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Sarah Brightman

The world-renown classical crossover soprano famous for originating the role of Christine Daae in "The Phantom of the Opera" performs in Phoenix.
DETAILS >> 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30. Comerica Theatre, 400 W. Washington, Phoenix. \$61-\$150.50. (602) 379-2888 or livenation.com.

'Boo'tiful Messy Creations

Hesitant to give your 2-year-old a container of finger paint and let her go to town on your kitchen table? Then head to Arizona Museum for Youth where kiddos age 2-5 are invited to learn how to use paint and create fun crafts for the holidays.

DETAILS >> 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 31. Arizona Museum for Youth, 35 N. Robson, Mesa. \$12 for non-members, \$5 for members; children must be accompanied by an adult. (480) 644-2467 or arizonamuseumforyouth.com.



'Cinderella'

Ib Andersen and Ballet Arizona present this beloved rags-to-riches tale with magnificent costumes, scenery and sprinkling of fairy godmother magic.

DETAILS >> 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2; 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 75 N. 2nd St. \$25-\$156. (602) 381-0196 or balletaz.org.



The Sugar Thieves

This award-winning blues band is a Rhythm Room regular, but you can save yourself a trip and hear them perform live this Friday in Chandler.

DETAILS >> 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1. Dvine Bistro and Wine Bar, 3990 S. Alma School Road, Chandler. Free admission; food and beverages are separate. (480) 782-5550 or dvinewine101.com.

'Men are from Mars Women are from Venus'

Peter Story ("CSI," "Without a Trace," "The Tonight Show") brings his one-man interpretation of this book about the battle of the sexes to Mesa along with a barrel of laughs and a few blushes. This is an adults-only show.

DETAILS >> 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1 and Saturday, Nov. 2. Mesa Arts Center, 1 E. Main St. \$54. (480) 644-6500 or mesaartscenter.com.

New movies in EV theaters

- "All Is Lost"
- "Big Ass Spider!"
- "Cowboy Zombies"
- "Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa"
- "Muscle Shoals"
- "The Counselor"

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OUTDOORS

WARRIOR FAMILIES



Kids, adults work together through muddy Banzai Physical Challenge

IF YOU GO

What: Banzai Physical Challenge

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2 and Sunday, Nov. 3; heats begin at 9 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

Afterward, families can participate in tug-o-war or grab a bite from local vendors; a beer garden will also be on site for adults to enjoy.

Where: Schnepf Farms, 24810 South Rittenhouse Road, Queen Creek.

Cost: Spectators: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. Competitors: \$45 for kids ages 4-6, \$65 for kids ages 7-17, \$55 for adults competing with children ages 7-17, \$10 for adults competing with children ages 4-6.

Information: banzaichallenge.com

By Nicole Schwab
SPECIAL TO TRIBUNE

The popular mud races usually attract eager, young adults waiting to prove their strength to world. Ever thought, though, that maybe these courses could be transformed into a muddy wonderland for kids?

At the start

That's exactly the idea that came to Sarah Luzi in the middle of the night — the idea for the Banzai Physical Challenge.

"In the middle of the night, I could not sleep, I got a paper plate and started sketching down ideas for obstacles," Luzi says.

Luzi worked with her good friend and engineer Kevin Ellis to design the course and obstacles. Ellis hired a team of welders to help him contract his ideas into obstacles.

Luzi, who lives in Chandler and is a mother of two, designed this physical challenge to be a new concept in the mud run category that allows families to participate with one another. A group of local engineers designed obstacles easy enough for children to complete, but difficult enough for adults to be challenged. The obstacles are targeted at children ages 4 to 17, where the younger children can enjoy the entry level obstacles at the beginning of the course.

"I used to watch my husband compete in these mud warrior challenges, and I remember thinking,



A participant competes, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013 during a test run of the Banzai Physical Challenge course set up in Queen Creek. The muddy obstacle course created specifically for kids and families. (Photos by Tim Hacker/Tribune)

"They look like children. This is for kids, man," Luzi says.

Challenging obstacles

Banzai competitors will make their way through 20 obstacles, challenging adults and children to work together and get through each one.

Some of the most difficult obstacles include the "warrior's mountain" quarter pipe wall climb, a rope jungle where you must swing from rope to rope in order to make it across the muddy pit below, and the "dangler," in which you climb upside down and backwards over mud using a specially designed ladder.

Fun obstacles

For the fun side of the games, there are obstacles like crawling under a large muddy netting in the tarp crawl and the "dirty blan-

ket" mud crawl, where you slink under a wired structure in deep mud. Lastly, make your way to the rope swing "gorilla whip," another rope swing where you fly over a deep mud pit.

Other obstacles include balance beams, spider web, tire roll, sand bag carry, hay hurdles and "slithering" through a snaking mud trench.

Finish line

"It was a really cool family experience," says Julie Lally, whose daughters, ages 4 and 9, competed in the Banzai's trial run. "I would definitely do it again and challenge other family members to compete with us."

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