



TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

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So who's got the upper hand in this photo taken at Tempe's premier Buena Vista Ranchos neighborhood, a popular destination for horse-loving homebuyers since the late 1970s? Hint: It's not the one with only two legs. A noted equine expert shares his years of experience with all of us, concluding the horse-human bond is like no other.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

No surprise to neighborhood's horse owners: Those critters could be smarter than us

By Sammie Ann Wicks

Horses have been a ubiquitous presence in the Southwest since they roamed the Plains during the Pleistocene epoch 2.6 million years ago, and after their reappearance here in the early 16th century, brought by Spanish explorers.

Today, horses have persisted and still thrive, even in a densely urbanized setting, fundamentally linked with their human benefactors, as any drive through Tempe's long-lived "horse properties" will attest.

Horses, it would seem, are here to stay.

And if you're one of the lucky Arizona "horse people," living among horses and delighting in the magic of the ageless horse-human bond, prepare to be profoundly challenged by the connection, says one lifetime Arizona horse handler.

"You can't con a horse," says Josh Feldman, owner-operator of Superstition's OK Corral Stables.

"Your self-knowledge and ability to be completely forthright and honest with a horse, and with yourself, is primary. If you're not, a horse is going to sense this the first minute they meet you, and you're going to have trouble."

Are horses psychic, then?

"No, not exactly psychic," says Feldman. "I'd say they have an extraordinarily high level of what some call emotional intelligence. A horse doesn't HEAR what you say—they FEEL what you say. And their differences in temperament make each one unique as you learn to live and work with them."

"So, if you're a reticent person, and a horse is an assertive type, you can be sure they're going to try and take over, to dominate. You have to learn to deal with that, no matter what type of person you are—it's a challenge."

Feldman asserts horses' ability

— HORSES, Page 11

For schools chief, an earned accolade, with a nod to the past

Three Tempe residents—two adults and a recent high school graduate—are this year's representatives of the legacy and spirit on which the city's foundations were built almost a century and a half ago.

Christine Busch, superintendent of the Tempe Elementary School District and a longtime community leader, has been named the 36th recipient of Tempe Community Council's Don Carlos Humanitarian Award, the city's most prestigious distinction.

Busch and the other awardees will

—AWARDS, Page 15



New focus for West Chandler coverage

By Don Kirkland
Commentary

About the time Wrangler News was nearing its first decade of delivering news and feature stories to the 10,000 homes in South Tempe, we made the decision to extend our publication's reach to an additional 10,000 West Chandler driveways.

It was not an idea that had been hatched overnight. It came in response to what we heard more and more regularly: That many people living in West Chandler neighborhoods felt disconnected from the cultural and business center of the city in which they were a nascent political subdivision.

— CHANDLER, Page 8



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Kindness: As school starts, a vital lesson to be learned

Inspiring kids to follow their passions is noted educator's message to teachers

By Gabrielle Dunton

Building positive relationships is the most important part of education.

That was the message delivered to all TD3 staff at the annual Back-to-School kickoff event. Every Tempe Elementary teacher and staff member was present for the occasion, designed to inspire and energize everyone for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

Superintendent Christine Busch welcomed the group and shared the theme for the school year: Choose Kindness...Change the World! In light of the theme, Busch introduced George Couros, the keynote speaker at this year's event.

Couros is a learner, educator and consultant for Innovative Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, as well as author of "The Innovator's Mindset."

His formula for learning: we need to inspire our kids to follow their passions while letting them inspire us to do the same.

Couros opened with sharing his thoughts on how every student, no matter where each comes from, should be given a pathway to success, particularly via opportunities that are meaningful to them.

He led the TD3 employees into a message on the type of mindset that could help educators help students reach their greatest potential.

Using a mix of humor and heartwarming stories, Couros discussed how important it is for educators



Tempe Elementary teachers and counselors at the district's back-to-school kickoff event learned about the power of kindness in action.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary School District

these days to think with an "innovator's mindset," implying the ability to create empowering learning experiences, incorporate learning methods relevant to the learner—with an emphasis on embracing technology—and continuing to be a lifelong learner.

But what is at the core of the innovator's mindset? The ability to build and maintain positive relationships with students.

"Err on the side of positive," said Couros. "You never know when it's going to impact someone's

life."

In the context of education, an acknowledgment in a hallway can have a monumental outcome that could stick with a child forever. Couros reminded the audience that school often is the most joyous place for a child in the entire day.

Laird School Counselor Danielle Juengel said she particularly resonated with Couros' points as she consistently has seen the power of kindness in action at her school.

"As a counselor, kindness is the foundation of everything I do. Without that relationship and trust, built through kindness, I wouldn't be able to reach as many students," Juengel said.

Kindness not only feels good in the moment, but can also have longterm emotional benefits. Juengel noted that showing kindness reduces stress, depression and anxiety in both the giver and receiver.

"It is one of the few things you can do for free that benefits everyone," Juengel added.

Even in the face of those who are unkind, Couros ended his keynote address by challenging TD3 employees to be advocates for kindness and lead through example.

"We need to make the positives so loud, that the negatives are hard to hear," said Couros.

Information georgecouros.ca/blog/.

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Tempe opens a door to affordable housing

City's efforts target underlying causes of homelessness

Staff reports

Mental illness and substance abuse provide a doubly disabling path for yet one more personal tragedy: homelessness.

That is why Tempe's selection for a prestigious U.S. housing award means a lot to those behind the efforts that led to the recognition.

The city's participation in a regional effort to house 100 people experiencing homelessness has been recognized with a 2019 Award of Merit in Affordable Housing.

The innovative HUD H2 Healthcare & Housing initiative, which includes the Tempe Housing Authority and four other entities, offers a creative and replicable way to address housing needs for the increasing numbers of people who are homeless and experiencing general mental health or substance abuse issues.

"We are honored to be recognized as part of this

collaborative effort to help people in need find housing and health services," said Naomi Farrell, city of Tempe human services director.

"Homelessness knows no boundaries. It is vitally important that we work as a region to find solutions."

The Tempe Housing Authority was recognized by National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials at a conference earlier this month. The H2 partnership includes Arizona's Medicaid unit, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, or AHCCCS, along with regional behavioral healthcare authority Mercy Care and the housing authorities of Tempe, Phoenix and Maricopa County.

Through the H2 effort, AHCCCS will pay rental subsidies for 12-24 months to house 100 individuals referred by Mercy Care.

The housing authorities then help them find permanent homes

through the Housing Choice Voucher, or Section 8, program.

Tempe housing oversight includes responsibility for 25 vouchers as part of the effort, a commitment the city expects to fill within six months.

"This is a vulnerable population that has limited access to resources and housing options due to the realities of mental illness and substance abuse," said LeVon Lamy, Tempe's housing manager.

"By providing housing and healthcare, we are giving them the opportunity to seek the care they need to get better and stabilize their lives."

The Tempe unit is actively expanding to assist neighbors in need, Lamy said.

"H2 Housing & Healthcare is the fourth new program brought on in the last 16 months," he said.

Information: tempe.gov/AffordableHousing.



LeVon Lamy, Tempe's housing manager, and Naomi Farrell, City of Tempe human services director, with the award the city received in recognition of its efforts to create affordable housing and address homelessness. — Photo courtesy City of Tempe



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Kyrene initiative: Reaching out to peers seen as key to early detection of distress

By Sammie Ann Wicks

Students returning to Kyrene district classes this month are being introduced to innovative outreach programs, both inside and outside 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 to peers who may show signs of being troubled.

“We want to overcome the stigma of what formerly was regarded as ‘tattling,’ and teach kids the warning signs that a fellow student may be suffering emotionally.” That, it is hoped, would encourage them to speak up and get involved, she says.

Recent National Alliance on Mental Illness data indicates 20 percent of teens 13 to 18 are affected by mental issues, and as many as 50 percent of those 14 and older will drop out of school because of such issues.

The NAMI study also identifies suicide as the third leading cause of death between ages 10 to 24, with 4,600 lives lost in that group each year.

Getting student peers’ help identifying troubled teens and motivating them help proactively has been prioritized through funding and new staffing, Helm says.

“To help with this outreach, we’ve added additional counselors this year—one for each elementary school,” she reports.

In keeping with the outreach theme, during August the district hosted nationally recognized educational speaker and self-described kids’ advocate Collin Kartchner.

Kartchner spoke at assemblies at every middle school in the district, discussing, among other topics, the dangers social media pose to

the healthy social and emotional development of students in the middle school age group.

A former TED speaker, Kartchner founded a nationwide movement called “Save the Kids” and spends his time helping students overcome what he calls “social media and screen addiction.”

Other outreach programs will concentrate on bullying prevention and student peer intervention, says Dr. Sandra Laine, Kyrene’s director of exceptional student services.

Sanford Harmony, Kyrene’s new elementary social and emotional learning curriculum, addresses bullying prevention by teaching social skills and building self-esteem, Laine notes.

“This program provides students with the opportunity to learn about diversity and inclusion, empathy and critical thinking, communication, problem solving and peer relationships,” she said. Laine adds that counselors on duty are prepared to intervene in situations involving student-on-student bullying.

“School counselors are equipped to identify instances of bullying and are trained to intervene...to help build and sustain positive relationships between students,” she said.

A new classroom approach to learning, added Helm, encourages even more collaborative activity at Kyrene, combining different-grade age groups in the same setting.

“We’re calling this new format a ‘school within a school,’” said Helm, describing Kyrene’s launch of a large classroom designed to combine several groups of students and multiple teachers.

“We literally took the walls down to create one big space,” says Helm, “and redesigned everything to encourage collaborative learning. Even the furniture has been redesigned for that purpose.”

Inside, she says, “students from all...grades learn together, and several teachers there with them contribute equally in a team-teaching approach.”

Given that both younger and older students are learning together, Helm says there is ample opportunity for older students to mentor their younger classmates.

Curriculum and program methods at the new school are designed and will be supervised by Mary Brown, a certified teacher executive designer.

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Unraveling diet pros, cons A quick and easy primer on what strategy may work for you (or not)

By Kelli Shallal

Editor's note: Kelli Shallal is a longtime Tempe resident and registered dietitian with a master's degree in public health nutrition. Her healthy living blog, Hungry Hobby, has over 100,000 visitors a month. Her articles and recipes have been featured in magazines such as Today's Dietitian and Food & Nutrition Magazine. She is regularly quoted in the media and well known in the health communications field. Her first book, Meal Prep For Weight Loss, is due for release this fall. We thought you'd enjoy hearing from her in Wrangler News.

Do you find yourself trying the latest fad diet only to become disillusioned after a few days? It turns out you might not be alone.

The average dieting American begins a new diet regimen on average about six times a year. That's a new diet program every other month.

It's easy to see why so many Americans hop on the diet train. Fad diets usually promise everything from weight loss to practically handing you a million dollars. While full of glitz and glamour, they typically aren't the best choice for sustainable weight loss.

So let's take a look at three of the most "faddy" (fatty?) diets out there. Now here's "the skinny" on getting skinny.

Keto Diet — This program promises improved energy, nonexistent hunger levels and improved health. The Ketogenic diet is a high fat, moderate protein and very, very low on (let's call it nonexistent) carbs. It requires your body to learn how to burn ketones for fuel and in the process will make you sick temporarily, also known as the "Keto flu."

The Keto Diet requires continuous monitoring of ketone levels (in blood or urine) and diligent planning.

The pro here is that you'll learn how to avoid sugar and processed foods. A serious con I see is the number of clients coming to me with very uncomfortable gastrointestinal issues including severe heartburn and constipation after trying Keto. You'll also be unlikely to participate in social situations if you want to stay on this diet due to its extreme restrictions.

Paleo Diet — Many people think that Paleo is the same thing as Keto,

but it's not. While Keto restricts the type of fuel you consume to primarily fat, the Paleo Diet is based around the way the caveman ate and restricts the types of foods you'll consume.

Not allowed on the Paleo Diet are healthy foods like beans, whole grains, dairy, and peanuts. While I like the Paleo Diet for its emphasis on high-quality meat, fish, vegetables, nuts, and seeds which are healthy foods, I don't think it's as effective today as it was five years ago. It used to be an excellent tool for limiting sugar and processed foods, but due to its popularity the amount of Paleo cookies and protein bars available now definitely dampen this benefit. Plus, as my Mom would say, "didn't the caveman only live till like 40?" Enough said.

Intermittent Fasting —

Intermittent Fasting, also known as time-restricted eating, is also very popular. Funny enough, this fad has nothing to do with the type of food you eat. Instead, you remove that issue altogether by not eating. There are a lot of different ways to intermittent fast, but most protocols require a 12-hour restricted eating window minimum. Believe or not, research demonstrates many good reasons to try out this diet, including boosting the immune system, digestive rest, and weight loss. Research shows that Intermittent Fasting is no better for weight loss than plain old calorie restriction. The downside here is that females, especially those of childbearing years, risk hormone imbalances if they participate in extended fasting.

Should You Try It? — Any attempt at improving your health is going to be good, and you may pick up new ways of doing things such as eating more avocados, cooking sweet potatoes, or finding you like maple syrup better than white processed sugar. Remember though: Fad diets are not sustainable long term; that's why they are fad diets. Despite their popularity, it's best to skip fad diets because they can have unintended severe health consequences.

Disclaimer: Use common sense when it comes to your health and dieting, and if you have any questions, ask your doctor or dietitian. You can also email me with your questions or ideas for future diet articles at kelli@hungryhobby.net



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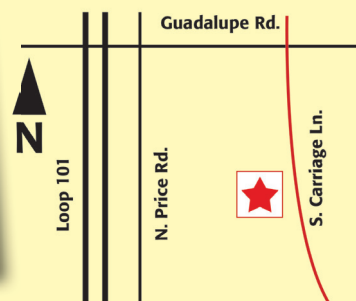
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Chandler

From Page 1

We also took into account, of course, that freeways tend to get blamed for inhibiting the flow of commerce in otherwise contiguous communities, which indeed the opening of the Price/101 extension in the late 1980s no doubt had effected.

So the perception, accurate in those days or not, of Chandler not paying enough attention to its growing west side, coupled with a freeway that added further potential division, became the dual rationales for our expansion.

It was not the first time I'd encountered the phenomenon of municipal separation anxiety, you might call it. From my days at the old Mesa Tribune, I remembered the efforts we undertook to help people living in Dobson Ranch to feel less disenfranchised from their central city. It took a while, but I've always been proud of the determination we shared back in those days to help provide a sense of belonging to the many thousands residents of that perceivably neglected neighborhood.

While those who lived in Dobson Ranch were accustomed to shopping regularly at what was then Tri-City Mall, West Chandler people prior to our expansion indicated they gravitated to Tempe and Ahwatukee for the majority of their shopping, church-going and recreational pursuits, rather than to their local (pre-Chandler mall) shopping mainstays—one more reason we felt that they could benefit from our newspaper helping to strengthen the sense of connection to their own hometown rather than to two neighboring cities.

Chandler, to its credit, did begin to strategically develop new Westside infrastructure. Funding was authorized for a fire substation, a police annex, a library, a swimming pool complex—all of which had the effect of reinforcing a citywide sense of community.

And it was our hope, by covering stories involving, and of specific interest to, West Chandler residents, that our little hometown newspaper would become part of the glue helping to cement this disjointed fragment of a city to its downtown core.

Our effort went well for a number of years. People told us they enjoyed receiving their driveway-delivered newspaper every other Saturday, and city officials—tapping into a modest advertising budget—supported our concept of neighborhood building that involved bringing recognition to the area's parks, community center programs and other city-sponsored initiatives.

Within the last year, however, city support for our community-focused news and feature coverage has gone from a trickle to zero. The marketing staff's rationale for what appears to be this discontinuation of advertising dollars is that the city's community-information budget is now being directed at digital and social media platforms, with no dollars set aside for the kind of neighborhood-centric newspapers, like ours, that have been bringing stories about West Chandler to you for nearly 20 years.

(Interestingly, in a city with a population of 253,000, Facebook tells us that only about 5.5 percent of Chandler residents "like" the city's page, presumably leaving 94 percent uninformed via that medium. Hmm...)

Regarding the transition to digital, we hear about people moving away from print media in favor of content that can be read on cellphones, tablets and laptops. But we also know that small, neighborhood-focused newspapers—again, like ours—remain a dominant resource for those who still look forward to the local paper arriving in their driveway on schedule.

It's a way, they tell us, that they can count on receiving—and holding in their hands—stories about familiar faces and places, schools, churches, new and long-established businesses—yes, even their local city government.

So now that Chandler's municipal decision-makers have decided to reallocate their advertising budget, we see two worrisome outcomes as possibilities.

One, that content produced exclusively by this or any other PR staff enables a controlled perspective of information that can be filtered to mirror a managed viewpoint. Second, that Facebook, Twitter and other

— CONTINUED on facing page

such venues—the very media being selected by Chandler—are already suspect because of their lack of journalism’s traditional oversight.

If you share any or all of our concerns contained herein, feel free to let us know. We’d like to think that the city of Chandler—and you—value our positive coverage of your community for the past two decades, and would like to see it continue.

As we strategize ways to fill the void left by the city’s lack of support—and we already have found some significant untapped sources—please know that Wrangler News will continue to bring you stories about West Chandler neighborhoods, schools, organizations, businesses and achievers of all ages, colors and, as always, those who share a commitment to help make our community an even better place.

Final note: While we fully support our belief in print newspapers, we aren’t blind to the role of digital media in our journalistic futures.

That’s what’s behind our own ongoing development of supplemental content for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, plus our website (updated daily) and a widely distributed email edition of the paper, with engagement of our readers growing steadily. This, we believe, is a valid rationale for how print and digital initiatives can coexist and bring added strength to both.

Dignity Health joins forces with Phoenix Children’s to expand services for area families

A major milestone is being celebrated among West Chandler and Tempe residents as Dignity Health and Phoenix Children’s Hospital set the final steel beam in place for a new, state-of-the-art Women’s and Children’s Pavilion in place on the campus of Mercy Gilbert Medical Center.

The pavilion, which will cover 378,000 square feet, will include 24 labor and delivery rooms operated by Mercy Gilbert which will have the capability to care for high-risk births. The facility will also have 48 post-partum beds.

Phoenix Children’s will operate the center’s new 60-bed Level III neonatal intensive care unit, which will care for the most ill and premature babies; a 24-bed pediatric emergency department; six pediatric operating rooms; and 24 pediatric beds.

The five-story facility is expected to be completed in late 2020 and begin treating patients in spring 2021.

The joint project between Dignity Health and Phoenix Children’s is part of a strategic expansion designed to meet the needs of the rapidly growing community in the East Valley.

“We are proud to work with Phoenix

Children’s on such a momentous project that will allow both of our organizations to provide the best possible medical care to families in the East Valley,” said Mark Slyter, president and CEO of Mercy Gilbert and Chandler Regional Medical Centers.

“We are also thankful for the ongoing support from the Town of Gilbert. The Women’s and Children’s Pavilion located right here on Mercy Gilbert’s campus will be a game changer for our community.”

Bob Meyer, president and CEO of Phoenix Children’s, also expressed excitement for the new venture.

“It is encouraging to hear the positive response from the community on this project,” he said. “We continue to listen to our patients and address their needs to the best of our ability. This new facility is a response to that, and gives us and Dignity Health the ability to deliver exceptional care that is convenient to the growing families in the East Valley.”

Dignity Health and Phoenix Children’s have teamed up for several projects in the past. In 2014, Phoenix Children’s opened a 22-bed unit inside Mercy Gilbert.

In 2011, Dignity Health and Phoenix Children’s worked together to improve access to high quality care by participating in the Arizona Care Network.



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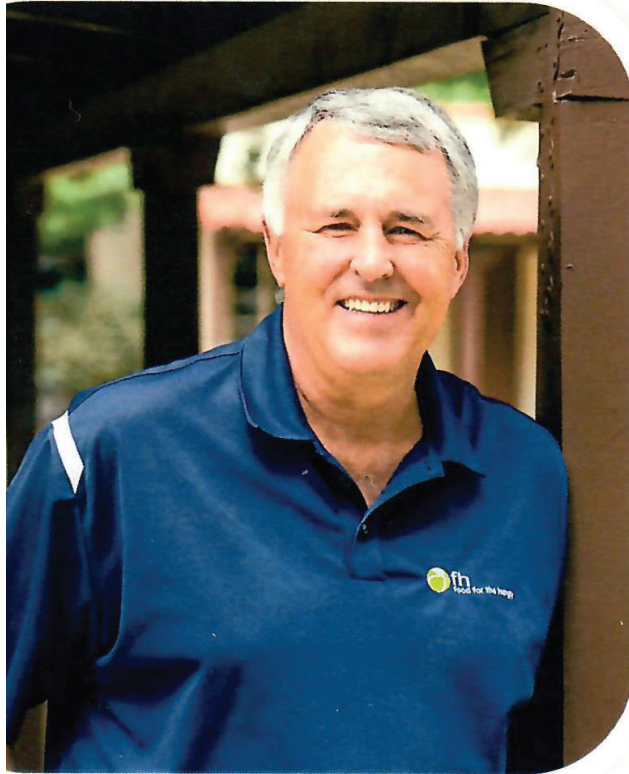
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In Memoriam



Editor's note: After receiving many inquiries over the years, Wrangler News is now making space available for obituary placements. Please email editor@wranglernews.com for format requirements, deadlines and rates.

Gary Loren Edmonds, 1950-2019

Gary was dborn Jan. 10, 1950 in Kalamazoo, Michigan as the oldest of four boys to Loren and Mary Jane Edmonds.

The family moved to Salem, Oregon in 1960. Gary graduated from South Salem High School in 1968 where he was student body president and athlete of the year receiving many honors in football, basketball and

baseball.

He attended UCLA on a full football scholarship. Though injuries curtailed his role as quarterback of the team, Gary continued as an assistant coach for the Bruins and later for Antelope Valley College and Santa Monica College. He graduated from UCLA in 1972 with a degree in mathematics and social science. He later attended Fuller Seminary, University of Geneva, Switzerland and Regent College, with degrees in Missiology and Theology.

Gary met Tricia, the love of his life, while at UCLA and they were married in December of 1973. Six months later they moved to Europe where they would live for 18 years. Gary and Tricia have

four children and seven grandchildren.

For over 45 years, Gary was involved in ministry as missionary, church-planter, pastor, and leader of Christian non-profits. He was well-known for his strong visionary leadership gift. He always worked to build meaningful and effective partnerships between communities of faith, business and government for the purpose of addressing issues of poverty and injustice around the world. Most recently, Gary was President and CEO of Food for the Hungry International where he had also served on the Board of Directors for eight years.

Other roles held by Gary include: President and founder of Breakthrough

Partners, Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance, President and European Director of Christian Associates International, Founder and Senior Pastor of Crossroads Church near Geneva, Switzerland and Executive Pastor of Mariners Church in Irvine, CA. He and Tricia have been valuable members of Arizona Community Church for the last four years.

Gary is survived by wife Tricia, mother Mary Jane Edmonds, children Matthew (wife-Jennifer), Karina, Andrew (wife-Jennifer), and Kimberly, grandchildren Evan, Isaac, Luke, Leilani, Malia,

Nathanael and Abigail, and brothers Dave, Scott and Jim.

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Horses

From Page 1

to “read” humans is “instinctual. As beasts of prey, it keeps them alive.”

Evolved to flee predators—witness the large eyes made for scanning wide vistas; long, powerful legs for running away quickly—horses, Feldman explains, “are made to go AWAY from something.

‘Working with horses will teach you what you most need to know about yourself.’

—Josh Feldman

“With dogs, it’s the opposite,” he says. “Their instinct is to go TOWARD something. Hence you see them straining forward, pulling their owners along on the leash.”

The tendency to move away is an integral part of horses’ prey instincts, and understanding this is key to working with them, he adds.

“Fear is a common emotion in horses related to their natural vulnerability to predators,” Feldman notes, “and when they feel it, they naturally—sometimes passionately—want to run away. You have to carefully watch for that.”

Feldman and his older brother, Jesse, took control of the family stables when their parents, Ron and Jayne Feldman, retired. The enterprise initially was one his father “kind of fell into,” Feldman remembers.

“My dad was originally from Buffalo, N.Y., and went to California for college,” Feldman recounts, “but as a kid he had read about the legend of the Lost Dutchman Mine, and figured Arizona wasn’t that far away, so he came over here to explore.”

After a time in Arizona, Feldman says his father eventually was able to buy property, and, as he wondered what to do with it, was approached by a woman with financial challenges who owned several horses. He subsequently offered her a good rate for boarding her horses at his place.

“The woman ultimately became

unable to afford the board, and my father suddenly found himself in possession of a bunch of horses,” Feldman says. “So people started coming over to the stables to ride.”

Among the riders was Feldman’s mother, a California transplant, who came asking for riding lessons. After she and Ron married, the couple built the thriving enterprise the stables are today.

“So my brother and I grew up around horses,” Feldman goes on to say, “and we learned everything about them—how to keep a horse healthy, how to keep them going, how to inspire them.”

He adds one thing is key to that inspiration.

“A horse has to have a purpose,” Feldman declares, “and part of that purpose has to involve their need to move—they’ll never be happy or healthy standing around all day.”

Be a committed supporter, give a horse a purpose in life, and great things happen, he avers.

“A horse will work itself to death for you if you give it a purpose,” he says, “and in that, they’re just like us—we all need a purpose. So we’re not so different—working with horses is a lot like working with yourself.”

Feldman says he knows his horses intimately—what they’re capable of, what their limitations are.

“There are times we take experienced riders into the remote areas of the Superstitions, and for that, those horses have to be capable, both mentally and physically, of getting through the rocky terrain. Other times, other riders, we might need a slow, gentle animal.”

Running his family’s stables and ranch, tending, protecting, and training horses, and coming to understand the intricacies of a horse’s complex psyche, Feldman says, has made him who he is as a person.

“Horses keep you honest. I’ve learned more about that from them than from any other source,” he declares. “They also continue to amaze me, even as long as I’ve been around them.

“It’s incredible, what their perceptions are. If you approach them nervously, they’ll be wary and back away. They can read you like a book.”

The lesson for humans?

“Just to realize we, as humans, were once as perceptive and instinctual as horses are—but with the oncoming of modern culture and especially this pervasive electronic media, we’ve gotten away from, literally, our Selves. But working with horses, I can tell you, will teach what you most need to know about yourself.”



Growing up with horses, Josh, left, and Jesse Feldman share their insights into what gives those inscrutable mounts such a unique view of us humans and our foibles.

— Photo courtesy Josh Feldman

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A community that binds BV Ranchos musters massive work effort to aid a stricken neighbor

Story by Joyce Coronel

Photos by Billy Hardiman

A close-knit neighborhood in South Tempe has rallied around one of its own in the wake of tragedy.

Craig Cottrell, 51, a Buena Vista Ranchos resident and a father of two, suffered a devastating hemorrhagic stroke July 13. Now facing a long recovery during which he must learn how to walk again as well use his left arm, he's been unable to work since the stroke. His wife, Andrea, is employed part-time.

Without Craig's income, the family has announced plans to sell their home and horses. Yardwork, understandably, has been the last thing on their mind.

That's when the Buena Vista Ranchos neighborhood stepped in.

Doreen Garlid, president of the homeowners association, set up a GoFundMe account to help the Cottrells with medical expenses. She also organized a massive yard clean-up. Both efforts were promoted through social media, and when word leaked out that the Cottrells needed help, neighbors responded in a big way.

"This is one of those reasons you stand up and say, 'I'm glad I live in this community,'" Garlid said. "Many of us have known each other for decades and our children grew up together here. We step up to help one another when one of us falls on hard times. We wanted to do what we could to help the Cottrell family because we know they would do the same."

At sunrise, more than two dozen volunteers descended on the Cottrell residence, armed with rakes, chain saws and leaf blowers. They worked to cut up and remove a large tree that had fallen in the yard, trimmed bushes, raked and tidied up the yard, wiping sweat from their brows as the summer sun beat down.

Great Harvest Bread Company in Tempe provided cinnamon rolls to energize the team and keep them going.

Rose Jeffery has lived in the BVR neighborhood for 27 years but said she didn't know the Cottrell family personally. That didn't matter though, she said. "When one of our neighbors needs help, it usually gets to our association council," Jeffery said. "Everybody knows that when you see something that needs help, you go to our association."

The crew of volunteers worked hard to get the Cottrells' property market-ready. "It makes you feel good to do something like this for a neighbor," Jeffery said. "Everybody is here to work and very serious about getting it done."

Most homeowners in the neighborhood have deep roots in the community. "When somebody moves in here, they usually stay a long time," Jeffery said.

"Many of us raised our kids together and we've helped each other through the years. I can't imagine living anywhere else."

Members of Arizona Community Church were also on hand at the yard-clean-up event to support the Cottrells. Lead Pastor Bill Meiter said it was an honor to lend assistance. The Cottrells have belonged to ACC for 16 years and "are a wonderful family that has been very generous with letting people use their house for pool parties, letting people ride their horses and much more," Meiter said.

ACC hired a professional pool service to help take care of the Cottrells' pool and will be paying the all the necessary fees for the family while they get back on their feet.

"It was the very least we could do," Meiter said. "And the support won't stop either. As a church we are here for them for the long haul."

Some of the tools used in the clean-up were on loan from Phoenix Community Tool Bank, thanks to the efforts of the Tempe Police Association.

Sgt. Rob Ferraro, president of the police association, caught wind of the clean-up day for the Cottrells while perusing social media. "It's hard to get volunteers to show up and even harder to get them to bring tools," Ferraro said.

"The least we could do is to try and help these community members be properly equipped." The police association picked up the tab for the rental equipment.

At press time, \$6.830 had been donated to the Cottrell's GoFundMe account by 27 donors.

Andrea Cottrell remains hopeful in spite of the family's hardship.

"The doctors believe his leg will come back first and he does have some nerve awakening there. His arm will take longer. It will take a year to fully recover," Andrea said. "Until then, he must do thousands of repetitions of therapy exercises to help the brain re-map communication to his left side." Nevertheless, her husband is in good spirits, she added. "He is so thankful for the support of the BVR neighbors, our community along with our church family from Arizona Community Church, has shown to his wife and kids. He works hard every day [on his recovery] for them."

Garlid said all the support the Cottrell family is receiving serves as a reminder of the positive things happening in the community.

"I believe the time to love your neighbor is now," Garlid said. "With all of the sadness and negativity in the world today, people need to realize that there still really are good things happening out there."

"Even if it's just one little act of kindness, in one neighborhood for one family, it all matters. That's why we do this."



Volunteers from Buena Vista Ranchos and Craig Cottrell, bottom right, is facing a l



and Arizona Community Church joined forces to assist the Cottrell family in their hour of need. Long recovery after suffering a stroke last month. — Photo of Craig Cottrell courtesy Nancy Puffer

Sports

By Alex Zener

Two assistants seen as leaders in quest for badminton title hopes

Tempe Union High School students started school on Aug. 5, and most fall sports teams started tryouts a few days later to be ready for the first competitive match-up scheduled toward the end of August.

Corona's girls badminton coaches, head coach Darren Ridge and his two assistant coaches, Marin and Colleen Ridge, were in the gym after school on Aug. 12, ready for a new group of players to hopefully fill the shoes and swing the racquets to help replace players from last year's state runner-up championship team who mostly graduated and moved on.

Corona has only won a state championship in badminton one time, in 2008. They have been state runner-ups only twice in the school's 40-year history—once in 2007 and then again last season in Darren Ridge's second year coaching badminton.

Darren Ridge coached boys basketball at Corona for a number of years.

Ridge is quick to point out that his two assistant coaches have been very instrumental in the success of Corona's teams the past two years.

"I would like to say that our past success and any future successes are because of my two assistant coaches, Marin and Colleen," said Ridge.

"They are hard-working, dedicated and knowledgeable. I could not ask for two better assistants."

One of the players the coaches will need to replace if they hope to make it into the state finals again will be Corona's only state singles badminton champion, Brennan Agnew.

Agnew won the singles championship in 2018.

With this need in mind, the team did welcome back a starter from last year's team, Eileen Li, who could

potentially be in the running when the state singles tournament comes around the end of October and first part of November.

"Eileen Li will be our No. 1 singles player and we feel she will have an extremely successful season," said Ridge.

"Honestly we feel she is easily one of the top five players in Division I this year."

The Aztec have just one other starter from last season's team, Hannah McCarley, but do return

six other players:

Cassie Rials, Arianna Tammara, Alex Reeve, Savanna Hair, Nina Mangipudi and Jada Wendling.

In addition, three additional players from

the preseason could have an impact on the team's overall success: Megan Kirchhardt, Marilyn Li, and Kayla McDonald.

"Megan Kirchhardt, a transfer from Seton Catholic who had never played badminton before, has shown incredible athleticism and is picking up the sport quickly," said Ridge.

"Marilyn Li, an incoming freshman, has shown tremendous skill during our preseason, and Kayla McDonald, a basketball player, has picked up badminton pretty rapidly, as well," said Ridge.

With only two returning players with much varsity experience, Corona's coaches are quick to point out that the team who started tryouts this week is an extremely young team so it's hard for them to identify what may happen once they start playing against other teams.

"If all of our newer players who participated in the preseason put in as

much effort and work as our returning players, then our expectation is that we will continue doing well in the Division I state championships," said Ridge.

"There are a lot of good teams out there who have a large number of returning players, so it will be tough," said Ridge.

"We also have quite a grinder of a schedule with no easy teams. We will need to come into every match prepared and ready to do battle."

Corona will play at home in the first match of the 2019 season against Liberty on Aug. 29.

Up next, the Aztecs will play in the Flying Feathers Badminton Tourney on Aug. 30 starting at 10 a.m. at Highland High School in Gilbert.

After the Labor Day holiday, Corona will play at home against Skyline on Sept. 3 before traveling to Pinnacle High School for a match against the Pioneers on Sept. 4.

Marcos de Niza Football

The Padres, playing in the 4A Desert Sky Division, are looking for an uphill spiral this season after going mostly downhill since 2015, when they ended the season with a 12-3 record after playing in the AIA Division II State Football Championships where they lost to Saguro.

That year Marcos also won Section V with a 5-0 record under head coach Sean Morin.

Morin resigned after the 2015 season and the Padres are currently on their third head coach in four years.

On a positive note for 2019, the Padres return at least 17 starters from last season's team plus their head coach, Eric Lauer, is on board for his second season.

Marcos should do well in the running game, with the return of senior Yakeen Bayless, who is the Padres most experienced running back, having been on the varsity team since his freshman year.

As a sophomore in 2017, Bayless played in all 11 games where he carried the ball 178 times for 1,130 yards or an average of 102.7 yards a game with three touchdowns.

Last season, in 2018, he played in all 10 games where he carried the ball 241 times for 1,541 yards or an average

of 154.1 yards a game, scoring 13 of the team's total 22 touchdowns. He was, by far, the Padres leading rusher.

Also returning on offense is the team's leading receiver from last season, senior Martell Thompson. Thompson played in all 10 games, snagging the ball out of the air 18 times for 314 yards and two touchdowns.

Other potential key returning players are offensive lineman senior Richard Gadberry, junior offensive lineman Enrique Ruiz and junior wide receiver Nicholas Updyke.

Last season, the quarterback position was shared by four players with two, senior Bobby Perez and senior Torren Union, throwing most of the passes.

The starting quarterback has not been announced for the 2019 season other than to say it will be a first-time starting quarterback. The only player on the roster listed at the quarterback position is sophomore Nehemiah Alvarado.

Standout returning defensive players include senior middle linebackers Matt Canada, with Malaki Corella and junior middle linebacker Jacob Irick.

Last season, Canada had 69 total tackles with 10 tackles resulting in a loss of yards by the other team, while Corella had 88 total tackles and Irick had 53.

Other potential returning players who could have an impact on the Padres' overall success are senior defensive linebackers Josh Tata and Kobe Hernandez; senior offensive lineman Alexander Norrish; junior defensive back Collin Gordon; senior defensive end Micah Willingham; senior wide receivers Collin Gulley and Jasim Burt; and junior offensive linemen Zachery Paiz and Kobe McConnell.

The Padres' 2019 season opening game will be at home Aug. 30 against McClintock.

The Chargers won 20-6 the last time these two teams met, which was also a season opener for both teams on Aug. 24, 2018.

It should be a great game.



Alex Zener

Awards

From Page 1

be recognized at the 2019 Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards ceremony and dinner Wednesday, Oct. 2 in Tempe.

The award, presented in partnership with Salt River Project, honors individuals recognized for making Tempe a better place to live through impactful and lasting work that addresses human services needs in the city.

Busch has served as superintendent of the Tempe Elementary School District—home to 12,000 students—for the past eight years and has a long history of advocating for education and community involvement.

“Christine Busch has made it her mission in life to inspire excellence, encourage innovation and create a better tomorrow for children in Tempe,” said Nathanael Pretlow, board president of Tempe Community Council.

“Whether advocating at the statewide level, collaborating with local partners or working behind-the-scenes to ensure that a student in need has a new pair of shoes, Christine works tirelessly on behalf of children, families and our community,” Pretlow said.

“TCC is proud to recognize Christine as the 2019 Don Carlos Humanitarian of the Year.”

Busch’s education career has included a variety of administrative positions as well as roles as a speech and language pathologist and a general education and special education teacher in kindergarten through 12th grade.

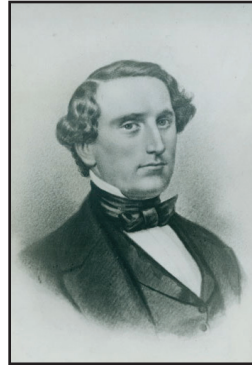
During her tenure as superintendent, Busch has worked to rebuild a district grappling with budget issues and school closings. She committed to reopen and repurpose every affected school and also build new schools to enhance the community.

Under her leadership, the district passed a capital override, maintenance and operations override and \$165 million bond. Busch also led the district, in partnership with the city of Tempe, to house high-quality preschool classrooms as part of the Tempe PRE pilot program for 360 of Tempe’s most underserved young children.

In the community, Busch has taken on a wide range of leadership roles, including current board positions with Tempe Impacts Education Foundation and the Arizona Business and

Education Coalition.

As a member of the East Valley Superintendents’ Cohort, she helps mentor new superintendents. In addition, she currently serves on the Tempe Mayor’s Community Roundtable, My Brother’s Keeper Committee and Read On Tempe Committee.



The Don Carlos award is named after Tempe’s founder, Charles Trumbull Hayden, who was known affectionately by Spanish-speaking pioneers as “Don Carlos.”

The award embodies Hayden’s legacy and spirit.

TCC will honor two additional community members with signature awards:

Bernadette Coggins, recipient of the Impact Award, and Brooke Schmidt, who will receive the Young Humanitarian Scholarship and Award.

Coggins has shown a longstanding commitment to improving the lives of others in Tempe and beyond.

She currently serves as a member of the board of directors for E3 Africa and of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Tempe Union High School District. She also was president and a governing board member in the Kyrene Elementary School District.

She has been deeply involved with the East Valley Women’s League and the Tempe Coalition, a TCC program that increases awareness of substance abuse among Tempe youth.

A longtime advocate for children with dyslexia, Coggins has worked at state and local levels to support families and enhance screening and intervention.

Schmidt, a Corona del Sol High School graduate, is being recognized for her leadership at school and in the community, with roles as varied as manager of the JV basketball team, volunteer and fundraiser for local nonprofits, and advocate for boosting voter registration among her peers. An incoming University of Arizona freshman, she plans to study environmental engineering and pursue new volunteer opportunities.

The awards ceremony will be held 5:30-9 p.m. Oct. 2 at the PERA Club in Tempe.

Tickets/sponsorships: 480-858-2300 or tempecommunitycouncil.org/don-carlos.

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PLAY LEARN LIVE GROW

So. Tempe bakery creates a buzz with cold brew coffee

Story & photo by Janie Magruder

To Tempe resident Kris Carnahan, coffee is “brain juice,” a lifeline imbuing him with added energy, clarity and that caffeine-driven feeling of euphoria. And, until recently, heartburn.

Carnahan, the father of year-old twin boys, is making the switch to cold brew coffee, now being served at one of his favorite spots, Great Harvest Bread Co. in South Tempe.

Cold brew, we learned, is less acidic, due to the long process of steeping beans in cold or room-temperature water, rather than quickly drowning them in hot water. It’s easier on Carnahan’s stomach, and quite chill—literally.

“We live in the hottest state on the planet, so drinking cool stuff is just awesome,” he said. “I find it a lot easier to sip on something cool, rather than hot, when I’m on the go.”

Cold brew, which has exploded in the national beverage market and is heating up in metropolitan Phoenix, was added to Great Harvest’s menu in July.

“We wanted to try something new, attract new customers and have another phenomenal product in our lineup,” said George Walston, manager of the 11-year-old family-owned bakery. “It’s one of the cleanest, smoothest coffees I’ve tried.”

In the cold-brew process, time is used to extract the flavor, caffeine and sugars from the beans. The result is less astringent, and has been described as regular coffee’s “silky, velvety cousin.”

As Walston researched cold brew, he looked for the purest possible option to complement his store’s fresh-baked sandwiches, scones, cookies and fragrant loaves.

Great Harvest is known for its old-fashioned, made-from-scratch breads, which begin with grains sourced from local family farms and ground daily. Its cornerstone bread contains no eggs, oil or dairy products, and gluten-free products also are available.



George Walston, left, manager of Great Harvest Bread Company, and Brad Butler, who delivers cold brew to the So. Tempe eatery.

Walston chose another family-owned company, Scottsdale-based Cactus Licker, to be his cold-brew supplier. It goes the extra mile by infusing nitrogen into the coffee, which forces out the oxygen and produces a rich, creamy taste and look (think Guinness).

“It’s been received really well,” he said. “There are certain people who find health benefits in something that is alternative, not mainstream.”

Cactus Licker uses an eight-step reverse osmosis system that amplifies the natural milk chocolate, caramel and roasted peanut flavors of its Guatemalan-sourced beans. It delivers the cold brew in hermetically sealed kegs to customers, said family partner Brad Butler.

Butler’s company also delivers to Great Harvest cold brew with CBD — cannabidiol—which is derived from the hemp plant and is an essential component of medical marijuana. Legal in all 50 states, CBD does not produce a “high,” and is said to be effective in easing a variety of ailments.

CBD is most commonly used to address anxiety, insomnia and some chronic pain, but experts agree more scientific study of its benefits are needed. Great Harvest customers with questions about the

use of CBD should consult their physicians, Walston advised.

“We started doing gluten-free before it got really trendy because we wanted to give customers options to take their health into their own hands,” he said. “The same is true of the cold brew with CBD.”

What the Great Harvest cold brew lineup does not include, nor does any other of Cactus Licker’s products, is THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, the chemical responsible for most of marijuana’s psychological effects, Butler noted.

As to potential benefits from drinking his company’s CBD-infused coffees, Butler advises using one’s own anecdotal experience as a guide. “We don’t make health claims, but we can say, try our product and see if you feel better.” In Carnahan’s case, he does.

Cold brew with CBD has eased the muscle tension and arthritis pain he says he sometimes experiences after exercising.

That, however, isn’t his only reason for adding CBD to his coffee regimen when it’s available. The sweet, smooth taste of his morning, afternoon and evening cuppa joe provides a new high mark to his day. Figuratively speaking, of course.

Who we are, who we aren't, and where we're headed. An update from our editor Joyce Coronel

Some of my earliest and best memories involve the pleasure of reading. My parents read aloud to us and filled our home with good books, periodicals and a prized set of Funk and Wagnall Encyclopedias, the hardback, leather-bound version with gold embossed covers. ("Don't take those out of the house!" my mother would remind us if we ever got the notion.)

We lived within biking distance of the public library in our town and made frequent trips there where we loaded up on Trixie Belden and other mystery series books to get us through scorching summer afternoons.

Breakfast was eaten mostly in silence as each one of us perused the pages of the morning newspaper that was delivered to our driveway each day. (We were also subscribers to an afternoon newspaper, something many Americans today have never even heard of.) My parents didn't belong to the same political party, so the dinner table sometimes included lively debate over the issue they had read about that day in the newspaper.

The news business—and family life—has undergone dramatic change since my sun-drenched childhood growing up in small-town Arizona. How could we have known back in the 1970s that people would one day read news stories on telephones



In screen grab of a video posted at WranglerNews.com, students at Kyrene Middle School listen as Collin Kartchner of Save the Kids discusses the impact of social media.

—Photo by Alex Beaver

carried in their pockets or purses?

As the big daily newspapers continue to feel the squeeze of waning readership and shrinking revenue, Wrangler News is uniquely poised to grow, improve and reach new heights. With our community focus and dedication to serving the needs of individuals and families, businesses, churches and schools in our area, people increasingly turn to us for information.

If they want to read about the latest homicide or scandal de jour, they can Google it. Those kinds of stories are not Wrangler territory.

We regularly receive calls from people who tell us they've been reading Wrangler for years and it's their favorite newspaper. We'd like to think that hometown news told with a flair, plus great photography and strong features, are what keep

people coming back to us again and again for nearly three decades.

We've responded by continuing to publish a print edition twice monthly plus a weekly eEdition that is reaching a burgeoning readership. (Shameless promo: Sign up for our free eEdition at WranglerNews.com.)

Our Facebook and Twitter pages are also a way for Wrangler News fans to tune into local news that's specially formatted for a digital platform. You always have your phone with you, right? Next time you're stuck in line, check out our Wrangler News website or social media pages.

Venturing into video

Now we embark upon a new adventure: video news features. Alex Beaver, a Marcos de Niza alum and graduate of Tempe's University of Advancing Technology, will be contributing at least one short video each month focused on news in our area. The videos will be posted on our Wrangler News website as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Of course, we know that people will still read the hard copy of Wrangler News delivered to their driveway (and continue to drop by our offices and racks around town for copies) but we also know that at a time of videos gone viral, adding this additional component to our regular offerings is one more way we can help bring you the stories that matter about the people, businesses, churches and schools in our community.

Thank you for being a Wrangler News reader and please do let us know what you think of our new video series being unveiled with this issue.

LA CASA DE JUANA DELIVERS A KNOCKOUT WITH ITS FRESH, AUTHENTIC AND MOUTHWATERING FOOD

If you think you have been to a Mexican restaurant lately you probably need to reconsider and visit La Casa De Juana.

The fare is authentic Mexican, and when we say authentic we mean it! Upon entering you'll be dazzled by the colorful décor, beautiful tables and chairs, Mexican painted murals, colorful banners hanging from the ceiling and the gracious service.

Warm orange and yellow tones echoing throughout the eatery will make this your

favorite Mexican Restaurant.

Take advantage of the great lunch and dinner specials, a bar with freshly made drinks, TVs, and live guitar music for all ages on the weekends.

Don't forget the happy hour from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. every day, with \$2 beer (domestic and imports) and \$3 margaritas.

This place is a must. The flavorful salsa, the delicious margaritas, the extraordinary and well-priced food will definitely keep you coming back.



1805 E Elliot Road
Tempe AZ 85284

480-820-0837



Check out La Casa De Juana at www.juanashouse.com

Briefly

Oktoberfest returning to Tempe Oct. 11-13

Four Peaks Oktoberfest returns to Tempe Town Lake for its 47th year Oct. 11-13. The free-admission event, which is open to all ages, features live music, food and drinks, games, dancing and more.

The annual fundraiser benefits Tempe Sister Cities, an internationally recognized non-profit. Proceeds from Oktoberfest will be used to send Tempe high school students to 10 of Tempe's sister cities.

Details: fourpeaksoktoberfest.com. The schedule follows:

Friday, Oct. 11: 5 p.m.-midnight.
Saturday, Oct. 12: 10 a.m.-noon.
Sunday, Oct. 13: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

No fear: Chamber provides tips for engaging with others

Growing up, kids are taught not to talk to strangers. Then as adults they are expected to effortlessly converse routinely in confidence with people in

business.

The challenges of such conversations include finding something interesting to say, looking for genuine ways to engage and drum-up business, and finding common threads without sounding lame.

In a coming high-energy experience sponsored by the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, guests will learn how to effortlessly engage with others even if they absolutely dread small talk. They'll also get a preview of the Chandler Chamber Toastmasters Club and how it can support you in your role as a leader in your industry and in the community.

The program runs 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, at Soho 63, 63 E. Boston St. Admission for members is \$25; general admission \$35; walk-ins, \$30 members, \$40 general admission.

Cancellations must be made 72 hours in advance to receive a refund.

\$5,000 Blue Cross grant targets childhood obesity epidemic

For Lindsey Matykiewicz, a fourth-grade teacher at Curry Elementary, fighting childhood obesity just got a welcome boost.

Matykiewicz was among five

recipients of a \$5,000 grant each to fund school programs that fight childhood obesity.

The teachers plan to use the money, provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, for such things as new health initiatives, sports equipment and water bottle refill stations.

"This \$5,000 grant is such a blessing to our Title 1 School," said Matykiewicz. "Our children come to school knowing this place will take care of them and provide for their needs: food, clean water, clothes and weekend food bags.

"(It) allows us to further their learning and development through meaningful and mindful activities, making Curry an even more special place to our students and staff."

Grant applications included ideas such as a Rethink Your Drink campaign that emphasizes water as a go-to beverage, a Makerspace where children can learn healthy habits through hands-on experiences, and a No-Sugar-Sweetened-Beverages campaign. The grants were awarded to participants in the 2019 Walk On! Challenge.

The challenge is a healthy living program that takes place in February each year. For the past 14 years, teachers have used the program to expand their students' knowledge about the importance of healthy eating and physical activity, along with specific daily goals, because healthy habits are a core component in achieving optimum health.

An independent panel of educators reviewed the applications. Scoring is based on the participation level of students, an increased awareness of healthy choices, how teachers implemented the program in the classroom and plans for the grant money.

Teachers from 202 schools and 14 counties around the state participated in this year's challenge, reaching more than 21,000 fourth- and fifth-graders. In a survey before the start of the program and again at the end of the program, students showed a 37-percent increase in their awareness of the healthy choices they should make, according to the program's planners.

Four new members on Kyrene Foundation Board

Four new board members have been named to the Kyrene Foundation's all-volunteer board of directors.

Joining the board are Jason Sinykin of Chandler, community relations

for Instant Care of Arizona; Randy Shoemaker of Phoenix, employed by the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass; Joseph B. Ortiz of Ahwatukee, a financial adviser with Edward R. Jones; and Tim Nguyen, senior vice president and private wealth adviser at Fine Mark National Bank & Trust in Scottsdale.

Last year some of the Kyrene Foundation Initiatives provided \$20,000 in grants to teachers for enhanced learning opportunities for students; \$5,000 to a school principal for a school enrichment initiative; \$5,000 in athletic scholarships for support to participate in school sports; and \$20,000 in funding for tutoring, after-school classes and intramurals.

Additionally, 250 families were provided a turkey with trimmings in November, and in December over 900 children received Christmas gifts hand-selected by their families and wrapped by volunteers.

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The mall also organized special events, such as a free kids movie ticket to see *The Secret Life of Pets 2*, to promote the drive. Plans for next year's movie and back-to-school donation event is already in the works.

It is estimated that donations totaled \$1,000 in supplies and about 25 backpacks for children of all ages.

Tempe community members went the extra mile with some families, visiting multiple times to donate backpacks and school supplies to kids in need.

"We strive to be Tempe Elementary students' advocates and support system," said Munira Smith, Arizona Mills marketing director.

"We want our Tempe families to know that they can count on us when it comes to getting ready for back-to-school."

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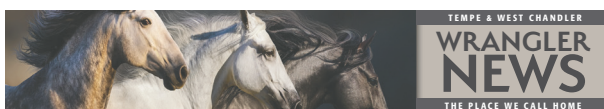
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That's one of the reasons we ask you to mention us to the businesses and others you know, and to make them aware that we're ready, able and eager to help them tell their story. We're always glad to hear from new businesses, and from you, as well. Thanks for your support.

**FYI...We will be out of our office
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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

We hear you

Editor:

I have been made aware that the affordable care act is once again under attack, and its existence will likely be decided in the Supreme Court as soon as next year. Arizona was one of many states which chose to expand Medicaid under the terms of the A.C.A. to those with

little monthly income, and to those who were denied coverage due to preexisting health conditions.

Prior to the expansion, I was denied coverage after my COBRA coverage was exhausted after being laid off during the 2008 recession.

I spent years praying that I would not end up in an Emergency room, or worse, a Hospital stay. That would have bankrupted me. Since the A.C.A. was enacted, I have been insured under Medicaid and thankful that I can sleep at night without the worry of not being insured. It would be irresponsible of our law makers, Congress, and the judicial system to strip away insurance that millions of Americans desperately need and have counted on for nearly 5 years.

Our health care system and model are broken and a sustainable

solution needs to be worked on in a bi-partisan manner.

Health Insurance is not just for the wealthy, entitled, and members of our government; it is needed for ALL Americans.

Robert Pascente, Chandler

Social media comments

Eduarda Schroder, regarding our story on domestic violence:

"Domestic violence is everyone's problem. @chandlerpoliceoperates an award winning Victim Services Unit and Family Advocacy Center. Look up the interview with @chiefduggan in the latest issue of the @wranglernews." "You are my favorite community newspaper."

Deborah May, regarding our story on how a Marcos student is helping

the school district prevent substance abuse: "I thought that was our Brach! He's the best!"

William Leadbetter, regarding our feature story on a church's mission to Bolivia: "How about our homeless and hungry in Arizona?"

Diane Marckus Burt, regarding our feature story on the Serrano family's 100th year in business:

"Congrats to the Serrano family! Keep cooking the great food!"

From our website

Lee Becker, regarding our story on how football players are learning to avoid concussions: "Thank you for making football a safer and better game! — Lee Becker, Director, Football Safety Academy

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'Angry Birds' in a *better mood these days

By M.V. Moorhead

Red, from 2016's *The Angry Birds Movie*, isn't quite so angry these days.

Still voiced by Jason Sudeikis, the cardinal-like red bird is hailed as a national hero on his island home, populated with flightless avians, for his services in the conflict with the neighboring island populated by green pigs.

He enjoys basking in his glory so much that when the pigs send a message requesting a truce, he's terrified that peace will lessen his popularity.

The *Angry Birds Movie 2* follows Red as he and his feathered friends team up with the pigs to fight a common menace, huge balls of ice launched from a third island, presided over by an autocratic eagle (voiced by Leslie Jones).

Many other characters are woven into the complicated story, voiced by an impressive roster of currently hip comedic talent: among those held over from the first film are Josh Gad as the speedy Chuck, Danny McBride as the explosive Bomb, and Peter Dinklage as

Mighty Eagle, who has some sort of dark secret.

Bill Hader is back as Leonard, the leader of the pigs.

New this time is Rachel Bloom as the brainy bird Silver, a love interest for Red. The supporting cast ranges from Awkwafina and Sterling K. Brown to Pete Davidson and Beck Bennet to Eugenio Derbez to Dove Cameron to Tiffany Haddish.

Maybe because it involved a truce and an alliance, I liked *Angry Birds 2* much better than I did the original. The first film, derived from a strange and popular 2009 video game that also spawned toys and t-shirt and TV cartoons, was amusing enough at times.

But it was rooted in the idea of anger at, and mistrust of, foreigners.

I certainly don't think it was consciously intended as reactionary propaganda, but xenophobic fantasy just didn't feel like what our society was in need of in 2016, much less now; we already have plenty of angry birdbrains, and at the moment they seem to be running the show.

Gratifyingly, *Angry Birds 2* is about learning to work together as a team, including with those you've always regarded as your enemies.

It's more generous-hearted, and better yet, it's truly funny, loaded with free-associational

blackout gags linked to popular music, imaginative, intricate slapstick action sequences, and pure surreal silliness.

Animated movies for kids, even when they're well-intentioned and generally well-done, can get wearying at times for adults, especially when you see a lot of them, as a parent and/or a movie critic.

But *Angry Birds 2* made me laugh out

loud, quite a lot. It was a pleasant surprise.

If you go, by the way, don't be late; the movie is preceded by an animated short called *Hair Love*, in which a young African-American father braves the daunting task of helping his daughter fix her hair on an important day.

Written and directed by Matthew A. Cherry, it's a flawless five-minute wonder,

and it left me in tears. I'll be surprised if it's not an Oscar nominee.

The Angry Birds Movie 2 is rated PG and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20, Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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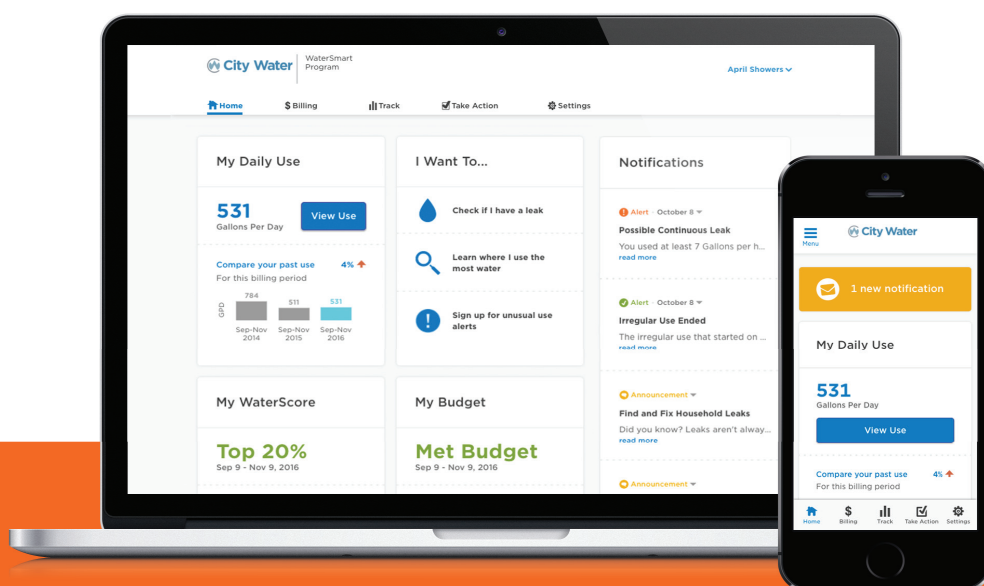
OR

\$50 OFF FUTURE SERVICE

with purchase of new patient exam, necessary x-rays and cleaning

Offers are not combinable. Must present ad to receive discount.

TEMPE'S WATERSMART ONLINE PORTAL



How you compare.

See how your water use compares to similar homes.



Free access.

For Tempe water customers.



Alerts and notifications.

Sign up for high water-use and potential leak alerts.

Concerned about your water usage? Call 480-350-8351 or email conservation@tempe.gov to schedule a FREE one-on-one water efficiency consultation at your home.



LOG ON AND START SAVING
tempe.gov/WaterSmart

Patti Agnew

480.797.2891

Tempe



Scott Agnew

480.209.9412

San Diego Ca

Urban Waterfront



Resort Style Living in the Heart of Tempe! Split Floorplan w/ 2 Master Suites, Gourmet Kitchen w/ Granite, Stainless Steel Appliances, Pantry, Private Balcony, Concierge Services. Walk to ASU, Light Rail, Mill Ave, Tempe Town Lake & More. Minutes to the Airport.

Amazing Custom Estate



Incredible City Lights and Mountain Views Professionally Designed with Custom finishes 4 Bed, 4.5 Baths, 2 Offices, Huge Island Kitchen, Viking Gas Range, Wet Bar, Wine Room, Heated Pool/Spa, Oversized Detached Workshop. Private Acre Lot in Gated Golf Community.

Spanish Style Villa



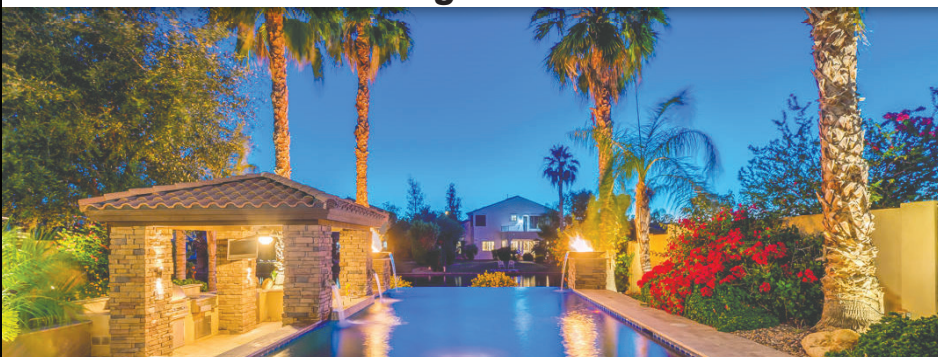
One of a Kind Property with Multiple Enchanting Patio Gardens. 1700+ sq-ft 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Stainless Kitchen, Newer Dual Pane Windows, 2-way Fireplace, Atrium, Resurfaced Pebble Tec Pool, Outdoor Shower, Cobblestone Decking, Very Private, Great Location.

Tempe Cutie



Low Priced 5BR 3BA – Open & Updated Kitchen w/ Granite Countertops, Freshly Painted Exterior, Newer A/C & Roof, Red Brick Fireplace, Energy Efficient Block Construction, Ceiling Fans. Lush Grass. Easy Bike Ride to ASU, Steps to Free Orbit Bus, No HOA!!

Stunning Waterfront



Entertainer's Dream! 5 beds, 4.5 bath. Large Master Retreat, Hidden Bonus Room, Loft/Teen Room, Butler's Pantry, Backyard Oasis has Infinity pool with swim up Bar, Fire-pots, Gazebo, Fire pit, BBQ, Sink, Fridge, Deck for the lake and boat! Low \$900's

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.