

Back to  
School Issue



AUGUST 3 - 16, 2019 □ VOL 30, NO 15

TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

# WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME



Mary Brown, right, Teacher Executive Designer of the new school-within-a-school model at Kyrene de las Manitas Elementary in Tempe, greets students and parents at Meet the Teacher Night. — Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

## Student wellbeing a Kyrene focus for 2019

By Sammie Ann Wicks

Students returning to Kyrene district classes this month will be introduced to innovative outreach programs, both inside and outside of the formal school setting.

“Our big focus entering the new school year is, ‘student wellbeing,’” says Erin Helm, the district’s director of communications and marketing.

“This reflects our belief that, for students to succeed in learning, their social and emotional growth first has to be supported at all levels of their participation, both in and out of school.”

She explains some of the district’s programs will be guided by principles espoused by the statewide organization Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life, which seeks to encourage students to reach out

— KYRENE, Page 11

## Tempe Elem principals hone skills as leaders

By Robyn Martinez

As the new school year unfolds, principals from the Tempe Elementary School District hope to bring some of the lessons they learned at a leadership retreat they attended during the summer break.

The event, focused on intentional leadership, was an opportunity for them to collaborate, learn and grow together in preparation for a new school year.

The group of 22 principals worked together looking at intentional practices in leadership, in increasing student achievement, and impacting school culture and climate.

“My hope from the retreat is that our principals would learn from each other and that they take that collaboration, positivity, and dedication that they

— TEMPE EL, Page 26

## High schools’ new secret weapon

### Peer influence proves powerful vs. teen substance abuse



**[IN] FOCUS.** 17-year-old Brach Drew is the billboard face of a TUHSD marketing campaign, a recognition he received for his efforts to help teens face substance abuse issues.

By Sammie Ann Wicks

No, it’s definitely not your parents’ generation’s drug problem. With today’s kids experimenting with drugs and alcohol earlier than ever, one Tempe school district isn’t waiting around to take action.

Nor is one enterprising teen at his own high school, who somewhat remarkably has risen to

prominence as a go-to resource for other students seeking guidance with their own substance-abuse issues.

Brach Drew, 17, says it’s the power of peer influence that has provided him a platform to help others, and the same phenomenon that makes real change happen for teens who reach out for help.

“It seems like if kids hear advice from some authority figure about the dangers of drug use, they tend to rebel,” says Drew, whose leadership at Marcos de Niza High School motivates many of his fellow students to seek him out when they’re troubled or confused.

“When a friend approaches me about the topic of drugs or alcohol, I try to respond in as informal a way as possible, so they’ll know I’m someone they can open up to in atmosphere of trust,” Drew explains.

“One of the best things I can offer, I think, is to tell them about truly positive things they can substitute for choices that eventually are going to hurt them. It’s so much better to suggest, for

— PEERS, Page 10

## New jobs at Chandler Regional

Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center and McCarthy Building Companies have broken ground on construction of a 220,000-square-foot medical tower at the West Chandler campus, completion of which is expected to add approximately 200 jobs.

Slated to open in spring 2021, the addition

— JOBS, Page 12



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# Airbnb-type lodging again focus of complaints

*Residents mobilize to protest state legislation that curtails cities' efforts at control*

By Don Kirkland

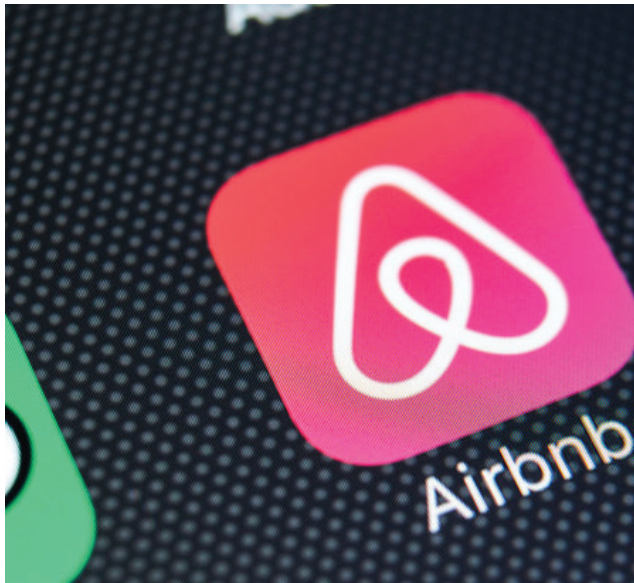
Disgruntled homeowners in Sedona have joined the ranks of their counterparts in Tempe in growing opposition to the incursion of Airbnb-type short-term lodging in some Arizona cities.

Residents of the scenic community gathered 150 strong July 24 to amplify concerns and question state Rep. Bob Thorpe about what progress, if any, may be on the horizon to control the problem.

Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, was responding to complaints, similar to those reported in Wrangler News early last year, that a law signed by Gov. Ducey has taken control over such rentals away from Arizona cities. The result, they say, has allowed investors to buy homes that they convert into overnight or otherwise short-term lodging.

Mark Moorehead, a longtime South Tempe resident with his wife Lynda Exley, gave up their home in Pecan Grove five years ago for a relaxed retirement in the Village of Oak Creek, a Sedona suburb.

He soon became active in the community, and now chairs the Big Park Council Planning and



Zoning Committee, which addresses similar issues on a regular basis.

Following up on his comments to Wrangler News last year, Moorehead said the recent Sedona hearing served to intensify the discontent being expressed in his area.

“Hearing the phrase ‘Short-term Rental’ is akin to hearing the plague has arrived,” he said.

“I hear residents cite the detrimental and profound changes to our community unforeseen by the authors of SB 1350 (the anti-local control legislation signed by Ducey).

“For example, out-of-town investors owning rentals prior to SB 1350 kicked out so many families to convert those homes into more profitable Airbnb’s that the school was forced to close.

“When you lose families and a school, you change the character of a town into something unnatural.”

Such a change affects the entire community’s longstanding demographics, he noted.

“A home here that once housed a family of 4 now houses 6, 8 or 10 tourists for a few nights or a week. It’s made our traffic nightmare worse and increased the number of bikers and hikers on trails.”

Even he and his wife have experienced the difference to places they used to regularly visit.

“One-time serene Buddha Beach near Red Rock Crossing is now overcrowded with people blaring music and leaving heaps of trash and bottles

— AIRBNB, Page 8



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Collin Kartchner's 'Save the Kids' campaign arrives in Tempe this month as part of Kyrene's Positive Parenting series.

## Smartphones, social media targeted Kyrene schools to host 'Save the Kids' activist in Aug. 13-14 appearances

By Joyce Coronel

**H**ey, mom and dad, put down that phone and pay attention. The Kyrene School District is launching its 2019-2020 Positive Parenting Series with an event to help parents deal with the negative effects of smartphones and social media.

To that end, they've hired social media activist Collin Kartchner, who has travelled the country with his "Save the Kids" message about the negative effects of screen addiction and how to rise above the phenomenon.

Kartchner will speak to students at Kyrene Middle School on Tuesday, Aug. 13, and at Pueblo and Aprende middle schools on Aug. 14.

A community event for the public will take place in the auditorium at 6 p.m. at Corona del Sol High School and is open to the community.

With more than 500 speaking engagements so far on this topic, Kartchner draws a crowd and standing ovations.

His website, savethekids.us, states the bold message students, parents,

faculty and administrators will hear loud and clear at the upcoming events:

Social media's negative effects on youth mental health and too much screen-time comprise the underlying link to the current epidemic rise in teen depression and anxiety, eating disorders, self-harming, suicide ideation and suicide itself.

"We must teach our kids that their worth does not come from likes, followers, or Snapchat streaks. As the world shouts constantly to them that "You are not enough," we need to shout "You are perfect just the way you are!" a portion of the website states.

Smart phones, Kartchner says, are the "new drug of choice in homes" that have fostered a disconnect between parents and their children, distracting people from what's truly important and persuading them that the number of "likes" someone has on a post equals self-worth.

His 5-by-5-inch parent sticker, available on his website for a \$10 donation, proclaims "Showing your kids you love them is 2% effort and 98% just putting down your phone."

Information: kyrene.org/



Christine Busch, superintendent of Tempe Elementary school district, offers words of encouragement to incoming teachers at orientation meeting for new staff. — Photo courtesy Robyn Martinez

## Schools chief extends best-teacher accolades to incoming Tempe Elementary staff

By Robyn Martinez

“We have the best students on the planet. And they deserve the best teachers – and here you are,” said Tempe Elementary School District Superintendent Christine Busch.

Busch’s remarks took place at the district’s new staff orientation event held at Busto Professional Learning Center where 141 new certified staff members were on hand for a day of learning.

Each year, Tempe Elementary hosts the orientation to welcome and help prepare new teachers, counselors, psychologists, nurses and other related service staff for their first year of work at the District. Busto Professional Learning Center is Tempe Elementary’s own professional development center complete with model classrooms, large meeting rooms and resources for teachers and staff members in all content areas.

“When planning this event, it was important to me that everyone felt the same support that I did when I started at Tempe Elementary,” said Teacher Induction Specialist Melissa Jorna. “TD3 really advocates for us to be a community and group of learners who push ourselves to grow and learn and become the best at what we do.”

Superintendent Busch greeted new staff at the beginning of the orientation, and shared encouragement about the importance of their role in the lives of children.

“Our life’s work is the most critical work that a society does, because our life’s work is about the children,” Busch said.

New staff members also heard words of wisdom from Tempe Elementary’s “Rookie of the Year” teacher, Edna Morales – an exemplary educator embarking on her second year with Tempe Elementary.

“Seek out support from colleagues in your first year as a teacher. Ask everyone in your building for help—that is what they are there for,” Morales said. “We are a team, we work together. That’s what we are teaching our students, and that is what we need to do as well.”

The support for staff extends to the community, as well. Margaret Hunnicutt, President and CEO of the local Landings Credit Union, shared some of the many ways their organization strives to help educators be financially successful. That includes pausing loan payments that occur over the summer, opening accounts for students and paying them for every “A” grade they bring in on their report cards, and more.

Following the welcome session, new staff members broke into smaller sessions to cover topics like routines and procedures, community building, and specific student engagement strategies. Later in the day, new teachers went out to various schools and spent time in a classroom of their designated grade-level or area of focus, and had the chance to interact with and learn from some experienced teachers of their specific grade.

“There were many great resources shared through this orientation that I will definitely use in my first year. I’m very excited to get started,” said new teacher Amandah Goodman.



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## Advise Kyrene advocate Best start toward lifetime literacy: Read to kids while they're young

By Diana Nelson

Children in the Kyrene District may be ready to read at a younger age, thanks to active encouragement by Sharyn Weinheimer, who says that literacy is the most important indicator of a child's readiness for school.

Weinheimer, who coordinates academic and behavior support for Kyrene, is passionate about the importance of reading to children. Her drive to encourage literacy inspired her to apply for a sponsorship with First Things First, Arizona's only public funding source dedicated to early childhood development.

The organization, which invests in programs and services to improve the education and health needs of children from birth to age 5, responded to Weinheimer's request with books to distribute to encourage family reading time.

"I created a presentation to use during our Positive Parenting Series," said Weinheimer. "And, thanks to the First Things First donation, each family that attends one of our literacy events goes home with a free book that they can select."

According to the First Things First website, 90 percent of a child's brain develops by age 5 and these early years are the best timeframe for a child's brain to develop the connections needed to be healthy, successful adults.

Babies develop language and vocabulary skills from birth. In addition, important life skills like motivation and focus also begin in the early years. Gaps in children's vocabulary start to appear as early as 18 months.

By the time children are 3 to 4-years-old, their vocabulary, attention and general knowledge are predictors of third and fourth-grade reading comprehension.

This relatively new understanding of early literacy development complements the current academic research, which supports the critical role of early experiences in shaping brain development, explained Weinheimer, who is more than a reading advocate for the district.

"I am called the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Coordinator for the Kyrene School District and I support academic and behavior intervention for the district," she said.



Sharyn Weinheimer shares some reading time with her daughter Emma.

As classes in Kyrene get underway, her message to families is to set aside time for reading at home—all year long.

"We provide practical strategies for families in the district to incorporate reading into daily routines in our already busy lives," said Weinheimer.

It's never too early to begin a lifelong love of reading, Weinheimer says. Even while an infant or still in the mother's womb, reading has a positive impact.

"I personally love reading to my 6 and 9-year-olds, every night, before they go to bed. I recommend to start a routine to get in at least 20 minutes a day of reading," she said.

"I also love to read series books with my children. For example, my 6-year-old daughter loves Junie B. Jones and we've read the whole series at least twice already! Or try the Magic Tree House series."

The Kyrene District also has an increased focus on educating younger children, specifically 3 to 4-year-olds. Preschool continues to grow in popularity and helps to prepare children for kindergarten. All pre-school programs incorporate age-appropriate activities that help children reach their full potential cognitively, socially, physically and emotionally.

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



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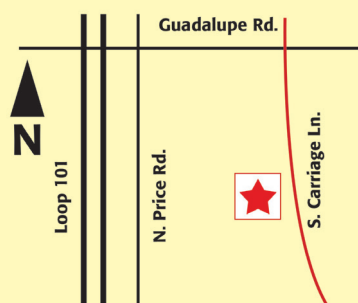
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## Airbnb

From Page 3

behind," he said.

"And, going to the grocery store now reminds me of the movie 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers.' Instead of seeing your neighbors you see a multitude of blank faces who have taken over the town."

Additionally, Moorehead said last year that under new, often absentee ownership, a formerly traditional rental can now generate anywhere from two to three times as much as it did under a one-year lease arrangement.

Growing worries regarding the influx of temporary lodging locations in the area have been taken to city of Sedona officials and the local Chamber of Commerce, both of which have expressed concern, he said.

Chamber officials also at the time reported receiving complaints from business owners fearing that the lack of availability of affordable housing is driving away workers.

Like the city officials, Sedona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jennifer Wesselhoff said early last year that her concern is not only affordable housing but potential impacts on visitor capacity.

"Affordable housing is already in limited supply and I believe this law virtually eliminates Sedona's chance to mitigate this issue," she said. "Also, with this new legislation, the city of Sedona virtually loses its ability to manage visitor capacity and makes it even harder to balance tourism and quality of life for our residents."

That's coupled, Moorehead said, with the fact that business owners have been feeling the pinch for years due to a lack of available employees. In fact, a Sedona Chamber of Commerce survey distributed among its members last year listed the lack of existing workforce as the top concern.

One area official quoted in a Red Rock News article last year said, "I think [SB] 1350 has created a new sense of urgency. We're all hearing stories about renters getting kicked out of their homes. Or, houses that are on

the market that are being purchased by individuals who have declared early on that their intent is to turn them into short-term vacation rentals."

Evidence of the migration by families out of the Sedona area is available practically every weekend, said Moorehead, when he and his wife stop at garage sales where the occupants report they've been forced from their rental home because of the owner converting it to an Airbnb-type residence.

While a quiet group of short-term vacationers may not result in any noticeable disruption to the neighborhood, that's not always the situation, Moorehead noted.

"We have one house that's a couple of blocks away but people are coming and going all the time," he said. "That, plus the traffic and the loud music—it changes your quality of life."

The short-term rental business is growing so fast in Sedona, said Moorehead, that one Airbnb host is now renting out furnished tents in their backyard to accommodate the demand.

Police will respond if groups get too boisterous, but Sedona's problem doesn't appear likely to go away any time soon.

### HOA challenges

While SB 1350 provides some help for Arizona's homeowner associations, it does so with a serious caveat: Provisions prohibiting multiple dwellers in single-occupancy homes must have been written into the subdivision's Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CCRs) when they originally were adopted.

At one of the Valley's first and best recognized HOA communities, The Lakes in Tempe, manager Christine Baldanza said their subdivision is not protected from the new law and would need to go through the complex challenge of rewriting the CCRs to cover that the current Airbnb problem.

As of last week, the number of temporary rental properties at The Lakes continues to grow.



# Professional mentorship proves key to program's value

## High school internship opens doors to success in future workplace

By Robyn Martinez

A new school year is just getting underway, and one student's summertime learning is paying off.

Three years ago, Diana Bernal was a student sitting in Tempe Elementary School District classrooms learning, making friends, taking tests and thinking about what high school would be like.

This summer, Bernal returned to Tempe Elementary, not as a student but as an intern in the purchasing department. Before starting high school at Tempe High, Bernal was a student at Fees College Prep. Now she is entering her senior year of high school with substantial internship experience on her resume.

The internship, made possible through Career Ready Tempe, seeks to prepare Tempe youth to participate in the future workforce by connecting students with local employers for an eight-week paid summer internship in fields that are in demand.

Monique Harris, Tempe Elementary senior buyer, got this program started at Tempe Elementary. Harris, who

is passionate about mentorship and helping others, coordinated Bernal's whole internship program, from internship projects to weekly schedules.

The internship focused on several core areas, including: customer service, soft skills like communication and collaboration, computer applications, public speaking, workplace etiquette, graphic design, and writing. Harris' main goal was to help Bernal develop skills that will carry through to whatever job she ends up in someday.

"For me, this internship experience has been tremendous. It's been amazing having her here to help, and she has done a fantastic job," Harris said.

Thankfully, there were some familiar faces that Bernal already knew in the district. In her first days as an intern, she bumped into a former Fees College Prep staff member, Barbara Salazar.

"It was a crazy moment of recognition. It warms my heart when I see a student I knew from the school and to know that I played a small part

in helping them get their education," Salazar shared. "It's so nice to see her moving forward, making achievements and setting goals in life."

At the conclusion of her internship, Tempe Elementary staff members stopped by Bernal's office to leave notes of encouragement and career tips she could take with her.

"Everyone here has been amazing,

and I am very grateful to Monique. She really wants me to be confident and be the best version of me. She has been so helpful and supportive," Bernal shared. "I am so glad I had this opportunity. Putting this internship on my resume will really open doors for me in the future."

Information: [tempe.gov/CareerReadyTempe](http://tempe.gov/CareerReadyTempe).



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## Peers

From Page 1

instance, ‘Let’s go help out somewhere; go to a community center, something that makes you feel just as good, or maybe better.’”

Sometimes, Drew notes, the offer of positive, healthy alternatives isn’t accepted, and this student peer leader asserts more forceful action is necessary to break through resistance.

“Sometimes it’s necessary to just be brutally honest—in a caring way,” Drew advises. “I might just say, ‘Yeah, alcohol or a drug makes you feel good right NOW, but over time that good feeling is going to get replaced by some pretty bad stuff.’ And I think I reach other students that way.”

Does Drew feel a burden or prideful that his fellow students have elevated him into a leadership role?

“Gosh, no,” he’s quick to say. “My parents have always been very accepting of all kinds of people, no matter what their differences, and taught me that.

“So I feel like it’s an honor when one of my classmates comes to me. When you feel troubled or depressed and there’s no one to confide in, you get all bottled up inside. I’m thankful I can be there at moments like that.”

Even if other students don’t come to him directly, Drew says he tries to be proactive.

“I don’t like it if not everybody’s having fun at a

get-together,” he laughs, “and I just go over and pull them in.”

His attitude, he declares, is a fundamental part of his experience at school.

“One reason I’m so sure his school’s substance-abuse-prevention program is going to go great,” he says, “is it’s happening HERE. This school is such a wonderful place, accepting of everybody—kids, teachers administrators—it’s unique that way. We can’t help but succeed.”

While Drew seems to be doing just fine in his own advisory role, his work is further advanced by a collaborator with one thing Drew doesn’t yet have: professional creds and a nice chunk of state funding.

Joshua Azevedo, licensed counselor working with substance-abuse programming for the Tempe Union High School District, suggests his own efforts are being utilized with an even broader reach.

“The average age of onset of teen alcohol and drug use is 12,” says Azevedo. “Fortunately, a new grant from the Governor’s office will help all of us involved attack this issue more effectively than ever.”

Azevedo refers to a grant benefitting all schools in the Tempe Union district, funded by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey’s Office of Youth, Faith, and Families that aims “to prevent the onset of underage drinking, marijuana use, and prescription drug misuse and abuse.”

The grant is part of a \$3.6 million high school drug prevention fund, and with kids coming back for the new school year, Tempe Union leaders predict

the money will enable the district to deal with teen drug use in unprecedented and positive ways.

“This grant has just been such a change-maker for us, because it has allowed us to hire professionals to execute the program,” declared Jennifer Liewer, executive director of community relations for Tempe Union.

The district receives \$450,000 yearly to operate the program.

Liewer says a major focus of the program is offering “positive activities” to TUHSD students as preferable replacements for drug experimentation.

“One slogan we use repeatedly,” says Liewer, “is ‘I’ve got something better.’ We want to offer them multiple positive activities, show them something better to do with their lives.”

Often students get involved when both they and their parents attend the workshops on prevention that Azevedo’s organization offers, say district officials.

“It’s sometimes in these meetings where families see they’re not alone, and they learn effective strategies for moving families and the kids in a more positive direction,” Azevedo says.

Azevedo is the founder and program director of Tempe’s Pathway Drug, Alcohol, and Substance Abuse Treatment and Rehab Center, which contracts with Tempe Union in administering the district’s teen substance-use-prevention program.

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## \$2.5m community grants advance opportunities for arts

Eleven Tempe nonprofit arts organizations, festival and education programs will share in more than \$2.5 million in grants awarded by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, an agency of the state of Arizona.

At its quarterly meeting in June, the governor-appointed arts board approved the funding, representing the allocation of 75 percent of the commission's annual grants budget.

Tempe recipients were:

*Arizona Aloha Festival*, \$3,000; *24th Annual Arizona Asian Festival*, \$3,000; *Arizona Wind Symphony, Inc.*, \$8,000; *Childsplay, Inc.*, \$50,000; *City of Tempe Cultural Services*, \$25,000; *CONDER/dance: Breaking Ground 2019*, \$3,000; *Cultural Arts Coalition: Celebrating Global Connections*, \$3,000; *DanceSport Education*, \$2,000; *nueBOX, Tempe*, \$5,000; *Phoenix Screenwriters Association*, \$5,000; and *The Bridge Initiative: Women in Theatre*, \$5,000

Grants were awarded via three distinct programs:

**Festival Grants** support organizations in their efforts to provide quality arts and cultural programming through community festival activities. Forty Festival Grants were awarded, totaling \$107,000.

**Strengthening Schools Through Arts Partnerships Grants** support substantive school/community partnerships that strengthen teaching and learning in arts education and/or arts integration in Arizona Title I schools.

This year's awards, totaling \$62,840, provide a second year of support to four previously-funded partnerships.

**Community Investment Grants** provide operating support to nonprofit arts organizations, local arts agencies, and tribal cultural

organizations whose mission is to produce, present, or teach the arts, and/or to provide arts-based services. 216 Community Investment Grants were awarded, totaling \$2,463,000.

Chandler grants went to:

Arizona Dance Education Organization, \$5,000; Chandler Center for the Arts, \$19,000;

Chandler Children's Choir, \$7,500; and Fine Arts Association of Arizona, \$5,000, Community

Grant applications are evaluated through comprehensive panel review processes.

Review panels are composed of diverse community leaders, experts, educators and arts practitioners from rural, urban and suburban areas throughout Arizona. Panels are assembled to reflect diversity of race, geography, gender, age, and expertise. This year, 30% of panelists engaged in the process hailed from rural Arizona communities.

The number of organizations applying for Community Investment Grants increased 22% over Fiscal Year 2019, with 46 more organizations applying for Fiscal Year 2020 funding. 72% of these new applicants applied in Community Investment Grant Levels I and II. These levels represent organizations with annual incomes of less than \$100,000.

According to Kristen Pierce Kent, organizational grants and services manager at the Arizona Commission on the Arts, this growth reflects a thriving, expanding statewide arts sector, as well as Arts Commission efforts to simplify the grant process for smaller, volunteer-run organizations and make the process more accessible to organizations operating in rural and remote communities.

One of 56 state and jurisdictional arts bodies across the United States, the Arizona Commission on the Arts is a 53-year-old agency of the state of Arizona and a leading force in the creative and professional development of Arizona's arts sector.



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## Jobs

From Page 1

and expansion project will add 96 patient beds. The hospital's fourth patient tower, Tower D, will bring the medical facility's total bed count to 429. The hospital originally opened in 1961 with just 42 beds.

"This expansion project is very exciting for all of us at Chandler Regional, and for the community at large," said Mark Slyter, president and CEO of Dignity Health Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers.

"The new tower will not only bring new jobs to the East Valley, but it will allow us to further our commitment to providing the best care possible to our growing and aging community."

The new tower will be built south of Chandler Regional's current main entrance on what is now a parking lot. In addition to the new patient beds, the five-story tower will also have space on the first and fifth floors for additional growth in the future.

The tower will increase surgical capacity, add cardiac-rehabilitation services, and will also feature a new main hospital entrance and lobby, patient admitting, cardiac rehabilitation, ambulatory therapy unit, gift shop and chapel; a surgery registration area, pre-operation and post-anesthesia care units and 24 thoracic patient rooms; 36 intensive care unit patient rooms; 36 additional standard patient rooms; shell space for future beds; and a new pharmacy, materials management department and a loading dock.



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## Church outreach aids Bolivia drought victims

To those who have tracked the growth of Arizona Community Church since it broke ground in South Tempe nearly 30 years ago, word that the church has partnered with non-profit Food for the Hungry should come as no surprise.

What may be an eye-opener, though, is how far the congregation's outreach—measured for the past two years in both travel miles and seemingly boundless generosity—has helped change the lives of 125,000 families in Bolivia.

In recent years, the impoverished nation has been in a state of emergency due to severe drought conditions, a crisis that ACC members say gave them the motivation to join forces with Phoenix-based FH to provide food, clean water, education and medical treatment to Bolivian children in need.

Since the partnership began, child sponsorships in Belén, Bolivia have doubled, says Tina Schuler, liaison manager at the Tempe church.

Through the outreach program, says Schuler, ACC members have become aware of the change and the hope they've brought, not only to the sponsored children but to the entire community.

"The partnership between Food for the Hungry and Arizona Community Church was an easy decision, as both organizations have the desire to walk hand-in-hand with these nations, not as foreigners, but rather as brothers and sisters in Christ fighting for the same cause," said Schuler.

Over the last two years, ACC members have traveled to Bolivia to meet their sponsored children and spend time with FH staff on the ground.

In 2018, ACC families filled multiple suitcases with packages to several children, and FH Bolivia staff hand-delivered each package.

"Food for the Hungry has been working with the world's most vulnerable people for over four decades, and we've learned that child sponsorship is one of the most successful ways for children, families and entire communities to rise up out of poverty," says Juan Pablo Belmonte, field liaison manager at FH Bolivia.

"While the resources we continue to provide alongside Arizona Community Church are life-changing, the relationship of love and trust we have both established in Belén is even more fulfilling."

FH, a humanitarian organization aimed at helping communities extract themselves from extreme poverty in over 20 countries worldwide, focuses on transformational development by investing in children and building local leaders through programs like livelihood training and bringing clean water, according to Belmonte.

These efforts, say church officials, align with what ACC describes as its mission: To "Connect, Grow and Serve" by sending teams out to provide vital resources to areas in need.

For information about sponsoring a child in a similar context, visit [fh.org/give/sponsor-a-child](http://fh.org/give/sponsor-a-child).



Top photo, Michaela, Ryan, Jeff and Tina Schuler of Arizona Community Church with their sponsored child, Margarita, and her Bolivian family; lower left photo: Jeff Hensley of ACC and his sponsored child, David ; lower right photo, Jeff Hensley with a young Bolivian woman receiving her clean water tank.

— Photos courtesy Arizona Community Church

# Back to School Smiles



New Tempe Elementary  
staff members soak up  
ideas and inspiration  
at orientation event;  
Monique Harris with  
summer intern and Fees  
grad Diana Bernal.

— Photos courtesy Tempe Elementary



## Back to School Bash

As summer schedules (but not weather) come to an end, students head back to classrooms across Tempe and Chandler for another year of learning. Staff greeted families and students at 'Meet the Teacher' events, including this one at Kyrene de las Manitas, where one girl, decked out in a Minnie Mouse dress, photo at left, enjoyed the remains of a lollipop; filling out paperwork and speaking with teachers, photo at right, kept students engaged; drippy, colorful snow cones offered a respite from the heat; Manitas faculty members were all smiles as parents and children toured classrooms; teacher Dave Carras chatted with a student.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



# W. Chandler not immune to domestic violence, asserts city's police chief

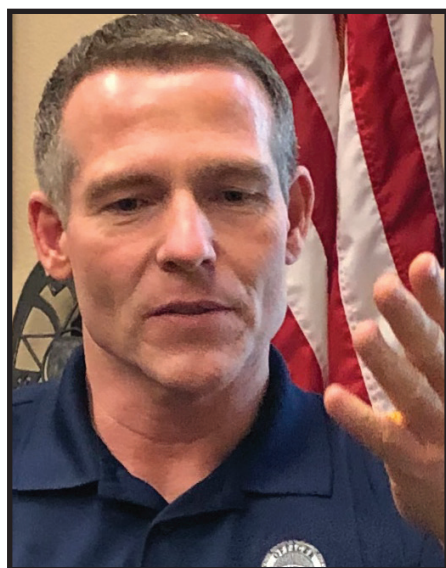


Story & photo by Lee Shappell

**W**est Chandler neighborhoods generally are clean, upscale. Overall crime is relatively low. The city is No. 17 nationally on WalletHub's list of Best Places to Raise a Family.

Residents believe that their westside neighborhoods are safe places to live — and they are — and that violent crime like domestic violence happens on the other side of town, in older, poorer neighborhoods.

That, according to Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan, is wrong, and a



map of domestic violence incidents in Chandler from 2015 to 2018 backs him up.

"It may look like it's over-represented up north (from Price to Gilbert roads between the Western

Canal and Pecos Road), but those are dense populations, dense housing, a lot of apartment complexes," Duggan said. "Domestic violence is also south, it's north, it's west.

"It's where the people live. Domestic violence transcends geography, it transcends demographics. It doesn't matter if you live in a \$5 million house or an apartment or a trailer. There are no boundaries to domestic violence."

That includes heavy pockets of incidents on the west side, from Interstate 10 east to Price Road, from Knox on the north south to Pecos.

In Arizona, one in four women and one in seven men have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime, according to the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence.

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of coercive control where one partner uses power to control another. It can take many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse.

As Duggan points out, there's really no crime of domestic violence.

"Domestic violence is an umbrella category," Duggan said.

It most often is associated with aggravated assault (one-third of aggravated assaults in Chandler are related to domestic violence), rape or trespassing.

When officers respond to a call, they are required to label their report "domestic violence assault" or "domestic violence trespassing," as the case may be, to input into the department's records management

system to easily track what is happening and where.

Calendar year 2015 had been Chandler's record low for crime. Thereafter, there had been an increase in the violent-crime rate, especially assaults and robberies, for a couple of years until an overall decrease made 2018 the city's record-low year.

"But within that category of assault, we are still seeing a slight uptick," Duggan said.

Identifying root causes of domestic violence in a city of 70 square miles inhabited by nearly 260,000 people is the tricky part, according to the chief. Impairment in decision-making — drugs or alcohol — often is present when officers arrive. Sometimes it is a family cycle. Youth have been exposed to their parents as victims or perpetrators.

"We have put tremendous energy and effort into that," said Duggan, who has been Chandler police chief for 5½ years. "We've done a very good job identifying the victims, especially in sexual assaults. If we were able to identify root causes, we would be in a much better position."

And, says Duggan, tools to further deal with the problem are improving.

"I've been in policing for 33 years, and the focus on domestic violence and the education and the awareness, especially for the victims of domestic violence, never have been as great as they are now. People know they are going to be heard, going to be valued, going to be believed, and there's going to be some type of action and follow up."

The Police Department operates a Victim Services Unit, which received the 2017 Distinguished Service Award from the Arizona Attorney General's Office in recognition of outstanding crime-victim advocacy. Last year, Duggan's department opened a Family Advocacy Center in its building. Forensic interviews and exams can be done by specially trained nurses. It is a one-stop center so victims are not traumatized again by moving to different locations for different services and needs.

"It helps victims navigate the criminal justice system. It also provides prevention programs and all types of material, education and training so people have the awareness that domestic violence is not acceptable. There are resources and help for victims, so you are encouraged to come forward," Duggan said.

"For potential victims, there also are crisis lines. There are nonprofits out there. There's family and friends. Faith-based organizations. There is an army of folks that are absolutely ready and willing to help.

"At the very least, call the Police Department. We are the only government organization that's awake 24/7.

"You can always call the police."

*If you have a domestic violence emergency, call 911. For non emergency calls to police, dial 480-782-4130. For the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence, call 602-279-2900 or go to [azcadv.org](http://azcadv.org).*



# Sports

Edited by Alex Zener

## Coach Martinez departs Corona; multi-time champ is successor

Corona del Sol hired a new head wrestling coach, **Jesse Whitson**, this summer to replace **Jim Martinez**, who had been just the second wrestling coach in the school's 40-year history.

Martinez, whose teams won two state championships during his 10 years at the helm—one in 2010 and another in 2017—decided to resign in late April.

Corona's Assistant Principal of Athletics, **Cory Nenaber**, immediately started looking for someone to replace Martinez, who led a wrestling program that had been one of the top six Division 6A programs in all but one of the last 10 years and had been a highly decorated and successful

wrestler himself.

Martinez was, in addition to winner of a Bronze Olympic medal in Greco-Roman Wrestling in 1984, a five-time National Greco-Roman Champion, a Pan American Games medalist, a World Championship medalist, a Big 10 Champion, a Cadet Pan American Greco-Roman Team Coach and the 2013 USA Wrestling Developmental Coach of the Year.

In 2014, Martinez was inducted into the Alan and Gloria Rice Hall of Champions in the National Wrestling Hall of Champions.

Whitson may not have all the medals but he does have a strong wrestling background, high school coaching experience and the energy



Jesse Whitson

and enthusiasm needed in today's environment to run a successful wrestling program that requires a lot of additional volunteer hours outside the typical wrestling season.

Whitson, a native of Glendale and a 2005 graduate of Deer Valley High School, was a two-time regional champion and twice a state medal winner in high school before accepting a wrestling scholarship to the University of Central Missouri.

A member of the Deer Valley Hall of Fame, Whitson still holds the record for escapes in a single season at 46 and for career escapes at 122.

Deer Valley's 2004-2005 wrestling team, during Whitson's senior year, still holds three team records: Team Average Per Dual, 57; Consecutive Dual Wins, 15; and Best Dual Meet Record, 17.

While wrestling at the University of Central Missouri, Whitson in 2009 earned a degree in social studies education. As a graduate assistant coach for the Mules wrestling team, Whitson also earned a master's degree in sports business administration in 2010.

Whitson grew up around wrestling. His father was his high school coach at Deer Valley and he always knew he wanted to be a coach himself.

In 2011, Whitson got his chance to coach when he was hired as the head wrestling coach at Grain Valley High School in Grain Valley, Mo., where he ran a wrestling program at the Class Four level. His teams were among the Top 10 four times when he coached a state champion, along with 24 wrestlers who earned state medals and 10 wrestlers who were state finalists.

— SPORTS, Page 18

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## Sports

From Page 17

Whitson will also fulfill Corona's commitment to excellence in the classroom and easy access for student athletes to coaches because he will be on the Corona campus as a social studies teacher when school starts Aug. 5.

### Corona grad throws disc-golf world a surprise 1st-time championship

*Editor's note: Corona and ASU grad Alex Zener, as well as longtime Wrangler News sports columnist, took a moment from his now 12-year writing career to profile one of his favorite athletes, his sister Ashley. His report on her most recent success follows.*

Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports in the world, according to the Professional Disc Golf Association, which boasts having more than 120,000 lifetime members across 54 countries.

Originally, when the sport was formalized in the 1970s, many of the sites were set up on golf courses. Now, however, there are over 8,000 disc golf courses worldwide, with more being built every year.

Disc golf is similar to traditional golf, but instead of a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc, or what many call a frisbee.

The goal, like golf, is to complete each hole with the fewest number of attempts. Instead of a golf hole, the disc golf hole is usually an elevated metal basket. Similar to golf, the "putt" lands in the basket and the hole is completed.

Disc golf has the same joys and frustrations of golf, especially when smashing into a tree or hitting a long putt, but it can be an inexpensive sport with many of the public courses free and only three are needed to play.

The discs, like golf clubs, react differently, but a player should start with a driving, mid-range and putting disc, although there are players who haul around 20 or more discs. Each disc will have a different situation where they should work best.

Ashley Zener Shelley, a 2002 Corona graduate who played both basketball and volleyball for the Aztecs, recently found a way to channel her competitive spirit in disc golf.

Shelley, who was on Corona's 2001 5A state championship girls basketball team, the 2002 5A state runner-up basketball team and the 2001 state runner-up volleyball team, continued her volleyball career with a full-ride DI scholarship to Southern Methodist University in Dallas

After graduating with a degree in psychology

## Football

With all Tempe high schools scheduled to start school on Aug. 5, football season is right around the corner.

**Corona's** team, with 35 players' names currently on the roster, will have its 6A season opener at home on Aug. 23 against Mesa Mountain View.

**McClintock**, in the 5A division, with 51 players listed on its roster, is scheduled to play against Maricopa on the Chargers' home field Aug. 23.

from SMU in 2006, she continued her education, earning a master's degree from NAU. She now resides with her husband in Tucson, where she is a speech pathologist.

About a year ago Shelley tried playing disc golf and realized that she not only loved the sport but had some natural ability honed from her other athletic training and by throwing frisbees for her dog.

Last October she entered her first PDGA amateur tournament held in Show Low in the Advance Women's bracket and took third place. Not bad, many agreed, for a first experience.

She then entered two more PDGA tournaments, one in Escondido, Calif., on March 2 then one in Flagstaff on June 14, both of which she won.

Shelley's goal was to earn enough points to be invited to the PDGA Amateur Disc Golf World Championships in York County, Penn., held July 20-27, where over 700 competitors compete in 13 amateur divisions utilizing 10 disc golf courses, mostly in the trees.

Although Shelley did not earn enough points to qualify for an outright bid, she was invited to the event as one of the outside bids.

Having only played four disc golf tournament in the West with lots of open space, Shelley said she did not realize what she was getting into.

"When I played in Arizona, I typically threw a long drive and putted into the basket," said Shelley. "I rarely threw a mid-range disc, which is totally different than what you do when the course is full of trees."

The World Championships were held on a half dozen wooded courses in York County during July when it was hot and humid. In addition, the tournament structure was not only complicated but exhausting for the competitors because players had to compete for five days in a row with three of those requiring two full 18-hole rounds on two different courses.

Shelley reports she was feeling positive when she won the longest drive competition the first day in the Advanced Women's division with a 294-foot uphill drive. She continued to feel good about how things were going when she finished the first round among the top 10 of the Advanced Women's division.

Shelley even caught the eye of the PDGA photographer on the more open 18th hole when she threw the disc 346 feet and ended up making a 20-foot putt for birdie.

The second day consisted of two 18-hole rounds in two different courses that proved more difficult, trying to weave through trees and up hills and over rocks while carrying a backpack of discs and water

**Marcos de Niza's** season opener is not until a week later, when the Padres, with 60 players listed on its roster, will start their 4A season by playing an early rival game against McClintock at home on Aug. 30.

**Tempe High's** team, with 51 players on the roster, will start its 4A season on Aug. 30 as well when the Buffaloes play at home against Apache Junction.

bottles weighing over 20 pounds. Thankfully, her father, Tempe resident Mark Zener, took charge of her backpack and became what she called her "Daddy Caddy" for the rest of the tournament.

"I don't know if I would have made it without my Dad, with his moral support and caddying for me," said Shelly. "Some of the courses were very hard."

After struggling on the second day, Shelley regrouped and played well during the rest of the tournament to place in the top 20 in only her fifth PDGA endeavor.

"Most of the courses were difficult. They were often more like a mountain hiking path in the middle of a forest than anything I have played on before," said Shelly.

"It made me realize that it's not just throwing the disc a long way, because I whacked a lot of trees, but it's the mid-range shots and the endurance that I need to work on before the World Championships next summer in hot, humid Florida."



Ashley Zener Shelley and her 'Daddy Caddy' Mark Zener at the PDGA Amateur Disc Golf World Championships.

— Photo courtesy John Wittmershaus

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- Sept. 6 vs Basha
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- Sept. 20 @ Desert Ridge
- Sept. 27 vs Westview
- Oct 4 vs Queen Creek
- Oct. 18 @ Highland
- Oct. 25 @ Desert Vista
- Nov. 1 vs Mountain Pointe

## JUNIOR VARSITY

All games begin at 6:00 pm

- Aug. 29 vs Mountain Ridge
- Sept. 5 @ Basha
- Sept. 12 vs Boulder Creek
- Sept. 19 vs Desert Ridge
- Sept. 26 @ Westview
- Oct. 3 @ Queen Creek
- Oct. 17 vs Highland
- Oct. 24 vs Desert Vista
- Oct. 31 @ Mountain Pointe

## FRESHMAN

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- Aug. 28 @ Mountain Ridge
- Sept. 4 vs Basha
- Sept. 11 @ Boulder Creek
- Sept. 18 @ Desert Ridge
- Sept. 25 vs Westview
- Oct. 2 vs Queen Creek
- Oct. 16 @ Highland
- Oct. 23 @ Desert Vista
- Oct. 30 vs Mountain Pointe

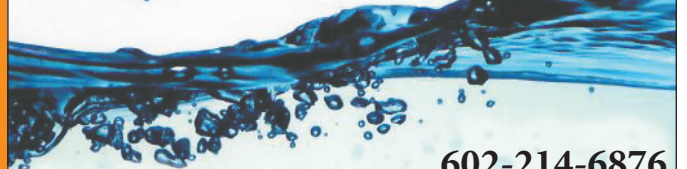


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## Bike-lane regs again up for discussion, possible new fines for infractions

By Joyce Coronel

Controversy over Tempe's bike lanes is nothing new, but the saga continues as the city continues to develop guidelines with an eye to the future.

At press time, TaiAnna Yee, Tempe public information officer for transportation, said the City Council was preparing for a second public hearing to repeal Chapter 7 and amend and expand Chapter 19 of the Tempe City Code.

Chapter 7 of the city code deals with bikes and light motor vehicles. Chapter 19 concerns motor vehicles and multimodal traffic. Public hearings on the two chapters in the code were held June 6 and again on June 27.

"It deals with modes of transportation but doesn't include motor vehicles," Yee said.

"It does include skateboards versus bikes versus e-bikes and push scooters [as well as] things that aren't here yet like the hover boards of the future. It deals with all of that."

Some Tempe residents expressed concern that bikes would not be allowed on sidewalks anymore following the council's anticipated vote.

Emotions were running high on social media



— Wrangler News file photo

sites that took up the issue in the days leading to the City Council meeting with multiple comments from members with young children.

"I don't want my kids anywhere near those bike lanes," one woman wrote. "If bikers and the city want more people riding, this is not the way to do it."

Other comments expressed concerns about possible fines that could be imposed if the city code changes.

Matt Lopez, a defense attorney in Tempe, said he and his kids wouldn't be riding their bikes on the street. "If you get one of these tickets, give me a call," Lopez said of the possible change in regulations.

"Right now bikes are allowed on sidewalks," Yee said, but that could change depending on how the council members would vote at the July 30 meeting.

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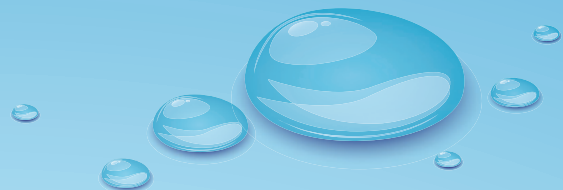
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## Tempe Chamber Upcoming Events



### Stars and Strikes Fundraiser



Wednesday, September 11, 2019  
5:30pm - 8:00pm  
Main Event Entertainment-Tempe

PRESENTED BY: Tempe Chamber Military Affairs Committee

### State of the City



Friday, October 25, 2019  
7:15 am - 9:00 am  
Phoenix Marriott Resort Tempe at The Buttes

PRESENTED BY: **Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## Legislative Update

### Emerging Issues Forum

with Rep. Greg Stanton and Sen. Sean Bowie

Friday, September 6, 2019  
7:30 am - 9:00 am  
Almao Drafthouse - Tempe  
PRESENTED BY:



Visit [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org) or call 480-967-7891 to find out more or to register for all our upcoming events.



# DIVERSIONS

## Teachers earn star power in iconic film gems

By M.V. Moorhead

After a short, hot summer—in Arizona it's the warm-up, of course, to a long, hot fall—back-to-school time has rolled around again. A movie night on this theme may be in order, but let's try it from a slightly different angle:

Out of the countless movies about school, most tend to focus on students, but a few create memorable portraits of the experience of being a teacher.

Here, off the top of my head, are a few memorable and fun movie teachers who deserve at the very least, an apple:

**Blackboard Jungle**—Glenn Ford, oddly reminiscent here of Jack Lemmon, is exasperatingly

earnest as Mr. Dadier, a young teacher at an inner-city school with a class full of hoodlums and future stars: Sidney Poitier, Vic Morrow, Paul Mazursky, Rafael Campos and Jamie Farr, billed here as “Jameel Farrah.”

The 1955 movie, directed by Richard Brooks, made a big stir at the time simply for using “Rock Around the Clock” under the titles.

**To Sir, With Love**—What goes around, comes around: Twelve years after giving poor Mr. Dadier a hard time in *Blackboard Jungle*, Poitier was the teacher. As Mark Thackery, aka “Sir” to his students, he had to put up with a class of tough, troubled youths in London’s East End, and gradually win them over with his patience and respect.

**Conrack**—Jon Voight had one of his best roles in this 1974 drama, based on a memoir by Pat Conroy. “Conrack” tries to bring some sense of the outside world to isolated kids on one of the “Gullah islands” off the coast of South Carolina, playing them classical music and showing them movies. His bosses don’t approve.

**Educating Rita**—It isn’t just kids who need great teachers; they’re also essential in adult education. In this 1983 adaptation of Willy Russell’s play, Michael Caine is lovable and funny as Frank, a bored, jaded, hard-drinking Open University prof who rocks the worldview of his new English lit student, a lively hairdresser who calls herself Rita

(Julie Walters). She rocks his worldview right back.

**Kindergarten Cop**—And we mustn’t forget elementary school teachers. In this silly but sweet 1990 action comedy, Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a police detective; the contrived premise is that he must go undercover as a kindergarten teacher. It’s all in service of the film’s one real joke: That even a tough guy like Schwarzenegger is no match for a bunch of five-year olds.

**Mean Girls**—The focus of this popular 2004 high school comedy (since adapted into a Broadway musical) certainly was students, in particular the nasty alpha females of the title. But the movie also includes a wonderful portrait of math teacher Ms. Norbury, played by Tina Fey, who gets falsely smeared by an ugly student prank. Fey, who also scripted, gets across some of the weary idealism, tempered with ironic humor, of the dedicated, underpaid, underappreciated teacher. Small wonder the principal (Tim Meadows) has a crush on her.

**Ferris Bueller’s Day Off**—The beloved 1986 John Hughes comedy is mostly about playing hooky: Ferris (Matthew Broderick) and friends sneak off to Chicago to catch a Cubs game, the Art Institute, etc. But there is an unforgettable educator: Occasionally Hughes cuts back to school and shows us an economics teacher (Ben Stein) droning away; it gives us a powerful sense of what Ferris wants to avoid.

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**Tempe will honor** the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with a display of patriotism and unity at the annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park, located at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway. The free event runs Saturday, Sept. 7, through Thursday, Sept. 12, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Sept. 10, there will be a Freedom Concert featuring patriotic songs in the park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. On Sept. 11, there will be a memorial ceremony at 5:46 a.m. and a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. Healing Field is presented by the Exchange Club of Tempe.

*For more information, visit [www.tempehealingfield.org](http://www.tempehealingfield.org).*

## Meet up with Councilmembers

**T**empe City Councilmembers hold occasional conversation events to hear directly from community members.

*Here are some upcoming opportunities:*

### Join Jennifer

Councilmember Jennifer Adams is holding the next in her series of zip code-focused events.

Join Jennifer will be held Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 6-7 p.m., at Kiwanis Park Recreation Center, 6111 S. All-America Way.

All residents are invited but the focus for the evening will be especially on issues pertaining to the 85283 zip code.

Every other month, Adams' event focuses on a different Tempe zip code.

The September conversation will include city staff presenting on WaterSmart and the Kiwanis Park Management Plan.

For more information about Adams' service to Tempe, visit [tempe.gov/adams](http://tempe.gov/adams).

### Connecting with Kuby

Vice Mayor Lauren Kuby hosts monthly office hours at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

Stop by Connections Café and talk about ways to make Tempe better.

The upcoming dates are all Saturdays – Aug. 31, Sept. 28 and Oct. 26, from 1-4 p.m.

For more information about Kuby's service to Tempe, visit [tempe.gov/kuby](http://tempe.gov/kuby).

## Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) Kick Off Meeting

The City of Tempe invites you to join fellow neighborhood chairs, block watch captains and residents from all over Tempe to engage in party planning for Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN).

Mayor Mitchell and city staff will be on hand to help your neighborhood jump start your planning at the GAIN Kick Off Celebration at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 18, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.



Whether this is your first experience with planning a GAIN event for your neighborhood or you are a seasoned planner, there will be plenty of tips, handouts and helpful information along with chances to win raffle prizes from our event sponsors and opportunities to win party visits from city areas such as Police, Fire Medical Rescue and Recycling.

Pre-register your event at [tempe.gov/GAIN](http://tempe.gov/GAIN) or come prepared to do so the evening of the Kick Off.

Be sure to save the date for this year's GAIN gatherings which will be held from 3-7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26.

SRP is once again sponsoring this year's event.

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



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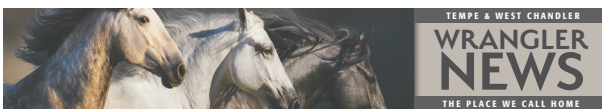
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Editor: Joyce Coronel

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Don Kirkland, Founder & Publisher

Photography: Billy Hardiman  
Community Outreach: Noah Kutz  
Contributors: Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead,  
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*Wrangler News is printed by Tempe-based Signature Offset on partially recycled newsprint with ink made from 98 percent soy content*

# Tempe El

From Page 1

have and roll it over to their school and their staff," said Director of School Leadership, Dr. Christine Trujillo.

State Superintendent Kathy Hoffman took time to talk with the group during their retreat. She spoke about being leaders in schools, how important the principal's job is, and how she appreciates their leadership. Trujillo stated that it was very inspiring and very well received.

Among the group was a new principal, Shannon Cunningham. Cunningham shared that it was valuable time spent with inspiring colleagues.

"I feel inspired, supported, and excited as we kick off the new school year in Tempe Elementary with a focus on intentional leadership," Cunningham said.

Dr. Nancy Uxa, principal of Laird School, said she is starting the year feeling invigorated and uplifted.

"The message of being intentional in all we do was thought provoking," Uxa said. "The message of spreading joy in all we do each day was exciting and energizing! I am fortunate to work in such a child-centered and loving district."

"We're all looking forward to a positive year of impacting students through our intentional leadership," Trujillo said.

classrooms, large meeting rooms and resources for teachers and staff members in all content areas.

"When planning this event, it was important to me that everyone felt the same support that I did when I started at Tempe Elementary," said Teacher Induction Specialist Melissa Jorna. "TD3 really advocates for us to be a community and group of learners who push ourselves to grow and learn and become the best at what we do."

Superintendent Busch greeted new staff at the beginning of the orientation, and shared encouragement about the importance of their role in the lives of children.

"Our life's work is the most critical work that a society does, because our life's work is about the children," Busch said.

New staff members also heard words of wisdom from Tempe Elementary's "Rookie of the Year" teacher, Edna Morales, – an exemplary educator embarking on her second year with Tempe Elementary.

"Seek out support from colleagues in your first year as a teacher. Ask everyone in your building for help—that is what they are there for," Morales said. "We are a team, we work together. That's what we are teaching our students, and that is what we need to do as well."

The support for staff extends to the community, as well. Margaret Hunnicutt, President and CEO of the local Landings Credit Union, shared some of the many ways their organization strives to help educators be financially successful. That includes pausing loan payments that occur over the summer, opening accounts for students and paying them for every "A" grade they bring in on their report cards, and more.

Following the welcome session, new staff members broke into smaller sessions to cover topics like routines and procedures, community building, and specific student engagement strategies. Later in the day, new teachers went out to various schools and spent time in a classroom of their designated grade-level or area of focus, and had the chance to interact with and learn from some experienced teachers of their specific grade.

"There were many great resources shared through this orientation that I will definitely use in my first year. I'm very excited to get started," said new teacher Amandah Goodman.

# Kyrene schools Familiar faces, new places

Kyrene is welcoming new principals to several schools this year, and while some of them may be new to their positions, they are not new to district leadership roles.

Four Kyrene schools located in the Tempe-Chandler area will begin the 2019-20 school year with new principals, each one either a current principal moving to a new school or an assistant principal earning a promotion.

**Kyrene Middle School** — In Tempe, KMS will be under the leadership of Principal Scott Maxwell. Maxwell joins KMS from the district office, where his role as a director of school effectiveness saw him already working closely with all middle schools.

Maxwell helped manage a variety of initiatives, including KMS efforts to achieve International Baccalaureate school status. He has served as a high school principal, social studies teacher and researcher in organizations as far away as China and South Africa.

Maxwell will draw on these global professional experiences to lead dynamic programming at KMS.

**C.I. Waggoner** — Longtime educator and Kyrene leader Marcie Romero is stepping up to the principal position at Waggoner, starting with the 2019-20 school year. Romero has spent 19 years educating students, most recently as assistant principal at Kyrene de las Brisas.

Before that, she was an elementary school teacher as well as an adjunct faculty member for Arizona State University.

Says Romero:

"I strive to create a positive environment where all students and staff feel a sense of pride and community when they walk through the door, and I look forward to bringing that commitment to C.I. Waggoner."

**Niños** — Kyrene de los Niños Elementary School will find longtime Kyrene leader Lisa Connor in the principal role. Connor has been a member of the Kyrene district for 24 years, first as an instructional assistant, then as a teacher for more than a decade. She then moved into an assistant principal position.

Connor most recently served as rincipal of Kyrene de la Sierra Elementary School in Ahwatukee, where she led the school to an AEF A+ School of Excellence designation last year.

## District welcomes new department leaders

Kyrene is also welcoming new leaders to its district offices. Former Waggoner Principal Lisa Gibson will serve as a director of school effectiveness, with all district schools within her purview. In addition to school leadership, Gibson's experience includes working as an elementary school teacher and a literacy specialist.

Gibson says she looks forward to having an impact on student learning. "It is a joy to come to work each day and to know that I can positively change a child's life," she said.

Also new to the district office is Dr. Barbara Remondini, who becomes the director of human resource services.

Remondini's experience includes roles as both a principal and an assistant superintendent. She joined Kyrene in the spring as part of her plan to get a jump start on the work ahead and help support hiring for the 2019-20 school year.

All are already serving in their new roles, with work for the fall said to be well underway.

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**WELCOME BACK MESSAGE FROM  
KYRENE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SUPERINTENDENT DR. JAN VESELY**

*"We are born makers. We move what we're learning from our heads to our hearts through our hands."  
— Brené Brown*

Over the summer, I have been reading the works of researcher and storyteller Brené Brown, and I came across the quote above. Brown says we are born makers, moving what we learn from our heads, to our hearts and, finally, through our hands. I see this in action every day in our Kyrene schools.

At its best, the process of teaching and learning is an art. We in Kyrene are very fortunate to have many master artists in our classrooms. You only have to walk through any one of our schools to see kids working together to solve a problem, or hear a poem a student crafted on their own, to know that we are truly making a difference in the lives of children.

**Social-Emotional Learning**

The year ahead welcomes several exciting initiatives across Kyrene. This year, we are expanding our efforts to provide students with social-emotional learning and supports. We began this work two years ago with the Middle School Design, and are in the process of extending social-emotional learning into our elementary schools. This work will include the addition of school counselors to our elementary campuses, as well as the implementation of a comprehensive social-emotional curriculum.

If we are truly committed to **making a difference** in the lives of children, the addition of counselors is a key piece in achieving that goal. We know that providing support beyond academic interventions to all students is critical to their ability to perform at their full potential, as it helps them to develop resiliency and strategies for coping with risk factors and provides an additional layer of protective factors that will improve the overall social-emotional wellness of our students.

**Equity Impact**

Equity is also a key focus this year, as we work with expert partner Corwin to build systems of support that identify and eliminate bias. This will include professional development for staff, support for culturally relevant teaching strategies and the development of practices for attracting job applicants from diverse backgrounds. We have already begun the work of focusing on restorative justice opportunities to close discipline gaps and ensure all students are treated fairly.

In addition to our work with Corwin, we have engaged with the University of Virginia, Partnership for Leaders in Education to prioritize a set of schools who have historically had achievement, behavior and opportunity gaps.

The purpose of this initiative is to empower district and school leaders to create an equitable, inclusive and just system for every student by relentlessly pursuing transformational leadership, teaching and learning in our RISE UP schools. Our commitment is that every child in Kyrene feels like they belong and can thrive regardless of their race, gender, income or ability.

**New Beginnings**

2019-20 sees two long-sought efforts come to fruition in Kyrene. After two years as a candidate school, Kyrene Middle School (KMS) has been named an official International Baccalaureate school. The I.B. Middle Years Programme will put a global lens on all education at KMS, to help prepare students for future career and college opportunities. We have also spent the past two years "Imagining the Possibilities", and will be welcoming the first cohort of students to a new educational model within Kyrene de las Manitas this year.

Facilities staff have been busy creating a learning studio which will include state-of-the-art technology and areas where students can build, perform and experiment with hands-on activities. The teaching team, under the direction of a Certified Teacher Executive Designer, has been working on developing experiential/project-based lessons in preparation for the first day of school. We anticipate great work to emerge from this unique approach to learning.

**Balanced Budget**

We are starting the new school year with a balanced budget while honoring strategic initiatives and salary increases for teachers and staff which, in today's education landscape, is not an easy task.

Kyrene has always had the support of its community for our bonds and overrides, which allows us to minimize severe budget deficits that other districts face. Even so, our margin is very small, and each year, we must identify opportunities for efficiencies, which do not impact our effectiveness, so that we may continue to fund new and innovative programs that allow us to prepare our kids for

the future. This year, we invited the community to work with us in identifying budget priorities. We asked our parents, community members, teachers and site leaders to review and prioritize areas of budget reductions as well as new initiatives. This feedback informed the final budget for the 2019-20 school year.

**Strategic Plan 2022**

Throughout the coming year, we will continue to measure our progress against the goals set forth in the Kyrene Strategic Plan 2022.

As I reflect on our work in recent years, I appreciate the progress we've made toward those goals of high performing students, high quality talent, collective governance, inclusive culture and creating a responsive organization.

This progress can be attributed to the hard work of our amazing school leaders, teachers and staff, the leadership and support of our Governing Board, and a highly-engaged parent community.

We will continue to report our progress to the Governing Board and to our community so that we remain true to the vision for Kyrene, that all students achieve at their maximum potential to become problem-solvers, creators and visionaries of tomorrow.

I believe that each child has his or her own special gifts and talents waiting to be discovered.

I look forward to seeing those gifts emerge as we progress through another exciting year.

My wish for the 2019-20 school year is that we can move learning from our students' heads, to their hearts and through their hands, to make learning come alive for them in ways they never imagined.

— Jan Vesely

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**Kyrene Corridor Market Snapshot**

Subdivision	Address	Square Feet	Beds/Baths	Sold Price
Camelot Village	1905 E. Vaughn St, Tempe, 85283	2,434	3 / 2	\$427,000
Estate La Colina	1821 E. El Freda Rd, Tempe, 85284	2,716	3 / 2	\$501,000
Bradley Place	1231 E. Gemini Dr, Tempe, 85283	1,901	4 / 2	\$410,000
Wild Tree	4692 W. Toledo St, Chandler, 85226	2,741	4 / 3.5	\$360,000
Valencia	3081 W. Ironwood Cir, Chandler, 85226	2,905	5 / 3	\$525,000
Warner Estates	8602 S. Willow Dr, Tempe, 85284	5,153	4 / 4.5	\$960,000

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