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TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

WRANGLER NEWS

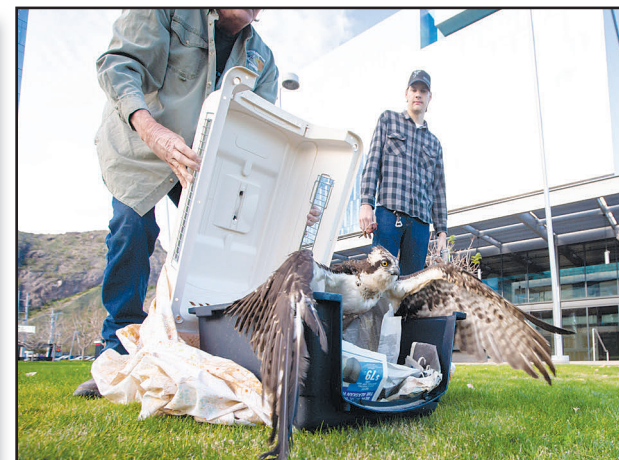
THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Free at last



Wrangler News Exclusive

By Sammie Ann Wicks



Taking wing — Rare osprey finds a home at Tempe Town Lake after being nursed back to health by Jerry Ostwinkle, a master falconer and eagle expert who rescued the injured bird and painstakingly rehabilitated its broken wing for eventual release to the wild.
— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Pets to be counted with area homeless

If there seem to be more homeless people inhabiting city streets, including those refusing to abandon their companion pets, it's not just a perception.

Officials say they anticipate the count of both humans and pets will have increased significantly from a 2018 study, and are expanding their efforts this year to make sure both 2- and 4-legged victims of homelessness are included in an upcoming count.

Again this year, Tempe and Chandler will be among cities participating in a regional point-in-time survey to help determine the number experiencing homelessness. This time, the one-day study will equip volunteers with a mobile app to streamline their enumeration process, an approach planners say is designed to help ensure accuracy and offer real-time data.

Along with the number of people counted, the

volunteers will also identify those with pets who may be hesitant to go into shelter temporarily and risk being separated from their animals.

The one-day count will take place in Tempe, Chandler and cities across Maricopa County. The study, according to officials, is critical to a regional effort toward ending homelessness. Data collected helps cities and the region better understand issues surrounding homelessness, identify trends and solutions, and direct funding and services to assist those in need.

Last year, the study identified 6,298 people experiencing homelessness in the region, according to the Maricopa Association of Governments, which leads the regional effort. That compared with 5,605 the previous year, representing a 12 percent increase.

In Tempe, volunteers counted 276 individuals

— HOMELESS, Page 5

Town Lake welcomes a new winged resident

The hatchet-like head, thrust down to peer below the massive, flailing wings, outstretched feet pressed tight against the densely feathered body, talons clinched inward to slice through the wind, wheeling, roiling, pitching slowly downward.

The clear, implacable eye, vigilant, merciless, relentlessly scanning the surface of the shimmering water below.

Then it happens...happens in an instant: the precipitous downward plunge, wings tucked in for speed, feet first now, talons stretched wide open to clutch the astonished prey in an explosion of water, fish and fowl, all but wings submerged.

Only a few labored wing-beats later, the victor and its screeching chicks tear at the bloody carcass in their lonely, wind-swept nest atop branches high as a

— Story continues with more photos, Pages 15-17

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Commentary

A moment of enlightenment, followed by one man's personal 'Night of Hope'

Article & photos by Noah Kutz

I glanced casually around at the cars stopped next to me at the Broadway and Rural intersection, but my gaze rested on one particular vehicle. Something caught my notice: Another set of eyes, staring fixedly back at me. Her stare seemed to cry out for help, desperately searching for any sign of a rescuer or a way out. She couldn't have been older than 20.

Sitting passenger-side in the shabby-looking white sedan, piloted by a disheveled, middle-aged male, she remained motionless and did not break her gaze. The light turned green, the car moved forward and I snapped a picture of the license plate with my cellphone.

Though I can't describe the whole scene with great detail, something, I knew instinctively, was not normal. I'd never seen that kind of look before, and she continued to stare in this way as we drove down the street.

That stare never left my memory as I contemplated the turn of events that night. Eventually, I left a tip on the Tempe Police Department's website, and that's the last I ever heard about it. Could this have been an overreaction, or a completely different situation that I misread?

Yes, it is possible, but I didn't want to take the chance.

It's occurrences like these that area police want to bring to light, and to help ensure that the number of human trafficking cases in the Valley—one of the hot spots for this form of crime in America—continues to decrease.

Night of Hope, an event sponsored by Chandler and put on by a number of churches in the area, is just one way that light is being directed at this darkness. The event included inspirational messages from pastors and politicians alike (Kevin Hartke wore both hats as he currently serves as Chandler's mayor as well as pastor at Trinity Bible Church), along with heartening praise and worship songs from a choir and band.

The thousand or so people gathered at Dr. A.J. Chandler park in downtown Chandler, praying and worshipping together to raise awareness of human trafficking and support programs that fight these crimes and help people who have been affected by them.

Members of my own family have been affected by these travesties, and chances are you know someone who has been touched by human trafficking as well.



Top: Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke addresses a crowd of people gathered for the Night of Hope event to raise awareness about human trafficking. Bottom: Men rise to the challenge of protecting and defending those vulnerable to the clutches of traffickers.

What can we do to help prevent these crimes?

"Try as we might, your government to step in and fight the issue—we cannot do it without your help," says J.D. Mesnard, former Arizona House speaker and now state senator.

He pointed out that government's help is less effective without action from the people, and although policies and laws may come to help prevent human trafficking, the ultimate barrier for crime is placed by people like us.

County Attorney Bill Montgomery also spoke about the ways we can fight the "marketplace where people are trading in human flesh."

I sat in the front row as he spoke, and he called each man in the audience to physically stand up. "This is what we need to do as men," he said, "we need to stand up. Women cannot be victimized if we are men and recognize that they, just like us, are made in the image and likeness of God, and we do what we're supposed to do as providers and protectors."

He continued to say that men must behave in the way they ought to behave, and must call each other out when someone begins to go down a path that leads to the mistreatment of women, whether on the internet or in the city.

According to these politicians and pastors, the true prevention and eradication of human trafficking in our cities begins with us, the people of Chandler and Tempe. If you think you see something, even as seemingly insignificant as a look from a girl in a shabby car, then say something.

Understand that there are more people than you realize who have been affected by these horrors, and do everything you can to prevent complacency toward this vile behavior.

A Night of Hope is exactly the kind of thing that needs to continue throughout the Valley in order to shed light on the darkness.

With a little hope, immediate action, and a lot of prayer, we can work together to eradicate these crimes and prevent them from happening again.

Homeless

From Page 1

in 2018, up from 202 the previous year. This year, 50 volunteers divided into small teams will be counting individuals across the city from roughly 7 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

In conducting the count, Tempe is eliminating paper questionnaires in favor of the more efficient mobile app.

“By using the app, we can streamline the counting process, eliminate the possibility of human errors and quickly access information as it comes in,” said

Kelly Denman, homeless outreach specialist with Tempe’s HOPE team.

Counting individuals with pets, one of the features available in the app, is key to helping the city better understand why an individual might remain unsheltered and then identify solutions.

Shelters do not accept pets, but the HOPE team or police officers can work with Tempe-based nonprofit Lost Our Home Pet Rescue to offer a temporary place for pets to stay.

Once individuals find permanent housing, they can be reunited with their animals.

“At Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, we believe that people should not have to choose between helping themselves and helping their pets,” said Vanessa Cornwall, the organization’s marketing and development manager.

“Through our Temporary Care Program, we provide up to 90 days of pet care for individuals and families experiencing a life crisis such as homelessness or domestic violence. Our program makes it possible for people in crisis to get the help they need, regain stability in their lives and reunite with their beloved pets.”

As volunteers count, they will distribute information about local and regional services and the upcoming Maricopa County StandDown event for homeless veterans, as well as feminine

hygiene products donated by Women4Women Tempe, packs of toiletries and snacks.

Individuals with pets will receive backpacks filled with pet supplies donated by the Arizona Animal Welfare League and dog food donated by Lost Our Home.

In Chandler, 40 volunteers will span out citywide to reach out and identify those experiencing homelessness. Hygiene kits will be provided along with a resource guide with information about the different services available.

Earlier this year, Chandler launched the ChangeUp campaign to educate the community about giving responsibly to help end



homelessness. Residents can donate their “spare change” by texting ‘ChangeUp’ to 44-321. All proceeds go directly to programs that benefit the homeless community and offer long-term solutions to the issue.

Officials representing Tempe say their city also is determined 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.

According to planners, homelessness is a challenging, multifaceted, national issue that impacts many cities. Mental and physical health, poverty, past trauma and drug addiction make assisting individuals and families a complicated endeavor, they say. Ending homelessness takes patience, compassion and commitment.

Information: tempe.gov/endinghomelessness or chandleraz.gov/ChangeUp.

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Feb. 1 deadline to vote for People's Choice honorees

Only a few days await the final deadline to cast a vote for those nominated to be recipients of Chandler's 2019 People's Choice Award.

Online voting closes at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1.

For nine years, the city has partnered with For Our City Chandler to recognize outstanding volunteers for their contributions to the betterment of the Chandler community.

Nominations were accepted through last December in seven categories, with winners to be announced at an awards breakfast on Thursday, Feb. 7.

The People's Choice recognition is the only award where votes from the community will determine the winner. Voting is available at chandleraz.gov/volunteer100. Only one online vote may be cast per day.

Selectees and the reasons for their nomination include:

Bob Dalpe *Fort Veteran—Unified Arizona Veterans, Veterans Medical Leadership Coalition* is the go-to person in Chandler and the East Valley when a veteran needs help. In addition to working fulltime, Bob always makes the time to help local veterans in need. While Bob volunteers with numerous organizations throughout Arizona, his most important work is done locally when veterans need assistance. One of the most remarkable stories was when a local veteran and his family were in need of furniture and household appliances for their family. Bob was able to rally the community to quickly deliver two truckloads full of donated items.

Valley Christian High School Students — *AZCEND, formerly Chandler Community Christian Center*, recently renovated the front of its building, and with the help of 180 students from Valley Christian High School, the job got done in a couple of hours.

Joining AZCEND in the renovation effort during Pancakes and Pavers, students helped all around the property. They helped make pancakes for the public, dug up rocks out front so the area could be prepared for pavers, leveled the dirt for easier access, painted the bathrooms and assisted running the food bank for the morning. All hands on deck, the project couldn't have come to life the way it did without all of their hard work.

Niki Cummings — Chandler Fire Department Crisis Response Program, is a dedicated and loyal volunteer since July 2012. She is a long-time Chandler resident and proud wife and mother to three active boys. By trade Niki is a senior software engineer. She is a natural active listener with a comforting smile and soothing voice. She also has a keen eye for detail and is a good multitasker. She can identify someone's needs before they even have to say anything, making her an excellent Crisis Response volunteer. Niki also volunteers at Chandler Fire community events and attends voluntary training to better her skill set. Since 2012, she has dedicated more than 2,000 hours to Chandler Fire, despite her busy work and home life.

Information: chandleraz.gov/volunteer100 or 480-782-2214.

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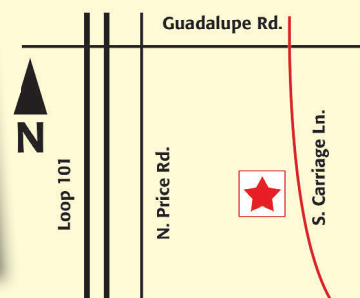
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Angels aloft

Diablo Stadium tickets to go on sale starting Saturday, Feb. 9

Tempe Diablo Stadium will host the Los Angeles Angels for another season of spring training.

The season features matchups against the D-backs, Cubs, Dodgers and Padres among others.

Tickets are on sale now at www.angels.com and will be available for purchase at the stadium beginning Saturday, Feb. 9.

Practice begins on Wednesday, Feb. 13, the same day the Angels have scheduled their first practice. It's free to attend practices, and there are plenty of opportunities to grab an autograph or two from players.

Then, at 1:10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23, the Angels will take on the Giants in the first game of the season.

Ticket prices are: Home plate MVP, \$50-\$100; Field MVP, \$40-\$75; Field Box, \$25-\$55; Grandstand, \$20-\$50; Lawn, \$15-\$45; and Upper Pavilion (all inclusive), \$53.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.angels.com. Group tickets are available by calling 888-796-4256. Parking is \$5 per car and \$25 per RV.

Diablo Stadium is at 2200 W. Alameda Drive.

Information: tempe.gov/diablo.

Councilwoman Jennifer Adams opens one more pathway for residents to share opinions, concerns

Story & photo by Noah Kutz

South Tempe residents no longer need to feel neglected by their local councilmembers. Now, their voices are heard loud and clear by newly elected councilwoman Jennifer Adams, who vows to help each resident with their particular issues in the city, one step at a time.

So far, her promise has held true. At her first ever quarterly conversation series, held at Tempe Public Market Café, 40 or so citizens of South Tempe gathered to hear their new councilmember and her team discuss their plans for growth in the new year.

Adams brought with her two representatives from the Tempe Police Department who spoke on crime in South Tempe (specifically car burglaries), as well as members from various departments of the city of Tempe who discussed new development and road work in the area.

Adams spoke about her "Tempe Top 10" priorities for growth and improvement in the city, including



transportation and outreach to the homeless.

Her full list can be found online at Tempe.gov.

The attendees were given a platform to ask questions of any of the speakers that night, and seemingly were satisfied with having had an ear for their concerns.

"I do feel that South Tempe has been neglected in the past, and it's my commitment to be meeting with anyone who wants to meet with me and to be giving them the time that they need," said Adams.

If Tempe residents have issues or concerns, Adams said they are invited to attend council meetings on Thursday nights where they will be given the opportunity to speak and raise awareness of whatever their issue may be.

Commentary

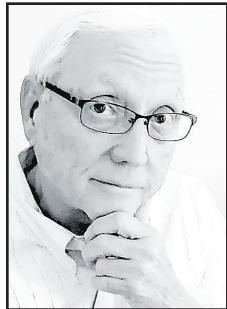
Looking for local news? Fake-book no place to find it

By Don Kirkland

Those of us who stay abreast of national and world developments know that Facebook has been accused of disseminating fake news, coupled with allegations of other problems that collectively have tarnished the mega-company's standing in the social media universe.

Full disclosure: It's true that Facebook is one of the avenues we use to extend Wrangler News' reach to its community. However we're none the less concerned over fake news and Facebook's so far hazy response to addressing the problem.

More recently, we're almost equally troubled by what we consider the ill-timed, ill-conceived announcement that Facebook is spending \$300 million to ratchet up its involvement in what it tells us will be local news.



Local news. Really? As if most of our country's media haven't already cut back on the number of trained, professional journalists writing neighborhood-focused content, it seems that Facebook thinks it can muster a horde of wannabe reporters, some we suspect with indeterminate agendas, to tell us what's going on in our community.

Who are these people, anyway? Are we supposed to believe the "news" they deliver? Or that who-knows-how-many Facebook friends will, as a result of any reposting of the message, become automatic recipients of the same misinformation, ad nauseam.

Disturbingly, at least one survey reveals that the more people who get their information from an unverifiable source, especially one channeled through that online tsunami of real and virtual factoids, the more the information gains credibility.

After all, when so many people are passing it along, goes the theory, it has to be right. Right?

Also relating to Facebook's plan to recruit contributors, the company says it will be employing "fact checkers" to validate whatever information it receives from its sources. We wish that could ease our fears. Unfortunately, with its inglorious history of random censorship involving stories it doesn't like, Facebook's concept of fact-checking doesn't suggest we'll be able to sleep well at night.

We all know that some media companies employ often subtle, occasionally perceptible methods of spinning news to conform to their own management's internally established political biases. If that's the same approach at Facebook, can we know that those same "fact checkers" will spring into action and raise an alarm?

We not only doubt that that won't happen but that "fake news" likely will spin even further out of control than it currently is.

Facebook has prefaced its plans with some element of assurance that it will enlist the staff of selected newsrooms for the task of creating reportage. That sounds like a step in the right direction. But we'll likely feel better about this if some recognized vetting process is employed to help ensure that the participating "journalists" are following accepted standards of reporting and not using Facebook's vast reach as a way to proliferate the spread of misinformation.

Or, as we all now know it, fake news.

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Teen suicide focus of Aprende 'Stand Up, Speak Up' launch



From left: Terry Roe, Chandler city councilmember; Gina Godbehere, Maricopa County Attorney's Office and Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council; Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan; Laura Rowley, Aprende school psychologist; Brook Norris, Aprende school counselor; Sarah Ruf, Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning; former mayor Jay Tibshraeny; and honoree Renee Kory, principal of Aprende Middle School.

— Photo courtesy Kyrene School District

By Diana Whittle

Students at Aprende Middle School are taking a stand against teen suicide and self harm.

Though it's a difficult topic, the kids bravely accepted the challenge to develop a campaign inspired by an Arizona-based initiative, "Stand Up, Speak Up, and Save a Life."

Selected Aprende 7th and 8th grade

students, chosen as leaders by teachers, counselors and administrators, created a bracelet with the Stand Up campaign name on the outside and a phone number on the inside to help any of their classmates who may experience emotional crisis.

The students also created videos, which air on campus, to create a more open culture and encourage

conversation about specific stressors in their lives, all in the hope it will lead troubled students to seek support to solve their issues.

Aprende Principal Renee Kory said that the program was very effective last year, and the campaign has carried over to this year with various tactics.

"The students created messages, posters and video announcements about the importance of observing or reporting when they know a friend is hurting or in trouble."

Kory was recognized at a recent Chandler City Council meeting for her role in bringing the Stand Up initiative to Aprende. In addition, then-Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny issued a proclamation declaring January as Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life Month.

At Aprende, Principal Kory says students demonstrate their concern for one another and are acting on what they observe. "Since last year, our students' reporting has increased to one to five reports a day from one to two reports a week. This is the number-one way we get information

about students in trouble, or who make poor choices at school that compromise safety, and other students who have thoughts of suicide or who engage in self-harm."

Leadership students at Aprende make sure to wear the bracelets all the time and continue to pass them out on campus, keeping the message visible for kids to report anything that doesn't seem right with fellow students, from bullying to depression.

The principal says they've gotten dozens of tips since the bracelets were first handed out, many generated by social media posts. At the school, teachers have a tiered response system in place depending on what's reported.

Kory admits cutting is a big problem seen among students in recent months. "Probably on a weekly basis our counselors are seeing someone who is engaging in self-harm or having thoughts of suicide. So it's a pervasive issue, a pervasive problem that we definitely need to pay attention to," she said.

And, these problems are widespread. In the last two years,

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The Epiphany or Little Christmas is observed on January 6 in many Christian churches.

This day has come to be known as "Kings Day".

Since the 200's, the day has honored the meeting of the Three Wise Men with the infant Jesus. King Cakes became part of the celebration to symbolize the "finding of baby Jesus".

Traditionally King Cakes are oval-shaped to show unity of all Christians. The Mardi Gras season which begins on the "Twelfth Night" (January 6th) is expressed on King Cakes

by using the carnival colors of green (signifying Faith), gold (signifying Power), and purple (signifying Justice).

In the past, a bean, pecan, pea, or coin was hidden inside each King Cake. Today, a tiny plastic baby is used. As a King Cake is cut, each person awaits anxiously for a piece to locate the "baby". The person who finds the baby is "King of the Party" and obligated to bring a King Cake to the next seasonal celebration.

Celebrate this Mardi Gras Tradition in your home, class, or office. King Cake season ends on Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), the day before Lent begins.

more than 30 students in the East Valley have committed suicide. Kory says they've lost a current or former Aprende student every year the last six years.

"Teachers and our counselors also are very aware of and committed to supporting the student initiatives and messages of Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life."

Other schools in the Kyrene district also are interested in becoming involved with the program, even at the elementary level.

Last year was the first that 15 student leaders attended the Speak Up conference, then brought the message back to the Aprende campus. This year, Aprende students will be joined by students from the other middle schools in the district.

The Stand Up conference for students in Arizona was developed in 2017 by three women who saw the need to work directly with kids to involve them in solutions to reduce the number of suicides. It attracted about

900 attendees.

In 2018, Aprende administrators learned about the program and attended, along with 3,500 others. The third annual conference, held recently at Grand Canyon University, drew an impressive crowd.

In addition to the Stand Up efforts, Aprende is partnering with members of an "Aztec Strong" group from Corona del Sol High School who also focus on suicide prevention.

"Last year, we worked in conjunction with Aztec Strong, and members came to the school and spoke to our students," said Kory.

"Then, our eighth graders from last year made a commitment to be a part of Aztec Strong when they matriculate to Corona as freshmen."

During the year, the Speak Up, Stand Up students create regular announcements for students expressing their message about the importance of reporting, inclusion, empathy and peer support and leadership.

Information: speakstandsave.com/

Major expansion, 200 new jobs set for Dignity Chandler Regional

Ninety-six new beds and an anticipated 200 new jobs are forecast at Chandler Regional Medical Center as part of a \$190-million-plus expansion initiative.



Mark Slyter

The project was announced by Dignity Health/CRMC president and CEO Mark Slyter, who said the plans include renovation to the current facilities along with a new parking garage.

The expansion will bring the hospital's capacity to 494

beds, according to Slyter. will include addition of a new main entrance on the first floor; a registration area and pre-op-post anesthesia unit, accompanied by around-the-clock patient rooms on the second floor; 36 intensive care rooms on the third floor; the same number of patient rooms designed for standard care on the fourth floor; and uncompleted-for-now space that can be used for future growth on the fifth floor. A basement will provide space for a new hospital pharmacy, materials management facility and loading dock.

Along with the building construction, the project will include a five-story parking garage containing just under 250 spaces.

So far, no remodeling is yet scheduled for the hospital's Emergency Department, major expansion of which was included in a 2014 project.



A similar project was completed five years ago, including a new patient tower and addition of a Level I trauma center.

Construction of the planned 200,000-square-foot tower will start this summer, with occupancy expected early in 2021.

Features of the new construction



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- Representation from all seven schools










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Joyce Coronel

A mom's thanks to those who serve, no matter how

After all the family dinners, celebrations and farewells, the day of departure had finally arrived. My son, a Corona del Sol and ASU graduate and now a U.S. Marine, packed his bags for a three-year stint stationed in Okinawa, thousands of miles from home.

I dashed from the *Wrangler News* office and headed to my car for the noontime airport run. One of the perks our employees enjoy is the ease—at least most days—of driving to such places as home, assignments and, of course, Sky Harbor Airport.

As Murphy's Law would have it, on the afternoon we needed to get to the airport on time, all traffic at the intersection of Ray and Rural had come to a complete standstill as I made my way home.

With a green light ahead of me, I couldn't imagine why none of us were, at the very least, inching forward. I strained to look ahead. No accident. No emergency vehicles.

Then I saw him: an older gentleman with a small shopping basket, attempting to cross the eight-lane roadway, taking ponderously slow steps. He had barely made it to the halfway point before the light changed.

That's when a man in a dark, oversized pickup truck pulled into the crosswalk and stopped his vehicle. He got out, walked up to the stranded pedestrian and began to escort him across the street.



Wrangler Editor Joyce Coronel alongside her son, 2nd Lt. Johnny Coronel, USMC.

No one honked a horn as the two gradually, painstakingly made their way across Ray Road.

As I drove away from the scene I thought to myself that the pickup driver had put himself—and his vehicle—in no small danger. Car-versus-pedestrian seldom has a happy ending for anyone.

With my thoughts now back to my soon-to-be Okinawa-bound son Johnny, the little drama I had just seen unfold somehow let me see the bigger picture: a caring person demonstrating in the finest

way the ideals of military service. Someone willing to step into harm's way, voluntarily, to serve and protect the innocent and vulnerable, the weak and infirm—children and parents and everyday people who want to enjoy their freedom in peace.

None of it is convenient. The danger is real.

At a time when the term toxic masculinity is being hurled about, this unknown man demonstrated precisely the kind of compassion mixed with courage our world so desperately needs. Here in our community, thankfully, it's not such a rare quality.

When Johnny picked up his rucksack and got in the car that afternoon, I held back tears of both sorrow and pride.

We don't know when we'll see him next. We don't know where he'll deploy to from Japan. We don't know so many things about what the next three years hold for us as a family.

But what we do know is this: Our country needs people willing to step forward and help defend the ideals that made the U.S. a bastion of liberty; it requires citizens who are unafraid to step outside their cozy universe and take risks on behalf of the defenseless.

To our military men and women, as well as those like the man in the pickup truck who help make this a better, safer place to live, we offer our salute. And, of course, say thank you.

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Hayden House restoration reopens a door to history

Stories about Hayden House, the onetime home of Tempe founder Charles Trumbull Hayden that is often referred to as the city's birthplace, have gained renewed interest after a community group began undertaking the historic building's restoration.

Built in 1873, Hayden House was the oldest continuously occupied structure in the Valley when it was sold by its owner in 1915.

It is Tempe's oldest residential building and the home of former Sen. Carl Hayden.

According to a city of Tempe press release, workers are building adobe bricks with mud that scientifically match the original bricks from 1873 to restore the building in the most authentic and durable way possible.

The house was eventually part of the former Monti's restaurant, whose owners at one time constructed several additions, none of which are considered historic. As work on Hayden House continues, those additions will be removed, according to plans. Workers will separate the

historic portions first with hand tools in order to relieve pressure on the building before machinery is brought in, aimed at protecting the historic building.

The renovated historic building will become city of Tempe property and remain protected as part of the community's history.

Working hand-in-hand with the Tempe Historic Preservation Commission and city of Tempe, design-build firm Hensel Phelps is restoring the site to its 1920s-era appearance as part of a development agreement for the 100 Mill Project, being developed on a 2.5-acre site with a 15-story office tower and nearby hotel or apartment complex.

The year 1924 is significant due to enhancements by famed architect Robert Evans, who also designed the Rose Eisendrath House on College Avenue; the Jokake Inn on the grounds of Camelback Inn in Scottsdale; and other historic adobe buildings.

Hayden House is at the southwest corner of Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway. A parking garage is adjacent.



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Hospital, patient join in pioneering medicine's future

By Deborah Hilcove

Decked out in her red cowboy boots and black Stetson, retired goldsmith Dale Connors looks the part of a pioneer. But the Chandler resident isn't *that* kind of pioneer. Instead, she's the first person in Arizona to undergo a totally robotic-assisted procedure to remove a mass involving the pancreas, bile duct and stomach.

Connor's road to local fame began benignly in January of 2018 with an unresolved bladder infection.

An infectious disease specialist at Chandler Regional Medical Center ordered a series of tests, focusing on the gastrointestinal tract. He diagnosed salmonella and began an antibiotic regimen which cleared the infection.

However, imaging showed a partially blocked bile duct and a suspicious pancreatic mass.

While not all masses are malignant cancers, pancreatic tumors need to be checked. Connors was referred to Dr. Albert Amini, a general surgeon at Chandler Regional who specializes in pancreatic and hepatobiliary procedures.

However, since the salmonella infection was cleared and she had no other symptoms, Connors delayed further appointments until, she said, "My husband nagged me into seeing Dr. Amini. That was in July. Dr. Amini told me he couldn't tell if the problem was cancer or not, but because of the blockage and some other suspicions, he'd need to remove part of the bile duct, the pancreas and some of my stomach."

A major concern was that the mass might be malignant.



Dr. Albert Amini consults with patient Dale Connors at his medical office near Dignity Chandler Regional Medical Center.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

— ROBOTIC, Page 25

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Osprey

From Page 11

city building.

It is the king of all fishing raptors, the legendary Osprey, *Pandion Haliaeetus*, observed and named by Linnaeus, a bird so unique in its traits and behavior that it occupies its own taxonomical genus (Pandion) and family (Pandionidae).

Ospreys are monogamous, and mate for life, traits which place them in the annals of myth and legend as symbols of loyalty and constancy.

As exotic to the American Southwest as it might seem, and as a raptor far more rare than the ubiquitous red-tailed Hawks that fill the skies of Arizona, we here in Tempe needn't travel far, though, to glimpse this fabled creature, for Town Lake is now home to one.

Or very nearly *wasn't* home to one, but for a genuine stroke of avian luck.

"This poor little guy flew into some power lines, we think, and was electrocuted; but luckily, it was by the static kind of electrical charge—had it been a grounded hit, it would've been all over for him."

'A fable himself'

The speaker, the very embodiment of human-mediated luck for Town Lake's young osprey, is a kind of fable himself: A lover and defender of raptors since his 12th birthday more than 50 years ago when he and his surgeon father found an injured hawk while hunting, master falconer and eagle expert Jerry Ostwinkle was present in the Tempe area at the exact time the bird was struck, meaning this beautiful bird will live to fly and hunt again, thriving in the wild, where he belongs.

As luck would have it, this youngster found himself with an injury that, although significant, was non-fatal, and fate had it that he was injured in close proximity to a healer with skills few people nationally can claim.

The first challenge the master falconer faced was obtaining a viable wing to replace the young Osprey's badly injured one.

"We don't see that many Ospreys here, but luckily, we have contacts all over the country, and that path led us to Minnesota, where they have an abundance of ospreys like we here have an abundance of red-tailed hawks," Ostwinkle recounts.

"So they sent me the right primary of an osprey that had been killed."

Ostwinkle believes the presence of

the juvenile male means his parent, or parents, are nearby.

"We have ospreys living on Town Lake, and it would seem likely they could be the family he comes from," Ostwinkle notes.

Ospreys are found the world over, and are drawn to lakes and other waterways where they can find and consume the fresh fish they have come to favor.

After the injured bird at Town Lake was discovered, Ostwinkle moved quickly to start the complicated rehabilitation procedure which, to succeed, requires both time and unparalleled attention to detail.

"All of this bird's primaries were completely buzzed off by the static burn, and that meant we had to dig out all the dead tissue on his own wing, and then let it grow back out because the area has to have a blood supply," Ostwinkle explains. Attaching the viable right wing obtained from Minnesota to the injured bird was Ostwinkle's next challenge.

Ostwinkle likens feather replacement to "putting hair extensions on a person. But with a bird, the feathers have to be lined up perfectly for the wing to function like it should."

A process called "imping," rehabilitation of injured birds, is a daunting skill set few have, and Ostwinkle complains many who attempt the delicate procedures without the proper knowledge or depth of experience can do more harm than good.

"Some of the so-called rehab is harmful—almost tortuous for the birds, and unskilled people need to stop attempting it," Ostwinkle opines. "It gets bad enough that things they've done will result in the bird's death once it's back out in the wild."

The skill-set requirement is what governs who Ostwinkle says he is willing to work with.

An elite cohort

"I'm a master falconer, there are only eleven master falconers in the entire country, and everybody in my group is a master falconer. It's because of this that we have no volunteers. You have to know what you're doing. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Falconry is an ancient vocation, and Ostwinkle says he takes special pride in being part of its heritage.

"Where my group is concerned, we practice well-honed techniques that have been in use during more than 3,000 years of falconing's history, and we revere our tradition."

In the same way he respects his art's traditions, Ostwinkle's regard for the birds he has worked with comes



Electrocution via power lines left this osprey injured and in need of a delicate procedure to restore its damaged wing.
— Photo courtesy Jerry Ostwinkle

from a healthy respect for their power.

"I work with eagles; few do, and there's a reason. You must always be aware of what this bird is capable of. They're highly intelligent, and can weigh 10 pounds. Their talons are four inches long, and they can assert them with upwards of 3,000 pounds of pressure. Make no mistake—they can kill a man in an instant."

For all his years of experience and passionate commitment to the welfare of raptors, though, Ostwinkle's own approach to his work is curiously detached, born of a deeply realistic knowledge of wild things.

"Look. These birds aren't pets. My job is to put them back in the wild immediately, to not get attached," he declares, describing his method as completely 'hands off.' The problem with being a falconer is knowing that when you're with a bird, it might be the last day you'll ever see it. Tomorrow, it could be hit by a car, or it might run into a fence, or something else."

In the higher interest of the bird's own welfare, Ostwinkle's center strictly abides by its founder's dictum.

"A wild bird shouldn't even see a person; all we do is feed it. Because of that, we don't allow people on the property. You have to accept that you can't have an emotional attachment to wild birds, because inevitably, you're going to lose them."

Interesting words for a man who has lived his entire life in devoted service to feathered creatures in their wild habitat, a man whose care for them still shows through...a bird advocate who once wore a .45 pistol

to greet federal wildlife agents who had come to take possession of a golden eagle he had rescued from a neighborhood swimming pool. (He didn't interfere with the agents, but insisted they transport the bird properly.)

Detachment or passionate advocacy, or their artful combination as tools of avian science, Ostwinkle's approach ends up being one of pure practicality, with the bird's natural traits and highest good as the driving force.

Native ethic

"In the end, whatever its injuries have been, to go back in the wild, raptors have to be able to hunt. To do that, they must have a strong flight capability and be able to spot and capture prey."

"If a bird's injuries haven't been healed, or it's been improperly rehabilitated, it becomes weak, and will be preyed upon by stronger individuals. Obviously, it can't survive in the wild like that."

That philosophical viewpoint moves Ostwinkle to make a central part of his center's mission educating the public and other animal advocates about how to live near wild raptors, a mission that, in its conduct, puts forth an overarching native ethic: caring for raptors ultimately means caring for their natural environs.

"Birds of prey are important to the environment and to all creatures on this earth," concludes Ostwinkle, "and their welfare in turn depends on a well-balanced eco-system."





Wings to freedom

Clockwise, from opposite page: Jerry Ostwinkle, a master falconer and eagle expert, prepares to uncover the cage where the osprey he nursed to health awaits release into the wild after a three-month recuperation; Ostwinkle's son, Nate, and grandson, 11-year-old Aiden, were on hand for the auspicious moment; the three bird rescuers observe as the osprey prepares for takeoff into the morning skies over Tempe Town Lake; wings aloft and pointed toward the lake, the osprey heads for the urban body of water, presumably for a morning of fishing followed by feasting.



— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



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Sports

with Alex Zener

'ONE MATCH AT A TIME' 2 WEEKS REMAIN TO REACH TOP-8 SPOT

Corona's girls soccer team, with only four matches left in the regular season, is pressing these last two weeks for a higher ranking before the state tournament.

"We are focusing our players on one match at a time," said coach **Matt Smith**. "A good run could result in a top-eight spot and a bye into the state tournament, but right now we want to ensure a top-16 seed in order to play at home in the first match."

Currently ranked No. 15 with a 3-3-1 record for ranking purposes and an overall 4-4-3 record, Corona needs to be ranked in the top eight to avoid having to play in the Conference Play-In Tournament scheduled for Feb. 7.

If Corona ends the regular season ranked between 9 and 16, they would then be the higher seed and play at home in the play-in tournament, where a win is crucial to move into the state tournament brackets.

If they end the regular season ranked 17-24, they would be the lower-ranked team in the play-in tournament and would have to play at the other school.

Corona had two matches scheduled this week, Jan. 22 at home against Queen Creek and Jan. 25 at Highland.

The Aztecs were then scheduled to play at Desert Vista, ranked No. 3 in the 6A conference on Jan. 29 and then at home against currently No. 20 ranked Mountain Pointe at home for senior night on Feb. 1.

Two of the seniors who will be honored during senior night are **Riye**

Torrance and **Amber Sammon**.

"Riye has been our best player this season, overall," said Smith. "Riye and Amber have led our team's attack."

Sammon leads the team in scoring, with six goals, four assists and 16 points while Torrance has

three goals, six assists and 12 points.

Two other seniors who have scored goals so far this season include striker **Mielah Brown** and midfielder **Samantha Scheurer**.

Another senior crucial to the success of Corona's team is goalkeeper **Maya Benedict**. She has played in all 10 matches and

overtime periods for a total of 819 minutes, where she saved 53 potential goals or 5.3 saves per match. She had four shutouts, as well, during those first 10 matches.

"Maya has been exceptional in the goal with only eight goals allowed in 10 matches," said Smith. Additional seniors to be honored on senior night include strikers **Karyme Perea** and **Carla Marin**. With so few seniors on the team this season, younger players have had to step up. For instance, sophomore striker **Amaya Antonio** has scored two goals and two assists earning six points.

"The backline has played exceptional with freshmen **Kira Kaspers** and **Ally Watchel** complimenting sophomores **Ashley Hill** and **Abby Benedict** and junior **Emerson Echirivel**," said Smith.

Players who have scored at least one goal for the Aztec include Watchel, sophomore **Jasper**



Alex Zener



Corona's wrestling team took third place at the Peoria Tournament of Champions Jan. 11-12. Team includes, bottom row: Zack Kvavle, Michael Orr, Anthony Gonzales, Sierrah Thrun, Carlos Mendoza; top Row: Josie Carmona, Eldon Milton, Roan Kelleher, Matt Gable, Joshua Gutierrez, Kevin Beltran-Benitez and Shane Aguarin. — Photo courtesy Jimmy Martinez

Schineller and juniors **Suzannah Scheurer** and **Stephanie Lundine**.

The 6A girls soccer tournament starts Feb. 9 at the higher seed.

Corona Boys Basketball

Coming off two straight section losses, the Aztecs have four straight home games to boost their current No. 17 standing in the 6A conference in order to be able to play at least one post-season game at home.

With a 12-9 overall and 3-2 section record, Corona is currently ranked No. 17 in the 6A conference, which means they will most likely have to play in the 6A Conference Play-In Tournament on Feb. 8. A win in this tournament is crucial in order to make it into the state tournament.

"We feel good about our growth to this point, and where we are at," said Coach **Neil MacDonald**. "We are 3-2 in Region with all three wins on the road. We are about to play four in a row at home, and hope that will benefit us in the stretch run."

The team has been led all season by junior point guard **Eric Blackwell**. "Eric has emerged as our offensive leader" said MacDonald. "He is

handling point guard duties, while still being relied on to score. He has embraced his role as one of our captains and is doing a lot of work on and off the court to help us succeed."

Two Aztecs have emerged as the team's best defensive players: Junior **Anthony Irvin** and senior **Jaron Reval**.

"Anthony has really stepped up defensively," said MacDonald. "Along with being our second leading scorer, he most often has the task of guarding the opponents' point guard. Anthony has done a great job disrupting what teams want to do offensively."

"Jaron has also stepped up on defense," said MacDonald. "He often is asked to defend guys who have three to five inches on him and does a good job."

The team has been somewhat hampered by injuries but recently had one key player return to the court.

"Sophomore **Elijah McDaniel**, who was rounding into a consistent role as sixth man has been out since early December with a serious ankle injury," said MacDonald. "Then 6-foot-4 senior forward, **Keb Summers**, one of our starting four, missed several games with both ankle and elbow injuries. He is back in the lineup now."

The Aztecs were scheduled to play two of their last four home games this week. First, Desert Ridge on Jan. 22 and then Queen Creek on Jan. 25. They defeated both of these teams earlier in the season.

On Jan. 29 the Aztecs were scheduled to play Highland at home. Corona defeated the Hawks 55-48 on Jan. 11.

The Aztecs' last home game is Jan. 31 against No. 10-ranked Desert Vista, a team they lost to Jan. 15. This last home game of the season will most likely be the night the seniors are honored.

Their last chance to improve their standing in the regular season will be on Feb. 5 at Mountain Pointe, currently the No. 2 Division 6A team.

McClintock Boys Basketball

The Chargers, with a 16-5 overall and 7-1 section record, are currently ranked as the No. 6 Division 5A team with only five regular season games before the state tournament starts Feb. 13.

McClintock has a senior-laden team with six seniors who contribute heavily to their team's success.

— CONTINUED on the next page

Senior **Josh Baker**, who has played in 19 games, is the leading scorer averaging 22.2 points a game or a total of 422 points so far this season. Baker has made 61 three-pointers making 54 per cent of his shots behind the three-point line. He has made 20 more two-pointers at 74 while shooting 61 per cent.

Baker does more than shoot the ball. He is second on the team in assists with 83, third in rebounds with 85 and is tied for second in blocks with five. He is the leader in steals with 51.

Senior **Mekhi Rodgers**, who has played in every game, is the assist leader averaging close to five assists while scoring a little over eight points a game.

Senior **Jalen Calvert**, playing in 16 games, is the leading rebounder averaging six rebounds and 7.6 points a game.

Senior **Donavan Williams** has played in every game averaging close to 10 points a game with 4.8 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 2.3 steals.

Senior **Jordan Martin** has played in every game scoring almost eight points and 2.4 rebounds a game along with senior **William Roberts** who has played in 18 games over the season.

Additional seniors on the team include **Bryan Hernandez**, who has played in 15 games so far this season along with **Chance Garland** and **Craig Gittens**.

The chargers have one junior who is also a major contributor to the team's success.

Junior **Armani Williams** has only played in 15 games but he had been productive on offense when on the court. He is the second leading scorer with 15.9 points a game or 239 points. He had dragged down 82 rebounds and had 37 assists during his 15 games.

Additional players who contribute to the teams success on and off the court include juniors **Aiden Penry** and **Isaac McCann** and sophomore **Darius Ward**.

The Chargers need to keep winning if they want to continue as one of the top eight teams in Division 5A and get an automatic bye in the state tournament.

McClintock was scheduled to play two teams this week, at Notre Dame Prep on Jan. 22 and at home against Carl Hayden Community on Jan. 25.

The Chargers defeated the Saints, 78-65, at home on Dec. 17 but will play them on their home court this time.

The closer game should be against Carl Hayden Community who has a 14-7 record.

McClintock is scheduled to play at Paradise Valley on Jan. 29 and then will be home the last two games of the season.

They will play Jan 31 against North Canyon and then Feb. 5 against Cactus Shadows who they lost to on Jan. 11, on the road, by one point, 69-68.

Corona Wrestling

The Aztec wrestling team took third place in the Peoria Tournament of Champions held Jan. 11-12 where **Zack Kvavle** won a third-place medal and **Roan Kelleher** a fourth-place medal.

Over the winter break, the team competed in two tournaments. On Dec. 21-22, the Aztecs wrestled in the Moon Valley Invitational where Kvavle and **Sierrah Thrun** both won championship medals.

Additionally, Kelleher took home a fourth-place medal while **Anthony Gonzales** took fifth place, **Jack Koeller** took sixth place and **Shane Aguarin** placed seventh.

The Aztecs then competed in the Cimarron Memorial Spartan Invitational in Las Vegas on Dec. 28-29 where three Corona wrestlers won championships.

Gonzales, Kvavle and Kelleher all received championship medals while Koeller received a second-place medal.

Kevin Beltran-Benitez, **Eldon Milton** and **Aguarin** all received third-place medals while **Micah Castro** took fourth place.

The Aztecs had their last home match on Jan. 24 against Desert Vista before preparing for the Section II tournament held at Chandler High School on Feb. 2.

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NAVY SKILLS FIND A NEW ROLE IN TRAINING ATHLETES

ONETIME PILOT BASES HIS TECHNIQUE ON WHAT HE LEARNED LANDING ON CARRIER DECKS

By Luke Ottinger

In this day and age we find ourselves saying “they’re just kids,” but for one local organization, expectations are elevated to the next level. Sports to Serve is a local group in West Chandler helping revolutionize the way that young athletes and coaches are trained and developed.

Starting around 2014, the non-profit was the brainchild of Bill Gateley and former Navy Admiral Jim Symonds. In just a few years, through trial and error, they have 11- to 13-year-old athletes playing high school-level baseball. Actually, not just playing but excelling.

These boys aren’t being trained necessarily in baseball-specific skills but more so in discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship through the program’s FOCUS system. The system, which employs techniques used by Navy pilots, is all about teaching the little things outside of the game with the same

precision needed to land a plane on an aircraft carrier.

“It’s a simple idea...getting these kids to look at the right place at the right time,” said Symonds, who has put together a seven-step method of fundamentals for the kids to become knowledgeable in.

Included in the regimen are precision, health, routine and prep, which Symonds says allow these players to carry out plays and the small things on the field which allow them to play at such a high level.

Sports to Serve has not just revolutionized the way players are trained and coached but the basic recruiting process for high school players.

The organization is also the founder of College Baseball Association, where athletes are helped in developing strategies to get recruited for college as well as choosing a college.

As to the future, Symonds and Gateley say they’ll continue to be giving back to the community—and producing results. As Gateley says:

“We’ve got all sorts of new things in the works.”



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Personal touch key to success of fitness regimen, says BR trainer

By Nicholas Johnsen

For many, the new year can be a perfect opportunity to become a better version of yourself. Fitness and health goals are in. But to someone new to the game, choosing the right training option from the vast array of choices can be quite the workout in itself.

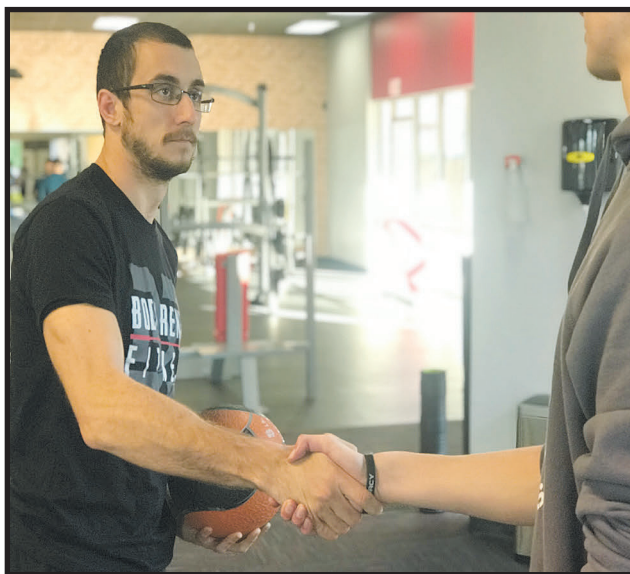
Some fitness centers prioritize intensity and pressure as their keys to success while others focus on the comfort of the client. Perhaps group training sessions and classes are important or, maybe, individual training and personalized sessions are more your cup of tea.

Regardless of the preference, choosing the right gym is not always easy.

One fitness center striving to alleviate some of this pressure is BR Fitness of Tempe. A locally owned and operated facility found on the southeast corner of Eliot and Rural, BR—short for Body Renew—says it's revitalizing the healthy-lifestyle industry with a personal touch.

According to trainer Brad Smith, BR offers exercise classes ranging from yoga and Pilates to “body pump” strength training and individual and personalized training sessions to team-oriented youth training sessions which are “competitive and fun.”

Within the youth training sessions, weight, agility, plyometric and HIIT instruction are offered, aimed



Brad Smith, a personal trainer at BR Fitness in Tempe, greets a client. Smith says developing a personal connection with those seeking to get in shape helps solidify—and achieve—fitness goals.

— Wrangler News photo by Noah Kutz

at providing added dimension to a rigorous athletic regimen.

Though BR Fitness covers the same basics as most well-rounded centers, Smith says they work hard to bring even more to the bench. As a key member of the group behind the BR strategy, Smith

was specific about what sets the gym apart from the others in a day and age where finding the right fitness center should mean more than just covering the basics.

A quick online search on Body Renew's website brings up a mission statement with one of its popular calls to action: “It's more than a membership, it's a relationship!” Explaining that building a healthy lifestyle starts on a personal level for both the trainer and trainee, Smith noted that BR trainers work with clients on a case-by-case basis to develop “a real relationship,” giving them a chance to form a deeper connection with their clients.

Smith continued to explain that fostering this type of connection is typically what leads to the best results. Knowing clients on a personal level lets trainers like Smith better understand what kind of goals clients have in mind and how they can help reach those goals as easily as possible.

Attaining these goals and becoming the best version of oneself appears to be at the top of BR Fitness' priorities.

In today's fitness awareness, Smith expressed concern for those who never really reach their goals because of not receiving the attention deserved. Due to the complexities of exercise science and the amount of information available, it's easy to get the wrong information, he said. And trainers like Smith are working to prevent that.

The Household Products Collection Center will be closed on January 26 in lieu of this event.

ZERO WASTE DAY

Saturday, Jan. 26 | 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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- Scrap metal • Clothing, linens, towels, toys, stuffed animals • Household hazardous waste (cleaners, batteries, light bulbs) • Books
- Automotive products (oil, fluids)

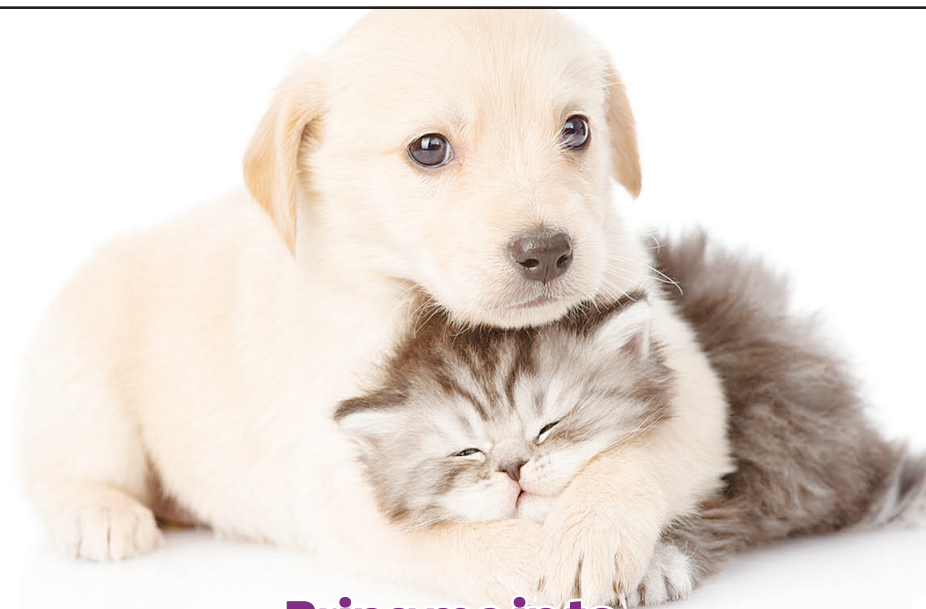
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Diversions

Greater Phoenix 2019 filmfest stresses 'greater'

By M.V. Moorhead

Now in its 23rd season, the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival is light on the Phoenix and heavy on the "greater."

The annual showcase of "Great Films...with a little Jewish flavor" is spread across three venues around the Valley, none of them actually within the city limits of Phoenix.

The fest is held from Sunday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 24, at Harkins Park West in Peoria, Harkins Shea in Scottsdale, and, most convenient for moviegoers in the Kyrene Corridor, Harkins Tempe Marketplace.

Here's a rundown of some of the highlights, with the Tempe location's dates and showtimes:

Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy

(Sunday, 2/10, 3 p.m.)—This documentary explores the Jewish contribution to Broadway shows and showtunes.

Golda's Balcony: The Film (Monday, 2/11, 7 p.m.)—Valerie Harper plays Golda Meir in this one-woman film from William Gibson's play.

The Cakemaker (Tuesday, 2/12, 7 p.m.)—Ofir Raul Grazier's drama concerns a young baker who travels from Germany to Jerusalem after the death of his long-distance lover, and the revelations and

tribulations that follow.

Rescue Bus 300 (Wednesday, 2/13, 7 p.m.)—Rotem Shamir directed this Israeli film, dramatizing the 1980 hijacking of a bus from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon by armed Palestinian terrorists.

Shoelaces (Thursday, 2/14, 7 p.m.)—Jacob Yankul Goldwasser directed this Israeli comedy-drama, also called *Laces*, about Jerusalem garage owner who must come to terms with the developmentally disabled son he abandoned years earlier.

A Bag of Marbles (Sunday, 2/17, 3 p.m.)—This French drama is the second film version of *Un Sac de Billes*, Joseph Joffo's novel about two French Jewish boys fleeing the Nazis and occupied France.

Who Will Write Our History (Tuesday, 2/19, 7 p.m.)—Roberta Grossman's documentary, with

re-enactments, chronicles the Oneg Shabes archive, begun by historian Emanuel Ringelblum, in the Warsaw ghetto during the Nazi occupation in order to preserve accounts of atrocities against the Jews.

Budapest Noir (Wednesday, 2/20, 7 p.m.)—Eva Gardos directed this Hungarian thriller, set in the title city in the 1930s and dripping with noir atmosphere.

The Last Suit (Thursday, 2/21, 7 p.m.)—Pablo Solarz wrote and directed this drama about a tailor, nearing 90 years old, who travels from Argentina to Poland to find the man who rescued him from death at Auschwitz.

Why the Jews? (Sunday, 2/24, 3 p.m.)—The oft-repeated cosmic question refers, in this Canadian documentary, to Jewish excellence; what are the keys to Jewish over-achievement?

Individual tickets are \$11 online or by phone; \$13 at the door. A festival pass to all films and venues is \$150.

Go to www.gpjff.org or call 602-753-9366 for the full schedule and details.

M.V. Moorhead is the former film critic for *Phoenix New Times*. He contributes regularly to *Phoenix Magazine* and *Wrangler News*.



Valerie Harper plays Golda Meir, the fourth prime minister of Israel, in *Golda's Balcony*.




RETRO REACTION

/ JAN 18 - MAY 11

Through personal retrospection, ten Arizona-based artists give us a glimpse into how each of them absorbs, filters and reacts to art and ideas from the past.

LOCAL ARTISTS

Heidi Abrahamson	Angela Johnson
Bob Allen	Jacob Meders
Malena Barnhart	Rembrandt Quiballo
Kristin Bauer	Kazuma Sambe
Fausto Fernandez	Henry Schoebel

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Kids nearing pre-school? Get in line now to help ensure yours gets a spot

By Joyce Coronel

There's a waiting list to get in and, no, it isn't for a college or university. This is preschool we're talking about.

St. John Bosco Preschool attracts many West Chandler families with its programming for pre-k and 3-year-old students.

About a quarter of the students in the preschool have older siblings enrolled in one of the upper grades at St. John Bosco, a Catholic school located at 16035 S. 48th St.

Jamie Bescak, who in addition to being director of the preschool is a fulltime kindergarten teacher at St. John Bosco, said there are 20 students in each of the two pre-k classrooms.

For the 3-year olds, there are 15 in each of two classrooms. Each class has two teachers.

"Our school has one of the smallest ratios around," Bescak said. Five-day, three-day and two-day options are available "but we encourage more days," Bescak said.

One reason for encouraging more rather than less time at preschool, Bescak said, is the bumping up of academic standards both nationally and locally.

"I tell parents, 'Preschool today is how kindergarten was when we went to school, and kindergarten is how first grade was.'"

These days, students are expected to know a lot of



Preschool students at St. John Bosco Catholic School take part in a STEM lesson that brought community building skills to life with hands-on lessons.
— Photo courtesy Jamie Bescak

their letter sounds when they begin kindergarten.

Teachers at St. John Bosco work with students to make sure they are learning the skills so they are ready for the moment they become kindergarteners.

"We want all of our students who come in, whether it's preschool or any grade, to feel confident and to love school," Bescak said.

For preschoolers, that spells time to play and intermingle with groups of kids and learn how to share, how to be a student and be away from their parents.

"Our preschool teachers are making sure they are meeting those social-emotional needs and also working on fine motor skills," Bescak said.

Students are developing skills through activities like painting but they're also being exposed to foundational academics. That includes lessons in STEM.

A recent activity at the preschool had students learning how communities are built.

From brainstorming about buildings to experimenting with drawings and hands-on work with building materials, they not only learned about science, technology, engineering and math, they learned social skills and teamwork.

Enrollment at St. John Bosco begins Feb. 1, during Catholic Schools Week, an annual, national event that celebrates Catholic education.

Nearly 15,000 students in the diocese of Phoenix are enrolled in parochial schools such as St. John Bosco near West Chandler and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tempe. About 10 percent of students are non-Catholic.

Information: sjbosco.org



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Robotic

From Page 14

Because there are few identifiable symptoms in the early stages of pancreatic cancer, it's called the "silent disease," sometimes taking years before causing pain and pressure.

Currently, surgery is the most effective treatment for removing a suspicious pancreatic tumor. Amini recommended a Whipple resection, named for Columbia Hospital doctor Allen O. Whipple, who first performed the complex surgery in 1935.

Conventional open surgery requires a large incision, typically 12 to 15 inches across the belly. A more recent development is minimally invasive and performed through small incisions that allow a tiny camera and surgical instruments to be used.

In either procedure, the abdominal organs are connected, increasing the complexity of the lengthy procedure and possibly requiring a blood transfusion.

Connors says:

"Dr. Amini drew pictures for me and described the types of Whipple procedures, both open and laparoscopic. He stated the conventional open Whipple would take up to four months to recover. I couldn't imagine waiting that long to recover and get back to my normal routine.

"Then he told me about the robotic Whipple and its advantages. I asked him to show me pictures of the apparatus he'd be using, and he showed how he'd done the robotically-assisted surgery on a pig. It was just amazing to see how he manipulated the little arms and fingers. Just amazing."

Pausing just a moment, she adds, "When he asked how I felt about being the first Arizona patient to have a totally robotically assisted Whipple procedure, I felt very proud and pleased he thought I'd be a good candidate for the robotic Whipple—that even though I was eighty, he'd take a chance on me."

The three da Vinci Surgical Systems at Chandler Regional have been used for minimally invasive surgeries for some time, but Amini performed the East Valley's first totally robotically assisted Whipple surgery on Connors.

Summarizing the advantages, Amini says:

"With the totally robotic Whipple procedure, patients are going home up to a week earlier than if they had the traditional open or a partially robotic procedure. Their overall recovery time is cut in half."

Said Connors:

"It was a seven-hour surgery....I had very minimal pain for two days post-op, but zero pain since. I was only in the hospital for two weeks total. I was very fortunate. There was no cancer."

And, she added: Dr. Amini is a delightful man. He did a great job."

Competition pits firefighters, cops in battle of blue versus red . . . for a good cause, of course

It's the 19th annual Battle of the Badge, a blue-versus-red competition, with Tempe police challenging Tempe firefighters in a friendly game of flag football, Saturday, Jan. 26, at Tempe High School. Fans can be first to the scene when gates open at 10 a.m.; the game kicks off at noon.

The event is free but visitors are asked to bring a can of non-perishable food to help local food bank St. Vincent De Paul.

There will be family fun with a bounce house, face painting and food trucks. Battle of the Badge t-shirts will be for sale with proceeds benefiting the Tempe Police and Fire Medical Rescue departments' Cadet programs and Tempe High athletics.

To get into the spirit of the event, guests are invited to show their colors when they show up for the action. Go Red or Go Blue but go to the game.

Information: BattleoftheBadge@gmail.com.

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Representative Mesnard

Policy Impact Series Update from LD 17

Friday, February 8, 2019
8 am to 9:30 am

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

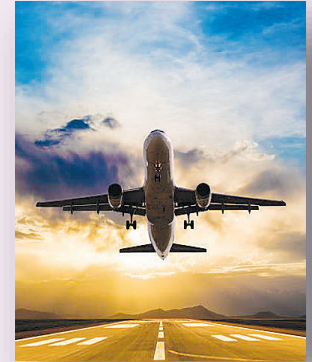
This is a great opportunity to meet Chandler's entire state representative team from Legislative District 17. Senator J.D. Mesnard, Representative Jeff Weninger and Representative Jennifer Pawlik will be discussing their individual legislative priorities for Chandler at the state level.

Register @ ChandlerChamber.com/calendar

Economic Update Luncheon Aviation—Fueling the Valley's Economy

Friday, February 8, 2019
11:30 am to 1 pm

Hilton Phoenix Chandler
2929 W Frye Rd
Chandler, AZ 85224



Aviation as we know it is one of the main catalysts behind globalization, driving the development of the modern world. But what does it mean for the Valley of the Sun? Learn how local air traffic helps to generate economic growth from representatives from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Southwest Airlines and Chandler Municipal Airport.

Register @ ChandlerChamber.com/calendar



Women in Leadership Luncheon Speed Networking

Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Noon to 1:30 pm

SoHo63
63 E Boston St.
Chandler, AZ 85225

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Register @ ChandlerChamber.com/calendar

Wake Up Chandler Connect & grow your business

Wednesday, February 13, 2019
7:30 am to 9am

Steven Vogt CPA
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Growing your business means doing business with people you know, like and trust. Make those important connections at the Chandler Chamber's monthly morning networking event, Wake Up Chandler.

Register @ ChandlerChamber.com



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2019

Mayor's State of the City Address

The talented people who connect our community

Mayor Kevin Hartke Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019

**Chandler Center for the Arts
250 N. Arizona Avenue**

5 p.m. Reception

6 p.m. State of the City Address

Join Mayor Kevin Hartke for his first annual State of the City Address, focusing on the experience of visiting Chandler and living and working here. He will discuss the City's financial position, capital projects, economic development, neighborhoods, public safety and more, plus the Mayor will highlight new and thriving companies, unique experiences and places and the talented people who connect our community.

The event is free and parking is available at the Center for the Arts.

Mayor Kevin Hartke & City Council

EVENTS

JANUARY

- 17-21 Chandler Int'l Film Festival, Downtown Chandler, 866-727-0093
- 19 Our Stories Series: Frank Lloyd Wright and a new Vision for Chandler, Chandler Museum 782--2717
- 19 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 19 Chandler Multicultural & International Film Festival, Downtown Stage Plaza, 782-2735
- 20 One: Candlelight Vigil for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Downtown Stage, 782-2214
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day, City offices closed
- 23 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 24 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 24 FitDC, Downtown Stage Plaza, 782-2669
- 26 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 31 FitDC, Downtown Stage Plaza, 782-2669

FEBRUARY

- 1 We Banjo 3, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 2 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 2 Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 7 FitDC, Downtown Stage Plaza, 782-2669
- 8 Daddy Daughter Dance, Snedigar Recreation Center, 782-2641
- 9 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 9 Chandler Science Spectacular, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park East, 782-3038
- 9 Urban Fishing Clinic & Outdoor Safety Event, Environmental Education Center, 782-2890
- 9 Our Stories Series: Phoenix Civil Rights Movement, Sunset Library, 782-2800
- 9 Daddy Daughter Dance, Tumbleweed Recreation Center, 782-2641
- 10 Shirley MacLaine, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 11 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 14 FitDC, Downtown Stage Plaza, 782-2669
- 14 African American Banquet, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 14 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 16 Murphy's Celtic Legacy, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 17 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 17 Winston Churchill, The Blitz, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 18 Presidents Day Holiday, City offices closed
- 21 Mayor's State of the City Address, Center for the Arts, 782-2200
- 21 FitDC, Downtown Stage Plaza, 782-2669

For event details, visit chandleraz.gov or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 782-2735.

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Tempe officer comes up with an arresting idea: Helping boy feel included

Besides having a positive role model, kids gain lesson of trust

Story and photos by Robyn Martinez

A Tempe police officer rose above his normal duties and poured himself into working on an extra-special project for one lucky Aguilar Elementary student.

Cruz Zermeno-Salce, a fifth-grade student who began attending Aguilar last month, uses a wheelchair to get around due to a medical condition. During recess time, he and his new friends have been playing board games for fun.

When Officer Reed Ribotta met Cruz at Aguilar's quarterly All School Celebration at Kiwanis Park, he got to know more about the games that Cruz likes to play. Cruz shared that they use old plastic crates for their board games. Hearing this, he said, sparked an idea.

Over his holiday break, Ribotta used his own money to purchase materials to build a game table for Cruz, customized with several different features and painted all green and black, Cruz's favorite colors.

"He told me he likes to draw, so I wanted to make sure he could do that," said Ribotta, pointing to the whiteboard area and the plethora of colored whiteboard markers stuffed into an attached bag to easily store them.

The table also has a checkerboard with special handmade green and black checkers, and tic-tac-toe. One



Cruz Zermeno-Salce, a fifth-grade student at Aguilar in Tempe, received a handmade game table from Tempe Police Officer Reed Ribotta. — Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary School District

of the most heartwarming features is the three words that are written on the front of the table: Cruz and Friends.

"My hope for this game table is that Cruz will always feel included. I was happy to learn that he already has good friends here at Aguilar, so I just wanted to make it easier for them to play and be together," Ribotta said.

During his 18-year career with Tempe PD, Ribotta has spent the last three volunteering weekly at Aguilar. He spends time with students at recess, is always available to assist the staff, and has been a major support to the school.

"Officer Ribotta has a huge heart, is willing to help out in any way he can, and has selflessly given his time and expertise to assist our school. It is evident that he truly cares about our community," said Assistant Principal Angela Storey. Storey added that it is good for the students to have a positive role model like Ribotta, someone that they can trust and turn to.

As recess went on, more and more students were gathering around to check out Cruz's new table and learn about the games. Right in the heart of the huddle was Cruz, smiling from ear to ear as he was meeting new friends and playing games that he loves.

"I am excited to play games with my friends," said Cruz. "Especially checkers, my favorite game." Added Cruz's friend, fifth-grader Ethan Margaron: "This is so much nicer than the old crates we were playing on before. Now I'm even more excited to come play these games with my friends."

Ribotta shared that he hopes that Cruz will be able to take the table with him to whichever school he goes to after he leaves Aguilar.



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Editorial . . . Don Kirkland

Fostering the sense of neighborhood: It's what keeps us going

In our Dec. 15 issue, Noah Kutz wrote a column I thought captured the essence of what we at *Wrangler News* believe is the reason we have stayed in the local-news business for so many years: Being able to write about the people who reinforce the foundations of our community and help it remain a great place to live.

Summarizing what Noah had to say, he found himself locked out of his car, facing a busy schedule and not able to come up with a quick solution. The answer, in the form of three different groups of Samaritans, happened to be not only a few feet away but ready and eager to come to his rescue with an artfully bent coat hanger.

Problem solved. Appointments kept. New, refreshing reminder of the ways in which members of our Tempe/West Chandler community seem able to maintain a remarkable (in this age) grasp of what it takes to be good neighbors.

It brought to mind an experience I had a few weeks earlier at the Tempe Costco, which like others scattered around the globe, deploys 4-person, connected-tabletop seating in its food court. The result, especially on a weekend day, is two people

frequently occupying a spot set up for four. This, of course, means that any new arrivals need to scout around for an open space, which likely will be another 4-seater. And the scenario repeats itself over again, and again.

So what's wrong with this tendency for two people to hold on to their turf like Alexander the Great must have treated the Macedonians after he conquered the Persian Empire?

Simply said, it doesn't exactly fit our notions of how neighborliness is supposed to work.

During my dozen or so years living in one of Southern California's friendly, relaxed beach communities, I recall that both indoor and outdoor eateries frequently had, like Costco, a lot of multi-occupant tables. However, it was commonplace for a couple of strangers not only to sit down aside the first-arriving diners but actually engage in conversation with them.

Wow, no kidding?

So back to that day at Tempe Costco: Two people at a four-person spot, with two open stools. As it happened, the first two were a nicely attired couple. I sized them up as a college professor (him) and maybe a bank executive (her). Maybe out-of-town visitors.

People that I, and lots of others I know, would have enjoyed sitting with.

As the scene continued to unfold, along came a pleasant-appearing, middle-age-or-less male, obligatory Costco hot dog (mustard & relish) and accompanying fountain drink in hand—Pepsi, no doubt, since Coke long ago was banished along with American Express cards.

As the man neared the couple's table, he seemed to speak briefly to them—asking, I assumed, if they objected to him taking one of the open seats. They didn't, reminding me of those beach days when people sitting together was a natural, everyday occurrence.

As the man stood up after finishing his meal, and the couple also looked ready to leave, he turned to them with a just few parting words:

"Thank you for sharing your table with me."

The couple nodded pleasantly, and the encounter was over.

Thinking back to Noah, the locked-up keys and the people he met who seemed willing to interact with someone they didn't know or likely ever would see again, I realized that our newspaper's belief in the sense of community truly is warranted.

To that we say, I believe not unjustifiably: Thank you for sharing your neighborhood with us.

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