime, sunflowers will grow there.

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# In Arizona, Questions Persist on How to Teach History

## Should history classes strive to create patriots? Or critical observers?

Monday, September 19, 2011



Photo by Devin Browne

Above: Zinnia Marquez, 15, plays Sor Juana de la Inez, a colonial poet of New Spain, in Maria Chacon's history class. Of the current teaching climate in Arizona, Chacon says, "Teachers in Arizona feel like they're under the gun, constantly being watched."

is more relevant to the district's majority Latino population – not by creating separate Mexican American studies classes, as in Tuscon, but by incorporating more of Arizona's story into the larger American narrative.

"I really believe there will come a time when the story of this part of the world will be also included and that's what this grant is all

PHOENIX — When State Superintendent [John Huppenthal banned Tuscon's Mexican American Studies program in June](#), he said it was because the program – which students can take instead of regular American history -- promoted resentment towards a race of people. "Reviewed materials repeatedly referr[ed] to white people as being oppressors and oppressing the Latino people," he told reporters.

The Tuson Unified School District is [appealing the ban](#), but Huppenthal's decision still comes with ramifications for educators across the state, many of whom are now re-evaluating the way they teach history.

[Syd Golston](#) is a social studies specialist with the Phoenix Union High School District, and when she looks at the standard American history curriculum, she often feels that something is missing.

"We believe that American history as taught today is less relevant to our many Hispanic students than it should be," Golston wrote in a federal grant application. "The situation is much like that for African-American students before the 1960s, when black history research began to fill in the deficits."

The U.S. Department of Education saw her point, and [awarded Golston's district the grant last year](#). The funding, she says, will train teachers in Phoenix to teach history in a way that

about,” Golston said. “It’s about getting the traditional American history that our kids really need -- many of them are the children of immigrants and we are their source of the American story -- along with the story of their ancestors, who lived here too.”

Starting this year, when Maria Chacon teaches her students at Central High School about Jamestown, in Virginia, she teaches it in tandem with stories about mission life, in Arizona. A lesson on Ann Bradstreet is also one on Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz – both colonial women poets, one of New England, one of New Spain.

Even though Ann Bradstreet is a much more common character in American history textbooks, almost all of the students in Chacon’s class only recognize Inez de la Cruz. Her face is familiar to them, because it’s on Mexican money.

“It’s a *woman*,” Chacon tells them. “She’s dressed as a nun.”

“But on the bill...” one student begins, confused. “In Mexico, I always thought she was a dude.”

“Yeah, I thought it was a dude, too,” another student admits.

“No, it’s a woman!” Chacon says. “And she’s awesome.”

Meanwhile, other educators and education activists in Arizona are also looking at standard American history curriculum and finding something very different missing – that of American exceptionalism.

On the very same day that Chacon presented her lesson on colonial feminist poets, parents, school board members, and tea party activists met in Mesa to discuss how to get schools more excited about [Constitution Week](#).

Activist [Wes Harris](#) was also there, presenting his plans for a new school he’s starting to be called The Freedom Charter School. He’ll be the school’s history teacher.

“I’m upset about the way we teach history, because we’re not teaching the history of the U.S. from the vantage point of a proud history,” Harris said. “We’re teaching it as though it were something that was evil and not proper. Did people do things incorrectly in those days? Yes, absolutely they did. Did the majority of people rise up against those inequities and right them? *Yes, they did.*”

Harris’ charter school plans to open in 2013. Around the same time, Chacon hopes to create her own Mexican American studies class in Phoenix -- though as an elective and not as an alternative to American history.

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## [Comments](#)

## Jackets get record 9 picks in routing Holbrook

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Posted: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 5:00 am

LAKESIDE — Danny Groebner scored four touchdowns and two field goals and Blue Ridge had a state-record nine interceptions in beating Holbrook 68-0 on Friday, Sept. 23.

Ethan Jacks and Ricky Torres both had two interceptions as the Yellow Jackets (5-0), ranked No. 1 in Division 4, broke the 3A-Division 4 mark of eight held by several schools. Class 5A Phoenix Union holds the state record for all schools with 10 interceptions against Yuma Union in 1948. The record for all other classes was eight.

Nathaniel Harp, Isaac Schimmel, Ben Watson, Adam Webb and Easton Wengert had one interception apiece. Jacks returned one of his picks for a touchdown and Watson returned his interception for a touchdown.

Groebner had scoring runs of 1 and 8 yards, caught TD passes of 10 and 58 yards, kicked 27 and 18 yard field goals and added six extra point kicks for 36 points. He had 158 from scrimmage, catching three passes for 93 yards and rushing seven times for 65 yards.

Blue Ridge ran 34 times for 327 yards and had 477 yards of total offense. Adam Webb ran eight times for 69 yards and a 5-yard TD. Andrew Montoya rushed seven times for 68 yards and scored on a 5-yard run.

Hill was 5-for-8 for 150 yards and two touchdowns passing.

Anthony Kinney recovered a blocked punt by Jacks and returned it 2 yards for a touchdown.

The Roadrunners fell to 1-4.

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[Phoenix](#)**Metro Tech remodels dining room to make it sustainable**

by **Maria Polletta** - Sept. 29, 2011 11:10 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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A revamped dining room with an emphasis on sustainable design and eco-friendly [food](#) was set to open Friday at Metro Tech High School.

The roughly \$40,000 project, called the Sustainable Table, was funded with part of a two-year, \$900,000 grant from Science Foundation Arizona. The refurbished dining room replaces the space culinary-arts students had used to practice cooking and serving food.

“It was used occasionally, but it was old and dated in terms of the design,” said Metro Tech Principal Kate McDonald. “We’d talked for several years about whether culinary-arts students could use some of the food horticulture students were raising. So when the grant allowed us to expand the horticulture garden . . . we decided to repurpose that (old dining-room) space.”

Roughly 40 students studying culinary arts, construction technology, fashion and interior design and other careers at the high school, at 19th Avenue and Thomas Road, participated in the project.

“The kids really came up with a lot of the ideas,” said Jean Anderson, project manager. “They researched, planned. It was up to them to figure out what to do to make this an eco-friendly environment.”

The menu, which the school still is perfecting, will feature locally grown, seasonal items, including herbs and [vegetables](#) cultivated at Metro Tech. A recently created campus orchard will provide figs, apples, pomegranates and other fruits once trees mature.

The majority of supplies and furnishings were purchased from vendors within 500 miles of the school. Many [building materials](#) were recycled, including tables, booths and floor tiles.

The school chose solar tubes for natural lighting and light-emitting diode lamps to reduce energy consumption.

Two television screens in the dining room, connected to a video camera positioned in the kitchen, will allow guests to see how food is being prepared and display nutritional information about menu items.

All materials and furnishings removed from the original dining room were recycled or used differently, according to the school.

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# asu news [business, culture & affairs]

September 19, 2011

## Paintings, poetry speak to peace

September 19, 2011

How could war be so beautiful?  
This scarlet red fire sky,  
a beautiful sunset that never goes away.

For 10 years, the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, collected paintings on peace and war created by Vietnamese children. Then, American children, veterans and established poets were invited to respond to the paintings with their own poetry.



"Together Protect Peace," by Ta Thank Khue, age 15.

The result is "Speak Peace: American Voices Respond to Vietnamese Children's Paintings," which will be on exhibit Oct. 1-Nov. 9 at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, 7374 E. 2nd St., Scottsdale, in collaboration with The Virginia Piper Center for Creative Writing and ASU's Young Writers Program.

In conjunction with the exhibit, poet Bruce Weigl will give a reading and sign books at the museum at 7:45 p.m., Oct. 13, as part of the Piper Center's Distinguished Visiting Writers Series.

"Speak Peace," a collaborative, international project between Kent State's Wick Poetry Center and School of Art Galleries, and Soldier's Heart, a veterans return and healing organization, is on a national tour.

Showcasing the visions of Vietnamese children and the power of poetry to promote healing and reconciliation, Speak Peace offers a timely testament to the emotional truth of war and peace.

As part of the events surrounding the exhibit, ASU's Young Writers Program designed special Speak Peace creative writing lesson plans for the Phoenix Union High School District's Poetry Central, a day-long event engaging more than 200 Phoenix Union students from Alhambra, Bostrom, Camelback, Carl Hayden, Central, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, Metro Tech, North, South Mountain and Combs high schools and Carson Jr. High School,

The curriculum is designed to be flexibly used by teachers in grades 9-12. The activities can be customized, simplified or enhanced to support the differentiated needs of students, particularly English language learners, said Sean Nevin, director of YWP.

"Speak Peace is a project that closes the distance between borders, generations and cultures. It taps into the power of art and poetry to reveal truths about peace and war that brings us closer together, that heals us. In the end, as always, it is through art and children that we arrive at these revelations."

How could war be so beautiful?  
This scarlet red fire sky,  
a beautiful sunset that never goes away.  
The sound of screams at night,  
my own demented lullaby  
When I hear gun shots I don't wonder  
what side is winning,  
I wonder who will never see  
their family again.

– *Mina Williams*

Mina Williams attends Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Akron, Ohio, and was in the seventh grade when she wrote "War." She dances at the University of Akron's Dance Institute and in her spare time loves to paint and spend time with friends.

### **Who Knows**

Who knows if peace will come or not?

People are afraid of touching peace,

Hands folding so it won't fly away.

All that we know is all that we give.

We work together to reach the swan.

Peace tastes like the victuals of Eden.

Peace is the color of fire

And the burning motion of time.

With fingertips like irons,

Peace brands the unborn.

– Collaborative Poem, by students from the Phoenix Union High School District (PUHSD)  
Written at the Young Writers Program workshop (POETRY CENTRAL)

Judith Smith, [jps@asu.edu](mailto:jps@asu.edu)

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# Phoenix Central - Education

**The Phoenix Central Neighborhood Association was created to begin a dialogue with residents, property owners and those who hold a business license within our geographical boundaries of Indian School and Thomas roads and 7th Avenue and 3rd Street about business, crime, education, entertainment, politics, sports and transportation issues happening within our neighborhood.**

Friday, September 16, 2011

## Phoenix Union Students Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists



It was a first-ever for a Bioscience High School student and business-as-usual for students from North High who were named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Steven Alley becomes the first National Merit Semifinalist from Bioscience while Andrew Herschfelt and Steve Jozef join a long tradition of North students who have qualified as semifinalists by being among the highest-scoring entrants in Arizona in the 2010 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT.) Alley is in the engineering pathway at Bioscience. The two North students are in the school's International Baccalaureate Program.

The 16,000 semifinalists this year represent less than one percent of the 1.5 million juniors from over 22,000 high schools who take the PSAT. National Merit Finalists are highly coveted as prospective students to every college and university in the country, and the designation often leads to academic scholarships.

Alley becomes the first Bioscience student in the six-year history of the school to earn the prestigious recognition. He is a member of the third graduating class at the science and math-focused small school in downtown Phoenix. Alley scored a 223 (of 240 points) on his PSAT, and had a 34 composite score on his ACT last year. Alley arrived at Bioscience as an 11th grader, after attending North Canyon High School his first two years. The Laveen resident has not decided on a college, but has applied to ASU and Arizona. His brother is a sophomore who also attends Bioscience.

## Phoenix

### Phoenix dual polling places may stifle November turnout

by **Lynh Bui** - Sept. 30, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

Recommend

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4

Phoenix residents may have to make two trips to the polls if they want to cast ballots in person on Election Day.

On Nov. 8 Phoenix will hold a citywide [runoff election](#) for mayor and runoffs for City Council seats in two districts. On the same day, eight school districts in Phoenix will hold override, bond or other budget-related elections.

Because Phoenix is running the mayoral election and Maricopa County is running the education elections, voters who cast ballots in person likely will have to make two stops because the polling locations are not the same.

Some worry the inconvenience will discourage voters from participating in elections that already suffer from low turnout. For the Aug. 30 general election, Phoenix launched a new system in which 128 polling precincts were consolidated into 28 voting centers. The system was aimed at saving Phoenix money and making it more convenient for residents to vote. The centers are open for two additional days before the election, and residents can go to any voting center in the city regardless of where they live instead of to an assigned polling place.

The system, which drew some complaints of long lines from frustrated voters during the general election, will be in place for the runoffs.

However, the county still is under the traditional polling system using the voting precincts, most of which don't align with Phoenix voting centers. Only two polling places in the county election are the same locations as city voting centers.

Yvonne Reed, a spokeswoman for the Maricopa County Elections Department, said dual polling places will impact Phoenix residents who reside in the following [school districts](#): Creighton Elementary, Balsz Elementary, Fowler Elementary, Kyrene Elementary, Madison Elementary, Paradise Valley Unified, Phoenix Union High School and Roosevelt Elementary.

Reed said residents will get postcards in the mail telling them where they should vote, but casting an early ballot is the best way to avoid confusion.

The school and city elections offer residents the chance to mail an early ballot. Voters will have two different ballots for the school elections and the city elections.

"We encourage people to use the early-balloting process," Reed said.

Carrie Brown is a resident of the Ahwatukee Foothills area of Phoenix. If she didn't vote by mail, she'd have to visit a voting center to cast a ballot in the Phoenix mayor's race and visit Kyrene de las Lomas Elementary School to vote in the Kyrene School District No. 28 capital override.

Brown said the dual polling places worry her because voter turnout already is low in Phoenix.

"This is just putting one more obstacle in front of people, making it harder for them to vote," Brown said.

In August, about 22 percent of registered voters cast ballots in the general election for Phoenix mayor and City Council.

Phoenix spokeswoman Stephanie Ribodal Romero said residents are encouraged to vote by mail to make it easier. But if some voters insist on casting a ballot in person, Romero said it is best to plan ahead.

Voting in the city election will also be an option on the Saturday and Monday before the election, and there will be early polling places open throughout the city starting Oct. 13. Voting early will eliminate having to visit two places to cast a vote on Nov. 8. If residents want to cast ballots in person for both elections on Nov. 8, they should plan ahead and know where their polling precinct and voting centers are.

If residents don't mail their early ballots in time and need to drop them off in person, they should go online and find their nearest voting centers and assigned polling places early.

But Romero said, if there is confusion, the ballots won't be thrown out.

"If they happen to drop it off at the wrong place, we're going to make sure it goes to the right place," Romero said. "Everyone's vote will get counted."

Phoenix Union High School District is holding a bond election, and officials are working to post the locations of polling sites and voting centers to keep people informed, said Craig Pletenik, a spokesman for the district.

The district is sending information about the location of all 52 polling locations to all of its schools to inform parents.

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## All Kinds of Motorola Droid Cases

Motorola Droid Phones Silicone Cases

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**TAG ARCHIVES: PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

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### Phoenix school will help assess Superfund site

Posted on [September 2, 2011](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Students from a downtown Phoenix high school will assist the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and residents assess the impact of the old Motorola site in east Phoenix that is polluted with industrial chemicals.

Mary Moore, a longtime resident in the east Phoenix neighborhood most affected by the Motorola chemical leak, is credited with the idea of involving the Bioscience High School in efforts to assess the level of pollution and extent of the damage that even now, 20 years later, the EPA is trying to measure.

“We’re really happy to have them,” said Moore, a representative of the Lindon Park neighborhood.

Science teacher Shoshanna Kroeger said the school is still working out the details of the students’ role in assisting with the EPA’s efforts.

The Phoenix Union High School District school focuses on developing science and math skills so students may be able to quickly start science-related studies in college. The school is a few blocks from the Phoenix Biomedical Campus that is home to the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix and the Arizona State University Downtown Phoenix campus.

Since 1989, EPA has been working to contain and clean up the mess left by what Motorola officials then said was a leaking storage tank. Cleanup and testing initially involved Motorola until 2002 when its spin-off, Freescale Semiconductor, took ownership of the site.

Under the agreement with EPA, Freescale is required to help with testing and cleanup. The company actually handles the cost of the effort, but neither EPA nor the company has disclosed the amount that has been spent on the Superfund site.

Some of the residents who have lived in the Lindon Park area for a decade or more have claimed health problems, but the EPA representatives assigned to the project have repeatedly told them the agency cannot help them because it is difficult, if not impossible, to directly tie their health issues to effects from the chemicals.





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September 22, 2011 10:36 AM EDT

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S&P 500	-27.17		
1,139.59	-2.33%		

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press release

Sept. 22, 2011, 10:00 a.m. EDT

## Scholastic Reports \$50 Million in Sales of READ 180® Next Generation Since Launch in May

New Version of the Country's Most-Studied and Successful Reading Intervention Program Infuses New Technology & Alignments to Common Core State Standards



### PR Newswire

United Business Media

NEW YORK, Sept. 22, 2011 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Scholastic Education announced today that it has sold more than \$50 million of READ 180® Next Generation since the company released the newest version of the premier reading intervention program in May. The latest upgrade to READ 180 is the result of five years of research and development and includes new technology, instruction and content to help make teachers more effective and students more engaged, and state-of the art supports for the Common Core State Standards.



Already, nearly 20% of all school districts using READ 180 have upgraded to "Next Generation" and will begin using it as they go back to school this fall. Some of those districts include the Clark County (Las Vegas) School District, the Phoenix Union High School District, and the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

Based upon research by Dr. Ted Hasselbring of the Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt University, READ 180 first launched in 1999 and, now 12 years later, serves more than one million students every day in schools across the country. More than 40 independent researchers have validated the program's effectiveness over the years.

"With more than a decade worth of research reports and success stories behind it, READ 180 has helped change the trajectory of the lives of countless children and turn around schools and districts that struggled for years to raise reading achievement," said Margery Mayer, President of Scholastic Education. "The school districts we serve expect us to stay on the cutting edge of new technologies. By investing in READ 180 Next Generation, schools are getting new, exciting content that students will love, instruction and training based on the most up-to-date research, and sophisticated technology that is proven to work."

What is READ 180 Next Generation?

Recognizing that raising reading achievement is a responsibility co-owned by teachers, school leaders and students, READ 180 Next Generation includes new tools, instruction and content to support each of those groups.

For teachers, READ 180 Next Generation provides new dashboards to help them become experts on data, differentiating instruction and lesson planning. The dashboard design draws upon user-friendly technologies like those used in online banking to deliver instructional data to teachers anytime/anywhere and helps them sort through it, analyze it and use it to provide targeted instruction that addresses each student's specific needs.

For students, new tools are designed to give them more ownership and accountability over their learning, more motivation to push themselves toward success, and more exciting and relevant content. Student dashboards tap into research on gaming by giving students the ability to more clearly track their progress, see evidence of their success and earn rewards for topping their "personal bests." Rewarding personal achievements and acknowledging individual success is especially motivating for students who have experienced school failure in the past.

For school leaders, Scholastic has created technology that gives school and district leaders

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access to student-by-student, class-by-class and school-by-school data so they can track the success of their READ 180 implementation. They can sign up for e-mail alerts when various progress indicators are achieved and quickly know where their attention is required, and get snapshots of student success from across a school or district.

For families, Scholastic has launched a new Family Portal designed to connect parents to the classroom. The portal is completely bilingual in English and Spanish and contains information and videos to educate parents about how READ 180 works, how their students' progress is measured, and what they can do at home to support their children's literacy.

About READ 180

READ 180 is a comprehensive system of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development that helps schools raise reading achievement for struggling readers in grades 4-12. In READ 180 classrooms, students move in small groups through rotations that include adaptive technology, independent reading and direct, individualized instruction from the teacher. The technology tracks student progress every day, delivering personalized instruction to the student and data to the teacher that makes differentiation easy.

For more information about Scholastic, visit our media room

<http://mediaroom.scholastic.com> .

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## On a Dare

Aviation and aerospace education has for some time now passed the point where it is just a side-bar activity for aviation organizations, businesses and schools. Now, more than ever this is an effort that needs to command all of our attention and resources.

In this issue of the Arizona Aviation Journal, we tell the story of one girl who on a dare discovered a passion for flight. That passion has led to an amazing career that has helped shape the lives of hundreds of students through the Aerospace Program at South Mountain High School.

Although I've been aware of the program at South Mountain for many years, until we set out to cover this story, I hadn't given it much thought. Others certainly have. Each year at the Aviation Safety Advisory Group (ASAG) banquet, someone has stepped up and paid for at least one table so students and faculty could attend. They understand that exposure to aviation events and the people involved is paramount to cultivating our future generation of aviation workers, enthusiasts, pilots, and entrepreneurs.

Similarities exist for sure, however, all of us have our own unique path that has brought us to the industry. Our job is to create more pathways and clear the clutter, to allow more opportunities and fewer impediments for new generations to explore a career or at least to develop an appreciation for aviation and aerospace.

I dare you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Sarah Nilsson Turns Dare Into Aviation Dream

By Claire Stern

In 1993 a young boy dared a girl named Sarah to fly a plane. He didn't think that she could or would do it. She made it her goal to prove him wrong. In fact, that dare sparked a career that has helped shape the lives of hundreds of students.

Dr. Sarah Nilsson is now the department chair of the Aerospace Program at South Mountain High School. The credentials that she carries distinguish her passion for aviation: Ph.D. (Business Administration), MAS (Master of Aeronautical Science), BS (Professional Aeronautics), ATP (Airline Transport Pilot License), CFI (Certified Flight Instructor – airplane single-engine land), CFII (Certified Flight Instructor Instruments), MEI (Multi-Engine Instructor), AGI (Advanced Ground Instructor), and IGI (Instrument Ground Instructor).

Sarah has been flying for the past 17 years and has worked as both a pilot and a flight instructor. At South Mountain High School she has an opportunity to meld it all together and share her passion with her students. "I've got a captive audience. I get paid to talk about aviation all day long. It is a perfect job for me."

South Mountain's Aerospace Program starts its freshmen with a year-long class about aerospace science and history. Students may then decide on a specific track of study: air traffic control, aircraft maintenance or pilot's license. Each track provides students with both classroom and hands-on experience. The air



Student, Chance Banda

traffic control classes include a tower lab and a radar lab; the maintenance classes include working on planes at the Air National Guard; and the pilot's track includes the FAA's ground school class as well as flight school. Seniors spend a month practicing on a flight simulator and during the rest of the year they fly planes at Chandler Municipal Airport.

The school district pays for all the fees, fuel and lessons associated with the program. The students and their parents don't incur any costs. In return, students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average to remain in the program and they cannot have any disciplinary infractions.

The Aerospace Program ensures that students are prepared for



Dr. Sarah Nilsson

whatever they decide to do after graduation, whether they go to college or enter the workforce. In fact, several of the upper level classes are worth college credit.

This school year there are 200 students enrolled in the program. As a magnet school, South Mountain brings many students from across the Valley. The Aerospace Program is so extraordinary that it has attracted students from as far away as Illinois and Hawaii. However, for the many students that come from rough parts of South Phoenix, Sarah says, "Earning their wings leads them to dream bigger... The students mature overnight when they start to fly." The program has produced more than 350 pilots since it began in 1989.

Chance Banda is 17-years-old and a senior on track for his pilot's license. At the end of his junior year Chance was so well prepared for the FAA's 60 question written knowledge test that he 'flew' through it in less than 30 minutes and earned an incredible 90%. Although he's never even been on a plane before, he says he has wanted to become a pilot since he was 7-years-old.

Chance says, "No one thought I could do it, so I am here to prove them wrong." This year he'll not only get on a plane, but he'll fly it and solo in it as he earns his private pilot's license. Right now he's working in a simulator learning the controls, memorizing the plane's manual and interacting with the tower. He appreciates the guidance he receives from his teacher, Dr. Nilsson. "She likes it when we ask questions because she knows we are paying attention."

Chance's goal is to become a Marine Corps pilot and have the Marines pay for his college degree. He credits his parents, his brothers, and his Aerospace Program teachers for his success.

Continued on next page.

# Dare to Dream

Continued from previous page.

“I used to be scared to show my full potential and this program has helped me come out of that.”

Dr. Nilsson says that each of her students is unique and that she learns from them every day. She is a role model to her students in many ways. In fact, Sarah is still a student herself and is in the process of earning her Juris Doctorate. Although she looks forward to practicing aviation law, the law degree will also bring her career full circle. Her love of flight is grounded with her love for her students and Sarah plans to advocate for children – especially teenagers - who may not otherwise have a voice in the legal system.

To think that it all started because of a dare.

*South Mountain High School's Aerospace Program is always looking for guest speakers to introduce students to different aspects of the aviation industry. The program can also use airplane parts, books and supplies.*

*If you are interested in partnering with the program, or know a student who would like to enroll please contact Dr. Sarah Nilsson at [nilsson@phoenixunion.org](mailto:nilsson@phoenixunion.org) or call 602-561-8665.*



Student Michael Webb, left and Nilsson.



The Board of Directors of the Arizona Airports Association met at the Lagado Hotel in Gilbert, site of the upcoming Fall Conference. Pictured above are from left (standing), Mike Hill, Corporate Director, Mike Covalt, Administrative Director, Jordan Feld, 2nd Vice President, Barney Helmick, Executive Director, and Art Fairbanks, Executive Director. Seated from left are, Jennifer Maples, President, Corinne Nystrom, 1st Vice President, Deena Norton, Executive Director and Sandra Kukla, Associate Director.

## SRP customers, schools benefit from state's largest solar plant

Posted: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 2:45 pm

Lori Singleton, guest commentary |

On land once farmed for alfalfa in the middle of fields and new homes, thousands of solar panels sit quietly generating electricity for Salt River Project.

Copper Crossing Solar Ranch, located on the western edge of Florence near Queen Creek in the far southeast Valley, is producing 20 megawatts of solar energy each day – enough to power approximately 3,700 SRP customers' homes. The recently completed facility, Iberdrola Renewables' first solar plant in the United States and the largest in Arizona, contains approximately 66,000 high-efficiency solar panels on 144 acres. Each panel, manufactured by SunPower Corp., uses very little water and tracks the sun throughout the day.

Along with generating a clean source of energy for our customers, the plant also supports SRP's Sustainable Portfolio, a goal set by the SRP Board to meet 20 percent of our retail electricity requirements through sustainable resources by the year 2020. Currently, SRP is ahead of schedule – providing about 7 percent of retail energy needs with sustainable resources, including renewable, conservation, efficiency and pricing measures.

Because solar is a clean energy source, an estimated 575,000 metric tons over the next 25 years will not be emitted into the Valley's air. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, that is equivalent to taking about 4,500 vehicles off the road each year for 25 years.

At SRP, we have developed a program that allows schools and residential customers to invest in this clean, renewable energy source. Through the SRP Community Solar program, more than 100 schools in 11 Valley school districts are tapping into the power of the sun this school year to offset a portion of their electric needs. The school districts have agreed to participate in SRP's new Community Solar program and are among the first customers to receive energy from the plant.

The school districts will purchase a total of 7,840 kilowatts of solar energy from the plant for a fixed price for 10 years. Schools benefit from price certainty as the energy purchased through Community Solar is not subject to other SRP price increases for 10 years.

In addition, SRP is offering education resources to the schools that meet Arizona State Academic Standards through an integrated approach. Along with lesson plans, SRP offers \$350 mini-grants to teachers who receive training on the materials that can be used to purchase hands-on materials to enhance learning.

The following districts are participating in the program:

Chandler Unified School District, East Valley Institute of Technology, Florence Unified School District, Fountain Hills Unified School District, J.O. Combs Unified School District, Kyrene School District, Laveen Elementary School District, Osborn School District, Pendergast Elementary School District, Phoenix Union High School District and Tolleson Elementary School District.

SRP Community Solar also is available to residential customers who want an easy, affordable way to make Arizona's abundant sunshine work for them. Participating residential customers will pay a small premium to offset a portion of their usage with solar energy.

More information about Community Solar is available at [www.srpnet.com/cs](http://www.srpnet.com/cs)

*Lori Singleton is manager of customer program operations for solar, sustainability and telecom at SRP*

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## Volunteers clear way for new habitat at Audubon Center



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by [Connie Cone Sexton](#) - Sept. 24, 2011 12:00 AM

The Arizona Republic

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Much like on a reality show, the participants were divided into teams.

One group began slicing through desert saltbush while another began digging into the ground, tediously relocating rocks no bigger than golf balls. A third group got to install new plants.

The groups eventually rotated tasks. Four hours later, there was no "top team," no monetary prize, just a sense of accomplishment for helping create a wildflower meadow in south Phoenix aimed at attracting pollinating hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

About 60 [volunteers](#) turned out last Saturday to break ground on what will be a demonstration garden of at least 1 acre on the campus of the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center, 3131 S. Central Ave.

Sarah Porter, executive director of the Audubon Center, said protecting migratory birds is critical to keeping flowering species alive. Some birds that are pollinators are migratory.

"They follow bloom cycles, so they're called migratory pollinators," Porter said. "We have a good number of migratory species that move through here."

Rita Jo Anthony, a Valley native-seed expert at Wild Seed Inc., is developing a seed mix for the garden that is specifically aimed at attracting the pollinators, said Cathy Wise, the center's education director.

The hope is that the garden eventually will sprout a variety of blooms - a sort of welcome mat for the pollinators.

It is being created with money from a \$70,000 grant that the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department and Audubon Arizona received to expand public awareness about the need to protect migratory birds.

The grant, from the U.S. [Fish and Wildlife Service](#), will be used to create educational programs encouraging people to understand the need for conservation and habitat improvement and the need to reduce hazards to birds in urban and suburban areas. In addition, the Audubon Center will raise awareness of the pollinators that plants need.

Volunteers will be coming out during the next few months to get the garden growing. Seeds are expected to be planted in the next few weeks, Wise said.

Lane Butler, who is working on her master's degree in plant biology at Arizona State University, was one of last Saturday's volunteers.

"I most look forward to a time when the plants in the garden are installed, blooming and teeming with pollinators," she said. "I'd like to be able to see the looks on the faces of visitors of all ages as they get a chance to experience the beauty and importance of plant-pollinator interactions."

Bruce Marsh, senior director of sustainable development for Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., a Phoenix-based international mining company, wore a hat and a mask as he hacked at the vegetation. He was one of several participants from the company to work on the garden.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for our employees and families to volunteer their time for such a worthy cause and, in the process, learn more about local wildlife and their habitats," he said.

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Yfat Yossifor/The Arizona Republic

Volunteers clean up algae as they break ground for a flower garden at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center in Phoenix.

**More on this topic**

**Audubon garden**

**What:** Work in progress on demonstration garden aimed at attracting pollinating hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

**Where:** Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center, 3131 S. Central Ave. in Phoenix.

**Upcoming workdays:** Volunteers needed 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 15 and Nov. 19. Call 602-468-6470, ext. 109, to sign up.



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## 20 districts in Maricopa County seek bonds, overrides

### They're easier to pass in an off-year election, some say

by **Mary Beth Faller** - Oct. 30, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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Asking voters to approve bonds or overrides in an off-year election can be risky because turnout is typically lower, but 20 school districts in Maricopa County are doing it to help make up for the big drop in state K-12 [funding](#).

"It used to be that overrides were designed to pay for extra things, but now because of cuts in funding, for many districts they're part of their basic survival," said Chuck Essigs, interim executive director of the Arizona School Boards Association.

The Legislature cut \$150 million from K-12 education for 2011-12 - the third funding decrease in a row - and has underfunded the state School Facilities Board, intended to pay for building maintenance, for several years.

In Maricopa County, five school districts are seeking construction bonds and 13 are asking voters to approve overrides.

Two districts - Paradise Valley Unified and Phoenix Union High School - are seeking both a bond and an override. They also have the largest bond measures on the Nov. 8 ballot: \$203 million and \$230 million, respectively.

Some school districts believe that asking voters to consider a tax-related measure is easier in an off-year election. They think they can get the message out when there are few other issues on one ballot.

"What's interesting is that in some districts they feel they do better in an off year because they get people who understand the issue to address it, and others feel better in general-election years, when there's better turnout," Essigs said.

Until last year, school construction bonds historically fared much better in general-election years, according to Judy Richardson, vice president of Stone & Youngberg LLC, a financial-services firm that advises districts.

"Schools had a 100 percent passage rate for even-numbered years going back to 2000," she said. "Last year, 77 percent of bonds were approved."

Statewide, voters approved fewer than half the overrides sought by districts in 2010, Richardson said.

"So you can see the impact of the [financial](#) problems and the state of the economy," she said.

Essigs said the most important task for supporters of district bonds and overrides is to educate voters.

"Whether a general-election year or an off year, the committees need to get voters to understand the issues and vote upon the issues and not based on some rumor they've heard," he said.

The Cave Creek Unified School District governing board considered asking voters to support an override in 2010 but waited until this year. The extra time helped the political-action committee LearnYes to reach out to registered voters and work on garnering support from district parents.

"We weren't ready last year," said Steve Hart, chairman of LearnYes.

For most voters in Cave Creek, the district override is the only issue on the ballot this year, as it is in the parts of Scottsdale that are in the Paradise Valley Unified School District. Paradise Valley is seeking both a construction bond and a capital override.

The other type of override is maintenance and operations, which [funds](#) teachers and academic programs.

Richardson said that historically, pursuing a bond and a capital override on the same ballot has proved less successful than a bond and maintenance and operations override.

“If a district has a bond and an M and O override, it doesn’t seem to have too much impact, but when districts try to pass a bond with a capital outlay override, the definite trend is that voters are more likely to approve the bond but not the capital override.”

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## Arrowhead Grill chef keeps dream alive amid bad economy

by **Barbara Yost** - Oct. 4, 2011 10:53 AM  
Special for The Republic

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Chef Charles Wade Schwerd owes his success to burritos and beef jerky.

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The 1987 Maryvale High School graduate is the son and nephew of two men who moved to the West Valley from Idaho and opened a meat-processing plant. Every day, Chuck Schwerd's Red Steer Meats churns out 14,000 burritos for institutions around Arizona - mostly bean and cheese, and mostly for schools.

"I've always been around food," says Schwerd, now 43 and chef-owner of Glendale's Arrowhead Grill, which celebrated its third anniversary in August.

In a tough economy that began to falter just as Schwerd was getting started, his is one of the rare success stories.

Jeff Larson, Red Steer assistant plant manager, remembers the young man he calls Wade working at the plant 25 years ago.

"He'd clean up for his dad and cook the beans," Larson says.

That work forged a foundation in the food industry.

After high school, Schwerd attended the Scottsdale Culinary Institute, graduating in 1989. His degree led to an internship at the Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix. From there, he earned his chops at the Arizona Biltmore and then as saucier at the Wigwam.

Fine dining was satisfying. The resorts were glamorous. But Schwerd's ambition was to work as a sous chef. Valley restaurateur Paul Fleming (who now owns such [restaurants](#) as Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and P.F. Chang's) gave him that opportunity at the Phoenix steak house he had recently taken over: Ruth's Chris.

Schwerd's friends from culinary school needed him. "It wasn't fine dining," Schwerd says.

But he had found that at resorts and hotels, profits were made in room rates, not the kitchen. When it came to food, frugality was irrelevant. He knew that if he ever wanted to run his own [restaurant](#), he'd have to learn to be fiscally responsible.

Inspired by his father, he did want his own place.

"I was attracted to that independent spirit," he says. The elder Schwerd encouraged him to learn the business side of food. "My dad got it right away."

Today Schwerd considers working for Fleming "the best move I ever made." He stayed with Ruth's Chris in the Valley for five years, then was tapped to open one in La Jolla, Calif. When Fleming sold the business, Schwerd instead cut the ribbon on a Ruth's Chris in Irvine, Calif.

Married to a woman who had been raised in the Valley, Schwerd promised her they would give California a try for three years. If it didn't prove satisfactory, they would move back to be near her family.

In 1999, they moved back, and Schwerd went to work for Mastro's steak houses, where Schwerd enhanced the menu with fresh fish dishes.

Seven years later, Schwerd was on the move again when a difference of opinion caused a break between him and owner Dennis Mastro. Schwerd was off to Denver, this time a divorced man, to open Denver Broncos star John Elway's eponymous steak house.

Schwerd's destiny to have his own place finally led him back home. In 2006, he returned to the West Valley, and with his dad began planning his dream restaurant. Scouting locations, Schwerd looked around east Phoenix and Scottsdale, territory he knew well. But he feared those areas were saturated. The West Valley needed him.

Settling on a spot in Glendale, he says, "was like a homecoming." He opened Arrowhead Grill in August 2008.

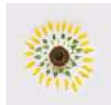
And then the economy took a nosedive.



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## Crafts Call for Artists: Be a Vendor at the Pie Social A.R.T.S. Market

By Claire Lawton Tue., Oct. 11 2011 at 1:17 PM

Categories: Crafts, Events

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Oops. We just drooled.

**Chow Bella & Roosevelt Row** announced their second annual **Pie Social** to benefit Phoenix Union Bio-Science High School arts programs, and this year, they're looking for a few creatives.

In addition to the mass consumption of community and celebrity pies on November 12, the social will include a special **A.R.T.S. Market** for local artists and crafters.



You can read all about the pie-filled event on Chow Bella, but here's a quick rundown: On Saturday, **November 12 from 2 to 5 p.m.**, you can bring a pie (and/or a \$10 donation) to A.R.T.S. Project #1, 408 E. Roosevelt Street, to get five pie-tasting tickets.

There will be a celebrity pie contest with baked goods from Veronica Arroyo / Bourbon Steak; Justin Beckett / Beckett's Table; Tammie Coe / Tammie Coe Cakes; Jessica Cuff / The Coffee Shop; Tracy Dempsey / Tracy Dempsey Originals; Dominic Fasano / Jobot Coffee Shop; Slade Grove / Wicked Bakery; Ella Levinson / Classic Cakes and Confections; Tim & Joan O'Connor / Honey Moon Sweets; Tonya Saidi / Mamma Toledo's Pies & Homemade Desserts; Virginia Senior / Urban Beans; Jennifer Van Inwegen / Creative Butters; Traci Wilbur / Pie Snob.

Arts/craft booths are only **\$25**. Check out the guidebook [here](#) and download the application [here](#).

For more information, visit the [Roosevelt Row website](#) or email [a.r.t.s.market@rooseveltrow.org](mailto:a.r.t.s.market@rooseveltrow.org)

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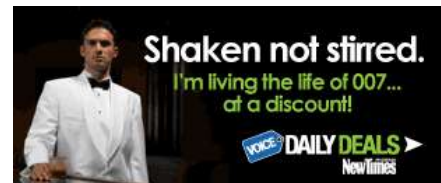
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## Central High's Orbelin Arauja running for more than just glory

by **José E. Garcia** - Oct. 21, 2011 04:02 PM  
The Arizona Republic

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The need to run always is present for cross-country runners.

For Phoenix Central High's Orbelin Arauja, running at midnight in Phoenix was the ideal time to escape from the pressures he faces and to train. Central Avenue belonged to Arauja during those really early morning summer workouts, not to the seedy inner-city things he witnessed along his [route](#).

The unorthodox midnight training regimen worked for different reasons for Arauja, a senior who is down to his final two races of his high school career. First, it helped him prove that he's one of the state's better runners this year.

It also gave him some peace of mind.

"Running clears out my mind," Arauja said.

The slender runner wants to continue training and running for a team next year, but there are some financial obstacles.

Arauja and his coach, Paul Bonnett, are doing all they can to get Arauja into a college. He's got the credentials to continue succeeding at the next level.

At the state's most prestigious regular season meet this year, the Twilight [Festival](#), Arauja took second place in his boys race. He has been passing runners and earning the respect of his team since he was a freshman.

Wanting to get in shape for the winter's high school [soccer](#) season, Arauja joined Central High's cross-country team as a freshman. But the family atmosphere he experienced with Central High's team and the gratification he got from running cross country easily convinced Arauja that he belonged in running shoes, not soccer cleats.

At meets, the amicable senior is known for encouraging his teammates as well as his opponents.

"He's such a fantastic kid," Bonnett said. "It's amazing how hard he works."

But Arauja felt before last year's state meet that opponents wouldn't get to see what he's capable of.

His left side was cramping up, and he also felt that his legs were heavy. Add to that the pressure that comes with a state meet, and Arauja was a mess.

But then he started running, and, as it usually happens for him, everything was back to normal. Arauja crossed the finish in sixth place, a career best for him at a state meet.

He's hoping for a top-3 finish at the sectional and state meets this year. After that, he'll probably start worrying again if he'll get a chance to run for another team.

Luckily for him, Arauja can always run up Central Avenue to clear his mind.

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## Schools, etc.

Education news from the staff of Raising Arizona Kids magazine.

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## Eco-friendly food and table

Posted on [October 5, 2011](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



Students who don't know where their years of education are taking them might want to ask peers at [Metro Tech High School](#) in the Phoenix Union High School District. These students designed, built and operate a fine dining restaurant, The Sustainable Table (pictured above) on campus, integrating green technologies and sustainability into the construction, furnishings and menu.



Students in Construction Technologies did the remodeling and Fashion and Interior Technology students chose the furnishings, lighting and colors. The floor is from recycled milk cartons laid without adhesives. Wood tables and chairs are from sustainable forests.

The tables are from recycled countertops. When the old space was demolished as much of the material was recycled or re-purposed as possible.

Most of the light is from solar tube skylight

throughout, so toxic fumes and unhealthy materials are cucumber, honeydew, lime with a hint of mint.

But a restaurant is for eating and the true test is the



Carpaccio beet salad, honey mustard with micro greens

food. As part of my job, whenever I cover anything involving food, it is my duty to my reader(s) to taste whatever is put in front of me. The gastronomic fact is, the food at The Sustainable Table, prepared by the culinary students, is very good.

What was on the menu? The photos will tell you.

The experience for the students at Metro Tech involved in the project is just as good as the food. The Sustainable Table is just one of 23 sustainability projects at Metro Tech funded by a \$900,000 Science Foundation Arizona grant.

Follow

A campus orchard will ultimately provide figs, apples, citrus, pomegranates and grapes to the restaurant as well as herbs and produce from the garden, which is watered by a rainwater harvesting system.



Pan-seared free range chicken, roasted raspberries, chipotle bulgar, ratatouille with stuffed squash blossom, honey-glazed pecans

“Sustainability projects are an ideal framework for instructional design,” Metro Tech Principal Kate McDonald says. “They provide students an opportunity to collaboratively work on cross-curricular, real-world projects that can present solutions we need in our local and global communities.”

I have a feeling most students aren’t thinking of instructional design or cross-curricular projects. But the real-world part sounds a lot like the better possibility for a job once graduation day arrives.

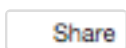
Senior Danh Vu who put together the rainwater capturing system to water the school garden is now a certified rainwater harvesting technician after taking classes from the [Watershed Management Group](#). He has his sights on an engineering degree from Georgia Tech.

*Story and photos by Dan Friedman*



mini-indulgence dessert

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Greg Hansen: After baseball career, DeWald peaked

Greg Hansen Arizona Daily Star Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 12:01 am | Comments

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In August and September, Terry DeWald led a 15-person group to the Swiss Alps, where he made his first ascent to the summit of the Monch (13,474 feet).

When last seen in "Bull Durham," Crash Davis was a career minor-leaguer who found his soul in Durham, N.C., and was en route to Visalia of the California League.

If Kevin Costner's character is Hollywood's working image of the player-to-be-named-later, former UA second baseman and Sunnyside High School coach Terry DeWald became the real thing.

If there is a sequel, it should be titled "Bull Durham II: The Happy Ending."

DeWald played for the Durham Bulls in 1968. "The shower scene in the movie is the same shower we used," he remembers. A year later he was shipped to Visalia, a Mets affiliate, whereupon he hit .307, smacked 10 homers, stole 18 bases and made the California League All-Star team.

His baseball career came crashing down when (a) he tore up his right knee during spring training, and (b) his comeback was scuttled when a bad-hop ground ball shattered his nose and almost killed him.

After 278 games, traded by the Mets to the Indians, DeWald left baseball and began a 40-year odyssey that found him celebrating his 65th birthday last month as a climber's guide in the Swiss Alps.

"When I tore up my knee during a spring training game, the doctor told me I'd be lucky to walk again," DeWald says now. "I've had my knees replaced, one in 2008 and the other in 2009, and now I feel like I've got the legs of a 30-year-old. I've been so active that I'm afraid I might wear out these knees, too."

Arriving at Arizona from Phoenix Camelback High School in the fall of 1964, DeWald wasn't much different from any of those who played for Frank Sancet's powerhouse clubs. He wanted to win the College World Series and become a major-leaguer.

It was the same in 1964 as it is today. It was the same for a 1964 second baseman as it is in 2011 for a UA linebacker, point guard or shortstop. There wasn't much thought given to life after sports.

In that sense, any college or high school coach in this community would do well to give his young men insight into Terry DeWald's life-after-baseball story. Losing baseball didn't stop him. It got him started.

"He was a terrific player; he could do everything. I think he would've kept advancing to the big leagues," says former UA coach Jerry Stitt, who was DeWald's teammate in the '60s. "He always seemed a little bit ahead of the game. He was good at figuring things out."

Once his body was broken, DeWald accepted Sancet's advice, got a master's degree and was hired as a teacher and coach at Sunnyside. His interests went far beyond baseball. DeWald is the son of a Time-Life journalist who wrote and took photographs for the Arizona Republic. His mother was employed at the Heard Museum, a jewel of Native American culture.

After baseball, DeWald's life evolved from coach/teacher to that of a man who has become one of the world's foremost collectors and dealers of Pima, Apache and Navajo baskets, artwork and textiles. He is a consultant for prominent auction houses, and an appraiser and lecturer for museums, galleries and national parks.

Off the job, DeWald exchanged baseball for mountain climbing and hiking. His working theory comes from Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can, or think you can't, you're right."

DeWald can. He speaks of climbing the Matterhorn as if he climbed "A" Mountain.

In August and September, he led a 15-person party from the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch to the Swiss Alps, where he climbed the inestimable Eiger (13,025 feet) for the second time and made his first ascent to the summit of the Monch (13,474 feet), both among the highest points in Europe.

"It's not like we're supermen," he says modestly. "A lot of people have climbed the Monch. But it's exhilarating nonetheless."

A lot of people have died climbing the Eiger and the Monch, too, including a pair of climbers a few days before DeWald's group launched its assault on the majestic Alps.

DeWald's most noted piece of local climbing came in 1977 when he became the first man known to traverse the Rincons and Catalinas, scaling every peak, on a three-day, 90-mile, mid-winter excursion. He so enjoyed being in the mountains that his climbing escalated from the Rincons and Baboquivari Peak to Yosemite and the Tetons. And, finally, to the Swiss Alps.

The old ballplayer has made quite a mark wearing a different set of cleats.

"As I look back, one of the greatest things that ever happened to me was traveling from city to city as a minor-league ballplayer," he says. "You not only got to play ball, you got to see different cities and different cultures. It piqued my interest. I discovered there was so much more out there besides baseball. I wanted to see as much of it as I can."

Last month, standing at the top of the Swiss Alps, Terry DeWald could almost see forever - or at least as far as he has come since his days as a Durham Bull.

Contact Greg Hansen at 573-4362 or [ghansen@azstarnet.com](mailto:ghansen@azstarnet.com)

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# Letter grades for 1,550 schools in Arizona

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 12:36pm MST - Last Modified: Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 2:00pm MST

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Angela Gonzales

Senior Reporter - *Phoenix Business Journal*

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The Arizona Department of Education has released its new letter grading system for ranking schools in an effort to hold them more accountable for student improvement.

[To see the letter grades of 1,550 schools in Arizona, click here.](#)

As a result of legislation, the state developed a new system for measuring academic achievement for schools that uses a different formula than it has under the original "legacy" labels, which include Underperforming, Performing, Performing Plus, Highly Performing and Excelling. These legacy labels will be phased out and replaced by an "A" through "F" score based on criteria that measures student academic growth on the AIMS test.

A school that typically has been an Excelling school may end up with a "B" because that school did not show enough academic growth among its students.

That's exactly what happened to the Bioscience High School, which has been Excelling every year under the old achievement profiles. It received a B under the new grading system.

**Kent Scribner**, superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District, said it is difficult to show academic growth for students who already are starting out at

the 95th percentile of student achievement.

**Eileen Sigmund**, president of the [Arizona Charter Schools Association](#), said charter schools fared pretty well under the new letter grading system.

Only half of Arizona's 524 charter schools received letter grades, she said. Many of those smaller schools that did not receive the letter grades this year will be phased in later. In addition, several charter schools are alternative schools designated by Arizona statutes to take students who are juvenile delinquents. They are held to different accountability standards, she said.



Nearly 80 percent of charter schools earned an average letter grade or better, she said. Of those, more than 70 percent received an A or B.

Crunching the numbers further, 25 percent of the charter schools received an A, while 18 percent of the school district schools received an A.

[To see a video describing the new school achievement labels, click here.](#)

Pick up Friday's print edition of the *Phoenix Business Journal* for more coverage of the new grading system.

Angela Gonzales covers health, biotech and education.

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Local YouTube Sensation George Lindell Talks Internet Fame, Kari Lake, and How Reality Hits You Hard, Bro

By Benjamin Leatherman Thu., Oct. 6 2011 at 9:00 AM

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Benjamin Leatherman

George Lindell poses in front of his smashed Astro Van.

Getting into a car accident was probably the best thing that ever happened to **George Lindell**.

After the 46-year-old local house painter was involved a nasty wreck in North Phoenix last month, he provided an extremely over-the-top interview to FOX 10 that's been described as the "best crazy car accident description" ever.

In case you haven't seen it, Lindell's recounting of the wreck was ultra-energetic and extremely animated, peppered with phrases like "Bam!", "Foom!", and "Wham!" Plus, he uttered the statement that's become his catchphrase: "Reality hits you hard, bro."

As with any sort of wacky TV broadcast, it was posted on YouTube, went viral, and scored thousands of hits. (As of this writing, it's been viewed more than 285,000 times.)

YouTube video artists **The Gregory Brothers** also saw Lindell's rant and used it for an episode of their popular "Songify This!" series.

As a result, Lindell's become the Valley's latest Internet celebrity. He's appeared on FOX 10 several times, been featured on a few local radio stations, and his friends are trying to land him some endorsement deals and commercial work.

**Jackalope Ranch** recently spoke with Lindell about his over-the-top personality and rise to fame ...

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**What's your reaction to becoming an YouTube sensation?**

It's been so cool man, I'd been living in my damn van.

**Really?**

Yeah, because of the stupid economy. I managed to find a little place since then. It's an apartment below a dude's house and the bank recently repo'd the house, so he's telling me I gotta get out now. Dude, it sucks.

**What's your background?**

I grew up here in Phoenix and went to Maryvale High School. I've been a house painter since I was 11 years old. And I'm good at it. Damn good at it. And I like to do it. I like to work at least 50 hours a week. I can do anything that has to do with paint. I'm an expert on color.

**What did you do after high school?**

I had to go right into painting. My dad was a painter and because my dad had a lot of kids, everyone needed to work.

**When did you start drumming?**

I started drinking when I was 5. Oh yeah, I started playing drums when I was 11 (laughs).

**Okay, when did you start drinking, then?**

When I was 5. Whatever I could steal out of the refrigerator (laughs). It was easy man. I was good at getting whatever I wanted. I could smile at my mom and in the meantime I could be stealing candy right out of the cabinet. I could always trick my mom into anything. I was on the nipple until I was like four years old. Shit, I was smart baby. I was a genius when I was a baby. My dad used to buy six packs of Coors in cans and a lot of time it wound up on the bottom shelf, and so I'd sneak 'em past while my mom was cooking.

**Have you always been an excitable guy?**

I've always had a lot of energy. People think I'm really crazy. But I don't care. I'm a crazy guy. My IQ is like 145. But like my friends, say I like to water the grass when it's raining. My whole family is a bunch of crazies.

**What were you thinking during the car accident?**

I was at a job, setting up everything, getting ready to spray, and I didn't have an extension cord. I left my damn extension cord at home. So as I was going home I was also debating about maybe getting something to eat. So I thought, "Albertson's kinda sounds good. Boston Market sounds even better, but Albertson's kinda has a lot bigger..." BAM! Never saw it coming.

**So was the other driver cited?**

Who knows. The insurance company doesn't want to pay me. They said that the guy who hit me claims his brakes went out, so they don't have to pay me. It sucks, bro.

**How's your car?**

It's a thing of beauty. The doors are all smashed. It's in front of my friend's house.

**Did you ever watch the old Batman TV series, which had plenty of "bam's" and "pow's"?**

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I did watch *Batman*. I thought *Batman* was cool when I was a kid. I probably wouldn't like it as much today if I looked at it.

**Did the YouTube video blow up immediately?**

It went viral right away. There were something like a couple hundred thousand hits in the first three hours. Everybody started playing it right away.



**How long did it take for the Gregory Brothers to create their video?**

They had that thing out in a week. The way that they put together that video was great. It was catchy, hooky, and artistic. Everything they've did was pure art. I'd never even heard of them before. I'd never really watched YouTube before. I don't even have a YouTube account. My internet is so freaking cheap [that] I can't get video. I have that \$40 Cricket Wireless thing that you plug into the computer.

**Who told you about their video?**

Kari Lake on FOX 10 News called me and she told me. She must've been the first to find out. They were doing interviews with the Gregory Brothers. Kari Lakes loves me, she's already called me like five or six times. She tells me everything and she's helping me find lawyers, people to help me.

**So you're selling t-shirts with your catchphrase "Reality Hits You Hard, Bro." How else are you trying to capitalize on your fame?**

My friends are helping me get into commercials or get endorsement deals. They're talking to a publicist and everything. I'd really like to do a Miller Lite commercial. Or a commercial for an accident lawyer. Like, "Hi, I'm George Lindell. Reality hits you hard, bro." It could be fun.

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LOCAL NEWS BY EXAMINER STAFF

## Nancy Navarro joins Shakira on Obama commission

By: Rachel Baye | 10/05/11 5:07 PM

Examiner Staff Writer

Montgomery County Councilwoman Nancy Navarro, D-Eastern County, will join Colombian pop singer Shakira on President Obama's advisory commission on Hispanic education, the White House announced Wednesday.

Head of the Montgomery County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy committee, Navarro previously served on the county Board of Education.

Also named to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics Wednesday were Kent Scribner, superintendent of Phoenix's Union High School District #210, and Adrián Pedroza, executive director of the grassroots, community-based activism organization Partnership for Community Action.


Navarro did not return requests for comment.

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United Press International-Wednesday, October 05, 2011



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WASHINGTON, Oct 5, 2011 (UPI via COMTEX) -- U.S. President Barack Obama has appointed music star Shakira and three others to the President's Advisory Commission on Education Excellence for Hispanics.

Shakira - whose full name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll - is a Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, record producer and dancer. The president also appointed Nancy Navarro, member of the Montgomery County (Md.) Council; Adrian A. Pedroza, executive director of the Partnership for Community Action; and Phoenix Union High School District Superintendent Kent Scribner to the commission.

"I am grateful that these impressive individuals have chosen to dedicate their talents to serving the American people at this important time for our country. I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," Obama said in a statement released Wednesday by the White House.

[www.upi.com](http://www.upi.com)

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This was printed from Phoenix Business Journal

# Obama picks Phoenix Union's Kent Scribner for Hispanic education post

Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 11:18am MST

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Senior Reporter - *Phoenix Business Journal*

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President **Barack Obama** has selected **Kent Scribner**, superintendent of the Phoenix Union High School District, to serve on the President's Advisory Commission for Hispanic Education.

Scribner will travel to Washington to attend his first meeting and swearing-in ceremony Oct. 6-7.

Scribner joins a select group of educational leaders nationwide who will work with White House staff, the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies to address the unique educational challenges faced by Hispanics. The commission, originally established by **George H.W. Bush** in 1990, includes representatives from early childhood education, K-12, colleges and universities as well as philanthropic foundations, nonprofit and community-based organizations.

Scribner, 45, is now in his fourth year leading the 26,000-student, 16-school Phoenix Union district. He served as superintendent of the Isaac Elementary District in Phoenix for five years prior to his post with the Phoenix Union High School District.

Scribner is transforming the urban district from focusing simply on high school graduation, to an emphasis on increased rigor and college- and career-readiness.

Under his watch, honors and advanced placement student participation has doubled — increasing by more than 1,000 students.

This year, Phoenix Union will be among the first districts in Arizona to pilot student performance-based teacher and principal evaluation systems.

Angela Gonzales covers health, biotech and education.



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### **Phoenix schools chief named to U.S. panel on Hispanic education issues**

by [Maria Polletta](#) on Oct. 07, 2011, under [Arizona Republic News](#)

President Barack Obama has chosen Phoenix Union High School District Superintendent Kent Scribner to serve on the national Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

The commission, established in 1990, is made up of educational leaders from throughout the U.S. who “have a history of leadership and involvement with the Hispanic community,” according to the district. Members work with White House staff, the U.S. Department of Education and other agencies to tackle educational challenges faced by Hispanic students.

This is Scribner’s fourth year as superintendent of PUHSD, where almost 80 percent of students are Hispanic.

Scribner, 45, also has served on the Arizona School District Redistricting Commission and worked with the Arizona Business and Education Coalition. He received the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award in 2008. Scribner was sworn in Thursday in Washington, D.C.

This entry was posted on Friday, October 7th, 2011 at 12:00 am and is filed under [Arizona Republic News](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

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## Phoenix schools chief named to U.S. panel on Hispanic education issues

by **Maria Polletta** - Oct. 7, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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## Phoenix schools' night classes gaining popularity

by **Maria Polletta** - Oct. 9, 2011 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

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At 12:45 p.m., the school day at Trevor G. Browne High School is more than half over for most students. But 18-year-old Ali Alcocer's classes are just beginning.

Alcocer, a senior, attends school from 12:45 to 6:50 p.m. after working at a Phoenix glass factory from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"It works for me, because I actually get to sleep for a few hours," Alcocer said during a physical-science class, the fourth evening class he's taken at Trevor Browne since its night-school program began last year.

The high school, 7402 W. Catalina Drive, is one of eight in the Phoenix Union High School District offering non-traditional scheduling. The uptick is significant, according to Phoenix Union spokesman Craig Pletenik, since "just a few years ago, there were only about two or three schools that had evening school."

More than 900 Phoenix Union students are enrolled in at least one evening class.

The popularity of evening school has surged throughout the district as school officials have found that "sometimes the traditional schedule just doesn't work out for certain students," according to Manuel Silvas, assistant principal of registration at Trevor Browne. "The flexibility of these schedules keep them on track, or get them back on track," he said.

Non-traditional schedules cater to students who have scheduling difficulties due to jobs or children, students with academic or behavioral issues, students who need to retake classes or advanced students who want to graduate early. The program also helps English-language learners, who have to spend part of their school day in state-mandated English instruction, keep up with their other classes.

Some students attend only night school, like Alcocer. Others, such as Trevor Browne sophomore Nayely Tapia, 15, do a full day of traditional school followed by night classes to catch up on credits. Four days a week, Tapia is in school from roughly 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"It's a long day," Tapia said. "At first, I didn't like it. But I'm getting used to it and it's less stressful now because I don't have to worry about how I'm going to get my credits back," she said.

Night-school classes are typically core subjects, such as English or science, though some schools also offer prep classes for Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards test. Just like the students, some teachers are devoted entirely to the evening-school schedule, and others teach a mix.

Counselors help students sign up for classes and personalize their schedules. Students can register to attend either one or two three-hour blocks each day, Monday through Thursday.

Intense six-week semesters allow students to make up time and credits. But the chief benefit of the shortened semester - packing three normal classes worth of information into one evening-class session - can be a problem.

Several teachers and administrators said it can be almost impossible for a student to catch up after missing just a few days of night school, so schools must have strict attendance policies.

Still, most students take night classes seriously, according to Jim Gregory, a math teacher at Cesar Chavez High School who has been teaching evening school since 1990. And Pletenik credits evening school with "helping our schools retain students, give them more options, decrease dropouts and improve our graduation rates," he said.

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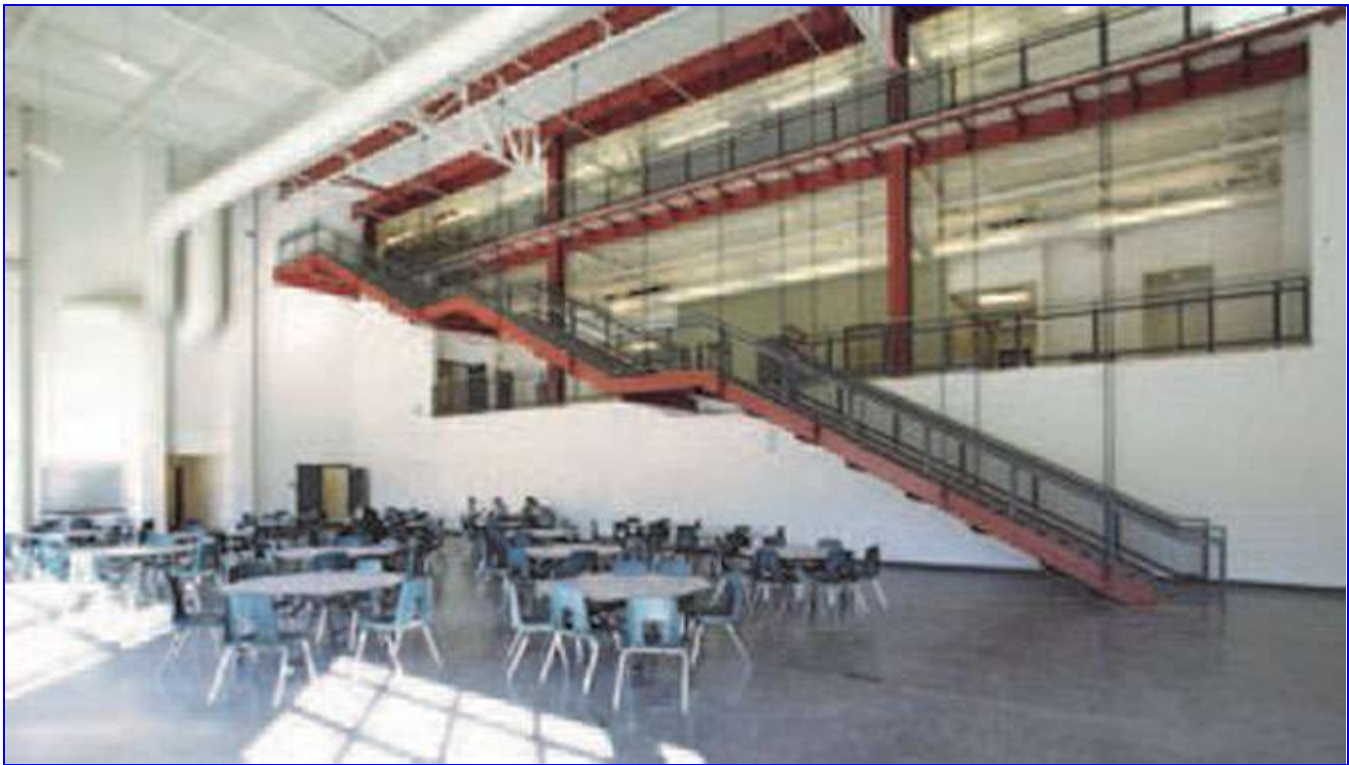
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# Phoenix Union Bioscience High School

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Comic Steve allen started in radio in Phoenix.

**Bill Mauldin**

He joined the Arizona National Guard and was soon serving in World War II. He became beloved by GIs for his cartoons of foot soldiers Willie and Joe. Mauldin died in 2003.

### **Steve Allen**

A graduate of Phoenix Union High, Allen started his broadcast career at KOY radio in Phoenix. A comedian, author and composer, he was the original host of "The Tonight Show." Allen died in 2000.

### **Bil Keane**

He moved to Paradise Valley in 1959 and within months launched the "Family Circus" comic strip.

### **Erma Bombeck**

This Paradise Valley resident's column on housekeeping and families was wildly popular for 30 years. To wit, on the topic of dirty ovens: "If it won't catch fire today, clean it tomorrow." She died in 1996.

### **Dick Wick Hall**

His columns in the Saturday Evening Post in the early 1920s made famous the town he co-founded - Salome (near Wickenburg). He died in 1926.

- Selected by Bobbie Jo Buel, editor

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Posted in Best-of-az on *Sunday, October 30, 2011 12:00 am* Updated: 9:22 am.

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### Valley high school students learn about Afghan war

by Bob McClay/KTAR (October 7th, 2011 @ 5:53am)

PHOENIX -- Many students at Phoenix's Alhambra High School were just five years old when President George W. Bush ordered American troops into Afghanistan. Ten years later, those students are learning about the war from history teacher Clay Jones.

Jones says he has to explain a lot of the terms associated with the war.

"They've heard the word insurgent. They've heard the word Al Qaeda. They've heard the word Taliban. But as far as the definitions of those words and how they work together and (putting the pieces together) for the war in Afghanistan, kids understanding of what's going on can be anywhere from 'not much' to 'I've just heard those terms before.'"

Jones tells the students that the war started as part of America's efforts to find Osama bin Laden after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

When they ask him whether the war is worth fighting for, Jones uses a quote from former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "Is it worth going and putting out that fire before it comes to our house?"

Jones says the answer is, "Sure it is. Absolutely."

Students who may be considering a military career apparently have the war in Afghanistan on their minds. Jones says they are weighing the possibility that they may have to serve on the front lines..

"It makes that decision more poignant," Jones said.

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## What's up with . . . former Suns guard Gerald Brown

by **Richard Obert** - Oct. 25, 2011 07:16 PM  
The Arizona Republic

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### Gerald Brown

**Age:** 36.

**Personal::** Lives in Buckeye with [wife](#) and two daughters.

**Then:** The 6-foot-4 point guard led Phoenix Carl Hayden to the Class 5A basketball championship in 1993 when the Falcons went 29-1. He later played at Pepperdine, had a 33-game stint in 1999 with the Suns, and played on a two-week, nine-game tour with the Harlem Globetrotters' competition team, playing against major-college teams..

**Now:** He is winding down a long overseas professional career, saying this could be his last season as he awaits a contract. He played in Argentina last year. Once he's done playing, he plans to start a basketball skills developmental program for players of all ages and skill levels.

**Question:** What are some of the strangest things you've seen playing overseas?

**Answer:** Other than some weird-looking [foods](#) or weirdly dressed people, it would have to be some of the fans. Some of the European teams' fans literally would die for their team. I've always thought that fighting or becoming violent over a sport was a bit strange. I'm aware that we do have those types of fans here in the states, but it seems more of the norm in some other countries.

**Q:** What did you learn from the Suns experience?

**A:** Learning how to be professional was the most important thing I learned from my time with the Suns. Knowing what it takes to be a professional basketball player has been vital to my career and its longevity.

**Q:** How special was it be chosen to [play](#) for the Globetrotters?

**A:** Playing for the Globetrotters was cool. I played on the Globetrotters' competition team, so I didn't get the opportunity to learn any tricks. One of the coolest things during that tour had to be the uniforms.

**Q:** What do you recall most from your high school days?

**A:** Besides winning a state championship are my friends. I was fortunate enough to make friends with some people who I'm still good friends with today. Some were schoolmates and some were teachers/coaches. Great times I had at Carl Hayden High School.

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Four receive Western Legends awards

By Carol Broeder/Arizona Range News

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Four more legends were honored in Willcox the Friday of Rex Allen Days during the Third Annual Western Legends Awards.

Three of them were presented to men with ties to Arizona - Don Collier, Ron Nix, and the late Stan Jones.

The fourth honoree was Dan Haggerty.

"We're gathered here to pay tribute to the great state of Arizona as it celebrates its centennial, and to honor four remarkable men and their equally remarkable careers: cowboys, actors, songwriters, stuntmen, and musicians," said emcee Charlie Le Sueur, adding, "Pioneers all..."

Composer, songwriter, and actor Stan Jones was born June 5, 1914, he told the audience.

During his career, Jones wrote more than 200 songs, 100 of which were released.

Le Sueur told the audience gathered last Friday evening the story of Jones' life.

He learned to ride horses as a child, "a skill that came in handy later in his life; as did his talent for singing and playing the guitar," Le Sueur said.

He attended the University of California at Berkley for a time, then join the Navy, and after his discharge, held a variety of jobs all over the country," he said.

As a U.S. Forest Service forest ranger in 1948, he was stationed in Death Valley, Calif. Jones was assigned as technical advisor for a Western called, "The Walking Hills," that was being filmed in the area.

"In between filming, he would sit around with cast and crew and play various songs he had written," said LeSueur, adding, "They encouraged him to try to get the songs published, which he did..."

"It was when he was in Death Valley that the future 34-year-old songwriter went on to write what has been called one of the biggest Western hits of all time, 'Ghost Riders in the Sky,' he told the audience.

"Though recorded by many, it was the version recorded by Vaughn Monroe which became a major hit," said Le Sueur adding, "So much so that cowboy actor Gene Autry capitalized on the song's popularity - featuring it in the 1949 movie 'Riders in the Sky.'"

Jones appeared as a singing cowboy, along with Boyd Stockman, Kermit Maynard, Sandy Sanderson, and Cactus Mack.

(Taylor Curtis 'Cactus Mack' Mc Peters was a cousin to Rex Allen Sr., and grandfather of Julie Ream, producer of the Western Legends Awards.)

Jones wrote the movie's score, "and in it, performed his rendition of 'Streets of Laredo,' which went on to become a hit by another famous Arizona Cowboy - our own Rex Allen," said Le Sueur.

While Jones was in Hollywood visiting a friend, actors George O'Brien and Harry Carey, Jr. arranged for him to meet acclaimed



Four (in photos - Don Collier, Dan Haggerty, Ron Nix and Stan Jones) receive Willcox Western Legends awards: Keeter Stuart performs at the awards ceremony honoring his great uncle, Stan Jones. (Carol Broeder/ARN)

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Western director John Ford, he said.

"This led to a lasting friendship between the feisty director and the gentlemanly Jones," said Le Sueur, adding that Jones' songs were used in two 1950s Westerns directed by Ford, "Wagon Master" and "Rio Grande."

"Jones also wrote songs for Ford's classic, 'The Searchers' and introduced the Sons of the Pioneers to Ford, who would use them in many of his Westerns," he told the audience.

"In 1951, Autry again made a movie based on another of Stan's songs, 'Whirlwind,' in which Stan also had a small part," said Le Sueur, adding, "His songs were used in a half-dozen more films over the next few years."

In 1955, Carey, Jr., was hired by Walt Disney for a television series called, "The Adventures of Spin and Marty," he said.

Carey, who had worked with Jones on both "Wagon Master" and "Rio Grande," suggested to Disney that Stan be hired to write songs for the show - "a suggestion Disney followed," Le Sueur told the audience.

In 1956, Jones was hired to play Deputy Olson on the modern-day Western series, "Sheriff of Cochise," later re-named "U.S. Marshal," writing the theme song and even some episodes of the show.

In 1959, he again worked for Ford, writing songs for his Western "The Horse Soldiers," and playing the part of Ulysses S. Grant.

Jones' last role was in 1960 in the movie "Ten Who Dared," with Brian Keith and James Drury.

"He died an untimely death in Los Angeles Dec. 13, 1963, at the age of 49, and was buried at Julia Page Memorial Park in his hometown, Douglas, Arizona," said LeSueur.

"His death was too soon and left too many songs unwritten," he said.

"In 1997, Jones was inducted posthumously into the Western Music Hall of Fame, and tonight will be honored again as he becomes a 2011 Western Legends Award honoree," he said.

Keeter Stuart, whom LeSueur called "a wonderful musician in his own right," said he was proud to accept the award on behalf of his great uncle.

Earlier in the evening, Stuart performed one of Jones' songs, "Burro Lullaby," which he explained, "Stan wrote when he was a Forest Ranger at Death Valley."

Stuart said that while Jones was probably most famous for "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "Burro Lullaby was his favorite song because of his time with his wife Olive in Death Valley."

Another honoree, stuntman Ron Nix, was unable to attend the awards that evening "due to a family commitment," but was able to arrive in Willcox in time for the Rex Allen Days Parade the next morning.

Le Sueur told the audience that Nix "has had a long career as a stuntman and actor."

A Phoenix native, Nix "remains a loyal resident today," said Le Sueur, adding that Nix was a member of the Carl Hayden High School Class of 1961 - its second graduating class.

"Ron started his career at Apacheland - a famous Arizona studio and attraction - where fresh out of high school he worked alongside now famous Western actors such as Peter Brown and Doug McClure," he said.

Nix worked in several films such as "Riders in the Storm," "Natural Born Killers," "Bad Jim," with Jim Brown, "Murphy's Romance," with James Garner, "Charro" with Elvis, "Trial of Billy Jack" and "White Line Fever" with Jan Michael Vincent," he said.

Throughout his career, Nix has appeared in several television series, such as "Young Riders," "Bonanza," "High Chaparral," and "Death Valley Days," said Le Sueur, adding that Nix also appeared in several commercials.

"His experience not only covers over 30 years as a stuntman, actor, stunt coordinator and assistant director, he has also lent his talents to set design and special effects," he told the audience.

Nix built and owned "Cowtown," a Western film location in Northwest Phoenix, for more than 20 years.

"Ron and his wife of almost 50 years still live and work in Phoenix," said Le Sueur.

"He is the proud recipient of the International Clío and Golden Reel Awards and is proud to be adding the 2011 Western Legends Awards to his collection," he said.

Accepting the award on behalf of Nix, was Barb Hutteringer.

The third honoree with ties to Arizona is Don Collier.

"It's appropriate that Don is getting the Western Legends Award here in Willcox tonight," said Le Sueur, calling Collier "a proud Arizona resident for the past 28 years."

"Arizona brought him his biggest claim to fame-his role as Sam Butler, the foreman of 'The High Chaparral,' which was filmed at Old Tucson Studios," he said.

"Don's career has been extensive, and from the very beginning it was obvious that this was a man meant for Westerns. Of the 200-plus appearances in movies and TV, three-quarters of them have been set in the Old West."

Collier's first film was "Western Massacre River" in 1948, followed by "Davy Crockett," "Indian Scout," and "Fort Apache" with John Wayne.

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"Don later appeared in three other films with the Duke and with other Western legends such as Audie Murphy and James Arness," said Le Sueur, adding, "His commanding and very recognizable voice usually has him portraying a sheriff or marshal, as in his starring role in the TV series, 'Outlaws' in the early 1960s."

"Western fans will have seen him on every popular TV show back when Westerns ruled the airways - "Bonanza," "Gun Smoke," "Death Valley Days," "Wagon Train," "The Virginian" and "Branded."

"He's still going strong - working in movies, doing commercials and voiceovers, and a weekly radio show," he said.

Julie Ream accepted the award on behalf of Collier.

Another recipient that evening was Dan Haggerty, whom Le Sueur described as "loved by one and all."

"Husky and hirsute, actor Dan Haggerty is best remembered for playing the title character in the popular television outdoor adventure series "The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams," he told the audience.

"Dan grew up in Southern California and the muscle beach scene," Le Sueur said.

"It was at his family's small wild animal attraction that he learned the family business of animal training - an experience which led to his later success in the movies."

After graduating high school, Haggerty became a movie stuntman and animal handler, also working as a set builder, he told the audience.

"His ease working with animals got him work as a trainer and handler for Walt Disney films, and he worked as a stuntman on Ron Ely's TV show, 'Tarzan,'" LaSeuer said.

Haggerty appeared in countless productions, including David Carradine's film, "Americana," the film classic "Easy Rider," "Grizzly Mountain," "Repo Jake," and "Big Stan," he said.

He had early roles in the films "Muscle Beach Party," and Elvis Presley's "Girl Happy."

"It was his grizzled good looks and winning personality that led him to his most memorable role -- that of the easy going outdoorsman in the independent classic, 'The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams,' which led to the 1997 TV show of the same time," said Le Sueur, describing it as "the role Dan is best remembered - and best recognized for to this day."

Haggerty has many philanthropic causes to which he lends "his time, his work, and his famous name," he said. He is the spokesman for Young Adventures, Angel Flights, and the Lady Bug Ranch Project.

His awards include the "Humanitarian of the Year" award, the "People's Choice Award, a star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a star in Kanab, Utah's "Hollywood of the West," said Le Sueur.

Haggerty's close friend Duane McCoy accepted on his behalf.

At the close of the awards ceremony, singer Johnny Western, who Le Sueur described as a "music legend," performed "Ghost Riders in the Sky," written by Jones.

Prior to his performance, Western told the audience, "Stan was my song writing mentor. I never would have written 'Palladin' without this song. It's the greatest cowboy song ever written."

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