

JULY 20 - AUG 3, 2019 □ VOL 30, NO 14

# Sister Cities delegates share a Tempe, Valley howdy

Commentary by Nicholas Johnsen  
Photo for Wrangler News by Kris Cartwright

When the long midsummer months of June and July come to mind, many here in the Valley think of fireworks, monsoon rainstorms and, of course, sweltering heat.

The pool is never a bad way to go when the thermometer breaks triple digits almost daily. Some, however, see the weeks of potential free time as an opportunity to experience something new.

This is the elite group of 2019's Sister Cities delegates, who arrived home over the weekend from the international youth exchange program, feted at a welcome dinner after experiencing their month-plus

of overseas immersion and travel. The organization is now gearing up to enter the second phase of its annual summer program, this portion offering a personalized view of the U.S. to the delegates' corresponding exchange-student partner from somewhere else in the world.

Now it's time for the Americans to "strut their

— SISTER CITIES, Page 13



Tempe Sister Cities delegates welcomed their global counterparts with a Western barbecue dinner at ASU's Old Main. Pictured from left are Jeff Jacobs, Tempe; Alex Norrish, Tempe; Philipp Scheuerer, Germany; Domhnall O'Gorman, Ireland; Joni Dendl, Germany; Zoe Whelan, Ireland; Louis Ciofalo, France; and Declan Rhodes, Tempe.

— Photos courtesy Kris Cartwright

## Recalling our reporter's blast from the past

By M.V. Moorhead — Related story on Page 18  
Perspective

The weekend of July 20 marks the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. I was 7 years old on those memorable days of 1969, when the Eagle, the lunar module of Apollo 11, touched down in the Sea of Tranquility.

I remember it, and the weeks and months leading up to it, with a vividness matched by only a few of my other early childhood memories.

I recall the gathering of relatives at our rural house, and one of my cousins saying, quite gratuitously, "There's his foot comin' down," as we watched Neil Armstrong, in fuzzy black-and-white



Moorhead

video, take his legendary one small step.

Looking back, it seems like a corny, Norman Rockwell scene, but I also remember going outside shortly thereafter, into the cool, clear Pennsylvania night, and looking up at the moon, as if I'd see the guys waving down at me from above.

The feverish excitement that arose during those early years of the Apollo program turned countless people into space geeks, and I

— MOON LANDING, Page 10

## Mission del Sol to welcome Vietnam Sunday worshipers

By Joyce Coronel

Tempe is thousands of miles from Vietnam, but a taste of home for many is just around the corner at two Tempe churches.

Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church, located on Warner Road west of McClintock Drive, has opened its doors to a Vietnamese congregation, the moving having been announced in an email message to parishioners from Pastor David Hodgson.

"They will be using the hall on Sunday afternoons between noon and 6 p.m. and we are welcome to join them for worship anytime, even as they want to be involved in some of our mission projects," the Mission del Sol email reads in part.

The new congregation numbers 100 people but the reach goes far beyond what takes place at Mission del Sol. The Lord's Church of Praise, as the Vietnamese congregation is known, will be live-streaming its bilingual services in a broadcast they say reaches 100,000 believers in Vietnam.

"They are a mission church, both here and in Vietnam, and are drawn to our Mission Hall as the perfect place to worship and from which to broadcast," the Mission del Sol email states.

Hodgson's message indicates his church is willing to sign a 3-year lease; Lord's Church of Praise has said it will invest \$50,000 in the Tempe church's hall to paint, build a stage and improve acoustics and lighting, Hodgson noted.

But Mission del Sol isn't the only Tempe church to embrace the Vietnamese community. Holy Spirit Catholic Church on McClintock north of Guadalupe

— VIETNAMESE, Page 23





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# Healthy dose of training as hospital readies career hopefuls

*Grades, essays, letters of recommendation top prerequisites for newest crop of Volunteens*

By Joyce Coronel

As summer winds down and families begin thinking about the upcoming school year, one local group of teenagers already has its eyes fixed far into the future.

That's because they were selected to participate in the Volunteer leadership and learning academy at Chandler Regional Hospital. The competitive program requires aspirants to submit two written essays, provide two letters of recommendation and an official transcript, with a minimum 3.5 GPA to be considered for an interview into the program.

For teenagers interested in a career in the medical field, it's an opportunity that provides rich, hands-on experience.

After completing 40 hours of volunteering and attending at least three educational sessions, the "volunteens" receive a certificate and a letter of recommendation. They are also automatically eligible to return to the



Teen volunteers at Chandler Regional Medical Center gathered for a hands-on seminar at the hospital's simulation lab as part of the prestigious Volunteens program.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

program the following year.

Megan Giacobbi, who graduated in May from Seton Catholic Preparatory in Chandler, participated in the program last year and returned to the hospital again this year. She'll be attending Gonzaga

University in the fall where she hopes to study mechanical engineering. Her dream is to one day have a career in the biomedical field.

"I like to know how things work and I'm good at math and science, so I knew engineering was a good field to go into," Megan said. "I know biomedicine is a growing field with a lot of new developments."

Last summer, Megan volunteered in the IT department at Chandler Regional. This year, she's been assisting in the pharmacy, working four hours once a week. "I take the sodium chloride syringes to the floors and deliver them to the medical rooms. Then I go back downstairs and they have stuff for me to label and put into bags. It's interesting and I like to

learn new things."

The two-month program, which kicked off at Chandler Regional June 3, allows the student volunteers to explore more than 40 different medical departments. The teens select their summer responsibilities based on years of experience volunteering with the program.

Whether the teens are donned in scrubs handling equipment and supplies, delivering floral arrangements or answering questions at the information desk, they are making a difference in the lives of patients, their families and hospital staff members.

"The student volunteers are like sponges, soaking up everything they can about the medical field while they are still in high school," said Lori Mercer, volunteer services supervisor at Chandler Regional.

"We've seen how the skills and knowledge the 'volunteens' learn

— VOLUNTEENS, Page 23

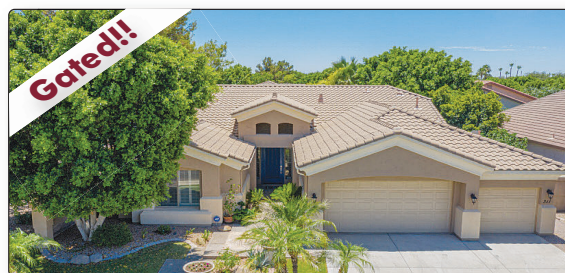
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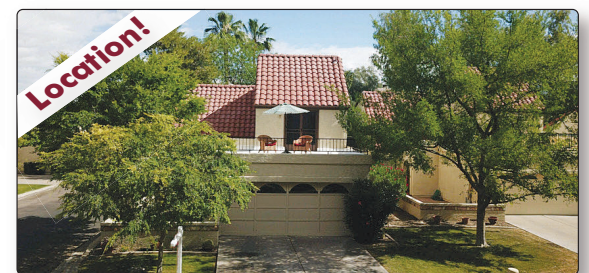
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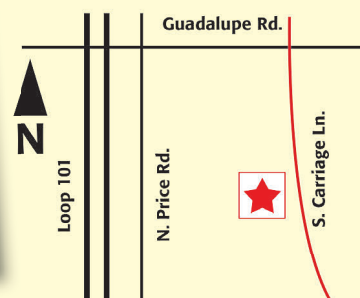
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## Virus worries grow with increase in standing water

By Sammie Ann Wicks

**Y**ou know that kiddie pool in your backyard, the one the kids splash in so happily? Make sure it's completely empty of water when they're done or you might find yourself on the receiving end of a nasty mosquito bite.

Ditto for the empty flower pots or small depressions in your lawn that tend to gather small quantities of water from your sprinkler system.

As temperatures in Tempe and West Chandler climb, the Maricopa County Department of Health is cautioning residents about mosquito infestations.

West Nile Virus infections continue to climb from their upward trend that started in 2004, say analysts at the county.

"We had a couple of cases of West Nile in 2003, but 2004 is when it really kicked in," says Melissa Kretschmer, a county epizootologist who monitors and reports on the incidence and spread of the sometimes-lethal illness.

The department's statistics show a continuing increase in reported West Nile infections in every year since its quasi-start in 2004, and 2019 is no exception.

"Our data show this year, 2019, there have been 27 cases of West Nile and one case of St. Louis Encephalitis in the County, as compared to 24 total cases in 2018, of which six resulted in deaths," Kretschmer reports.

In spite of the seriousness of the West Nile virus and its continuing growth throughout Arizona, the epizootologist stresses one aspect in its control is paramount: preventing the disease in the first place.

"We keep advising people to be on the lookout for standing water where they work, at home, wherever," Kretschmer says, "because that's where the female mosquito lays her eggs."

To be certain of destroying the eggs, however, Kretschmer stresses it's not enough just to dump out water standing in plant trays, pet bowls, tree hollows—or anywhere water can collect.

"You really need to scrub out those containers and other water collectors,"

Kretschmer warns, "because the eggs can stay viable in the dish even after the water has been emptied. Nothing really fancy—just get something like a sponge and wipe out the container really well."

Prevention starts with preventing mosquito proliferation, she adds, but must be accompanied by resolute action to keep yourself and your loved ones from being bitten.

"We can't emphasize enough that people apply effective repellent before going outside, and wear protective clothing like long-sleeved shirts," advises Kretschmer, "in the acknowledgement that you can be bitten at any time."

Maricopa County's Environmental Services Vector Control Division regularly monitors its some 800 mosquito traps, collecting and testing Culex mosquitos (one of the most common in Arizona) for West Nile and St. Louis Encephalitis; and Aedes Aegypti mosquitos for such viruses as Chikungunya, Dengue, and Zika. (The county has only found travel-related infections of these last three.)

Kretschmer goes on to say mosquitos are only one component of the infection cycle.

"Birds bitten by mosquitos help spread the virus significantly, even dead ones," she says, noting that birds can contract and die of the virus.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture notes, however, that humans (and horses), once infected, do not transmit the virus and are therefore regarded as "dead end" hosts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports most people infected with the West Nile virus will not experience any symptoms; but adds about 20 percent of infections may result in more unpleasant symptoms like joint pain, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash.

Most sufferers with these symptoms, the CDC says, will recover completely, but may continue to experience fatigue and weakness for weeks, or even months.

The center also cautions one in 150 people infected with the virus—frequently those over 60, or those with a preexisting health condition—are vulnerable and may develop more serious symptoms like inflammation of the brain (or of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord), which can lead to death.

"The possibility that this disease can manifest in a more life-threatening form is what makes us repeatedly stress prevention," says Kretschmer.

"To breed, mosquitos need warmth and water, two things Arizona provides in abundance, so prevention is key."





Some of the thousands of participants with their furry friends in last year's Animal Welfare League's annual fundraiser at Tempe Town Lake.  
— Photos courtesy AAWL

## Tempe Town Lake site for 2019 fundraiser

Sponsors of 2k, 4k walks hope to raise \$150k for work with homeless animals

Registration has opened for Arizona Animal Welfare League's largest annual fundraiser, an event expected to raise \$150,000 for homeless animals.

More than 3,000 people and dogs, outfitted in their favorite sports jerseys, will tackle pet homelessness with 2k and 5k walks at the 21st annual Walk to Save Animals at Tempe Town Lake.

While team rivalries are encouraged, proceeds benefit a unifying cause: helping to address the plight of animals with no homes. The pet-focused organization, AAWL,

comprises the oldest and largest no-kill animal shelter in the state. It rescues, rehomes and rehabilitates more than 4,000 animals every year, say the sponsors. In addition to the walk, attendees can visit a pet marketplace with animal-friendly vendors, meet adoptable dogs and take part in an alumni parade.

Registration is \$35 per adult; discounted youth tickets also available.

Additional features will be announced as the event, scheduled Saturday, Nov. 2, gets closer.

Information: [walktosaveanimals.org](http://walktosaveanimals.org).



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## Keeping up with kids' tech savvy poses quandary for today's teachers

By Diana Nelson

Students and teachers agree—technology is cool.

The question is, how can teachers keep it relevant in an academic setting—in other words, away from ubiquitous social media sites and mindless games? For educators, it's a struggle to stay a few steps ahead of the kids, who quickly grasp all types of tech.

Kyrene leaders say they recognized the dilemma and commissioned the district's technology team to develop tech lessons for teachers. They came up with Technology Integration Summits, an approach which provides training that can be immediately integrated into the classroom.

"The (summits) came about as a result of our district's goals in the technology plan," said Jacinta Sorgel, technology integration coordinator for the district and an 18-year Kyrene employee.

"The plan has three goals—one for each of the stakeholder groups we support: our students, teachers and administrators," said Sorgel.

At a recent governing board meeting, staff in the technology group explained the district's plan to remain current in technology. Within the next four years, all Kyrene students will experience integrated technology lessons, STEM activities and other curriculum content—all approved by the International Society of Technology in Education, the organization that determines student standards.

Administrators will sustain a culture devoted to the digital age, while teachers will further support that cultural expectation in the classrooms. To support more tech learning by administrators and teachers, the tech summits include scheduled times to engage with hands-on learning.

"One of our strategies is to offer (technology summits) on early-release Wednesdays, which provide our teachers with accessible and relevant technical, professional development. We also meet the ISTE technology standards for continuing education," said Sorgel.

Sorgel's partner in coordinating summits for each of the 25 schools in the district is fellow tech coordinator JoAnne Skoglund, who started in the Kyrene District 14 years ago.

Skoglund says the value in teachers attending a summit is the opportunity

to have a dedicated time for exposure to new concepts and to learning tools and applications geared just for education.

"It gives teachers time to learn and to ask questions in an environment where you don't have to feel embarrassed," said Skoglund.

During each tech summit, teachers can select two sessions to attend, out of a possible eight to 14 choices, which all meet continuing education requirements for grades K to 8.

In addition to the summits, a new concept at some Kyrene schools is to identify a staff member who serves as the lead on school technology integration. This allows a trained, on-site technology expert to provide daily support to teachers.

In the past year, Mariposa transformed into being known as a Computer Science Academy and now offers its young students, in grades K-5, a full immersion program using technology in every classroom.

According to Mariposa Principal Spencer Fallgatter, the tech summits provided to teachers are critical to maintaining and developing their skills. The use of Google applications, including the interactive learning-choice board games, are introduced and created during the sessions.

"The focus of the summit was on the use of Google applications, implementing new project-based learning modules, the use of the SMART board as an interactive tool, and much more. The summit also allows for cross-grade level and school collaboration, and the chance to learn from each other," said Fallgatter, who recently participated in a tech summit.

"This is particularly important at Mariposa because we have the only computer immersion program in the district. We provide opportunities for student to gain computer science and coding skills so they can become more than just users of technology, but also critical thinkers," said Fallgatter.

The final goal is for Kyrene kids to be able to use these acquired skills to enhance their learning in other content areas such as science and social studies.

Fallgatter says that this summer, Mariposa teachers have worked to enhance and to develop existing projects, such as additional on-line lessons, and create choice boards in other academic content areas.





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## Salary-negotiation tips, tricks Workshops address gender pay gap

For those of us who believe we should be earning more for our hard work, help is just a training class away.

Learning how to ask for a raise or negotiate the best salary at a new job is the focus of a series of pay-negotiation classes available at no charge to anyone who lives, works or studies in Tempe.

The city of Tempe has partnered with the American Association of University Women to offer the workshops, designed to help community members build confidence and skills around salary negotiation, market worth, tools of persuasion and business strategies.

Classes take place 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Aug. 3 and Nov. 2 at the TLC classroom inside Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

Officials say one of the reasons Tempe offers the program is to narrow the gender pay gap.

In 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act requiring employers to give men and women employees equal pay for equal work in jobs that require equal skill, effort and responsibility, and that are performed under similar working conditions.

The act acknowledges there might be some pay gaps based on qualifying categories such as seniority or merit system, or one that measures earnings by quantity or quality of production or a differential based on any other factor than gender.

Say those who study the issue, women continue to experience wage disparities nationally even though the act became law in 1963,

Additional details on equal pay, as well as on an Equal Pay Business designation designed to celebrate businesses that can prove they abide by the law's guidelines, are available at [www.tempe.gov/equalpay](http://www.tempe.gov/equalpay).

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Students donned hardhats and had a front seat at the groundbreaking for their school in this photo from March 2019.  
— Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary School District

## New school worth the wait Frank Elementary to open in August

By Robyn Martinez

Another new school year is right around the corner, and students at Frank Elementary School will be welcomed back to a brand new building.

Frank Elementary in Guadalupe is home to approximately 540 preschool through fifth-grade students, but it's more than just a building. Principal Martha Jacobo-Smith believes it's a pillar of the Guadalupe community.

"We have only heard positive comments from our parents and community. The students have been eager to get into the new building since last year when they could see the progress of what they called, 'the castle,'" Jacobo-Smith said.

The new school building, which mirrors local architecture, will continue to serve the community for many years to come. Colorful murals painted by local artists and radiating Frank Panther spirit fill the school. That, combined with the natural daylight filling each space, polished concrete floors, and unique outdoor learning spaces provide an inviting atmosphere for the next generation to come and learn.

Throughout the rebuild, students were able to take part in the process. Chasse Building Team integrated hands-on learning for students through special construction day

events. Students took turns rotating through various stations to learn about elements of construction like irrigation systems, pavers, and power tools that were used to build the new school.

Jacobo-Smith states that the construction of the new school, which began in 2018, was very smooth and had no negative impact on instruction.

"Seeing our students involved in the reconstruction process was amazing," Jacobo-Smith shared. "They had great insights into what they wanted to see and a smaller group of students worked directly with CHASSE and Hunt & Caraway Architects to create some of the more prominent features of our school. These include the parent porch, garden area, playground design, and the beloved bell tower, to name a few."

Students, families, and community members are invited to come and see the new school at a Grand Opening Ceremony on Aug. 1.

Following Frank Elementary's Meet Your Teacher event, the Grand Opening will start with a blessing and flag raising at 6 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a local mariachi band and dance group, and get a specialized tour of the new campus.

Frank Elementary is being rebuilt thanks to the voters who authorized Tempe Elementary's 2016 Bond.

Information: [tempeschools.org/frank](http://tempeschools.org/frank).

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# Moon Landing

From Page 1

was certainly one of the most insufferable of them, wearying teachers, family members and even friends my own age with space chatter to the exclusion of almost everything else.

As it happened, the mother of one of my brothers-in-law worked for a NASA contractor in D.C., so she had a connection; shortly after the safe return of the astronauts she somehow arranged for me to be sent an Apollo 11 press kit, complete with glossy prints of the iconic photos taken by Armstrong on that first lunar excursion.

I still have them.

Several years ago I had my moon pics appraised when Antiques Roadshow came to the Valley, and was told they're fairly common, having been sent to thousands of schoolteachers at the time, and only worth about \$20 as a collector's item.

You can well imagine, however, that in second grade I felt like I had been entrusted with high-level

government documents, and they made me the undisputed king of Show-and-Tell.

Moon mania waned in the years that followed, and public interest in the subsequent Apollo missions dropped off, though it was briefly and frighteningly revived by Apollo 13's near-disaster.

Manned space exploration in general has been less aggressive and urgent in the decades since the Apollo program; after Apollo 17 in 1972, the last three Apollo missions were cancelled.

Endlessly fascinating to scientists, the Moon turned out to be, for the general public, about as interesting as a gravel pit.

No monsters, no slinky space-maidens like in Cat-Women of the Moon (1953), just dust and craters.

Movies like Ron Howard's classic Apollo 13 and the enjoyable fictions Gravity and The Martian have emphasized survival rather than the romance of space travel.

But if you want a movie to mark the anniversary of that first landing, a good option might be Destination Moon (1950).

This is a fairly serious-minded attempt,

co-scripted by science-fiction master Robert A. Heinlein, to depict a scientifically plausible lunar expedition.

It's a little too serious-minded, really. The director was the memorable character actor Irving Pichel, and his presence could have been used onscreen; the astronauts, led by John Archer (Anne's dad) are painfully one-dimensional.

Woody Woodpecker turns up to explain the problems of space travel near the beginning, and he's probably the richest and most complex character in the movie.

Having said that, Destination Moon ought to be seen—not only as an influential piece of pop culture but for its visual beauty.

The lunar surface, cracked like a dry river bed, the craggy mountains in the background, and the starscapes, designed by the great astronomical painter Chesley Bonestall, still have the power to stir the imagination even now, decades after we decided the Moon wasn't all that worthwhile a destination.

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# Sweetness shouldn't be limited to sugar bowl of yesteryear

By Joyce Coronel  
Commentary

Having dental work done is one of those situations where most of us are thankful to be able to receive the care but don't exactly relish the actual process. I was driving back to the office last week after the dentist replaced a couple of old fillings, no doubt first incurred during the candy-rich childhood I thoroughly enjoyed growing up in the 1970s.

If you are one of my contemporaries, you no doubt recall when candy bars cost 15 cents. Those were the glorious days when our mothers kept a sugar bowl on the table so we could spoon more of the stuff on our cereal.

Decades later, I still have the evidence of Almond Joy and Butterfinger bonanzas, especially those of the post-Halloween variety.

One of Wrangler's loyal advertisers, Tempe Smile Design, actually sponsors a candy buy-back each year following Halloween, a tactic we know may help prevent dental woes such as mine later on.

After my recent visit to the dentist, the right side of my mouth was numb for a couple of hours.

As I made my way back to the Wrangler News office, it occurred to me that I was the only one who would know of the numbness—it was absolutely invisible to everyone around me.

Sure, normal feeling would return eventually, but in the meantime, it was hidden from everyone but me.

And that made me think: How many people we come in contact with every day are carrying hidden wounds and burdens? Are we so busy judging that we're blind to the suffering of our fellow humans? Do we add to their cares or are we the kind of person who brings peace and light to others?

Later that day, as I was still pondering those weighty questions, I came across a Facebook post. Stephanie, a Chandler woman, found a nasty note on her windshield from someone who didn't see what was really going on—someone who judged her and had NO IDEA what the facts were.

She had parked in a handicapped space and the handicapped placard was clearly displayed dangling from her rearview mirror.

A fellow motorist observed Stephanie though and made a snap—and incorrect—judgment.

The venomous note accused Stephanie of being a "selfish" and "lazy" person who should be grateful the note writer didn't vandalize her car.

But the author of the mean-spirited missive was blinded by anger and drew the wrong conclusion. He or she didn't see Stephanie's beautiful daughter.

"I may not look handicapped because I'm not,"

Stephanie wrote in her Facebook post.

"My 12-year-old, Lucy, has cerebral palsy and it was all she could manage to walk from our very close parking spot to the entrance where I hoisted her 85-pound body into a cart for the rest of our shopping trip."

There were more than 600 comments that sprang up overnight, each expressing support for Stephanie or lamenting the cruelty expressed in the anonymous note.

The story that played out right here in our community is a good reminder that we can never really know the hidden pain others are bearing.

Let's resolve to help lighten those loads rather than adding to them.

Ponder and practice the words of the founder of one of the world's notable religions: "Stop judging that you may not be judged."

The next time you're tempted to make a snap judgment, think of Stephanie and Lucy.

If your mouth needs something to do, try a piece of candy.

A little sweetness might not pay off at the dentist but it could stop you from saying or writing words that leave lingering wounds.

*Joyce Coronel is editor of Wrangler News.*



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# Serranos' Arizona tradition built on a century-long history of struggle, growth

By Sammie Ann Wicks

The history of a distinguished Chandler family's 100-year business involvement with the local community begins with a love story—the soulmate kind.

"The story we were always told was, when my grandfather and grandmother met, it was pretty much love at first sight, and they kind of rushed into marriage," recalls Ric Serrano, president and chief executive officer of the Chandler area's Serrano's Mexican Food Restaurants, LLC.

"But there was trouble right away."

The "trouble" with the marriage of Mary and Ramon Felix, which ultimately would become part of the Serranos' evolving history, was family resistance, according to Ric Serrano's great aunt, Ramona Felix, whose family in its early years had migrated from Mexico to Arizona.

"Those were old-fashioned times, and Mary was from the local Basha family who had come to Arizona from the East," she says. "Her family was of a proud Lebanese heritage that preferred that their children marry within that heritage."

"You see, the Lebanese people had struggled, and they wanted their culture to survive, to thrive. But my father was Mexican, working in the mines around the early town of Sonora Rey, where the two met. So when the marriage happened, it upset Mary's family."

The family's displeasure ultimately took a serious turn.

"Mary's family actually stopped talking to Ramon and Mary when they first got married," Ramona explains, "but they had both kind of anticipated it," saying the issue came up early on in their relationship.

"After he saw things were getting serious with Mary, my father proposed to her, saying, 'Well, you're Syrian [Lebanese] and I'm Mexican, so are you going to marry me, or not?'" Ramona says, laughing.

"Now, Ramon was not being disrespectful," Ramona explains. "You have to understand this was long ago, at a time when Syria had taken over Lebanon. So it was common in those days in the States to refer to the Lebanese as 'Syrian.' But the important thing is, my mother very quickly said, 'Yes.'"

Ramona says relations between the two families changed dramatically when grandchildren arrived.

"When my mother realized she was pregnant for the first time, she started praying for the best," recalls Ramona, "and she prayed, and prayed, and prayed."

"And then, she gave birth to two healthy boys, born 15 minutes apart, and that changed everything."

"Oh, Mother's family loved those boys! They dressed them like little princes," Ramona remembers. "So after the boys' birth, everything was fine."

Meanwhile, two highly successful businessmen, Luis and Albert Serrano, had fled Revolutionary Mexico with their families in the 1900's and settled in Tucson,



working in another family's clothing business. Luis's sons, also named Albert and Luis, worked with them.

My grandfather, Albert, and his brother, Luis, heard that there were growing business opportunities in the Chandler area and took advantage of it by opening their own clothing store there in 1919 called the Popular Store," says Ernie Serrano, Jr., director of operations for the Serrano's chain.

Around the same time, Ramon and Mary Felix and their family had also relocated to the Chandler area, where their daughter, Eva, eventually met and married Albert's son, Ernie Serrano, Sr.

The extended Serrano family saga had begun to play out.

"It was in the Serrano brothers' family clothing store that Ric and I and the rest of the kids started to learn about business," says Ernie Serrano, explaining that, after the age of 10, he and his siblings would go to the family store, tagging and steaming clothes, and racking them for sale.

When a property behind the store—a former restaurant—became vacant, the family decided to take a risk and change businesses, opening their La Casa Serrano Mexican Restaurant in 1979.

"Both my mom and my grandmother were great cooks," Ric Serrano says, "with my grandmother cooking both Lebanese and Mexican dishes, and my mother offering original signature Mexican recipes at the restaurant."

Ric Serrano adds the decision to open the restaurant turned out well.

"We already had a name in the community because of the earlier businesses," he says, "so we got busy right away, and I'm glad to say we've stayed that way."

Now with five locations in the area, Ric Serrano stresses the Serrano's restaurants' success still is due to its family commitments.

"Six out of eight siblings now work within the business, having taken over after our parents' passing," he says, "and we extend our family feeling to our employees."

"We're the oldest continually owned business venture in the whole area, and I think our family bond, from the old days to now, is the reason why we've sustained our success."



**It's all in the family:** Members of the Serrano clan, including the late Eva and Ernie Serrano (top photo, foreground) at the groundbreaking of their Queen Creek location; Eva and Ernie are presented with the Spirit of Enterprise Award in 2005; Ernie and Eva in the late 1960s.

— Photos courtesy Ric Serrano



# Sister Cities

From Page 1

stuff,” so to speak, and show their European companions what they can bring to the globe-hopping adventure.

Wrangler News was able to speak with Sophia Montoya, a Corona del Sol 16-year-old, to get a better look into what the opportunity was like for her. When asked why she initially became involved in the program, she said it was something she’d always been interested in.

“The biggest adjustment while I was there was definitely understanding the slang and heavy accents, but I loved it! Galway was my favorite.” Sophia had returned with her exchange-student guest from Carlow, Ireland. The two advised that their next trip was going to be to the Grand Canyon—they had just gotten back from Sedona that day.

When asked if she would recommend the program to any prospective teenagers, she was affirmative without a doubt.

“I think one of the best parts about the program is that you get an opportunity to form unique friendships that last.”

There’s no doubt that such an awesome endeavor would result in lasting friendships for anyone involved.

After speaking with Sophia, a quick conversation with summer-program director David Carrera (a position he manages alongside his wife, Diana) brought even more enthusiasm for the experience that Sister Cities provides. The Carreras have had two daughters themselves travel abroad through the program, and dad David said he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“When I was younger, I wanted my daughters to see the world—and I think that mentality is really what we’re trying to represent here.”

Carrera explained that, more and more, the world is becoming a global community, and it’s important to find ways to embody that.

Obviously, he confirmed, there’s no place quite like home, but an open mind can easily bring the endless joy of seeing how someone else does it. Groups like Tempe Sister Cities are working to show young people that celebrating the differences between places and cultures like this can be exactly what connects us.



## Linking global friends . . . and friendships

*Clockwise from top: Tempe Sister Cities delegates and their global counterparts celebrated an evening at ASU; Below: Current and past delegates Iris McCain, Tempe; Zhang Runyi, China; Kate Alperin, Tempe; Sophia Montoya, Tempe; Beibhinn O’Brien, Ireland; Caroline Alperin,; Jordan Alperin, Kate Alperin and Anna Wolberas, Germany. Bottom left: Sophie Montoya, Tempe, and Beibhinn O’Brien, Ireland, share a moment of friendship.*

— Photos courtesy Kris Cartwright



# Sports

Edited by Alex Zener

## Football players learn ways to avoid concussions on the field

**M**ike Pollak, a former NFL football player and Aztec alumnus, came back to Corona on July 8 to teach football players about a relatively new program, Tip of the Spear, modeled to help prevent concussions and other head injuries common to football players but which can lead to CTE, or Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy.

CTE has been documented in the media and corroborated by the medical field the last few years as more NFL players have come forward to complain about this progressive degenerative disease of the brain that has been found in people with a history of repetitive brain trauma, which happens often in athletes,

specifically football players, who suffer diagnosed concussions and asymptomatic sub-concussive hits to the head that do not cause symptoms.

Pollak, who graduated from Corona in 2003, played football four years at ASU where he earned a degree in communication. He was drafted after the 2007 season and played for the Indianapolis Colts, Carolina Panthers and Cincinnati Bengals.

He retired from playing in the NFL after the 2015 season.



Zener

Pollak travels around the country as part of "Tip of the Spear" football clinics that teach football players, like the ones at Corona, through MMA, or Mixed Martial Arts, techniques and special training on how to avoid concussions and other serious football-related injuries while at the same time improving their performance on the field.

Pollak initially became interested in ways to prevent concussions in football players when his sons were considering playing football and he was concerned about them suffering head injuries that could lead to non-treatable CTE.

Football, a game he loved, had given him and his family so many things, but at the same time he did not want his sons to suffer any long-term football injuries, if there was something to make the sport safer. That's when he discovered Tip of the Spear.

A fellow ASU football player, Scott Peters, developed the Tip of the Spear program. It is a comprehensive instructional training and skill development concept for contact in football—blocking, defeating blocks and tackling—that utilizes techniques to take the head out of the contact without taking away from the physical

nature of football.

Basically, Tip of the Spear relies on science-based techniques that focus on mechanics of the body instead of leading with the head in the contact. These techniques use a martial arts combination of Brazilian Jiu jitsu and MMA to teach student athletes to drive with their hips instead of their head to elevate their opponent and eliminate head impact. If the hips are used properly, the helmet should not be leading the hit.

It's important to note that Tip of the Spear does not want to take away the physical, aggressive nature of the sport of football but instead focuses on providing a solution to the growing concern about head trauma and concussions leading to CTE, an untreatable degenerative disease in football players.

Tip of the Spear principles are taught to many college, high school and youth football teams throughout the country. There are currently 22 schools in Arizona that require the Tip of the Spear training including the high schools in the Tempe Union, Chandler Unified and Phoenix Union school districts.

The Aztec basketball program focused on player development during June but did participate in three local

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basketball tournaments.

Corona competed June 7-8 in the Summer Shootout at Campo Verde and June 13-15 at the Best in Basketball invitational held at the PowerHouse Hoops facility in Phoenix.

The Aztecs finished June playing at the huge Section 7 Live Event in several Phoenix venues where 150 plus teams competed from all over the Western U.S. It was a live recruiting period event.

"Overall, I was very happy with the way we played," said head coach Neil MacDonald. "We were shorthanded, missing two starters most of the summer, but still managed to hold our own against some very good teams. This was due most to the play of our two returning seniors and leading scorers, Eric Blackwell and Anthony Irvin.

"Both Eric and Anthony played exceptionally well, averaging over 20 points per game each and leading us in every category," said MacDonald.

"They shot the ball extremely well from the three-point line, as well as getting to the rim and free-throw line often.

"Both young men took their game to new levels and really opened the eyes of both high school and college coaches."

The Aztecs return two additional seniors and two juniors from last

season's team.

"We are expecting a breakout year from junior Elijah McDaniel and senior Max Faeth this next season," said MacDonald. "Elijah is a talented player who made varsity as a sophomore but missed most of last season due to a serious ankle injury suffered in December."

"Max is a returning varsity player who had a great spring playing in the Arizona Club League but broke his thumb at the end of May and was unable to play for us in June."

Corona may have the luxury of three-point guards to choose from after what the coaches witnessed during June.

"There was a good battle for point guard minutes between two returning varsity players, senior DeMarco Smith and junior Roberto Yellowman, and junior Donaven Ocasio, who played JV last season," said MacDonald.

"All three made improvements and we are looking for one to step up and take control at that position when the season starts in Nov."

Corona's coaches also saw potential in two sophomores who played with the Aztecs this summer.

"We brought up two sophomores in forward Peyton Beauer and guard Anyale Velazquez," said MacDonald.

All the players worked extremely hard individually, and collectively when we were together," said MacDonald.

"We feel very good going into the upcoming season."

### Corona Baseball

Corona's baseball team was represented well at the High School All-Star Game played at Progressive Field in Bradenton, Fla. on July 6 when Hunter Haas was selected, along with Mountain Pointe's Carson Tucker, to represent Arizona.

Haas, who will be a senior next season and plays an infield position for the Aztecs, was one of the 40 out of the initial 80 high school players selected to play at the national event.

### Steeplechase Duo at National Championship Track Meet

Two local athletes, Lyndee Tisinger and Carol Douglass, represented Arizona at the Master's Outdoor Track and Field Championships, which showcases athletes 30-100 years old,

on July 12 in Ames, Iowa.

Racing in the steeplechase event, Tisinger crossed the finish line in 9:29, chasing down younger athletes, to take home the gold medal in the women's 45-49 age category.

Likewise, Douglass ran the 2,000 meters over hurdles and jumps in 10:29 to win the silver medal in the women's 50-54 age group.

Both will run their track season finale representing Arizona on Team USA at the NCCWMA North American Championships.

### Tempe South wins tourney spot

Tempe South Little League team won its first game of the 2019 State Tournament July 15.

The tournament runs through July 23 in Kingman.



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# Avoiding the path to persistently negative reporting: Will you help?

By Don Kirkland  
Commentary

I try to avoid using my earlier years in newspapering as a template for what we believe and how we work today at Wrangler News.

After all, the journalism landscape has changed dramatically since then, and while some of what we learned in the 1950s, '60s and '70s does not apply to the challenges we now face, there are some holdovers from that era that should be considered as the approaches to reporting continue to evolve.

Take, for example, a recent article in *Editor & Publisher*, the long-acknowledged bible of journalists and journalism.

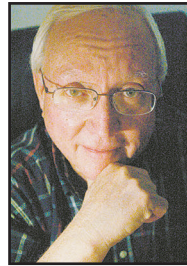
This particular story referred to a study indicating that the news media in general remain deeply disconnected from their audience.

No surprise, the report posited, that more people than ever avoid, or actually reject, the traditional sources of news, relying instead on those whose views more closely reflect their own.

One of the conclusions reached in a Reuters Institute Digital News Report points specifically at what the authors saw as a disconnect between the media and the public.

As an illustration, the study points to today's news

outlets following their traditional path of covering the few, however sensational, cases of murder and mayhem—mass shootings, shark attacks and the like—while only a small percentage of coverage focuses on the causes of things like heart disease and cancer, which account for 60 percent of U.S. deaths.



Stories with grim and gruesome outcomes, those that I remember in my early days of reporting, were the norm, and I suspect we'd do it that way too in a different scenario of time and circumstance. But we don't and won't. I wish I could say that our emphasis on community news and features, rather than on the "abnormalities" that occur multiple times every day, is based entirely on the notion that we want to resurrect the once-popular concept of "good news" newspapers.

Yes, we want to report on happenings that bring neighborhoods, and neighbors, closer together. No, we *don't* want to be perceived as a newspaper that puts its head in the sand when it comes to stories the community wants and needs to hear.

So we walk a fine line when suggestions for coverage come our way. We sometimes worry that readers perceive us as providing only "soft" news, but

in fact we receive all kinds of ideas for stories—tips that we can flesh out and, if we have the time and skilled journalists to expand upon, do just that.

While this approach doesn't always result in the kind of stories we see in other news outlets, we hope that overall it serves to counter-balance what some see as the relentlessly negative coverage we're regularly exposed to.

So our hope is this:

That you will continue to be on the lookout for stories you feel are important for the people in our community to know, and that we can provide a place for them to be told.

We know we can't alter the future of news reporting, but we think a publication like ours has the potential to slow the growth of an increasing segment of our population who say they actively avoid the news.

This sad turn of events may be simply because the world has become a more depressing place or because media coverage tends to be persistently negative.

Either way, we'll do our best to tell the stories of growth, achievement and hope. Will you join us in pursuing this goal.

Send your ideas to [editor@wranglernews.com](mailto:editor@wranglernews.com). We promise we'll follow up.



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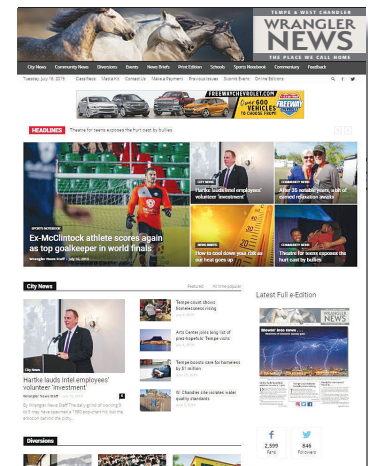
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One other note: We keep our doors open and our presses running with support from local businesses, those like the ones we mention above. Because they're our neighbors too, we offer them affordable rates for advertising in the print editions we deliver every other week—with digital ads included at no extra charge (no minor bonus as subscribers to our e Edition have doubled so far this year and our social media presence continues to thrive.)

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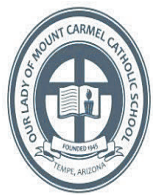


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## 'Our Stories' explores Mars mission history

West Chandler's Sunset Library will host the next *Our Stories* speaker program when it takes a look at the 50th anniversary of the first manned mission to the moon and the role Arizona played in preparing for this and later NASA missions.

The presentation, "Arizona Goes to the Moon," starts at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 27, at the, 4930 W. Ray Road.

In preparation for this remarkable human achievement, Apollo astronauts traveled to the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater and volcanic fields around the state to learn geology and practice driving moon buggies on lunar excursions.

Additionally, engineers from the U.S. Geological Survey worked with NASA to develop and test instruments and to create detailed maps of the moon that were critical to navigating around the lunar surface.

In many cases, the equipment and maps were tested at dramatic Arizona landscapes that simulated the moonscape and sometimes featured man-made crater fields created by artists working with the scientists.

This *Our Stories* presentation will feature Kevin Schindler, an award-winning educator and writer who has worked for more than 24 years at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, where he also serves as official Lowell historian.



Undated photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey Astrogeology Science Center shows Apollo 15 astronauts Jim Irwin, left, and Dave Scott driving a prototype of a lunar rover in a volcanic cinder field east of Flagstaff.

Combining a dual passion for history and science, Schindler has presented hundreds of educational programs, authored five books and written more than 500 magazine and newspaper articles.

Schindler was sheriff of the Flagstaff Corral of Westerners, an international organization dedicated to Western American history, for 14 years and a board member of the Flagstaff Festival of Science for 16 years.

The presentation is supported in part by the

Arizona Humanities.

*Our Stories* is a free speaker series open to the public, with each session sharing first-hand accounts and expert insights into the history of Chandler, the Valley and Arizona. It is produced and hosted by the Chandler Public Library and Chandler Museum, with support from the Friends of the Chandler Public Library and the Chandler Historical Society.

In August, *Our Stories* looks back on Chandler's farming history, exploring the people, places, and economic impact of agriculture for much of the city's past. For additional information on this program, call 480-782-2751, or visit [chandlerlibrary.org](http://chandlerlibrary.org).

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

### Education & Workforce Development Round Table 'Best Practices for Developing Mentoring & Apprenticeship Programs'

Wednesday, August 21, 2019  
8 am to 9:30 am

Chandler Chamber of Commerce  
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Mentoring your promising employees can benefit them — and your company. Mentoring means taking personal interest in seeing that a mentee develops the talent and knowledge needed to succeed — to have a successful career and contribute as much as possible to the company and society. Mentoring differs from coaching and advising in its emphasis on developing a personal relationship and advancing the career of the mentee. It's not just giving advice on how to work more effectively or handle a specific problem. Apprenticeships give employees experience in the working world and show employers that they can 'hit the ground running'. Hands-on training offers a chance to put skills into practice.

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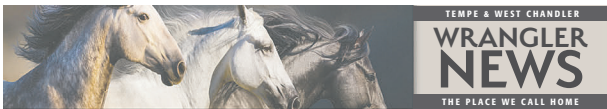
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# Book explores womens' struggles in male-dominant workplace

*Editor's note: For years, women have laboriously inched their way upward toward top-level jobs only to find, once there, that they were unsupported and unwelcome. Yet despite these and other hurdles, many have shattered glass ceilings and achieved new stature in business and industry. Those stories have gone largely untold. Now, a new book captures the voices of those who learned—often the hard way—exactly what it takes for women to lead.*

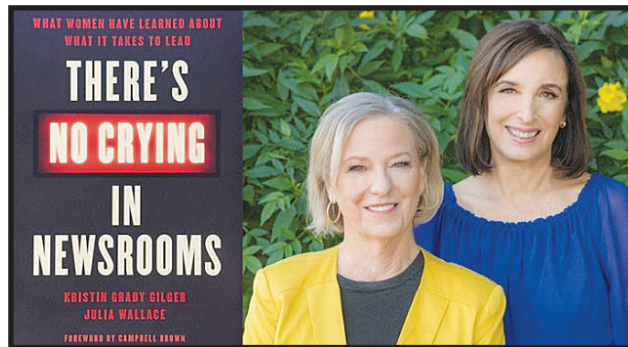
By Christopher Fiscus

A new book by two Arizona State University professors chronicles the rise of women in America's newsrooms and lessons about what it takes to lead in a traditionally male-dominated industry that has been rocked by the #MeToo movement.

"There's No Crying in Newsrooms: What Women Have Learned about What It Takes to Lead" was released by Rowman & Littlefield publishing company. The book combines history, narrative storytelling and management advice, written by two women who were themselves pioneering newsroom leaders.

Kristin Gilger served in various editing roles at newspapers in Louisiana, Oregon and Arizona before coming to ASU, where she is senior associate dean and Reynolds Professor in Business Journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Her co-author, Julia Wallace, the Frank Russell Chair in the Business of Journalism at Cronkite, was the first female editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and served in top editing roles at USA Today, the Chicago Sun-Times and The Arizona Republic.



ASU professors Kristen Gilger and Julia Wallace have co-authored a book on women leading in newsrooms.

— Photo courtesy Christopher Fiscus

The two interviewed nearly 100 women about their experiences as they moved into the management ranks of newsrooms. The book includes interviews with Christiane Amanpour, Nina Totenberg, Judy Woodruff and other household names, but many of the women featured work behind the scenes, running newsrooms and making news decisions for the nation's largest newspapers, network television, public radio and digital news outlets.

Some started at a time when women were largely relegated to jobs as editorial assistants, fact checkers and news secretaries, yet managed to rise to top editorial positions.

"We tell the story of Marcy McGinnis at CBS, who started out as a secretary serving Dan Rather coffee and eventually became his boss and the number-two person at CBS News," Wallace said.

"She and the many women who broke down barriers in newsrooms have remarkable stories to tell about what it took for them to get ahead."

Women entering newsrooms – or any organization dominated by men – still face many of the same challenges today, Gilger said. They struggle to find acceptable leadership styles, balance work and family, navigate workplace culture and ward off sexual harassment. "It's remarkable how many of these issues are just as prevalent today as they were when Julia and I were coming up in newsrooms," she said.

At the end of each chapter, the authors draw lessons from the experiences of the women they interviewed and offer some of their own experiences and perspective.

"We wanted to offer a bridge between the generations," Gilger said. "There is much that these pioneering women have to offer to young women who are just beginning their careers."

In the foreword to the book, Campbell Brown, head of global news partnerships at Facebook and a former reporter and anchor at CNN and NBC, writes, "Over the past four decades, scores of women have walked into newsrooms only to find they were unwanted and unsupported and, still, they worked their way to the top."

Until now, their stories have gone largely unreported. There's No Crying in Newsrooms captures the voices of these funny, strong, and brash women who learned—often the hard way—exactly what it takes for women to lead, not just in the news business, but in any business."

Gilger and Wallace will visit universities around the country this fall to talk about the book.

They also will make appearances at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., at several journalism and women's leadership conferences, and at numerous independent bookstores around the country.

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Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church in Tempe has welcomed a Vietnamese congregation for weekly services on Sunday afternoons in the church hall.

— Wrangler News photo

## Volunteers

From Page 3

through this program help them down the road in their education and career.”

Local media was invited to observe the student volunteers in the hospital’s simulation lab July 12. The teens were divided into groups and had hands-on experiences in various demonstration areas. From practicing CPR on an infant-sized mannequin, to learning to recognize the signs of stroke and seeing what distracted or impaired driving looks like, it was a morning of discovery.

Byron Thatcher, an ICU and telemetry nurse educator, crouched on the floor beside a pint-sized mannequin. He asked the students to imagine they’d been asked to watch their younger siblings in the pool.

“All of us have our phones and we like the social media apps—then you look up and you don’t hear any kids splashing around. You get up to look and you find your little brother or sister at the bottom of the pool.”

One by one, he walked them through CPR. “It’s 30 compressions to two breaths,” Thatcher explained. “You want to go down about an inch and make sure blood is circulating so they are getting oxygen to their brains.”

Matthew Karger, a paramedic, and Meredith Gradowski, a nurse, talked to the students about distracted and impaired driving. Injuries resulting from car accidents are one of the main reasons patients wind up in Chandler Regional’s level one trauma center. And although drivers ages 16-21 have the highest rate of accidents, that’s not the only reason Karger and Gradowski were putting the students through the simulation.

“It’s far easier to get you guys to start practicing good habits now than when you’re 40,” Karger said. The students donned goggles that simulated what driving under the influence feels like.

Chandler resident Arnold Ancheril who is going into his senior year of high school, said he was surprised by the experience.

“It wasn’t expected. It messes your vision up and you don’t know where you are.”

Esha Rajadhyaksha, another Chandler student, returned to the Volunteering program for her third year this summer. She hopes to become a pediatrician one day. “I just love helping people and science has always been a field that interested me,” Rajadhyaksha said. “Before I entered this program I was shy.” After three summers interacting with patients, she’s come out of her shell. “Now when I see a patient looking down a hallway, I know to offer them help.”

More than 275 teens applied to Dignity’s nationally recognized Volunteering program this year.

## Vietnamese

From Page 1

Road has been holding services in Vietnamese for several years now.

The Rev. Peter Bui, pastor of Holy Spirit, came to the U.S. as a refugee from Vietnam in 1978. He was 5 years old and joined the wave of thousands of “boat people” who entered the U.S. during the 1970s. One of 12 children, he remembers the machine-gun-toting pirates who accosted his father’s fishing boat, weighed down with dozens of relatives as they made their perilous journey to the U.S.

The 40-something pastor rose from his humble roots to eventually study philosophy and theology at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome. He speaks five languages.

Bui said that about 400 people attend the 4 p.m. Vietnamese Mass on Sunday afternoons at Holy Spirit. A Vietnamese language and religious education program attracts about 120 children for Sunday afternoon classes that begin at noon.

Being able to worship God in their Vietnamese language is something Bui said is paramount for the community.

“It’s very important for them, especially the older generation that can’t understand English,” he said. “They feel much more at home just hearing the language.”

Not everyone who attends the Vietnamese Mass at the church is from Tempe, Bui said. Many come from Gilbert, Queen Creek and southeast Chandler.

“They make a sacrifice every Sunday to attend. They don’t want their kids to lose their culture.”

The Vietnamese are not the only Asian Christian community in Tempe and West Chandler. Half a mile from Mission del Sol, St. Columba Kim Korean Catholic Church on McClintock south of Warner is home to about 250 Korean Catholics.

All services at the church, including two weekend Masses, are in Korean.

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### ***Immaculate Home***



Lake neighborhood. Light and open w/high ceilings & neutral flooring. Split floor plan w/4 beds & den. Office/workout space off master. Rear bedroom setup for guest suite. Large kitchen overlooks open family room with fireplace & skylights. Backyard has heated pool and spa.

### ***Basement Home***



6 beds + den, 3.5 Baths. Spacious family room, Island kitchen w/ extended buffet, granite, gas cook-top & built-in refrigerator. Basement has wet bar, wine chiller, theatre sound. Pebble Tec diving pool, putting green, fire-pit, bar, BBQ, kegerator, mini fridge. 4 car split garage.