

WRANGLER NEWS

SEPT 21 - OCT 4, 2019 • VOL 30, NO 18

Smoked out

A Wrangler News special report on growing concerns over the use of vaping devices among teens and now even pre-teens — and what's being done about it by our local schools. Pg. 4

Plus ♦ ♦ ♦

- Wrangler exclusive with accused coach: Pg. 21
- 'Chand-lore' — A Blast from the Past: Pg. 10
- Delivering a global message of faith: Pg. 16

Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman



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TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

WRANGLER NEWS

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For Wrangler News, a new look at the future

If this edition of our newspaper looks a bit different to you — and we hope it does — it's not the result of a mandate from some faraway corporate overlords.

Our own local staff of editors, designers, reporters, layout wizards and advertising experts — well, all two of us, that is — has spent countless hours pondering the future of little community-based papers like ours, and this is what we've decided:

That despite those doomsday forecasters who predict the demise of newspapers around the world, we think we and others like us hold the future of community journalism in our hands.

It's also why we think it's time to refresh the way we bring you our news and feature-story content and, as you can see, the way we look.

So you'll know how these changes, both now and in the very near future, have begun to take shape, it's a result of the involvement of some of those in our circle of contributors who love Wrangler News as much as we do, and are determined—as we are—to make sure we remain a vital part of our community for years to come.

You'll soon be hearing from us about ways you can help us in this pursuit, and we encourage you to be involved in the process of sustaining the growth of local news by calling or emailing us, or even dropping by our office when you're in the neighborhood. Let's do this together.

Hot, hungry and homeless: Tempe launches a rescue mission for pets

By Susie Steckner

Homeless dogs braving triple-digit temperatures in Tempe received some TLC late last month with free pet food, supplies and microchipping services as the city helped animals in need.

Officials of Tempe's homeless outreach team, or HOPE, say they're seeing an increase in the number of people who are homeless with pets. But assisting them with housing can be a challenge. The owners are often reluctant to go into a temporary shelter because they don't want to be separated from a beloved pet.

"We know that people experiencing



Car crazy

The second annual Hot Wheels Legends Tour roared into a Tempe Walmart parking lot on a recent Saturday morning, allowing 300 sports-car enthusiasts a rare opportunity: Entering their prized hot rods in a national contest to see which might be chosen as the model to be turned into a Hot Wheels die-cast vehicle sold at stores around the world. The Tempe winner was a 1971 VW squareback. About 3,000 attended.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Schools accelerate efforts to snuff out vaping epidemic

Area districts formulating strategies to educate kids about dangers

By Lee Shappell
Special for Wrangler News

Seven deaths nationwide have been linked to vaping, and school districts in Tempe are stepping up their campaigns to educate students and parents about the ill effects. Hundreds of people, including at least four in Maricopa County as of press time, have been hospitalized with severe lung damage suspected to have been caused by vaping.

Also this week, New York became the first state to outlaw flavored vaping material.

In the Tempe Union High School District, which includes Corona del Sol and Marcos de Niza, an awareness campaign for students and parents, "Vanish the Vape," began last school year. The district also has rewritten its discipline policies to deal with increasing vaping on its campuses.

"There are a lot of circumstances with teenagers when they're caught doing something where there can be different levels of severity," said Jennifer Liewer, TUHSD executive director of community relations.

"Was the person simply caught with it in their pocket? Was the person actually vaping in the bathroom?"

"If caught with nicotine, you're going to see either a two- or a three-day off-campus suspension.

"If a student is caught with a wax pen with THC,

there are much more severe consequences because that is marijuana and that is an illegal drug. That's a much more severe infraction. The first time, it's a long-term suspension, however if they have drug-counseling appointments, they can reduce a long-term suspension to 10 days off-campus suspension."

Through the first four weeks in TUHSD, there were 45 incidents for vaping in a district of 13,000 kids.

"That's more than we were seeing on average at the end of last year," Liewer said.

"We had a really aggressive education campaign for parents and for students last year. That was extremely beneficial. At the start of this year, we're having to re-educate."

The Kyrene School District, which serves area students in kindergarten through eighth grade, continues to actively seek ways to address the vaping epidemic, including bringing in powerful speakers, such as Stephanie Siete from Community Bridges.

"Last year, Kyrene even piloted the use of vape detectors in one of our schools," said Erin Helm, communications and marketing director at Kyrene. "The devices were not as effective as hoped, and the district was able to secure a full refund. If the technology is refined, Kyrene would consider vape sensors again in the future."

E-cigarettes or vaping are small battery-powered, smokeless devices that heat a liquid that typically contains nicotine. Some other vaping material

contains tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the principal psychoactive component of marijuana, in a wax that is melted and inhaled. The device converts the liquid into a mist, which the user inhales. The exhale results in puffs of "vape" clouds. Flavored vaping material has been particularly popular among young, underage users.

Some believe that e-cigarettes and vaping are a healthy alternative to cigarettes, however, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared e-cigarettes unsafe for kids, teens and young adults. Not all kids who vape realize that e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is addictive.

Vaping and e-cigarette use have skyrocketed onto the radar of health care and public officials in recent weeks. A U.S. Food and Drug Administration study found that more than 2 million middle school and high school students use e-cigarettes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 of every 20 middle school students (4.9%) reported in 2018 that they used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days—an increase from 0.6% in 2011 – and nearly 1 of every 5 high school students (20.8%) reported in 2018 that they used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days -- an increase from 1.5% in 2011.

The problem is so bad at one high school in Alabama that doors were removed from bathroom

— VAPING, Page 14



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**MESA
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A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Tempe mom's struggle with kids' autism opens doors for her, them

By Sammie Ann Wicks

Like many parents who've just learned their child has autism, Warner Ranch mom Michele Thorne says she at first felt overwhelmed.

"When my son was first diagnosed with autism, I really struggled with the realization, knowing this was going to be life-changing, and I didn't know how I could cope with it," Thorne says, and remembers the effects the event had on her outlook.

"I fell into depression, wondering how I would be able to help my son," she says. Her son, Jackson, now six, is attending a school that's well-versed in his special needs.

Thorne's concerns deepened, however, when she was told her three-year-old daughter, Maria, also was autistic.

With Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Biological Sciences from Arizona State University, at the time of her children's diagnoses Thorne was continuing with original genetic research in the university's doctoral program, contributing to knowledge of gene expression in microbes.

Now that plan had to change, but Thorne says the difficulties she faced in finding ways to deal with

her children's needs eventually developed into positive growth and enabled her to help other parents with the same issues.

"When my depression deepened, I set to work to fix that in ways I already knew," she recalls.

"I began to be aware of the need for deep self-care in the middle of all that, and realized it wasn't just mental, it was physical, too. I started going to the gym, getting guidance from others, and learned how to take breaks from the mental stress, just like any other caregiver needs."

She also began reaching out to others with experiences similar to her own.

"I got a tremendous amount of help from the Autism Society of Greater Phoenix," she recounts, "taking advantage of their support groups. And those helped put me back together."

Now, she says, positive changes began to flow from her initially difficult experience.

"Honestly, now, sometimes I feel lucky I'm the mom of an autistic kid, because not only have I grown from it, I was motivated to

create a framework for other

parents of special needs children," she recalls.

That framework became an organization of Thorne's own vision and design, D.A.M.E.S. (Differently Abled Mothers Empowerment Society, <https://damesusa.com>) which in her blog she notes "aims to take a holistic approach to helping mothers raising differently abled children."

Starting a major support organization hasn't been easy, she says.

"No organization like this existed then," Thorne recalls, "so we had to do major fund-raising just to start," she says. "I began contacting people I'd already worked with, already knew, Pilates people, gym people, you know, many others, and the response was really positive. Then when some funding happened and we were able to launch the website, things took off from there."

Throughout the group's start-up phase, Thorne says she was committed to "all-

— AUTISM, Page 15

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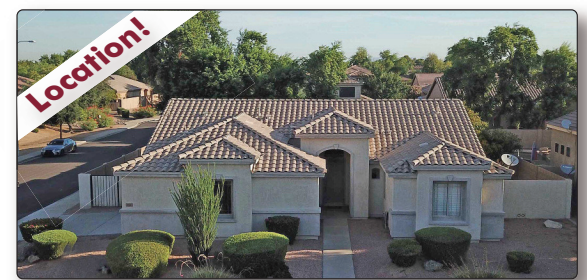
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Editor:

I am not sure how the city of Tempe has determined that riding in the bike lane is safe.

A few years ago, a former next-door neighbor was killed and her boyfriend permanently disabled because they were hit by a driver who was fumbling on the floorboards for his dropped phone. Both my neighbor and her boyfriend were wearing helmets, but it made no difference. In my opinion the bicycle lane is one of the most dangerous places you can be.

When I'm in a residential neighborhood I ride on the street, but on a busy street like McClintock, Elliott, or Guadalupe I feel much safer on the sidewalk.

And now it's illegal? I will no longer ride my bicycle in the city of Tempe, I'll cross through Chandler instead.

That also means that when I am bike riding, I will no longer stop for coffee or lunch at any of the Tempe restaurants.

Is that good for city business?
— *Stephanie Angelo, Tempe*

Editor:

As a former Kyrene parent and administration staff member, I know firsthand the financial needs of the

schools' teachers and students. That's why in retirement I've chosen to volunteer with The Kyrene Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to serving the children and teachers in all 25 Kyrene schools.

Our signature event, "Night for Kyrene" is on Sept. 28 at the Arizona Grand Resort & Spa. Mix 96.9 morning host, Mathew Blades is emceeding an evening of music, buffet, wine pull, and spectacular silent auction. This is your chance to have a good time while doing a good thing to help our school community!

Why attend? This event funds teacher classroom grants, principal school grants, scholarships for athletics and after-school enrichment, backpacks, clothing & hygiene for students in need as well as other annual projects at holiday time.

Tickets can be purchased at www.kyrenefoundation.org Please join me in this local effort to support our youth and their educators. Your financial support does make a difference.

This past year we saw students in pre-school through eighth grade, including students with special needs, get to experience a science escape room, build a bridge to peaceful conflict resolution, celebrate diversity, create digital content in 1st grade and much more because of the money raised.

Don't wait, buy your ticket or even a table and help us make our students and their families lives better.

Thank you!

— *Lorah Neville, 30-year Chandler resident*

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**Saturday, Oct. 5
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Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd.

Comment online Sept. 23-Oct. 7 at
tempe.gov/SolidWasteRateStudy

Tragedy of teen suicide propels group's leader to action

30 volunteers respond to middle-school's mental health crisis

By Diana Nelson

The tragic loss of young students to suicide that left a school community devastated was the catalyst that drove one woman to take action.

Eduarda Schroder created a door hanger with a simple message—"Please reach out...you are not alone." Then, she enlisted about 30 volunteers to deliver them door to door in a West Chandler neighborhood on a recent Sunday morning.

September is Suicide Awareness Month, and according to statistics from the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 47,000 Americans died by suicide in 2017. Suicide was the leading cause of death among people ages 10-34 in the U.S. during that same year.

And though the numbers are staggering, Schroder's door-hanger project is nonetheless impactful, serving as one more way to remind residents—particularly teenagers—that help is available if the stressors of life become too much to handle alone.

It also helps survivors, who still may feel the sting of the grief caused by suicide. That's how Schroder became involved in suicide prevention to begin with.

A West Chandler resident whose grown daughters are former students at Aprende Middle School and then Corona, Schroder has long pursued volunteer opportunities which support students and education. It also happened that her daughters had a favorite teacher named Lorie Warnock.



Eduarda Schroder, alongside some of the volunteers who placed door-hangers. — Photo courtesy Eduarda Schroder

Warnock was the mother of Mitch Warnock, who also attended Aprende and then Corona del Sol. He was a popular student in high school, as well as an accomplished track and field athlete, when he died by suicide.

As a result, Lorie Warnock, Schroder and two other local parents, Karianna Blanchard and Suzanne Whitaker, joined forces to form Parents for Suicide Prevention, with the goal of providing education and compassion to the community. The group's story is further described on their website at Mitchlegacy.com.

In addition to Mitch, Aprende lost several other students to suicide including Marcus Wheeler and Preston Kinney.

The memories of these students' deaths led to early adoption of several supportive programs at Aprende, said Renee Kory, the school's principal.

"It was very meaningful to the Aprende community and the teachers who attended the recent

event because the suicides really impacted them personally.

"Our own ongoing suicide prevention efforts and the increase in our social emotional health interventions were spurred on by the passing of the former Aprende students," said Kory.

Shortly after they first occurred, Kory asked the district for the OK to pilot a new social-emotional model at Aprende, along with adding Brook Norris, a full-time counselor, to the school's staff.

Kory believes that both steps have really made a difference to students. Now, the district has added counselors to all schools.

"I am grateful that the Kyrene district has committed to the mental health well-being of its students through the addition of social workers and counselors to all of our schools," said Norris.

"I am in my third year at Aprende and in that time we have reduced the number of suicide risk assessments we have had to do significantly. I feel it is in part to the fact that I am here for students to talk with before they become hopeless," Norris said. "I can assess students early and work through strategies for overcoming challenges."

Another ongoing program at Aprende is the Speak Up, Stand Up group, which is an Arizona-based initiative created to encourage kids to involve themselves in developing solutions to reduce the number of suicides amongst their peers.

Information www.speakstandsave.com.

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Alternative concept for teens who don't see a college degree in their future

By Janie Magruder



The apprenticeship program at Rosendin is one of many career paths students in the Tempe Union School District may choose to follow. Pictured here is Ricardo Torres, an electrical apprentice at Rosendin.

— Photo courtesy Laura Slawny

The sky's the limit for Erica Diaz, a senior at Marcos de Niza High

School. The 17-year-old has a plan for her life that will combine aviation, serving her

country, teaching disadvantaged students and traveling the world, all without being strapped by enormous college debt as so many young people are today.

Following her graduation in May, Erica intends to make the most of her natural talents in math and science by enrolling in engineering and education courses at a local community college.

From there, her goal is to enlist in the U.S. Air Force, learn to become either a pilot or mechanic and, eventually, go

abroad to teach.

Erica is among a growing number of high school students choosing to bypass four-year universities and pursue

alternatives for their post-secondary education and training. For her, tuition costs were reason enough to look for something different.

"The cost was my biggest concern about college," she said. "I value education, but paying that much, that was not something I wanted to do. I plan to graduate without student debt. I want to pay for everything with scholarships and grants."

The average cost of tuition and fees for the 2017–2018 school year was \$34,740 at private colleges and \$9,970 in-for state residents at public universities (\$25,620 for out-of-state residents), according to The College Board. The average cumulative student debt balance in 2017 was \$26,000 for graduates of public four-year schools and \$32,600 for graduates of private nonprofit four-year schools, The College Board reported.

By comparison, the average yearly cost of tuition and fees for community college students in the U.S.

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Amanda Roberts, a Rosendin electrical apprentice. — Photo courtesy Laura Slawny

is \$3,347, according to the American Association of Community Colleges.

At Arizona State University's Tempe campus, undergraduate tuition is around \$10,000 a year. And four-year electrician apprenticeships in Phoenix cost about \$8,000, according to Rosendin, a large private electrical contractor based in Tempe.

"These apprentice programs get overlooked because of the perception it's a nontraditional education path," said Brandon Stephen, Rosendin's division manager.

"Given that apprenticeship programs have been around since the Middle Ages, we see them as the *most* traditional path."

This year, 39 students completed the Phoenix Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee program, which provides 8,000 hours of paid classroom time and on-the-job training.

They graduated with no student-loan debt and well-paying, sustainable careers in the construction trades, Rosendin reported.

High school students in Tempe and across the East Valley are learning a variety of trades in Arizona's first Career Technical Education District.

The East Valley Institute of Technology offers dozens of tuition-free training options, from automotive technologies and fashion design to massage therapy and welding.

"In the old days, students who felt they didn't function in a traditional high

school or didn't fit in somehow thought they had to go to EVIT," said Steve Mancuso, Marcos de Niza's department leader of guidance.

"But now, EVIT's looked at as a positive, and students are going there for a reason, say, because they want to be a veterinarian's assistant or go into the aerospace program."

Schools in the Tempe Union School District have long provided myriad career options to students, Mancuso noted. But there's been a shift toward involving freshmen and sophomores in the conversation.

"There are lots of doors and windows open to them, and we want to keep them open as long as we can, so that they don't feel they have to go this way or that way," he said. "Before it was, you are either pegged here or pegged there, and you couldn't move between the two. But now they see, you can learn to be a barber and, later, own your own barber shop."

School counselors sometimes have to convince parents that their children have realistic, multiple choices, Mancuso said.

"My mom's the biggest part of me having this plan," Erica said. "She was always asking me what my plan was after graduation. She didn't want me to graduate and end up not getting a job."

There seems little possibility of that.

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An actress portraying Charlotte Boyd Chandler, the second wife of the city of Chandler's namesake, Dr. A.J. Chandler, was one of a slate of performers at Downtown Chandler Community Partnership's Chandlore event.
— Wrangler News photos by Noah Kutz

Chandler's 'hip-storic' past comes alive in city's downtown

By Noah Kutz

Shoppers and amateur historians alike shared a blast from the past as downtown "Chandlore" festivities once again transported spectators back to the city's roots.

Actors and performers from Improvmania Comedy played the roles of various socialites and important figures from Chandler's "hip-storic" past as a way to highlight memorable parts of the city's founding in 1912.

Residents meandering around the downtown plaza witnessed characters from the early 1900s, including Charlotte Boyd Chandler, Frank Lloyd Wright, Sam Soldinger and Fritz and Emmy Werner.

Patrons who sat outside downtown Chandler's participating restaurants may have heard the barbershop quartet perform their a capella numbers to passersby. Nearly every living soul in the area heard the gunslinger Johnny Hot Shot as he fired off his pistols and cracked a whip with shouts of "yeeha!"

He entertained a crowd with tricks showing off the common tools and weapons used by old Western cowboys, including a display of expertise as he severed the head of a rose behind his back with a flick of his bull whip.

The crowd whooped and hollered after every trick, and each time he responded, "Now that's how it was done in the West..."

The one-night event choreographed

by Downtown Chandler Community Partnership is designed to provide a fun and exciting way for residents to learn—or relearn—the history of their town, as well as promote a stronger bond with the community.

"Chandlore is here to celebrate our 'hipstoric' culture here in downtown Chandler," said Mary Murphy-Bessler, DCCP's executive director.

"Hipstoric," she noted, is a way of saying that Chandler's past is more interesting than many might think, especially when they see the performances from the 1920s socialites around town.

Added one Chandler resident who was on hand for the celebration:

"Lots of people don't know the history behind Chandler's foundation, so this is a good way for folks to interact more with the history and culture."

The actors taking on the roles do it in a way that seems to help audiences believe they've been transported back in time. This way, children and parents can ask questions directly to the make-believe visitors from history about the roles they played in Chandler's beginning, as well as learn fun facts and tidbits about the founders and their own personal history.

For more information on Chandlore and other DCCP events, visit DowntownChandler.org.



A barbershop quartet's melodious performance rounded out the entertainment offered at Chandlore in downtown Chandler.

'Phoenix' magazine 'Best Of' rating still tells our story best

Editor's note: Here's how, in its one and only rating of Valley newspapers, the folks at Phoenix magazine judged our efforts. We think they said it better than even we could have.

f Since 1991 the Wrangler News has been "making a big community a little bit smaller" and giving the residents of south Tempe and west Chandler something to look forward to Saturday mornings. This every- other-week newspaper serves all of the feel-good functions of a local paper, whether it's giving high school sports teams the credit they deserve or profiling a spunky small business owner down the street.

But it's also a source of engaging commentary and thoughtful coverage of local issues that can get lost in the big dailies. Every small town deserves a paper this good, and so does every big city.

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 or call 480-966-0837 from 9-5 M-F for format requirements, deadlines and rates.



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Tempe doc, a Creighton grad, hails new school's arrival

Omaha-based medical college set to bring expanded services to Valley

By Nicholas Johnsen

OMAHA, Neb. — It can be challenging to find exactly the right provider for what ails us in today's vast medical world. Healthcare in the Valley of the Sun is no different. However, with a little boost from Middle America, things seem to be looking up.

Omaha may be an unfamiliar destination to many Tempe and West Chandler residents. That being said, some locals appear to have formed lifelong connections with the place.

Creighton University, found in the heart of Omaha, is one of the country's premiere Jesuit universities, following a longstanding tradition of holistic education.

Jesuit teaching methodology is typically associated with education for action and a mission statement of creating "Women and men for others."

Creighton's medical school program is no exception.

As one of the top-ranked of its kind in the country, the combination of this mission with the best-in-class resources has consistently produced the quality of care that the east valley needs.

The midwestern Jesuit school has actively contributed to Phoenix's health community since its partnership with Dignity Health St. Joseph's in 2009.

The program allows for students to complete their last one or two years of medical school in metro Phoenix, posing an opportunity to contribute



invaluable skill outside of the already saturated Omaha area.

The university recently unveiled plans to construct an entirely new medical campus at Park Central in midtown, including a four-year medical school, nursing program, occupational and physical therapy schools, pharmacy school, physician-assistant training and emergency medical services program.

Construction began in July, and is expected to be completed in 2021. A celebration for the project's undertaking is scheduled Wednesday, Sept. 25.

"Creighton University is preparing for an exciting new era in Phoenix, one that combines our tradition for educational excellence in the health sciences with our distinctive Jesuit, Catholic mission," said the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, president of Creighton.

After speaking with a local healthcare professional in the East Valley, it's clear that the contribution is definitely welcome.

Tempe cardiac radiologist Dick Petersen emphasized that there's always room for more quality health professionals.

As a CU graduate himself, Petersen is on the alumni advisory board for the medical school and is enthusiastic about the development.

"The current program is limited in a few areas, but now Creighton can align itself with places like Barrow Neurological Institute.

"It doesn't get any better than that."

Petersen expressed that, especially over the last five or six years, all those involved have been happy with the way the connection developed.

As the population in the Valley steadily increases, more quality care sets up a win-win-win.

"It's good for the students, it's good for St. Joe's, and it's good for the medical community in the Valley."

With both the momentum and positive feedback growing, the greater Phoenix area is shaping up to be a significant healthcare force to be reckoned with.

Editor's note: Nicholas Johnsen, a graduate of Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, served an internship with Wrangler News during the past summer.

He will continue to contribute articles of interest to our readership during his last year at Creighton until he graduates next spring.

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Vaping

From Page 4

stalls to counteract vaping.

The FDA is now calling vaping and e-cigarette use an epidemic. Even President Donald Trump and Gov. Doug Ducey have weighed in on it.

They're hopeful of impressing upon vapers and potential vapers that, when sounding the alarm about health risks, they're not just blowing smoke.

Vapers counter that they are not blowing smoke, either, and that is the root of a disconnect that has made the use of e-cigarettes a national health epidemic.

In Arizona, it is unlawful to sell e-cigarette to minors, yet the products are easily finding their way into the hands of young people.

Consequently, the state initiated a sting operation targeting businesses that sell those products to minors. Store clerks can be fined as much as \$300 and businesses as much as \$1,000 for selling to minors.

Vapers tell their stories

Five Tempe-area college students who say they have been vapers for two to three years and regularly use Juul and other vape products agreed to share their insights. Wrangler News is withholding their names. "Peer pressure and curiosity" led one of them into vaping.

"I don't stoop down to peer pressure, and I denied it for a while, but eventually it just overwhelmed me to where I had to try it," he said. "Once I did it, I was hooked."

Another said that "curiosity killed the cat."

Only one of the young people who commented reported being concerned about health risks. "I quit recently but I still hit other people's (Juul)," reported one. Another acknowledged spending roughly \$50 a month on vaping.

"You know there's health risks of drinking too much caffeine right? That can put you in the hospital," he said.

Another, after hearing the recent warnings, gave it up.

"One day when I got back home, I took all of them, put them in a pot of water and boiled them," he said.



A young man using an e-cigarette at Tempe Beach Park brought to life the rising popularity of the habit which has recently come under scrutiny by the Centers for Disease Control.
— Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

One device that's popular is the Juul, which looks like a USB thumb drive. The company has been criticized by some officials who believe it is targeting young people in its advertising.

The company recently issued a statement emphasizing that it wants to be part of the solution in keeping e-cigarettes out of young people's hands.

"Our mission is to improve the lives of adult smokers by providing them with a true alternative to combustible cigarettes," the statement says.

CDC has not identified a cause of the lung diseases and deaths believed associated with vaping, but all reported cases have a history of using e-cigarette products.

The federal agency says e-cigarettes can contain harmful substances besides nicotine.

"There's some talk that maybe it's some of the

oils in there or a compound that we just haven't identified yet, because we also haven't identified yet whether it's the e-cigarette/nicotine version or whether it's the THC version that's causing this," said Dr. Dan Quan, a medical toxicologist and interim chair of Emergency Medicine at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix.

"Until that common factor is found there is no way to know why or what the mechanism is.

"I think you can put the warnings out, but it's like safety belts: People choose not to heed them. We're making it really easy for kids to use this stuff. They're small, they're lightweight, they don't generate much vapor at all. You can't tell if people are doing it in class. There is a risk. I tell people don't vape until we really know what's happening."

on homeless dogs. Supplies and services were available at Tempe First United Methodist Church, open to people who were currently experiencing homelessness.

AARM provided microchips, tags and collars. The Bella Project offered dog food and treats, leashes, collars, harnesses, toys and booties.

Advocates don't know how many pets are on the streets with their owners at any given time. But during the countywide Point-in-Time Homeless Count last January, volunteers counted 182 pets with people experiencing homelessness.

"In Tempe, we regularly see pets who are hungry, wounded or suffering from serious medical issues,"

said homeless outreach specialist Kelly Denman.

"Helping these animals is just the right thing to do. If we can build trust with owners at these kinds of community events, we increase our chances of connecting people with what they need to change their lives."

To help replenish pet supplies distributed during the event, contact AARM at www.azanimalrescue.org or Bella Project through the group's Facebook page.

Planning for a similar future event is currently underway.

Information: www.tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness.

Pets

From Page 3

homelessness want to remain with their dogs. That relationship may be the one constant in their lives," said Nichole Stevens, Tempe's homeless solutions supervisor. "Offering a bag of food or water dish helps us start the conversation with their owners about options, housing and services."

The HOPE team hosted the August outreach event with the nonprofit Arizona Animal Rescue Mission and Bella Project, a volunteer group focused



Michelle Thorne, who founded an organization to help mothers of autistic children, at home with her daughter Maria and son Jackson.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

Autism

From Page 5

inclusiveness,” and always reaching into the group itself for help and support.

“My belief is, ‘Fund Your Tribe,’” Thorne declares. “So, for instance, when we got funded for the web, the designer we were able to get is a parent of a child with special needs, too.”

All-inclusiveness for this new local leader ultimately means being committed to not leave out anyone who has a need for DAMES help.

“We truly want any parent with a child with special needs or with a challenging health situation to be involved with us,” Thorne says.

One of these, Rebecca Ruiz, whose daughter Elena has been dealing with chronic fibromyalgia, says joining the DAMES group has helped her better serve her daughter’s needs.

“Elena’s health issues were vastly helped by my access to the resources offered by the DAMES program, and I highly encourage any family going through these things to join us--it will help them, too,” she says.

Thorne stresses those who wish to join DAMES who may have financial challenges doing so, even with a low membership fee of \$25, can get a group sponsor or receive a scholarship.

“I don’t want money or any other

lack of resources to be a barrier to someone who wants to join us, so we welcome them to approach us,” she says.

Most of DAMES’ resources are made available online at its website, and include guided meditations, workouts, and an abundance of helpful information. The group also has regular guest speakers.

In her website blog, Thorne stresses the emphasis on online access is crucial to parents with uncommonly busy lives taking care of their children.

“We want mothers to connect with crucial resources, anytime and anywhere, using their smartphones,” she writes, adding resources also are available through the apps DAMES created for iPhone and Android.

The group’s website’s member area also offers such activities as Meditation Monday, Wellness Wednesday, Pilates/Yoga Now, and Fitness Friday.

The ultimate payoff, says this DAMES’ dynamic young organizer, is a win-win all around, making it possible for special-needs children and their parents not only to get through their challenges, but to grow and thrive within them.

Creating DAMES helped get me back to myself,” she reflects. “And the whole process taught me a basic truth: embrace your children for who they really are, and things will work out.”

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20-country odyssey to deliver a message of faith

A one-on-one talk with Patrick Cassidy



By Joyce Coronel



A small sign near the exit of the parking lot at Arizona Community Church is emblematic of the congregation's philosophy:

"You are now entering mission territory," the sign proclaims.

It's a mindset that has the South Tempe non-denominational, Evangelical church sending forth members of its congregation with a message of faith, hope and love to all who will listen, with some as far afield as Europe, the Caribbean and Russia.

Patrick Cassidy, who leads the church's short mission trips, has a

heart for spreading the Gospel. With no formal academic or seminary training, he nevertheless possesses a passion for evangelization.

"I'm a sinner saved by grace. That's my diploma," says Cassidy. "Forty years ago, I was a wild man. My life changed in 1982."

The marketing/public-relations director and designated broker for local real estate superstar Michael Pollack, Cassidy has ventured to 20 countries around the globe with the Christian message he says changed his life four decades ago.

While the church

'Ninety-eight
them if I can p

sends mission projects teams that help address temporal needs like clean water and food. The teams Cassidy leads are spiritual in nature.

They work with pastors on the ground in host countries to help bring people in relationship with Christ.

Last month, Cassidy led 13 people from Arizona Community Church to the outskirts of Uberlandia, Brazil.

It's not a chamber-commerce trip with a five-star hotel, Cassidy



Mission of joy, message of faith

Patrick Cassidy and his 14-member mission team from Arizona Community Church assembled at Sky Harbor International Airport prior to their departure for Uberlandia, Brazil. One of the Brazilians Cassidy visited was a young man living in a shed by a garage.

— Photos courtesy Patrick Cassidy

nt percent of people say yes when I ask
pray for them. You just have to ask.'

— Patrick Cassidy, of his mission trip to Brazil

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says. Rising each day at 6 a.m., the team had breakfast with representatives of the host church in the South American nation.

The days were long, often lasting until midnight, and filled with visits to homes, prisons and schools.

In between these more formal encounters arranged by the Brazilian-based pastor, the team also frequented public spaces such as parks and city streets to speak with people.

More than 50 million Brazilians live in poverty, with families earning less than \$5.50 a day.

The mission trips, Cassidy said, “bring the promise of God’s word to their lives. They wake up every day feeling helpless, alone, frightened, with no hope or a plan for their future.”

The Brazilians they met with, Cassidy said, were extremely receptive of the message and appreciative of the

American missionaries’ efforts.

“We tell them we’ve come 2,500 miles, paying our own way, to pray with them. We’re not here to change your religion. We’re here to pray for you. And everybody needs prayer.”

Cassidy recalled visiting the opulent home of a very wealthy couple—the husband and wife were each physicians—and at first, the husband had his arms folded across his chest and appeared unreceptive.

When Cassidy asked the man if he could pray for him, his eyes filled

with tears and he asked Cassidy to pray for his son.

Instead of being thrown out of the home as Cassidy originally suspected might happen, they ended up sharing a meal and spending hours together celebrating the couple’s decision to follow Christ.

Back in the U.S. once mission trips end, team members look at their lives a little differently, Cassidy said, realizing how blessed they are by things most Americans take for granted, like reliable electric power, clean water and food:

“When you go on these short term mission

trips, your eyes are opened wide and your heart softens.

“You remember and feel that God has a bigger purpose for our lives than just immersing ourselves in worldly comforts and self-focused attitudes.”

For his part, Cassidy says he returns to the U.S. with a deeper desire to share the Christian message and pray with complete strangers he runs into at the grocery store or on the street.

“Ninety-eight percent of people say yes when I ask them if I can pray for them.

“You just have to ask.”

SPORTS

With Alex Zener

5 starters return to Aztecs' 2019 girls volleyball roster

Corona's girls volleyball team, the runner-up in last season's 6A state championship, returned five starters, a bevy of game-experienced players and two hard-hitting transfers that should give the Aztecs another good run when the state championship tournament comes around in early November.

"We return a very experienced squad, only losing two starters from last season," said longtime head coach Ben Maxfield.

Returning starters are senior outside hitters Mady Noble and Nicole Newlin; senior middle blocker Sadie McRae; senior setter Ashley Hayden; sophomore setter Anita Babic; and senior libero Becca Morse.

Corona's current leading hitters, Noble and Newlin, have improved their kills-per-set over last season, with Noble averaging 3.6 kills a set and Newline 3.4 so far this season.

McRae, who has played in 45 of the possible 49

sets, is averaging close to two blocks a match and contributing a kill per set to the team's average of over 11 kills a set.

Hayden and Babic return as setters because Corona ran a 6-2 setting scheme last season and is mostly running the same scheme this season, with Babic playing in 47 of the 48 sets with 261 assists and Hayden playing in 42 sets credited with 200 assists.

Morse, at the libero position, is the leading digger and ace server on the team. Although she already has 338 digs or close to seven digs a set, she has probably improved most in earning points from aces.

She already has 39 aces, when her total for all last season was 42.

Morse was named to the Westwood Tournament of Champions All-Tournament Team last weekend for her skills at the libero position. Corona lost in the semi-finals of the Gold Division to Perry, 2-1, which went on to defeat Highland in the finals and win the tournament.

"We lost a bit of our ball control with the graduation of Mary Shroll, but...Becca Morse and... Mady Noble will anchor a solid serve-receive back line,

getting the ball into the capable hands of our setters Anita Babic and Ashley Hayden," said Maxfield.

Corona has two returning varsity defensive specialist in seniors Rachael Mertes and Makalie Pintus. Mertes has played in 44 sets and is credited with 107 digs, while Pintus has been credited with three service aces while playing in 25 sets.

Two other players identified by Maxfield who could have an impact on the team's success were sophomore middle blocker Natalie Meyer and senior opposite hitter, Morgan McNulty. McNulty has played in 44 of the 48 sets with 67 kills, 14 blocks and 25 digs, while Meyer has played in 43 matches with 27 kills, but most impressively has 33 blocks—just one behind the block leader, McRae.

Meyer is tied in blocks with 6-foot-2 freshman middle blocker/opposite Ella Lomigora, who has played in 48 sets so far this season and has 33 blocks along with her 66 kills.

Two additional players who should have an impact on the team, once they can play in

matches, are two transfer students, junior opposite hitter Anna Jackson, who transferred from Mountain Pointe, and sophomore outside hitter Sydney Meyer, a transfer from Desert Vista.

"We are a much more powerful hitting team with the additions of hard-hitting Sydney Meyer and Anna Jackson," said Maxfield.

Additional players who contribute to the success of Corona's team on and off the court include senior defensive specialists, Madison McNulty and Jade Fujii; sophomore defensive specialists Angie Bour and Kacie Webb; and sophomore outside hitter Dominique Wofford.

"If we pass well and keep the ball in system, we will be a tough team to defend at the net," said Maxfield. "We're working hard to advance deep into the state tournament again."

The Aztecs, with an 18-2 record as of Sept. 16, were scheduled to play at archrival Xavier College Prep on Sept. 17, at home against Desert Ridge on Sept. 18 and then at home on Sept. 19 against Perry.

Up next, Corona has a home game against Highland on Sept. 24 and then an away game at

VANISH THE VAPE

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

In 2016, more than two million US middle and high school students had used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days.

In addition to nicotine, E-cigarettes can be used to inhale marijuana and other drugs.

Vaping can cause a serious and irreversible lung disease known as "popcorn lung." The disease causes coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath, similar to the symptoms of COPD.

JUUL is the most popular brand of e-cigarettes among teens and they often refer to vaping as JUULing. Devices are small, look like a USB drive, and fit in the palm of your hand.

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Funded in partnership with the Arizona High School Health and Wellness grant.

Hamilton on Sept. 25.

The Aztecs are scheduled to play Desert Vista at home Oct. 2 and then Oct 3 at Mt. Pointe during the week before Fall Break.

MdN girls volleyball

Marcos de Niza has an up-and-coming girls volleyball team led mainly by juniors in middle blocker Hailey White; setter Olivia Craig; and libero Audry Mayer.

White, who has been called a “dominant player on the front row” by Padres head coach Melissa Yee, leads the team in kills with an average of over four a set.

Craig averages 6.5 assists and 2.3 digs a set, plus is averaging a service ace per set.

Mayer, at the libero position, is averaging over 5.5 digs a set, followed by senior outside hitter Jasmin Jurado, who is second on the team in digs with almost four per set.

Jurado, along with fellow senior players Seriah Catania, Nina Marshall and Alyna Cruz, contribute close to one kill per set.

Other members of the team include seniors Ydania Garces and Manli Wu; juniors Sara Hambleton and Kelsi Dewaard; and freshman Maddie Dudley.

The Padres were scheduled to play three away games this past week—first at crosstown rival McClintock on Sept. 17; Saguaro in Scottsdale on Sept. 18; and Apache Junction on Sept. 19.

Marcos has three matches scheduled before the fall break, including one Sept. 26 at Mesquite, another Oct. 1 at Arcadia and a home match against Poston Butte on Oct. 3.

Corona football

The Aztecs started the season strong, defeating Mesa Mountain View by 10 points, 41-31 on Aug. 23 and then lost by only three points to Mt. Ridge the following week, at 13-16.

In week three, Corona was tied with Basha 14-14 at the end of the third quarter but ran out of time in the fourth quarter after falling behind two touchdowns.

Against the Bears, Aztec quarterback Quade Swearingen completed two 40-yard passing touchdowns, one in the second quarter to Jean Boyd III, another in the third quarter to junior Mitchell Coakley. Anyale Velazquez rushed for a two-point conversion to tie the score at 14 each at the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, with two minutes to go, Swearingen completed an 80-yard pass to Bryce Douglass for

a touchdown. After Jasper Schineller’s PAT was good, the Aztecs were behind by seven points at 28-21, never regaining possession of the ball back before the clock ran out.

Other notable stats from the Basha game included an interception by Scott Musgrave, three quarterback sacks (Colton Mealer, Jake Schmitt and Tudor Georgescu) and 48 total tackles.

Junior Talon Williams had six solo and two assisted tackles to lead the team with eight, as well as junior Alex Rafalski who had four solo and four assisted tackles.

Schmitt was next with six total tackles followed by Myles Sheppard with five.

In week four against Boulder Creek, the Aztecs were predicted to win but turned the ball over four times, three on interceptions and one via a fumble, which made it difficult to get any momentum.

Corona managed to score only a field goal by Schineller in the first quarter and a passing touchdown from Swearingen to sophomore Velazquez in the second quarter before a 35-10 loss to the Jaguars.

Additional offensive highlights included Velazquez, with 56 rushing yards and 46 receiving yards for a total of 102 yards, five receptions by senior Eric Blackwell for a total of 73 yards, and 249 passing yards by Swearingen.

On defense, Schmitt led the team in tackles, with six solo and six assisted tackles, for a total of 12, along with Rafalski, who also had 12 total tackles. Next was Sheppard with nine and Georgescu with eight. Senior Conner Burns had the only sack.

McClintock football

The Padres won big against St. Mary’s, 36-7, during their second game of the season on Sept. 6 and then lost their next game by only seven points, 20-13, at Tucson’s Sahuaro High School on Sept. 13.

Against St. Mary’s, Marcos went up 14-0 in the first quarter on two rushing touchdowns by senior Yakeen Bayless and two PAT kicks by senior David Redhouse.

St. Mary’s scored in the second quarter to cut the lead to 14-7. With two minutes left to go in the first half, the Padres sacked the St. Mary’s quarterback and forced the Knights to punt the ball setting up the Padres third rushing touchdown of the half by Baylis. Marcos went into the locker room at halftime up 20-7 after missing the PAT.

With seven minutes to go in the

— SPORTS, Page 20



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Sports

From Page 19

third quarter, junior Chris Ramirez recovered a Knight fumble to set up Baylis for his fourth rushing touchdown of the night followed by a two-point rushing conversion to give Baylis 26 points for the night and put the Padres up 28-7.

With three minutes to go in third quarter, the Padres once again sacked the St. Mary's quarterback, setting Marcos up for another touchdown, this one a 47-yard rushing touchdown by junior Jayden Calderon. The PAT gave Marcos a 36-7 advantage that endured throughout the fourth quarter for the win.

Altogether, Marcos sacked St. Mary's four times: two by Hill and others by senior Dante Kircher-Myton, junior Jacob Irick and Jakob Vandorn.

Other highlights of the St. Mary's win included an interception by senior Joell Jaquez at the end of the third quarter and a quarterback sack by junior Schofar Hill midway through the fourth quarter.

Senior Malaki Corella lead the team in tackles with four solo and two assisted tackles for a total of six followed by seniors Alexander Norrish and Ayden Tuchfarber, who each had five tackles.

In the Padres 13-20 loss to the Cougars, Baylis was pretty much shut down running the ball but did manage to score one rushing touchdown.

Marcos was forced

to throw the ball where senior Martell Thompson caught four passes for 52 yards and one touchdown.

Redhouse made his one PAT attempt, giving the Padres a total of 13 points against the Cougars 20.

On defense, Corella led the team in tackles with eight solo and six assisted tackles for a total of 14. Junior Collin Gordan, senior Micah Willingham and Irick all had nine total tackles.

Up next, the Padres, currently 1-2, play cross-town rival at Tempe High School on Sept. 20 before playing another non-conference game at Moon Valley on Sept. 27.

Corona grad update

Only two former Corona basketball players, at least in the Sean Miller era, have been recruited by and accepted scholarships to the University of Arizona.

One, Alex Barcello, is leaving the Wildcat program after two years; the other, Dalen Terry, will be headed there in 2020 as a freshman.

Barcello announced last month that he will be accepting a scholarship to BYU, leaving University of Arizona after two years of limited playing time that averaged less than 10 minutes a game.

The outlook for more playing time looked bleak with the addition of two five-star recruits and incoming freshman, both McDonald's All-Americans Nico Mannion and Josh Green, who will most likely be in the starting backcourt.

Barcello will have to sit out next season due to the NCAA transfer

rules but will be eligible to play in the 2020-21 season.

A highly rated four-star recruited guard out of Corona, Barcello had offers from several schools including Virginia, Butler, Indiana and Stanford.

In high school, he was selected three times to the All-Arizona State team and was the Arizona Republic's Player of the Year his senior year. He also was the 2016-2017 Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year in Arizona and was part of Corona's two championship teams, 2013-14 and 2014-15, and one runner-up team, 2016-17.

During the 2013-2014 season, Barcello's freshman year, he came off the bench to play substantial minutes. In 2014-2015, he was one of the starting guards along with Casey Benson and Tyrell Henderson.

Barcello, known for his closeness to his family plus dedication and loyalty, stayed at Corona after his sophomore year when both coach Sammie Duane and then sophomore Marvin Bagley left. He could have transferred to Finlay Prep in Henderson, Nev., like his long-time rival Markus Howard of Perry High School, but chose to stay at Corona.

It was after Barcello and Howard, both sophomores, matched basket-for-basket in a highly competitive second half in a game against Perry in 2015, where Barcello scored 51 points to Howard's 47, that Sean Miller offered him a scholarship to UA. The Aztecs won that game.

During Barcello's senior season, 2016-17, Corona was the No. 1 seed in the 6A State Championship but lost to No. 2 seeded Basha, 75-65, bringing home the runner-up trophy.

The only year that Corona did not make it to the championship finals, during the four years Barcello's played, was his junior season, when Corona was once again the No. 1 seed. Unfortunately, the Aztecs lost in the quarterfinals to Sunnyslope, 61-53, when the Aztecs' other shooting guard, Sabin Lee, could not play due to illness.

Lee, who accepted a scholarship to Purdue, and Barcello were Corona's main offense during their junior and senior years. The Aztecs' other offensive and defensive threat during Barcello's senior season was freshman guard Dalen Terry.

Terry played his freshman and sophomore season at Corona before transferring to Phoenix's Hillcrest Prep. After being recruited by several Pac-12 and SEC teams, Perry took an unofficial visit to the University of Arizona last month and committed shortly after to the Wildcat program.

Terry, who may still be growing at 6-foot-6 and 190-pounds, is noted for his versatility as a scorer and his defensive abilities at the wing position.

Corona's coach Neil MacDonald pointed out Terry's shot-blocking capabilities when Terry was just a freshman, and he has notably improved ever since. He is also noted for his passing, unselfishness and scoring ability.

Terry is Arizona's first player to commit from the 2020 high school class.

TUHSD reveals evidence coach leaked strategies

By Lee Shappell

Special for Wrangler News

A Mountain Pointe High school sports coach resigned from his teaching and coaching positions in the Tempe Union High School District on Sept. 13, amid evidence that he leaked sensitive information to opposing coaches about Pride athletic teams, the school district said.

However, Justin Hager, who was a freshman football coach and head girls basketball coach at Mountain Pointe, said in an exclusive text-message exchange with *Wrangler News* on Monday that he left the district because he had another job.

"I resigned as I took an admin and coaching job elsewhere," Hager texted.

Asked if he could say where, Hager texted, "Once it's made (available) to the public I will."

Asked to address the school district's allegations against him, Hager texted, "I resigned to take another job and a career move. Had nothing to do with any allegations. Looking forward to the next challenge."

TUHSD, however, said a news release Monday that it had substantial evidence that Hager, using an alias email account, sent game plans and other insider information to opposing coaches during the 2017 athletic season, and that he was allowed to resign rather than being fired. The school district and Mountain Pointe officials suspect that his actions might go back an additional year or two.

Cory Nenaber, assistant principal for athletics at Corona del Sol High in Tempe, said that the Aztecs never received any emails containing Mountain Pointe insider athletic information.

"If we had, my coaches would have forwarded that to me and we would have handled that appropriately," Nenaber said. "I've talked to my coaches. We know that the appropriate way to handle that is to immediately notify me, and we would have then notified Mountain Pointe immediately.

"I was shocked. It's sad for Mountain Pointe athletics and for the kids that he affected. I think Mountain Pointe handled it really well."

Nenaber, the Aztecs' football coach in 2014 and 2015 before moving into administration, said that if one of his coaches faced similar accusations he would notify his principal, the school

district athletic director and district administrators immediately.

"Then the investigation would be run at the district level, which is what happened in this case," Nenaber said. "But I'm proud of our coaches and the way we handle our business."

Emails released Monday by Tempe Union suggest that some of the state's premier football programs, Chandler, Perry and Pinnacle, were among those that received reports on Mountain Pointe and did not report them. The district said that emails also were sent to basketball powerhouses Pinnacle and Brophy detailing game plans for upcoming battles with Mountain Pointe and did not report them.



Cory Nenaber, athletic director at Corona, says his school did not receive leaked information.

— Facebook photo

Norris Vaughan, who hired Hager as a freshman football coach in 2015, said he and his staff suspected during the 2016 football season, when the Pride reached the 6A state championship game against Chandler High, and in 2017, when MP was eliminated in the state semifinals by Perry, that something was amiss and that there might be a mole in his program.

"I don't understand how anybody would do this to kids. That's just sorry," Vaughan, now head football coach at Panama City Beach (Fla.) Arnold High, said in a telephone interview. "I think that's just unfortunate that someone would do that to hurt another program and to hurt kids. I just don't get it.

"Also, I don't understand why coaches who receive that information would not report that to Mountain Pointe and let us know someone is trying to cheat. We never heard anything from anybody about it. We just knew that something was up. As late as last year when I moved back to Georgia (Hager) he called me when he was seeking

a job and I tried to help him."

Current Mountain Pointe football coach Rich Wellbrock echoed Vaughan.

"I am at a loss as to why someone would hurt kids in this way," Wellbrock said. "The entire coaching staff at Mountain Pointe is deeply troubled that a trusted adult in our program would actively work against the success of our students."

An investigation was launched by the school district after Vernon Fox, head football coach at Las Vegas (Nev.) Faith Lutheran, Mountain Pointe's opening opponent this season, alerted Wellbrock that he had been sent insider information about the Pride. Fox said that he did not use the information. Mountain Pointe won, 40-17.

Tempe Union said that the subsequent personnel investigation of Hager revealed that he was sharing protected information about the MP varsity football and boys' basketball teams with opposing coaches for the past three years.

The district said that it has evidence in its possession, dating to 2017, that reveals Hager shared information about formations, game plans, signals and player eligibility with opposing coaches to give Mountain Pointe's opponents a competitive edge.

"As a member district of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, we have reported these infractions to the AIA and will cooperate fully with any investigation into these acts," said Dr. Kevin Mendivil, TUHSD superintendent. "Furthermore, the actions of one person is not representative of this school or our district, and we believe this should serve as a call to action for every adult in a leadership role with students to recommit to acting with integrity, whether in the classroom or on the field of competition."

Vaughan said his suspicions were heightened after the Pride lost at West Hills (Calif.) Chaminade in its second game in 2017.

"We had some things we hadn't done in the past so they couldn't have known that from watching film," Vaughan said.

"When we lost to Perry in the (2017) semifinal game, maybe they were just that good, but when we were on defense, they knew what we were in before they snapped the ball. I don't know. In 2016 we had great team although we had injuries, a lot kids out, and that was part of our problem. But in the championship game (against Chandler) I suspected there were other problems. It's all speculation but I felt that something was up. People had information that they couldn't have gotten by just watching film. I knew there was information that no one would have unless they were a member of our coaching staff. I had game plans on the board that someone could have taken a picture of."

Diversions

Commentary

Thank internet for today's grammar — like it or not

"The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise...They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs and tyrannize their teachers."

By M.V. Moorhead

No, not the squabbling of a professional grumbler on TV news or an amateur malcontent on the letters page of a daily newspaper.

No, the abridged quote has long been attributed to none other than the Greek philosopher Socrates, who lived in the 4th Century B.C.

I've heard it since the days when I was luxury-loving, dainties-gobbling, leg-crossing, teacher-tyrannizing youth myself.

However, when I went to use it in this column, I learned that it traces back not to Socrates but only

as far as 1907, when a student at Cambridge made a compilation of gripes about youth from ancient times for his dissertation.

Still, we get the point, right?

"These kids today, I tell ya..." And, as always, with the underlying suggestion that back when the speaker was a kid, none of that rotten behavior would have been tolerated.

Whether this kind of grouching by oldsters toward youth comes from ancient times or 1907, it's clearly nothing new. (I've thought of this quote many times over the years—as a 50-something and father of a 17-year-old, the sentiments expressed by "Socrates" (or whoever) have come to seem far more justified and less fusty to me than they did when I was young.

But the quote also came back to me when I was reading a Babel magazine article about the linguistic generation gap called "Baby Boomers vs. Millennials: Are They Even Speaking the Same Language?"

Anyone who spends much time online, especially on social media, can hardly be unaware of the elaborate disgust with which many members of the Baby Boomer generation—people who, like me, were born between the mid-'40s and the early '60s—regard the so-called Millennials, born between the early '80s and the early 2000s, for their supposed great sense of entitlement, among other annoyances.

The Millennials have been known to defensively sling equally withering contempt at the Boomers.



The author of the Babel piece, a certain Thomas Moore Devlin, comments on this contention on one of the perennial fronts of the generational war: language.

He notes that the shifts in language that one experiences throughout life may be less societal than individual, linked to human psychology as we age, even though we perceive them as generational.

He does, however, grant that current slang and other habits of grammar have been greatly accelerated by the internet, as with millennial oddities like "on fleek" (roughly, "flawlessly executed") or expressions derived from texting initials like "lol" and "omg."

Best of all is the sweetly naïve passage with which Devlin closes:

"Young people will always be the source of change, and that will always cause tension between generations."

In 2018, millennials are technically all adults, meaning it's only a matter of time before the media starts blaming things on the next generation, often called Generation Z. Soon, they'll be the ones killing businesses and ruining everything...

"Maybe, however, this doesn't have to be what happens. Maybe we can realize that generations are artificial constructs created by marketing agencies to figure out how to sell their products by homogenizing massive groups of people. Each new generation is just the next step in the cycle that will continue until the end of humanity. There's no use fighting change, so it's far better to embrace it."

Yeah, that'll probably happen. Just ask Socrates.

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Innovation is key attribute of Chilean artist Camila Meza

Coming to TCA Sept. 28

Buoyed by record advance-ticket sales for its 2019-20 concert series, Lakeshore Music opens its 12th season on Saturday, Sept. 28, welcoming internationally acclaimed Chilean jazz guitarist-vocalist Camila Meza and the Nectar Orchestra to Tempe Center for the Arts.

A chamber quartet from Arizona State University's Herberger School of Music will support Meza and her core band for the 7:30 p.m. performance at the center's Lakeside Room is.

Meza's stop in the Valley comes amid a busy month that takes her from Japan to New York, back to Japan, and then to Tempe before she heads to The Netherlands for the Mondriaan Jazz Festival.

"Camila seems to be everywhere in support



Camila Meza and the Nectar Orchestra open Lakeshore Music's 12th season at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 at Tempe Center for the Arts.

of her new album, *Ámbar*," said Woody Wilson, founder and president of Lakeshore Music. "Camila's artistry takes the best of improvisational jazz and uniquely combines it with the musical influences of her native Chile. She is a true innovator and is in the process of creating a musical genre all her own.

"It will be a fantastic show. And our record advance sales reflects the excitement in the jazz community over what we believe will be our finest season ever. We have something for everyone."

The songs on *Ámbar*, Camila's fifth studio album and her boldest artistic statement to date, are sung in English, Spanish and Portuguese, which makes sense for a New York-based musician from Santiago, Chile, whose art has been significantly shaped by Brazilian music.

Born in Santiago in 1985, she grew up in an environment where music was present.

She picked up the electric guitar at 16 and began composing and playing in rock and pop bands.

By 18, she had decided to attend one of the few jazz and popular-music schools in Chile, Projazz Institute.

She says she was surprised when her tutors and professors, all well-known jazz musicians in Chile, began inviting her to perform with them at jazz clubs.

Influenced in English by jazz guitarists by Pat Metheny and George Benson, Meza moved to New York City in 2009 to attend the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music.

As a composer and arranger, Meza has developed her own voice, embracing jazz tradition as well as her Latin American background. She writes tunes in two languages.

A Spanish-speaking artist who became fluent in English long after her formative years, Meza finds experimenting with bilingual lyric writing intriguing.

Tickets (\$35-\$40) and information: 602-679-0590.

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- New York Times

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\$750 grants will aid Kyrene schools' fine arts programs

Kyrene School District teachers are celebrating the award of grants from the city of Tempe to create everything from music to murals.

This year's \$750 grants will help fund the initiatives of seven fine arts, performing arts and music teachers, each of whom qualified for the full amount.

The grants will fund projects for the 2019-20 school year.

Recipients and their programs include:

Kyrene del Norte — Music teacher R. Scott Harnisch will use the grant for supplies to be put toward the 4th and 5th grade musical, "The Wizard of Oz."

Kyrene de la Mariposa — Music teacher Angela Marshall will purchase three new glockenspiels and supplies to expand learning in the music room.

C.I. Waggoner — Art teacher Ellen Pope will use the funds for the addition of mosaic murals on campus, which are enjoyed by the entire community.

Kyrene Middle School — Chorus leader Hannah Kimball will pay for professional accompanist services for student concerts. Orchestra

teacher Julio Contreras continues to raise funds to purchase culturally appropriate *trajes* uniforms for the mariachi program. Drama teacher Anna Branigan-Sweeney will purchase the rights, royalties, scripts and music for a spring musical.

Band teacher Kroy Miller will provide a professional woodwind specialist for in-class training for 6th grade band classes.

Contreras and Pope received the grant for the second year in a row.

District officials say the grants promote continued learning and creative expression by enhancing the offerings Kyrene schools provide, including 73 visual and performing arts options as well as 12 annual musicals or plays.

Information: www.kyrene.org/finearts.

Try some VooDoo for a celebration of fall

The Valley's heat may still with us, but fall is definitely on the horizon. Locally owned VooDoo Daddy's Steam Kitchen is featuring comfort food with new fall specials.

- In the south, Mondays are known as Laundry Day, so red beans and rice, plus any tea or soda, are on the menu for \$8.99.

- It's Fat Tuesday every Tuesday with \$3 Abita Purple Haze Draft Beer. Order a jerk chicken po boy with choice of tea or soda for \$9.99.

- Celebrate the middle of the week on Wednesdays with \$3 porch wine and an order of VooDoo pasta with a tea or soda for \$9.99.

- All day every day guests can enjoy \$3 Gator Nest appetizers and \$4 Sangria and red or white wine coolers.

- Jazz season continues every Saturday with live music from 6 to 9 p.m.

Locally owned and operated, the Cajun, creole and Caribbean restaurant offers dishes such as jambalaya, gumbo, red beans and rice and po'boys. Custom blended ice teas, porch wines and craft beers are also available. The restaurant is at 1325 W. Elliot Road, Tempe. Information: voodoo daddy.com or @VooDooDaddysKitchen.

Oct. 9 grand opening to benefit Food Bank

Locally owned Slices on Mill has invited members of the public to its grand opening celebration benefiting St. Mary's Food Bank from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Those who bring two cans of food for donation on the day of the event will receive a BOGO deal on slices of pizza, plus be entered to win pizzas and Slices On Mill t-shirts.

In addition to the can drive, Slices On Mill will donate a percentage of proceeds from sales to the charitable organization.

Slices is at 11 E. Sixth St.

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Half-century later, this redux still a thriller for our film guy

By M.V. Moorhead

Since this year's 50th anniversaries include the Moon Landing and Woodstock, I suppose I shouldn't expect much hoopla around a silly sci-fi fantasy film hitting the half-century mark.

Nonetheless, this month sees the 50th anniversary of the release of *The Valley of Gwangi*, a then-state-of-the-art special effects spectacle in which cowboys find a hidden valley in Mexico full of leftover dinosaurs.

At the age of 6 or 7, I would surely have told you it was the finest movie ever made.

I still love it; I watched it just a week or so ago on Turner Classic Movies, where it's shown fairly often. My fondness for the film, in part, stems from the fascination I've always had for dinosaurs, and for movies of the "creature feature" variety.

But in the case of *Gwangi*, I'm sure it's also connected to the circumstances in which I saw the film, at a drive-in, with a bunch of relations stuffed into a car on a flawless early-fall Saturday evening in Pennsylvania.

While we all gobbled popcorn, the little kids, especially me, sat thunderstruck by the tale, and my older sisters cracked wise about it, while nonetheless admiring Gustavo Rojo, one of the handsomer cast members.

Even allowing for the refinements of nostalgia, it seems like one of those perfect childhood memories.

Based on an idea by Willis O'Brien, the animator of the original *King Kong*, *Gwangi*'s plot follows the *Kong* template: Sometime around the turn of the century, a group of cowboys from a Wild West show finds its way

into a mysterious valley inhabited by surviving prehistoric beasts.

They run afoul of a purplish allosaurus, the Valley's apex predator, known as "Gwangi" to the local gypsies.

The cowboys capture *Gwangi* and bring him to civilization as an attraction; he escapes, and heartache ensues.

The cinematic appeal in all this is that *Gwangi* and several other monsters are brought to life by the special effects master Ray Harryhausen, the greatest of the stop-motion animators, that Quixotic specialty class of film artists who tortuously shoot one frame at a time of articulated puppets, changing their position the slightest bit between frames to create a skittish, jerky and irresistible sense of motion.

As an attempt at a realistic illusion of life, CGI has long since made stop-motion animation obsolete, but for some of us, stop-motion has a human charm and a low-tech vibrancy that even the finest CGI can't claim.

The Valley of Gwangi is an example of this.

Gwangi was a typical, irritable Harryhausen brute, loaded with loutish personality.

At the end [spoiler alert!], the poor creature, dragged against his will to a civilization he wanted no part of, comes to a grim demise in a burning cathedral.

The final scene pans across the faces of a crowd watching the church burn with *Gwangi* trapped inside, then comes to rest on the face of the little boy who went on the expedition, now with tears streaming down his cheeks.

That kid stood in for at least one little kid out in the audience.



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Barbara Blalock, founder of Treasures 4 Teachers, alongside members of the organization's board of directors, received a \$15,000 check from the Tempe Diablos. — Photo courtesy Treasures 4 Teachers

Tempe Diablos grant a welcome boost to Treasures 4 Teachers

By Joyce Coronel

Barbara Blalock was visiting a second-grade classroom back in 2004 when she witnessed an unusual sight: The teacher asked students to take out a piece of paper and a pencil. That's when a 7-year-old girl named Sandy promptly removed her shoe and quietly handed it to the teacher.

Blalock later found out that the exchange was the teacher's method to ensure scarce school supplies were returned prior to dismissal from class.

After witnessing the shoe-for-pencil incident, Blalock felt called to take action to help both teachers and students get the supplies they need for school, thereby eliminating the need for exchanging footwear for writing implements and other necessary school items. She founded Treasures 4 Teachers, a creative reuse center specifically catered to teachers to get the supplies they need for free and at a low cost so their students can be successful. Today Blalock's brainchild is thriving in a 12,000 square foot facility in Tempe that houses supplies donated by both businesses and individuals. There's also a thrift store located on 48th Street near Southern Ave., T4T Thrift, with proceeds from sales used to provide educators access to supplies.

"Our mission is to provide educators with free and low cost supplies from the community's reusable resources," Blalock said.

For a nominal \$35 per year—less than \$3 a month—teachers can have access to an extensive selection of classroom materials from low cost to absolutely free. Everything from books, office supplies, school supplies to binders and magazines are available and the membership fee includes free use of Treasure 4 Teachers' die-cut center and monthly giveaways.

According to Blalock, most teachers say that they covered the cost of their membership on their first visit because of the value of materials they were able to walk away with for free or at very low cost.

"All the teachers have to do is come to Treasures 4 Teachers and let us know they teach in a school in Tempe and we will sponsor them for an entire year," Blalock said. "This means they will have access to free and low cost supplies anytime they need it."

The Tempe Diablos recently presented a check for \$15,000 to Blalock and members of the Treasures 4 Teachers board of directors. The donation will fund 428 free memberships to Tempe teachers so that they can get the supplies and materials they need for their classroom. The Diablos are known for their staunch—and generous—support of teachers and education, according to Blalock.

"We can't thank the Tempe Diablos Charities enough for providing this funding to our organization in order to offer over 400 free memberships to teachers in the Tempe community," she said. "On average, teachers can spend up to \$1,000 out of their own pockets on classroom supplies. This support will help to offset that amount so that the teachers are spending much less. The Tempe Diablos Charities understand the importance of education in our community."

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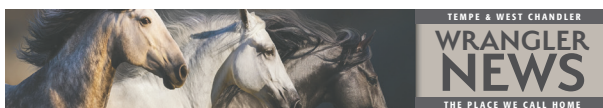
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Profile: Tempe pair helped pioneer Valley's transit network

What Tempe visionaries Don and Bobbie Cassano foresaw in the early 1990s was a transit system, thus far limited in its reach, that could ferry passengers across an already sprawling Valley. They also knew to expect roadblocks that would have to be negotiated for such an idea to become reality.

By the time the Cassanos had entered the transit discussion, a county-wide ballot measure to generate tax-supported transportation funding already had gone down to defeat, and Tempe was left to ponder how it might serve its own residents with a viable system to move its residents from place to place.

Enter the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and community-based Citizens for Transit, which had observed the energies of people like Bobbie Cassano, who ultimately chaired the local transit movement, and her former-councilmember husband, plus local activist Pat Hatton and others.

That small group's effort—and their determination—paid off on Sept. 10, 1996 with passage by a 53.5 percent margin of a Tempe-only funding measure and a green light to launch a major expansion of the then-existing bus system.

Fast forward to 2019, with last month's authorization from voters to add write another chapter in the transportation-planning success story by stretching the light rail part of the today's Valleywide transit system, now with the universal mantle of Valley Metro, into south Phoenix.

Don Cassano's view of what has become a 30-plus-year endeavor brings back memories of the original transportation-savvy group of planners and their onetime concerns.

"We had buses in those days, but the schedules were lousy," said Cassano. "And they didn't go anywhere."

The result was a campaign to approach Tempe



Bobbie and Don Cassano

City Council to see if they would be willing to consider a tax to fund transportation expansion. Not an easy battle, Cassano recalls. When the idea finally did gain traction, however, Tempe voters authorized \$22 million and the city launched its own localized version of a transportation system.

Not funded, however, was a plan possessing the needed regional tentacles to provide service to those who needed Valleywide access.

At that moment, Cassano says, "We were at a crossroads. Tempe has always been a pass-through community, and we had a population that needed mobility to go from city to city."

With longtime Tempe developer and onetime

mayor Elmer Bradley having campaigned against the transportation initiative, some did not want the tax that would be needed to support it.

Citizens for Transit, however, was not willing to give up.

"They had raised about \$130,000 to get the word out, using a grass roots effort to show that the (economic) impact would be minimal but the gain would be significant," said Cassano, adding that the results provided major impetus for the tax measure to win final approval.

What followed was Valleywide expansion of public bus service and the now highly visible light rail system, a new section of which was approved by Phoenix voters last month.

"I can tell you from experience that once the (first section of) light rail opened, ridership was far greater than had been envisioned."

As to the three decades of progress that transportation visionaries have made, Cassano says the commitment of many advocates along the way has been responsible.

When you have strong feelings, he said, "you've got to take a leap of faith—that's what it boils down to. If we don't do these kinds of things in government, nothing gets done."

Perhaps the biggest challenge all along has been counteracting negative viewpoints, Cassano noted.

"If you went with the minority who oppose everything, you'd never have anything."

As to claims that an increase in public transit near established neighborhoods could result in an increase in break-ins, Cassano said that fear was overblown.

"I don't ever recall seeing a burglar get on a bus."

— Don Kirkland

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Schoolkids launch a dazzling 3-D mission to their futures



Mariposa students take turns inside zSpace, a classroom on wheels that rolled into town recently. — Photo courtesy Kyrene School District

By Diana Nelson

A unique traveling exhibit known as the zSpace mobile bus visited Kyrene de la Mariposa and left both teachers and students dazzled by a 3-D display of computer-aided technology.

The technology firm—zSpace—developed the classroom on wheels especially to showcase the new learning possibilities.

Kyrene's superintendent, Dr. Jan Vesely, was able to view the exhibit at a conference she recently attended and decided students would enjoy seeing it, too.

It was a rare treat for about 90 Mariposa students to leave their formal classrooms, climb on board the bus and put on 3-D glasses to look at topics focused on science, such as seeing part of the human anatomy.

Once inside the mobile classroom, students got to experience virtual reality with science, technology, engineering, art and math lessons along with career and technical education programs.

Perhaps most notable involved a beating human heart.

"They were able to see and interact with the human heart, and feel the beating heart through the computer stylus. They also were able to use the software to view into the many layers of the earth and the moon.

"Our students loved the awesome experience," said Albie Ettinger, a fifth-grade teacher.

"Knowing the focus that Mariposa has on being a computer-science academy, Vesely arranged for this special event," said Mariposa principal Spencer Fallgatter.

"We were excited to learn about the visit, which gave our fifth-graders the opportunity to participate in seeing firsthand this unusual virtual reality experience."

Several of the Mariposa fifth-grade students agreed and shared their comments about their time on the bus.

Lauren Payne said she loved the exhibit because

it made her feel like she was actually in the virtual reality game.

"When I picked up the stylus, I touched the human heart with it and I could feel the heart beat," she said. "And, when we were dissecting things, it felt like I could bring whatever I picked up to me and I could touch it. It was so awesome and I hope we get to do it again."

Kegan Carlise said, "I liked the zSpace bus because it makes learning health and science fun. (It) lets you look inside of things, dissect things, and it's 3-D."

And, Anika Erickson, a third Mariposa student, said that the technology made science and health more fun than it already is to learn.

"It made my imagination come right in front of me. I think it's something that every kid who is into engineering and computer science should experience," Anika gushed.

Students attend Mariposa from kindergarten through fifth grade and participate in computer science immersion instruction, which is integrated into grade-level science and social studies content in the form of project-based learning units.

"Our mission at Mariposa is to integrate technology into our daily curriculum," said Fallgatter.

"A learning experience like this supports our instruction and the students' learning and curiosity."

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