WRANGLER

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Kyrene schools chief wins 3-year contract extension

Sept 8-21,

By Diana Nelson

Most Kyrene parents are passionate about their children's education. So it comes as no surprise that many closely followed the contract renewal discussion for the district superintendent, Dr. Jan Vesely.

Recently, the Governing Board cast a 4-to-1 vote to approve a three-year extension to Vesely's contract, which now runs until June 30, 2021.

While some districts might view a contract review as routine business, members of the Kyrene community publicly debated the issue, from opining on social media and text messages to emails.

Some came to speak during the public-comment portion during Governing Board meetings on Aug. 14 and 28. The speakers offered a variety of perspectives on a wide range of topics, including race relations, technology, amount of recess time and school resource officers. A few claimed teacher morale was low.

In the end, however, a ground swell of support emerged for Vesely, turning the undercurrent of sniping comments to positives, mainly from teachers who said they came to the meeting to speak

—KYRENE, Page 10



Smiling in spite of the pain – Kayla Gonzalez survived a horrific accident when she was struck by a vehicle while walking along University Drive in Tempe, but said she's 'just trying to get better' so she can start college.

— Wrangler News photo by Noah Kutz

Tempe's zero tolerance plan aims to minimize accidents, injuries

H VISION ZERO TEMPE

Last year 226 pedestrians were killed in accidents in Arizona; another 1,510 were injured. In Tempe, there were five fatal and seven seriousinjury crashes involving pedestrians in rempe

2 0 1 8

"Even one crash is too many, which is why Tempe has adopted a Vision Zero resolution and is currently developing a Vision Zero Action Plan," said Tempe Traffic Engineer Julian Dresang.

"The goal of the plan is to achieve a reduction in the number of fatal and serious injury crashes to zero, because no loss of life is acceptable."

"Improved lighting, additional signalized crossings, speed

enforcement and education campaigns are just some of the strategies that city of Tempe staff are using to address pedestrian safety," Dresang said.

Contributing factors in pedestrian crashes often include time of day; pedestrians crossing midblock; and driver speed. Improved lighting, additional signalized crossings, speed enforcement and education campaigns are just some of the strategies that city of Tempe staff report that they are using to address pedestrian safety.

ASU-bound teen is latest statistic in state accident tally

By Joyce Coronel

ne minute she was a carefree young woman sauntering along the sidewalk in the sunshine, eager to arrange her dorm room on the Tempe campus of Arizona State University.

In a split second, everything changed.

"The police called to tell me about the accident," said Victor Gonzalez, whose 18-year old daughter, Kayla, was struck by a vehicle that swerved to avoid an oncoming truck traveling westbound on University Drive west of College Avenue.

Kayla suffered two broken legs plus a broken pelvis. So far, she has undergone five surgeries.

"I have a metal rod going through my leg to stabilize it. It's my foot, too," Kayla said. "My big toe got amputated."

"Her bones were sticking out," Victor said of seeing his daughter shortly after she was rushed to the hospital.

Tempe Vice Mayor Lauren Kuby, who works at ASU, heard the crash and stood up to look out the window.

"My...co-workers and I either witnessed the accident or its aftermath and the experience was horrific," Kuby told Wrangler News. "Kayla was crying out in pain and the driver who hit her was distraught. I was haunted by what I saw."

Later on, Kuby said she couldn't stop thinking about Kayla and her family and she decided to launch a

- KAYLA, Page 12





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Students take a bite out of hot-button issues

'Real Talk' produces a slice of real teen views

By Joyce Coronel

oseph Dodds was hefting a stack of steaming pizza boxes through the halls of Corona del Sol High School's campus one day when a student took notice.

"Where's that pizza going?" the student asked. "We get that question all the time," Dodds chuckled.

The 28-year old youth pastor from nearby Arizona Community Church was headed for "Real Talk," a popular lunchtime discussion group on campus that allows students to voice their thoughts on hot-button topics such as gun violence, drug use, drinking and suicide.

"When you have giant pizzas, it kind of helps," Dodds said.

The promise of free slices might draw students to attend initially, but the opportunity to speak freely about topics of intense concern keeps them coming back. There's no debate and no one is allowed to criticize a fellow student's viewpoint. The program began at Corona during the 2017-2018 school year.

"The format is simple," Dodds said. "Each week we change topics, but there are always things that are going around in our culture or big issues teens are dealing with."

The discussion lasts for about 30 minutes. After that, Dodds or another Real Talk team leader offers a five- or 10-minute presentation about the topic du jour.

Anywhere from 30-45 students attend the sessions each week. Last year, when Real Talk was offered during both lunch periods, attendance was twice that. "It's a safe place for kids to go and voice their opinion and learn," Dodds said.

He's accompanied by a small cadre of adult men and women leaders from the church who share the pizza—and the discussions that flow around the table.

"The biggest thing is, this is one way—though not the only way—to reach them," Dodds said. The majority of students who attend the weekly gathering are not Christian and Dodd says the group is open to all students. Arizona Community Church spends about \$150 each week to buy the pizzas.

Dodd said one of the best-attended meetings took place after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida last February that left 17 people dead.

"That week we talked about it," Dodds said. "We let the kids voice their thoughts, what they thought about the situation. That's where I felt like we hit on something important, especially at Corona."

The Tempe school has had several students die by suicide in recent years. One death took place on campus in 2015 when a student shot himself near the administration building.

Incidents of school violence around the country often precipitate even more students to attend Real Talk. After the Florida massacre, Dodds said students had plenty to say. "They talked about how their parents work all the time and they [the students] are kind of on their own. They don't feel like there's a place for them to go.

"They have to be the best at what they do—there's a lot of pressure on them," Dodds said.

Many students "feel like depression and suicide

- ISSUES, Page 18



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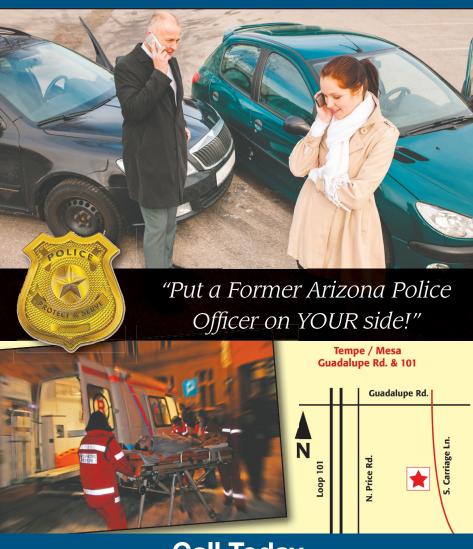


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Student mentors help rookies take the sometimes scary step to middle school

By Diana Nelson

The jump from elementary to middle school can be a tricky one but there's an innovative program that can help students make that transition a bit more gracefully.

WEB, which stands for "Where Everybody Belongs," is a wild adventure that never stops being fun, says Kyrene Middle School student Heidi Bullock.

It's the first year that the program is in place at all six middle schools in the Kyrene district.

"Many incoming sixth-graders may feel nervous about their new environment. As WEB leaders, we get to help them adjust and feel safe while also watching them grow. I really have enjoyed my time as a WEB leader so far," said Heidi.

Built on the belief that students can mentor their fellow students and

for sixth- and seventh-graders to receive support and guidance from eighth-graders, who have already the mastered the challenges that middle school poses.

WEB also acts as an anti-bullying program for middle schools by providing trained student leaders who look for bullying behavior and help stop it. WEB gives older students permission to be aware of and report any negative behavior they see, creating a safer school for everybody.

The yearlong program boasts four components that contribute to its success:

Middle School Orientation - WEB leaders and sixth- and seventh-graders start building the mentor relationship and receive information about how to be successful in middle school.

Academic Follow Ups - WEB leaders support sixth- and seventh-

grade academic success and character development through classroom visits.

Social Follow
Ups - WEB Leaders
and sixth- and
seventh-graders
connect outside the
classroom at social
events to increase
student engagement
and promote positive
school climate.

Leader Initiated
Contacts - WEB
leaders connect

with their sixth-graders on a more individual basis.

WEB leaders not only help organize and guide the sixth-graders through orientation day, they also help to facilitate a smooth transition both socially and academically throughout the year, explained KMS teacher Angela Dixon.

"It is great that sixth-graders have a trusted eighth-grader that they can go to if they have any questions or are nervous about something," said Dixon.

With WEB, sixth-graders experience at least eight positive contacts with their WEB leaders during the first six weeks of school and this both contributes to overall school safety as well as helps them create a sense of connection to their new school. WEB is a national program which Kyrene teachers have been trained in. Each middle-school site has two or three program co-coordinators.



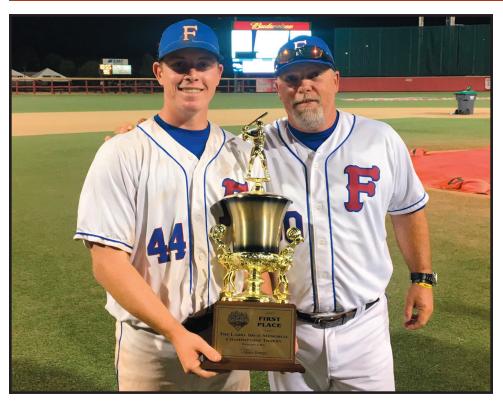
help them succeed, the program trains mentors from eighth-grade classes to be WEB leaders.

As positive role models, WEB leaders attend the same school and guide the sixth- and seventh-graders to discover the traits needed to be successful during the transition to middle school and help to facilitate the students' adjustment.

"KMS WEB is an extraordinary program to help incoming sixth-graders into our humble school. We show them how to cooperate in certain situations and help them grow throughout the year," said student leader and WEB participant Alayjanae Gary.

More and more studies show that if students have a positive experience their first year in middle school, their chances for academic and social success increase dramatically.

WEB provides the structure



Connor Woods and Coach Steve Schuck celebrate winning the championship trophy at the National Baseball Congress World Series.

— Photo courtesy Steve Schuck

Seeing teens do what they love adds reward to coach's career

By Omar Soussi

Por most young athletes, organized, competitive play pretty much ends when they receive their high school diploma. Dreams of one day playing on the college level or becoming a professional ball player grow dim and eventually fade.

However, three former Marcos de Niza baseball players, alongside their former high school coach, lived that dream over the summer months. You might even say they hit it out of the ballpark when they took part in the National Baseball Congress' 84th annual World Series during July and August. It was the first time in the school's history that four players Marcos participated in the event. For the school's head baseball coach, Steve Schuck, it was glorious.

The National Baseball Congress has the top college, Major League Baseball prospects and former minor and major league players competing on teams throughout the summer season to earn a spot in the World Series.

Pitcher Craig Knoche, a 2014 Marcos grad who plays for Oklahoma City University, sported the Wellington Heat jersey. Class of 2016 pitcher Giovanni Nieves of Bethel University played for the National Junior College Athletic Association National Team. Finally, class of 2017 pitcher Conner Woods (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) and Schuck were on the Santa Barbara Foresters.

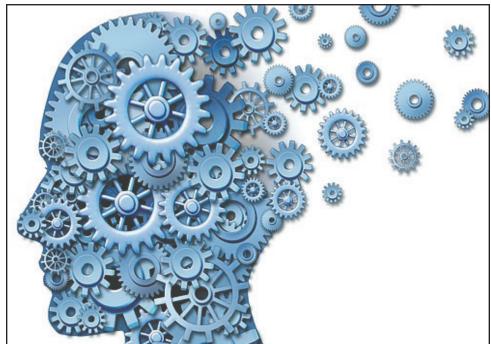
Woods said via email it was "surreal" that three of them were able to compete at the tournament, and Schuck, who served as associate coach for the Foresters, said via email he was proud to see his players make it that far.

"I was so proud to watch my guys out there battling in one of the biggest baseball tournaments in the country, personally knowing the hard work and sacrifice that went into their game," Schuck said. "The joy that I experienced seeing Padres, and former teammates, doing what they love and competing is indescribable."

For Woods, playing for Schuck once again throughout the season was something he says he'll never forget.

"Coach Schuck, throughout high school, was a person I always looked up to and I credit him in helping me be the player I am today," Woods said. "It was a special opportunity to have him there coaching throughout this

- COACH, Page 8



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First Person

A long road guided by remarkable helpers makes a journey easier

By Don Kirkland

ven though a career newspaperman can't avoid being exposed to life's unpleasant realities, I'd be the first to admit that I seem to have gone out of my way to sidestep thinking about that ultimate moment of realization, the one where we finally come face-to-face with the limits of our mortality.

I was thrown into that situation recently when a member of our extended family started the long, strenuous slide toward the finality of life.

It all began a year ago in May, when the effects of a near lifetime of smoking raised the specter of lung cancer and a destiny that appeared to justify little hope for survival.

And so it went for the next 15 months, a slow but nonetheless inexorable downhill slide toward inevitability. For her, for all of us, the upside was her ability to remain in the comfort of her own home, purposely without the purportedly excruciating use of what we knew would likely be the miserable aftermath of treatment by chemotherapy and radiation.

The signs of illness were rather innocuous in the beginning. In fact, we wondered if the diagnosis of Stage IV lung cancer had really been accurate. Did we think she might actually recover? To be truthful, I'm sure we did, despite the fear that most of us must have known we were probably wrong.

But then the signs of decline began to show themselves more visibly: harder to leave the house, harder to prepare meals, harder to muster the remnants of her typical good humor as a way we assumed was designed to help us, her Arizona family, not worry when she struggled to breathe.

Each day, the signs became more difficult to ignore. That's the way

things work when you see someone every day as an illness progresses. To those who visited her less frequently, however, the difference became more apparent.

Did we think it was time to consider assisted living—that is, in a place



where trained staff would be available 24 hours a day?

That was when Kay Fisher came onto the scene. Kay, our onetime neighbor of many years, had built considerable

experience in helping families find housing, either temporary or long-term, that would be affordable, convenient for family visits and, most importantly, able to demonstrate a history of professional, loving care—the kind that somehow could help dispel worries about the dreaded move to an institutional sort of environment. That, as it turned out, was one of the areas in which Kay truly proved her worth, coupled with her knowledge of what can be a complex, many layered labyrinth of end-of-life care.

Next to become involved in the regimen of care was Hospice of the Valley, which proved itself to employ a highly skilled, highly dedicated staff of nurses and social workers, each one of whom possessed, to us at least, an almost unimaginable competency in a niche of care that, we all agreed, requires a very special person indeed.

Prior to the time we knew that assisted living likely would be needed, we visited at least 10 possible locations, each with its own plusses and minuses.

What seemed consistent at nearly all of them was the readily evident atmosphere of caring among staff members, many of Filipino origin. The

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Kirkland

From Page 6

location we settled on, one of several operated in the Valley by Maria Remitio and her family, proved to have been an inspired pick. In fact, based on our own experience and on the letters from families posted on a huge hallway board in the five- or six-bedroom home, it appeared that previous guests had felt similarly thankful for the care their loved ones had received.

The two fulltime resident caretakers, Marco and Joy, who essentially oversaw a cadre of rotating helpers, never seemed to tire of their responsibilities. They were present every time we visited, always friendly, always knowledgeable, always ready to help when and where help was needed.

Although we had not been able to anticipate how a long a stay might be required—a month, a year—the answer came sooner than we had expected.

When it seemed that breathing had become dangerously difficult, even with a never-ending flow of oxygen, and a significant increase in pain, the hospice nurse in charge of care announced that it was time for what she seemed to characterize as a "short term" stay in the hospice unit that Valley of the Sun maintains at a hospital on the campus

of Tempe's long respected Friendship Village community.

It took no more than a few hours for a professional transport crew to arrive and effect the move, with the expectation that a return to the assisted living home would be authorized as soon as the pain had been stabilized.

Despite the heroic efforts of the entire hospice staff—not the least of were those of nurse Kathryn— the breathing worsened and, within five days, it was time to say our final goodbyes.

Make no mistake: even though we were all glad the suffering had ended, parting was could not be called sweet sorrow.

And yet, now that the reality has settled in, our memories lie in the happy days we all spent together, in the seemingly boundless commitment of the caretakers, and in the love we experienced as a family throughout a remarkable ordeal.

To all of those who know they or their loved ones someday will face this same eventuality of life and death, I hope our experience can provide some sense of wonderment of how the loving care of others can help to fill an understandable, but inevitable, void.

Anyone facing similar circumstances can contact Kay Fisher, mentioned above, at no charge for help, information and guidance. She is reachable by phone at 480-688-6954.

Coach

From Page 5

summer and the NBC event."

Two of the former Padres faced off in the finals, with it being Woods' and Schuck's Foresters against Nieves' NJCAA National team.

It was a close game but the Foresters were able to pick up a 6-5 win, giving Schuck his third NBC World Series championship.

"This one felt different, being able to share it with a former player," Schuck said.

"Being able to coach one of my former players in this arena was a gift. Most coaches never get a chance to reunite with a former player."

After spending the summer watching Woods, Schuck reflected on the rare opportunity.

"I was fortunate to be with Conner all summer. I watched him work his tail off, day in and day out, and was able to be there to celebrate the fruits of his labor with him," Schuck said. "For Conner to get a ring is a tremendous feeling. I feel like a proud papa."

Each of the three players put in plenty of hard work and effort to make it, and after a tough fight to semifinals and the championship round, Schuck said he tips his hat the three men for competing in the tournament, especially Giovanni and Craig.

"They performed like warriors in this tournament and I know how it feels to just miss out on the goal," Schuck said.

"It hurt to see them so down after their last game. On the positive, all three are living their dream, playing the greatest sport in the world."

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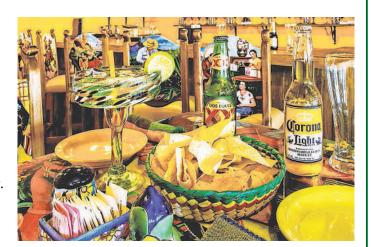
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Triple Threat

Sisterly love finds meaning in a Tempe classroom

By Robyn Martinez

You might do a triple-tack when you visit Ward Traditional Academy and check out the list of classroom teachers. No, they're not triplets, but let's just say Smeltzer 1, Smeltzer 2, and Smeltzer 3 are common phrases you will hear if you visit the Tempe school where three sisters teach in triplicate, sort of.

Since the start of this school year, Erica, Ashley, and Lauren Smeltzer are all teachers at Ward Traditional Academy. Ashley started at Ward eight years ago and encouraged Erica to apply the following year. When a teaching position opened up for this school year, they both encouraged Lauren to apply. Erica, the oldest, and Lauren, the youngest, both teach first-grade and have connecting classrooms. Ashley, the middle sister, teaches second-grade a few doors down.

"It feels great knowing that I always have someone at school to help me out, especially since this is my first year teaching," said Lauren. "It's nice that we can always say good morning,

check-in throughout the day, and say good night at the end of the day."

Their journey to become teachers didn't start out like most. Each sister was rather determined to do something other than teaching in a classroom. Erica obtained her undergraduate degree in exercise science, and while spending time in a preschool classroom for her thesis, realized that teaching was her calling. She went back and earned a master's degree in education. Lauren started her undergraduate degree as a nursing major, then switched to education after an experience that allowed her to see how easy it was for her to help a young student quickly learn the alphabet. Ashley always knew that education was where she was called but not always in a teacher role. Eventually, she hopes to pursue a career in educational law.

"We all realized at different points that teaching felt like home, and came as second nature to us, thanks to growing up with a mom who was a

- SISTERS, Page 11



Lauren, Ashley and Erica Smeltzer, from left, often referred to as Smeltzer #3, Smeltzer #2 or Smeltzer #1, show off their signature red T-shirts that set the teaching sisters apart at Ward Traditional Academy.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary School District

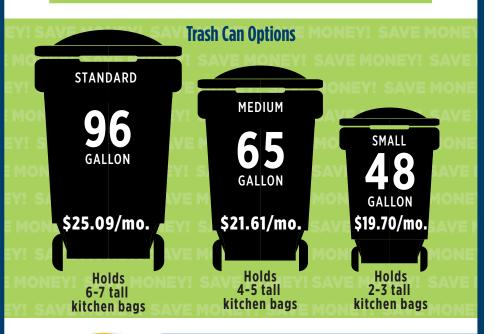


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Kyrene

From Page 1

on the superintendent's behalf.

Principal Renee Kory of Aprende Middle School in West Chandler said she was compelled to speak about Vesely because Kory doesn't see low morale in her school.

"I believe that Dr. Vesely supports teachers, and I am very happy to work in a district that gives me the resources I need to do a great job. Our school's enrollment has increased and I invite anyone to Aprende to see students who are happy and positive about learning," said Kory.

Principal Nancy Branch of Mirada Elementary, also in West Chandler, listed things in her life she said she is grateful for, including working for the Kyrene district.

"I am so happy that the Governing Board has voted to extend Dr. Vesely's contract. She is continually working with teachers to provide the best environment possible to educate the whole child in the premier school district."

Principal Kelley Brunner, of Colina Elementary in Ahwatukee, said that everyone at her school works collectively to create an excellent learning environment for students.

"I have worked for the Kyrene district for 33 years; it's a joy to come to work, and it's a choice for me to stay. I am very pleased to continue to learn and grow in this district," added Brunner.

Board vents opinions during contract discussion

Vesely is in her third year as superintendent in Kyrene. In her own statement, she outlined a number of accomplishments she considers achievements.

In her first year, Vesely said,

she spent the first several months on a "listening tour" of the district, meeting with staff and parent organizations at each school. She noted that she followed that with a district-wide curriculum audit, and began to address the key findings and recommendations, including a reorganization that directed resources to schools to provide instructional support for students.

Vesely recounted that she pro-actively sought community involvement as she continued the Parent and Superintendent Council, resurrected the Student and Superintendent Council, and developed the Kyrene Business Alliance and Citizens' Budget Committee.

Two new Councils, the Community/ Superintendent Council and the Teacher/Superintendent Council, will be added during the 2018-19 school year.

Vesely added that she created a Kyrene "Positive Parenting Series," which provides parents, students, staff and community members with an opportunity to learn more about such key topics as school safety and security, understanding the impact of social media on youth, bullying, adolescent health and development and wellness.

As a former teacher, principal and administrator with more 40 years of experience in education, Vesely says she recognizes the important role of teachers and staff in Kyrene.

"So, we started the Kyrene Values Teachers, Staff and Students program in 2017 as a partnership with local businesses to provide recognition of individuals who have gone above and beyond in reaching high levels of achievement in the classroom," said Vesely.

During the board meeting, the one vote opposed to the renewal of Vesely's contract came from member Michelle Fahy.

Explaining her rationale for the



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Kyrene

From Page 10

vote, Fahy offered a self-defensive explanation, saying she tried to meet with Vesely over a six-week period but did not receive an appointment. And, she added, she felt that the contract was being approved without input from teachers or the public.

"I think that the lack of communication and the opportunity to meet individually with the superintendent as a board member is troublesome to me.

"I believe that the district needs a superintendent who will come to the table and work with all board members equally, and be willing to engage in healthy discussions—which may lead to differences of opinion. We may have disagreements, or hopefully lots of agreements as well, but certainly different points of view," Fahy said.

Board member John King suggested Fahy's opposition was no secret to her colleagues on the board, but that he sees a district that is moving in the right direction.

"In my six years on the board, I feel like we are seeing great results and

managing the district like a business because it is a business.

"We're in the business of teaching children. We have a good bond rating. We have an excellent credit rating and we have quality people that we employ. Overall, I am very pleased to vote in support of approving Dr. Vesely's contract," said King.

His opinion was shared by Michael Myrick, who said that his impression of Vesely is extremely positive and that she's done a good job.

"I think she meets with anyone and everyone. Every time I've asked her for a meeting, I have always had it, always been able to meet with her," said Myrick.

Bernadette Coggins, who is concluding eight years of service on the board and is not seeking re-election, said she is extremely impressed in Vesely's achievement over the past two years.

"Do we have areas where we can improve?" Coggins said. "Absolutely. I don't know any district that doesn't, but we need to collaborate not spend time complaining."

Coggins believes that by extending Vesely's contract, "We will continue to finish the great work that has been started."

Sisters

From Page 9

teacher," said Erica.

Their mother, Karen Smeltzer, taught elementary school for over 30 years in the Kyrene district. She worked in partnership with Arizona State University during the pilot of the well-renowned "iTeach" student-teacher program. The girls attribute many of their teaching techniques to her.

"We grew up helping in the classroom, but when the time comes to choose your career, you try so hard to be different from your family," said Erica. "However, teaching was where our hearts were. It wasn't a shock to us what we were getting into."

Being sisters means that they share a lot in common – especially in their teaching style. It's known to most in the Ward community that the Smeltzer sisters have a strict teaching style, but that it pays off for their students. Especially for students and families who have now had all three sisters as a teacher, including children in the Toennies family.

"My oldest daughter, Mya, has been very motivated by the Smeltzer sisters' teaching style. They incorporate a lot of technology and creativity. They are known to be more strict but accomplish so much in the classroom, and the kids learn a lot," said parent Robin Toennies. "You can tell they all put a lot of energy into the kids and education, making it a great learning experience."

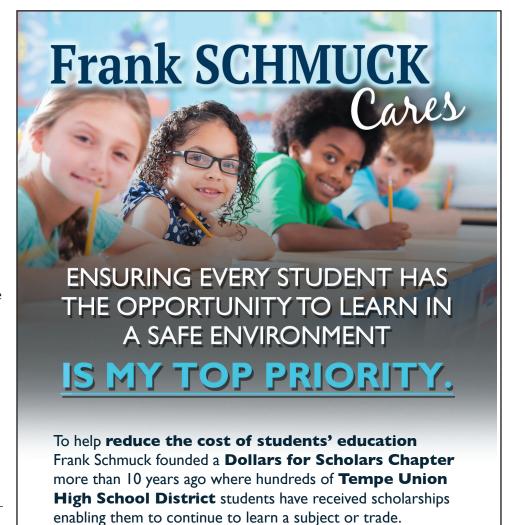
In addition to their similar teaching style, they also share similar fashion.

"Sometimes we come to school in the same outfit. We've learned to text each other in the morning to let the others know what we're wearing so we don't always match," Ashley said. When they aren't busy teaching

When they aren't busy teaching at the same school, Erica and Ashley coach the middle school soccer team together, and Lauren has plans to join next year. Erica said that, thankfully, when it comes to coaching, they go by their first names.

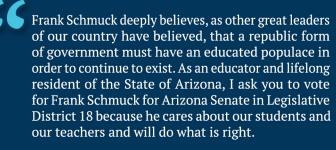
Having three individuals with the same last name can be confusing, especially for parents in the Ward community. The sisters all agree that they work together to make sure information gets to who it needs to get to, and they are grateful for the unique opportunity they have to all work together.

"It's so great knowing you always have someone to support you, and someone who will always have your back no matter what," Ashley said.



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Kayla

From Page 1

GoFundMe campaign to help.

"As a mom, I remember how excited I was to send my daughters off to college," said Kuby. "In one day, Kayla's life was turned upside down: instead of attending her first day of classes, she was in the operating room, enduring the first of five surgeries. Now school is a year off into the future."

In spite of the pain, Kayla smiles. "I'm getting there," she says, but then tears fill her eyes. She faces six to eight months of rehabilitation and must learn to walk again.

"They give me pain medication, but after my surgeries, it's hard. One of the deans at ASU reached out to me and she's going to help me defer my scholarships. So I'm going to do a medical leave/withdrawal from ASU just until I'm well," Kayla said.

It helps that close friend Elizabeth Mendez comes to visit almost every day. Then there's Kayla's mom who brings favorite comfort foods.

"I saw on TV that Arizona is the state with the most pedestrian accidents," Kayla said as she lay in her hospital bed surrounded by family members. "I'm just trying to get better so I can go back to school." Kayla was senior class president at McClintock High School in Tempe. She had the New American Scholarship to attend ASU this fall and was looking forward to beginning college with an eye to a career in sports marketing. In high school, she played softball, badminton and soccer.

With limited resources, Kayla's father, who paints houses, said he only wants what is fair for his daughter.

One concern the family has is that Kayla didn't have health insurance at the time of the accident. The company her father worked for went out of business and he spent months seeking other employment.

"We don't want anyone to give us things free," Victor said. "Only what is fair for what happened to her, to heal her. If I had had work eight months ago, I could've gotten insurance to cover this."

Until the insurance claims get sorted out, the GoFundMe campaign seeks donors to help the family during Kayla's ordeal.

"Tempe is a compassionate city, and I knew that if our residents knew about Kayla, they would come to her aid," Kuby said.

At press time, the campaign had raised more than half of its \$25,000 goal.

Information: https://www.gofundme.com/kayla-gonzalez-needs-our-help



Kayla Gonzalez, in a graduation photo from last May, was president of her senior class and active in three sports at McClintock High School prior to a devastating accident in August.

— Photo courtesy Lauren Kuby

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Onetime public housing resident now an honoree

Vanessa Dearmon knows what it's like to pull oneself out of looming financial catastrophe.

A public housing resident and now member of the Chandler Public Housing Authority Commission and Housing and Human Services Commission, Dearmon was among honorees at a recent gathering of a national housing collaborative.

The Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, which recognized Dearmon as Family Self-Sufficiency Participant of the Year, is a partnership among the cities of Chandler, Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale and Phoenix.

Its mission: To assist low-income families in making the transition from public assistance to productive employment and economic self-sufficiency.

The organization is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Dearmon is the public housing resident representative on the

city's Housing Commission and has demonstrated perseverance and dedication in achieving self-sufficiency by obtaining two Associates degrees from Mesa Community College. She also is working on a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design and Sustainability from Northern Arizona University.

Also honored was ASPIRE Read to Succeed, an innovative reading program for children living in public housing. The program was developed for children ages 6 to 8 residing in Chandler public housing.

According to a report, Chandler's public housing staff saw children struggle with language and reading skills and worked collaboratively with the city's Housing Authority and Chandler Public Library to develop a tutoring program to help improve the kids' reading skills.

Staff members say the result has generated remarkable improvements in reading and language skills, plus a growing love of reading.

Sept. 14 deadline for U.S. Census volunteers

Everybody counts in the Census. And Tempe officials say the city needs the many voices of the community to help encourage public participation in the 2020 U.S. Census.

Residents Valleywide are being invited to consider applying for one of

the volunteer positions on Tempe's Complete Count Committee to help strategize public outreach.

Application deadline is Friday, Sept. 14.

Tempe residency is not required to serve if the individual works in Tempe and brings a valuable perspective or expertise in reaching audiences.

The committee will operate under the direction of a volunteer chair or chair/co-chair, and will

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Help Tempe encourage local participation in the 2020 Census.



Census 2020

For a volunteer application, go to ww.tempe.gov/census

meet at regular intervals. City staff also will be part of the committee.

"Census Day is April 1, 2020 and we need your help in educating and encouraging a full count of those living in the city of Tempe because it is going to determine how much federal funding we will get for needs like transportation, housing assistance and more," said Mayor Mark Mitchell.

For information and a link to the volunteer application visit tempe. gov/census.





Sports with Alex 7 ener

Aztecs bounce back after opener's loss with a 19-14 win over Mesa Mtn. View

The Aztecs had a chance to earn a 2-2 record Friday night, Sept. 7, when they played a non-conference game at Boulder Creek in Anthem.

After losing their opener to Mesa Mountain View, 49-14, on Aug. 17, the Aztecs bounced back with a 19-14 win over Mountain Ridge on Aug.

Corona's star wide receiver, **Ricky Pearsall**, who caught 74 passes for 1153 yards and scored 13 touchdowns in 2017, was instrumental in the Aztecs' win

against Mountain Ridge.

For instance, Pearsall's 98-yard kickoff return touchdown against Mountain Ridge was one for the 2018 highlight reels.

After Mountain Ridge scored their second touchdown, with about six minutes left in the second quarter, the Mountain Lions, with a 14-0 lead, made the mistake of kicking the ball to Pearsall during the kickoff.

Pearsall made the Mountain Lions pay bigtime by running the

- Continued on Page 16



Corona's football team, led by senior wide receiver Ricky Pearsall (#12), senior safety Ben Rafalski (#15) and senior quarterback Ryan Helt (#3), enters the stadium for the Aztecs' first home game Aug. 24. — *Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright / kriscartwright.smugmuq.com*

Tempe High School cheerleaders help keep the crowd—and the team—in good spirits; Tempe's Buffaloes fought hard but were unable to hold back the McClintock Chargers; the Aztecs came barreling out, ready for action; Tempe High's coaching staff ponders strategy during the game against McClintock. — Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker



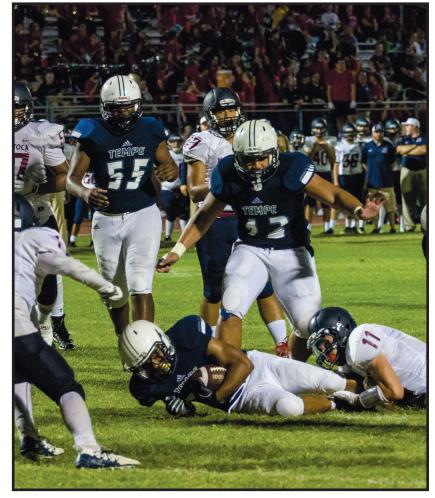












Sports

From Page 14

ball back 98 yards to score his first touchdown of the night.

Pearsall's touchdown ignited the Aztecs. Not only did the defense keep Mountain Ridge scoreless the rest of the game, the offense scored 12 more points to win 19-14.

On defense, seniors **Jack Schobinger** and **Collin Gavel** led the team in tackles. Schobinger had five solo tackles and seven assisted tackles for 12 total tackles while Gavel had seven solo and four assisted tackles for 11 total tackles.

Additionally, senior **Nicholas Schobinger** had three solo tackles and seven assisted for a total of 10 tackles while junior **Jean Boyd III** had five solo and four assisted tackles for nine total tackles. Senior **Ben Rafalski** had four solo and four assisted for a total of eight tackles.

The defense not only stopped the Mountain Lions with defensive tackling; Gavel and Pearsall both intercepted the Mountain View quarterback passes while playing defense.

Gavel intercepted Mountain Ridge's quarterback Alex Hames one time with a 50-yard run back, while Pearsall had two interceptions, running the ball back a total of 35 yards.

The offense scored 12 points after Pearsall's kickoff return with two field goals and an additional touchdown.

Kicker Emilio Echerivel scored a field goal with

about three minutes left in the second quarter. The Aztecs went in at halftime trailing 14-10.

With three minutes to go in the third quarter, Echerivel kicked another field goal to narrow the margin to only one point with the Mountain Lions still leading 14-13.

Then midway through the fourth quarter, Helt hit Pearsall with a touchdown pass to give the Aztecs a 19-14 lead. Although Corona's two-point conversion attempt failed, they held on for their first win of the season.

Helt was able to complete 9 of 23 passes for 125 yards against Mountain Ridge. Pearsall had seven receptions for 111 yards and junior **Eric Blackwell** caught two passes for 14 yards.

The Aztecs had seven players attempt to run the ball against the Mountain Lions, with Helt gaining the most yardage, rushing 27 yards on two carries. Senior **Tim Luscombe** had 12 attempts for 22 yards while Pearsall carried the ball five times for 13 yards.

Also helping to balance out the offense by rushing the ball were senior **Kandren Shaw** and juniors **Eric Brice**, **Sebastian Gutierrez** and Boyd.

Corona's 35-20 loss to Basha on Aug. 31 should have contained some positive points for the coaching staff to use in preparing the Aztecs for their game against Boulder Creek.

First, with less than a minute before the Aztecs would head into the locker room for halftime behind 21-0 to the Bears, Helt completed a 12-yard pass to Shaw for a touchdown.

Echerivel hit the point-after kick to make the score 21-6 at the half.

After some adjustments at halftime, Corona

scored two more touchdowns in the second half.

Pearsall scored on a rushing touchdown midway through the third quarter in answer to a Basha fourth touchdown of the game. The extra point put the Aztecs behind 28-14.

The Bears scored again late in the third quarter to go up three touchdowns at 35-14.

The Aztecs played with determination in the fourth quarter when they marched down the field from their own one-yard line to score on a Helt pass to **Jaron Reval** for the Aztecs' third touchdown of the game with less than four minutes in the game. A failed point-after kick left Corona down 15 points at 35-20.

After a valiant effort in the fourth quarter, including an onside kick attempt that failed, the Aztecs ran out of time, losing the game 35-20.

On defense, senior **Michael Hall** sacked the Bears' quarterback two times, while fellow senior **Ben Rafalski** led the team in total tackles with four solo and five assisted tackles. Gavel had five solo tackles.

Nicholas Schobinger, on the kicking team, punted the ball five times against Basha, averaging over 30 yards per punt, while Echerivel kicked the ball off three times, one of those resulting in a touchback.

The positive aspects for the Aztecs and their fans to take away from the Basha game is that someone besides Pearsall has now scored a touchdown, which should take some of pressure off Pearsall.

Two players other than Pearsall caught touchdown passes this season for Corona. Reval caught three passes for 24 yards and a touchdown while Shaw caught four passes for 22 yards and a





touchdown both against Basha.

Additionally, Helt threw 52 passes with 32 completions for a total of 247 yards against Basha, spread out among eight receivers. Pearsall was the leading receiver with 11 receptions for 78 yards, but Blackwell caught six passes for 57 yards and Echerivel caught two for a gain of 25 yards.

Other players who caught passes include juniors Erick Brice, with three passes for 24 yards, Demetrius Rock with two passes for nine yards and Gutierrez with one pass for eight yards.

Lastly, Helt and Pearsall are starting to show their athleticism, versatility and leadership qualities their last season. Besides his ability to pass the football, almost 200 yards per game, Helt is the leading rusher on the team with 14 carries and 72 yards after three games. He also became a receiver when he caught a pass from Pearsall in the Basha game.

On offense, Pearsall, is not only the leading scorer on the team with 30 points in three games, but he is the leading receiver on the team with 25 receptions for 292 yards and two touchdowns. In addition, he has two rushing touchdowns and is the leading kickoff returner on special teams with 262 yards and one touchdown. Altogether he averages over 100 total yards a game.

In addition, Pearsall has had two interceptions in just three games while playing on the defensive side of the ball.

Up next, the Aztecs were due to play at Boulder Creek on Sept. 7 and then their last two nonconference games before playing teams in their 6A Central conference the last four games of the season.

On Sept. 14 they will play at home against Desert Ridge and then at Westview, Sept. 21.

Tempe

Tempe High football

The Buffaloes have high hopes for this season with the return of their "pro-style" senior quarterback **Nathan Clayton**. Clayton, who stands 6-foot-6 and weighs 215 lbs., broke his arm early in the 2017 season but continued to play until he was concussed the last game of the season in Tempe's 27-16 loss to Marcos de Niza on Oct. 28.

Tempe started off slow in their first game of the 2018 season on Aug. 24 at Apache Junction. The Buffaloes had to punt the ball on their first possession, and then the defense gave up a touchdown to the Prospectors to fall behind 6-0 with less than seven minutes left in the first quarter.

On their second possession, the Buffaloes were four and out after gaining only one yard turning over possession on downs to Apache Junction.

The defense turned it up when the Prospectors were in the red zone, threatening to score with less than four minutes left in the first quarter.

Tempe's defense would come up with the first of its four interceptions, returning the ball to their own 35-yard line.

Getting a boost from the defense, the offense got into the game with a 67-yard pass from Clayton to senior **Amari Rogers** for Tempe's first touchdown late in the first quarter.

On the Prospectors' next possession, junior **Javan Cooks** grabbed Tempe's second interception in the first quarter setting up the Buffaloes' second touchdown, a one-yard rushing touchdown by senior **Pharoah Williams** for a 14-6 lead.

Playing defense, senior **Amaru Johnson** would score a safety midway through the second quarter

after Apache Junction intercepted a Clayton pass and took possession deep in their own territory. That defensive safety would give Tempe a 16-6 lead.

In the second quarter, Tempe's **Bayyan Prince** broke through the Prospectors' defensive line for a 22-yard run to Apache Junction's 25-yard line only to have another one of Clayton's passes intercepted on the next play.

It continued to be a roller coaster ride for both teams when Tempe junior **Joseph Near** intercepted an Apache Junction pass with under a minute left in the first half, but the Buffaloes were unable to score before time ran out.

Tempe came out of the locker room at halftime ahead 16-6 and never looked back. Pharoah Williams would score his second rushing touchdown of the night and the defense would hold the Prospectors scoreless to win their first game of the season 23-6.

Altogether, the Buffaloes gained 315 yards on offense with Clayton completing six of his 14 passes for a total of 106 yards and one touchdown while the team rushed for a total of 209 yards and two touchdowns.

Prince was the leading rusher with 22 carries for 118 yards while Pharoah Williams carried the ball six times for 74 yards and two touchdowns.

Roger's was the leading receiver with 90 yards on three receptions with one touchdown.

On defense, Rogers, Near and Johnson lead the team in tackles with four solo tackles and one assisted tackle for a total of five each. Johnson had four tackles for loss while senior **Isaiah Williams** had four total tackles with two tackles for loss. Junior

— SPORTS, Page 18



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Sports

From Page 17

Sione Tonga'uiha had just two tackles but both were for a loss and senior **Soane Leha** had four total tackles with one for a loss.

The defense had 5.5 quarterback sacks and four interceptions with Johnson leading the team with four sacks. Tonga'uiha had one sack and Williams is credited with a .5 sack.

In addition to Cooks' and Near's interceptions, junior **Gus Willis** and Rogers each had an interception against Apache Junction.

On the kicking team, sophomore **Mathew Farnsworth** kicked four kickoffs with his longest going 44 yards for a touchback plus he was three-forthree on his point after kicks.

Senior **Quevion Baker- McCaulay** punted the ball three times against the Prospectors with his longest going 53 yards.

In their second game of the season, August 31, against McClintock, the Buffaloes were only able to score one touchdown in the third quarter by Prince losing to the Chargers 21-7.

Clayton had a smidgen better outing against McClintock in his passing game completing 14 of 24 passes for a total of 155 yards including a long pass to **Jodee Lee** towards the end of the second quarter and two long passes to senior **Juwan Jefferson** in the fourth quarter.

Juwan Jefferson was the leading receiver on the team with 93 yards on four catches.

Prince was the leading rusher on the team with 171 yards on 20 carries including his breakaway run of 41 yards to the Charger's 8-yard line that set up his own ultimate touchdown in the third quarter.

On defense, **Isaiah Williams** and then Johnson sacked the Chargers three times in third quarter. First Williams sacked the Charger quarterback all the way back at McClintock's 50-yard with six minutes left in the quarter. Then Johnson sacked McClintock's quarterback with three minutes to go in the quarter and Williams again sacked the quarter back with less than a minute to go in the

third quarter.

Four Tempe players had six total tackles against McClintock with Isaiah Williams leading the team with six solo tackles. Tonga'uiha had five solo tackles and one assists while Leha had four solo and two assists and Near was credited with three solo and three assists.

Baker-McCaulay punted the ball twice for a total of 88 yards. His longest was 46 yards.

Up next, the Buffaloes will play on Sept. 7 a non-conference game at Flagstaff in the NAU Dome starting at 7:30. Both teams are 1-1 heading into this matchup.

On Sept. 14 Tempe will play a non-conference grudge match at Marcos de Niza and then will start conference play at home on Sept. 21 when they face off with Cortez, the first of six 4A Skyline conference opponents they will play the rest of the regular season.

Issues

From Page 3

are contagious. If one person is depressed, they feel like it spreads," Dodds said. They might be right.

Last year, in a note home to parents after a November 2017 suicide by a Corona sophomore, Principal Nathan Kleve noted that "a student death by suicide also increases the chances of another suicide exponentially."

According to Dodds, about 90 percent of attendees say they think about suicide—either of someone they know or as an option for themselves. "It's affecting their life," Dodds said. "These are kids who seem perfectly happy who are thinking about this."

If anyone admits they have a plan to take their life or if they say they've attempted suicide, Dodds treats it as an emergency. "We get parents and counselors involved."

A lot of parents, he says, don't like to be told they are doing it wrong. "You can be an amazing parent and your child can have these thoughts."

"The truth is, no matter what, we've got to be there to support our kids. Stop wondering whose fault it is and think, 'How can I help?"

Real Talk is currently being offered at nine Valley schools. At Corona, the group meets on Wednesdays at 10:23 a.m. in C136.

Information: jdodds@azcc.org

Diversions with M.V. Moorhead

With 'Kin,' Franco locks up his cinematic standing among alltime most creepy freaks



t's flown a bit under the radar, but this odd, gritty little tale is not without merit.

It's set in the economic wastes of Detroit, where 12-yearold Eli (Myles Truitt) scavenges for scrap metal in the shells of deserted factories.

Eli, an adopted African-American, lives with his construction contractor Dad (Dennis Ouaid), a morose but morally upright widower.

Eli's ne'er-do-well older brother Jimmy (Jack Reynor) comes

home-to a chilly reception-after six years in prison, to quickly realize that both he and his family are in serious trouble with a local gangster (James Franco).

Jimmy and Eli end up on the run from the gangster and his goons, and somewhere along the line a stripper (Zoe Kravitz) with a heart of gold is added to their party.

This modest. poignant story, which if not for some violence has almost an Afterschool Special atmosphere,

could be compelling simply as a realistic drama/thriller. But the directing team of Jonathan and Josh Baker, working from a script by Daniel Casey (an expansion of the Baker brothers' short film "Bag Man"), layer in a sci-fi twist.

On one of his scavenging excursions, Eli comes upon the aftermath of a battle between some otherworldly warriorstime travelers or aliens or something; it isn't made entirely clear. He picks up a sophisticated weapon that only seems to respond to him, and, as you might guess, this eventually becomes a factor in the story.

I don't mean to mislead anyone about Kin-it's uneven, and sentimental at times. But it has an unpredictability that I enjoyed, and the low-key style of the

Bakers recalled, for me, certain commercial directors of the '60s and '70s like John Avildsen and Jeremy Paul Kagan and Matthew Robbins, whose straightforward, unpretentious style has been insufficiently emulated.

Most of all, Kin worked for me because the actors made me care bout the characters. Truitt makes a fine, sober debut as Eli; you feel sorry for this kid's poor luck in family relations.

Reynor, who seems like sort of a poor man's Chris Pratt, is exasperatingly likable as the fun, decent-hearted, well-intentioned, hopelessly foolish Jimmy, who introduces his brother to strip clubs and doing donuts in the parking lot in his truck.

Quaid is convincingly downcast as the desperate dad, and

Kravitz is charming as usual, even in this stock role. Most striking, perhaps, is James Franco, truly repellent and scary as the mildvoiced gangster.

I've never been able to warm to Franco in ordinary leading man parts, but on the basis of this film and The

Disaster Artist, he's a natural as creepy freaks.

Kin is rated PG-13, and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.



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Dignity exec among top healthcare philanthropists

Aaron Peace, president of Dignity Health Foundation East Valley in Arizona, has been included in the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy Forty Under 40 list.

The internationally recognized program is designed to recognize future leaders within the health care philanthropy community. The association honors the selected young professionals based on their efforts to help shape the future of the health care development industry.

"Telling member stories and sharing best practices are at the core of what we are all about," said Alice Ayres, the association's president and CEO

Peace, who has been with Dignity Health Foundation East Valley since 2013, helped guide efforts to increase fundraising through a variety of innovative means including the strategic utilization of digital and social media communications.

Previously, Peace served as vice president of development at Dignity Health St. John's Healthcare Foundation in Oxnard, Calif., where he increased the number of donors by 25 percent.

"I dedicate myself each day to advancing Dignity Health's mission and supporting our caregivers who truly put our mission in motion," said Peace.

"To be recognized for the success that comes from hard work and perseverance is humbling, and a reflection of the great people I work with.

"I'm excited this award will bring more attention to the hospitals we serve and to the needs of our community."

Still time to register for 'neighborhood college' series

Residents involved in their neighborhoods, or those interested in becoming involved, are being encouraged to register for a series of free classes being offered through the city of Chandler's new Neighborhood College program.

Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for four weeks, with the next session scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 11.

The first class will be at Pomeroy Elementary School-Multipurpose Room, 1507 W. Shawnee Drive. The dates, times and class locations will vary. Priority will be given to Chandler residents, but the program is open to residents from all Valley cities. The class topics include Neighborhood Leadership; The History, Mystery, and Legends of Chandler; DIY Curb Appeal for Neighborhoods; and Let's Talk Dogs and Cats.

In addition, participants are being invited to attend a Mayor's Listening Tour on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at Hartford Sylvia Encinas Elementary School, as well as an HOA Round Table led by the Mulcahy Law Firm, P.C., and Shaw & Lines, LLC, on Saturday, Sept. 29, at Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

To download an application, visit chandleraz. gov/neighborhoods.

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Tempe Police are partnering again with the Arizona Drug Enforcement Administration for a drug "take back" event.

Community members can anonymously bring unused and expired medications for safe disposal on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Tempe Police South Substation, 8201 S. Hardy Drive.

Bring medications in original containers.

They will be placed into boxes provided by DEA and Tempe Police. Law enforcement personnel will seal and deliver the disposed medications for proper destruction.

We are unable to safely accept glass, syringes, injectables or sharps of any kind.

For those unable to attend, two secure prescription/ over-the-counter medication disposal kiosks are available for community members year-round during business hours at the Apache Police Substation, 1822 E. Apache Blvd, and downtown Police Headquarters, 120 E. Fifth St.

For additional information about the event, contact: Molly_Enright@tempe.gov or 480-858-6148.

Old Settlers reconnect

Longtime Tempe residents will once again gather for their annual reunion to socialize and share memories.

On Saturday, Oct. 20, the Tempe Old Settlers Association will hold its annual celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural

Registration is at 10:30 a.m. and lunch is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guests are asked to bring a potluck dish to share.

Old Settlers members are those who were born in Tempe or have lived in the city for at least 30 years.

For more information, call Councilmember Joel Navarro at 480-688-9907.



College Connect returns with free workshops and one-on-one guidance

empe's College Connect program connects students and parents to the resources they need to fulfill their dreams of a postsecondary education.

Participants can attend free workshops and group sessions and meet one-on-one with college experts.

Topics include applying for college, paying for college, available scholarships, career choice, picking the right high school classes, and many

Upcoming workshops will take place at the Tempe Public Library on Sept. 8, Oct. 20, Dec. 1, Feb. 2 and April 13.

For a full calendar and to schedule a one-on-one appointment, visit www.CollegeConnectTempe.org.

Important dates for Nov. 6 **Tempe Special** Election

The City of Tempe's Special Election is coming up Nov. 6 and voters can get information and important dates by calling Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311 or visiting www.tempe.gov/election.

Maricopa County Elections will mail publicity pamphlets during the week of Oct. 1 and voter registration ends Oct. 9.

Early voting begins Oct. 10 and Oct. 26 is the last day to request an early ballot by mail.

Tempe has Propositions 417 and 418 on the ballot.

Proposition 417 is regarding a sales and use tax for arts and culture throughout Tempe.

Proposition 418 is regarding a City Charter amendment concerning removal of a Councilmember from elected office.

Connect with Councilmembers

Want to discuss your ideas and input about Tempe? Join these Councilmembers as they host conversation events to connect with community members. No registration is required.

Community Roundtable with Randy and Robin – Join Councilmembers Randy Keating and Robin Arredondo-Savage to share ideas and talk about important issues on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at

6 p.m., at North Tempe Multigenerational Center, Manzanita Room, 1555 N. Bridalwreath St.

Contact Parrish Spisz at parrish_spisz@tempe. gov or call 480-350-8816.

Connecting with Kuby - Vice Mayor Lauren Kuby hosts monthly office hours at Tempe Public Library the last Saturday of each month from 1-3 p.m. Stop by, get a cold beverage at Connections Café and talk about ways we can make Tempe better.

The next two dates are Sept. 29 and Oct. 27. Contact Kristin Gwinn Kristin_gwinn@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8916.

Conversations with Kolby – Councilmember Kolby Granville is hosting two opportunities to talk about Tempe: Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. at The Lakes of Tempe Clubhouse, 5501 S. Lakeshore Dr.; and Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. at Boulders on Broadway, 530 W. Broadway Road. Contact Parrish Spisz at parrish_ spisz@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8816.











Saturday, Sept. 8: Observing a city's colorful past

The lore accompanying Chandler's colorful past may not be the stuff around which old-timers spun their tales. "ChandLore," it seems, is the exception.

From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8, Historic

From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8, Historic Downtown Chandler will transport visitors back in time with a celebration of yesteryear, promising a "living history" experience through live character storytelling and music.

Among the cast of newly brought-back-to-life characters will be such notables as George T. Peabody, who in 1912 promoted up-and-coming Chandler as a booming metropolis of the future; Irene "Animal Girl" Schroeder, a 1930s-era imitator of the Bonny and Clyde duo who became the first woman in America to die for her crimes in the electric chair; Harriet "Flip" Fullerton, whose Stanford education and a life that included such friends as a young John F. Kennedy produced a woman of considerable social standing; and Bill Swift, a pro boxing manager of the 1950s who shouldered the blame for Zora Folley not winning his title bout with Eddie Machen.

Those are some of the most flamboyant characters from the city's past who will magically reappear, but foremost among them will be a reconstituted Dr. A.J. Chandler, whose namesake city survived the rough-and-tumble days of yore—and the lore that accompanied them.

Stationed along Boston Street and San Marcos Place under a historic colonnade, actors from ImprovMania will bring these bygone characters to life.

David Specht, owner of Improv Mania, shares in the excitement of this new event:

"The ImprovMania cast is thrilled to portray these characters from Chandler's colorful history. This event will be educational, and should also be really fun."

Alongside the lively actors retelling their remarkable stories will be a variety of musical acts from a barbershop quartet to a banjo player performing songs from bygone days.

Downtown Chandler will also commemorate Chandler's founding year of 1912 by offering \$19.12 specials from participating businesses.

For a list of offerings and participating businesses go to www.downtownchandler.org.

Said Mary Murphy-Bessler, executive director of the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership:

"This truly unique event celebrates Downtown Chandler as a place where hip and historic collide for a one-of-a-kind experience and a destination to be enjoyed by all."



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'ChandLore' tunes in to some musical favorites

The Nuance String Quartet, featuring Devon Leal Bridgewater, violinist and music director. Bridgewater is a Phoenix native and graduated from Harvard University in 1981. He performed with the Harvard/Radcliffe Orchestra and in several chamber ensembles throughout New England. The group has performed for events in the Southwest with an eclectic program of classical, ragtime, jazz and music from stage and screen.

World-traveled American entertainer **Igor the Jazz Cowboy** just completed a fifth appearance on national ABC TV Gong Show. He has been a staple in the Valley for over 30 years, playing banjo, guitar, violin and other stringed instruments.

Dan Ryan and his barber shop quartet are celebrating their 40th year as a group. Ryan, after stumbling upon the South Cook Chapter in the fall of 1976 in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park, ended up in Phoenix.

He sang in The Chefs, Hometown Favorites and Daily Favorites quartets and directed choruses in Sweet Adelines, Harmony Incorporated and S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

In 1983, he became assistant director of The Phoenicians and directed the Scottsdale Copperstatesmen Chorus and Paradise Valley Chorus, while singing in the After Hours, Phoenix Rising and Seems Like Old Times quartets.

Sheila Maguire began playing Irish Traditional music with teacher Maureen Glynn Connolly at age 6. The following year, she entered her first national fiddling competition. By age 17 she had accumulated 65 U.S and National Championship, along with 15 World Championships. By age 15, she had performances for WBAI Radio in New York, RTE television in Ireland, and during the same period recorded a group album.

She also toured with such notable groups as Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance. Spanning 40 years of professional musicianship, Maguire's successful performances range from small local bars to arenas.

With a rare ability to play across genres, she erforms traditional Irish, folk, rock, R&B, reggae, Celtic rock and jazz. Her infectious love of music has been recognized by many groups in the Valley since 1990.

In recognition of Chandler's founding year 1912, downtown businesses such as Sibley's West and Burst of Butterflies Create & Paint Studio will be offering 19.12% off any purchase during ChandLore's event hours. Murphy's Law Irish Pub will be offering the discount on any two entrees plus an appetizer.

Information: www.downtownchandler.org/chandlore/

DRIEFLY

Chandler Chamber offers insight into retailing's future

With retail having become a much broader business than ever before, retailers are finding that they have to learn how to integrate the physical world with the digital.

Brick and mortar may be all about the customer experience, but it's data that will keep them relevant.

David Moss of Chandler Fashion Center and Denise McCreery, a local small business owner, will share their challenges and success stories at a session being planned by the Chandler Chamber 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26.

The program includes an economic update for Chandler, including information about new companies coming to the city and the status of current projects.

The meeting is scheduled at Avion Center, 1733 E. Northrop Blvd.

Rogers Corp. to expand West Chandler profile

Rogers Corporation will be expanding its presence in Chandler with the purchase of real estate, buildings and equipment to support its Advanced Connectivity Solutions business segment.

"We are very pleased that Rogers Corporation is continuing to expand in our Price Corridor," said Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny. "Rogers Corporation is a global technology leader and this decision to invest in Chandler strengthens our position as the innovation and

technology hub of the Southwest."

The transaction expands Rogers' manufacturing footprint in Chandler, where the company employs roughly 500 residents. Rogers' ACS business is projecting significant growth in key markets that include 5G wireless infrastructure and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems.

"This asset purchase is part of our strategic expansion in ACS to meet the expected demand growth in our Advanced Connectivity and Advanced Mobility markets," said Bruce Hoechner, Rogers' president and chief executive officer.

The company has

been manufacturing in the Chandler area for more than 50 years. Its latest expansion comes two years after the company announced the relocation of its corporate headquarters to Chandler.

Rogers plans to start upgrading the facilities and equipment immediately at the former Isola USA Corp. site at 165 S. Price Road.

The company anticipates having the location ready for commercial production in 2019.

Kiwanis Wave Pool dives in to fall season

Summer may be coming to an end but

swimmers can enjoy the water and improve their skills all year long thanks to Kiwanis Wave Pool's offering of lessons and open swim sessions that began earlier this month.

Swim lessons are offered for all ages and abilities, from toddlers as young as eight months to advanced swimmers.

Private lessons are available as well. Registration is open for fall classes, many of which have already begun.

Also available is a schedule of free swimming for kids on weekdays Monday through Thursday.

Up to two children age 10 and under are free with one \$4 adult admission.

Midday Swim: 11:30 a. m.-1:30 p.m. through the end of

November.

Evening Swim: 5-8 p.m. beginning Oct. 1 through the end of November.

Tempe's three splash pads at Esquer, Hudson and Jaycee parks will be open through October. The city's new splash playground, The Cloud at Kiwanis Park, will also be open all month.

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

Chandler Council election final tally

It was close, but the final votes have been cast and the results are in for the six candidates who were vying for three spots on the Chandler City Council. Leading the pack was René Lopez, with 21 percent of the 44,002 votes cast. Terry Roe was second with 20 percent. Matt Orlando came in third

with 18 percent after topping Matt Eberle's 17 percent, a difference of 628 votes. At press time, the Maricopa County Recorder's Office was delivering the results to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. The results were next to be presented at the Sept. 10 Chandler City Council meeting, according to Matt Burdick, communications director for the city of Chandler.

Kevin Hartke was unopposed in his bid to become mayor and received 35,564 votes. Chandler's Proposition 408 was passed by 85 percent of the vote. Passage renews the Home Rule Option alternative expenditure limitation for four vears, which increases the amount that the city is allowed to spend for local government operations.



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Employment — Kyrene is now hiring School BUS DRIVERS FT 30 hrs/wk Benefits offered. Paid training and CDL testing onsite. Flexible work schedule with split shifts. Starting salary \$14.49-\$18/hr. Additional info at www.kyrene.org/hr 7/18

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Phoenix Suns Tickets for sale, Join our group for the 2018-2019 Season. Buy 10 assorted games; 2 tickets, Section 109, Row 7, Aisle Seats 16 & 17, \$176 per game (2 seats); contact Alan 602/738-7401 10/6

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LET'T'ERS

Editor:

Government works best with leaders of integrity who are devoted to public service, not beholden to political parties. One of my neighbors, Roberta Neil Miller, is such a leader and deserves our votes to become the Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court.

For years, she has led the Brentwood-Cavalier Neighborhood Association (a voluntary Tempe group, not HOA) with careful bipartisanship so that all in our diverse community feel they are welcome. Roberta brings together neighbors to accomplish projects such as grants for defining art work as well as trees planted in our front yards and along College Avenue for shade to encourage strolls. She works effectively with city, county

and state leaders and staff to keep us informed of important issues and to make our voices heard.

Roberta received her law degree from Arizona's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. She stood up for victims and the public as a prosecuting attorney in the Superior, Municipal and Justice Courts in Maricopa and Pinal Counties. She served as a Pro Tem Judge in the Maricopa County Superior Court, and in the municipal courts of Tempe and Mesa. Most recently she was a Deputy County Attorney of Maricopa County.

I know that Roberta Neil Miller will work hard so that every family, victim and small business in Maricopa County will be able to access the Clerk's Office with all possible fairness and efficiency.

Joan Westlake 30-year resident of Tempe Tempe AZ 85282

Back-to-school reminder: Don't forget library card

Now that students are back in school, parents, caregivers and students themselves are being advised to make sure they have the one essential school supply that requires no shopping and doesn't cost a penny – a library card.

Throughout September, the Tempe Public Library joins the American Library Association and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-up Month, designed to encourage parents, caregivers and students to obtain a free library card that will save money while reaping rewards in academic achievement and lifelong learning.

New cardholders will be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Whether it's providing free access to educational programs and apps, homework help or technology workshops, a library card has been called one of the most cost effective back-to-school supplies.

The Tempe Public Library offers a variety of useful resources for students of all ages including:

Library events, classes and workshops; Library research tools for students; and digital books, music and resources

This year, Disney's *The Incredibles* are Library Card Sign-up Month honorary chairs, helping to promote the value of a library card and bring attention to the many ways libraries and librarians can transform lives and communities through education.

Since 1987, the familiarization month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year.

During the month, ALA and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card.

For more information about how to sign up for a library card, visit the library in person or online at tempe.gov/library.











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Tempe Sister Cities to benefit from another Four Peaks Oktoberfest suds-tacular

Four Peaks Oktoberfest is returning to Tempe Town Lake for its 46th year, again featuring live music, brats, German beer, carnival games, dancing and more, all to benefit Tempe Sister Cities.

Money raised at the fundraiser will be used to send Tempe high school students to 10 of Tempe's 11 sister cities.

As in previous years, admission will be free and open to all ages.

New this year, the event will feature gluten-free,

vegetarian and vegan food options in its food truck area.

A Weltenburger VIP Experience and additional authentic German music by The Gin Tonics, a band from Regensburg, Germany, will be part of the events, along with the popular Das Aubachtal Sextett.

Weltenburger Kloster representatives visited Tempe last month and brewed a collaborative beer, called Freundschaft, with Four Peaks brewmasters. The Pale Weissbeir is projected to be 7.5 abv, or international bitterness units. Weltenburger is the world's oldest monastic brewery, dating from 1050 A.D.

The company's signature beer will be served at the event, arriving by horse-drawn carriage.

Also, a 4v4 soccer tournament and a new kickball tournament await visitors, with Phoenix Rising again among official sponsors.

Information: fourpeaksoktoberfest.com.



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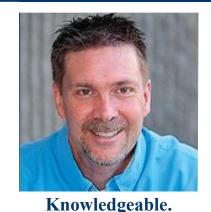
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Coventry	7704 S. Myrtle Ave, Tempe, 85284	3,754	5/3	\$715,000
D'Arcy Ranch	3492 W. Shannon St, Chandler, 85226	2,151	4/2	\$381,500
Galleria	990 E. Divot Dr, Tempe, 85283	2,518	5/3	\$430,000
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