



TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

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Tempe church decries vote affirming LGBT ban

By Joyce Coronel

A Tempe congregation is mourning a decision by the United Methodist Church's General Conference to continue its ban on same-sex marriage and the ordination of gay clergy.

The action, which occurred at the denomination's conference in St. Louis, Mo., caused an outpouring of sorrow at Dayspring United Methodist Church.

In a telephone interview with *Wrangler News*, the Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dayspring's pastor, spoke of how disappointed he was in the conference vote.

"As a lifelong United Methodist, I am mourning for our denomination. It remains to be seen what's going to happen to it, but it looks like

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF MOURNING — Dayspring United Methodist Church pastor Jeff Procter-Murphy acted within hours to display his congregation's opposition to a vote by the denomination's General Conference to disallow gay marriage and non-celibate gay clergy.

— Photo courtesy Dayspring United Methodist Church

— DAYSPRING, Page 14

Useful neighborhood tool or threat to privacy?

NEXTDOOR: A SPECIAL REPORT

By Sammie Ann Wicks

Editor's note: In light of recent international headlines, Wrangler News contributor Sammie Ann Wicks set out to learn more about one of the social-media platforms being used in our community. This is the first installment of a two-part series.

If you're an average citizen of today's wireless world, you know the drill: Go online, where internet companies invite you to share, connect, network or reach out to family and friends. And, oh yes, they'd like you to sign up for their free services by filling out a simple application.

But this isn't the kind of connecting we remember our own families doing as we were growing up. It's not

sitting with the neighbors next door and looking them in the eye while you share stories about your kids and theirs, the new postal carrier on the block, the Jones's missing cat, the high school kid who lives down the street who drives too fast, too dangerously.

Now, our online world today is what Marshall McLuhan so many years ago famously called *mediated* connecting. That is, something (or someone) stands between your connection and your intended respondent, who is also online, he or she *mediated* by the same electronic tools.

So we begin to "connect" and encounter the communication of those we know are doing the same thing. It's entertaining, clever, convenient...and to a growing number, worrisome.

— NEXTDOOR, Page 10

Talking, texting law now in full effect as Tempe cracks down

It's now official: Motorists who send or read a text message while driving in Tempe can be issued a citation and fined up to \$500 for repeat offenses.

The Tempe City Council has approved changes to the city's distracted driving laws, a major step-up in the ordinance that previously required the offending driver to be driving erratically as a requisite to being pulled over.

Police say studies show that, on average, it

— TEXTING, Page 16

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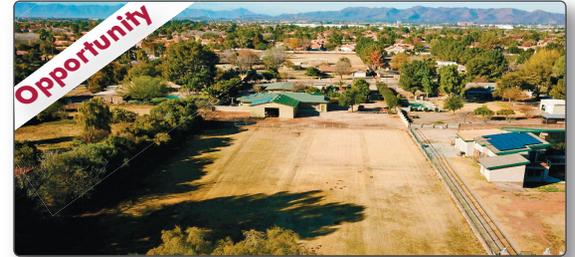
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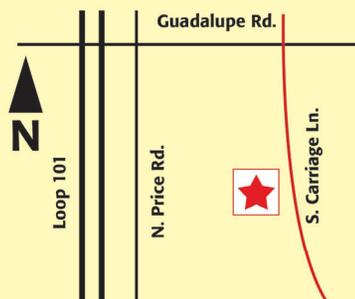
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New tiered dues structure said to boost value of Tempe Chamber membership

Editor's note: Wrangler News asked Anne Gill, president of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the details of recent action by the chamber board of directors to modify the method by which companies can initiate chamber membership. The following summarizes what she had to say about the changes.

After 18 months of research and consideration by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, its membership committee and chamber staff, the organization is changing the way members invest.

Like many chambers during the past decade, we are moving to a tiered dues system which provides benefits based on the investment level a member selects.



Instead of calculating your annual membership investment based on each industry and the company's number of employees, we're introducing a more member-centric approach that lets the member choose the level of annual membership investment.

Each company's choice will depend on the chamber services and benefits desired and the investment that the company's leadership wants to make in strengthening the business community and strengthening the chamber.

Why such a change in the way the chamber does business?

Why adjust the chamber's price structure and change its revenue stream?

The answer is simple:
It guarantees equity and choice

when choosing a membership package that is important to each business and is aligned with the chamber's mission to serve as the voice of business, a catalyst for economic growth, and a champion for a strong community.

We listened carefully to the benefit requests of our membership and benchmarked similar chamber benefit offerings.

We found that most members valued different benefits for a variety of reasons.

For some, having a voice in advocacy was most important.

For others, the ability to build their network and advertise was paramount.

The solution was to develop several levels of benefits that matched the membership dues investment.

The Tempe Chamber has seven membership levels from which to choose, and each new level of investment offers increasing benefits, services and sponsorships as well as exclusivity at the top tiers.

This member-driven and board-adopted improvement to the chamber's investment structure provides increased value to chamber membership, and members now have the power to choose the benefits and services that make sense for them.

We recognize adopting the tiered benefits system is a significant change for chamber members.

The transition will be paced and will allow plenty of time for adjustment.

We invite you to join us for an info session on our new investment structure.

Come see us to learn about our changes to offer more value and more choice while strengthening our organization.



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'Something for everyone' as traditional Chandler festival takes flight for its 31st annual run

A curly tailed fill-in for ostrich races, but not to worry: Pigs won't fly

By Joyce Coronel

The 31st annual Chandler Chamber of Commerce Ostrich Festival takes wing March 8-10 at Tumbleweed Park, and organizers say the extravaganza will offer three days of musical entertainment, rides, food and fun.

Newcomers to the high-tech, fast growing city of Chandler may not quite understand how a flightless bird that lives mainly in Africa has somehow come to symbolize a community.

This quirky, feathered mascot

points to the roots of a city that was once home to ostriches—lots of them.

During the early 1900s, women's hats were frequently adorned with ostrich feathers and so the ranches had a ready market for the plumes. For the last three decades, Chandler has paid tribute to its feathered past with the family-friendly Ostrich Festival.

This year's event features pig races, music and the opportunity to see live ostriches.

Although the festival once held ostrich races, it's now turned to an educational exhibit of the majestic, flightless creatures.

Ostriches are the largest birds in the world and can grow up to nine feet tall.

Terri Kimble, president and CEO of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, voiced her enthusiasm about the event:

"We are very excited about the headliner band lineup for the 31st annual Ostrich Festival.

"Flo Rida, The Commodores and Andy Grammer – there's something for everyone throughout the weekend.

"You can't beat the fact that a reasonably priced general admission ticket gets you access to a day filled with over 100 hours of amazing, family-friendly performances and musical acts," she said.

Tumbleweed Park is at 745 E. Germann Road, Chandler.

Information: ostrichfestival.com



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Jim Phipps: A career well lived Select few left to fill the void of a departing media pro

In these days of news-media downsizing, public information officers assume an even more significant role than in days past.

The job of these professional communicators is to provide a trained, reliable pipeline for the flow of information to those of us who simply do not have the resources to cover every turn of events that we think readers want to know about.

This is where people like Jim Phipps come in.

Since we met him 20-plus years ago, during his early days as a PIO for the city of Chandler, Jim has consistently been our go-to resource for Chandler information. He has been one of our most highly regarded news providers, one from whom we always received a prompt response and whom we liked and trusted.

As of March 1, those days are now behind us.

Jim provided his city bosses with notice in January that he would be retiring from city employment, and began the slow process of connecting one final time with the many city, media and other contacts he developed over a career that, in its entirety, spanned 31 years.

Our staff had lunch with Jim one day in advance of his at-that-time impending departure, which provided an opportunity to reminisce over the times we worked collaboratively to ferret out information from city departments and to remember the many people we were able to connect with as a result of initiatives by Jim and his co-workers.

One of those we particularly enjoyed was former Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn, with whom Jim helped arrange occasional informal sit-downs to explore topics of mutual interest. Jim also opened doors for us in places we would not have pursued

as diligently as he did, and worked to encourage doubters to value the ongoing role of print media in a sea of digital newcomers seemingly more interested in creating controversy than building a sense of community.

So although Jim's phone number and city email address will no longer be at the top of our contact list, there are thankfully others, notably in cities like Tempe, where the legacy of media collaboration lives on.

Remaining intact there are the public-information building blocks left behind by people like Nachie Marquez, who ultimately established and oversaw a fully staffed public information department for Chandler until her retirement a couple of years ago.

In her place now in Tempe presides Nikki Ripley, whose journalistic expertise, work ethic and professional creds have earned her a rightful claim to respect among reporters Valleywide.

As to continuing our effort to ensure a sense of community between West Chandler residents and the core of their city, some other allies likely will come along as well—potentially one or both of the energetic, forward-looking Chandler Chamber or Downtown Chandler executives, Terri Kimble or Mary Murphy-Bessler.

Ultimately, it is our aim to make sure that those living on the city's west side can more fully appreciate their endowment as residents of a fully cohesive, fully welcoming city rather than as outliers whose sense of community risks erosion by an stubbornly divisive freeway.

Finally, to Jim Phipps we say: "Thanks, friend, for all you helped us achieve and for all you did in the best interest of Chandler. Take it easy. Have fun. Go fishin'."

— Don Kirkland

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Caring for, preventing Alzheimer's focus of free March 12 forum

Adding to Tempe's stature as a 'Dementia Friendly City'

By Nicholas Johnsen

Although Tempe is perceived as a college town, it's also home to a substantial and growing population of seniors, which is one reason Tempe has been designated a "Dementia Friendly City."

One of the top concerns of seniors and their loved ones is the battle against an insidious enemy known as Alzheimer's. The devastating disease affects more than 5 million Americans and is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., according to Alzheimers.net.

A free upcoming conference in Tempe will address prevention and mitigation of this neurodegenerative disorder found accountable for nearly 70 percent of all reported dementia.

Though the concept may be frightening, prevention and mitigation is at the top of the priority list for many and could be more important than one might think.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America will visit Tempe and present the educational conference Tuesday, March 12, at Marriot Tempe at the Buttes.

The purpose of the conference is to connect people in the area with information regarding Alzheimer's, brain health and dementia caregiving.

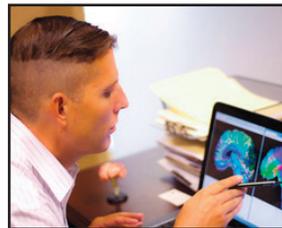
Those present will have the opportunity to interact with Alzheimer's experts, ask questions, network and obtain a free memory screening. A variety of professionals will be attending the conference to speak on topics such as current research, innovating treatment and caregiver support.

One such professional, John DenBoer, Ph.D., will provide an overview of the disease from his perspective and an update on current research, as well as offering attendees an understanding of what changes await on the horizon.

DenBoer is a clinical neuropsychologist specializing in the assessment and detection of early-stage dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.

He also is the founder and CEO of Smart Brain Aging, a Valley-based healthcare technology company specializing in reducing the cognitive decline in aging brains.

During an interview, DenBoer discussed the importance of educational conferences like this one and just how vital they can be in proper diagnosis and care.



"The key is disrupting the disease," DenBoer said, when asked about how Smart Brain Aging is focusing on treatment for such a complex issue.

"What we really do is focus on mitigation; we want to mitigate the decline associated with the disease."

The neuropsychologist continued to explain that this mitigation is done through cognitive training exercises offered by treatment platforms such as Smart Brain Aging, their own. DenBoer also added that pharmaceutical treatment of the disease and dementia in general is falling behind the effectiveness of cognitive training programs, which are reshaping the way mental health is viewed in general.

Professionals like DenBoer believe that brain health is a new field which deserves to be taken seriously.

With such a heavy emphasis on early mitigation and disruption, it's easy to see why educational conferences like this one are so important; in part, it's about getting this information out.

When it comes to a healthy brain, staying informed and cognitively active could make all of the difference.

The AFA's conference will run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Phoenix Marriot at the Buttes, 2000 W. Westcourt Way, Tempe.

Those interested can visit www.alzfdn.org and click on "events calendar" at the top of the page.

Anyone who can't attend or has immediate questions about Alzheimer's disease can contact AFA's national toll-free helpline at 866-232-8484.

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Tutu, the mascot for Chandler's annual Ostrich Festival, paid a visit to students at Kyrene de la Paloma where he helped draw attention to fundraising for Harmony Park. — Photo courtesy Kyrene School District

— Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary School District

Proposed music park will strike new chord with kids at Paloma

A proposed Harmony Park, at Kyrene de la Paloma school in West Chandler, will sound to music lovers like an experience that is an equal mix between being in heaven and Disneyland.

Once constructed, the playground will provide children with a learning environment to explore making sounds—aka music—with free-standing sculptures shaped with the look and capability of selected musical instruments.

“Paloma’s Harmony Park will provide an outdoor learning environment that encourages children to explore sound in a spontaneous way, while providing balance to more formal, classroom music instruction,” said Paloma Principal Janet Tobias.

She says that she has long dreamed of adding an outdoor park to the school’s art integration program to inspire in students a love of music.

“We know that music helps children build reasoning skills, increases

memory capacity and supports students in developing cooperation skills,” said Tobias.

“It also builds confidence and fuels creativity in students, meeting the increasing social-emotion needs of the children we serve.”

To fund the construction of Harmony Park, the school is hosting a golf tournament as a fundraiser on Saturday, May 4 at the Arizona Grande Resort and Spa. “We hope to raise more than \$10,000 at our Harmony Park Golf Tournament, which will almost pay for our first installment of a four-instrument ensemble. Also, we are selling personalized bricks for \$100, which will be installed into the musical instrument park as another way to fundraise,” said Tobias.

“We know we will have to work hard for several years to raise the money needed to have a 10- piece musical instrument park, but we are up for the challenge because we know it is good for children. We eventually want to install a large, shade structure over the park so that students can experience the magic all year long.”

Information: harmonyparkgolf.com
Read the full version of this story at wranglernews.com

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Nextdoor

From Page 1

Today, the biggest and most socially powerful of these media are familiar to us all: Google, a search engine and its related enterprises, like the company's so-called Cloud; Twitter, in almost constant daily public consciousness due to heavy presidential patronage; Instagram, Snapchat, Tumblr, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, Flickr, Facebook. Again, you know the drill.

So ubiquitous are these seemingly ever-present dispensers of "news" that even such municipalities as Chandler and Tempe have engaged with yet another, though still lesser-known but growing social media company, Nextdoor.

The San Francisco-connected company has, in fact, grown its presence locally with a considerable amount of input from the city of Chandler, which finds the company's services useful to its communication needs.

Nextdoor's popularity here may be due to its "next new thing" status, offering participants a chance to monitor real-time neighborhood activities and report those happenings back to other participants in the neighborhood.

Like those in Nextdoor's claimed 100,000 neighborhoods across the country, Chandler's Nextdoor members can "create private websites for their neighborhoods where they can ask questions, get to know one another, and exchange local advice and recommendations."

Says Nextdoor's call to action: "When neighbors start talking, good things happen."

Because of the possibility of real-time reporting of activities and events in the local neighborhood, municipalities like Chandler say such services can also help neighbors to monitor nefarious activities such as sexual predation, kidnappings and other activities they regard as suspicious.

In Tempe, Nextdoor provides a communications tool the city says it also finds useful.

Says Kris Baxter, a Tempe public information officer specializing in social media:

"There are two ways we at the city use Nextdoor, and they're both news-based. The first of these is the kind of news that is specific to a neighborhood, like perhaps a park remodel or other event in the neighborhood of interest to the people actually living there, where people who are directly affected

might see it."

Other information the city might want to share with citizens has a broader audience, Baxter adds.

"The second way we use Nextdoor is to disseminate news and information that is geographically wider," says Baxter—"items of concern to people city-wide."

Baxter states that, although numbers of local Nextdoor users compared to Facebook is smaller, around 21 percent of households in Tempe still make use of Nextdoor services, including 161 neighborhood self-started groups.

Privacy issues of concern to individual users are strictly a matter of choice, she declares.

"Nextdoor is much like any other social media outlet; you either use it and abide by their rules or you don't use it," she says.

"Individuals have the right to choose the venues that they're comfortable using."

Some observers, though, say they suspect the potential for a darker side to such social media sites in the area of personal privacy. They cite recent revelations that social media giant Facebook allowed Russian operatives, posing as Americans, to buy divisive ads and thus influence some 10 million Americans during the 2016 presidential campaign.

At the national level, data collection beyond the purely political is said to have become a massive marketing tool, burgeoning both in size and its ability to create accurate profiles of individuals, and thus target them with unsolicited ads for products they might buy.

(Full disclosure: Wrangler News pays for a small number of promoted posts on its Facebook page to help expand readership of topics we consider to be of community-wide importance.)

On the everyday, local level, personal data collection by social media ventures is just as replete, and some say—in the area of personal security and privacy—just as dangerous.

Pundits posit that, if you're not paying, you're not a customer—you're a marketing target. So social media companies require users to reveal information about themselves as a cost of membership: If you don't provide the personal information, well, you can't participate.

Nextdoor's founders' stated goal of "creating meaningful online communities" thus carries with it the burden of potential privacy issues.

— Story continues on facing page

For instance, Nextdoor's official Privacy Policy states that potential users of the site can become members if another Nextdoor member in their neighborhood invites them (if they supply their residence address) or "by providing...your name and street address and email address...[and] additional authenticating information that we request, such as credit card numbers, the last four digits of your Social Security number, and unique codes emailed to you, or your home or mobile phone number."

Thus, users are allowed to use Nextdoor services by first submitting personal information about themselves to the company.

"We allow you to create a personal profile and submit information such as your phone number, photo, occupation, family members, biography, and personal interests," says Nextdoor, adding however, "We may give you ways to hide some of this profile information, but your name and street address may be visible to your neighbors so long as you maintain your account."

Once membership is granted, says Nextdoor, the company "automatically collects information about your visit to the company web site...including the browser you are using, the URLs you came from and go to, your operating system, your IP address, and usage and browsing habits." This collected personal information, the company declares, is used "to...analyze trends, help target offers and other ads, track user movement...and gather broad demographic

information."

Users' own personal computer equipment is also physically altered by company software, says Nextdoor, through the use of "cookies, small data files stored on your computer which include unique identifiers."

Nextdoor says, however, that it allows users not to participate in cookie collection: "You can configure your browser to reject cookies," says the company.

Pundits posit that, if you're not paying, you're not a customer

"but doing so will prevent you from logging into our web site...[and] Our systems are not configured to accept browsers' 'Do Not Track' signals."

Other personal information is used by Nextdoor for similar commercial purposes:

"We may share your verification information with third-party vendors," says Nextdoor, "[and] We may choose to retain all verification-related information indefinitely to assist with future verifications, even if you do not complete the verification [process]."

Nextdoor, as well as Nextdoor members living in your neighborhood, also will be told where you live:

"To start a neighborhood, we obtain public information about residences in the neighborhood," Nextdoor says, "such as street addresses and property lot maps." But your neighbors, they say, will have your information as well.

"Your neighbors may provide us with, and share with your other neighbors, information about you, (even if you are not a member)," the company declares, "such as your name, email address, street address, phone numbers, and other information typically found in our neighborhood directories."

But even with the amount of sharing Nextdoor participates in with its third-party vendor partners, the company constrains users from sharing the same information.

"You may not gather information from Nextdoor, either manually or an automated basis," the company warns, stating that "it is not OK to provide your neighbor's information from Nextdoor to third-party marketers."

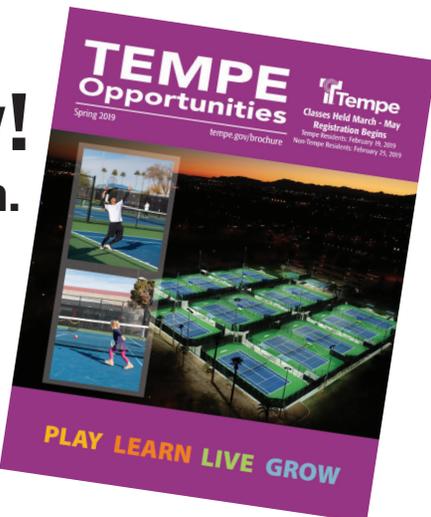
Next issue: We will document growing numbers of local users' complaints against Nextdoor's policies, focus more deeply on online privacy issues generated by those policies, explore the possibility of bogus user profiles and neighborhood addresses on the company site, and explore the company's corporate origins.



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Near-half-century reign ends for Dick Neuheisel; new president elected by Tempe Sister Cities governing board

By Joyce Coronel

An international exchange organization that promotes understanding and education between Tempe and cities around the globe is under new leadership after nearly five decades.

Tempe Sister Cities, led by Dick Neuheisel for the last 49 years, is one of the city's hallmark organizations. Tempe sends student ambassadors to 10 cities, including Timbuktu, Mali; Carlow, Ireland; Cusco, Peru and Zhenjiang, China.

Neuheisel has experienced health issues over the past year and Tempe Sister Cities has elected a new president.

Through the years, Neuheisel has travelled to each of the sister cities to witness firsthand the development of international friendships.

In a post on the Tempe Sister Cities website, he said he believes in the hope of peace between nations that the organization

promotes.

The U.S. Sister Cities organization was founded in 1956 as a response to the request of then-president Dwight D. Eisenhower for a people-to-people program that would help build peace between nations.

Tempe Sister Cities established its first international relationship in 1971 with Skopje which in those days belonged to Yugoslavia, a communist city in Eastern Europe.

"This had never been done before," Neuheisel said adding that the partnership between the two cities grabbed national headlines and led to shock and disbelief.

"Looking back, it was this partnership that opened Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to the Sister City idea, and today there are scores of American cities twinned with cities in these areas," Neuheisel said.

Doug Royse, who has served on the board

— NEUHEISEL, Page 13



Dick Neuheisel is stepping down after 49 years leading Tempe Sister Cities, an exchange program that connects student ambassadors and first responders with their counterparts in cities around the globe.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Sister Cities



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Neuheisel

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of Tempe Sister Cities for 12 years and has volunteered at the organization's signature fundraiser, Oktoberfest, for 20 years, said Neuheisel's leadership was "innovative and outside-the-box," among other accolades.

"He's been a true leader of the community for many, many years," Royse said, "and president of the national Sister Cities program."

Both Neuheisel and his wife Jane were honored with Tempe's prestigious Don Carlos Award in 2005 for their work.

Dick served on the Tempe City Council and has led the Tempe Sister Cities program alongside his longtime friend, Harry Mitchell, who helped him establish the organization.

Mitchell, a former congressman and Tempe mayor, still serves as vice-president of Tempe Sister Cities. Dick has also been a longtime member of Tempe Kiwanis.

Tempe native Paul Sheard, a

Corona del Sol High School grad, has been elected the new president of Tempe Sister Cities.

Presidents are elected for one-year terms and may be re-elected. Sheard lauded Dick's leadership and service through the years.

"Without his vision and leadership, this organization wouldn't be where it is today," Sheard said.

"This year we will be at 971 students who we've sent abroad to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Without Dick's leadership and his wife Jane and all of their volunteer hours, even people like myself wouldn't have been able to travel."

Sheard was a Tempe Sister Cities delegate to Zhenjiang, China in 2002.

"I think the biggest thing is it isn't really a change in leadership as it is a continuing on of a great tradition that he started," Sheard said.

Tempe Sister Cities will celebrate its 50th year this coming December and Sheard says the Neuheisels will be honored for their leadership and service to the organization.

Information: tempesistercities.org



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Dayspring

From Page 1

we have irreconcilable differences.”

Based on the reactions of congregants posting on Facebook, there appeared to be near unanimous agreement with Procter-Murphy among the members of Dayspring.

He made it clear the ruling isn't about the culture war—it's about the lives of those impacted.

“For one thing, it's not an issue. We're talking about people,” Procter-Murphy said. “It's putting a face on what for many people is an issue and yet they come to find out their sons and daughters and aunts and uncles are LGBT.”

At Dayspring, he noted, LGBT members are involved at “all levels of participation,” including leadership and ministry. The same is true, he said, in other churches “whether they know it or not.” The difference, he said, is that at his church, “people are

free to be themselves without fear of judgment.”

A brochure at the entrance to Dayspring's office attests to the congregation's commitment to serving the gay community. The rainbow-colored Dayspring PRIDE leaflet states that it is “A welcoming and supportive ministry for LGBTQ persons and allies.”

Just hours after the denomination's General Conference voted to uphold the LGBT ban, Procter-Murphy reacted by draping black fabric over the sign in front of the church that faces Elliot Road in South Tempe. He called for a prayer vigil and parishioners responded, about two dozen faithful sitting, mostly in silence, inside the darkened sanctuary in silence that afternoon.

Celia Adams attended the vigil alongside her husband Ben and 6-year-old daughter. “We're not a prejudiced community. That's not what we're about,” Adams said as the family got into its mini-van afterward.

The Rev. Brooke Isingoma, pastor of St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Mesa, attended the vigil along with her 9-year-old son Landon. She described

the decision by the wider church as an “emotional blow” but says she's “skeptical that most of the things that were voted on will actually come to fruition” due to United Methodist Church having a judicial arm that could rule the decision unconstitutional.

Two thirds of the U.S. delegates to the General Conference voted for inclusion of the LGBT community, Procter-Murphy said.

“The Bible Belt delegates and those from Africa carried the day. In Africa there are places where the practice of homosexuality, if it's still not a capital offense, it was in recent times.”

In any case, Procter-Murphy has no plans to scale down his church's support of the LGBT community. Dayspring has around 1,150 members, with about 550 who worship on Sundays. Arizona is part of a “non-conforming annual conference” that he says will not abide by the decision made at the General Conference for the worldwide church.

“There are non-conforming annual conferences that will not abide by exclusive and punitive measures toward LGBT persons. Our conference is one,” Procter-Murphy said.

The day following the historic vote, Dayspring's Facebook page reflected the community's sorrow. “The sad demise of a denomination,” the post was titled. More than 100 people commented, expressing grief and disappointment at the General Conference's decision.

— Continued on facing page

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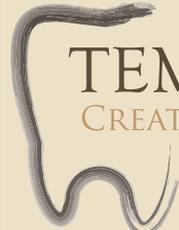
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“Dayspring is on the right side of history in this moment,” one person wrote. “All people are worthy of the church’s love and protection and all should be eligible to fully participate in its good works.”

So what does Procter-Murphy say to those who contend the Bible forbids homosexual behavior?

“There are factions who want to profess to a more literal interpretation of the Bible and cling to six isolated passages in Scripture that question same-gender loving couples,” Procter-Murphy said.

“They are happy to overlook the fact that Jesus himself was silent on the matter but had a lot of things to say about divorce which Christians are happy to turn a blind eye to.

“The Bible was used to justify slavery because there are passages—maybe even more than the ones on homosexuality—to support slavery. The Bible has been used to keep women in subservient roles and that persists today.”

Not all clergy would agree with Procter-Murphy’s assessment.

For nearly 2,000 years, Christian denominations consistently taught that homosexual activity was sinful; acceptance has come only in recent decades following the sexual revolution.

It’s not the first time the local faith community has been divided by views concerning homosexuality. In recent years, most mainline Protestant denominations—Presbyterian, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran—have approved and performed same-sex wedding ceremonies. Some of them have lost congregations who disagreed with the policy.

Living Faith Anglican Church in Tempe, for example, was established in 2005 after about 80 percent of parishioners at St. James Episcopal Church in Tempe left in protest over the ordination of an openly gay man by the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire.

The Rev. Peter Smith, who now leads Living Faith, provided a statement to Wrangler News regarding the UMC General Conference decision. The statement reads in part:

“Love is not the same as approval and disapproval is not the same as hate. Jesus loved all those he encountered, but he never called ‘good’ that which was sinful or evil. Instead, we see Jesus loving people and at the same time calling them to turn away from the things which draw them away from the love of God, which is the ultimate purpose for which we were created. It is possible and indeed necessary for the Church to affirm the dignity of every human being (whoever they may be, LGBTQ or otherwise) and to genuinely love them without affirming their specific moral choices (or perceived identities) which are contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture.

“Christ loves all of us equally, and invites all of us to repent of sin, turn to him for forgiveness, and enter into a new way of living.”

For more local reaction to this story, visit wranglernews.com

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Texting

From Page 1

takes five seconds to send or read a text message. It also takes about five seconds to travel the length of a football field while driving 55 mph. In 2016, nine percent of all fatal crashes in the U.S. were reportedly related to in-vehicle distractions.

The new changes were said to be part of Tempe's Vision Zero efforts to eliminate traffic injuries and fatalities.

The changes, which already have taken effect, allow Tempe police to cite drivers for holding, typing on or operating a mobile device while driving. Devices must be used in hands-free or voice-operated modes.

Removing the distraction associated with handheld mobile devices will allow drivers to better focus attention on driving, resulting in improved safety for all roadway users, say local police. There will be a 30-day education period before any citations are issued.

"Studies continue to show that primary distracted-driving laws led to a reduction in traffic fatalities, especially those that are hands-free," said Vice Mayor Lauren Kubly.

"The changes that the Tempe Council approved are completely in line with our Vision Zero initiative to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injury crashes to zero. We want to see two hands on the wheel, with the driver focused on driving."

Exceptions to the ordinance include if a driver is



using a mobile device while parked on the side of a road, stopped at a railroad crossing or at a red light.

Penalties for each offense will stay the same. For the first offense, drivers are subject to a \$100 fine plus penalty. Second incidents will result in a \$250 fine plus penalty. Repeated incidents within a 24-month period will incur a \$500 fine plus penalty.

Several legislative bills regarding distracted driving and texting while driving have been proposed at the state level. If a statewide bill is adopted, it could stop the enforcement of any city-specific ordinances in Arizona in favor of local enforcement of the state law.

Information: tempe.gov/VisionZero.



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Sports

with Alex Zener

Aztec softball 'on fire'

Corona's softball team has started the 2019 season on fire with a 6-0 winning streak outscoring their opponents 64-19.

Returning players from last season's 25-9 team who are leading the way this season include seniors **Ally Quintero, Ariana Marquez-Yniguez, Reyna Mori** and **Alexis Massie** along with juniors **Sierra Fuchs, Summer Duran** and **Jada Wendling**.

"Alexis Massie, Ally Quintero, Summer Duran and sophomore **Tristan Jamar** have been our strongest batters so far this season," said coach **Jeep Ray**. "Tristin Jamar was on JV last year and is now a starter in our outfield. What a wonderful treat."

Jamar has a .579 average and is tied with Massie with 11 hits each. Jamar is the leading scorer with nine runs while Massie is leading the team in RBI's with nine.

Duran is batting .526 with 7 runs on 10 hits with five RBI's while Quintero is batting .429 scoring eight runs on nine hits with seven RBI's.

"We also have strong infield players this season with Ally Quintero at second base and Reyna Mori and Alexis Massie rotating between the shortstop and catcher position," said Ray.

Mori has had 25 total chances while fielding a ball to put someone out. She has put 22 people out and had three assisted putouts along with two double plays to give her a 1.000 fielding percentage.

Massie has had 32 chances with 25 put outs and six assists with only one error to earn a .969 fielding percentage while Quintero has put out 20 of her 23 chances with two assists, four double plays and only one error.

"Ariana Marquez-Yniguez has done a good job backing up our defense in the outfield," said Ray.

—SPORTS, Page 18



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Sports

From Page 17

Marquez-Yniguez has a 1.000 fielding percentage in the first six games after putting out six players with one assist on seven chances.

“Jada Wendling, one of our pitchers, is a quiet leader on and off the field,” said Ray. “She is also a good utility player. I honestly think I could play her at almost any position, maybe except catcher, and she would do well.”

Wendling has pitched 19 innings with four appearances in the first six games and is credited with three of the six wins. She faced 76 batters striking out 18 while allowing only 18 hits and eight runs against Corona.

Freshman **Emmalyn Brinka** has pitched 16 innings in three

appearances and is credited for three Corona wins so far this season. Brinka faced 69 batters allowing 18 hits and 11 runs with two strikeouts.

“Emmalyn Brinka is new to the Phoenix area having transferred from the Montana and Idaho area,” said Ray. “She has stepped right into playing pitcher and first base for us.”

Brinka has played in all six games batting .500 with nine hits on 18 at bats scoring two runs.

Also new to varsity this season is sophomore **Taylor Kolling** who has been playing in the outfield.

“Taylor Kolling or TK, as we call her, was on JV last season but is making an impact of varsity already,” said Ray. “She is such a hard worker. She never gives up.”

Kolling is batting .417 with five hits scoring four runs and three RBI's while playing in five games for Corona.

The rest of the team consists of two freshmen: **Bella Cummins** and **Teagan Neuman**; two sophomores, **Ali Staples** and **Alex Reeve**; one junior, **Shelby Williamson**; and three seniors, **Bayleigh Bradley**, **Taylor Posadas** and **Hailey Thompson**.

“I feel we are a relatively young team, even though we have six returning players,” said Ray. “We are still working on the chemistry or the MESH that makes a team successful,” said Ray. “It only happens with experience playing and practicing together so the longer we work together, we have a better chance of peaking before the state tournament.”

Corona was scheduled to play at home against Red Mountain on Mar. 5 and at Westview on Mar. 7 before playing at home against Mountain Pointe on Mar. 13.

During spring break Corona is scheduled to play at the Desert Mountain Invitational hosted by Desert Mountain and Horizon high schools on Mar. 13-16.

That was until they lost a heart-wrenching game Feb. 18 by just one point in the semifinals of the 5A State Championship with a score of 46-45 to the No. 1 seed and eventual champions, the Gilbert Tigers.

McClintock entered the state tournament as the No. 4 seed easily defeating No. 13 Centennial on Feb. 13, 54-39 before defeating No. 5 Cactus Shadows 63-59 on Feb. 15.

The Chargers ended their season ranked No. 4 in 5A with a 23-6 overall record and 11-1 section record.

The semifinal loss by one point was a bitter-sweet ending for McClintock's nine seniors who played a major role in the Charger's success over the season.

The Chargers started slow against Gilbert and were down four points, 11-7, at the end of the first quarter but rallied before the half to outscore the Tigers by five points and only be down by one point at the end of the second quarter 21-20.

Gilbert came out of the locker room on fire outscoring the Chargers by seven points in the third quarter to take a 35-29 lead.

The Chargers put up a valent effort in the fourth quarter outscoring Gilbert by five points or 16-11 but it was not enough.

McClintock Basketball

The Chargers had a stellar season with high hopes of reaching the finals of a state basketball championship game for the first time since 1986 when they won the Class 5A State Championship.

— SPORTS, Page 19

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Sports

From Page 18

When the final buzzer sounded, Gilbert had survived to win by one point 46-45.

Senior **Josh Baker** scored 12 points in the semifinals against Gilbert while junior **Chance Garland** scored 10 points along with eight rebounds.

Senior **Donavan Williams** scored nine points and senior **Jalen Calvert** had four blocks along with eight rebounds.

Junior **Armani Williams** scored six points and brought down five rebounds.

Seniors honored at the Chargers last home game on Feb. 5 against Cactus Shadows included **Bryan Hernandez**, Baker, **Mekhi Rodgers**, Williams, **William Roberts**, Calvert, **Craig Gittens**, **Jordan Martin** and **Rook Wood**.

Baker was the overall leading scorer on the team averaging over 21 points a game while Calvert was the leading rebounder averaging 6.4 rebounds a game.

Rodgers and Williams played in every game with Rodgers averaging 7.6 points and 4.4 assists per game and Williams 9.9 points with 4.3 rebounds a game. Martin saw action in every game scoring on average 7.3 points a game.

Other members of the team who contributed to the team's overall success included juniors **Aiden Penry** and **Isaac McCann** and sophomore **Darius Ward**.

— SPORTS, Page 20

Some tasty treats for St. Paddy's Day . . . and that's no blarney

By Joyce O'Coronel

It's that time of the year once again when everyone, it seems, is Irish. Amid the green T-shirts and shamrock-shaped cookies, eateries in Tempe and West Chandler are gearing up for a wee bit of celebration.

Sunday, March 17, known the world over as St. Patrick's Day, is upon us again.

At Tempe's **Great Harvest Bakery**, the day brings loaves of traditional Irish soda bread and another Emerald-Isle-inspired delicacy: Guinness and smoked-Gouda bread.

George Walston, son of Great Harvest owners Leslie and Ward Walston, said the latter features Guinness Beer instead of water, plus the savory, nutty and buttery sweetness of Gouda.

"It's kind of a throw-back to that good old-fashioned, made-from-scratch bread from the Irish households, particularly with the Irish soda bread being buttermilk-leavened," Walston said.

Great Harvest grinds its own wheat daily, and most breads take a full five hours to prepare from start to finish.

"We don't take shortcuts," Walston said. "So it's

like a leprechaun pops out of a book and is making it himself like in 'ye old days.' Except he's not short—he's an ornery old man called my father."

Walston pondered a bit: "Actually, there might be some Irish in there, ornery as he is."

Beyond the plentiful gastronomic delights that surround the holiday, however, there's much more to the day that celebrates the patron saint of Ireland.

At **Murphy's Law**, an Irish pub located at 58 S. San Marcos Place in Downtown Chandler, patrons can enjoy a pint or two plus a bit 'o blarney at the Sunday, March 17 Shamrockfest 10 a.m.– 9 p.m. Green beer, live music as well as a cocktail and beer garden beckon.

Bourbon Jack's, 11 W. Boston Street in Downtown Chandler, will offer up its own version of tribute to the Emerald Isle's patron saint. Patrons can partake of an Irish favorite, corned beef and cabbage, and also enjoy live music.

A free concert at Chandler Center for the Arts takes place at 7 p.m. March 17.

Recognized twice as Scotland's "Live Act of the Year," Skerryvore is a eight-piece band creating a fusion of folk, rock, traditional Scottish music and Americana that represents all of the eight individual band members.

Featured tunes blend harmonies with strong vocals, fiddle and guitar.

Doors open one hour before show time with seating on a first come, first served basis. RSVP to attend.

Information: downtownchandler.org/events

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E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that can deliver nicotine and flavor in the form of an aerosol. The use of e-cigarettes is commonly referred to as "vaping."

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Sports

From Page 19

Corona Girls Soccer

Corona finished the regular 2018-19 season with a 5-8-3 record and as the No. 21 ranked team in the 6A Conference.

Teams below the top eight ranked teams need to win in the 6A Conference Play-In Tournament on Feb. 7 in order to play in the state tournament.

Corona ended up losing to No. 12 Desert Ridge 2-0 and therefore were eliminated from the tournament.

Honored at Corona's last home game, Feb. 1 against Mountain Point, were seniors **Maya Benedict, Riye Torrance, Samantha Scheurer, Amber Sammon** and **Mielah Brown**.

Benedict played in all 15 matches as goal keeper for a total of 1160 minutes in regularion and 19 minutes in overtime.

Over the season she saved 84 goals or an average of 5.6 goals a

game. Corona had five shut outs while Benedict was playing goalie.

Sammon, playing the striker position, led the team in goals with six goals, five assists and 17 points while Torrance, a midfielder, was the next leading scorer with five goals, two of them were game-winning goals, along with eight assists and 18 points.

Scheurer, as midfielder, and Brown, as striker, played in all 15 matches scoring two goals each while Scheurer had four assists and eight points.

Boys Soccer

The Aztecs finished the season ranked No. 7 in the 6A conference with a 14-8 overall recorded, 4-1 in their section.

As the No. 10 ranked team, Corona defeated No. 23 Liberty, 4-1, in the 6A Conference Play-In Tournament on Feb. 7 at home to enter the 6A state championship tournament as the No. 10 seed.

On Feb. 9 the Aztecs defeated No. 7 Westview in overtime 2-1.

The Aztecs ended up losing in the quarterfinals to the No. 2 seed Desert Vista 3-0 on Feb. 12 at Desert Vista and were eliminated from the state tournament.



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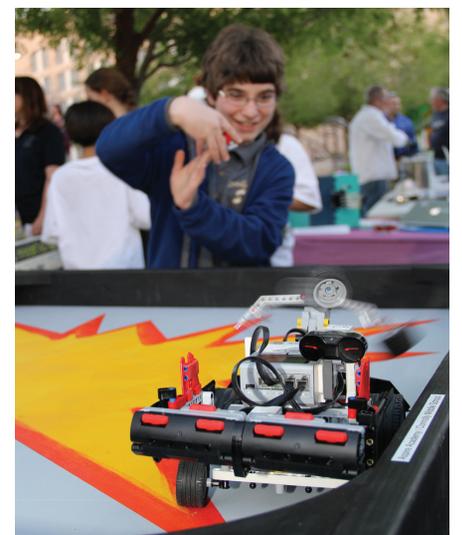
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Date
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Expo & Conference - FREE to Job Seekers
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

VIP Reception
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

VIP Reception Tickets
Members - \$10 / General Admission - \$20

Place
The Falls Event Center
4635 E Baseline Rd, Gilbert AZ



EMERGING ISSUES FORUM SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

Sustainability Summit with Keynote Christopher Guith, VP at US Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute!

Date
Friday, April 5th, 2019

Time
7:30 am - 11:00 am

Place
Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix/Tempe
7290 South Price Road, Tempe AZ

Tickets
Members - \$30 / General Admission - \$40

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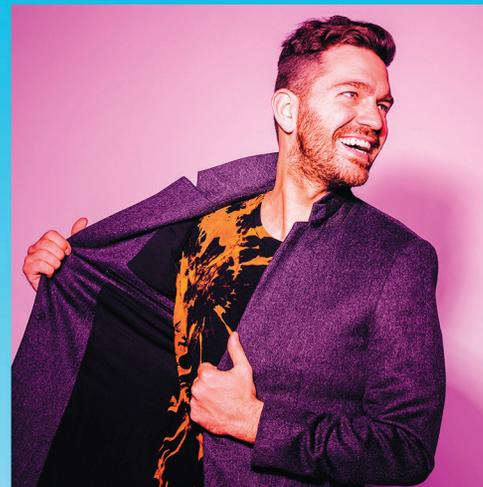
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Celebrate your neighbors!

Come out and celebrate individual and neighborhood can-do spirit and empowerment at the 2019 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 13, at

the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

The morning will begin with a light breakfast followed by Mayor Mark Mitchell offering the annual State of the Neighborhoods address featuring the theme of empowerment and sharing highlights from 25 years of the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant Program.

The Mayor and City Council will then present



STATE OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS
Mayor Mark Mitchell

awards for Neighbor of the Year, Property Beautification, Alley Upkeep, Sustainability,

Historic Preservation and – new this year – the Arts and Culture category recognizing individuals and organizations making significant contributions through visual arts, performing arts or cultural events and activities in Tempe.

Arts award nominations are due by March 10 and forms are at tempe.gov/arts; other categories were due in February.

Then select from our

community building workshops to help you connect with other residents and broaden your knowledge on specific topics.

You'll want to register for the workshop of your choice at tempe.gov/StateoftheNeighborhoods or by email at neighborhoods@tempe.gov.

Event sponsors include Salt River Project, Cartel Coffee, Donut Parlor and Whole Foods Market.

What's happening around Tempe . . .



Applications for Tempe PRE now open

Tempe PRE is recruiting students ages 3 and 4 for its fall 2019 preschool classes.

As it heads into its third year, the program is now tuition-based with three different types of spots available: free; half-tuition; and full-tuition.

The quality educational experience is the same regardless of level of payment.

Income-qualified Tempe families can apply for financial assistance to help cover tuition.

All students must be potty-trained and be at least 3 years old by July 31

to be eligible. Tempe PRE is held in classrooms located in 13 local elementary schools around the city.

For program details and to apply, visit tempe.gov/TempePRE.

For questions, contact program staff at pre-k@tempe.gov or 480-858-7735.

Join Jen for 85282 is Saturday, March 23

Councilmember Jennifer Adams is hosting a rotating, casual conversation series in zip codes throughout Tempe.

The next event highlights topics of interest for residents in 85282, but any Tempe community members are welcome to attend as well.

The event is happening from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, at Friendship Village, 2645 E. Southern Ave.

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

Learn about human services in Tempe

Tempe Human Services Day is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, at the Tempe Community Complex, 3500 S. Rural Road. Resource booths and

onsite services will be there, along with a symposium on the state of human services in Tempe.

Food, music and giveaways will make this free event fun for all.

For more information, visit www.TempeHumanServicesDay.org.

What's after high school? College Connect has answers

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.

The next workshop is at the Tempe Public Library on Saturday, 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.

Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards

Each year, Tempe honors the achievements of exceptional people with disabilities, employers who have demonstrated strong commitments to employing people with disabilities and others who work toward equity, inclusion and the best quality of life for all people in Tempe.

The 31st Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards takes place at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway.

Awards are given in nine categories, including outstanding students, educators, architects, businesses and more.

The awards are free to attend, but space is limited.

Email Megan_Hutchison@Tempe.gov to reserve your seats or call 480-350-2905 for details.

Visit tempe.gov/DisabilityAwards for accommodation information.

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Legal

Permanent Guardianship: I, Tanya M. Bailey, am filing a public notice about a permanent guardianship for Mary Jane Olivia Bailey. The hearing will be on 03/07/2019 at 8:30 am at the Superior Court of Arizona, 3131 W. Durango, Phoenix, 85009

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BRIEFLY . . .

Church hosts March 17 fine arts concert

Arizona Community Church will host a fine arts concert featuring pianist Sam Rotman at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 17.

Rotman received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School in New York City.

While a student, he was the recipient of nine awards in the form of grants, scholarships and prizes. He also has been among the winners in five piano competitions, both in the United States and Europe, the most prestigious of which was his recognition as Laureate Winner in the fourth International Beethoven Competition in Vienna, Austria.

He has performed concerts in over 60 countries.

There is no charge for admission. A voluntary offering will be taken at the end of the concert.

Kyrene Foundation awards winners

Seems Waggoner Elementary is home to more than just students, musicians and athletes—a future in sales could be on the horizon.

The Tempe school was recently recognized as top seller at the Kyrene Foundation's Opportunity Drawing Fundraiser. Honors for individual top ticket sales, however, went to Sandy Theobold, school secretary at Chandler's Kyrene Traditional Academy.

The winning tickets were drawn at Kyrene de las Manitas Elementary with special entertainment from the Manitas steel drum ensemble.

The grand prize—tickets for four to a California amusement park—went to Stacy Randolph. Randolph plans to take her son, Anthony, a third grader at Monte Vista, to Disneyland. *Second prize*, brunch for four at the Phoenician Resort, went to Michael Blandford. The prize was awarded by Manitas alumna and Phoenician representative Paige Knuth. *Third prize*—tickets for four to a Diamondbacks game—went to Martin and Kristen Albero.

Information: kyrenefoundation.org

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Early literacy vols now being recruited

The AARP Foundation Experience Corps is looking for volunteers for its early literacy program for students in the Tempe Elementary district. Upcoming information sessions will be held March 19, April 17 and May 14. Sessions are scheduled 9:30-10:30 a.m. in library program room B of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. Information: tempe.gov/experiencecorps

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Final Word

Wide search for equity consultants now complete; Kyrene board, staff focus on ensuring inclusion in all facets of educational process

Editor's note: The following statement from Erin Helm, the Kyrene school district's communications director, relates to actions taken recently by the district board and Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely in response to concerns expressed by parents last year over racial equity in Kyrene schools.

As part of Kyrene School District's commitment to ensure equity among all students, the district has announced the selection of Corwin Consulting to perform professional development and training on equity and diversity.

Three other vendors, KOI Education, Kamm Solutions and Human Services Development Collaborative, were also identified as potential providers of supplemental services.

The announcement comes at the end of a competitive process that reviewed responses to a request for proposal issued by the district last fall.

The scope of work of the RFP included a call for services related to professional development on equity; support for the creation of practices to eliminate barriers to inclusion; increased awareness of equity issues; capacity building of knowledge and skills among district staff on restorative discipline; mediation; and conflict resolution.

"In Kyrene, we believe equity and inclusion are the work of all staff, not just one individual," said Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely.

"The only way to truly close achievement, opportunity and discipline gaps in our schools is with systemic solutions. We must create a culture of equity throughout the district."

In a presentation to the Governing Board, Vesely said:

"Services procured through the award of the RFP will allow Kyrene to address key elements of our Strategic Plan 2022 by increasing the knowledge and skills of our staff and leadership pertaining to diversity, equity, inclusion and restorative practices."

The RFP also called for the development of methods to monitor and evaluate the district's responsiveness to equity and inclusion in several areas, including hiring practices, culturally responsive curriculum and ongoing staff training.

The committee that reviewed responses to the RFP included a combination of district staff, principals, assistant principals and community members.

One of the community members on the review committee was Jennifer Underwood, the parent of two children who have attended Kyrene schools. Underwood said she was excited about the hiring of a consultant on equity.

"Even though I started the process with great skepticism, I was pleasantly surprised with the ongoing level of feedback," said Underwood.

"I think the community will be pleased. First steps will be to engage in a deep equity study, and I feel that we selected a highly qualified vendor who will go deep into the culture of Kyrene.

"From there we can develop a comprehensive and sustainable plan for the district."

The topic of equity and inclusion is one that school districts across the country are addressing, as achievement gaps have been identified by both high and low poverty districts, according to Vesely.

In a 2018 report issued by Public Impact, "Closing Achievement Gaps in Diverse and Low Poverty Schools," showed that decades of effort among low-poverty and diverse schools to close gaps among students have failed to achieve sufficient results.

The report cited multi-dimensional causes of achievement gaps that require a systematic approach to addressing equity.

"We are hopeful that by embedding the lens of equity and inclusion in every one of Kyrene's functions—teaching, learning, hiring, community engagement—we can begin to close the gaps in achievement, opportunity and discipline, to ensure equity for all," said Vesely.



The Nick Bastian Team
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Kyrene Corridor Market Snapshot

Subdivision	Address	Square Feet	Beds/Baths	Sold Price
Alta Mira	9308 S. Taylor Dr, Tempe, 85284	2,475	4 / 2.5	\$455,000
Harmon Ranch	5111 W. Laredo St, Chandler, 85226	3,076	5 / 3	\$487,990
The Lakes	1325 E. Steamboat Bend, Tempe, 85283	2,610	3 / 2.5	\$533,500
Twelve Oaks	4709 W. Whitten St, Chandler, 85226	1,821	4 / 2	\$332,000
Warner Estates	8622 S. Willow Dr, Tempe, 85284	3,299	4 / 2.5	\$810,000
Westchester Estates	949 E. Libra Dr, Tempe, 85283	4,271	5 / 3.5	\$550,000



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