



TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

# WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

APRIL 6 - 19, 2019 □ VOL 30, NO 7



Little League Opening Day found sluggers from Tempe South teams taking to the field for plenty of batting, out-fielding, pitching and fun. More on Pg. 15.

— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

## Once an eyesore, now posh high rise thrives as lively co-working hub

By Joyce Coronel

**D**ecked out in a T-shirt and shorts with Fido at your feet and a load of laundry in the dryer, working from home holds appeal for many. But if the thought of another client meeting at the crowded corner coffee shop has you agonizing over where to close that deal

you've been laboring over, you might want to check out Workuity.

The brand new co-working space occupies 20,000 square feet on the ground floor of the now luxurious Chandler Viridian high rise at the intersection of the 101 and 202 freeways. Nestled against Chandler Fashion Center and within walking distance to nearby

eateries and hotels, the collaborative work site is proving popular according to Workuity founder Daniel Kite.

"We opened March 1 and we are filling up really quickly," Kite said during an open house at the Chandler facility.

"We're doing a high-end facility here so we tend to get everything from the

— HIGHRISE, Page 6

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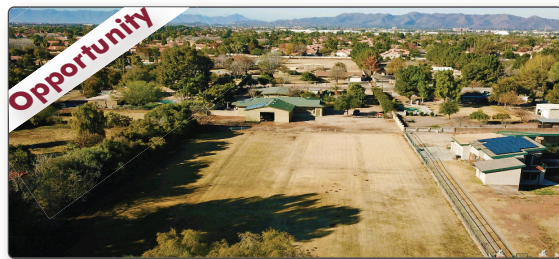
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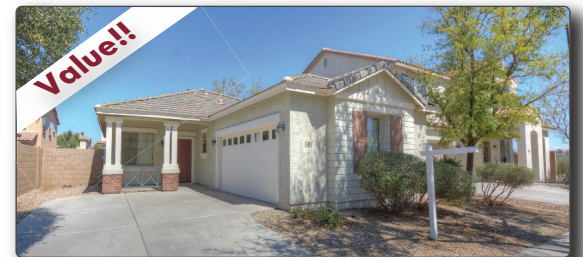
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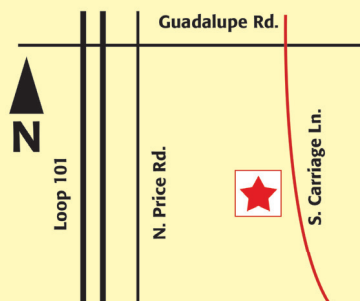
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# Mom with preemie twins gives back to Dignity hospital that saved her boys



Heather Pendergrass on the soccer field with her sons Aiden and Logan. The boys were born 13 weeks early at Dignity Chandler Regional Medical Center. — Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

By Sammie Ann Wicks

It was a night in 2014 like any other, with no hint of trouble, as a young mother-to-be went about her daily tasks and then retired, oblivious to the life-changing event—and the reality that a crisis was lurking only moments away.

"I was sound asleep, and was having this dream that my water broke—and then I woke up and realized it was actually happening," says Heather Pendergrass, recalling the January night of her twins' birth just 27 weeks into her pregnancy—a risky 13 weeks early.

However unexpected, Pendergrass realized time was of the essence, and alerted both her doctor and her husband, Mark.

"My doctor told me to get straight over to Chandler Regional (Chandler Regional Medical Center), and he immediately let them know we were on our way," says Pendergrass. "My

husband drove me, and we went right into triage."

At first, she says, hospital staff did everything they could to postpone the premature birth.

"In the beginning, I was just having a few contractions, and wasn't really in full labor, and they were trying to stop that (for the babies' sake)," says Pendergrass, "trying steroid shots and other things, but it just didn't work. The babies were coming."

Pendergrass was then moved quickly to Chandler Regional's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where nurses were waiting to start procedures critical to supporting the babies' lives.

After only an hour of labor and 24 hours after her water broke, Pendergrass's twin boys, Aiden and Logan, were born on January 10 with the constant assistance of attentive NICU nurses. But the young mother says the greatest challenges were yet

to come.

“Babies born so early like mine have to learn how to breathe on their own, and have to have feeding tubes while they develop outside the womb,” Pendergrass says, adding that, at this early date, even a mother’s instincts have to be suspended.

“When you see such a young baby struggling, or having issues, your first normal instinct is just to pick them up and hold them,” she declares, “and you can’t do that here—you have to reach through the holding unit’s holes with gloves. So while I may have wanted to, I couldn’t just pick up my twins. That was hard.”

Even with this temporary separation, Pendergrass says babies’ instincts still are in play.

“They somehow still know their parents, still know the rhythm of their mother’s heartbeat, even their mother’s voice they heard in the womb, and that’s so comforting.”

In the early weeks of a preemie’s life, she says even speaking to the babies must be done in a special way.

“You have to be careful to speak very softly to them,” she says. “You don’t want to overstimulate them, because that can affect their oxygen levels.”

Even given their premature arrival, Pendergrass says her sons did not experience the more typical brain bleeding, and did not need blood transfusions or have other issues that could have occurred.

“We’re just blessed that the boys did not suffer any chronic lung disease, and in fact now have outgrown any issues they might have had initially,” says Pendergrass, noting that many other premature newborns often have a harder time.

She is quick to say she could not have made it through her ordeal without the unflagging dedication of the NICU nurses, doctors, and supporting staff.

“The people doing this work are simply unbelievable human beings,” Pendergrass says. “We had amazing nurses working with us throughout the whole thing, and believe me, you need that. It’s the hardest roller coaster ride you’ll ever go through, physically and emotionally.

Emotionally may be the hardest part, because you don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Another mother of a preemie describes NICU nurses as “angels on earth. These people don’t eat lunch, they’re always on their feet, always committed, always doing the best thing. There are not enough words to say how wonderful they are.”

So touched by her experience at

the hospital was Pendergrass that she ultimately decided to become a volunteer there, helping other premature babies and their anxious moms.

“I’d been with the Human Resources department of a major bank for 20 years,” says Pendergrass, “but after this amazing experience, my husband and I were talking and asking ourselves, ‘How can we give back?’ The answer was being of service to the NICU.” Her wealth of knowledge garnered during her own time there, Pendergrass says, gives her a unique opportunity to help other mothers in similar straits.

“I’ve been where the moms have been,” says Pendergrass, “and I’m a unique story, because I’ve already had NICU babies, and I can relate



Aiden Pendergrass as a patient in Chandler Regional’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. — Photo courtesy Pendergrass family

to the women because of my own experience.” She adds the hospital offers excellent training to would-be volunteers at the unit.

“They give you an excellent orientation about how to deal with preemies,” she says, “so that when you’re actually there, you know what to expect and what to do to best help the babies.”

If she is now able to be of help to other preemie mothers, Pendergrass never fails to remember what got her through her own experience.

“My husband and I had only been married less than a year when all this happened,” recalls Pendergrass, “but from the beginning he was amazing—he was my rock, very calming. He still makes me a better person.”

The Pendergrasses have another child, two-and-a-half-year-old Ethan.

Like any struggle in life, the new NICU volunteer says that, difficult as it was, her entire experience led her to greater self-knowledge and growth.

“I personally think there’s a reason for everything,” says Pendergrass, “and because of what I went through, I can now give that back. The experience I had with my boys made me what I am.”



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Nia Taylor discusses her non-profit with Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke.

— Photo by Joyce Coronel, Wrangler News

## Highrise

From Page 1

something that I wanted for myself when I was an entrepreneur.”

With 14-foot ceilings, big screens aplenty, kitchen amenities, modern conference rooms and floor-to-ceiling windows, Workuity is easy on the eyes.

Carol Stambaugh and Jeremy Saxey are business partners in an enterprise that helps manage and troubleshoot Word Press websites. Perched in front of their laptops at one of the many tables in the expansive, wood-floor common area, the two expounded on what they see as the benefits of membership in Workuity.

“I have a home office and I work out of it sometimes but there are just times when I like to be out and around people,” Stambaugh said. “It sounds great to work in your pajamas every day, but it can get kind of boring.”

It's not Stambaugh's first dance with co-working.

She said she tried Gangplank and Galvanize but that Workuity is a more convenient location for her. “When they came closer it was just a no-brainer for me to come in and try a co-working space close to my house.”

Saxey lauded the networking opportunities afforded by the collaborative work environment. “You meet a lot of people here,” Saxey said. “We actually get clients because you get to network and collaborate with people in a more professional space instead of meeting at a Starbucks.”

Stambaugh says she spends 20-30 hours a week at the site. Her level of membership allows her to have a dedicated desk and 24/7 access.

Stuart Illian of SquadPod, a software start-up, said his company joined Workuity's first location in Phoenix but that the West Chandler site is closer to his home. Even though SquadPod has an actual headquarters in North Scottsdale, utilizing Workuity is advantageous.

“The conference rooms, the kitchen facilities, the location...everything is an

advantage for us,” Illian said. “We're going to be doing big launch events and it's a better spot for us to do that.”

He also keyed into the opportunities to meet potential clients. “We're targeting small businesses with our solutions so it's a networking opportunity. Do we really need this space when you add all that up? Yes, absolutely.”

Chandler's Workuity site boasts 60 offices, conference rooms, printing, fast fiber internet and a classroom for presentations. For those who might need a dose of caffeine or even a little relaxation there are liquid benefits too: coffee, beer and wine.

Kevin Hartke, mayor of Chandler, was on hand for Workuity's open house, alongside other members of the Chandler City Council and the president of Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Terri Kimble. Hartke remembers well that the site on which Workuity is located was once home to a longstanding eyesore in the city, Chandler Elevation, a construction site that was abandoned during the Great Recession and spent years in litigation.

“We are thrilled that Workuity has chosen this space,” Hartke said, describing the location as “the epicenter of technology and businesses and a lot of enthusiasm in Chandler.”

Chandler Vice Mayor Terry Roe also attended, and was likewise enthusiastic.

“It's a pretty big change from what was here just a few years ago. It was an eyesore and every meeting we ever went to, everybody said, ‘What's happening with that?’

“And finally Viking came along and promised big things and delivered. These folks are getting a perfect location in Chandler and they bring a super-classy environment where people want to do business. I think it's perfectly positioned and people are going to fill it right up.”

Workuity founder Kite chose the open house presentation as the moment to announce that the company would grant a one-year free membership to Circle of Sisters Ministry, a non-profit devoted to assisting women in need of support. Nia Taylor was there to accept the award.



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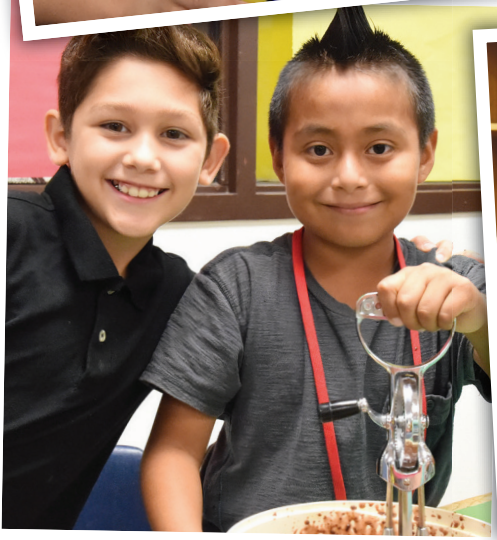
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## Chandler Chamber spotlight State schools chief lists objectives for reforming system



Kathy Hoffman, Arizona state superintendent of public instruction, discussed her plans and policies with the Chandler Chamber of Commerce. — Wrangler News photo by Noah Kutz

By Noah Kutz

**H**igh schoolers and parents, listen up. Arizona's superintendent of public instruction has plans for the reform of the state's public school system, particularly in preparing kids for the real world from grade school onward.

At a recent meeting hosted by the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, attendees participated in a "State of the School System" address from state schools chief Kathy Hoffman as she presented her policies and plans for the future and answered questions regarding Arizona's public schools, particularly in the Chandler area.

Since taking office in January, Hoffman noted that she has been able to revamp the communications and policy offices within the Department of Education, with a desire to return to the concept of it being an agency of service rather than a compliance-driven organization.

Some of the primary goals she outlined for her position are fixing the system for English-learning students and aiding teenagers in the middle- and high-school levels in situations that require counselors, as well as ways to prepare them for life



as young adults.

Recently, Hoffman said, the Education Department's Office of English Language Learning Acquisition has worked on producing a strong program to help students who do not speak English to successfully complete school and become proficient in the language.

Prior to this change, the policies for teaching English-learning students produced a high school graduation rate of 18 percent, the lowest success rate in the country, according to Hoffman.

For teaching these kids, Hoffman said the department has put programs in place to ensure the teachers are best suited for this enormous task.

Regarding the former method of teaching English-learning students, she says:

"There will be a transition period as we move away from this model, so we're working very actively with our schools to make sure people know what is the best practice."

Additionally, Hoffman intends to create a supportive environment for students' social and emotional well-being throughout middle- and high-school by increasing the number of counselors in each district.

She showed support for several schools she has seen across the state

that implement strong hands-on programs for students, as well as programs that help students become more prepared for college.

After visiting a middle school in Yuma, Hoffman said, "Students were learning baking skills in their culinary class and then, outside, the carpentry students were building a shed for their garden... and that's middle school."

She also highlighted a high school student who will graduate with three associate's degrees after their senior year.

Many of the Chandler businesspeople who attended the meeting agreed that a very important part of high school is remembering to teach and develop the students who do not desire to go to college after graduation.

Oftentimes, she said, special attention is given to those who are preparing for college, while the technically skilled students are left to graduate without enough formal support from their mentors.

Hoffman vociferously acknowledged this point, adding she plans to introduce a learning environment for high schoolers that will better prepare them to embrace the real world and hit the ground running, no matter their path.

## Newly Remodeled Memory Support Accepting ALTCS



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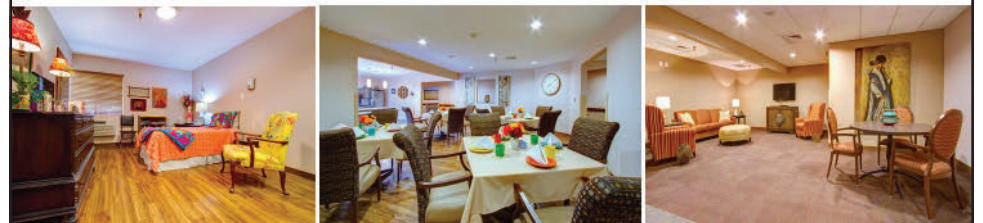
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# As Easter approaches, messages of hope from area pastors

— The Rev. Robert Aliunzi, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, [www.standrew-cfc.org](http://www.standrew-cfc.org)



Jesus Christ, the Savior, is risen, alleluia! After a time of preparation, known as the Lenten Season, we've finally made it to the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord- Easter!

Jesus Christ, truly man and truly God, chose to live in a real time of human history, He entered into our sinfulness in order to take on the weight of our transgressions and destroy death. He bent so low so that he might lift us high. Through His one sacrifice, the gates of Heaven swung open for those who repent and believe in the Gospel! May this season be a time of blessing, renewal, and hope for you and your families; filled with the realization that the Savior of the Universe chose to give His life up on the cross for our redemption. You are in our prayers and are most welcome to celebrate this Good News with us at St. Andrew the Apostle.

— The Rev. Bill Meiter, Arizona Community Church, [azcc.org](http://azcc.org)



Easter is the BEST part of the GREATEST story ever told! It's the story of God's love for mankind and his willingness to send his sinless Son into the world to die for the sins of men!

You see, no one is perfect. As matter of fact, no one is even close to perfect! We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The Good News is that instead of punishing us for our sins as we deserve, God has mercifully allowed His one-and-only Son to be a substitute and die in our place... WOW! But Jesus didn't stay in the tomb... he rose from the dead!

Thus, everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved! With childlike, repentant faith we come to the Jesus and trust in him to forgive and cleanse us of all unrighteousness!

We are literally saved by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ Alone!

—The Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dayspring United Methodist Church, [dayspring-umc.org](http://dayspring-umc.org)

You may have seen and wondered about the orange ribbons at Dayspring UMC. On March 24th, the first anniversary of "March for Our Lives," Dayspring observed Gun Violence Awareness Sunday. Beforehand, names of individuals who

have been gunned down in mass shootings were handwritten on orange ribbons. Worshipers were invited to take one, remember the name and shattered family in prayer, and tie it to a tree on campus, creating a memorial to hundreds of victims of gun violence.



That afternoon, following testimonials by those whose lives have been forever altered by gun violence, some of us took a turn at an anvil, hammering a gun barrel glowing orange from a forge, helping to fashion it into a garden tool. *Beating our swords into plowshares*, transforming an instrument of death into one of life, offering hope for a people weary of violence. Just like the first Easter, death does not have the last word.

— The Rev. Roger Ball, First Baptist Church Tempe, [fbc-tempe.org](http://fbc-tempe.org)



Easter shouts the ultimate model known to mankind of sacrificial forgiveness to criminals, sinners, you and me. Jesus, without error, died on a cross to forgive anyone in the world who would sincerely accept Him. To anyone across the entire

— EASTER, Page 30



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**Race begins at 7:30 am**

**Walk begins at 7:45 am**

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### Kiwanis Clubs, Tempe schools collaborate on literacy initiative

A wide-ranging collaborative of Tempe organizations has joined forces with the Tempe Elementary School District to host a "United for Impact Day of Literacy" on Saturday, April 13, at Aguilar Elementary School.

The free event runs from 9 a.m. to noon in the school gym.

The four Kiwanis clubs of Tempe, along with members of the Tempe High School Key Club and Arizona State University Circle K Club, have joined forces with other state Kiwanis groups, ADP, Whataburger, AARP Experience Corps and Lost Our Home Pet Rescue to support the event.

The program offers kids from kindergarten to 5th grade literacy games, activities and readings by local community leaders, including Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell.

Participants who complete and document three activities will receive a book, a balloon and ice cream.

Tempe Kiwanis President David Whitehorn says the organization's mission is "to serve the children of the world," and has youth leadership development programs at many Tempe middle- and high-schools as well as at ASU.

Kiwanis believes that literacy is the cornerstone of the development of children, empowering them to achieve more, said Whitehorn.

Aguilar Elementary School is at 5800 S. Forest Ave.

### Tempe City Hall glows with new, energy-efficient lighting

Holidays and other noteworthy happenings can now be celebrated with a bright new glow on the skyline, thanks to the addition of energy-efficient LED lights on Tempe City Hall.



When the older, incandescent-style bulbs began to dim over time, the city didn't reach for plain white replacements.

Instead, maintenance engineers looked for sustainable options—817 of them, in fact—that were not only more environmentally suitable by capable of glimmering in virtually any color of the rainbow.

In honor of Pride celebrations throughout April, the building will wear a rainbow of colors from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. daily.

In the future, the same bulbs could glow purple for Domestic Violence Month, green for St. Patrick's Day, or red, white and blue for Independence Day.

Workers needed a week to complete the installation on the inverted pyramid that is Tempe City Hall, but with one big advantage: the new bulbs are expected to last many years.

Said Mayor Mark Mitchell:

"These lights allow the building that is the seat of our government to reflect Tempe's core values of inclusivity and equality and to celebrate our community in creative and colorful ways."

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7:30 Easter Breakfast  
Served until 10:30  
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9 & 10:30 Festival Service  
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**Easter 2019 Schedule**

**Palm Sunday: April 14, 2019**  
Services at 9:00 am and 10:30 am  
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 am

**Easter Sunday: April 21, 2019**  
Services at 9:00 am and 10:30 am

Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church  
1565 E. Warner Road, Tempe, AZ 85284 | [www.missiondelsol.org](http://www.missiondelsol.org)






# Easter Mass Schedule

Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 20 at 7:00pm

**Easter Sunday, April 21**

Masses in Tent: 7:00am | 9:00am | 11:00am

Masses in Church: 9:00am | 11:00am

***St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church***

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## Take Me Out to the Ball Game

The crack of a bat, the anticipation in the dugout, the smack of a ball as it collides with a catcher's mitt and the sound of cheering from the stands — all helped bring smiles to the faces of these Tempe South Little League baseball stars on opening day at Tempe Sports Complex. Players, coaches, parents and families descended en masse for a day at the diamond.

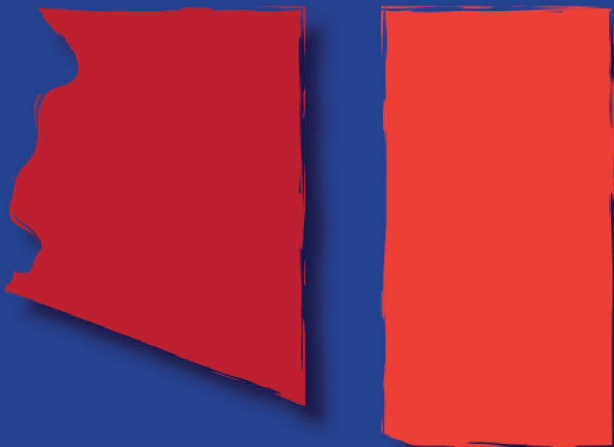
— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



# Experience Easter



A R I Z O N A



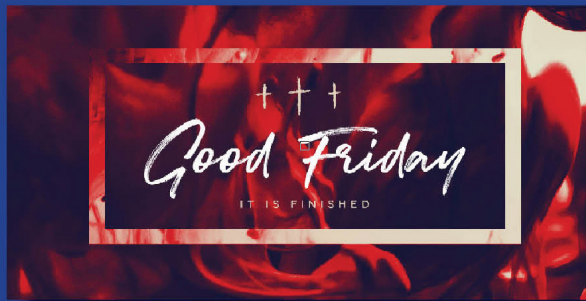
C O M M U N I T Y

C H U R C H



## Palm Sunday

Saturday April 13, 5:30pm  
Sunday April 14, 8:15am,  
9:30am & 10:45am



## Good Friday

Friday April 19, 7:00pm  
*"It Is Finished"*



## Easter Egg Hunt

Birth through 5th grade  
Saturday April 20, 9:00am



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*YOU!*

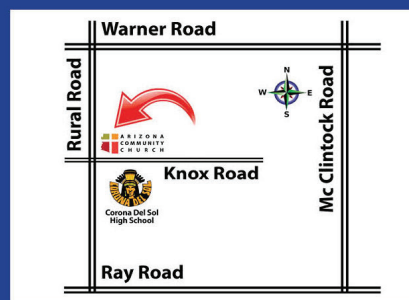


## **Easter Services**

Sunrise service at 6:30am

Choir/Orchestra at 8:15am & 9:30am.

Worship Band at 10:45am.



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## Season's best

The All-City Sports Banquet drew athletes from around Tempe high schools for an evening to celebrate hard work and success. Clockwise from top: Jim Martinez, head wrestling coach at Corona del Sol, alongside Zackary Kqvavle, Shane Aguarn and Anthony Gonzales, with Sierrah Thrun, the first female state championship wrestler from the Tempe Union High School District; John Busch, Tempe All City board member, shakes hands with Samiyah Washington, member of the Marcos de Niza girls soccer team; Coach Matt Smith with Riye Torrance, Kira Caspers and Allyson Wachtel, members of the Corona del Sol girls' soccer team; Jim Warne, 2019 Tempe All City Hall of Fame inductee, who played for Tempe High and ASU and was a member of the 1987 Rose Bowl championship team.

—Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



# Sports

with Alex Zener

## Awards banquet: 38th year, countless winners

The 2018-19 school year marks the 38th time that the Tempe All-City Association has given out awards to Tempe Union High School District student athletes who have excelled in sports.

On March 25 the winter sports awards banquet was held at the Phoenix Sheraton where awards were given to student athletes in basketball, soccer, boys wrestling and for the first year girls wrestling was included in the awards.

This year was the first time girls wrestling was part of the AIA State Wrestling Tournament and the Tempe All-City Awards committee did not waste anytime in recognizing girls wrestling at this year's awards banquet.

Corona's Sierrah Thrun was recognized for her outstanding wrestling season which culminated with her winning, in the 110-pound weight category, the first Girl's State Wrestling Championship.

Thrun, only a sophomore, won all 10 of her

regular season matches and all four of her matches at the state tournament to end up with a 14-0 record.

"Sierrah winning a state title in the inaugural year has great significance for the sport of girls wrestling," said Corona's head wrestling coach, Jimmy Martinez. "We honor boys and girls who were the best in our district in their sport at the Tempe All-City banquet."

"It was good that Sierrah, a state champion, was recognized and received an award for her accomplishments in girls wrestling."



Alex Zener

Three wrestlers from Corona and one wrestler from Marcos de Niza received an award.

Noah Perez Valenciano, a junior from Marcos de Niza high school, was honored for his wrestling skills in the 106-pound weight category with a 14-4 record and a fourth-place finish at the Division III state wrestling tournament.

wrestling tournament.

Corona wrestlers, Anthony Gonzales, Zackary Kvaeie and Shane Aguarin received awards.

Gonzales, wrestling in the 113-pound weight category his junior year ended the season with a 43-9 record with a sixth-place finish at the Division I state wrestling tournament.

Kvaeie, a senior wrestling in his final high school season, took second place at the state wrestling tournament in the 120-pound weight category. He won 46 matches and only lost four.

Aguarin, wrestling in the 138-pound weight

category his junior year, after wrestling at the state tournament ended the season with a 39-10 record.

Three Corona girls soccer players received awards including Riye Torrance, Allyson Wachtel and Kira Caspers while McClintock's Alicia Nicholson, Marcos de Niza's Samiyah Washington and Tempe's Alejandra Gomez-Lopez also received awards.

Torrance played in all 15 matches for Corona her senior year scoring five goals with eight assists and 18 points from the midfielder position.

Wachtel and Caspers, as only freshmen, were outstanding defenders for the Aztecs.

Nicholson, also a freshman, was the leading scorer for the Chargers with 14 goals, 31 points and three assists playing in 15 out of 16 games.

Washington played in 13 out of 16 matches for the Padres and as a sophomore, was the leading scorer on the team.

Gomez-Lopez was a senior midfielder for the Buffaloes.

Corona's Boys Soccer team, who made into the quarterfinals of the Division I State Championship tournament before losing to Desert Vista, had two seniors and two juniors receive awards at the All-City banquet.

Blake Cutlip and Daniel Lopez, both seniors, played midfielder position for the Aztecs as did junior Jacob Flores while junior Jacob Helm played the defender position.

Tempe High School had two soccer players receive awards. Senior Mariano Leon played in 13 out

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of 14 matches scoring nine goals with 11 assists and seven points while junior Jonathan Rodriguez scored an amazing 19 goals with eight assists and 46 points in 14 matches.

Gustavo "Angel" Campos, a senior from Marcos De Niza, also received an award for boys soccer.

Tempe's Jalen Grant, McClintock's Joshua Baker and Corona's Eric Blackwell received awards for boys basketball.

Grant, who played in all 25 games his senior season, was the leading scorer for the Buffaloes averaging 17.9 points a game for a total of 447 points during the season shooting 51%. His 447 points was almost double the next leading scorer on the team. Grant was also the leading rebounder averaging 9.7 rebound per game.

Baker, also a senior, played on the Charger's 23-6 team that made it all the way to the semifinals of the Division 5 State Championships before losing to the No. 1 seed Gilbert by one point at 46-45.

McClintock's Mya Scott received an award for girls basketball. Scott, a senior, played in 24 out of 25 games and was the leading scorer on the team averaging over nine points a game.

## Corona Softball

Corona's softball team, with a 12-7 record, will need to rely on their hitters and defense as they play teams in their section during April.

The five leading hitters on the team are seniors Alexis Massie, Ally Quintero and Reyna Mori, junior

Summer Duran and sophomore Tristan Jamar.

Massie is hitting .382 with 21 hits scoring 14 runs with 14 RBI's while Quintero is batting .371 with 23 hits scoring 14 runs with 10 RBI's.

Mori is hitting .341 with 15 hits scoring 9 runs with 11 RBI's.

Duran is batting .404 with 23 hits scoring 14 runs with 6 RBI's while Jamar has played in 17 games hitting .327 scoring 14 runs on 17 hits with 11 RBI's

Jamar is also the leading base runner with seven stolen bases credited to her name on the stat sheet.

On defense, Massie, Quintero and Mori have put out the most players. Massie has 66 putouts out of 88 chances while Quintero has 52 putouts out of 71 chances and Mori has 43 out of 53 chances.

Junior Jada Wendling and freshman Emmalyn Brinka are the main pitchers where Wendling has pitched in 57 innings and Brinka in 54 innings where she has been credited with 8 wins.

Corona was scheduled to play at home against Queen Creek on Oct. 2 and against Highland on April 4 and at Highland April 5.

Next week they are scheduled to play at home against Desert Vista on April 9 before traveling to Desert Vista for a game April 12.

The last two games of the season will be April 16 at Mountain Pointe and at home against Mountain Pointe on April 18 for senior night.

## Corona Baseball

The Aztecs are off to one of their strongest starts in recent years with a 12-3 overall record and 3-0 section record which has earned them a No. 30 national ranking and a No. 2 ranking in the state and in the 6A conference behind Hamilton who is 13-4 overall. Part of their success could be related to their deep pitching staff with six pitchers who have pitched innings so far this season.

Senior Nick Schobinger has started four games and pitched 22.2 innings this season. He is credited with two wins. Junior David Utagawa has pitched in 16 innings and is credited with three wins while junior Bryan Webb has started three games this season pitching 10 innings and is credited with one win.

Senior Jack Schobinger has started two games pitching 16 innings and is credited with winning two games while senior Daniel Sotelo is credited with two wins while pitching nine innings.

Senior Aaron Garcia has pitched eight innings allowing only six hits while striking out five batters.

The Aztecs have seven games left starting with a game at Desert Vista on April 9 and then a game at Highland on April 10. It's back at home against Desert Vista on April 13 and against Mountain Pointe April 16.

The last two games of the regular season will be a game at Mountain Pointe on April 18 and a home game against Queen Creek for senior night on April 22.

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## Session I

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Session 1 Registration: March 1 – May 10

## Session 2

**June 13 – June 28**

Session 2 Registration: March 1 – June 13

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TUOL Registration: March 1 – May 1



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* Algebra 1	MAT100BM		
Algebra 2	MAT300A	Algebra 2	MAT300B
Basic Algebra 1-2	MAT130A	Basic Algebra 1-2	MAT130B
Basic Algebra 3-4	MAT330A	Basic Algebra 3-4	MAT330B
<del>AM/AZ History</del>	<del>SST200A</del>	AM/AZ History	SST200B
^ Art & Design	ART100A	^ Art & Design	ART100B
Basic Freshman Eng	ENG170A	Basic Freshman Eng	ENG170B
Basic Sophomore Eng	ENG270A	Basic Sophomore Eng	ENG270B
Basic Junior English	ENG370A	Basic Junior English	ENG370B
Basic Senior English	ENG470A	Basic Senior English	ENG470B
Biology 1-2	SCI200A	Biology 1-2	SCI200B
^ Business Technology BUS110A Applications		^ Business Technology BUS110B Applications	
^ Chem-Physics FND	SCI100A	^ Chem-Physics FND	SCI100B
# College Math	MAT450A	# College Math	MAT450B
Earth Science	SCI500A	Earth Science	SCI500B
# Economics	SST350	# Economics	SST350
^ Freshman English	ENG100A	^ Freshman English	ENG100B
Geometry	MAT200A	Geometry	MAT200B
* Geometry	MAT200BM		
Basic Geometry 1-2	MAT230A	Basic Geometry 1-2	MAT230B
<del>+ Health Ed (On Campus)</del>	<del>PED500A</del>	<del>+ Health Ed (On Campus)</del>	<del>PED500B</del>
+ Health Ed (Canvas)	PED500A	+ Health Ed (Canvas)	PED500B
Jr. English	ENG300A	Jr. English	ENG300B
^ Phys Ed 1-2	PED100A	^ Phys Ed 1-2	PED100B
Phys Ed 3-8	PED110A	Phys Ed 3-8	PED110B
Pre-Calculus	MAT400A	Pre-Calculus	MAT400B
Senior English	ENG400A	Senior English	ENG400B
Sophomore English	ENG200A	Sophomore English	ENG200B
^ Spanish 1-2	WLD100A	^ Spanish 1-2	WLD100B
Spanish 3-4	WLD110A	Spanish 3-4	WLD110B
# US/AZ Gov't	SST300	# US/AZ Gov't	SST300
World History/Geo	SST100A	World History/Geo	SST100B

\* A turnaround course is offered during Session I for students who earned a D or F second semester.  
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^ Courses that are open to incoming Freshmen.  
+ Health is offered on-campus or as a Canvas course. TUHSD curriculum requires students to complete 10 hours of community service. This requirement must be completed to earn credit.

Algebra 1	MAT100A/B	Senior English	ENG400A/B
Geometry	MAT200A/B	World Hist/Geo	SST100A/B
Algebra 2	MAT300A/B	American/AZ History	SST200A/B
College Math	MAT450A/B	US/AZ Government	SST300
Freshman English	ENG100 A/B	Economics	SST350
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# Diversions

## Here's a BBQ joint where you're bound to get hooked

By M.V. Moorhead

When it comes to fishing, catfish is the only one that'll hook you, or so I was told by an old guy at a barbecue restaurant. He was absolutely right, but he wasn't telling me anything I didn't already know.

Perhaps it has to do with my Mississippi heritage, but the nobly whiskered bottom-dweller, properly batter-fried and served with some good soulful sides, makes my mouth water.

Indeed, fried fish of almost any sort has that effect on me; I've often said that it would likely be the meal

I'd choose the night before my execution.

So I've never quite understood the use of fish as a "sacrifice," instead of steak or pork or chicken, for observant Catholics during the Lenten season.

But that is indeed the tradition, especially on Fridays, and maintaining it in style is Word of Mouth Grill, the new BBQ joint at Elliot and McClintock in Tempe. If you're looking for a first-class Friday meal in the couple of weeks leading up to Easter Sunday, you could hardly do better than to try Word of Mouth Grill's Friday catfish special.

"We're Catholics ourselves," explains proprietor Demetrious Makel, referring to himself and wife and co-proprietor Jacque. "Catfish is not really a part of our regular menu, but we thought it would be great to offer it on Fridays, especially this time of year."

He isn't wrong. The place's catfish, available in one- or two-piece portions, has a slightly different quality than the classic light-brown, gritty cornmeal batter associated with the dish.

Makel is a native of Boston, and maybe that's why his batter has a thicker, more golden-brown texture, more like fish n' chips batter.

In any case, it's delicious, as is the bed of fries on which it sits, along with the tartar and hot sauces, plus ketchup, to dress them all up. And the fish within that batter is splendidly firm and clean and non-greasy.

The rest of the week, of course, or even on Fridays for non-Catholics, Word of Mouth features a full spate of tempting meats—brisket, hot links, pulled pork and chicken, ribs and rib tips, in various sandwiches or combos, as well as an a la carte menu of wings by the pound or half-pound and ribs by the rack or half-rack.

There's also a fine selection of sides, like BBQ baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, mac-and-cheese, and potato salad.

Where did Makel earn the chops to create this bounty?

South of Phoenix, mostly. He moved with his family from Beantown to Tucson when he was a kid,



Wrangler News photo

and got his first restaurant experience down there.

"I learned to cook under Vinnie Spina," says Makel. "He owns Mama's Pizza in Tucson. I was a prep cook for him."

After years working for Spina, Makel left to enter the corporate world, doing collections and online auction work and other non-culinary pursuits for a living. But he never lost his passion for cooking.

"My wife and I would still do potlucks and grilling, and a couple of times people told me 'You need to go back into this.' At first I thought, you know, your family and friends would always say that."

But one friend in particular urged him to the point that he decided to take the plunge, first into catering, then into the full-blown restaurant business. Adding an intriguing twist to the menu, especially to the side-dishes, is his wife Jacque, who is of Argentinian-Italian heritage.

"She institutes her Argentine recipes," says Makel. "Like in the potato salad."

*Word of Mouth Grill is at 7600 S. McClintock in Tempe. It's open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday; closed Mondays. Call 480-621-6247 for details.*



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## Tempe Chamber CEO among top 33

Anne Gill, president and CEO of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, has been selected to participate in the second cohort of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's premiere business leadership program.

The program trains leaders and provides those from state and local chambers with resources, access to experts and a network of peers to build their capacity to address education and workforce challenges.

"I'm honored to have been selected..." said Gill. "The program will (help) elevate the Tempe Chamber's workforce initiatives to fuel economic success in our city."

Following a competitive application and selection process, Gill was selected among 33 other chamber executives to participate in the second class of the three-month program, which runs through July. It will cover the entire talent pipeline, including early childhood education, K-12, higher education and workforce development.

Upon completion, Business Leads Fellows will join the national network of 200 chambers of commerce and statewide associations who regularly engage on education and workforce initiatives.



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**Spring has sprung, Bearly**

Mary Contreras State Farm Agency's annual Spring Fling that featured safety tips, free windshield repair, Mexican folkloric dancing and special appearances by, from left, the Good Neigh-Bear; Mary Contreras; Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell; and Chandler Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Terri Kimble.

— Wrangler News photo





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**Sherri Barry**

Arizona Fashion Source

Sherri started her career at Brown Shoe Company, where she quickly became Vice President of Operations, opening over 300 retail locations nationally. She left to become an entrepreneur. In 2016, Sherri founded Arizona Fashion Source, a small-batch apparel manufacturer, and Events at F.A.B.R.I.C. a fashion venue hosting a wide variety of corporate and private events.



**Melody Elkin**

Sweetest Season Artisan Eatery

Melody grew up around her grandfather's restaurant in Denver, CO, and heavily influenced by her grandmother's tremendous baking abilities. Though a women's basketball athlete and ASU graduate, her passion for food always called. Melody opened her 2nd establishment, one of the Arizona Republic's most anticipated openings in 2018, Sweetest Season Artisan Eatery.

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# Hey, kids, when it comes time for AzMERIT here's a tip: R.E.L.A.X

By Gabrielle Dunton

With state testing kicking off at many Tempe Elementary schools, it can be a nerve-wracking time for students. Taking place on the last day before testing week was to begin, the entire student body at Aguilar Elementary attended an Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching, or AzMERIT, pep assembly to put to rest any possible negative feelings about the process.

AzMERIT is Arizona's statewide achievement assessment for English language arts and mathematics. Its testing window occurs through most of April, including make-up exams if needed. The purpose of the assembly, organized by Aguilar instructional staff, is to remind students how much the teachers support and believe in them during this time.

"I believe it is important for students and families to understand that AzMERIT is just one way that we demonstrate all that has been learned," said Principal Jessica Larsen. "I want students to see this as a positive opportunity, not something that should stress them out."

Posters using an acronym for hints to remember during the testing season were designed to remind students to R.E.L.A.X. during testing week—not to stress out and to simply show off what they have learned all year.

Each Student Council member told the audience what his/her letter represented:

**R** - Read the question carefully and then reread the passage or problem to find the right answer.

**E** - Examine every answer choice before you choose an answer.

**L** - Label your answer choice before you choose an answer.

**A** - Always check your work.

**X** - X-out answers that cannot possibly be correct.

The theme for this year's pep session was based on the popular movie *The Incredibles*. Aguilar staff handed out superhero bracelets, stamps, whistles and the iconic *Incredibles* face mask during the event. Teachers and staff also created a fun pep rally video in their *Incredibles* outfits and outlined the importance of the advice to R.E.L.A.X.

"We chose *The Incredibles* as our theme this year because we thought, 'Our students are so incredible that the theme is totally fitting,'" said Larsen. "Every student brings with them something unique, just as each character does in the movie."

An additional purpose was to reiterate how important goal-setting is for students and to encourage them to always push themselves to grow. The event also served to help students make a connection to learning that is happening now and how that prepares them for high school, college and beyond.

Second-grader Hazel Reid has made it her mission to work hard and be focused during the testing season, she says, because it has been something she has been working on all year.

"I think I am going to do good on my tests this year because I am ready for them," said Hazel.

This year's rally welcomed special guests from Arizona State University. Sun Devil Mascot Sparky as well as members from the marching band came to play lively

music setting spirits high. Gililand Middle School also donated two bikes for Aguilar Elementary to raffle off for students who had perfect attendance during testing.

"I think that this pep rally makes our students feel more comfortable about taking the test," said third-grade teacher Jordan Lee.

"I've noticed it really dials down that anxiety or fear they may have."

The main goal of the event was to ensure that students know just how much the Aguilar faculty cares about and believes in them. There is a lot of pressure when it comes to testing, they say, but the staff ultimately wanted to leave students with the message to come in each day with confidence and with the knowledge that they have many people in their corner to support them.

With the help of the ASU band and Sparky, coupled with Principal Larsen's lead, the end of the assembly had the students chanting: "Aguilar, Aguilar we're the best... we're gonna rock it on this test!"

Noted Larsen:

"My hope is that students walked away understanding how to be best prepared and to be confident in themselves."

Gabrielle Dunton is coordinator of Tempe Elementary's strategic communications initiative.

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## Texting and driving now illegal in Tempe



**D**rivers in Tempe cannot text or talk on a mobile device while driving – unless they use their devices in hands-free or voice-operated modes.

The City Council approved the change to the city's 2015 Distracted Driving Ordinance on Feb. 28, as part of a larger Vision Zero initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities.

The changes, which took effect immediately, allow Tempe Police to cite drivers for holding, typing on or operating a mobile device while driving.

The aim is to allow drivers to focus on driving, in order to improve safety for all roadway users.

Exceptions include holding or typing on a mobile device while parked on the side of a road, or while stopped at a railroad crossing or red light.

For more information about Vision Zero, visit [tempe.gov/VisionZero](http://tempe.gov/VisionZero).

## Tour de Tempe is April 7 at Kiwanis Park

Join more than 1,000 bike riders at the 23rd annual Tour de Tempe Community Bike Ride from 7:30 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way.



This free, 12-mile bike ride is led by members of the Tempe City Council.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and the ride starts at 9 a.m. Riders can get free

breakfast, coffee and T-shirts!

Helmets are required and riders should bring water.

## Connect with Councilmembers

**T**empe City Councilmembers want to make it easy for you to talk with them about city issues, so they are coming to you in some of your favorite places, like the Tempe Public Library, local coffee shops and community clubhouses.

All Council community meetups are free and no RSVP is required. There are a few opportunities this spring to meet with Vice Mayor Lauren Kuby and Councilmember Kolby Granville.

Councilmember Granville will host two Conversations with Kolby events for people to join him for a cold beverage and discussion about Tempe's top issues.

Vice Mayor Kuby will continue her monthly community meetup series, Connecting with Kuby. Have a cup of tea and talk about sustainability, pets and anything else on your mind.

## Tempe podcasts feature local artists from 85283 and 85284

More than 100 local artists can be heard on two new podcasts that are available to download for free.

*Tempe Playlist: Saturn Sessions* features musicians, poets and singers who live, work or study in the 85283 and 85284 zip codes.

The two podcasts range from poems to percussion performances to original songs by local bands in a variety of genres.

In 2017, Tempe received a grant to assemble a team of local business people, art experts and education professionals to develop a creative way to mobilize the arts in the city.

A partnership between the arts and public transit was created and *Tempe Playlist: Saturn Sessions* was born.

The purpose of the podcasts is to showcase the talented blend of artistry that exists in the south Tempe community.

Orbit Saturn, a free neighborhood circulator, was chosen as a creative connector because it travels within the two zip codes and because it is a free service, accessible to all Tempeans.

Download the podcasts at [tempe.gov/TempePlaylist](http://tempe.gov/TempePlaylist).

### Conversations with Kolby

- 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, Tempe Public Library Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Road.

- 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 24, Snakes & Lattes, a Game Café, 20 W. Sixth St., Tempe.

Contact Council Aide Parrish Spisz, [parrish\\_spisz@tempe.gov](mailto:parrish_spisz@tempe.gov), 480-350-8816, for more information or visit [tempe.gov/granville](http://tempe.gov/granville).

### Connecting with Kuby

- 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 27, Tempe Public Library Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Road.

Contact Council Aide Kristin Gwinn, [kristin\\_gwinn@tempe.gov](mailto:kristin_gwinn@tempe.gov), 480-350-8916, for more information or visit [tempe.gov/kuby](http://tempe.gov/kuby).

For the latest details on these events and others, visit [tempe.gov/calendar](http://tempe.gov/calendar).

## Monthly dementia conversation group

Memory Café is a comfortable, safe and engaging place for people living with memory loss along with their care partners to meet with others in a like situation.

Joining us will help you remain socially active and connect to important programs and resources in the area.

Drop in, grab a cup of coffee and chat. A professional attends each time to provide information and ideas about a variety of conditions that affect memory and thinking, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Memory Café happens every Monday (except major holidays) from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the lower level of Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

For more information about Dementia Friendly Tempe, go to [tempe.gov/DFT](http://tempe.gov/DFT) or email us at [DFT@tempe.gov](mailto:DFT@tempe.gov).



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# Easter

From Page 10

globe.

For God so loved the world He gave His only son. Believe and be profoundly forgiven.

Easter produced the unique model of sacrificial kindness. A God-sacrifice due to God-generosity. Because of love Jesus died for you and me. He who knew no sin took on the sin of the world unveiling unprecedented kindness, care and benevolence.

Easter displays the ultimate example of

sacrificial mercy. We sinfully betray God daily but Easter mercy says God will never betray us because His mercy pardons any sinners who believes in Jesus.

Easter gave the ultimate value of unconditional acceptance.

From eternal separation and rejection to unconditional acceptance. Amazing grace. Sinners can enter God's family based on child-like faith in Jesus.

—Rev. Dr. David S. Hodgson,  
Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church,  
missiondelsol.org

I like the way hope translates itself into anticipation and excitement in the celebration of Easter. Even though we know how the drama of Holy Week turns out, something there is about living through it with anticipation ~ only



to burst forth into the excitement of an Easter morning ~ that causes us to realize anew that hope is eternal, and that in the here and

now it can be refreshing, liberating, resilient, and life giving!

Alexander Pope once declared that "Hope springs eternal in the human breast", and while it is true that the eternal does find expression in our sacred celebrations of hope, nowhere is that more evident than in the thrill of an Easter morning when hope awakens our faith, and strengthens our convictions, and celebrates with the Lord our homeward journey.

"The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!"

# Gold's Gym: They're back

Gold's Gym is returning to the Arizona market for the first time in six years with the newest location opening soon in West Chandler.

The roughly 40,000-square-foot facility, in the Sunset Plaza shopping center at Ray and Rural roads, will feature state-of-the-art equipment and amenities, according to the site's developer, Jad Awale.

Features include two separate turf areas for functional and athletic training; a sauna and pool; massage chairs; and a suite of boutique-style classes. Plans also call for a diverse schedule of group exercise classes, proprietary body scanning technology, a kids club and a team of certified personal trainers.

Awale, a franchising veteran, is a first-time franchisee with Gold's Gym and has signed an agreement for the future development of five locations.

Said Awale: "It is such a privilege to bring Gold's Gym back to the Arizona market due to the huge fitness hype in our state and the reputation this gym has in the fitness world. For almost my entire life, I have been an avid fitness lover.

"To see others achieve their potential through fitness is what drives me, and it is one of the main reasons I decided to get involved in this industry and be a part of this brand."

Awale noted that, with multiple membership options to choose from, those interested can take advantage of a \$0 enrollment pre-sale special for a limited time and receive a free T-shirt if they are among the first 1,000 members to join.

Those interested in a membership prior to the grand opening can access pre-sale offers via [goldsgym.com/chandler-az/](http://goldsgym.com/chandler-az/) or by visiting the pre-sale office on the northeast corner of Rural and Ray roads a few steps away from where the final gym will be opening.

The site is at 4950 W. Ray Road.



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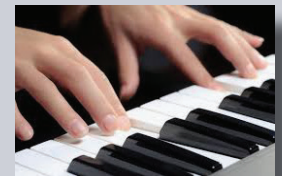
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# Dialog appears to open positive pathway to Kyrene school equity

By Diana Nelson

Racial tension re-emerged after a recent video surfaced on social media bemoaning the lack of events to observe Black History Month at Centennial Middle School, one of 25 schools in the Kyrene district.

Created by Centennial Principal Michelle Anderson, the showing was quickly followed by a second video message with Anderson's apology for any unintended hurt feelings over the statements she originally made.

Noted Anderson, ethnic or racial celebrations that happened in the past were student driven, such as a day devoted to the culture of Native Americans. Her hope, she said, was for the school to "celebrate diverse cultures every single day" and "to perhaps create a multi-cultural day to celebrate everyone."

In the second video, Anderson mentions that each day during the morning announcements, she always adds:

"Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about... be kind always." She continued by saying, "Some of the comments I made on the video may have unintentionally hurt some students. I know we can do better and we will; we are an AVID school, which encourages students to take initiative." AVID, short for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a program focused on teaching students academic and social skills to succeed in school and to prepare for college or a career. The program is in place for all students at Centennial and intended to be a catalyst for developing a culture that closes the achievement gaps some students face.

In Anderson's conclusion, she thanked students who brought up the topic of Black History Month and criticized her first video because, in the end, she said, she feels she will become a better leader.

Coincidentally, the school also was in the news and criticized last fall for its handling of an inter-racial scuffle between two students and the accusations of uneven discipline that followed, which led to one student facing a criminal charge for engaging in a fist fight. Another was encouraged to attend an alternative school.

During that earlier incident, members of the community appeared before the Kyrene Governing Board to air their grievances. At the center of the protest was Janelle Wood, whose efforts were credited with launching the Black Mothers' Forum.

Due to her visibility in the community, Wood was contacted by parents of the black student at Centennial who was disciplined. At that time, Wood said schools sometimes unknowingly apply actions that are later seen to be inappropriate because there is a lack of cultural understanding. And, observers said, the attitude of many seems to have shifted, with most who submitted cards asking for time to speak offering positive comments.

Most who spoke in support of the principal, Anderson, said they respect her as both a person and a principal. They expressed overall satisfaction with Centennial and the Kyrene district.

In all, 24 requests were submitted asking to speak. Many of the remarks that followed were from teachers at the school. Some were from parents and a few, including Wood, thanked those in the audience for sharing their experiences at Centennial, and Vesely, the superintendent, for meeting with her to discuss how work can continue to bring educational equity to that school.

In a subsequent phone conversation, Kyrene parent Jennifer Underwood said she believes that the Centennial

principal likely didn't intend to be malicious and made the comments that generated a reaction because she just didn't realize they were offensive.

"It was unfortunate timing for...Anderson's comments, in that the video coincides with the award (of a contract with) Kyrene's equity consultants, but it shows exactly why this consultant is needed," said Underwood. Underwood was among the reviewers of 20 proposals submitted in response to the request issued by Kyrene.

"Equity and inclusion education really is needed in every district because it wasn't taught to our administrators and teachers," said Underwood, who has been active with the district since 2005.

Educational equity is a measure of achievement, fairness and opportunity in education. The study of educational equity, often linked with the study of excellence, depends on two main factors: fairness, which implies that factors specific to one's personal conditions should not interfere with the potential of academic success, and inclusion, which refers to a comprehensive standard that applies to everyone in a certain education system.

These factors are closely related and depend on each other for an educational system's success.

The topic of equity and inclusion is a challenge being faced by school districts across the country. Kyrene selected Corwin Consulting to develop a program of professional development along with training on equity and diversity.

The announcement comes at the end of a competitive process that reviewed responses for a scope of work that includes 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.



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Pheasant Ridge	7737 S. Alder Dr, Tempe, 85284	2,091	4 / 2	\$530,500
Tuscany	1190 N. Judd Pl, Chandler, 85226	3,858	5 / 3.5	\$685,000
Warner Ranch	157 W. Jeanine Dr, Tempe, 85284	2,066	4 / 2	\$379,000
Sierra Tempe	1086 W. Jeanine Dr, Tempe, 85284	1,661	3 / 2	\$317,500



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