



August 4 - 17, 2018 • Vol 29, No 16



It was standing-room only as celebrants, including former Mayor Neil Giuliano, above, center, gathered for a swearing-in ceremony for newly elected Tempe City Council members, including, photo at right, Lauren Kuby, Jennifer Adams and Robin Arredondo-Savage.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Will the winners please come forward . . .

Throng of well-wishers makes it official for newly elected members of Tempe City Council

Tempe's City Council chambers overflowed with well-wishers as two current council members and one new one were sworn into office in an official City Hall observance.

Current Vice Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage and Councilmember Lauren Kuby joined Councilmember-elect Jennifer Adams for the observance.

It will be Arredondo-Savage's third term and Kuby's second as councilmembers. Kuby also was picked by the newly formed council as vice mayor. The vice mayor position is for a two-year term, duties of which include serving as presiding officer for council meetings when the mayor does not attend.

Outgoing Councilmember David Schapira did not

seek re-election.

The swearing-in ceremony, conducted by City Clerk Brigitta Kuiper, was followed by a reception in the Don Cassano Room at the nearby Tempe Transportation Center.

About 180 people attended the ceremonies, including such notables as former mayors Neil Giuliano and Hugh Hallman. It appeared to be a standing-room-only crowd.

Among onlookers were the winning candidates' friends and families, joined by city staff members. According to those present, it was a "happy, light ceremony" with Adams, Kuby and Arredondo-Savage in turn thanking their supporters and those who cast

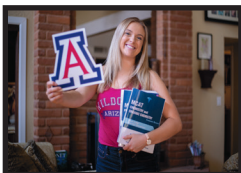
votes in the March 13 election.

Vote totals were 8,602, Adams; 11,521, Arredondo-Savage; and 12,906, Kuby.

The new council's first scheduled work study session was scheduled for Aug. 2.

For an updated schedule of council meetings, visit www.tempe.gov/clerk.

**WHAT'S
INSIDE**



Back to school, back to reality

For parents who've been counting the days until their kiddos traipse back to class, August is a time for celebration—and relief. We join in that joyous observance with our annual Back to School section, featuring a selection of stories and photos about this special occasion. **Pages 11 thru 17.**



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Charter amendment, sales tax will appear on Nov. 6 ballot

A City Charter amendment and a sales tax question will appear on Tempe's Nov. 6 Special Election ballot, and residents have until 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8 to submit publicity pamphlet arguments for or against the measures.

• Proposition 417 proposes a new sales tax and use tax of one-tenth of one percent to be implemented when an existing one-tenth of one percent tax expires in 2020.

The funds would be used for arts and culture in Tempe, as guided by the city's 2015 Arts and Culture Plan.

• Proposition 418 is a proposed charter amendment to provide the Tempe City Council with parameters for considering the removal from office of a councilmember.

The election is being held in conjunction with statewide and national elections on Nov. 6. These questions will appear on the same ballot.

Community members can now file arguments for or against either of the ballot measures. They will appear in the publicity pamphlet mailed to each household with a register voter during the week of Oct. 1.

Each argument must be 300 words or less. Pro/con statements must be signed and include a sworn statement from each sponsoring person and, along with the required \$100 deposit, must be received by the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 8.

Arguments must be submitted to clerk@tempe.gov.

If the argument is sponsored by an organization, the signed and sworn statements of two executive officers are required. If the argument is sponsored by a political action committee, the signed and sworn statement of the committee's chair or treasurer is required. Persons signing shall also identify themselves by giving their residence or post office address and a telephone number, which shall not appear in the pamphlet. The required deposit for each argument offsets a portion of the proportionate cost of paper and printing of the argument in the pamphlet.

For more about the Nov. 6 election, including voter registration information, visit www.tempe.gov/election or call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311.

Chandler, UA launch joint effort to add local-area class offerings

The city of Chandler and University of Arizona have issued a joint announcement that UA plans to offer undergraduate courses in Chandler. The classes will be held at UA's existing Chandler location, with four courses starting this fall and another six courses planned for spring 2019, with start dates in January and March.

"The city of Chandler has been a strong partner in our efforts to collaborate with industry leaders and produce work-force ready graduates," said Sarah Wieland, assistant dean of UA's branch campus.

She said the Chandler location will offer high-quality educational credentials in cybersecurity and other

in-demand fields that serve the specific needs of local industry.

The courses offered in Chandler are requirements for four UA undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Applied Science programs in Cyber Operations, Human Services, Informatics and Network Operations.

Additionally, the school will offer an undergraduate certificate in cybersecurity.

"We are thrilled that the University of Arizona is enhancing its course offerings in Chandler," said Mayor Jay Tibshraeny.

"As the Innovation and Technology Hub of the Southwest, it is critical that our residents have access to higher education programs that prepare them for a tech-focused workforce."

UA also has announced that it is seeking applications for adjunct instructors to teach courses in the various Bachelor of Applied Science degree

— UA, Page 24

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Dennis Thrush, left, resident director at Westchester, alongside Naomi, a memory-care patient. Photo at right, Stella Okyere-Boateng, a certified nurse assistant, discusses a memory activity with Alice, one of the residents.



Expansion adds space for growing need

Aging population drives new emphasis on memory care

By Diana Nelson

Caring for people with dementia or Alzheimer's requires a special calling, one that—unlike the patients who contend with the disease's debilitating effects—seems to improve with age.

The notion that more experience results in more real-world ability to treat those experiencing Alzheimer's and other disabling conditions comes from Dennis Thrush, resident director of Westchester Senior Living in Tempe.

Now, after 30 years of providing independent and assisted living, Thrush says Westchester can meet the increased community need for memory care at a newly expanded 24-bed unit known as Tivoli Manor.

For years, Westchester has offered support to families in the area, including short- or long-term rehab, memory care and hospice.

Now, with the expansion, Westchester is ready to accommodate the increased needs of an aging public.

"We have 73 residents and 17 vacancies in Villa, which is independent living; 22 residents and two vacancies in Garden Court, which is assisted living; and 18 residents and six vacancies with three reservations in Tivoli," said Thrush.

"It was a natural progression for us to develop Tivoli Manor, which offers families care for a loved one who needs the extra attention and security provided in a memory unit," said Thrush.

Westchester is owned and overseen by Volunteers of America, which has operated facilities for older adults for nearly a century. A Christian-based organization, VOA places its focus on a mission that revolves around a dedicated ministry of service, supporting and empowering America's most vulnerable groups.

Although assisted living communities such as Westchester may also have memory care units on the premises, the two types of care are not synonymous, said Thrush.

Assisted living is defined as a long-term-care option that combines housing, support services and

'Suffering from a dementia-like disease is like being in a prison. I wish I had discovered this profession earlier in life, because at the end of the day, it's very satisfying to provide care for our residents.'

Westchester director Dennis Thrush on his entry into the senior-care field

health care. Personal-care services in assisted living facilities may include medication management and transportation, and care is available around the clock.

Memory care is a distinct form of long-term, skilled nursing that specifically caters to patients with Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other types of memory problems. Memory-care units usually provide 24-hour supervised care within a separate, secure wing or floor of a residential facility.

By offering both levels of services, it also allows current assisted-living residents at Westchester a way to stay at the facility—with similar routines and familiar faces—even if they reach the point where they need enhanced memory care.

"Fortunately, we have compassionate staff that offer 'person-centered' care," said Thrush.

"Our caregivers do their best to know as much as possible about each of our residents, so that they feel comfortable in their living environment."

One member of the care team is Dawn Dunn Rice, who serves as the facility's activities director. Trained as a graphic artist, Rice taps into her creative side by picturing each resident's whole self, so that they feel included.

"I try to dangle several carrots in front of them and see which ones they bite on," said Rice, explaining her strategy to reach a patient suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's.

"We have a computer program called IN2L—It's Never too Late—which helps participants keep their minds as active as possible with games or individual pages with family photos."

Rice also encourages family members to help each memory resident create a personalized memory book, which includes items to tell the story of their life.

"Many patients with memory disorders become agitated, and by looking through the memory book, it's soothing to them," said Rice.

She also plans outings, weather permitting, to nearby locations like Kiwanis Park. Activities are geared to the capabilities of the individual resident.

"Suffering from a dementia-like disease is like being in a prison," said Thrush, who entered the field of senior care after first retiring himself.

"I wish I had discovered this profession earlier in life, because at the end of the day, it's very satisfying to provide care for our residents."

Westchester Senior Living is at 6100 S. Rural Road, Tempe. Information/tours: 480-831-8660.

Police, agency link resources to 'Take a bite out of hunger'

Tempe Community Action Agency and the Tempe Police Department have joined forces in a combined, first-ever *Take a Bite Out of Hunger* food drive to benefit TCAA's food pantry initiative.

Between three Tempe police stations and the community, the drive generated 472 pounds of donated food—equivalent to approximately 393 meals for individuals and families in need.

"Tempe Police Department was honored to partner with TCAA to further their efforts during the Take a Bite Out of Hunger food drive," said Police Sgt. Ronald Elcock.

"We are dedicated to our community and we are grateful to have had this opportunity to assist."

TCAA's Food Pantry benefits more than 11,000 adults and children in crisis each year.

From the help of the food drive and support from the community, officials reported that TCAA was able to help increase its food pantry inventory during a time when the agency sees a decline in donations.

The Take a Bite Out of Hunger Food Drive gives local law enforcement and the community new opportunities to give back and serves as an essential movement to help fight hunger and support families in need, said a spokeswoman.

"TCAA and Tempe Police Department have enjoyed a long and productive partnership," said TCAA Executive Director Deborah Arteaga, said.

"TCAA is incredibly grateful for the police officers and their families who reached into their own pockets to donate food. This showcases yet another way they protect and serve our community."



A volunteer packs food donations destined for thousands of Tempe residents who might otherwise go hungry.

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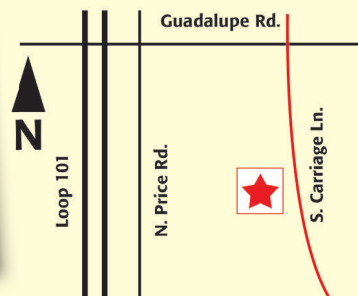
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Odyssey of hope takes group more than halfway around the world



The Rev. Robert Aliunzi, third from left, and E3 Africa board members.

By Joyce Coronel

The 14,000-plus miles that stretch between West Chandler and Uganda have been bridged by a local group devoted to improving the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable humans.

Connie Sunday, president of the board of E-3 Africa, travelled to the East African nation recently and says she saw for herself the overwhelming needs of the inhabitants.

E3 Africa, named for the organization's goals to educate, enrich and empower the people of Uganda, was founded by the Rev. Robert Aliunzi, pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in West Chandler.

"Visiting Uganda this year and the refugee camp, I personally saw firsthand how simple and basic medical equipment and supplies saved and improved quality of life," Sunday said. "Fighting in neighboring countries has pushed over a million refugees into Uganda borders and has put intense pressure on a system that still struggles to meet the needs of its own people. Hours and even minutes can determine if a life can be saved when supplies and testing equipment are present in the rural areas."

That urgent need for basic medical equipment was the impetus for E3 Africa to partner with Project C.U.R.E., a non-profit organization that has been providing vital medical supplies to developing countries for over 30 years. At a warehouse in Tempe, volunteers work to pack up supplies destined to save lives.

Project C.U.R.E. doesn't transport the supplies, however. For that, organizations like E3 Africa have to find a shipping container and come up with around \$40,000 for transport.

Aliunzi turned to Pipeline Worldwide which had dug a well in

the Moyo district of Uganda where E3 Africa is building a school.

"Instead of just a small container or a small few items, it turned out to be a huge one which is going to be available now not just for the school but for the whole district, supplying the major hospital and also supplying some clinics on the outskirts," Aliunzi said. "This was a huge miraculous intervention of God."

Aliunzi, who travels home to Uganda at least once a year, said the last time he was home, his niece was due to give birth to a baby. Tragically, after being in labor for almost 24 hours, the baby died.

"I held the baby in my hands ... and we buried that baby. And then I reflected: That would never happen here [in West Chandler]. That baby would be alive if we had good medical care if we had good facilities and doctors and so on," Aliunzi said.

Among the supplies to be delivered to Uganda via the collaborative efforts of E3 Africa, Project C.U.R.E. and Pipeline Worldwide will be an ultrasound machine, something that might have helped to save his niece's baby boy.

"Project C.U.R.E and E3 Africa are a perfect partnership helping the most vulnerable and doing good globally," Sunday said. "We wouldn't have had this opportunity without Pipeline World Wide initiating the fundraising for the container; not only having one partnership, but three dedicated organizations equally working together in one world mission."

The container shipped on June 7 and will reach Uganda in 2-3 months.

"Access is still the greatest challenge to health care," Sunday said. "This container will save lives and provide technology and basic medical supplies for much-needed care and healthcare testing."

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Stan Settles and his racecar are headed for another round of racing at Bonneville Salt Flats.

'Stan the Man' Wheels up!

By Jeff Bell

You might refer to him "Stan the Man" or "The Silver Speed Racer." Whatever you call him, don't think of Stan Settles of Tempe as "old"—it's not in his DNA.

Every August, this resident of Friendship Village Tempe, a local senior living community, heads to Utah to participate in Bonneville Salt Flats racing. With a personal record of 263 miles per hour, he's earned his reputation.

Settles' trips to the salt flats are also about bonding with his son, a driver like his father. While he admits he doesn't get behind the wheel as much as he once did, his passion for driving and his love for the sights and sounds of the track remain as strong as ever. He began drag racing in 1961 and is ready to take his car, Trojan Thunder, out again.

A former USC professor, Settles involved his students in the process of perfecting his car as he worked to add speed potential to his prize possession. He says his engineering students were—and still are—among his biggest fans.

Settles' fellow residents at the retirement community say they love hearing his racing stories, seeing photos from the salt flats and talking to him about his engineering exploits.

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City's focus on inclusivity, diversity casts broad look at equal availability for all

With the topics of inclusivity and diversity receiving special notice in recent weeks, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, has been on the minds of city of Tempe officials as well.

According to a report from city staff, work is underway to help ensure that all people have access to city amenities and services.

A multi-year ADA transition plan, around which the staff's work is centered, includes an evaluation of crosswalks, parks, streets and other elements of the community for compliance with standards that are geared toward inclusivity and equity for everyone.

In addition, the plan's storymap is being used as a guideline. According to a statement from city officials, the map brings to life the elements of the plan and allows people to see where work is in the planning stages, what has been accomplished and what remains to be done.

Among highlights so far this year:

- Annual Mayor' Disability Awards recognizing employers, students, educators, agencies and businesses facilitating inclusion of people with disabilities in Tempe.

- Access Tempe Guide, featuring a map and list of 90 different disability-related services that are available in Tempe and the East Valley. The guide is in beta version (available on a computer only) and it is expected soon to have scalability to facilitate use with smartphones, screen readers and other assistive devices. The beta (draft) version is available at gis.tempe.gov/accesstempe/

- Tempe Presents: Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Disability Job Fair takes place annually in celebration of the National Disability Employment month in October.

- Mock Interview Appaloosa—Arizona@Work and the city of Tempe are working together with Tempe high schools to facilitate interviews.

- ADA Wayfinding Pilot—Funded through a Gila River Indian Community grant is in evaluation Phase, to provide way-finding and

audible schedule information at transit stops for patrons who are blind. This pilot application uses location aware technology to broadcast location and schedules using an audible application available via smart phone.

- Safer Street Crossings—Tempe has installed over 75 audible and vibro/tactile pedestrian signals upon request to make it safer to cross the streets.

- The Arizona Community Foundation awarded Tempe a grant to install its first induction loops, which work with hearing aids and cochlear implants to facilitate better hearing in meetings and events. Installation is expected in October.

- Tempe 11 now captions City Council meetings.

- City-produced New Playground Standards for Accessibility. Tempe is further developing inclusion standards for City Council consideration to facilitate 100 percent inclusion in Tempe playgrounds and parks.

An Inclusivity Playground Manual defines terms, index of inclusivity, best practices and design principles to create optimal play value for children with and without disabilities.

- Community Development Block Grant Reviews. Over 30 CDBG neighborhood grant projects submitted for funding were reviewed for disability inclusion and compliance to ensure funded projects maximize accessibility for everyone.

- Accommodations. Strategic Management and Diversity Office—Over 100 requests for disability accommodations, training, special event task force reviews, inquiries, ADA site plan reviews and resolutions of disability issues and complaints have been processed thus far in 2018.

For questions regarding discrimination or disability-related issues that may be involved in obtaining services in the city of Tempe, contact ADA Compliance Specialist Michele Stokes at 480-350-2704 (Relay Users 7-1-1) or Michele_Stokes@Tempe.gov.

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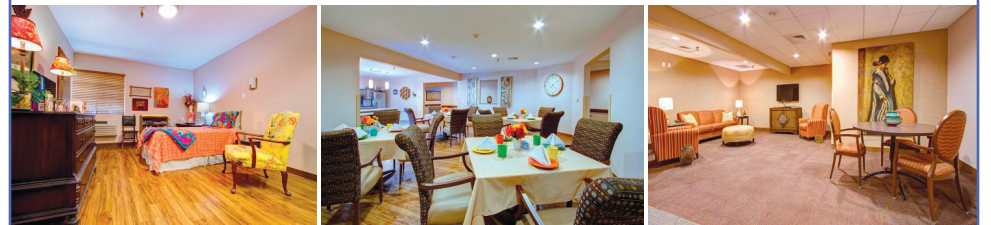
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Crisis center now open

Victims of abuse now have a 24-hour safe haven when they need it most: within minutes after the incident has taken place.

Chandler police recently joined in the opening of Chandler Family Advocacy Center, a safe and secure facility with direct access from inside the Chandler Police Department's main station.

Chandler PD spokesman Sgt. Daniel Meija said the center will play a twofold role: To act as a central location for the department's Special Victims Unit to work directly with other state agencies on investigations involving child and elderly abuse, domestic violence related offenses and other physical and sexual offenses, and as a comfortable and secure facility for victims to receive necessary assistance they need to begin the healing process from traumatic events.

The center offers on-scene crisis intervention from trained Victims Services personnel, and medical examinations are provided to assist victims of physical and sexual abuse.

Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan attended the opening along with other city directors and members of the city council.

Library grant aids literacy

Chandler Public Library, including its West Chandler-based Sunset branch, has been awarded a \$78,000 Library Services and Technology Act early literacy grant for its High Five Early Literacy and Learning Spaces project.

The goal of the project is to promote family engagement and encourage children's development and early literacy skills. The grant was approved by Arizona State Library Archives and Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State's office.

According to data from Read On Arizona and the Arizona Department of Education, there are nearly 35,000 children between the ages of 0 and 5 in the Kyrene and Chandler Unified school districts – those served by the Chandler library.

Two organizations dedicated to improving early childhood literacy, Read On Arizona and First Things First, estimate that nearly 40 percent of incoming kindergartners nationwide enter school without the basic language skills they need to learn to read. Similarly, a United Way study shows that in some areas of Chandler that number is as high as 70 percent. With the LSTA grant, the library's goal is to improve existing areas designed for children and their caregivers located in all four Chandler libraries. According to library officials, the enriched environments will focus on literacy and learning with activities and elements fostering child and caregiver interaction through play.

The children, parents and caregivers who participate in the Chandler programs will benefit by experiencing early literacy learning through play spaces that focus on the five early literacy skills: read, play, write, sing and talk.

Such skills are said to promote literacy proficiency essential to school readiness in children. The early literacy spaces will be open during regular business hours, allowing caregivers and children flexible access to learning opportunities.

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Kara Dunn's smile reflects the joy — and relief — she feels after her recovery from an illness that shortcut a global adventure and almost took her life.

**A Wrangler News
Special Section
Pages 11-17**

Kara Dunn survived her ordeal with a mysterious condition and now heads back to UA.

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Return to classes a happy ending to student's 'living nightmare'

By Deborah Hilcove

Before saying goodbye to summer, 20-year-old Tempe resident and UA Flinn scholar Kara Dunn has one more item on her agenda. She's flying to New York to be interviewed for the *NBC Megyn Kelly Today* show, airing the week of August 6. She'll describe the experience she calls "a living nightmare."

In June, Dunn and a friend planned to join Sister City alums in France. First, however, the pair flew to Spain. When they landed in Seville, Dunn felt off-balance and developed double-vision. The next morning, speaking and walking were difficult. Her friend ordered a taxi to the closest hospital.

By this time, Dunn's arms and legs had become paralyzed. She was unable to swallow and her breathing was failing. She was moved to the intensive care unit and placed on a ventilator and feeding tube. Her mother and older brother, Ryan Dunn, a second-year medical student at Phoenix Mayo Clinic, were notified and immediately booked flights.

Dunn remembers, "I couldn't move or speak, but my mind was fully alert. It was a lonely and terrifying night. A nurse stayed with me, holding my hand and singing. She was so kind. Later she washed my hair and tied it up with a piece of gauze. It shows that

compassion knows no language."

For two days, Dunn's condition was undiagnosed. Her brother consulted with his neurology professors and Mayo doctors, who suggested several possible diagnoses to the Spanish doctors, including Guillain-Barré Syndrome, a rare, autoimmune disease where antibodies attack the nerves, causing paralysis, breathing problems and sometimes death. The cause is unknown, and there is no cure, only medication for pain.

"It was hard," Dunn said, "because I've always wanted to be a doctor, and now I wouldn't be able to reach my goal. When I saw Ryan, I tried to mouth a word. He asked, 'Doctor? Yes, you can still be a doctor, and you'll be even better because you're going through this.' That's when I knew I'd be okay. Because Ryan said I'd be okay."

"Ryan told me I had to breathe well enough to be off the ventilator. 'That's your ticket home, Kara,' he said. I worked hard that whole day trying to breathe, even though it really hurt. I built a mental wall, only concentrated on trying to breathe. That night, I made myself stay awake, just concentrated on breathing. I knew if I fell asleep, my breathing would suffer."

"The next day," Dunn continued, "I concentrated on swallowing. It really hurt, but I wanted to go

home so bad. Ryan teased me, holding a spoonful of applesauce and 'flying' it to my mouth, 'Here it comes, Kara. Airplane. Open your mouth.' I wanted to laugh, but I couldn't.

"I kept trying and then I could move my thumb. Just a little. That was major. When they returned my phone, I was amazed my story was so widespread. I had more than 250 text messages. My mother set up a Facebook page, 'Kara's Road to Recovery.' There was so much encouragement, from all over the world, even Argentina.

"A friend set up a 'GoFundMe' account to pay for the hospital and medical transport. After my bills are paid, I intend to donate anything remaining to the GBS foundation. I'm so appreciative of everything and want to pay it forward.

"I left the hospital on a stretcher. It was the first time I'd been outside in two weeks and it was wonderful to be in the sunshine! When we reached Sky Harbor, I was overwhelmingly happy!"

Rehabilitation began at Barrow Neurological Institute. Dr. Christina Kwasnica, Director of the Neuro-Rehabilitation Center, said in a televised press

— KARA, Page 12

Kara

From Page 11

conference that “Kara’s progress was remarkable, better than I hoped for.”

A big part of Dunn’s recovery came in the form of a four-legged furry friend named Lily. The family pet visited her at the hospital and even accompanied her to physical therapy once or twice.

Dunn says, “I had to learn to stand. I’d take a few steps and be exhausted. Now I can use my phone and laptop. It’s a struggle to type, but I can write about two or three paragraphs. I can drive again. The other day, my mom and I were walking to a special spot to watch the sunset. It was fading fast and I told her I wanted to try running. I ran half a mile to watch the sun set.”

UA classes start soon and although Dunn admits she’s a little embarrassed by needing a golf cart to get around campus, she says, “I’m excited about my courses—physiology, endocrinology and research. I can hardly wait. The crazy thing is I’ve been interested in researching autoimmune diseases, and now here I am with this.

“I want to help others. If I can help raise awareness of Guillain-Barré, I’ll do it. That’s why I’m going to New York. In one way, it’s exciting, but it’s a long flight and my body’s going to really hurt.

“But if my two weeks in a living nightmare can help me impact the lives of many others, then it was worth it.”



A ‘PAWSOME’ RECOVERY — Kara Dunn with furry friend Lily that visited her in the hospital as she battled the effects of Guillain-Barré Syndrome.
— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



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Seton teen's mission of mercy for second-chance moms lets him define a cause

By Joyce Coronel

On a blistering hot day more than a week before beginning his sophomore year at Seton Catholic Preparatory, Rocco Gump, 15, donned the red polo shirt and dark shorts that comprise his school uniform. It was more than just getting ready for school: He was on a mission of mercy.

Seton requires its students to give 20 hours of service to the community each year. But for Rocco, that commitment began long before he started at the prestigious Blue Ribbon school in West Chandler.

Back in sixth grade, Rocco was looking for a way to help others. He and his grandmother discovered Maggie's Place, a network of homes that provides a loving and stable environment for pregnant women who have nowhere else to turn. Rocco found his cause.

The Elizabeth House in Tempe, one of several such homes in the Valley, currently houses six moms, two babies and four staff members.

Laura Magruder, director of Maggie's Place, said the women live in a supportive community where they learn what a healthy relationship is while getting connected to counseling, prenatal care, education and other services. They're also given chores and held accountable for their actions.

Pointing to a colorful chart at The Elizabeth House, Magruder described how guests are encouraged to grow as individuals and celebrate various milestones.

"Every mom gets a fish when she joins the house. And then as the babies are born, the babies get bubbles for rolling over. The moms get bubbles for x-amount of days, weeks or months of sobriety or for filling out a resume or getting a job interview," Magruder said.

For Rocco, The Elizabeth House represents

something he cherishes.

"A big part of my interest with them is that they give second chances. That's something that really appeals to me," Rocco said. "I make mistakes. Everybody makes mistakes and it's really important to get a second chance. I don't think somebody should be defined by one mistake that they made or one choice that they made."

Rocco also serves at The Elizabeth House in other ways. He established a vegetable garden out back—they've grown tomatoes and potatoes—and he and his grandfather wash cars there once a month. The family also prepares a monthly meal for residents of The Elizabeth House.

Along with his 12-year-old sister Bella, a seventh-grader at St. John Bosco School, Rocco was able to secure a \$5,000 donation from the Mesa Hohokams for The Elizabeth House. Last week, Bella and Rocco, accompanied by their mother and grandparents, presented the check to Magruder. The funds will be used to help with programming, repairs and other needs at the home.

"You never know what it's going to go to, in all honesty. Ideally it would be to support programmatic things that happen here but sometimes we wake up in the morning and, well, there's a nice little flood in the kitchen," Magruder said.

The needs go deeper than simply the material though. Bella has made it her job to recognize the birthdays of the women who live at The Elizabeth House.

Her grandmother, Terri Lisi, recalls one such celebration.

"Bella handed the cake to her and she said, 'This is the first birthday cake I've ever had,'" Lisi said.

Pregnant women can join the house at any time during the pregnancy and can stay for 9-12 months after the baby is born.



Julie Carlberg, left, top photo, chief programs officer for Maggie's Place; Laura Magruder, director of Maggie's Place; Bella Gump, St. John Bosco Catholic School student; Tim Gump, Mesa Hohokams representative; and Rocco Gump, Seton Catholic Preparatory High School student. — Photo by Joyce Coronel, Wrangler News.
Photo below: a Maggie's Place mom residing at Elizabeth House cuddles her baby. — Photo courtesy Maggie's Place





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Mandarin Chinese added to schools' language curriculum

*Seen as a vital skill
for students in
an advancing world*

By Diana Nelson

Nearly 1.3 billion people speak Mandarin Chinese, and by the end of the fall semester, some of them will be from Kyrene Middle School in Tempe. The only foreign language taught previously at KMS was Spanish, but in applying to become an International Baccalaureate program, one requirement is to offer students additional foreign language classes. Chinese was selected due to its prevalence worldwide.

Both KMS and Altadena middle schools will offer a beginning course in Mandarin, designed to build students' speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in the language.

According to a Kyrene-district document that outlines the course, students will learn pronunciation, tones, basic grammar structure, Chinese characters, stroke orders and the Romanized Pinyin writing system.

The class will cover daily conversational topics such as customary greetings, family and school life, hobbies, visiting friends and how to order food at a Chinese restaurant. Chinese cultural elements also will be

embedded in the course to support language learning.

Scott Maxwell, Kyrene's director of school effectiveness, is already a fluent speaker of Mandarin due to studying the language during his graduate school program. He believes that students who enroll in the class will be acquiring a critical skill for American business and government leaders of the future.

"Mandarin Chinese is spoken by one-fifth of the world's population, ranking it the most common first language spoken. The U.S. Department of State designates Mandarin as a critical language, making learning it a national security imperative," said Maxwell.

"The goal of this course is to begin to prepare...future leaders with the language skills necessary to fully engage in an increasingly globalized world."

Growing research shows that studying Chinese has several cognitive benefits for students. It is a tonal language, using intonation to distinguish between the meaning of words, thus stimulating different and



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often unused parts of the brain.

Additionally, the Chinese script is logographic, requiring complex writing strokes in all four directions, said to aid students in the development of motor skills and spatial memory.

These findings provide an additional compelling rationale for teaching students Mandarin Chinese, noted Maxwell, who is one of two directors in the district devoted to school effectiveness.

His past teaching experience includes stints in China and South Africa in addition to jobs in three U.S. states.

His focus since coming to Kyrene, he says, has been on the re-design of the district's middle schools and assisting with the goal of KMS to become an IB school.

In the redesign of the middle-school programs, district officials say administrators have met with teachers and members of the community hoping to increase achievement, provide learning opportunities and support for students—all part of what they say is continuing a tradition

of excellence and encouraging families to choose Kyrene schools.

"I believe that Kyrene can compete with any charter or private school academically," said Maxell, "and by adding these Chinese language classes to the curriculum, we are giving students more options. Our newly hired teacher, Zhe Kang, will split her time between the two campuses of KMS and Altadena middle schools."

Maxwell assisted in the recruitment of Kang to Kyrene. She previously taught at Basis in Phoenix and has an impressive educational background.

"In China, she received her master's degree from Peking University, which is on par with an Ivy League school in the U.S.," said Maxwell.

"She earned a second master's degree from Harvard and also taught in Brooklyn, N.Y. We are very fortunate to have her to start this program in Kyrene."

For students who want to continue to study Chinese beyond middle school, the Tempe Union High School also offers an IB program.

A letter from Dr. Vesely

To Kyrene students: Welcome back

Dear Kyrene Community,

The beginning of a new school year, like the dawning of a new day, reminds us that the future in Kyrene School District holds infinite possibilities.

This time of year is an especially rewarding one, as it brings us together to share stories of time spent with family and friends over summer adventures and to launch a new year, filled with hope, vision, and excitement.

This year will continue to be shaped by our reform efforts as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2022, which defines priority work in the following goal areas:

- High Performing Students
- High Quality Talent
- Inclusive Culture
- Responsive Organization
- Collective Governance

There is never a shortcut to strategic planning and implementation when working to scale up innovative educational practices. It takes years of sustained commitment.

In the Kyrene School District, we are continuing our journey into this continuously evolving, deep-rooted work that requires a crystal-clear focus on our vision: ensuring all students achieves at their maximum potential to become problem-solvers, creators, and visionaries of tomorrow.

Rather than chase trends, we will maintain an unrelenting commitment to improving our core focus on the delivery of effective and rigorous instruction to maximize student learning and achievement.

Our most important stakeholders will always be our students, and years of research have proven that nothing schools can do for their students matters more than giving them effective teachers.

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— VESELY, Page 30

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Doubled enrollment drives KTA campus expansion



Group included, from left, Mark Knight, assistant superintendent; Dr. Marianne Lescher, KTA principal; Rep. Jill Norgaard, District 18; Patty Hineman, KTA assistant principal; Bernadette Coggins, past Governing Board president; Sen. Sean Bowie, District 18; and Dr. Jan Vesely, Kyrene District superintendent. Bottom, left photo, John King, Kyrene Governing Board member; with Dr. Vesely; and right, Vesely addressing group of well-wishers. Bottom right, Dr. Lescher welcomes students.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker



Kyrene Traditional Academy is getting a new look and a newly expanded campus to provide more room for the Kyrene district's first and only pre-K-to-8 school, which appears to have been bursting at the seams.

The expansion, unveiled at ceremonies July 30, is part of a project that got underway in December after receiving approval from the district's governing board.

The new classroom building was the first to open. A multi-purpose room/gym and music/stage complex is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 30.

Middle grades (currently 6th and 7th, with 8th to be added in 2019-20) provide the usual core offerings as well as advanced/honors instruction across core subjects.

Additional programming includes such classes as band, chorus, PE, drama, art, Spanish, multimedia, coding/web design and STEM, along with those designed for students considered gifted.

According to district spokeswoman Erin Helm, KTA opened in 2012, and enrollment, currently in the range of 700 students, has doubled since then.

KTA is an A+ School (Arizona Educational Foundation); Kyrene's only National Blue Ribbon School (2015); and a nationally accredited Spalding School, one of 16 in the country.

The school is at 3375 W. Galveston St.



Ring of support assures new crop of teachers they'll 'never be alone' in facing challenges



New staff for Tempe Elementary School District took part in a weeklong training session before classes got underway. Bottom right, Milan Johnson, the youngest staff member, is a new math teacher at Gilliland Middle School; Lisa Malicke, left, teacher induction specialist, kicked off the orientation with a rousing introduction.

— Photos courtesy Tempe Elementary District

By Robyn Martinez

Before students were due to head back to classrooms in the Tempe Elementary School District, 135 new certified staff members took part in a weeklong orientation session that got them revved up for the new school year.

The district hosts an annual familiarization session at Bustoz Professional Learning Center to welcome and help prepare new teachers, counselors, psychologists, nurses and related service staff for their first year of work at the district.

"This year, we were able to continue our efforts to differentiate and offered 30 individualized schedules to meet the needs of our new staff members," said Teacher Induction Specialist Lisa Malicke, who kicked off the week of orientation sessions and introduced support staff and principals from across the district.

Throughout the first day, the same themes were repeated, starting with a welcome message from Superintendent Christine Busch.

Busch shared how the theme for this school year, "Relationships Matter...Commit. Connect. Care!" would impact them as employees.

"Our kids have to believe that you care. Then, you will be able to guide them," Busch said. "In this crazy world, you are the guiding light for our students, connecting them to the world around them each day." Busch added that all teachers have the privilege of creating the world's future problem-solvers.

New certified staff members also got to hear words of wisdom from two "Rookie of the Year" teachers, exemplary educators embarking on their second year with TD3.

Aguilar Elementary SPARK Teacher Carla Trim suggested that each day will bring new challenges, but that teachers will never be alone in those confronting those.

"Rely on the support around you," she said.

Carson Harris, a middle school science teacher at Tempe Academy of International Studies, echoed much of what Trim said. Harris told the group that after doing his student teaching at TD3, he knew he wanted to come back full-time as a teacher because of all the people who genuinely wanted to help him succeed.

"Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Remember why you do your job. But also, make sure you enjoy

life outside of this job to and allow yourself time to decompress."

New certified staff learned that the support doesn't stop outside of TD3 classrooms. Margaret Hunnicutt, President and CEO of the local Landings Credit Union office, shared ways the organization strives to help educators be financially successful.

Ideas include pausing loan payments that occur over the summer, opening accounts for students and paying them for every "A" grade they bring in on their report cards, and offering zero-percent-down loans for tax credit donations.

"This training has been awesome so far. It is clear how helpful everyone is here at TD3 and in the community," said Victoria Gonzalez, a new kindergarten teacher at Nevitt Elementary School. "All the support available is really unique to this district. The promises for support aren't empty either. You know that people actually mean it. Everyone genuinely cares."

Following the welcome session, new staff members broke into smaller sessions to cover topics like routines and procedures, community building, and specific student engagement strategies. Later in the day, new teachers went out to various schools and spent time in a classroom of their designated grade level or area of focus, and had the chance to interact with and learn from some exemplary teachers of that grade.

"I really enjoyed meeting Tempe's new fifth-grade teachers. They have great energy," said Maddi McCoy, a returning fifth-grade teacher at Rover Elementary. "We talked a lot about creating a classroom environment that is both functional and feels like home to the teacher and their students. We also discussed how important it is to build relationships with our students, starting the very first day of school. The saying really holds true: 'Students will not care how much you know, until they know how much you care.'"

Among the new group was 20-year-old Milan Johnson, a first-year eighth-grade math teacher at Gilliland Middle School.

Not surprisingly, Johnson was the youngest teacher in the group.

Said Johnson:

"I have always felt like teaching was my calling. I'm excited to build relationships and help my students accomplish their goals in life, as that's what my teachers did for me."

Sports

with Alex Zener

Start of high school football season comes with promises, changes

On Aug. 6, Tempe Union High School District students will head back to school, with Friday night football fever commencing approximately 11 days later for Corona del students, 18 days for those at Marcos de Niza.

Aug. 17 will mark the beginning of the Arizona high school sport that undoubtedly has the most student athletes who participate and the largest fan base.

Alumni, fans and players at these Tempe area high schools will soon be able to get an idea about how their team stacks up to the competition after all the hard work the players and coaches put in the off-season, including spring ball workouts, summer weight lifting and pre-season football camps.

Marcos de Niza has a new football

coach and the largest number of players on its preseason roster, while Corona has the same coach for the second year in a row and the smallest number of players on its pre-season roster.

Marcos de Niza

It can be said that timing may be everything. Considering the positive predictions made in the preseason, that certainly may be the case for the Marcos football program.

Two seasons ago, Marcos hired as its head football coach the all-time most winningest football coach in Arizona high school history, Paul Moro. It appeared that Moro and the players were starting to click mid-way through Moro's second season in 2017 when he was diagnosed with cancer.

The Padres, who have had a history

of winning seasons and playing at least two rounds deep into the state playoffs for the past 11 years, ended up with a 5-6 losing record that season, with a 1-4 season at home and four losses out of their last six games, including a 34-7 loss to Cactus Shadows in the first round of the playoffs.

In mid-April, a week or so before spring ball, Marcos decided to let Moro go, citing a desire to have a football coach who was also on campus as a teacher.

Who knows the administration's reasoning, but what may not have set well with the fans—who had high hopes of getting another chance at a state championship—was that Marcos had defeated Cactus Shadow 31-24 a month before losing to the Falcons in the first round of the playoff. Marcos had played in the state championship finals in both 2009 and 2015.

Meanwhile, **Eric Lauer**, a top assistant at Mountain Pointe for 12 years, found himself out of a job after former head coach Norris Vaughan left the program in late 2017.

When the head football job opened at Marcos, Lauer was coaching spring ball as an assistant at Arizona Christian University.

On May 7, the Tempe Union School

District announced that Lauer was hired as the new head football coach at Marcos.

Lauer certainly has the coaching credentials. He has been coaching football in some capacity since 1993.

Lauer grew up in York, Penn., where, at only 165 pounds, he played middle linebacker for William Penn High School. His senior season, he was named all-county defensive player of the year.

Lauer would go on to play linebacker and defensive back for Potomac State College in West Virginia before transferring to East Stroudsburg University in northern Pennsylvania.

After college, Lauer went into the Army but eventually returned home to York, where he coached at his old high school for nine years before becoming William Penn's head coach from 2002 to 2004.

In 2004, Lauer and his family moved to Arizona, where he was an assistant coach at Mountain Pointe for three years before taking the job as the running back coach at Phoenix College. While Lauer was at Phoenix College, the Bears posted their best record in 20 years, finishing with a 12th place NJCAA national ranking according to <https://news.phoenixcollege.edu>.



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Lauer returned to Mountain Pointe, eventually moving up to Assistant Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator. He was also involved in helping players get college scholarships. It is estimated that during the 12 years Lauer was at Mountain Pointe, at least 40 players received Division I football scholarships.

Everyone speaks highly of Lauer as a football coach, but he has another side, one that a parent may value as much as his coaching skills.

Lauer, who was adopted after spending time in foster care as a baby, has been giving back, along with his family, including wife Terri, a nurse, and their two children, for the past 14 years.

They take children into their home to love and care for as foster parents.

This ability to give of himself to others and work with troubled youth may be why former coaches describe Lauer as someone who can connect with his players while at the same time keeping them in line while getting the most out of them.

He is known as someone who can be trusted and who can see the big picture.

Although the Padres lost several seniors in key positions, such as quarterback and receivers, they did return the team's leading rusher and three receivers who had significant of catches last season.

Yakeen Baylis, as only a sophomore last



Senior Jaron Reval, who had 19 receptions last season, could help Ricky Pearsall's carry part of the offensive load this season for the Aztecs.

Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright

season, was the leading rusher carrying the ball 178 times for a total of 1130 yards or an average of 102.7 yards a game. He had six games where he rushed for more than 100 yards plus he scored three rushing touchdowns.

Joren Davis, in his senior season, led the team in receptions, with 36 for a total for 648 yards and four touchdowns, but junior **Anthony Steinpreis** had 19 receptions for 237 yards and three touchdowns and junior **Torren Union** had 12 receptions for 174 yards and two touchdowns.

Both Steinpreis and Union should be back their senior season along with Baylis, who had 11 receptions for 126 yards and one touchdown.

As far as defense goes, the Padres did lose some defensive players to graduation such as **Joe Chavez**, **Keandre Greer**, **Trequan Johnson**, **JB Rider**, **Alex Torres**, **Andrew Torres**, **Luis Sanchez** and **Emilio Ortiz** but they should return several key defensive players including the leading tackler on the team, **Mario**

— SPORTS, Page 20

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Sports

From Page 19

Gastelum.

Playing in 10 games last season as a junior, Gastelum is credited with 38 solo tackles and 35 assisted tackles for a total of 73 tackles or an average of 7.3 tackles a game.

Other defensive players that may be key to the Padres wins could be **Matt Canada**, who as a sophomore last season, had 25 solo and 29 assisted tackles for a total of 54 tackles and Union with 34 total tackles.

Martell Thompson had 34 total tackles last season as a sophomore in only seven games while current senior **Eylie Hill** had 22 last season.

The Padres will miss **Marcos Moreno** at quarterback but the starting quarterback, although not named yet, could be just a good. In contention is senior **Nick Soro**, junior **Patrick Werner** or freshman **Nehemiah Alvarado**.

The Padres are set to play at McClintock on August 24 at 7:00 p.m.

No word on what job, besides head football coach, Lauer currently has at Marcos, but his last known position was reported as a health and wellness coach in the Tempe Union High School District in an alcohol and drug prevention program.

Corona Football

The Aztecs kick off the football season August 17 with a non-conference game at Mesa Mountain View under second year head coach **Jon Beckett**.

The Aztecs return their leading passer, senior quarterback **Ryan Helt**, who started all 10 games last season completing 219 passes for a total of 2650 yards or an average of 265 yards a game. Helt completed 57.9 per cent of his passes scoring 20 touchdowns.

Wide receiver, **Ricky Pearsall**, was Helt's main target last season. Pearsall caught 74 passes for a total of 1153 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Pearsall, who has committed to ASU, will most likely remain one of Helt's main receivers but **Jaron Reval** may be the other returning receiver who will be expected to step up and help move the ball down the field. Reval had 19 receptions his junior year for a total of 182 yards.

On offense, Corona will need to replace four seniors who carried the ball last year for a total of 735 yards with new players this season.

As far as defense, Corona should return their leading tackler, senior **Ben Rafalski**. Last season, Rafalski had a total of 81 tackles—28 solo and 53 assists. He also had one interception and one fumble recovery.

The only players to have more solo tackles last season were seniors **Evan McQueen** with 37, **Brian McCluskey** with 36, and **Brooks Canfield** with 33.

Other than, Rafalski, the defense lost at least 18 seniors who will need to be replaced by younger players.

Corona's schedule, with Mountain Ridge on August 24, Basha, August 31 and Boulder Creek, Sept. 7, may not be the toughest in the 6A conference but it not going to be easy.

According to Richard Obert from azcentral Sports, Mesa Desert Ridge has to toughest football schedule in the 6A conference. Corona is mentioned as maybe the only team that the Jaguars play that may have a losing season.

Out of the eight teams listed as tough ones for Desert Ridges to compete against, the Aztecs play four of those teams: Mountain Pointe, Desert Vista, Queen Creek and Westview. The only home game is against Desert Vista on Oct. 19.



Ricky Pearsall, who caught a total 74 passes scoring 23 touchdowns last season should continue to be the Aztecs' main offensive weapon his senior season.

— Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright/cartwright.smugmug.com

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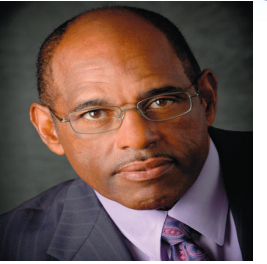
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Young scholars say high school friendships—and tennis—will keep them together

By Omar Soussi

One of high school's toughest competitions isn't necessarily on the athletic field. It's scoring a win with those hard-hitting academic linebackers who each year face an onslaught of National Merit Scholar applicants.

According to the NMS website, some 1.6 million entries arrive each year; only about 7,500 are selected as finalists.

At Corona del Sol High School, three girls who were not only top students but also top competitors on the varsity tennis team, earned one of the coveted NMS finalist berths.

Jocelyn Zhu, along with Shreya and Priya Varra, were picked during their senior year, along with being the valedictorians for their class. For each of them, they said they felt proud to earn recognition as it validated the hard work they put in and the sleepless nights they went through.

"When I found out that I was a finalist, I felt really happy," Priya said via email. "It was a nice feeling to know that I had an accomplishment on a national level, and it was also exciting to know that this award would open up some very valuable scholarships for me."

Obviously it's difficult for anyone to be a varsity athlete regardless of the sport, but to add a NMS finalist selection on top of that puts even more pressure on the students.

Shreya, also via email, said that during the season she "would have to do homework and project work

either during class time or on the bus while traveling to other schools for tennis games" just to stay on top of her work.

Also, with all the other commitments, "like an interview or volunteering (for an) event," sometimes she found it necessary to "compromise" and tell her coach that she had to miss a game or practice session. Each of the three women said, however, that the time crunch forced them to be better students since they couldn't slack off from work.

"During tennis season, we practice for almost 2½ hours on non-game days, and 2 to 3 times a week, we have games that usually end around 7 p.m.," Priya said. "For away games, this can sometimes mean we don't get home until 8 or 9 p.m. Because of this schedule, I don't have a lot of free time where I can be tempted to binge-watch a TV show or find other methods of procrastination. I'm forced to use the little time I have to do my schoolwork and keep my grades up."

Being twins, Shreya and Priya say they've always had a close bond with each other. The two said it was great that the other also became a finalist and that they will be able to share it together.

The three recipients have known each other for years, and Zhu said they've become so close through their experiences.

"We actually knew each other before high school," Zhu said via text message. "We went to the same tennis clinic...together in middle school... We had a lot of classes together and we all—everyone on the

tennis team, especially varsity—have the same goofy sense of humor...we're really good friends."

Girls tennis coach Carol Sandvig has spent plenty of time with the three girls and said she's seen so much growth from the three over the last four years.

"After they realized that this is a sport and they should enjoy what they're doing (it took some time because they're all very intense and they're all very perfectionist)," Sandvig said. "In the beginning it was tough because they felt that they could do better and were better but once they settled down and realized they're good and it's OK, it's OK to make mistakes and learn from it, they got a lot better."

When asked how she helped get the girls over those perfectionist tendencies, Sandvig said her backing off on them a bit helped them have "a really fun year this year."

"I think enjoying them more as people and individuals rather than just tennis players and realizing that tennis isn't their ticket, academics is their ticket, who they are is their ticket and they're going to do something great in the end, how was I able to do that, I think I just backed off a little bit," Sandvig said.

That growth is something the three women have noticed in themselves throughout their four years at Corona.

"When I was a freshman and sophomore, I didn't really feel like a leader, I was mainly just doing

— TENNIS, Page 22



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Tennis

From Page 21

what I needed to do in order to keep my grades up and build my college resume,” Shreya said. “But during my junior and senior years, I noticed more of my peers asking me for help or for my advice, and I also noticed that I was taking the lead on projects and during tennis practice more and more often. After these four years I would say that I do view myself as a leader.”

Shreya and Priya are going to Carnegie Mellon University for computer science while Zhu is going to Northeastern College for engineering. Though they aren’t going to college for their skills in tennis, each of them has said that they plan to keep it in their lives, whether it’s through club tennis or just playing when they have free time.

For many people their age who go to a college, staying in touch with high school or even hometown friends can be difficult. You don’t see them every day, you don’t have classes with them and it takes a genuine effort from both sides to still be friends.

For some, though, the effort is either too much work or they don’t feel it from the other person and friendships fade away. It doesn’t seem like that will be the case for these three. Zhu also said she “definitely plans on staying in contact with them.”

“My junior year, I created a group chat with some of my classmates and we all became a lot closer over time,” she said. “A lot of the times we send funny things to each other, discuss political situations, and ask for advice. Priya and Shreya were a part of that group chat and we still keep in contact. We’ll also hang out over break.”



2018 Corona graduates, tennis stars and National Merit Scholarship finalists, from left, Maya Muir, Jocelyn Zhu, Shreya Varra, Maria Manaog, Priya Varra and Suraya Sidique.

— Photo courtesy Carol Sandvig

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Non-resident registration opens Aug. 20

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It may be impossibly long, but possibly the best so far

Secret agent Tom Cruise is given a retro-looking recorder informing him of his mission—which seems, quite frankly, impossible. The recording then self-destructs after five seconds. When the opening credits start on *Mission Impossible: Fallout*, the sixth installment in the action series, they're accompanied by the image of a burning fuse and a montage of quick glimpses from the film we're about to see, edited to Lalo Schiffrin's familiar theme music.

These nods to the format of Bruce Geller's classic TV show, which ran on CBS from 1966 to 1973, are very welcome. We get more: Improbably lifelike latex masks, for instance.

Best of all, when Ving Rhames and Simon Pegg are transporting a captive villain through the sewers of Paris, we hear that insistent background music from the show: the snare drum, and that repeated phrase of "Da-DA-dum-da-dum-da-dum-DAAAAA... [pause]...Da-da-da-da-DAAAAA."

But, of course, these are just trappings. The hugely

successful *Mission Impossible* movies long since abandoned the atmosphere of the old show, with its long, suspenseful sequences of minimal dialogue as the then-high-tech spies engineered massively convoluted, Murphy's-Law-defying scams to trick evil despots or gangsters. We very rarely learned anything about the personal lives of the "IMF Team," much less about the shadowy intelligence agency for which they worked. And there was rarely any sustained action.

The movies, by contrast, are all about the tortured personal lives of the characters, especially Cruise's Ethan Hunt. And they're built from one wildly over-scaled action sequence to the next. They aren't a bit less ludicrous than the old show's theatrics, they're just ludicrous in a very different way.

Fallout has Cruise and a colleague skydiving right into Paris to infiltrate a soiree at the Grand Palais—one of the more flamboyant approaches to

— MOORHEAD, Page 24

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Unicorn, Slime party Aug. 11 at Arizona Mills

Back-to-school season is right around the corner, and Arizona Mills is celebrating with a Unicorn & Slime Party, featuring a meet and greet with YouTube star Just Ameerah and the rest of the Navalua family, from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11.

Guests will enjoy on-stage entertainment, including music, games, prizes and a “Magical Unicorn Costume Contest” for children ages 0-15.

The event will also offer face painting, slime-making, a scavenger hunt, craft stations and a free gift for the first 200 attendees.

Moorhead

From Page 23

crashing a party we’ve seen in a while.

Within minutes we get a savage martial arts brawl in a pristine men’s room, not long after that we get a motorcycle chase around the Arc de Triomphe, and then it’s off to London for a foot chase through St. Paul’s, and so on. It all has something to do with stolen plutonium and a scheme by an old enemy of Ethan’s to create an apocalyptic disaster.

And on its own terms, the movie, written and directed by Christopher McQuarrie of *The Usual Suspects*, is relentlessly gripping. Cruise, absurdly boyish for a man in his mid-50s, reportedly did much of his own stunt work, and it certainly looks like he did.

I generally find it hard to take him seriously in hyper-competent man-of-action roles, but that’s not a defect in a silly action fantasy like this, and there’s no doubt that he has the energy and professionalism to carry a movie on this scale.

He’s ably supported by Rhames and Pegg, along with juicy, hammy turns by Alec Baldwin, Angela Bassett, Vanessa Kirby and Sean Harris as the obsessed heavy. Henry Cavill, who makes a somewhat bland Superman for my taste, shows unexpected intensity and sexiness here as an arrogant CIA man assigned to keep an eye on Ethan.

My one complaint about *Fallout*—again, on its own terms—is the same complaint I’ve tediously made about one big blockbuster after another over the last decade or so: It’s too long, by 20 minutes to a half hour.

It ends with an extremely protracted, crosscut scene involving different sets of characters trying to avert disaster. It’s amusing in itself, but after well over two hours of shootings and beatings and knifings and crashes, we’re so worn down we may be tempted to give up.

But that, of course, would be impossible.

Mission Impossible: Fallout is rated PG-13 and plays at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion Center, Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.

UA

From Page 3

programs. The university is also looking for area businesses interested in student intern and corporate partnership opportunities.

In addition to the new courses, UA will continue to host boot camps in Chandler to teach job-ready skills for the digital economy. The university launched a part-time, 24-week Data Analytics Boot Camp in Chandler in March and is enrolling students for a full-time, 12-week Coding Boot Camp that will begin in September.

“At MST Solutions, we are always looking to hire talented graduates who have the technical expertise to hit the ground running and have an immediate impact in fueling our growth,” said Thiru Thangarathinam, chief executive officer at MST Solutions in Chandler.

“With the new programs offered in Chandler, we look to the University of Arizona to provide top tier technical talent as part of our growth strategy and expansion in the Southwest.”

UA’s Chandler campus is at 125 E. Commonwealth Ave.


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Investments bode well for Chandler's future

Commentary by Jay Tibshraeny

Chandler has been blessed with a solid business community that is always looking for ways to grow and invest back into our City.

While larger companies like Intel, Orbital ATK and Rogers tend to grab headlines when they announce new projects or expansions, I know plenty of small companies are also investing in the community.

One great example is Peixoto Coffee Roasters, a downtown favorite that has developed a strong following since it opened in 2015. In fact, they have so many fans they need additional space.

With catering and wholesale business on the rise, they are upping their production capacity with the lease of 8,000 square feet of industrial space in Uptown Chandler near the corner of Arizona Avenue and Elliot Road. This is a tremendous investment for

owners Jeff and Julia and I know they will continue to thrive with great coffee and service. Turbo Resources consolidated some work areas in West Chandler and now resides in a new facility under



construction in the Westech Corporate Center. With more than a quarter-million-square-foot campus, this aircraft parts distribution company, is set to excel and is a welcomed neighbor in Uptown Chandler.

The Southeast Valley Regional Association

of Realtors, or SEVRAR, just opened its new headquarters in Chandler. The building sits on more than three acres in the Chandler Airport area, and will serve the group's 12,000-plus realtors here in the heart of the Southeast Valley.

The consulting company Execute to Win continues to expand in Downtown Chandler as their

service and consultation with businesses continues to become more popular. The firm has increased its office space twice since its move to the city center, and we should continue to hear great things about them moving forward.

And finally, in west Chandler, Arizona Nutritional Supplements (ANS) continues to thrive. They expanded into Chandler in 2008 and now are headquartered here, recently leasing a 100,000-square-foot warehouse. With approximately 600 employees, ANS is another true Chandler success story.

We could fill volumes discussing all the great entrepreneurs who are investing in Chandler. These few examples highlight some of the recent successes, and they bode well for the future of the entire business community and our City.

Jay Tibshraeny is mayor of Chandler.

RETURN

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- **Better Quality of Life**
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– Patti Bruno, former 2 term Chandler City Council Member

"A retired Colonel, Matt understands firsthand the needs of our military veterans. As a Council Member Matt has a proven record of supporting our veterans."

– Major Frederick E. Ferguson US Army (Ret) of Chandler, Medal of Honor Recipient

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ABOUT MATT ORLANDO

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- Colonel (Ret) 30 years in USAF; AZ Air National Guard
- MBA Golden Gate University; BA Rutgers University

City Council approves Tempe's 2018-19 budget

The Tempe City Council has worked with city staff and community members to formulate, refine and approve the city's operating and capital improvements budgets for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which began July 1.

Community members contributed to the budget formulation process over the last several months, through an online forum and public hearings. The Council approved the budgets at a special June 7 public meeting. To find a recap of the process, including related documents, visit www.tempe.gov/BudgetPlan.

The city's fiscal year 2018-19 budget totals \$745.2 million, consisting of a \$501.5 million operating budget and a \$243.7 million capital budget.

Although capital projects are scheduled throughout the five-year plan, only those projects during the first year of the plan are adopted as part of the city's annual budget. The first year of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) constitutes the capital budget. The remaining years within the CIP serve as a guide for future planning. The CIP contains maintenance and construction projects related to streets, water, parks and city facilities, along with equipment purchases and more. The city's portion of secondary property tax is used to repay bonds that fund repair and construction projects in the CIP.

The 2018-19 fiscal year started July 1, 2018, and goes through June 30, 2019.

Landlords needed to give veterans a hand up

Tempe is expanding its housing options for military veterans who are experiencing homelessness and is seeking landlords with available rental properties.

The city's housing services division plans to place 10 eligible low-income veterans in subsidized housing with case management and supportive services.

The pilot program is part of the federal HUD-VASH (VA Supportive Housing) program, which is aimed at helping veterans overcome the challenges of homelessness.

The city is recruiting landlords with all housing types to participate.

Interested landlords can call 480-350-8953 or email Val Sarver at val_sarver@tempe.gov or Theresa James at theresa_james@tempe.gov.



Healing Field is Sept. 8-11

Tempe will honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with a display of patriotism and unity at the 15th annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park, located at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway.

The free event runs Saturday, Sept. 8, through Tuesday, Sept. 11, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Sept. 10, there will be a Freedom Concert featuring patriotic songs in the park from 6-8 p.m.

On Sept. 11, there will be a memorial ceremony at 5:46 a.m. and a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m.

Healing Field is presented by the Exchange Club of Tempe.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/HealingField.

Briefs

35th Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards

Tempe Community Council (TCC) is proud to be hosting the 35th annual Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at the SRP PERA Club, in Tempe. Since 1984, the Don Carlos Humanitarian Award has been inspired by the legacy, character and spirit of Tempe's founder Charles Trumbull Hayden, known by Spanish pioneers as "Don Carlos," who spent his life working to help those in need. A Tempe humanitarian along with other extraordinary community members will be recognized for their outstanding generosity, commitment and service to improve the lives of others. The public is invited to attend. Tickets go on sale Aug. 1. The 2018 award recipients will be announced in early August. Event sponsorships are available. For more information, visit www.tempecommunitycouncil.org or call 480-858-2300.

Free clothing and school supplies for teens

Opening Aug. 7, middle and high school students attending Tempe schools can shop for free at any two Threadz teen clothes closets located on the Marcos de Niza and Tempe High School campuses. The Threadz centers are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4:30 p.m., during the school year. Students can choose clothing, shoes, personal hygiene items, backpacks and school supplies. A valid Tempe school ID is required. Tempe Community Council operates the sites in partnership with the Tempe Union High School District. Volunteers and new or gently-used items are always needed. Cash donations help purchase new socks and underwear and miscellaneous supplies. For more information, visit www.tempecommunitycouncil.org or call 480-858-2300.

Free Art Friday returns for young artists

Young aspiring artists can explore their creative sides at Free Art Friday, which kicks off in August. Children ages 1-6 and their parents or caregivers will create take-home art projects and experience music and movement in a fun, themed setting. This program is free to attend and registration is not required. The themes will be: Color (Aug. 17); Out of this World (Sept. 28); Magic and Myths (Oct. 26); and Winter in the Desert (Nov. 30).

All classes are held from 9-11 a.m. at the Edna Vihel Arts Center, 3340 S. Rural Road. For more info, visit www.tempe.gov/FamilyFun.

New concept seen as way to build a more educated workforce

The city of Chandler has announced its support of the Arizona Education Progress Meter, along with a statewide goal to boost post-secondary attainment to 60 percent by the year 2030.

"The (initiative) now allows all stakeholders involved with improving education in our communities to track results and impacts our efforts are making," said René Lopez, Chandler councilmember.

"This new tool will help ensure that we are expending our most critical and essential resources in the correct ways, and when (we are) not, to identify and pivot to other programs to ensure we are providing the necessary skills in moving the needle towards a more educated workforce."

Launched in 2016 the Progress Meter provides a set of key metrics that support a world-class education in Arizona, namely that all students, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to succeed at every step of the education continuum, from the early years through career.

Chandler was one of the first cities in Arizona to convene an effort—led by the Chandler Chamber of Commerce—to bring local government, business and education leaders together to identify local strategies to advance the state's attainment goal.

A number of other city and county governments have issued proclamations in support of the Education Progress Meter, including Tempe, Glendale, Flagstaff and Phoenix.

Terri Kimble, president/CEO of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, added:

"The Chandler Chamber focuses on education because of Chandler's high quality of learning and diverse options. Because of this, we are fortunate to be able to use it as an economic development tool. We truly value our educational systems and have for years made it a priority in our legislative agenda at the local, state and federal levels."

The Progress Meter establishes milestones on a path to improving educational opportunities and outcomes for all Arizonans, according to a statement from the organizers. They say that progress made in each area will ultimately create a more prosperous economy, ensure students have the knowledge and credentials necessary for good jobs, and improve the civic health of communities.

The metrics include:

- **Post-secondary attainment:** Percent of residents who have completed a 2- or 4-year degree
- **Post-high school enrollment:** Percent of recent high school graduates who enrolled in a post-secondary institution
- **Opportunity youth:** Percent of 16-24 year olds working or attending school
- **High school graduation:** Percent of high school students who graduate on time
- **8th grade math:** Percent of 8th graders who scored proficient or highly proficient on the math portion of the AzMERIT assessment
- **3rd grade reading:** Percent of 3rd graders who scored proficient or highly proficient on the AzMERIT English language arts test
- **Preschool enrollment:** Percent of 3- and 4-year-olds who are enrolled in preschool in a public, private or homeschool setting
- **Teacher pay:** Median elementary teacher salary in Arizona compared to the national median

The Household Products Collection Center will be closed on August 18 in lieu of this event.

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From Page 15

success.

This year, we will continue to reach out to community partners for engagement and guidance and make sure that we deploy resources where they have the greatest impact on achieving our desired

results.

Our work is about large-scale implementation within an existing system of schools.

We are clear about the learning expectations for students and want to make sure that every student reaches those standards.

We rely on our teachers and

administrators to create rich learning experiences using the very same skills we are developing in our students: creativity and innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, systems thinking, and flexibility, among others.

Our pillars for student success focus on academic excellence, responsive instruction, and student agency.

Our accomplishments have been monumental and we will continue to build upon work from last year in areas of PreK offerings; PreK-8 design that focuses on Traditional, Dual Language, International Baccalaureate, AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) and

addressing student needs through dyslexia support and site-based interventionists.

This year we will also focus on expanding efforts to address social-emotional learning and school safety initiatives.

The Kyrene community can count on regular updates through our official communication channels of public meetings, email, social media and Kyrene.org. We welcome participation in our schools and hope you stay connected throughout the year by participating in activities when possible and ensuring children's readiness for school each day. Family participation in school experiences are welcome opportunities for us to work

together in the support of our children. It is under that shared care that our children thrive.

As we move forward with our continuous improvement efforts, I invite you to think about something written long ago but that still resonates today. Emerson said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

I am confident that we will blaze a trail filled with success and accomplishment as, together, we launch the best year yet for our Kyrene Schools.

Dr. Jan Vesely is superintendent of the Kyrene School District.



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From the Pastor: Churches offer path of first, not last, resort for emotional crisis

By Jeff Beltz

Hysteria occurred when *War of the Worlds*, a story written in 1898, was performed on the radio in 1938, by Orson Welles. Many listeners missed the intro explaining that the Halloween presentation was a fictional dramatization.

It became famous for allegedly causing mass panic, as people actually thought that Martians had come to take over.

They saw no way out and were scared to death. There was no actual trouble, but many freaked out!

This happens in life too, big troubles occur and all options appear totally gone and you can find your back against a wall.

It is common to multifarious people, at one time or another; a big disagreement with the boss, spouse, parents, boyfriend/girlfriend, coach, banker, etc., and a solution appears impossible.

Perhaps, choices were made that inadvertently generated trouble or someone else caused the onerous situation, but the net result is inescapable trouble and that typically creates: hopelessness, anger, anxiety, and/or fear.

A few thousand years ago, one ethnic group had been enslaved by another. There was no solution, so ultimately, they prayed and their God miraculously rescued them out of that abominable spot. Now free, about a million took their leave.

But their former oppressors ferociously pursued with the intent to kill many and re-enslave the rest.

This was bad, but what was worse was that newly free group got trapped against a body of water with the violent army coming after them – talk about up against a wall! Think about it, moms and dads with little kids, old folks on carts who could not walk, much less fight. Imagine men that had been slaves, pondering slaughter from the well-trained and equipped angry enemy.

That group was the nation of Israel and the story is told in an ancient book of wisdom, the Holy Bible in Exodus 14.

Yes, they were stuck and had no hope or chance of delivering themselves; but here is the good part: There is help! Moses helped them and God delivered them, again, miraculously!

Sometimes in life, we all need a Moses to help and God to do the heavy lifting. Cool thing about our God, He is not a slave to fear, He is not impotent. All through history He rescued people in unsolvable situation and He is still doing it today, even for you and me!

The Israelites, just freed from slavery were beyond panic, had no hope for escape, so God did what no one could have imagined, or even dreamt of, He simply split the sea behind them and they escaped; they walked through it—on dry ground!

An impossible situation, which we, too, may find ourselves in, is the perfect spot to for God to show that He is actually...God.

If you find yourself scared, depressed or just stuck in a difficult situation, as bad as it may be, you are

in a good spot, for now you may get to experience something transcendent, something phenomenal, something beyond you and your problems.

Asking in faith, you may get to join a massive crowd that has experienced God's love and extraordinary deliverance.

This God, that so many malign today, can be your literal savior! Suicide, numbing the pain through substances, throwing in the towel, and/or running and hiding all destroy life.

God, instead, gives life. In fact, God's Son, Jesus, said in that same book of ancient wisdom, the Bible, John 10:10 "...I have come to give you life and give it abundantly." Talk about good news out of nowhere!

Who could have imagined, that to deliver the Israelites, God beat nature and gravity!

Unprecedented! Unexpected! Simply inconceivable! That is one great part about knowing God, nothing fazes Him.

Things may seem hopeless or insurmountable to us, but for God "this ain't nothing!" And we get to know Him, as well, while we watch Him do the miraculous!

At most churches, this is talked about every week and at the Arizona Community Church, we would love help you know God and his son Jesus, whether you have your back against the wall or things are going dandy.

Jeff Beltz is Life Groups pastor, Connections & Mens Ministry leader at Arizona Community Church.



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