VRANGLER

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME



Thousands of LED lights twinkle at Pollack Tempe Cinemas and the surrounding plaza in South Tempe.

From Santas and toy soldiers to angels and bells, the elaborate annual display is the brainchild — and passion — of real estate developer Michael Pollack.

Big screen, big crowd, big heart: Return of a dazzling lightshow

By Noah Kutz

Thousands of lights twinkled in the night as wideeved moviegoers received a seasonally warm welcome from Christmas carolers, along with a firm handshake from entrepreneur Michael Pollack, whose Tempe Cinemas once again drew a joyful crowd for a night of free holiday movies.

"If you fly into Sky Harbor Airport, you can actually see our lights from the plane," said the real estate and shopping center developer with a laugh, describing the annual holiday light show which attracts masses of admiring visitors each year.

Over the course of one and a half months, Pollack's team of lighting engineers assembled hundreds of thousands of LED bulbs and put them on display in front of Pollack Tempe Cinemas, leading up to a night

- LIGHTSHOW, Page 9

From shelter to city job, once-homeless veteran learns how 'Tempe Works'

By Susie Steckner

For anyone else, it could have been just another day at

But as Ron Ackerman pulled his city truck into the park recently, the sun rising over the horizon and a list of tasks before him, the job at handchanging out old light fixturesbecame so much more.

It offered a way to change a man's life.

Ackerman, a Navy veteran, was rebuilding his broken world after many years on the streets. He had been coaxed out of his car and into a shelter, then

an apartment, with the help of Tempe police and the city's homeless outreach team.

Next Ackerman landed a job through Tempe Works, a special jobs program launched by the city that had him cleaning park bathrooms and asking, always, what other work needed to get done.

In a few short months, Ackerman was crisscrossing the city to tend to whatever maintenance issues popped up in the parks.

And to tend to his future. "When you're homeless

you're just stuck," Ackerman said. "You may want to work or do something, but you can't. How do you?"

That's the question the city of Tempe set out to answer when it developed Tempe Works. The two-year pilot

VETERAN, Page 30

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One more of the welcome 'Waze' for drivers to navigate city streets

aze, the GPS navigation software that works on smartphones and tablets to provide turn-by-turn navigation and route details, has launched a data-sharing partnership with Chandler to have traffic restrictions resulting from city and private utility projects appear as road conditions on Waze maps.

Waze is the driving platform bringing together drivers to outsmart traffic.

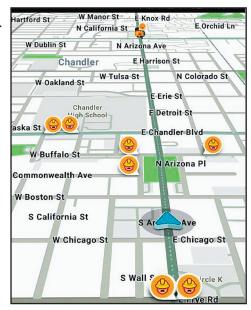
Designed as a free, two-way data share of publicly available traffic information, the Waze Connected Citizens Program is said to promote greater efficiency, deeper insights and safer roads for Chandler drivers, along with more than 600 other partners around the world.

The city reviews trafficcontrol plans and issues permits before any roads in Chandler can be restricted, then makes the information available on the city's website, Chandleraz.gov.

By partnering with Waze, city officials say drivers can also view the information on their cellphone app, making it more accessible to the mobile public.

"Sharing our information of reported construction and road-closure data with Waze will improve the driving experience for everyone that uses the app," said Jerry Corum, the Chandler IT programmer who worked with Waze to have city information included within maps.

Waze is designed to build a community of drivers who can come together to make driving better for other "Wazers" by reporting incidents they see take place, whether a massive pothole that everyone should be warned about, an accident, or really slow traffic occurring



for no apparent reason, according to Corum.

The Waze map evolves with every driver and data point it receives, promoting safer roads and sharing more knowledge with Wazers about potential delays to their commutes, Corum said. The Connected Citizens program

yields even more data, giving motorists a greater ability to circumvent road closures and traffic jams within the app.

Chandler can also provide Wazers with advanced notice of major traffic events such as parades and dignitary visits that could affect their daily routes.

"We are excited to welcome the city of Chandler as a partner in the Connected Citizens Program," said Thais Blumenthal de Moraes, global business development lead for the Connected Citizens Program at Waze.

"In order to build the cities of tomorrow and enable people to drive smarter, Waze...works with partners to share knowledge and propose mobility initiatives that allow for learning and gaining the insight needed to make significant changes on the roads and across local infrastructure."

It is critical that prospective partners show

their dedication to citizen engagement and commit to use Waze data to improve city mobility and efficiency.

Waze partners are also expected to measure and share their findings with other municipal organizations, developing case studies that serve as keys to a global set of improvements which can be made for collective mobility.

The road restriction information submitted by the city to Waze also is available to the public on an interactive map developed by Chandler's Information Technology and Transportation Engineering divisions.

The city's online map contains information that includes the entity performing the work, duration of the restriction, a brief description and contact information.

Information: waze.com/ ccp. To download the free Waze app for iOS or Android, visit waze.com/get.



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New sparkle to one of area's oldest shopping gems

Fine-jewelry favorite moves into future with new owners, same promise of sterling service

By Deborah Hilcove

Por nearly 25 years, Tempe-based Day's Fine Jewelry has been the destination for customers looking for fashionable jewelry sold at "the right price." And, of course, for a jeweler to whom doing business the right way has helped make his small, slightly hidden-away location an equally longtime go-to favorite.

Now, owner Dave Kendall, who has spent more than 47 years in the business, says it's time to pass the store's history—and its reputation—along to another owner who follows the same philosophy of right pricing, right service and a downright commitment to following in the same footsteps as Kendall did from the time he was a 10-year-old in his dad's shop in Kentucky.

"My dad taught me the importance of integrity—treating everybody the best you can," Kendall says. That philosophy, he says, has been successful in building a loyal clientele. Now the time has come for Kendall to pursue retirement with his wife Norma and turn the store over to Lorin and Ginger Jones.

The transition, now only weeks away from Kendall walking out the door officially one last time, has him brimming with thoughts of the happy experiences he has shared with customers for nearly three decades.

"I really want to thank all my customers," he says. "Many of them came in with young children, and now those 'kids' are coming in for engagement rings."

The first customer of the day rings the buzzer and Kendall pushes the door-unlocking button.

"I just came in for the watch you repaired." She looks around curiously. "Hey, Dave. Where's the Elvis music? I miss it." Posters of "The King" decorate the walls. Kendall motions to the Christmas tree and shows several Elvis ornaments. "Customers gave these to me. Look at this one," and he shows a



Lorin Jones, left, new owner Day's Fine Jewelry, will take over the reins from Dave Kendall, who plans to retire with wife Norma to Prescott.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

small phonograph imprinted with an Elvis portrait. "Listen," he flips a tiny switch and it plays "Blue Suede Shoes" and "Here Comes Santa Claus."

A steady flow of customers is buzzed into the store, serenaded by Elvis' carols. Kendall exchanges friendly banter with each customer, catching up on their families, kids home for the holidays, the weather, holiday plans.

"I've sold the store," Kendall says, "and I need to clear inventory. Jewelry's marked down 40-70 percent."

One customer, Nancy, is complimented on her earrings. She touches an ear and nods, "Oh, yes. I don't match the pair, haven't worn a matching pair in years. Just my 'thing.' I'm looking for some hoop earrings, Dave. Let's see what you've got."

Another customer is buzzed in and Kendall greets her: "Ready for Thanksgiving?"

"I'm going to a friend's. Making rice pudding. How 'bout you, Dave?"

"Oh, I'm looking forward to my wife's jalapeño oyster dressing. It's the best."

A man enters, pauses at the jewelry case. "I'm looking for a watch."

Kendall motions to the case, adding that he's also selling some of his own watches. "I used to have quite a collection, but no need for so many. I'm keeping some of my favorites, though."

Kendall's customer-friendly approach to business will continue when the keys are handed over to the Joneses. Kendall and the new owners will work together through February so the Joneses can be introduced to longtime customers and manage the changeover in ownership.

Jones, an award-winning jewelry designer, has 32 years of experience in the jewelry business and says

he has wanted his own store for quite some time. "Dave and I have the same philosophy: treat the customer well and price things right."

He adds, "I'm looking forward to stocking the cases with my own designs. I specialize in wedding sets. I love working with the customer and making what they have in their minds. I can make a 3-D treasure that they can wear a lifetime. I love it when younger customers bring in heirlooms—and I made the heirloom."

Kendall and his wife plan to retire in Prescott where they own a vacation home in the pines. "We're looking forward to spending time with our grandkids and family, hiking, riding my Harley, going to some movies. We'll enjoy the Christmas season. It'll be the first time I haven't been working 16 hours, six days a week, and another 13 hours on Sunday."

As to leaving the store and the abundance of friends he has acquired over the years, Kendall shares a bit of mixed emotion:

"I'm so happy to leave the store with Lorin. He worked nearly three years for me about 17 years ago, and we've remained friends. We even share the same birthday. He's loyal and will treat customers right. He's an awesome designer."

Pausing, Kendall catches his breath. "I want to thank all my customers for their business, for making me successful. It's bittersweet. I've been coming in that back door for 25 years. I guess you can say, 'Elvis has left the building."

Day's Fine Jewelry is located in the Fry's Center at the southeast corner of McClintock and Guadalupe. Call 480-831-6086 for extended holiday hours.

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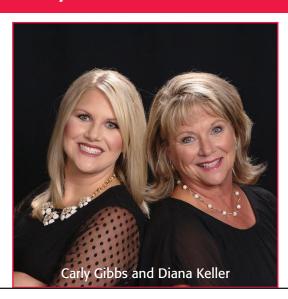
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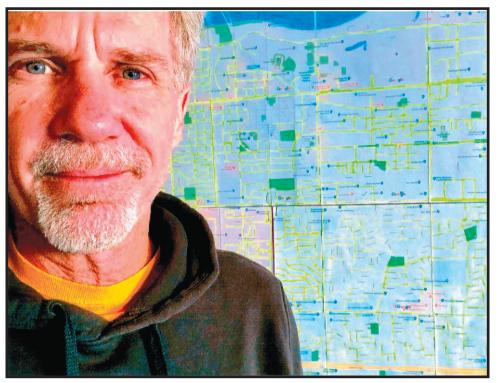
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Robert Hall, a South Tempe resident, made it his mission to walk every street in his neighborhood and the larger city, and in the process discovered the hidden beauty of his hometown.

— Photo courtesy Robert Hall

Walking enthusiast discovers a new world, right in his own neighborhood

Editor's Note: The following commentary was submitted by South Tempe resident Robert Hall.

like so many others, I've become addicted to my Fitbit. Since wrapping it around my wrist last February, I've logged more than 3,000 miles—miles in the Grand Canyon, miles in the Canadian Rockies, but most interestingly of all, miles in my hometown of Tempe.

Tired of walking the same circuitous route around my neighborhood, I set out last June to walk every street from end to end in the square mile between Rural Road, Elliot Road, McClintock Drive and Warner Road. I've lived within this square mile for nearly 30 years, but was amazed at how little of it I had actually seen. Henry David Thoreau was indeed correct when he wrote, "It is remarkable how easily and insensibly we fall into a particular route, and make a beaten track for ourselves." Breaking free from the beaten track, I discovered a world of beauty that included interesting architecture, unique landscaping, animal life I thought existed only in more rural areas, and people like me living in their own little worlds.

I was hooked and a plan took shape. A Google map of each of Tempe's 40 square miles was printed and posted on a bulletin board in my garage. A second copy, along with a highlighter, was used to guide me, and off I've walked each morning, just me and my thoughts.

Tempe, like all cities, has its share of what some might call "sketchy neighborhoods," but none I would consider dangerous. And overall, having walked every street south of the Rio Salado, I can't imagine living anywhere else. Green belts and parks, public art, and friendly people walking, biking, skating or zooming around on scooters are just part of the charm. The city offers a world-class canal system, gorgeous man-made lakes, and even neighborhood lending libraries. Moreover, moving from south to north in the city is like moving back in time. Like the strata one sees in the Grand Canyon, the architectural design of homes reflects epochs in Tempe's development.

Personally, while I more than appreciate the conservationism we have embraced in Tempe, I must admit the older neighborhoods with their tree-lined streets offer a much-needed break from the desert landscaping so common here in the Valley. ON the other hand, I've also noticed that many of the older neighborhoods lack an association to enforce a sense of what I would consider common decency. Homeowners associations can in fact

WALKER, Page 13

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Joyce Coronel

Words from the wise: In this season, make them yours

Wise men came in the midst of darkness to render him homage.

That's one of the many images you see popping up in dazzling holiday light displays around town as Christmas approaches.



At this time of year when editors think back over the most compelling photos of the past 12 months, there's another image—a heartbreaking one—that comes to my mind, one that stunned the world

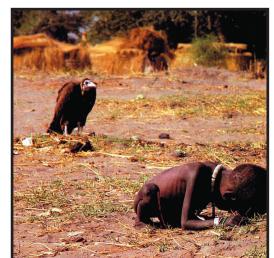
when it was first published by the New York Times in 1993. The photo catapulted a young photographer to fame, if only briefly.

Kevin Carter won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for the iconic portrayal of an emaciated young Sudanese child who had collapsed on the ground from starvation. A vulture lurked nearby, awaiting, it seemed, the child's demise.

And though it first came to light

25 years ago, it's an image that continues to spark strong emotion. Although some might say Carter, a gifted photographer, had reached the pinnacle of his career by winning the Pulitzer, he never got over what he had witnessed and the troubling questions that dogged him.

People wanted to know: What did you do for the child? What became of this frail human being? At the time, Carter said he shooed the vulture away but then had to hurry off to catch a plane. One person accused him of being a vulture himself, having profited from a tragedy he supposedly did nothing to avert. By his own admission, Carter stood near the child for about 20 minutes,



waiting for the perfect shot. Three months later, at age 33, this talented photographer took his own life.

But it didn't have to end that way.

A few days ago, I saw a twentysomething idealist someone who was maybe a

preschooler when the Sudanese famine struck — post a rant about Carter's famous photo and his failure to rescue the starving child. Carter would be alive today, this person opined, if only he had taken the time to carry the child to a feeding station. And the rest of us are vultures, too, when we refuse to take action to remedy injustice.

Well, I suppose that might be

true. But this is where having a few more birthday candles on the cake can change everything. From my vantage point (I'm being courted by AARP these days), my gut reaction is that what Carter was lacking was a wise mentor or colleague. If only he'd had someone in his life who was a bit older, a fellow journalist who had covered atrocities and wars and famines, someone who knew what every journalist knows: Our job is to get in there, get the information and tell the story to our readers in the most compelling way possible—on deadline. By capturing that powerful image, Carter helped raise awareness about the starving masses who had no one to defend them.

In fact, Carter had been *invited* to Sudan to take photos to bring attention to the plight of the thousands of starving children. So he was doing his job, using his gifts to shed light on the situation and help raise money to save people's lives. That's what a judicious mentor would say, and he would say it

JOYCE, Page 13



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Lightshow

From Page 1

of free holiday movies and a dazzling lightshow.

"The idea came [to me] back in the early 2000s, after the Sept. 11 tragedies," said Pollack. "I wanted something that would brighten the different areas of the city, so I decided that could best be done by putting lights up."

Besides renovating various shopping centers across the Valley, restoring pride to a number of neighborhoods in the process, Pollack says he seeks to truly bring about positive change in communities by giving back in many ways.

Originally in 2000, his team brought the light show to their headquarters on Baseline Road east of Alma School in Mesa. Eventually, because of the number of people coming to see the show, it became too large for the building's parking lot, prompting a switch to the shopping center at McClintock Drive and Elliot Road in Tempe, where Pollack Tempe Cinemas is

located.

So why does he do it every year?

Despite the sometimes difficult realities that people in the community can face each day, Pollack says he hopes to provide a place where they can, even if for only a short time, experience peace and receive a brighter outlook on their lives.

Said Pollack:

"To me, light represents hope. I always hope that the world we live in is going to be not just a brighter place, but a better place."

That notion gives Pollack the optimism that people in the community will, in turn, be able to pass good will and thanksgiving to their neighbors during this holiday season, and that they will carry these attitudes into the new year.

As one visitor to the center's annual display of lights explained it, it's people like Michael Pollack and their efforts to improve our communities that make this large city where we live tend to feel a little bit smaller—and in this case, definitely a whole lot brighter.



Carolers' voices echoed in the lobby of Pollack Tempe Cinemas the first night of the dazzling display that lights up the corner of Elliot Road and McClintock Drive each year.

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



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Ever wonder who raises, lowers Old Glory? Spend a few moments with Vincent Feliberty

Editor's note: Noah Kutz, one of our young writing interns, turned a feature-story assignment into an opportunity for personal introspection. When he graduates from the NROTC scholarship program in two years, he will enter the final stages of the United States Marine Corps officer training program.

By Noah Kutz

A man walks out into the brisk morning air, bearing a tightly folded flag close to his chest as the sun rises, radiating warmth and light into the cool atmosphere.

He stops at the base of the flagpole just outside the Kyrene School District headquarters and carefully unfolds the banner, attaching it to the rope and raising it.

Walking a few steps away, the man turns to face the flag and brings his hand into a salute, becoming statue-like for several moments before completing the gesture

While returning to the office, he glances back at the flag as it billows gently in the breeze to ensure his work is properly arranged.

Victor Feliberty, an Army veteran and building manager for the Kyrene district office, repeats this ritual twice a day, morning and evening, during the week.

But why does he do it, and what does it mean to him?

"That flag means this nation," says Feliberty. "It's a group of people with different ideas...but it's united. And when it's united we're supposed to share ideas and efforts."

He says that every person, no matter who they are, will encounter bad days. But even on those bad days the flag goes up because it represents life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness—and the people who stand united by those ideals.

Feliberty emigrated from Puerto Rico to the U.S. in 1974 and quickly enlisted to become an Army paratrooper. According to

- Continued on facing page

Holiday-decoration tragedies

How to avoid being a statistic

Say your decorations are already up and brightening the holiday night? Good job. It means the worst of that annual chore is out of the way.

But make sure you haven't skimped on any important safety measures.

Salt River Project and the National Fire Protection Association offer a sobering reminder that, every year in the U.S., Christmas trees and electrical decorations result in injuries, deaths and \$12 million in property damage.

Says a national study, one of every 45 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 139 total reported home fires.

Noting the potential danger of electrical distribution or lighting equipment, officials said these were listed as being involved in 43 percent of home Christmas tree fires. Also, in 27 percent of the Christmas tree fires and 80 percent of the deaths, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.

Forty-two percent of reported home Christmas tree fires occurred in December, 33 percent in January. Additionally, two of every five, or 40 percent, of home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room or den.

SRP is offering customers guidelines

to stay safe as they plug in holiday lights, surge protectors and extension cords.

Advises Regina Lane-Haycock, an SRP Safety Connection representative:

"We can't stress enough the importance of checking all holiday lights and power cords before plugging in to make sure they are in proper, working condition. The desert heat can do a lot of damage to these stored items throughout the year."

Other tips to remember:

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, loose connections or frayed or bare wires. Discard damaged cords.
- Don't overload outlets or extension cords.
- Plug holiday lights and displays into GFCI-protected outlets to prevent serious electric shock.
- Use only indoor and outdoor lights that have been tested for safety and are certified with the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.
- To hook up outdoor lighting, use a three-prong grounded extension cord with the UL label.
- Always unplug tree lights and decorative outdoor lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Indoor and outdoor automatic lighting timers can be used to ensure that lights are not left on by mistake.
- Check that cords are not exposed to water due to sprinklers or irrigation.
- Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas.

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him, raising and saluting the American flag every day represents both a privilege and a blessing.

The poem "Old Glory" captivates its readers by giving them a new perspective on patriotism. It personifies the American flag, telling a story from "her" own perspective, giving people a deeper and more relatable connotation to liberty and freedom.

An excerpt from this poem states, "Lest you forget – I am proud – my name is 'Old Glory' – long may I wave, dear God, long may I wave."

The purpose of this is to trigger Americans to think critically about what the flag symbolizes, especially before they begin to worship it or burn it.

This is why people like Victor Feliberty respect the flag of America so much. Not only do they recognize the powerful meaning behind it and behind the foundation of America, but they also recognize and understand the price for freedom. Their comrades fought, bled and died on the battlefield defending the ideologies and the people which the Star-Spangled Banner represents.

Those who suffered for the price of freedom returned home to their grieving families underneath that flag.

This same flag flies high above our schools, capitals, office buildings and homes. Therefore, when you see it as you walk into your next place of business, take a moment to reflect on this grand old flag which is intricately woven with the memories of the fallen, and ideologies of freedom. Her name is "Old Glory."

Long may she wave.



Victor Feliberty, building manager for the Kyrene School District office, salutes Old Glory every morning. The Army veteran is a native of Puerto Rico who emigrated to the U.S.

— Wrangler News photo by Noah Kutz



Not being a Rockette didn't stop her from tapping into success

By Sammie Ann Wicks

The days of tap-dancing's 18th century "cutting contests" and "duels" between the likes of African-American "Master Juba" and the flashy Irish dancer John "Jack" Diamond today seem like the flicker of an old-time movie.

But Tempe's master tapper Mary Wall says this great American dance form has persisted through the ages, and enthralls devotees of every generation.

"I started tap dancing as a kid, all the while watching Shirley Temple movies. I mean, I just HAD to dance like HER," says Wall, who operates her own studio on McClintock Drive.

"It got so bad that my mother had to keep close watch on the movie listings so I wouldn't miss anything. After that, I begged for dance lessons, and my parents signed me up." Wall says taking those early dance lessons was at the heart of another burning ambition.

"I wanted to be a Rockette," Wall remembers wistfully, "but we found out I wasn't tall enough. You had to be not too tall, not too short, so that the dance line would look uniform onstage."

Sadly for the young Mary, her dance ambitions, too, were curtailed for a time.

"When I got into the lessons, the instructors told my parents, 'She's not going to be a dancer.' And my parents interpreted that as not having the talent, so they took me out. And I didn't go back to dancing 'til many years later."

As a student at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, in the 1970s-80s, Wall approached her longtime art again.

"At St. Ed's, I went for my B.A. in Theater Arts, and we were required to take dance classes for the degree," Wall says. "Once back in the studio, I realized how much I had missed it, and felt like I was coming home."

After graduation from St. Edward's in 1980, Walls' other skills and ambitions took her far afield from dance, as she took on a demanding job at the University of Texas's Frank Erwin Center, and then had long managerial stints with Ticketmaster in Los Angeles, New York City and Dallas.

'It was while I was in L.A. that I really got back into dancing," Wall remembers. "Before, most tap classes weren't geared toward adults, but in L.A. there were plenty, and I took everything I could."

Walls' first major influence may have been the relatively modern style of tap exemplified by Shirley Temple's movies during the child star's fame in the mid- to late-1930s, but Walls' dance studies in Los Angeles led her to a deeper grasp of tap's history.

When I first learned about early neighborhoods like Five Points in New York City, and how many immigrant cultures' traditions had gone into tap dancing, I knew I was part of a uniquely American art," says Wall.

"And I was prepared to go as far as it would take

"Wall is referring to an area in New York

that 18th-century elites thought of as slumsneighborhoods like Five Points and Little Italy. There, a multicultural ferment provided the perfect setting for unique American art forms to take shape. And this unrestrained cultural mix was nowhere more evident than among that era's tap masters."

In the area now known as Chinatown, Five Points' new arrivals—Irish "jiggers" and English "cloggers" from the Continent and second- and third-generation African Americans from the South seeking greater freedom--learned from each other and blended their styles into something we now call tap, and styles that developed alongside it.

"When you learn to perform in those older traditions, even things like Soft-Shoe, or Buck and Wing," Wall reflects, "you have this huge feeling of history, and the people that lived it, created it."

She's quick to say it's not just the intriguing mix of cultures that tap represents--it's the blend of art

"Let's not forget the music," says Wall. "It just all goes together. Part of it is the percussive nature of African dancing and drumming. It's like you're not just a dancer--vou're a percussionist. Every true tap dancer knows that."

After living and working in New York in the mid-80's, Mary married and moved with her husband to Dallas, where they had two children. Mary kept working for Ticketmaster while she and her husband

— DANCE, Page 15



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Joyce

From Page 8

as the two of them sat down, face-toface, and talked it out over a beer or over coffee.

A mentor reminds us of the truth, helping us put things in perspective. This person challenges us to imagine a similar scenario and then draw a comparison.

Here's what I would have told Carter:

"Think of it this way, Kevin. You don't want an emergency room doc bursting into tears when a child who's been beaten up and abused is brought to the hospital by paramedics. The doctor will not be effective if she gets emotional.

"She may cry and scream later on. She may be moved to make a large donation to a domestic violence shelter when her shift ends. She may even decide to adopt an abused child. But in the E.R., she's all business.

"And by being all business, she's effective.

"And yes, occasionally—it's happened to me, in fact—we take off our journalist's hat for a moment and feel the humanity of what is going on. We use that emotion to inspire the best possible work that will do the story justice. Later on, after our job is done, we make that donation or join that

"And, let's be honest, Kevin. You could have carried that child to the feeding station, but the authorities told you going in that you weren't allowed to touch anyone, that you could spread

An older, more-experienced mentor could have told Carter: "OK, you feel

guilty. Fine. Now what are you going to do about it?"

Our friends and mentors-wise men, if you will-pierce the darkness and help us see our mistakes and foibles for what they are-evidence of our human weakness. They show us that guilt and mistakes can motivate us to face the truth about ourselves or our situations. A word of sage counsel guides us to hope and helps us to realize that there's always, always a

The fact that Carter saw no way out tells me that he must have felt very alone and afraid. His suicide note alluded to money problems.

Was there no one to help him gain perspective? No wise mentor to guide him through his dark night of the soul? To help his realize life means more than money? Such a one could have saved his life. Who knows what great things he would have gone on to do with the gift of his life?

Do you have a wise friend in your life, someone you can turn to? Are you able to help guide those less experienced than you are? We here at Wrangler News are committed to building community one relationship at a time. Don and I have guided many a cub reporter along the path to greater adventures. We've had the privilege of similarly nurturing gifted photographers like Billy Hardiman and Alex J. Walker through the years, young men we know are headed for even greater success as the years go by.

What about you? How are you helping to nurture hope in our community?

Your word of wise counsel and encouragement, your willingness to listen to someone's pain, could save a life. Let's work together to build a stronger community, one relationship at a time.

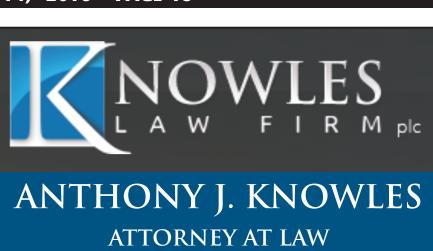
Walker From Page 6 be too intrusive if left unchecked but so can the homeowner who decides to park the RV in front of the house, allows weekends to have free reign of the front yard, or opts to neglect

upkeep of the property altogether. Ultimately, however, this right to choose which type of neighborhood in which to live is purely American, so I embrace I, just as I embrace most of the personal touches people give to their homes.

Not a single morning in the past six months have I dreaded getting up and venturing forth. There is always something interesting to see, and

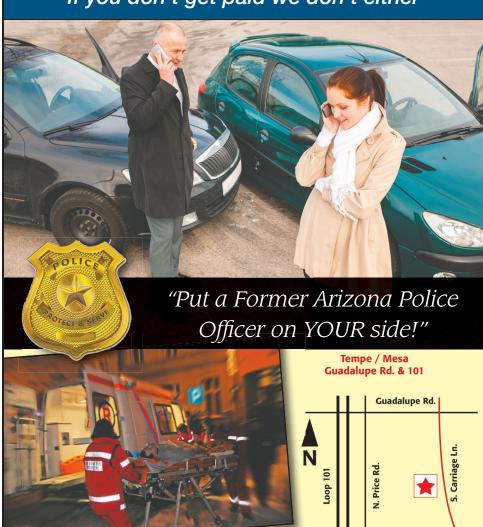
(unencumbered with electronics of any kind) always something on which to expend my mental energy. I won't go so far as to say that his daily ritual has changed my life, but it has helped provide me with a much more relaxed view of the world and my place in it...a fresh perspective, if you will. In a society that prides itself in being connected, it is wonderful to be out of touch for a few hours each dy, So, for those who love to travel as I do. bon voyage on your next journey to Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, or South and Central America. But don't neglect North America, the United States, Arizona or your own

The latter offers some treasures just waiting to be discovered.



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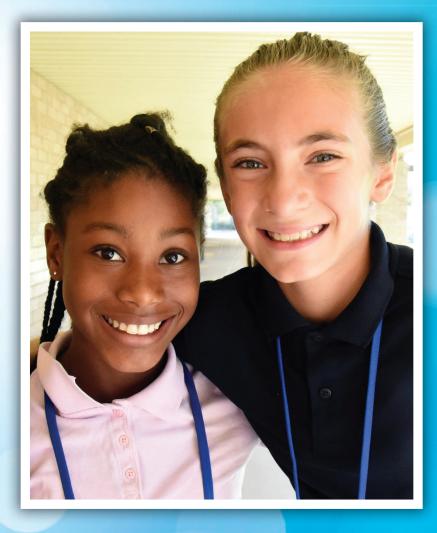
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Dance

From Page 12

raised their young family.

"In 1991, Ticketmaster needed someone in the Phoenix area and offered me the job," says Wall, "and so I grabbed the kids, moved, and—well—here I am."

Thereafter, Wall says she did some substitute teaching while focusing on her family.

"I devoted myself to my children," she declares. "I wanted to make sure that we established them on a firm foundation."

But there was a catch to all that, Mary Wall style.

"My daughter was taking dance lessons, and I went over and visited the studio once," Wall recounts.

"Turns out they had a tap teacher who worked only with advanced students—and so they offered to have me teach beginners."

After this relaunch into her favored art, Wall taught dance as a substitute at Mesa Community College, also teaching at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. She ultimately was offered a staff position at MCC, going on to become rtistic irector of MCC's tap dance ensemble.

She established her Tempebased Wall to Wall Dance studio in 2013.

Wall's life and long-lived contribution to tap dancing have taken her all over the country, and through many manifestations of her own artistic expression.

But no matter where she's been, or how she's developed as an artist, Wall always remembers her origins.

"Tap isn't just dancing," she says. "You just FEEL the history of what you're doing, and you have so much respect those who came before.

"I felt this keenly one time while I was in New York, working with the Apollo (Theater) on some things," Wall remembers. "They asked me if I'd like to go out on stage, and of course I said yes. So I stepped onto the stage and looked out—and I'll never forget the feeling I had of all that had come before in that amazing place. And it was breathtaking."

Mr. Bojangles would have been proud.









The fifth anniversary of Wall 2 Wall Tap Dance Center brought tap enthusiasts together for an afternoon of celebration. Founder Mary Wall (lower right) has spent a lifetime teaching others to dance and appreciate tap's rich heritage.

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



LET THE SEASON BEGIN WITH SONG

With the Christmas holidays just around the corner, many South Tempe and West Chandler residents look for cozy ways to gather with loved ones and celebrate their faith in lighthearted ways, such as this hymn sing that brought together members of Arizona Community Church.

- Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



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ASU's homecoming festivities included a parade with a welcome from an exuberant Sparky, top left, while such dignitaries as Christine K. Wilkinson, Alumni Association president and university exec, below, along with Ray Schey, publisher of Phoenix Business Journal, waved at onlookers. For the multitude of other paradegoers and celebrants, it wasno surprise—an event to be long

Photo essay by ASU student and Wrangler News photographer Billy Hardiman













ASU engineering major and longtime Wrangler News photographer Billy Hardiman, who also shoots for ASU, missed none of the breathless final moments of his school's triumphant, cliff-hanger win over UofA, and shared this photo of QB Manny Wilkins Jr. celebrating with delighted fans.

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Sports with Alex Zener

CONSTANT STRENGTHAZTECS' 'CULTURE AND PRIDE'

With 14 returning players, nine of them starters, including four on the Republic's must-see Arizona high school girls soccer players for 2018-19, Corona's girls soccer team was ready to get the ball rolling when they opened their season in a match at Basha on Nov. 27.

"We have an experienced group coming back that suffered through some downs during last year's regular season before peaking in the playoffs, upsetting Tucson High and hanging tough with Perry," said coach **Matt Smith**. "We are hoping to build off that late season run."

The nine returnees include Mimi Brown, Emerson Echirivel, Ally Sharpe, Amaya Antonio and Abby Benedict in addition to the four senior starters picked by the Arizona Republic as players to watch: Maya Benedict, Rive Torrance, Sam

Scheurer and Amber Sammon.

Maya Benedict, Corona's goal keeper, set a school record with 29 saves in the state championship tournament match against No. 2 seeded Perry last season.

"Maya is our backbone," said Smith.
"She communicates as well as any
keeper we have ever had at Corona and
we have had some very good ones."

Scheurer is one of the more varsity experienced players on the team. She played in the defensive position her first three years on varsity but her senior year she is slated to play the midfield position where she should be able to help the Aztecs get more shots on goal as well as help keep the ball on that side of the field.

"Sam Scheurer will be a four-year starter and is the calm, cool, collected player who we rely on every game," said Smith.



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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"We count on Maya Benedict and Sam Scheurer to be our best defensive players, but we are going to need our freshman backs and our returning starting outside backs to be consistent if we are going keep our opponents from scoring," said Smith. Torrance, who has played the mid-fielder position

Torrance, who has played the mid-fielder position on the varsity team for three years, stepped up last season when needed to help the offense with assists and goal scoring.

"Riye sets our tempo," said Smith. "She possesses incredible technical ability and we have to get the ball into her feet to make our offense run."

Sammon, who plays the forward position, is one of the fastest players on Corona's team. She scored nine goals last season, her first year as a starter. Look for her to be one of the Aztecs leading goal scorers again this season.

"Amber is our leading goal scorer and will be counted on to be dangerous every game," said Smith.

"Although we have a couple of players who can step up to provide a third major offensive threat, Amber Sammon and Riye Torrance are our best offensive players," said Smith

As for the other returning starters, Brown, a senior, played defender in all 21 matches last season alongside sophomore defender Echirivel and freshman defender Abby Benedict.

Sharpe and Antonio played offense in all 21 matches last season. As a sophomore last season, Sharpe played midfielder and Antonio, as a freshman, played striker.

"Our other starters, Mimi Brown, Emerson Echirivel, Ally Sharpe, Amaya Antonio and Abby Benedict will be starting for their second season which should help with experience and maturity," said Smith. "We are also hoping for improvement from each as the season progresses."

Two freshman players, Ally Wachtel and Kira Caspers, will most likely start, according to Smith.

"Both Ally and Kira are very talented players," said Smith." We are hoping they can adjust to the speed and physicality of playing against older players, but we are confident they will do very well."

One other player, sophomore **Ashley Hill**, should be pushing for a starting position according to Smith.

"Ashley took a big step forward from last season when she played JV," said Smith. "She should be competing for a starting varsity position this season."

Corona will be playing Dec. 4 in the Coyote Classic Tournament, a sanctioned AIA event, at Williams Field High School starting at 8 with a match against Mountain Pointe.

The Aztecs' regular season continues with a Dec. 11 match at home against Liberty and then another home match Dec. 14 against Chaparral.

The regular season matches will start again after the holidays with a match at Maryvale Jan. 8 before two home matches: Jan. 11 at home against Xavier and Jan. 15 at home against Desert Vista.

It's too early to make any predictions but Smith is counting on the culture and pride established over the years in Corona's soccer program to continue to be a strength of the team this season.

"Our team's constant strength is our culture and pride," said Smith. "This year we should also gain strength from our large number of returning players but it's still going to have to be a group effort. I have confidence this group will pull it together."

Cross Country State Champion Results

Corona's boys and girls cross country teams competed at the AIA Division I State Championships held Nov. 10 at Cave Creek Golf Course with mixed results.

The boys team finished 10th out of 20 Division I teams who qualified for the state meet with Desert Vista taking first place.

The Aztecs' top finisher was junior **Zachary Johnson**, who crossed the finish line in 15th place with a time of 16:49.30.

Corona's other runners were juniors **Dominic Arellano** who finished in 32nd place and **Connor Zook** in 68th. Seniors **Kyle Swindler** was 95th and **Logan Bridge** was 107th out of 144 runners.

Also finishing for Corona's team were junior **Diego Camino** and senior **Matt Montana**.

Corona's girls team was represented at the state championships by a relatively young team which included a freshman, two sophomores, one junior and three seniors.

The Aztecs finished in 16th place out of 20 Division I teams with senior **Mackenzie Burgess** as the top finisher in 64th place followed by sophomore **Peyton Burnside** in 80th place, freshman **Ashlinn Aguayo** in 87th place, sophomore **Jade Bare** in 107th place and junior **Emily Rugg** in 109th place out of 145 racers.

Seniors **Emma Hedberg** and **Isabella Sarno** finished the race to round out Corona's runners.



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Marcos de Niza Cross Country

Junior **Asael Worden** was the only Padre runner to compete in the AIA Division III State Championship meet in the boys 5,000 meters varsity event held Nov. 10 at Cave Creek Golf Course.

He crossed the finish in 17:47.87 taking 34th place out of 236 runners who participated in that race.

Senior **Maureen Juarez** was the only participant from Marcos in the girls 5,000meter varsity event at the AIA Division III State Championship.

Juarez finished 130 out of 203 racers with a time of 23:57.36.

McClintock Cross Country

McClintock's girls cross country team competed at the AIA Division II State Championship match held Nov. 10 at Cave Creek Golf Course.

The Chargers finished 18th out of 27 teams with three sophomores, one junior and one senior racer against 197 Division II racers.

Sophomore **Ella Zeiders** crossed the finish line in 37th place with a time of 21:18.70 followed by sophomore Rachael Pabst in 97th place, junior Mariska Bogaard in 101st place, sophomore Olivia Fisher in 136th place and senior Emilie Berthiaume in 162nd place.

Tempe All City Meet

McClintock's boys team came in second to Desert Vista in the 5.000 Meters Boys Open event held in late Oct. at Kiwanis Park with 69 points.

Junior **Aiden Penry** crossed the finish line in 5th place with a time of 18:34.03 out of 61 runners.

Next for the Chargers was senior Richard **Kausche** in 19th place with a time of 20:15.24 followed by sophomore Ethan Lamoree in 27th place, sophomore Cesar Rebollo in 34th,

sophomore Christian Palmer in 45th, sophomore Noble Harasha in 46th and junior Max Encinas in 47th place.

Sophomore Miguel Inzunza and Carter Miller rounded out the runners from McClintock.

Junior Yodit Weldeselassie was the sole runner for McClintock's girls team in the Tempe All City Meet. She came in 21st place with a time of 27:43.86.

Marcos de Niza was third at the Tempe All City meet in the 5,000 Meters Boys Open event with 76 points.

The Padres had four runners cross the finish line one right after the other including sophomore **Gabriel Moreno** in 28th place with a time of 21:43.09, senior Manuel Zul Diaz in 29th place with a time of 21:43.49, junior Asael Worden in 30th place with a time of 21:43.60 and sophomore Ashton Busey in 31st place with a time of 22:04.11.

Sophomore Marco Guillen, junior Camrion Bryant, freshman Benito Cervantes, senior Samuel Lumbra, junior Pierce Hammack, sophomore Braeden Mattson, Ricardo Palma, junior Xavier Newell and Eduardo Melgar-**Centeno** finished the race for Marcos.

Marcos senior Maureen Juarez crossed the finish line in seventh place in the 5,000 Meters Girls Open event with a time of 24:46.23.

Junior Neveah Rivas, sophomore Gabrielle Ramirez and freshman Aviva Sanchez also ran for the Marcos de Niza girls team in the open event.

Corona's top finisher at the Tempe All City Meet in the varsity race was Zachary Johnson, who came in fourth, followed by **Dominic Arellano**, who placed sixth, Kyle Swindler, ninth. Conner Zook was 11th and Diego Camino placed 12th.

Our next issue is Saturday, Dec. 15

For advertising space reservations be sure to let us know by 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. For story or photo ideas, call 480-966-0837 or email editor@wranglernews.com by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3 You're also welcome to drop by our office at 2145 E. Warner Road, Tempe, just opposite GoDaddy.





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2020 Tempe census count will enlist help of city volunteers

Tempe has selected a team of 32 community members to help guide the count of residents in the 2020 U.S.

City Council members approved the appointments for volunteer positions on a Complete Count Committee that will be part of the enumeration process.

Of those who applied for the positions, 32 were selected for their perspectives and expertise in reaching various audiences.

Mayor Mark Mitchell expressed gratitude for the applicants and for their upcoming services.

There is so much riding on getting an accurate count of Tempe residents," he said. "Our numbers will directly impact the amount of federal funds we can receive for the needs of our community. Funding for housing assistance, transportation projects and so much more depends on Census results.'

Tempe joins other cities and towns around the country that have formed similar committees to help get the most accurate counts of their residents.

Each group contains a range of people who will work until approximately mid-2020 to create public awareness of the

Census and encourage response to it. Census Day is April 1, 2020.

The U.S. Census Bureau recommends that cities form Complete Count Committees to organize both the strategy and execution of their outreach and promotional efforts.

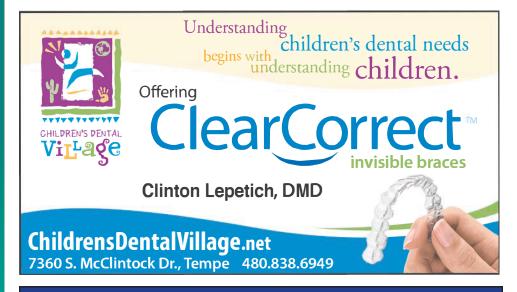
Among other activities, committees are asked to examine their 2010 Census data to strategize about outreach in geographic areas of low response as well as among populations with lower response rates.

Tempe's Complete Count Committee will operate under the direction of volunteer co-chairs Elizabeth Cling and Joaquin Rios.

The group will meet at regular intervals starting later this year. The appointments expire on Dec. 31, 2020. Tempe's committee members are:

Judy Aldrich, Nancy Baker, Gary J. Brennan, Elizabeth Cling (co-chair), Casey Clowes, Anthony W. Contente-Cuomo, Myrale JoAn Cooks, Megan E. Costa, Ph.D., Robert Cox, Glenn Davis, Cindy Denton, Amanda Lee Faustini, Jana Lynn Granillo, Kate Hanley, Maureen Harrison, Ron M. Jackson, Linda J. Knutson, M.Ed., Shereen Lerner, Ph.D., Jennifer Liewer, John Michael Linda, Candyce C. Lindsay, Gerardo Lopez, Robert J. Miller, Ph.D., Paul Mittman, Joaquin Rios (co-chair), Selianna R. Robles, Matthew Schmitt, Nancy Siefer, Mary Beth Spielberg, Roy M. Tatem Jr., Dr. Jan Vesely and Rosemary Walsh.

More information about Tempe's participation in the census is at www.tempe.gov/census.



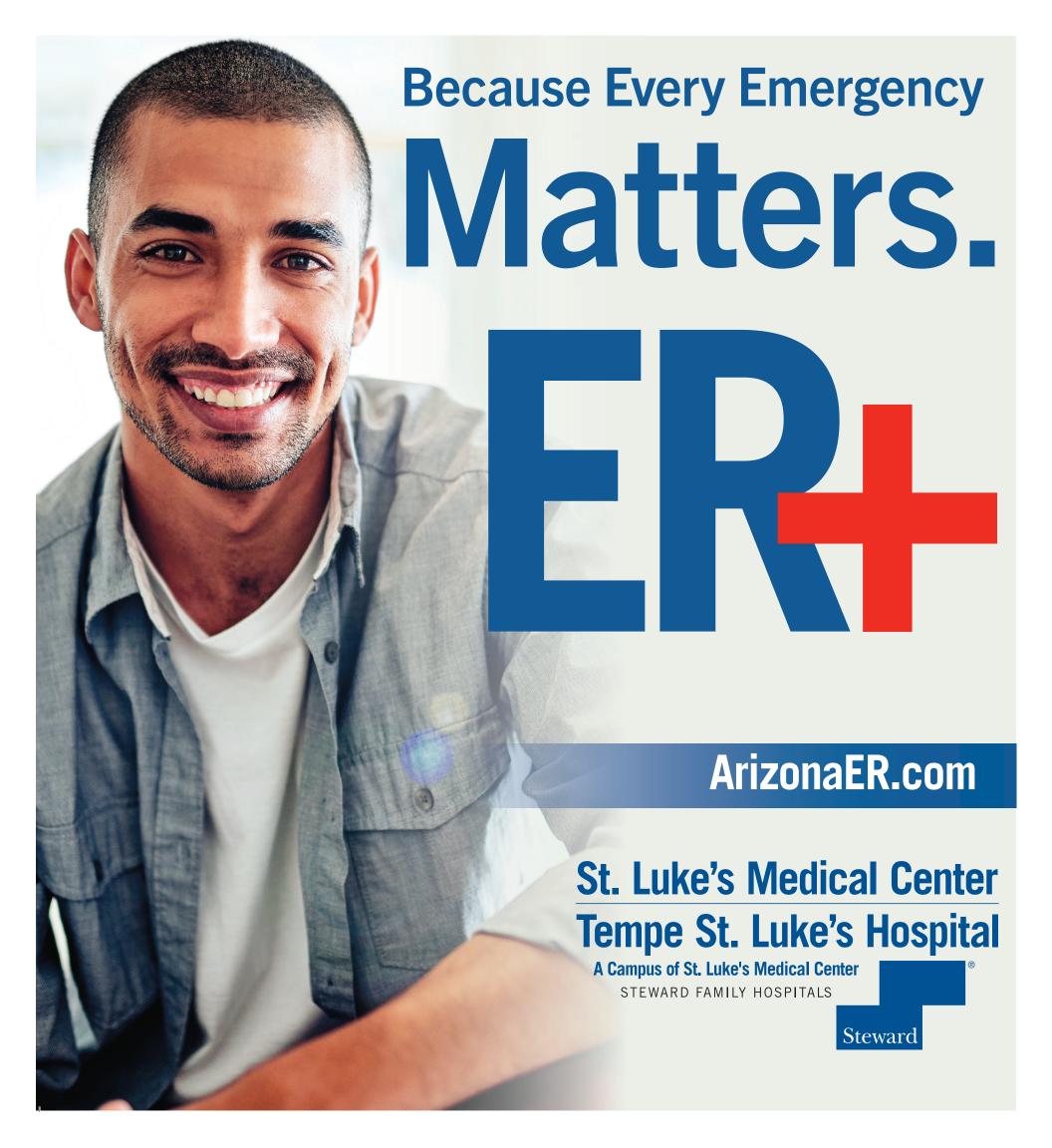
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Diversions

Despite Gary Hart's fall from grace, film retraces a compelling bit of lore

By M.V. Moorhead

It's hard to say at what audience *The Front Runner* has been aimed. Younger people may well have no idea who Gary Hart is, and for his supporters back in 1988, the episode that ended his campaign for the Democratic nomination for President may seem painful and embarrassing and best forgotten. Shadenfreude—seeking opponents of Hart or of his party are unlikely to form a very large audience bloc either.

But the movie, directed by Jason Reitman from a script he wrote with Matt Bai and Jay Carson (from Bai's 2014 book All the Truth Is Out), is a solid, absorbing piece of cinema craft, and shouldn't be allowed to fall through the cracks of the season.

It depicts, arguably, the end of an era in the relationship between the media and politicians and candidates, and the beginning of another.

For those who don't know or have let it slip their minds: The Kansas-born Hart, an intelligent, handsome, commandingly no-nonsense senator from Colorado, found himself in the title position for the Democratic nomination in 1988.

He looked like a cinch to be the candidate and to have a real shot against George H.W. Bush for the presidency.

Hart's marriage had been troubled in ways that would seem quite routine to most of us today, but which were still a little less publicly acceptable—though probably no less privately common—for a politician thirty years ago, and there were rumors that he was a womanizer. *The Miami Herald* got wind of Hart's connection with a young woman named Donna Rice.

Partly on the strength of Hart's defiant challenge to the *Washington Post* to tail him if they suspected hanky-panky—he assured them they'd be bored—the Herald broke the long journalistic tradition of discretion on such matters and went with the story.

Hart tried to stonewall the media after the story broke, insisting that it was nobody's business.

The rest is...well, you know.

Reitman spins the yarn in a brisk manner, with Altmanesque overheard and overlapping dialogue, and some near-Wellesian camera flourishes that bring order to the chaos of the campaign trail or the newsroom.

There's a large cast of characters, of which we get to know, more than in passing, only a few, but all of which have the feel of authenticity.

The Front Runner gains its integrity, however, from Hugh Jackman, who has the courage to make Hart an unlikable man.

Had he played the title character as a martyr, the movie might come across disingenuous; because he plays him as an obtuse, defensive cold fish it becomes possible, paradoxically, to have some sympathy for him. It's certainly possibly to have sympathy for Hart's campaign manager Bill Dixon (J.K. Simmons, wry as ever), his wearily illusion-free wife, Lee Hart, superbly played by Vera Farmiga, and for the other women in the story, including Sarah Paxton as Rice.

The movie's pace and comic edge should make it exhilarating, but there's a sad, even ominous tone that hangs over *The Front Runner*, because whether or not Hart deserved what he got, the story marks the beginning of a turn for the worse in American mainstream media.

I was living in D.C. at the time of this scandal, and I well remember what people said: They agreed that a candidate's personal life ought to be private, but that this didn't excuse Hart's dishonesty and phony indignation.

Hart might have made an excellent president, and obviously he was hardly the only politician, on ether side of the aisle, with this sort of baggage. He got clobbered, probably, by a combination of his own demeanor and the beginning of a new style of anything-goes reporting, under which by now his story would seem quaint.

The Front Runner is rated R and plays at Harkins Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.





Kids show off their creative talents

By Diana Nelson

Artistic ability from Kyrene schools will be on display this year at one of Tempe's popular annual events, showing off the kids' fledgling creativity to a crowd of youth-art admirers.

The idea of a special kids-only display of artwork was born about three years ago with the intent to feature the work of youth grades K -12, according to Cassidy Parker-Anders, a Kyrene arts teacher who, along with fellow arts teacher Jen Pooler, organizes an annual district-wide art show for Kyrene.

A competitive process to choose the best works has produced some great examples of artistic imagination, such as the work created by Carter Collins while he

was a kindergartner at the Kyrene Traditional Academy in West Chandler. He received first-place honors for his painting.

Besides the potential for recognition, most

kids are excited just to have their artwork displayed. Ellen Pope, an art teacher at Waggoner Elementary, agrees. "I selected 10 artworks from students in grades K-5, which represent different projects and

different media. I chose work from kids who work especially hard, and I wanted them to have the experience of having their artwork shown at a large event," said Pope, referring to the coming Kids Block display at Tempe Festival for the Arts.

"I hope participating in the festival encourages the students to keep active in art as they grow older."

Sara Drury, arts instructor at Kyrene del Norte, said the school will be represented by "students who show respect and responsibility, in addition to having excellent craftsmanship."

The Kyrene district is unique, compared to other school districts in the East Valley, because it still offers a once-a-week art classes to elementary students.

"I believe that Kyrene has amazing arts program. Most nearby districts don't even offer art at the elementary level," said Parker-Anders, a certified-arts teacher with 22 years of experience.

She feels that the exposure to the arts really sets Kyrene apart from other public or charter schools.

"All of our art lessons follow specific state and national standards," she added. "In class, we study different artists and their styles along with different media, and the students are inspired by them," adding, "arts education can develop self-expression, as well as appreciation for the work of others. Even if students don't continue formal art education, we hope to instill in them a life-long appreciation for art."

The students' work will be on display at the arts festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Talent takes wing in new ceramics workshop crafted as a novel approach to therapy

By M.V. Moorhead

The notion that painting a picture or throwing a clay pot can be good therapy is the idea behind Burst of Butterflies.

The sunny, cheerful "Create and Paint Studio," which recently expanded from its original Chandler store to a new Tempe location, has opportunities in pottery painting, canvas painting, wet clay, glass painting, glass fusing and other media, for both walkins and in a variety of classes and workshops, for the novice and the experienced alike.

Not only does Burst of Butterflies offer therapy to its customers, it was conceived, in a sense, as a sort of family therapy.

"In 2013, my sister was in a bad accident" explains Cheryl Tisland. "She had a traumatic brain injury." Tisland, at the time a software engineer, and her optician mother Peggy Peters began to consider how to properly care for her.

"Around Thanksgiving dinner in 2013 we started this conversation about starting a family business."

Based on the talents and enthusiasms of the family, it wasn't hard to see what direction such a business should take.

"My son is a ceramicist; that's his passion," says Tisland. "My sister paints. As part of her recovery therapy, she paints a bunch. So we hit on this idea of an art studio where we could all be together."

The result was the first Burst of Butterflies location, opened some four and a half years ago in downtown Chandler. The new location, which has opened in the same plaza as the Pollack Tempe Cinemas at McClintock and Elliot in Tempe, is under the management of Tisland's son Lucas. It's an ideal spot, according to Tisland, for creating a personalized gift for the holidays.

"We have hundreds of ornaments that you can come in and paint," says Tisland. "Vintage light-up trees and holiday décor, cookies for Santa plates. A lot of people like to do a baby's handprint in clay, and then decorate it."

Walk-ins are welcome at both locations, but for those who might want to get a bit more ambitious,



Tisland's son Lucas is chief ceramicist. Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

the Chandler location offers classes like "Intro to Clay Wheel Throwing," "Intro to Ceramic Clay Modeling," "Glass Fusing Pendant Workshop" and "Kids Clay Wheel Throwing." Presumably not for kids are the "Wine & Wheel Clay" classes; one wonders if the quality of the pottery erodes as the class progresses.

But what about those people (like this writer) whose abilities measure zero on the artistic talent scale? Tisland is ready for the objections from those of us who have trouble so much as drawing a stick figure.

"People who've never touched clay in their lives come in and end up making beautiful things," she says. "People say that all the time, 'Oh, I can't draw a stick figure,' and in the end they say 'look what I made."

Burst of Butterflies is at 1835 E. Elliot Road #101 in Tempe, and at 141 W. Boston Street in Chandler. For details go to burstofbutterflies.com or call 480-559-8025 (Tempe) or 480-559-8016 (Chandler). Seasonal note: The Tempe location is closed for private events on Tuesdays and Thursdays, through the end of 2018.





Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature

esidents are invited to join the Mayor and City Council for Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature on Wednesday, Jan. 16, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at the Arizona State Senate, 1700 W. Washington St., in Phoenix.

Meet our state legislators, learn about Tempe's approach to representing the city at the Legislature, and take a self-guided tour of the Capitol.

Confirm your spot with the city's Neighborhood Services Division at www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods or 480-350-8234.

Free parking is available at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, 1820 W. Washington St., Phoenix.

Visit www.valleymetro.org for bus, light rail and park-and-ride information.

Policy changes at the state can affect resources, activities and operations in Tempe so it's important to stay informed.

For periodic email updates during the legislative session, visit www.tempe.gov/enews and select the "Government Relations" list.

'Join Jennifer' in 85284 on Jan. 16



south Tempe. It's called "Join Jennifer" and it is a casual conversation event geared toward talking about

community members'

ouncilmember Jennifer Adams

a quarterly conversation

series next month and

its first stop will be in

will begin hosting

Jennifer Adams

ideas and feedback.

Join in on Wednesday, Jan. 16, from 6-7 p.m. at Tempe Public Market Café, 8749 S. Rural Road.

Each Join Jennifer event will be held in a different Tempe zip code.

For more information about Adams, visit www.tempe.gov/adams.

Humans of Tempe:

The high school perspective

Students from Desert Vista, Marcos de Niza, Mountain Pointe and Tempe high schools gathered short interviews and informal portraits of people they met on the streets of Tempe, providing a teen perspective for the Tempe History Museum's ongoing exhibit, Humans of Tempe.

The high school exhibit runs through Jan. 13. Humans of Tempe is a collection of informal portraits of everyday Tempeans accompanied by short quotes or stories. These portraits connect visitors with real, ordinary people who live in Tempe. This exhibit runs through May 2019.

All events at the Tempe History Museum are free to attend. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. The museum is located at 809 E. Southern Ave.

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

TEMPE DRIEFS

MLK Diversity Awards Breakfast

All are invited to attend the 21st Annual City of Tempe MLK Diversity Awards Breakfast. The breakfast will be held Monday, Jan. 14,

8 a.m. at The Tempe Marriott Buttes Resort.

The awards breakfast honors community members and groups who have demonstrated a commitment to honoring and celebrating diversity in Tempe. The cost of the event is only \$10 to the first 500 people who RSVP. Call 480-350-8979 for registration information.

Visit www.tempe.gov/mlk for more information.

College Connect offers workshops, one-on-one mentorship

Tempe's College Connect program connects students and parents to the resources they need to fulfill their dreams of a post-secondary education.

Participants can attend free workshops and get one-on-one mentoring from college experts.

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

Upcoming workshops will take place at the Tempe Public Library on Feb. 2 and April 13.

One-on-one sessions with a college mentor can be scheduled now through the rest of the year. For a full calendar of events or to schedule a one-on-one, visit www.CollegeConnectTempe.org.

Nominate a great neighbor

Nominations are being accepted through Feb. 20 for the city's annual Neighborhood Awards. Categories include Neighbor of the Year, Property Beautification, Alley Upkeep and more.

Nominees and winners will be celebrated at the 2019 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops on Saturday, April 13, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

For nomination forms and event information, visit www.tempe.gov/StateoftheNeighborhoods.

Holiday solid waste collection dates

Tempe wants residents to know about alternate solid waste collection days this holiday season.

If Tuesdays are your normal collection days, you will instead have Wednesday pickup for trash/recycling. So instead of Dec. 25, it'll be Dec. 26. And instead of Jan. 1, it'll be Jan. 2. All other normal collection days will remain the same. You can always call Tempe 311 (480-350-4311) if you have questions or visit www.tempe.gov/SlashtheTrash.









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Call 480-966-0837 for details. Note that ads appearing on this page expire with the date shown on your invoice. Please call 10 days in advance to ensure renewal.

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Don Kirkland, Founder & Publisher

Photography: Billy Hardiman, Alex J. Walker **Community Outreach:** Noah Kutz

Contributors: Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead, Diana Nelson, Deborah Hilcove, Noah Kutz

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Wrangler News is printed by Tempe-based Signature Offset on partially recycled newsprint with ink made from 98 percent soy content

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Veteran

From Page 1

answer when it developed Tempe Works.

The two-year pilot program combines part-time city employment, housing and social services to assist people like Ackerman in ending their homelessness.

Making measurable progress

The idea was introduced by Councilmember Randy Keating and approved by the City Council in 2017. Tempe Works relies on a partnership among city staff, Tempe Community Action Agency, I-HELP and Corporate Job Bank. Earlier this year, the collaborative's first two participants were hired for public works-related jobs with the city of Tempe.

The program is part of Tempe's ambitious goal to end homelessness through a wide range of support and solutions. To do this, Tempe takes a coordinated approach that includes multiple city departments and regional partners.

The City Council has directed additional funding to this effort and pursues policy-related solutions.

Tempe has been engaged in this intensified effort since 2016, focused on making measurable progress to address what is a pervasive, complicated, national issue in a compassionate way. The city has seen many successes with helping and housing individuals.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

- The HOPE homeless outreach team secured permanent housing for 103 people in Tempe.
- A total of 22 families—including 55 children—were assisted with case management, housing assistance as available, financial coaching and childcare.

So far this year, HOPE employees alone have had meaningful interactions with more than 600 unduplicated homeless individuals to provide assistance with housing, securing benefits and more.

Behind these numbers are people like Ackerman.

Lifetime of complications

It was about 2 a.m. one night when a Tempe police officer approached his car in a grocery store parking lot. The vehicle was broken-down and stranded—the way





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Ackerman felt.

"Hi, how's it going?" the officer asked Ackerman. A simple question and a complicated answer. A lifetime of complications.

Ackerman doesn't come across as one to make excuses for the way his life turned out, but there were tipping points. He said the first was dyslexia that went unaddressed grade after grade in school. "I wasn't really set up for a path after high school," he said.

He found one for himself in the Navy, traveling the world for four years. Then he forged another path opening his own commercial door company in California, he said.

The second tipping point came after a car accident that Ackerman said left him with painful injuries and a prescription for his downfall-OxyContin. When a doctor stopped prescribing it, Ackerman sought it out on the streets and later turned to heroin as a cheaper alternative.

"I was still trying to survive myself. I was taking the painkillers to work so I didn't have withdrawals," he said. I was just listening to my doctor's advice and everything went south."

He lived with addiction for 12 years and eventually lost his business, his close relationships and the roof over his head. Ackerman made a last-ditch move to Arizona and entered rehab several times. Following the advice of the Tempe police officer, he made his way to Tempe Community Action Agency.

Through the nonprofit, Ackerman found temporary shelter and volunteer work to stay busy. He spent his days at the Tempe Public Library, and that's where he faced a new crossroads.

One of the city's homeless outreach specialists, Kelly Denman, spotted him at the library and offered help a few times getting permanent housing. Would he take it? After

many long years on the streets, he was ready.

New road ahead

Denman drove Ackerman to apply for subsidized housing and walked him through the process. She scouted apartments to find a good match for both Ackerman and a landlord. When it was time to sign a lease, Denman was there by his side.

Having a place to call home changed everything. "It made me feel like a person again," Ackerman said. "You feel like you're worth nothing because you have nothing. It's a hard path."

Denman also had her eye on Ackerman for the Tempe Works program and he was eager to apply. He started out as a full-time temporary employee, on the job every day at 4 a.m. to clean the public restrooms in city parks. Denman had even helped find grant money to send him to work with a new pair of steel-toed work boots.

It didn't take long for Ackerman to move from custodian to part of the team overseeing maintenance of park infrastructure citywide, everything from picnic tables to playgrounds to lighting.

"When he finished his route, he'd always say 'Do you have anything else for me?" said Public Works Supervisor Ruben Wilkinson Jr.

Today, Ron's work is as varied as helping install a new drinking fountain, painting restrooms, making plumbing repairs, adding new outlet covers and putting in new LED light fixtures.

Ackerman is grateful for the 40-hour-a-week job, apartment and new-found independence. He has reconnected with family and looks to the future.

Part of that future, he said, is trying to help others who are experiencing homelessness. One day he got to talking with a man who had been on the streets for many years. As the man collected aluminum cans, Ackerman suggested he visit Denman. After a few conversations, the man did just that and found housing with Denman's help.

"Ron walks around like the living proof that things can get better," Denman said. "It's beautiful to see that full circle moment.'

Ackerman calls his fresh start a "blessing."

"I know this is my last chance. I won't be able to do this again. I don't have another detox in me," Ackerman said. "I lost 12 years of my life. I told Kelly I wasn't going to screw this up."





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Tempe Kid Zone: A winner!

Tempe's Kid Zone enrichment program has been honored by the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, receiving three first place awards and a runners-up recognition.

The annual awards of excellence recognize exemplary after-school programs and the staff members responsible for them.

Winners

- · Marley Masseur won the Out-of-School Time New Staff Member award of excellence for her work at Carminati Elementary, spotlighting a member new to the out-of-school-time profession.
- The Kid Zone Enrichment Program received the Commitment to Quality award of excellence, recognizing an organization or department's commitment to quality out-of-school-time programming using the Arizona Quality Standards Assessment Tool.
- Mary Bosen was recognized for her work as an instructor with the gardening program, earning the group's Professional Award of Excellence. The award spotlights professional excellence by a staff member in the out-of-school time profession.

Runners-up

· Kid Zone's Gardening Program was recognized for innovation with runner-up recognition for the Innovative Practices award of excellence.

Kid Zone, in operation for 30 years, offers STEM programs, cooking and nutrition, sports activities, arts, crafts and a homework club. The program is state licensed and certified, and offers low staff-tostudent ratios.

Be sure to check out our Wrangler News website or Facebook page for more photos and stories about the people and events in our Tempe/West Chandler neighborhoods. And don't forget to sign up for our digital edition with clickable links at WranglerNews.com

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Subdivision	Address	Square Feet	Beds/Baths	Sold Price
Alisanos	8054 S. Stephanie Ln, Tempe, 85284	3,674	5 / 3.5	\$525,000
Oasis at Anozira	1918 E. Todd Dr, Tempe, 85283	4,154	5 / 3.5	\$522,500
Pheasant Ridge	7708 S. Willow Dr, Tempe, 85284	3,245	4/3	\$642,000
Tempe Royal Palms	5915 S. Stanley Pl, Tempe, 85283	1,652	3/2	\$365,000
Twelve Oaks	5123 W. Buffalo St, Chandler, 85226	1,627	3/2	\$299,900
Valencia	3441 W. Ironwood Dr, Chandler, 85226	3,589	4/3	\$479,900

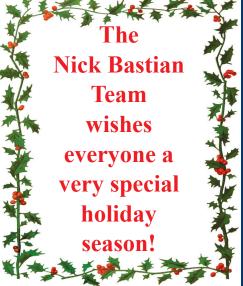
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