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TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

# WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

## Hospital's furry therapists: Doggedly good care



John Anderson's stay at Chandler Regional Medical Center included a 'pawsome' visit from Brandy 3.0, a fluffy canine therapist managed by volunteer Barbara Warren. — *Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker*

It's not only the patients who love 'em; staff does too

By Deborah Hilcove

Twice a week, 9-year-old Brandy 3.0 hops into the car with Barbara Warren and heads to Chandler Regional Medical Center where she immediately gets to work. Her first stop with Warren is the waiting room where she greets friends and families of patients. Next, they take the elevator upstairs to visit patients, doctors, nurses and staff.

Brandy 3.0—third in a familial succession belonging to Warren—is a well-trimmed, fluffy mini-sheepdog working in the PAWs for Patients Therapy Program at CRMC. On a recent workday, one of her first patients was John Anderson, scheduled for surgery later in the day. Anderson immediately welcomed Brandy and asked that she be put on the bed where he could easily pet her, scratch behind her ears and under her chin.

"I had a Brittany spaniel for 17 years and miss having a dog," he says. Anderson adjusts himself against the pillows before continuing. "There's anxiety when you're waiting for tests and for surgery. The dogs are a calming presence. When there's complicated surgery, the dogs bring you back to reality—not the hospital reality, where anticipation plays on your imagination, but a sense of comfort and peace."

His statements coincide with research that shows interacting with an animal influences the hormones associated with blood pressure regulation, pain and stress relief—and joy. It can help distract patients from pain, nurturing a sense of well-being.

Brandy 3.0 and Warren say goodbye for now to Anderson and step

### A new leash on life while going to the mat for a new career

By Sammie Ann Wicks

To look at him, you'd never guess strongman Chandler Dabbs has a weakness—but talk to him for even five minutes and he'll tell you what it is.

"It's my dog, Eddie," says Dabbs, bodybuilder and recent arrival to Tempe. "He's been with me 12 years—and where I go, he goes." Dabbs says his constant companion isn't going to win any canine beauty contests but is totally devoted to his human keeper—and that's what matters.

— CAREER, Page 4

### Cellphone texts connect with kids in need

By Diana Nelson

You probably would help your neighbors, if only you knew what they needed.

That's the concept behind a mobile-phone texting concept that's making a big difference in the lives of Kyrene School District kids, says Leticia Beltran, a social worker who helps homeless families in the area.

The process is called "Purposity" and it's an easy-to-use tool that provides donors with a text message detailing a specific request made by the student or their family. Students who receive the donated items must be enrolled in one of the 25 schools in the Kyrene district.

"Purposity combines the best part of giving because the donated item goes directly to the student who has made the request," said Beltran, who is the program's liaison for the district.

"For those in the community

— TEXTING, Page 11

— PAWS, Page 10



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Carly Gibbs and Diana Keller





Georgia transplant Chandler Dabbs, left, transitioned from careers in fitness training and professional wrestling to update his insurance-industry know-how and connect with a prominent Tempe insurance agency.

## Career

From Page 1

“OK, so he’s half lab, half basset hound,” laughs Georgia-native Dabbs. “I don’t know how THAT happened, but I knew he was special the minute I met him.”

Dabbs, who came to Tempe only a few weeks ago to take a job at a Tempe insurance agency, says his career mobility initially made him wonder how Eddie could ever fit in with his lifestyle.

“My girlfriend at the time and I found him wandering, picked him up, and couldn’t figure out what had happened to him,” Dabbs remembers. “We even tried for a while to find him a home, but eventually he just grew on me and became part of my life.

“He even hangs around when I work out.”

A lifelong fitness buff, Dabbs went on to develop his physique to the point that he began to consider not only full-fledged bodybuilding but professional wrestling as well.

“I had continued working in insurance but also worked at physical fitness for quite a while,” Dabbs explains. “At that time, I didn’t do what you call bodybuilding, but I worked out like a bodybuilder.

“Then as I got older and got in even better shape, I started talking to wrestlers and began to feel a growing passion for that.”

It was then that a few Facebook posts led to Dabbs’s entree to professional wrestling.

“At my peak fitness I had posted a few photos of myself, and pretty quickly I heard back from a guy asking me, ‘Are you a wrestler?’” says Dabbs.

“He said, ‘I’m actually a trainer, and I have a wrestling ring just 45 minutes away from you.’ I went over there, and that’s when my career in pro wrestling began.”

After starting training, Dabbs says his first gig wasn’t glamorous, but quickly led to better things.

“My first match was at a flea market, of all

places,” Dabbs says. “Course, I wanted to be on TV, like Wrestle Mania—but those things came later.”

Dabbs saw his career expand after he had several videos produced by a woman working in Las Vegas who had experience in runway shows.

“After the videos, everything took off—I started travelling all over, and began getting a following,” says Dabbs. “Eventually, I got to interface with groups involved with Hulk Hogan, and through that I got to wrestle with the second biggest wrestling organization in the country.” Long-time hyper-physicality and his age eventually caused Dabbs to reevaluate his life goals.

“Wrestling is a really young man’s game—you peak—and I knew I had to get out while the getting was good,” the 35-year-old reflects. “So when I found out I was going to have to get a knee replacement, I began to think about what my next move should be, beyond the Spandex and baby oil.”

Serendipity again stepped in to help Dabbs determine what that move would be, and Tempe, Arizona, loomed large in the process.

“I came here purely on a whim,” Dabbs laughs. “I knew I wanted change, and as I was Googling, you know... ‘mid-thirties, single, no kids, opportunity, rising area,’ Tempe kept coming up.”

With Tempe beckoning, Dabbs applied for and was offered a job working with long-time local insurance broker and community leader Mary Contreras.

“I wanted to learn from somebody who’d been at it a long time, and I chose a true insurance veteran here to work with,” Dabbs explains.

After leaving pro wrestling, Dabbs got back into fitness, working as a trainer to help others meet their physical goals and challenges. It’s something he wants to continue doing in Tempe.

“I had people with big physical issues come to me—some of them would even call me late at night, all discouraged,” Dabbs says. “With proper techniques and encouragement, I frequently was able to get the issues resolved. And I loved that—loved the

ethics of helping others with what I know.”

Dabbs says that, although his past career moves have been made after long deliberation, the sudden trek to Tempe from his Georgia hometown “just felt right.”

But Dabbs didn’t make the trip alone.

“I packed up, threw Eddie (named in tribute to Pearl Jam vocalist-songwriter Eddie Vedder, a Dabbs’ favorite) in the front seat, and 34 hours later, I was here without any problems,” Dabbs says, adding however:

“Except that I didn’t know how big Texas was, and didn’t know I’d run out of gas trying to get across it.”

Dabbs is hopeful Tempe will offer him a niche for his skills and goals.

“I was very determined as a child, and that taught me to be a risk-taker,” he declares, “which is why my decision to come here so quickly came easily.

“I’ve made an unbreakable commitment to myself in everything I’ve ever done in life, and contributing to my new community is one of them.”

### Fire, Police departments honored

Tempe’s public safety chiefs have accepted honors showcasing their leadership and dedication to serving colleagues and community members.

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Chief Greg Ruiz, who has led the department since 2013, was honored with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 493’s “Live Your Interview” award.

Police Chief Sylvia Moir, who began her work in Tempe in 2016, has received the Anti-Defamation League’s George Weisz Law Enforcement Award and the ONE Community Spotlight on Success Local Heroes Award.

The firefighters’ award recognizes those considered to have lived up to the aspirations and commitments they articulated in their first interview to join the service. The ADL award to Moir was presented at the organization’s Nov. 1 Torch of Liberty Dinner.



# Abandoned church site takes a new name, look . . . and focus

By Joyce Coronel

A new church—actually, an existing church with a new name and direction—has risen on the Warner Road site of the former Christ Life Church where a construction project sat unfinished for years. A scandal several years ago reportedly cost investors, many of them church members, more than \$5 million and led to the halting of the construction project.

Chad Haymon, the new pastor of Gateway Church, spoke with *Wrangler News* about the transition taking place.

Earlier this month, demolition crews began working to dismantle the steel frame of what the leaders of Christ Life Church had once dreamed would be a 66,000-square-foot, two-story family center. The unfinished construction site remained a mystery to Tempe residents. What happened to the seemingly large-scale project?

“There’s really not enough parking for that,” Haymon said. “Plus, we thought of the neighbors.” Haymon, who said he’s lived in Arizona for nine years, was once on staff at Christ Life.

Funding for the building project at Christ Life ran dry when a former member of the church involved with handling the money, was accused of stealing millions from the coffer. The man is now serving the fourth year of a 13-year sentence, Haymon said as a bulldozer chugged across the site. The distinctive 50-foot white tripod with

the cross atop it was also dug up and removed by the crew.

Last spring, the church property, which sits on the south side of Warner Road just east of the Las Estadas gated community, was acquired by Gateway Church, a mega church based in Texas with more than 50,000 members.

In addition to the Tempe location, Gateway also has a campus in Scottsdale.

“We’ve already put in a half-million dollars in upgrades,” Haymon said. That includes LED lighting and fixing the cracks in the church’s parking lot.

As for the construction site on the Tempe church campus, Haymon said the plan is to be “frugal” and sell off the steel that was carted away by the demolition team. One day, Gateway may decide to erect classrooms on the site—the campus currently consists of just a worship center—but for now the plan is to simply fence it off.

A substantial number of people who attend services now at Gateway Church in Tempe once belonged to Christ Life and remember Haymon.

“We asked people to give us 90 days and if they decided this wasn’t the church for them, we’d help them find a new one.”

He said he understands that some people prefer live preaching rather than the video feed on the big screen that church employs.

Information: gatewaylife.com or 480-777-9803.



The bulldozers and heavy equipment have left a Tempe church after workers dismantled a longstanding steel frame from an abandoned construction project. — *Wrangler News photo*

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Jason Schechterle and veteran Bob Rowell exchange salutes at a Westchester Senior Living tribute event.

## Severely hurt Valley police officer salutes U.S. military veterans

Story & photo by Joyce Coronel

Brenda Valdez, decked out in a red, white and blue blouse, remembers a husband who was only 16 or 17 when he fibbed his way into military service after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“Best man in the world,” Valdez said. “He was soft-spoken, very humble, no vanity, no violence—just such a wonderful human being. He loved and served others.”

“That’s what he did.”

Valdez was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her late husband’s service at a Veterans Day tribute for residents of Westchester Senior Living in Tempe. Strains of “Stars and Stripes Forever” echoed from a boom box on a table festooned with bunting, and Westchester aides pushed wheelchairs through the meeting room as the event got under way.

On hand to present the certificates and offer a salute was another veteran, Jason Schechterle, who earlier in life served in the U.S. Air Force. Schechterle is a former Phoenix police officer who survived a horrific accident in 2001 and went on to inspire thousands across the country with his story of overcoming extreme adversity.

Jeff Cooper of Serenity Hospice, the organization that led the ceremony at Westchester, introduced Schechterle to the 40 or so residents and their family members on hand for the Veterans Day salute.

“On March 26 of 2001, Jason’s patrol car was struck from behind by a taxicab going approximately 115 miles per hour,” Cooper said. “His patrol car burst into flames and Jason was immersed in 700 degrees of fire.”

“Miraculously,” Cooper said, a

Phoenix Fire Department truck was at the intersection where the accident took place and firefighters were able to pull Schechterle from the vehicle in 90 seconds. He’d suffered burns on 40 percent of his body and went on to endure a painful recovery and 50 surgeries.

“He has spent his life since [the accident] sharing his story of overcoming adversity, how he rose above that,” Cooper said. “Jason describes himself now as the luckiest man on earth. We are so honored and privileged to have him on our team.”

For his part, Schechterle said veterans are “near and dear to his heart” because of the many members of his family who were in the military. His grandfather served in World War II and Korea, and did three tours in Vietnam.

“My father, my brother and nephew all served, and I had a wonderful four years in the United States Air Force,” Schechterle said.

Eugene Franz, wearing a U.S. Marines T-shirt and accompanied by his wife and son, was one of those saluted by Schechterle. Franz said he joined the Marine Corps Reserve while still in high school in Wisconsin. “They said if you didn’t get in the reserve, you were going to be drafted,” Franz said. He traveled from state to state but never left the country.

“They trained me for mortars; they trained me for telephones, for switchboards, for radio. I went from one base to another, but the guy next to me—I was a corporal—he was a private first class and they went to Korea right away.”

Al Christiansen, also a USMC

— SALUTE, Page 23





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Don Kirkland

# No bodies in the street? What kind of newspaper are we, anyway.

We've been hearing a lot from readers about (a) all the political ads that have appeared in our pages lately and (b) how much those readers appreciated the generally more civil tone of discourse evident in Wrangler News compared to some of the other election-season messaging.



I'm glad that people saw it that way.

To the best of my recollection, no political candidate during this campaign presented us with an ad layout that seemed

inconsistent with our intent that this should be a community newspaper, with emphasis on the word community.

While we don't (and won't) shy away from controversy, we feel that our longtime readers see our role as trying to be mostly positive about what happens here rather than pursuing opportunities to sensationalize the occasional bits of

intrigue that take place in and around our neighborhood.

For someone like me who has worked in the big-city reality of metropolitan dailies, where hardly a day goes by that something horrific doesn't happen, it was tempting in the early days of Wrangler News to be on the prowl for those same kinds of juicy morsels.

After all, that's what newspapers do, isn't it?

But after settling in to what has become three decades of publishing this newspaper without heart-rending stories or gruesome photos of bodies lying in the street, I find that our approach apparently represents a welcome change for many. (And yes, I actually did take a date to such a breaking-news story in L.A. after being dispatched while we were on our way to a movie, a story she loved to recount in those days and perhaps still does).

I'm tempted to believe that our media's seemingly wall-to-wall coverage of one disturbing news event after another can rest in part on the doorstep of us becoming a nation that relishes controversy, social upheaval and mayhem.

Here at Wrangler News, while we don't ignore news that we know is of vital importance to our neighbors, our primary goal is to focus on the positives in our community whenever possible.

Though we have no reliable data that validates this effort, we believe that newspapers like ours represent a welcome balance to the steady stream of bad news with which we're otherwise confronted virtually every waking hour.

It is this theory that we'd also like to believe is responsible, at least in part, for the growing number of calls and emails we receive asking about the availability, cost and requirements for placing ads in our pages and the paper's expanded online edition.

As I've mentioned in the past, we don't have a band of salespeople knocking on the doors of local businesses to sustain or boost ad revenue.

We don't have seasonal sales campaigns and we definitely don't take ads that we feel aren't consistent with the interests and values of our readership, no matter how desirable those proceeds might be. It is also why, over the years, we have invited our readers to mention us to the merchants

and service providers with whom they do business—those in whom they have confidence and who they believe others would appreciate knowing about.

Again, while we don't have verifiable stats to support our theories, we're confident that a significant number of the recent inquiries comes as a result of readers like you telling business owners about the value they see in companies using Wrangler News as a piece of their marketing strategy.

There is declining evidence of Wrangler News-style publications being started in communities around the country, and that's unfortunate.

Unlike some of the more prominent media giants, the smaller weeklies and bi-weeklies seem to be among the publications that are not only surviving but thriving. If you agree with the community-focused commitment to which we've pledged ourselves these past 30 years, and would like to see it continue for future generations, your mention of us to a neighborhood business owner will go a long way to helping us achieve that goal.

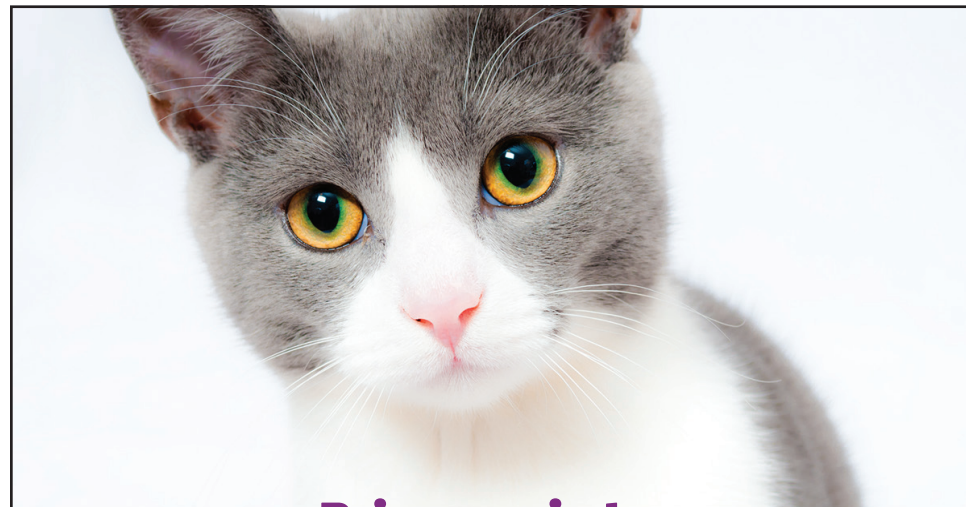
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## Discerning Diner

### It's early. Still time to consider your side dishes.

*Editor's note: As the holidays roll around every year, we can't help but think about our longtime Discerning Diner, whose musings on meal-making, whether for a holiday or not, were always eagerly received by our readers. Which explains, we guess, why we still get regular requests to reprint one or the other of these columns. Here's one that has always been popular, so we repeat it again this year—by request, of course.*

This is a column about Thanksgiving side dishes. Not that I'm trying to get you worked up about Thanksgiving earlier than you have to.

It's just that a future column should be about Thanksgiving leftovers, so I'm trying to think ahead.

Anyway, none of these dishes is exclusive to Turkey Day — they're good on any fall or winter menu.

And if yours is the kind of family that is hidebound to holiday tradition, Thanksgiving is not the time you'll try something new.

When my family and I go home for the holiday, we pretty much know what to expect.

Every year, the same people make the same signature dishes — mashed potatoes, cornbread stuffing — and for the most part, that's really nice.

A few years ago, however, we spent Thanksgiving stuck in an extended-stay motel room in Colorado Springs. Not so nice.

But I took advantage of the circumstances to mix up the menu a little. For example, since there were only four of us eating, I ditched the turkey in favor of duck.



I don't expect you to do the same, but here are a few ideas for at least shaking up your side dishes.

**Green beans:** Instead of steaming or boiling your green beans, try sautéing them very slowly. Here's what you do: wash your beans (one to two pounds) and tip and tail them as usual.

Use a large, shallow sauté pan that can accommodate the beans in one jumbled layer. Add enough extra-virgin olive oil to coat the pan and place over medium heat.

While the pan is preheating, peel two or three garlic cloves and slice them in half. Add them to the oil.

When the oil is hot but not smoking, add the beans. Stir to coat with oil. Allow to cook at a brisk sizzle for a few minutes, then lower the heat to medium-low and add a quarter cup of water.

Cook at a low sizzle for 25 minutes, stirring and adding more water as required. The beans and garlic should blister and turn brown in spots — delicious. Be sure to evaporate any excess water before removing the pan from heat.

If you're making a lot of beans, you can use two pans or

cook them in batches; they can be made a few hours ahead and reheated in one pan (with a little water) just before serving.

**Sweet potatoes:** This is my mother-in-law's specialty, though she hasn't made it for Thanksgiving (yet). Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. (If you only have one oven, and you need to use it at low temperatures for the turkey, make this Thanksgiving morning and reheat before serving.)

Wash and peel enough sweet potatoes to go around. Cut small sweet potatoes in half lengthwise and again widthwise to make chunky quarters. Cut large sweet potatoes into eighths.

Put the potatoes in a large shallow pan and toss with olive oil and salt to coat thoroughly. Roast, stirring frequently, until the sweet potatoes are spotted brown on the outside and soft all the way through, about 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the size of your chunks.

You can also make this with a mixture of white potatoes and sweet potatoes; roast the white potatoes for 10 to 15 minutes on their own before adding the sweet potatoes.

**Winter squash:** Savory winter squash dishes make great Thanksgiving sides. The secret, for me, is high-quality Parmesan cheese.

Here's one idea: Cut a large spaghetti squash in half lengthwise and scoop out the seeds. Roast cut sides down until the flesh is soft and the shell begins to collapse — 400 degrees is a good oven temperature but you can use another temperature if it's more convenient.

Remove the squash from the oven and allow it to cool. Now scoop out the flesh and mix it with generous quantities of salt and heavy cream. Transfer to a gratin dish and pat flat.

Cover the top with lots of freshly grated Parmesan cheese. Just before serving, return the dish to the oven and heat until the squash is hot and the cheese is melted and beginning to brown.

Happy November!

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# Tony Lama

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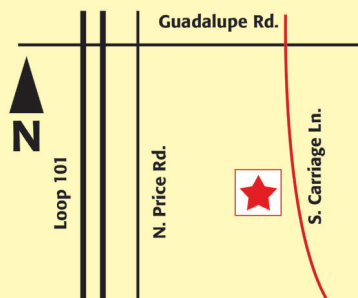
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## Paws

From Page 1

across the hall, where several nurses gather to pet and talk to Brandy. Asked about the PAWs program, Stephanie Crandall, an R.N. with two rescue dogs of her own, says, "I love it."

A four-year veteran at CRMC, Crandall appreciates "the attention focused outside traditional medicine, so it's not just vital signs and medications, but the whole person is treated."

She adds, "We all like for the dogs to visit. It's therapy for us, too. A lot of people don't realize the stress of nurses. There's so much coming at you all day long. Every discipline, every area—labs, test results, doctors' orders, family inquiries, patient requests—they're all funneled through you. It can get overwhelming. The dogs help calm us, too."

Warren agrees, waves to a passing staffer.

When asked how she came to volunteer with Brandy 3.0 at the hospital, Warren admits she had no plans to do so—that is, until she became a patient at Chandler Regional.

"Everyone was so kind. They were all busy, but they made me feel like their only patient. I'd been volunteering somewhere else, but it wasn't the best fit. They asked me to try it here, and Brandy and I've been here ever since."

Another therapy dog—a large black Bouvier des Flandres named Vespa—approaches with his handler, Rick Ellis.

They stand near the door to Anderson's room while Ellis introduces Vespa and asks Anderson if they may visit. Anderson pats the side of his bed and calls Vespa. The big dog gently places his front paws where Anderson has indicated and leans forward, inviting an ear-scratch.

"He must have eyes in there somewhere," Anderson says, and laughs as he strokes Vespa's forehead, smoothing the long curly hair hiding his eyes.

Ellis laughs, too, and shares a story about Vespa's birthday. "He just turned five in October. He got a card from the hospital staff—and a cheeseburger."

Wrangler News photographer Alex Walker steps into the hall to tell about his own experience. Critically injured in a motorcycle accident nearly 18 months ago, Walker spent three weeks in the hospital with eight broken bones, collapsed lungs, a concussion and pneumonia, followed by a week in rehab-therapy.

Says Walker:

"The dogs were amazing. I remember the day they first came in 'cause that particular day was a rough one (lots of testing, feeling lonely) and when they came in the room, it lit right up, and I forgot about everything else for that moment. I remember a small Shih Tzu that just cuddled

— CONTINUED on facing page

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## Paws

From Page 10

his head into my arms and lay there with me as long as I wanted him to. It was unconditional affection.”

Volunteer Services Supervisor Lori Mercer says the dogs (on a lead during visits) must have basic obedience skills, current vaccinations and be bathed within 24 hours of visitations. Stringent infection-control standards must be met by the team.

She notes that the hospital’s program “began in 2006 with four dogs.” Its popularity has grown, and the program is now the largest dog therapy program in the East Valley, she says, with 25 therapy dogs that “average 2,300 inpatient visits per month.”

She adds, “We are always recruiting and have a few more teams on the way.”

The therapeutic teams are trained and registered by Pet Partners, an international organization advocating that “animals can influence not just our happiness, but also our health.”

This credo mirrors the commitment of Dignity Health to “Humankindness,” healing through medicine, coupled with compassion.

Information:

- [dignityhealth.org/arizona](http://dignityhealth.org/arizona)
- [dignityhealthphilanthropy.org/what-we-support/canine-kindness](http://dignityhealthphilanthropy.org/what-we-support/canine-kindness)
- [petpartners.org](http://petpartners.org)

## Texting

From Page 1

with a heart to be generous, it combines two purposes with ease: being generous with a specific purpose in mind.”

Beltran assembles her list of requests, which can be anything from school supplies to shoes, and prepares the text message.

“If you’re interested in donating, within just a few on-line clicks you can quickly check the item out through Amazon and it’s sent directly to the student,” said Beltran.

So far, Kyrene is the only school district in Arizona to use the phone application, and the donor list has attracted 824 active users, who so far have met 191 requests, just since September. The average price of a requested item is \$30, but the upper limit is \$250.

Beltran is in awe of the response to her weekly texts. “I have never had a request go unfulfilled, and some are completed within an hour,” she said.

Beltran believes that the use of Purposity is a blessing to her because, instead of random donations that may not be used, each request is specific.

“I put in details like a boy needs a coat in a specific size and color, and that actually is what the child receives,” said Beltran.

“The identity of the student and the donor are kept confidential. The item is shipped from Amazon to the Kyrene district office; then I deliver it to the family.”

During the past four years in her position with the district, Beltran says she has encountered many

families in crisis—some kids move frequently and stay with various family members or friends. Several complete families live in their cars, while another lost their home and all their possessions in a fire.

“For one family, while living in their vehicle, I was able to get each person a sleeping bag,” said Beltran.

She is reminded every day that the little things most people take for granted are what some need the most.

“Most of the requests are for the basics—shoes, clothing, bedding, bath towels. My job is to reach out to the families with kids enrolled in Kyrene who have special, economic challenges, which may hinder their ability to come to school and be ready to learn,” said Beltran.

She first learned about Purposity last year, she says, while attending a conference in Chicago. It was featured in a workshop that was actually her second choice because her first choice was already at capacity. But it was a fortuitous find.

“Sometimes when I make the delivery it’s received with tears of joy because the family is so appreciative of the gift,” said Beltran.

Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely agrees about the benefits.

“The generosity of the Kyrene community never fails to amaze me, but the speed at which our community answered this call was truly awe-inspiring.”

Added Vesely: “To be successful in school, we need to ensure our students’ needs are met at home.”

To become a Purposity donor, all that is needed is to visit the application’s website, [www.purposity.com](http://www.purposity.com), enter a cell phone number and a zip code.

A weekly text alert will be sent to the registered phone to describe any requests.

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# Oompah, oompah. Corona band marches to win.

By Diana Nelson

It's not an exaggeration to say that members of the Corona del Sol High School marching band are as dedicated as any athlete.

From long and frequent practice sessions, to live performances at every home and away game, to participation in coveted band competitions – it requires a commitment of time and dedication.

Maleah Cooper is a junior who plays baritone in the Aztec marching band. She is in her third year of membership because she enjoys making music and building new friendships. But she is also quick to explain the band's demanding schedule.

"I get up at 4:30 a.m. to be at school by 5:30 for band practice. Our band practices from 5:45 to 7 a.m. four days a week, and one night of rehearsal from 5:45 to 9 p.m. We also have some Saturday rehearsals from 8 a.m. until noon.

"During football season we play at all the Friday night home and away varsity football games."

On a recent Saturday the band traveled to compete in the Marching Band Invitational in the Western Band Association competition at Trabuco Hills High School in Lake Forest, Calif.

Cooper says the hard work is worth it because the band is special.

"I love that we all work hard together to make

our show as good as it can be; I love that we are a marching band family that cares about each other. It is a challenge, but we are there to encourage and support each other. It isn't all just hard work; we have fun, too," said Cooper.

It's also obvious that this group of student musicians is determined and focused, just like a finely tuned team, to do its best.

And, the rigorous schedule is paying off.

Just this fall, the band earned a "superior with distinction" ranking and was named one of the top eight bands in the state by the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association.

The rating allowed them to advance to the state playoffs at ASU on Saturday, Nov. 17, as they prepared to compete among the other top bands in the state, also classified as Division I.

Parent and band booster Crystal Voss volunteers her time to spread the word about the members' tireless efforts.

"The marching band at Corona includes 174 members whose ages range between freshmen to seniors," said Voss. "Both of my children, Anika and Noah, are active members and keep up an exhausting schedule. But, they love participating..."

Anika agrees with her mom and says that the best part of being in the band is "performing with people

who she considers not just friends but family."

A junior, she already has plans to pursue a music education degree in college, at either ASU or NAU, and eventually to teach at the elementary-school level.

That love for the activity, the music and the friendships are consistent reasons given for participating in the band.

Anthony Perkins, who is a senior and plays clarinet, says the best part of being in the marching band is "being able to have a passion, a goal to strive toward and to feel your own progress within.

"Even for people who are not going to be music majors, they can still benefit from the feeling of getting better every day, and the sense of accomplishment not many other subjects can deliver."

He also plans to be a music education major in college at UofA in Tucson and credits meeting his future roommate and current girlfriend as a result of being in marching band.

Another senior, Dane Cavanaugh-Toft, has participated in the band for all four years and is head section leader of the trumpet section.

"What I like best about band is the people I've met and the friendships I've made, and to see what we can really accomplish when we all put our efforts

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## Band

From Page 12

toward a singular goal.”

At the helm of all the bands at Corona is the director, David DuPlessis. His programs involve about 400 students in four concert bands, two jazz bands and the marching band.

Fortunately, music is the family business for DuPlessis, who is married to Arlie DuPlessis, director of band at Pueblo Middle School. Their daughter, Alex, attends kindergarten at Kyrene de la Paloma in West Chandler.

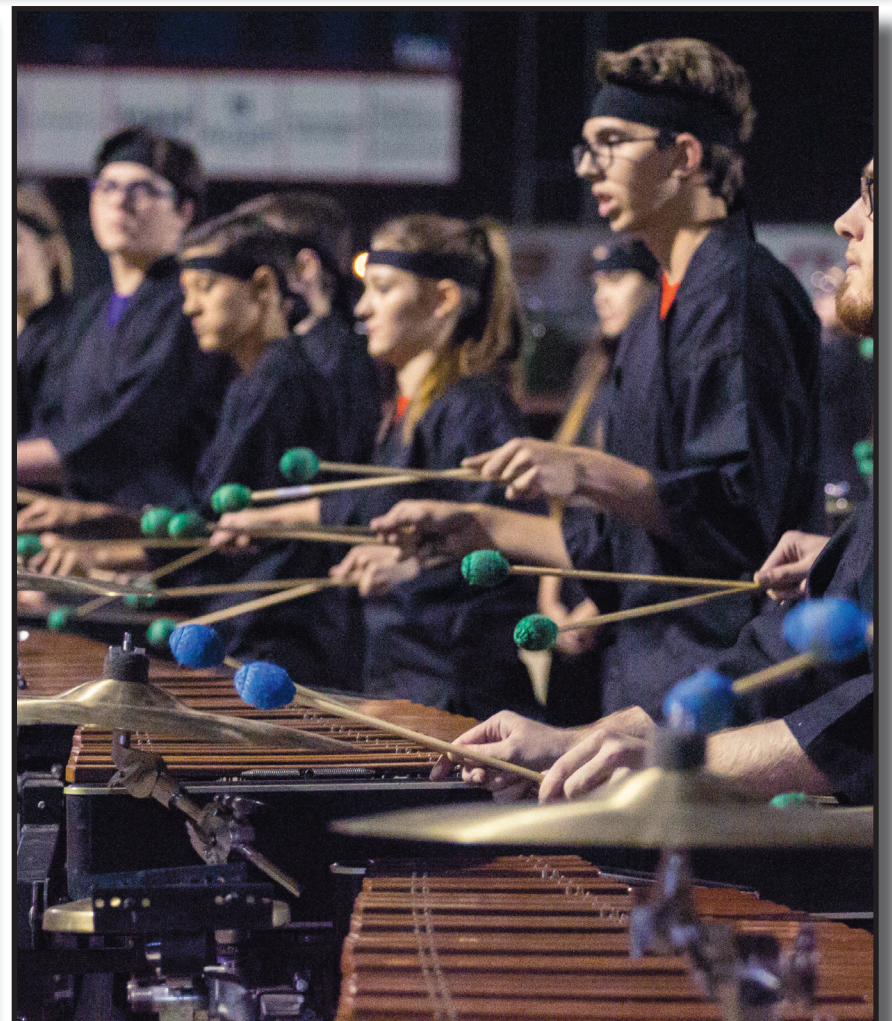
He says it's a pleasure and privilege to get to work with his students every day.

“We have an amazing group of 174 students in our marching band, the biggest student organization on campus, who spend hundreds of hours working hard. I am very proud of the work the students do each day and how they support each other to be a first class organization.”

---

The 174 Corona del Sol marching band members pursue a grueling training regimen but the payoff came when they earned a ‘superior with distinction’ rank by the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association. The band advanced to the state playoffs Nov. 17.

— Wrangler News photos  
by Alex J. Walker







# Kindergarten orientation and preschool preparation

Every Kyrene elementary school will host a Kindergarten Orientation night to prepare families for the 2019-20 school year.

Preschool parents are welcome to come learn more about Kyrene's earliest educational opportunities. Parents considering early entry to Kindergarten are encouraged to attend.



*Middle School Information Nights will be held on each campus during the first two weeks of December. Contact schools for dates and times.*







## 'I love making their day a little bit better'

Story & photos by Robyn Martinez

Kayla Bond goes above and beyond in her role as a cafeteria manager.

Since the start of the school year, Bond has been serving as the café manager at Ward Traditional Academy, a job which includes setting up and serving meals plus maintaining a sanitary and safe program.

Yet, say school officials, she does much more.

Each day, students come through Bond's lunch line, during which she looks for and finds opportunities to connect with children and hear snippets about their lives.

"It's amazing to me how much kids have going on in their lives," Bond says, "and I love being able to make a little part of their day better."

After hearing from one of her students that she wasn't looking forward to the weekend ahead, Bond made her a folded-paper finger game, sometimes referred to as a "paper fortune teller."

Inside, Bond wrote positive things for the child to do and think about over the weekend. Reminders like "you are special," "be a friend," and "read a book" under the flaps of folded paper. After the child received it, Bond realized more students could benefit from them, too. "Not only are they getting a healthy meal; they're also having their day brightened," Bond said.

In addition to creating the special origami encouragement for students, Bond also gives out stickers and coloring books she purchases with her own money.

"Kayla is awesome," said Ward Principal Dr. Taime Bengochea. "From the moment she introduced herself to me, I could see she was going to be amazing for our students...Kayla has worked hard to ensure she knows every student's name at Ward. She tries to have a personal connection with students so that they know where to go if they need something.

"Students love her and we are lucky to have her here."

Concluded Bond: "If I can be one person that makes a difference in a child's life, I'm happy."



Kayla Bond, top left, cafeteria manager at Ward Traditional Academy, offers more than nutritious food—she's a ray of sunshine for students, who relish her origami-making skills (below) during lunchtime.





# Sports

with Alex Zener

## Hopes high, performance not so much, as Aztecs miss finals win second year in a row

Corona del Sol defeated the No. 1 seed, Perry High School, 3-2 in the semifinals of the 6A State Championship Volleyball Tournament, after being down two sets to zero, only to lose 3-0 to a familiar nemesis, Xavier Prep, in the championship finals Nov. 7 at Wells Fargo Arena.

It was the third straight year the Aztecs had played in the finals of the state tournament, winning the championship in 2016 but losing the last two years to Xavier.

Corona's 2018 highlight reel will most likely feature its come-from-behind five-set win over No. 1-ranked Perry in the semifinals, where the Aztecs were able to make adjustments after losing the first two sets 25-18 and 25-15 to ultimately win the match and flabbergast the Pumas who must have thought they were headed to the finals after being in complete control the first two sets.

Corona's coach, **Ben Maxfield**, after losing the first two sets, changed tactics to running a 6-2 offense system bringing

in freshman setter **Anita Babic** to share the setting duties with sophomore **Ashley Hayden**.

A 6-2 system allows a team to have six hitters and two setters in the rotation because the setter plays only when in the back-row rotation. This system can be advantageous because it always allows a team to have three hitters on the front row, giving the setter more options.

Babic and Hayden both had experience running Corona's offense since Babic had been the only setter on the team the first half of the season because Hayden, who transferred from Desert Vista, had to sit out nine matches due to the transfer rules. They had also run the 6-2 offense at times during the regular season.

The Aztecs were able to get the Pumas out of sync and gradually get back into the match with this different strategy so that by the time the final set came around, Perry was pretty much back on their heels.

Corona won the last three sets and the match 25-21, 25-21 and 15-7, with Babic

being credited with 14 assists and Hayden contributing 25 in this semifinal win over Perry.

Senior **Mary Shroll** led the team in kills with 17, followed by junior **Madi Noble** with 13 kills.

Junior **Sadie McRae** contributed five total blocks while senior **Kaieessa Sounart**, playing in four of the five sets, contributed four blocks.

Junior libero **Becca Morse** led the team in digs with 28. Noble had 23 digs and Shroll 14, giving both a double-double for the match—13 kills and 23 digs for Noble and 17 kills and 14 digs for Shroll.

Corona often depended on its serve to get its opponents out of system, which was in evidence against Perry. The Aztecs had 11 aces compared to only six by the Pumas plus the Aztecs' service percentage was relatively high at 89.7 percent.

Shroll and Babic both had three service aces while Noble had two aces, and Hayden and juniors **Rachael Mertes** and **Nicole Newline** each had one. Hayden and senior **Kacie McCain** both served 100 percent of their balls in bounds.

Corona will lose only four players to graduation, including Shroll, who had a definite impact on the Aztecs' success once she was cleared to play after transferring to Corona. In 94 sets she led the team in service aces with 53 and kills a set at 3.6, plus she averaged 4.1 digs a set and had 41 total blocks.

The Aztecs will also miss Sounart, who was injured coming into the season but still

managed 72 kills and 22 blocks. They'll also miss McCain, who served up 40 aces her senior season, and Jenna Bolena, who had 143 kills and 60 blocks in the 88 sets she was able to play after sitting out the first half of the season because of transfer rules.

The Aztecs, though, should return 11 players including Noble, who led the team in kills with 361, and Newlin, who played in all 122 sets accumulating 343 kills in addition to McRae who led the team with 78 blocks, both setters, Hayden and Babic, and libero Morse.

Additional team members who contributed to Corona's success on and off the court this season and should return in 2019 include **Morgan McNulty**, **McKenna Olsen**, **Makalie Pintus** and **Natalie Meyer**.

### Marcos Volleyball

Marcos de Niza's girls volleyball team, as the No. 7 seed, automatically qualified for the 4A State Volleyball Championship Tournament where they made a run through the brackets ultimately defeating No. 2 seeded Seton Catholic Prep in the quarterfinals.

Unfortunately, though, standing in the Padres advancement to the finals was the two-time defending state champions, Salpointe Catholic, who defeated Marcos, 3-1, in the semifinals on Nov. 3 at McClintock High School thus eliminating the Padres.

On their way to the semifinals, the Padres defeated No. 10 seeded Mesquite



## THE DOCTOR IS IN

Dr. Andrew Wellman has been practicing Orthopaedic Surgery in the Southeast Valley for the last 34 years. He has recently relocated to the Chandler area after six years at the prestigious Hedley Orthopaedic Institute of Orthopaedic Surgery in Mesa, AZ. As a military-trained surgeon, he was trained in and continues to practice classic orthopaedic surgery with emphasis on hip and knee reconstruction, fractures, sports medicine and occupational injuries.



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3-1 in the first round before sending home the No. 2 seed, Seton Catholic Prep, 3-2, in a back and forth match in the second round.

Marcos shocked Seton with a 25-19 win in the first set before Seton woke up in time to narrowly take the second set, 25-23. The Padres once again rallied to win the third set 25-19 before Seton won the fourth set 25-21.

The Padres won the fifth and deciding set, 15-9, to advance to the Nov. 3 semifinals against No. 3 seeded Salpointe.

Sophomore six-foot middle blocker **Hailey White** was recognized as Player of the Match by the Padres coaching staff after the Seton win for her 22 kills hitting .529 with only four errors. White rounded out her match with six solo blocks.

Four seniors played an outstanding match against Seton, as well. **Elyse Olson** and **Katy Johnson** contributed 13 and 12 kills each respectively in the win over the Sentinels while senior **Katy Denham** led the team in digs with 27. Johnson followed with 26 digs and **Jenifer Lauer** had 21 digs and 25 assists.

During the 2018 season, the Padres with a 26-10 record, had two players who played in every match and led the team in kills. In 105 sets, White had 286 kills or 2.7 kills a set hitting .304 while Elyse Olson had 217 kills or an average of 2.1 kills a set hitting .225.

Two other seniors had prominent kill stats: Johnson had 195 kills in 97 games averaging two kills a set and Lauer had 168 kills in 104 sets or an average of 1.6 kills a set hitting .223.

In addition to getting 1.6 kills a set while playing front row, Lauer also played setter during her back-row rotation leading the team in assists with 417 assists in 104 sets or 4.1 assists a set.

Lauer's 417 assists were only seven more than the other setter, sophomore **Olivia Craig**, who had 410 assists or 3.9 assists a set. Olivia Craig also had 116 kills or an

average of 1.1 kills a set while playing in the front row.

Lauer and Olivia Craig were both excellent servers, leading the team in aces with Lauer serving in 62 aces and Olivia Craig 52 aces.

Overall, the Padres were a good serving team during the 2018 season, averaging 2.5 aces a set. In addition to Lauer and Olivia Craig, sophomore **Audrey Mayer** is recorded on the stat sheets as having 45 aces; Johnson, 36 aces; Denham, 32 aces; Elyse Olson, 28 aces; and sophomore **Kelsi Dewaard**, 14 aces.

White not only led the team in kills but was by far the Padres' best blocker. She recorded 56 solo and 6 assisted blocks for a total of 62 blocks. The next two best blockers were Lauer and Elyse Olson, each with 24 total blocks.

Denham led the team in digs with a total of 534 digs in 99 sets or 5.4 digs a set. Lauer was second with 392 digs in 104 sets while Johnson was close behind with 380 digs in 97 sets.

Additional players who contributed to the Padres' overall success on and off the court were seniors **Itzel Avendano** and **Riley Fry** and juniors **Jasmin Jurado**, **Seriah Catania** and **Nina Marshall**.

### Swim and Dive State Championships

The Arizona State Division I Swimming and Diving Championships were held Nov. 2-3 at the Rio Salado Swim Club, where Corona's boys team qualified 14 swimmers, helping them take fifth place out of 26 teams while the girls team qualified eight swimmers and placed 17th out of 23 teams.

Top finishes for the boys team included two fourth place individual finishes and one fifth place relay team event.

Senior **Dylan Edge** placed fourth in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 51.79, breaking a Corona team record of 51.84 set in 2006.

Fellow senior **Reese Latto** placed fourth in the 100-

yard breaststroke with a time of 59.01, also breaking a team record of 59.04 set 28 years ago in 1990.

The Aztecs' 200-yard medley relay team of all seniors including Edge, Latto, **Francisco Esparza** and **Roan Kelleher** touched the wall in fifth place with a total time of 1:37.33, which also set a new team record of 1:37.99 set in 2007.

Corona's other two relay team state meet results included an eighth-place finish for the Aztec 400-yard freestyle relay team of Kelleher, **Matt Johnson**, Reese and Edge and a 12th place finish for the 200-yard freestyle relay team of **James Ragsdale**, **Omar Serag**, **Carter Bower** and Johnson.

In the individual events, Edge placed seventh and Reese Latto was 10th in the 200-yard individual medley event. Kelleher placed 13th in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle event, while senior **Nicholas Canney** was 13th in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:53:88.

Corona had two divers that qualified for the state meet. **Tres Walker** placed sixth with a score of 400.10 and **Jordan Moore** took eighth place with a score of 354.45 in the 1-meter diving event.

Corona swimmers who qualified and swam in the preliminaries but not the finals included seniors Esparza and Serag plus junior **Carter Janssen** in the 100-yard butterfly event; junior **Jack Miller**; sophomore **Dusten Crosswhite**; Johnson in the 100-yard backstroke event; and senior Carter Bower in the 100-yard breaststroke event.

Corona's girls team had three relay teams qualify for the Division I state swim meet.

The 200-yard medley relay team of senior **Devyn Brown**, freshman **Samantha Arredondo**, junior **Aspen Smith** and senior **Haley Johnson** took 11th place with a time of 1:54.82

— SPORTS, Page 20

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## Sports

From Page 17

Corona's 400-yard freestyle relay team of junior **Aspen Smith**, sophomore **Lauren Swindler**, Haley Johnson and Arredondo touched the wall in 11th place with a time of 3:43.92

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of **Hannah Latto**, **Isabella Pearsall**, **Zoe Johnson** and Haley Johnson qualified for the state meet but their preliminary swim time did not qualify for the finals.

Arredondo placed in two individual events, taking 14th place in both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard freestyle races while Hanna Latto qualified to swim in the 100-yard breaststroke event prelims but did not swim in the finals.

### McClintock Swim and Dive

McClintock had eight swimmers from its girls team qualify for the Arizona State Division II Swimming and Diving Championships held Nov. 2-3 at the Mesa Aquatics Club.

The Chargers' top finisher was junior **Sophie Velitchkov**, who finished in second place in the 100-yard backstroke event with a time of 55.78.

Velitchkov was also the lead-off swimmer in the 200-yard freestyle relay event where, along with three sophomore teammates, **Kirsten Clark**, **Candace Farling** and **Nina Teeter**, McClintock's relay team finished in fifth place with a time of 1:40.86.

The same four swimmers took sixth place in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:52.78. Velitchkov swam the backstroke the first 25 yards, while Teeter swam the breaststroke, Farling the butterfly and Clark finished the last 25 yards swimming the freestyle.

In the individual events, Teeter placed 13th in the finals of the 100-yard freestyle event while Farling qualified for and swam in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard butterfly event prelims but did not qualify for the finals.

Teeter and Clark also qualified in the 50-yard freestyle event prelims but did not swim in the finals which was also the case for the 400-yard freestyle relay team of **Danielle Pope**, **Ava Masche**, **Kathy Thach** and **Lilyann Cavitt**.

The Chargers had one diver qualify from the boys team. **Jeffrey Maxwell** placed 14th in the 1-meter diving even with a score of 341.75.

## Sunset Library to host Korean War vet as part of 'Our Stories' series



North Korea recently turned over what are believed to be the remains of American service members lost in the Korean War.  
— Photo by USAF Senior Airman Mikaley Kline

It has been 68 years since Arden Rowley's capture during the Korean War, but based on the clarity of his memories, it could have been just yesterday.

The now longtime Mesa resident and Korean conflict veteran joins presenters at the next Our Stories speaker series coming to West Chandler's Sunset branch library on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The program, "Voices from the Korean War: Prisoners and the Missing" begins at 10:30 a.m.

In addition to Rowley, more than 7,000 Americans were captured during the three years of conflict on the Korean peninsula.

These servicemen were sent to camps throughout North Korea, suffering from the cold, brutal treatment and starvation. More than 2,700 died while imprisoned.

Rowley was raised in Mesa, joining the U.S. Army in 1948 after graduating high school. He eventually landed in Korea with the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. The Chinese Communist forces took Rowley and other military members as prisoners of war on Dec. 1, 1950.

He was repatriated in Operation Big Switch in August 1953. Rowley eventually returned to Mesa, began a family and spent 31 years teaching in Mesa schools.

Joining Rowley at the presentation will be Dr. Yuri McKee, a local doctor and former U.S. Air Force flight surgeon, who has a deep interest in the

status of Korean War missing-in-action servicemen.

Drawing on insights as the medical director for the 35th Joint Recovery Operation into North Korea in 2004, McKee will describe the experience of negotiating with that country's officials on the recovery of missing American servicemen.

The program will be led by Susan Kee, a Korean-American writer who has interviewed Korean War veterans and the families of those who served. She is working on a book of stories about Korean War veterans and fallen heroes, which she characterizes as a tribute to their service and a guarantee their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

When the series starts up again in January, the Our Stories program will reveal little known connections between the city of Chandler and renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

In the 1920s and '30s, Wright developed a friendship with Dr. A.J. Chandler and worked on projects in and around the city.

While most of those never came to fruition, Wright's vision for Chandler and the surrounding area was inspired by the desert and its unique landscape. This talk will cover various Wright projects in Chandler, including San Marcos on the Desert and Broadacre City.

Our Stories presents diverse speakers who share unique Arizona and local-history topics to a general audience.

The series is produced by Chandler Public Library and Chandler Museum, with support from Friends of the Chandler Public Library and Chandler Historical Society.

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Saturday, November 17

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# DIVERSIONS

## 'Instant Family' takes a look inside parenting

By M.V. Moorhead

Pete and Ellie, childless “houseflippers” in their 40s, decide to foster, and then adopt, three kids all at once, a teenage girl and her two young siblings.

All three come with behavioral and social issues, and this, combined with the naïveté and inexperience of the new parents, leads to trouble, some of it wacky, some of it serious, in the comedy-drama *Instant Family*.

Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne both do sweet but never maudlin work as Pete and Ellie. They convey an awakening sense of open-hearted mission as they become aware both of the needs of foster kids and of their own desire to parent.

There are capable supporting turns in the film as well, notably by Octavia Spencer and Tig Notaro, who turn a pair of social workers into a low-key comedy team, and by Julie Hagerty and Margo Martindale as the Grandmas, demure and boisterous respectively. Most impressive of all, maybe, is Isabela Moner as the teenage daughter, convincing as a bright, decent-hearted kid who's also an infuriating problem child.

The director and co-writer is Sean Anders,

drawing on his own life for inspiration. Anders' other credits include the likes of *Daddy's Home* and *Daddy's Home 2* and similar broad comedies in the modern vein, and that sensibility finds its way into this movie as well. There are slapstick sequences that feel heavy and contrived, and throw the movie off-balance at times.

But the overall effect of *Instant Family* is surprisingly moving. What Anders gets right about the experience of coming to parenting later in life, and of parenting a teenager—especially in the terrifying era of social media—feels considerable.

Allowing for the conventions of this sort of mainstream family flick, the degree to which *Instant Family* doesn't sugarcoat the challenges is impressive:

The language is raw, and so is the guilty candor of Pete and Ellie's private conversations. So when the movie jerks tears, as it did for me at several points, it jerks them honestly.

It's hard for me to imagine any new version replacing, in my affections, the original 1966 TV version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. That half-hour animated special based on the classic Dr. Seuss children's book of 1957, directed by the great Chuck Jones and voiced by the great Boris Karloff, was one of the true high points of the holiday season every year of my childhood.

Ron Howard's laborious live-action feature version of 2000, with Jim Carrey in the title role, certainly didn't come close capturing the Seussian magic of the original. Neither does the new animated version, titled simply *The Grinch*, and featuring the voice of Benedict Cumberbatch. But it has its merits,

and it's better than the Howard/Carrey version.

For the benighted few who may not know, *The Grinch* is a tall, green-furred recluse who bitterly resents the relentless Christmas festivity of the Whos, elfin citizens of nearby Whoville, and thus decides to steal the town's presents and decorations, disguised as Santa Claus. It is, of course, a nutty variation on the Scrooge theme, economically unfolded through Dr. Seuss's inimitable, metrically flawless rhyme.

The new film expands the story in a number of directions, all of them thoroughly gratuitous, for no reason other than to stretch it out to feature length. Most annoyingly, it gives us a psychological backstory for the Grinch's dislike of Christmas—after the narrator (Pharrell Williams) tells us “please don't ask why/No one quite knows the reason,” he then goes on to explain the banal reason.

He's no Karloff, but Cumberbatch gives good, snide line readings. Even so, this movie's Grinch is very watered-down as a villain; his redemption is telegraphed so early and often that it has little impact when it arrives.

This aside, it should be said that the movie has some visual wit, and that, as with the TV version, *The Grinch's* good-natured dog Max is a very successful character, and that a plus-sized reindeer named Fred is also lovable. It's a testament to how softened-up this Grinch is that the filmmakers don't let him be mean to Max.

*Instant Family* and *The Grinch* are both rated PG-13 and play at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion Center, Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.



**5th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
**Saturday, November 17, 2018**  
**2 pm - 4:30 pm**

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## Women in Leadership Luncheon

With Chrissy Weems & Bella Weems-Lambert, founders of Origami Owl

Tuesday, November 20, 2018  
Noon to 1:30 pm

SoHo63  
63 E Boston St.  
Chandler, AZ 85225

Join us to meet Chrissy Weems and Bella Weems-Lambert, the powerhouse mother and daughter team that started the highly successful jewelry company, Origami Owl. With their headquarters right here in Chandler, it all started with Bella's dream to be able to buy her own car when she turned 16. With a little help from family friends Tyson Basha and Shawn Maxwell, her idea turned into a multi-million dollar company and needless to say, she did get her dream car. Their business operates on core values, one of which is, "Be the change you want to see."

Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com/calendar](http://ChandlerChamber.com/calendar)

## Ask An Expert Social Media for Business

Friday, December 14, 2018  
Noon to 1 pm

Chandler Chamber  
25 S Arizona Place, #201  
Chandler, AZ 85225



Learn how Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can drive business, build your brand and give your website more traffic. With social media changing constantly, join us to find out the 'why' and the 'how' of it all.

Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com/calendar](http://ChandlerChamber.com/calendar)



## Chandler Chamber City Bus Tour

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

7:15 a.m. Registration  
7:30 a.m. Downtown Presentation  
8:00 a.m. Bus Leaves for Tour  
11:00 a.m. Bus Returns from Tour

Starts @ Chandler Chamber  
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Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com](http://ChandlerChamber.com)

## SAVE THE DATE Meet the Elected Officials Legislative Breakfast

Friday, January 4, 2019  
7:30 am to 9:30 am

Avion Center  
1733 E Northrop Blvd.  
Chandler, AZ 85286



Guests will have the opportunity to meet the 2019 Arizona State Legislators, Federal, Local, and School Governing Board Officials, as well as hear an update from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber will unveil the new 2019 *How We Stand* legislative document, which depicts legislative agendas and priorities for the coming year.

Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com](http://ChandlerChamber.com)





Jason Schechterle presents a certificate of appreciation to Eugene Franz, a USMC veteran who served during the Korean War.

## Salute

From Page 6

veteran, quipped he was responsible for ending the conflict in Korea. “I was home on leave in July of 1953—I had leave before I was sent overseas—and when they heard I was coming they decided to quit shooting,” Christiansen joked.

He served two years, four months and four days, then returned to his job in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as an engineer at Collins Radio Company.

Cooper read the names of each veteran along with their branch of military service, and Schechterle and

another Serenity Hospice team member presented the certificates and lapel pins.

Afterward, Schechterle explained why he decided to join forces with Serenity. He lost his father two years ago and hospice was there.

“As hard as it was to lose someone so close to you, it was a beautiful experience. He was at peace and we were at peace,” Schechterle said.

“When the time comes, when you need it, hospice makes it so much more peaceful, both for the person transitioning but even more importantly, for the ones left behind.

“This has been my new calling to wear this shirt and be a part of this.”

## Great Clips donations to benefit kids in foster, group-home care

For the second year, all Great Clips salons in the Phoenix market, including Tempe and Chandler salons, will donate funds and haircuts to children in foster and group-home care in partnership with non-profit Arizona Helping Hands.

Additionally, an in-salon fundraiser will take place on Saturday, Nov. 17, through which \$1 of every haircut will be donated to the AZ Helping Hands Toy Drive.

Great Clips Arizona is hoping to beat its 2017 financial donation of \$13,500, and will also donate 250 free haircuts monthly to children in the foster care program.

## Boys and Girls Clubs sponsor free annual Thanksgiving dinner

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley will hold a series of Thanksgiving dinners, including one each its Tempe and Chandler locations.

Celebrating their 55th year, the BGCEV serves over 34,000 children and teens in the East Valley providing programs and opportunities that may not be available otherwise.

Volunteers are always wanted and greatly appreciated.

“Being able to provide Thanksgiving dinners to the community we directly serve is so important to Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley.

“This may be their only hot meal during the holiday season and it’s our duty to provide for our members of the community whenever we can,” said Connie Perez, CEO of BGCEV.

The dinner in Tempe takes place 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 19. In Chandler, the dinner will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21.

Information: at [www.clubzona.org](http://www.clubzona.org) or call 480-820-3688.

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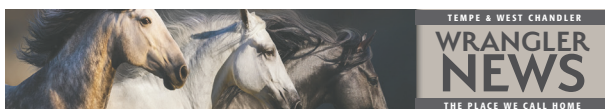
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# Chandler • Arizona NEWS+ Events

[chandleraz.gov/news-center](http://chandleraz.gov/news-center)

## Nominations open for annual Volunteer Recognition Awards

Volunteers are essential to any organization as they contribute their valuable time, resources, expertise and energy. The City of Chandler and For Our City are asking the community to submit nominations for their outstanding volunteers to be honored during the annual Volunteer Recognition Awards. There are eight different categories available, so



start thinking about which volunteers to nominate! In addition, all volunteers with more than 1,000 hours will receive a lapel pin and certificate from the Chandler Mayor. To receive this special distinction, an application must be submitted for each volunteer.

Nominations must be submitted online and will be accepted through Monday, Dec. 3. The recognition event will take place in February 2019. To view the list of award categories and submit a nomination, visit [chandleraz.gov/volunteer100](http://chandleraz.gov/volunteer100).

## Take the budget survey



Chandler • Arizona

Once again the City of Chandler is starting its annual budget process and wants residents' feedback about their City and its future. What are your priorities? What City services or projects matter most to you? The City wants to know! Chandler residents may complete the online survey at [chandleraz.gov/budget](http://chandleraz.gov/budget). The survey will be available through the end of December.

Results from the survey are shared with the Mayor, Councilmembers, City management and staff to assist in the formulation of the City's financial plan. Paper copies, in either English or Spanish, also may be picked up at various City facilities, or downloaded from the website. For more information, call 782-2252.

## Waze to go!

Chandler is the first municipality in Arizona to provide traffic information through Waze, the everyday driving platform that brings drivers together to outsmart traffic.

The City has partnered with Waze in an effort to share traffic incident and road closure information with commuters. The City reviews traffic control plans and issues permits before any roads in Chandler can be restricted. The information is available on our website, [chandleraz.gov/trafficrestrictions](http://chandleraz.gov/trafficrestrictions), but also is provided to Waze, making it much more accessible to the mobile public. Waze works on smartphones and tablets and is available online at [waze.com/livemap](http://waze.com/livemap), or download the free Waze app for iOS or Android at [waze.com/get](http://waze.com/get).

## Come to the Tumbleweed Tree Lighting & Parade of Light



Come celebrate the holiday season at Chandler's Parade of Lights and 62nd Annual Tumbleweed Tree Lighting ceremony to be held Saturday, Dec. 1, at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park. Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. with holiday music, entertainment, arts & crafts, food and beverage booths and pictures with Santa. Stay for the Parade of Lights along Arizona Avenue from Frye Road north to Erie Street at 7 p.m. and the official lighting of the Tumbleweed Tree immediately following the parade.



## EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

- 17 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 17 Woofstock, Tumbleweed Park, 782-2735
- 17 Raul Midón, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 22 Turkey Swim, Hamilton Aquatic Center, 782-2630
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Day Holiday, City offices closed
- 24 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 26-30 Holiday Selfie Stations, Downtown Chandler, 855-3539

### DECEMBER

- 1 Tumbleweed Tree Lighting & Parade of Lights, Downtown Chandler, 782-2735
- 1 Our Stories Speaker Series, Voices from the Korean War: Prisoners and the Missing, Sunset Library, 782-2751
- 1 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539

- 6 Suicide Prevention & Awareness Presentation, Chandler Police Main Station,
- 6, 8 Pictures with Santa at Santa's House, Downtown Chandler, 782-2735
- 7 Star Party, Veterans Oasis Park, 480-782-2890
- 8 Chandler Museum Grand Opening, 300 S. Chandler Village Drive, 782-2717
- 8 Chandler Fire Department Holiday Toy Drive, Chandler Fashion Center, 782-2120
- 8 Chandler Police's Civilian Motorcycle Safety Course, Hamilton High School, 782-4800
- 8 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 8-19 Awkward Family Photos Exhibit, Chandler Museum, 782-2717
- 9 Lea DeLaria, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 10 City Council study session and meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 13 City Council meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 14 Sons of Serendip, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680

- 15 Pictures with Santa at Santa's House, Downtown Chandler, 782-2735
- 15 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 18 Holiday Craft and Cookie Decorating, Chandler Community Center, 782-2727
- 19 Family Night at the TRC featuring Winter Wonderland, Tumbleweed Rec Center, 782-2900
- 20 Sonoran Sunset Series featuring Holiday Songs by "The Real Thing Band," Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2890
- 21 Drumline Live Holiday Spectacular, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 22 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 25 Christmas Holiday, City offices closed
- 26-30 Zoppé, an Italian Family Circus, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 29 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539

For event details, visit [chandleraz.gov](http://chandleraz.gov) or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 782-2735.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny & City Council





# BRIEFLY . . .

## Dance center taps into future with new name

Wall-2-Wall Dance Center in Tempe is taking on a new name this month as it marks its fifth anniversary. Now known as Wall-2-Wall Tap Dance Center, the studio will be celebrating the new name and milestone Saturday, Nov. 17. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. followed by a performance by the HeartBeat Tap Ensemble at 2 p.m.

For those interested in kicking up their heels and learning to tap, there's a free class from 3-4 p.m. followed by a 4 p.m. raffle drawing and cake.

Wall-2-Wall Tap Dance Center is located at 617 S. McClintock Drive #3

## Holiday toy drive, fire truck ride Dec. 8

The Chandler Fire Department is again collecting toys during the holiday season to help brighten the holidays for West Chandler and other neighborhood children who might otherwise go without presents this year.

The highlight of the annual toy drive is a Holiday Toy Ride, 2-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, at Chandler Fashion Center.

Anyone donating a new, unwrapped toy during the event will receive a ride in a Chandler fire engine. The toy collection point at the mall is near the valet parking area outside the food court on the south side of the mall. An adult must accompany all children 6 years of age and younger on their ride.

"Our annual toy drive has been a tremendous success over the years thanks to the generosity of so many Chandler families," said Chandler Fire Chief Tom Dwiggin.

Toy donations can also be dropped off in the lobby of the Chandler Fire Administration Headquarters, 151 E. Boston St., through Dec. 14 or at any Chandler fire station. West Chandler Station 9 is at 211 N. Desert Breeze Blvd. West.

Chandler firefighters and volunteers will help deliver the toys to the Chandler CARE Center, where they will be distributed to families that have been identified through the staff at each Chandler Unified School District elementary school.

Information: [chandleraz.gov/fire](http://chandleraz.gov/fire).

## Memory loss topic of library series Dec. 12

A monthly series of free education lectures to raise community awareness of memory loss conditions and help families access available resources takes place 1-2:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Tempe Public Library.

On Dec. 12, the presentation will focus on success stories from caregivers who will share their success stories, large and small, and offer suggestions, humor and hope to others going through a similar journey.

## Dec. 14-15 Children's Choir performance

Chandler Children's Choir will presents its winter concert Friday, Dec. 14 and Saturday, Dec. 15. This year's theme, "Singing Loud for All to Hear," combines music of the season with holiday storytelling and more than 150 young singers.

Performances by the group's individual ensembles and combined choir, as well as special appearances from the Prelude and Neighborhood Choir singers, also will be included.

The performances will be at First United Methodist Church of Mesa, 15 E. First Ave. The Dec. 14 performance is at 4 p.m., Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. General admission, \$15; preferred seating, \$20.

# LETTERS . . .

Editor:

In the last edition of the Wrangler News, a letter written in opposition to the Tempe Prop 418 Code of Conduct reform was published. The letter was written by Ms. Lori DeLuca, who is certainly entitled to her views.

Now that election is over, and about 78 percent the Tempe voters voted YES on Prop 418, it is very clear that DeLuca's views expressed, are not in step with mainstream Tempe values.

Ms. DeLuca and her political associates, such as Ms. Peggy McClain, represent an extreme fringe Tempe political element closely identified with the Tea Party. For example, McClain publicly rails against communist influence in our schools, and DeLuca complained about communist influence on the Tempe City Council at a council meeting.

Regarding their opposition to Tempe Prop 418, Deluca argued before the council that Tempe voters should not be able to vote on the vital Prop 418 issue, that we just voted on.

Other opponents of Tempe Prop 418 included Councilman Kolby Granville who has been reprimanded for ethics violations by the Council twice and fired as a high school teacher by Tempe Prep once. The firing incident occurred after former Tempe Prep high school girls reported that he illegally provided them with alcohol when they were minors, and sexually assaulted one of them.

It is clear from Tempe Prop 418 voting results, when it came to Tempe Council Code of Conduct reform, that most Tempe voters had very different ideas from the Prop 418 opponents mentioned.

Mario Martinez, Tempe 85284

*Editor's note: Previous media reports on this subject make it clear that Mr. Granville has denied the allegations of assault and has not been charged with a crime related to any of those allegations.*

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***Open Floorplan***



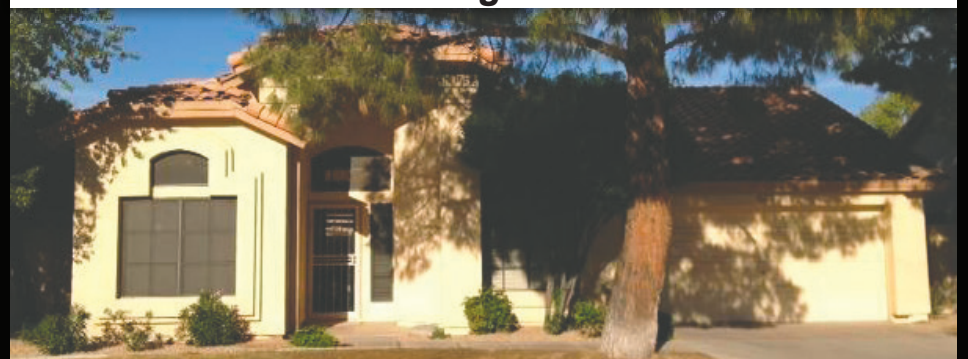
5 bedroom, 3 Bath on a massive corner lot. Kitchen with large island and sharp black appliances. Custom wet bar, fireplace, expansive bedrooms and closets. Tropical oasis backyard with expansive tile patio, gazebo and a heated pebble tech pool and spa!

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