



Hamilton celebrates literature and culture of African diaspora

The public is invited to the second annual African-American Read at the Hamilton Library from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.

This community reading event is intended to shine a spotlight on African-American authors, promote diversity and encourage young people to read. This year, look forward to children and adult authors, a presentation on the history of hip-hop, storytellers and more. Storyteller Marilyn Torres will share

stories from the African diaspora. Jerome Dotson will present the history of hip-hop, and Donald Guillory will read from his new book, "The Token Black Guide: Navigations through Race in America." Snacks are provided, and books will be raffled off.

This program is sponsored by the City of Chandler Diversity Office. The Hamilton Library is located at 3700 S. Arizona Ave. For more information, call 480-782-2800.



Registration to open soon for Girl Scout camps

The Girl Scouts - Arizona Cactus-Pine Council is revving up for this year's camp registration, which will open Feb. 1.

With the recent addition of the Parsons Leadership Center for Women and Girls at Camp South Mountain, Girl Scouts - Arizona Cactus-Pine Council is proud to offer four camps, each of which is unique to accommodate the diverse interests of every girl. However, despite their differences, each camp's purpose remains the same—to provide a place where girls learn new things about themselves, their fellow campers and the outdoors in an environment that is as adventuresome as it is educational.

All four camps offer a variety of programs that vary from day and overnight camps to three-week-long adventures. These camps take place over nine weeks throughout the summer. The first camp will begin June 4 and the season wraps up with the last camp starting on July 28.

"Girl Scout camps are about getting outdoors, making new friends and building girls' self-confidence all while helping them grow as leaders," said Melissa Tomquist, public relations and communications coordinator of the local council.

"These camps provide the girls with a safe environment where they don't have to be self-conscious to try new things. The memories made at camp last forever. In fact, I'm still friends with the girls I went to camp with."

The four camps include Camp Maripal that consists of short hiking trails and

offers horseback riding lessons, helping campers to grow their riding ability. Shadow Rim Ranch, where the programs focus more on experiencing outdoor adventures such as ziplining through the forest and canoeing on "The Pale." Willow Springs is a modern program center that emphasizes artistic endeavors such as ceramics class and auditioning for the theatrical play; Parsons Leadership Center for Women and Girls at Camp South Mountain, located in Phoenix, focuses more on academics, offering STEM-related activities and sports programs.

Open houses have been scheduled at each of the four camps:

- Camp Maripal: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and noon to 4 p.m. June 3 at 201 E. Maripal Rd. in Prescott.
- Shadow Rim Ranch: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 28 at 510 N. Shadow Rim Rd. in Payson.
- Willow Springs: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 3 at 773 Camp Willow Springs Rd. in Prescott.
- Parsons Leadership Center for Women and Girls at Camp South Mountain: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. June 4, and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 4 at 1611 E. Dobbins Rd. in Phoenix.

Registration offers tiered pricing is on a first-come, first-served basis. Girls who are not Girl Scouts are welcome to register for any camp for an additional fee. To sign up, please visit <http://www.girlscoutsaz.org/en/camps/how-to-sign-up.html>.

CCYSA to host community forum on opioid epidemic.

As a follow up to the "Hooked RX: From Prescription to Addiction" documentary produced by the ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism (that aired on Jan. 10), the Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse is hosting a community event to interact and respond. The event will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Chandler City Council Chambers (88 E. Chicago St.).

Learn about the prescription drug epidemic facing the community and what is being done to combat this issue:

- Action steps being launched
- Getting help for those in need
- How the community can help
- Sharing ideas for further action
- The event will feature:
 - Experts from the prevention/treatment/medical fields
 - Panel of experts to share and answer questions
 - Resource agencies on-hand

There were 579 million class II-IV pills (painkillers) prescribed in AZ in 2014. That's enough to medicate every person in Arizona round-the-clock for two weeks. The Centers for Disease Control have classified prescription drug abuse as a national epidemic.

About 7.6% of youth in Chandler reported using prescription drugs in the last 30 days and the average for the state is 6.3%. Arizona ranks 12th highest in the nation for individuals 12 years and older misusing and abusing prescription drugs.

Become a part of the solution. CCYSA is calling community leaders, educators, faith-based leaders and the community at-large to attend and participate in this important dialogue.

For more information about the program, contact Ted Huntington at 480-874-8214-4207 or ted@icanaz.org.

The Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse (CCYSA), founded by ICAN in 2005, is made up of Chandler youth, parents and city officials who work to educate the community about the dangers of substance abuse. For more information, visit ccysachandler.org.

ICAN is a free youth center in the East Valley that offers programming for youth, teens, families and the community. ICAN's nationally recognized prevention programming teaches disadvantaged youth real-life skills including goal setting, positive decision making and how to avoid the risky behaviors that are prevalent in the community ICAN serves.



ICAN's evidence-based programming equips youth to achieve personal and academic success. Parenting classes and substance abuse education complete

ICAN's programming, impacting the entire community. For more information about ICAN, call 480-821-4207 or visit icanaz.org.