



How pandemic moves neighbors, community to help



Wood Elementary Coach Timothy Tesch joined the team of staff delivering computers to help kids with schoolwork while they're furloughed from class.

— Photo for Wrangler News by Billy Hardiman — more on pgs. 12-13

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Tempe, W. Chandler businesses face multiple challenges to keep up with changing landscape

By Joyce Coronel

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to unfold, shoppers in Tempe and West Chandler are coming up against an unprecedented challenge: It's nearly impossible to find staples like bread, eggs, chicken, flour or toilet paper.

Area grocery stores don't seem able to keep up with demand and they've had to shorten hours for restocking and sanitizing. Other stores are busy, too.

McKay's True Value is thrumming with customers who have been stuck at home and want to catch up on home improvement projects. Area gun stores are experiencing a huge demand for firearms and ammunition.

But not every business is so fortunate.

George Walston, who manages Great Harvest Bread Co. in Tempe, says catering orders have been canceled and the restaurant side of the business is down by about half.

That was three days *before* the city of Tempe's declaration of an emergency. He'd already taken out some of the seating in the dining area in order to increase the spacing between tables.

Now, Tempe has ordered all restaurants to close, except for delivery or curbside service. Still, there's silver lining to the difficulties. Ward Walston, chief baker at Great Harvest, said demand for loaves of bread has skyrocketed.

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Help agency says need for food, workers, support is on a rise

Story & photo by Alli Cripe

Tempe Community Action Agency, one of the area's most active social-service providers, says COVID-19 has not only increased its need for aid but for the likelihood of hiring new workers.

The organization offers emergency support ranging from food and shelter to long-term assistance for people and families.

"We operate Tempe's largest food pantry and we are continuing to respond to urgent needs in the community," said TCAA Executive Director Deborah Arteaga, "especially for people who are worried about their most basic needs like food and housing."

TCAA has seen a rising demand for emergency food boxes, say officials. In response, they've increased the number of boxes they supply to schools for distribution to students and families after school campuses were shut down to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Residents have also been advised to stay inside their homes or to practice social distancing by keeping within 6 feet of one another.

"We offer home-delivered meals to seniors and adults with disabilities who register with TCAA," said Arteaga, who recommended eligible Tempe citizens check out the TCAA site where two numbers are listed.

One of those provides information about drive-thru meals at the Tempe Multi-Generational Center; the other assists requests for home-delivered meals. TCAA has also taken other measures which are listed on its website.



The agency works to provide shelter for the homeless and has switched to phone-based case management to continue to assist people enrolled in their Health Start Program, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and the Financial Opportunity Center.

The spread of COVID-19 in America and Maricopa County has already left a dent in the economy for local businesses, which has led to unexpected job losses for many in Tempe and elsewhere. TCAA offers

support for low-income households, such as funds for utility and rent assistance. A link is provided on the site.

"Sometimes helping to pay the utility bill is another way that households can use their income on other needs like rent or groceries," Arteaga said.

After the completion of an application on their site, TCAA will look at income over the last 30 days to determine eligibility. It's generally a low-income household but, Arteaga added, if a household loses that income, other factors are taken into consideration.

"We also look at the nature of the crisis situation (and) what's causing the need for the emergency... assistance."

However, while TCAA fights to assist Tempe citizens, it will also need community support to keep going, Arteaga noted.

"We'll be experiencing increased cost when we have to purchase more supplies and bring on temporary staff to help with the increased demand," she said.

Arteaga asks the community for financial support, as well as for items listed on the agency's site and its Amazon wish list. Promotion through social media also is needed to get the word out. As for volunteers, she said they're covered.

"Thankfully the community response has been tremendous and we're receiving an abundance of requests from folks who want to volunteer," she said.

"We're very grateful for that."



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Critical city services remain operational after official opening late last year. — Billy Hardiman photo

A guide to which city services are open, which ones are not

By Michelle Hirsch

City leaders in Tempe and Chandler report they are continuously monitoring the COVID-19 situation and following guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control as well as the governor's executive orders to guide their decisions on keeping the health and safety of residents a priority.

All public meetings of city boards and commissions are canceled through April 30, with the exception of Tempe's Development Review Commission, Hearing Officer and Board of Adjustment that require legal action on immediate needs.

City Council meetings will be held as required by law, but will follow social distancing guidelines and are closed to in-person attendance until further notice.

Tempe residents can watch City Council meetings broadcast live on Tempe 11, CenturyLink channels 8012 or 8512 and Cox channels 11 or 1011, or live-streamed at tempe.gov/tempe11.

Chandler residents can watch City Council meetings live on Cox Cable 11, Century Link Channel 8502, or streamed at chandleraz.gov/video or youtube.com/cityofchandler.

The city municipal courts are operating but limiting hearings to required, in-person proceedings. The courts are offering alternative methods for handling cases including by phone, requesting an extension, continuance, or payment plan online.

City services for water, wastewater and trash/recycling collection will continue to operate as usual. Police and fire protection will continue to fully serve residents.

All Tempe, Chandler, and Maricopa County public libraries are closed. Book drops are closed, due dates have been extended, and late fees will not accrue. Online services for eBooks,

audiobooks and other digital content are still available.

All special events are canceled until further notice. Chandler Center for the Arts, Tempe Center for the Arts and Edna Vihel Center events are cancelled and facilities closed until further notice. Tempe History Museum, Chandler Museum and Chandler Vision Gallery are closed.

Most city recreational and aquatic facilities are closed, although most city parks remain open. Park restrooms are closed or have limited availability until further notice so staff and cleaning supplies can be redirected to where most needed.

Ken McDonald and Rolling Hills golf courses remain open for play, except night range hours are discontinued until further notice. Clubhouses and pro shops are closed.

The Chandler Tennis Center remains open for court play during daylight hours, but the lobby and restrooms are closed.

Chandler and Tempe senior centers are closed. Chandler Senior Center will continue to provide carryout or delivery of hot meals to seniors who depend on these services.

Tempe Community Action Agency is providing meals for seniors and adults with disabilities. Visit tempeaction.org/covid19 for additional services and emergency resources.

Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke responded to inquiries of how people can help our community by suggesting donations be directed to the Chandler Salvation Army Corps and to reach out to forourcitychandler.org for additional ways to help.

To make financial contributions or donate much needed supplies in Tempe, visit tempeaction.org/covid19.

Visit chandleraz.gov/COVID19 and tempe.gov/coronavirus for city updates as circumstances continue to change.



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WE HEAR YOU . . .

From crisis comes charity

Editor:

Keep up the great job you do!!!

I thought you might want to hear a nice inspiring story that happened recently, on Friday the 13th!

At around 5:00 PM both my children schools closed indefinitely. I was placed on an involuntary leave in definitely. All from being a teacher at a couple schools. Because of the virus. On my way home I got a flat tire. I rolled into Discount Tire. I had an unexpected expense and was trying to figure out how I was going to pay for this. While I was on my phone talking to voicemails and answering machines, a Young man noticed.

It's really good to know because a lot of times you hear about young people thinking only of themselves. This really restores your faith in humanity. I don't even think he has a clue how he change someone's life! He offered to pay for my tire! He just moved out here and didn't even know if his job is secure for the next week! But yet he went ahead and offered to pay for my tire. I think him but would not let him and thought that was the end of it. The next thing I know he created a go fund me account and started raising money and him and his friends paid for my entire tire!!!His encouragement, generosity, hope, peace, and just letting someone know someone out there really cares for you. It meant so much to me. He's home as it is we need to be there for each other!

Pay it forward.

— Joyce Clinton

ASU no-refund policy assailed

Editor:

I am one of thousands of students at Arizona State University who is hoping for change regarding ASU's pandemic response.

COVID-19 is an obvious threat to the lives and livelihoods of many Arizonans, including the 111,249 people enrolled at ASU.

As you have reported, classes have been moved entirely online for ASU students.

Despite this, ASU refuses to grant refunds to its students. As President Crow has remarked:

"The funny thing is that somebody declares a national emergency and they're talking about bringing out martial law in California. And then people ask us, are we going to give them a refund? Are you kidding me? I mean, that's what you want to talk to us about is a refund?"

Student parking passes can also no longer be refunded.

The refund date was one day prior to ASU announcing that all classes were moving online. In fact, ASU has increased the cost to park by making charges apply 24/7.

Despite lives being in peril, ASU has refused to follow other big universities

such as University of Minnesota, MIT, Northwestern, and Barnard in offering a pass/fail system to its students as it 'devalues exemplary academic achievement.' Housing and food are also not being refunded, despite the University begging students to leave campus.

We students are struggling. Some of us are immunocompromised and fear for our lives. Some of us fear for our families.

Some of us are out of work and struggling to put food on the table. Some of us do not have the equipment to do online coursework flawlessly, and others simply do not perform well in unfamiliar, online environments and are struggling.

ASU students are being harmed greatly by ASU's lack of action in the face of this pandemic, and administration are not addressing our concerns. I am asking for your aid. Please, if you can, get the word out of these issues to the Tempe and West Chandler area.

—Charrley Hudson

Opposed to group home

Editor:

Quiet, upscale, family-friendly neighborhood. These are some of the words used by the Wrangler New reporter to describe the Corona del Sol subdivision. I attended the meeting of the homeowners of the above subdivision on February 1, 2020 regarding having an assisted living home among our properties. I heard Jim Robinson tell us all that he is retired from a "cushy" job at Intel and that he had an MBA from ASU. He also said he had done all his homework on running group assisted living homes but he has never operated such a home. It is very different from operating one of these homes than reading about it. Jim said he is planning to add 10 bedrooms to the existing home, and 12 bathrooms. They dynamics of the neighborhood will never be the same.

It is doubtful that this will ever be a single family dwelling, although we are in walking distance from many schools. Mark Kaiser identified as the president of the neighborhood association, tried to sell the idea of the group home to the homeowners at the meeting. I have lived in this subdivision since 1991 and have never heard of him or voted for him. He does not represent me. When I heard him at the meeting, I thought he had been hired by Jim Robinson to push this through. If CC&Rs are not enforced, what protection are they fro the residents? Many of the homeowners are retire people or original owners and we have worked hard to keep our homes in good shape and appealing. I am very afraid that a group home such as this will affect he value of my property. There are no sidewalks near the proposed group home. How are elderly people with walkers and wheelchairs going to get out? We have always been proud that our neighborhood is safe and quiet.

— Mary Jane Barr

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Sister Cities cancellations

The Tempe Sister Cities Executive Committee has accepted and approved the recommendation from the group's Coronavirus Team to cancel the 2020 Student Exchange Program and suspend the Teacher, Professional and Safety exchanges this year.

Said Sister Cities President David Carrera: "This has been one of the hardest decisions TSC has had to make in its 50-year history. We did not take this decision lightly. It is prudent to align with the actions being taken by international, federal, state, city and local governments to prevent the coronavirus from spreading.

"We must keep the TSC delegates in the safest environment possible and avoid traveling, confined spaces (planes, buses, cars) and large crowds.

As I stated in the last publication of (Wrangler News), the safety of the Tempe and international families and delegates is our first priority."

The statement noted that the 2020 TSC families have worked hard to be selected for the Student Exchange Program, and that the board "sincerely appreciates their patience and understanding as we work through this difficult time."

Girl Scout cookie sale success

It has recently been reported that COVID-19 has impacted the sale of Girl Scout cookies. The following statement was received from the Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council regarding cookie season.

"It has been erroneously reported ...that the 2020 Girl Scout cookie season was impacted by COVID-19.

"Please note that the Girl Scout cookie season in Central and Northern Arizona ended on March 1.

"We are pleased to report that our local Girl Scouts

exceeded their 2020 sales goal, selling over 3 million boxes of cookies. All proceeds from the sales will directly benefit our local girls and troops."

Westchester food donations encouraged

Westchester Senior Living, like other senior care centers around the country, is not allowing visitors or permitting tours of its facility as the nation continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

As has been widely reported, health care workers are on the front lines, many of them putting in extra hours and facing the real danger of contracting the virus.

Now, Westchester has come up with a creative way for the community to support its staff as well as local businesses.

A Facebook posts invites residents of Tempe and West Chandler to consider donating gastronomic delights such as coffee, baked goods, sandwiches, salads, and to-go meals from local establishments to our senior living and care communities.

"Your thoughtfulness and generosity not only uplifts the spirits of those working around the clock during the pandemic, you're also helping local businesses survive," the Facebook post reads.

Lab tests now available from Quest labs

Sonora Quest Laboratories started processing COVID-19 samples at its main laboratory in Tempe. Company officials say this will allow the lab to decrease anticipated turnaround time and increase the number of tests it can run per day for Arizona patients.

"In bringing the COVID-19 testing to our local lab, our anticipated turnaround time is expected

to improve, however it could be impacted by high demand," said Dr. Brian Koeneman, scientific director of molecular diagnostics with Sonora Quest.

"All labs are dealing with a global supply shortage of the sample collection kits needed for the testing and we are continuously pursuing all options to keep up with the demand," he said.

Sonora Quest requires a physician to order the COVID-19 test; it is not available directly to consumers at Sonora Quest Patient Service Centers or through mobile services.

Information: SonoraQuest.com/coronavirus.

Ostrich Fest vendors help fill a need

After the Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival had to be postponed due to growing health concerns over COVID-19, the question arose: What to do with all the food that had already been purchased and prepared by many of the festival's vendors?

In an effort to preserve and put that food to good use, a number of the vendors turned their disappointment and loss into blessings for others by donating the food to two local food banks..

The first round of donations went to AZCEND Food Bank in Chandler where thousands of pounds of food was turned into 2,317 meals for people in need. The second round, totaling 2,000 pounds of fresh food, went to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. The food was then dispersed to families all throughout last week, coinciding with a time that food stocks are typically low.

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Churches connect online during crisis

By Noah Kutz

Nearly every part of daily life has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from average residents to the world's most powerful leaders.

Nobody, many have said, has ever seen anything quite like this. What, then, will the churches do?

In times of distress, many have found respite in the various houses of worship, whether they consider themselves regular churchgoers or not.

Churches in every community often serve as the cornerstone for relief and aid when darker times loom. So what can people do when even those establishments are forced to close their doors to the public?

According to some pastors in Tempe and Chandler neighborhoods, the church must uphold its roots in *Ekklesia*. The Greek word is found throughout the Bible's original translation, and its meaning in English is similar to that of "church" or "gathering," as described by Pastor Jeff Procter-Murphy of Dayspring United Methodist Church in Tempe.

Other pastors have defined *Ekklesia* as "called-out ones," similarly emphasizing a call to worship.

Says Procter-Murphy:

"One of the challenges for faith communities during this season of physical distancing is how to bring folks together remotely."

Despite such challenges, churches in every community have nonetheless adapted to the changing circumstances in an effort to both prevent the spread of COVID-19 and remember their call in *Ekklesia* to gather.

By utilizing live-streaming, churches have made it possible for their congregations to attend each service remotely through Facebook or YouTube and view from any location. This is the method a number of churches in this community have chosen, including Dayspring, First Baptist of Tempe and St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church.

Arizona Community Church says its services will be recorded and then streamed. It plans to continue the streaming even after regular church services resume.

Pastor Roger Ball of First Baptist said online worship services are being offered via the church's Facebook page.

"In these difficult times, our church



Sunday morning found Tempe churches like Dayspring Methodist, with a congregation.

is calling, texting and emailing as many people as possible to offer assistance," Ball said. "Many people have become more sensitive to God since the COVID-19 crisis started. Man needs God's compassion and truth and much less politics.

"How the world manages and reacts to the coronavirus could end up leading the world to more problems such as economic ruin for many."

Bill Meiter, pastor of Arizona Community Church, said, "We have been putting out daily video devotions on our website and Facebook to help encourage and inspire people... the response has been amazing. People feel connected, encouraged and blessed as a result. The message to the community is do not be anxious about anything. Keep praying to the Lord and let his peace guard your heart and mind."

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix responded to recommendations from President Donald Trump and Gov. Doug Ducey by transitioning all weekday and Sunday Masses in the diocese to livestream services, as well as cancelling all other public gatherings hosted by the church until further notice.

This transition, however, does not come without hope and encouragement from church leaders. The Rev. Robert Aliunzi of St. Andrew the Apostle in Chandler reached out to his parishioners in a letter.

"At this time, most importantly, I encourage you to increase your prayers and devotion. With so much negativity and fear growing, let us continue to be a beacon of light and offer hope."

Services for each church mentioned above are found on their respective websites.

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How public schools, ASU are meeting the challenges

By Diana Nelson

As the Corona pandemic continues, Gov. Doug Ducey extended statewide school closures through April 10.

It seems the guidance on COVID-19—the official name of the virus—changes on a daily basis. While day-to-day life at schools is not the same, what remains steadfast is the dedication of school officials, educators and other staff who work for the three Tempe-based school districts to support students through this time of national crisis.

While the front doors of the schools are locked and the classrooms are vacant, plenty of work is going on behind the scenes at all of the district offices and at all level of employees.

A brief discussion with Emma Kitzman, nutrition services supervisor of the Tempe Elementary School District, focuses on the care and concern for students that food service workers continue to demonstrate during this challenging time.

“My employees are out on the front lines every day and risk their own health if they come in contact with someone who has the virus,” said Kitzman.

“But I am pleased to say that most of the food service workers are coming in for their shift, as a sign of their dedication to the kids in the district and the community.”

She oversees about 100 employees who prepare meals for students. Usually they keep food service humming in a cafeteria where meals cost about \$2.50 each. Now, during the school closures, employees are delivering meals curbside as the district is making free meals available for all children under the age of 18 who live in the district.

During distribution of the “grab-and-go” meals, Kitzman says employees have received thanks from the kids as well as the parents, many among the latter who have become temporarily unemployed.

“In the Guadalupe community, at Frank school, we served about 1,000 meals this week. We change the food items included in the sack each day, so that it’s not the same meal,” said Kitzman.

She does the meal planning and strives to serve a wholesome, well-balanced meal, she says. In a typical day, the breakfast would include a carton of milk and cereal, a bagel or granola bar, while lunch could include a cheese stick along with a turkey sandwich, fresh fruit and vegetables.

In addition to the meals, Tempe Elementary handed out a district-issued Chromebook or iPad for students’ use during this time of school closure.



Delicious to go

Even though Tempe and West Chandler schools were closed due to the threat of COVID-19, that didn’t stop the staff of Wood Elementary and Marcos de Niza High School from providing tasty breakfast and lunch for kids under age 18.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News



SPORTS

with Alex Zener

How closures are affecting sports

Currently it is estimated that about 54 million children in the United States are not in school, with a significant number of those not able to practice or participate in any sport due to the COVID-19 virus.

Tempe Union High School District closed all seven of their schools, including Corona del Sol and Marcos de Niza, to students starting March 16.

Schools are tentatively closed through Friday, April 10, as mandated by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, but TUHSD has stated they will be monitoring school closures on a daily basis to see if they need to extend the closure date.

In compliance with this mandate, the AIA and its Executive Board decreed that all 268 AIA member schools and their respective spring sports would cease from participating in any interscholastic competition until further notified.

TUHSD is working with the AIA to ensure the safety and wellbeing of student athletes who participate in their high school sanctioned spring

sports including baseball, softball, tennis, boys volleyball, beach volleyball and track and field.

“Our school district is working in conjunction with the AIA to ensure that protective measures are in place to keep both students and coaches safe and healthy,” said **Lenica Ruiz**, assistant principal, athletics, at Marcos de Niza High School.

“As of now schools and spring sports are postponed until April 10 but we will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions that are best for the health of our students”.



Cory Nenaber

Corona administrators are following similar guideline set forth by Governor Ducey and TUHSD.

“The last couple of weeks have been very different and trying. We take the safety of our student-athletes and community very seriously, and I believe we are acting with the best interest of them in mind,” said **Cory Nenaber**, assistant

principal, athletics, at Corona. “At this point we do not know what the future holds in regard to the spring sports season.”

Currently nothing has come out of the AIA about further postponement of spring sports after April 10 other than to state that spring championships have not been cancelled at this point.

Any discussion about what will happen, including

any postseason tournaments, will not take place until schools are back in session.

High school sports are an integral part of most high school students' lives whether they participate in the sport or cheer for their school's athletes.

“Sports are such a meaningful part of a student's high school experience,” said Ruiz. “To see our Marcos students losing out on those opportunities is heartbreaking.”

Said Nenaber:

“I feel very sorry for all of our Corona spring sport athletes and coaches because I know the hard work and preparation they have put in prior to the season.”

Although AIA left it up to the schools and school districts to decide about practicing and workouts, TUHSD's decision was to cancel any organized sports activities.

Both Marcos and Corona are relying on coaches to help their athletes deal with this unprecedented and trying period.

“Coaches are expected to serve their programs in the best capacity possible during these difficult times,” said Ruiz.

“There are many ways that coaches can keep their teams connected. This includes consistent communication with players, individualized home workouts, and a continued focus on team goals.”

Regardless of their orientation or position, most people sympathize with senior athletes who have

— SPORTS, Page 16

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Sports

From Page 14

worked hard and may not get a chance to participate their last high school season.

“I feel especially bad for our senior athletes whose last season as an Aztec is being taken away from them,” said Nenaber.

Corona has several seniors affected by the cancellation of spring sports including 13 seniors out of 22 players on the Aztecs baseball team who had high hopes of making it back into the 6A State Championship finals.

“My heart is broken for all of these kids on my team,” said head baseball coach **David Webb**. “They have worked so unbelievably hard for this season and have come together so amazingly, as a team.”

“I’m mostly sad for our seniors who may leave high school never playing together again,” said Webb.

“We also have a fair number of players who are looking for opportunities at the next level who may have their chances hampered if the season is canceled.”

The 13 seniors on Corona’s baseball team include **Kaiden Frees, Armand Torres, Jake Burkhardt, Bryan Webb, Hunter Haas, Ulises Jimenez, Ben Click, Tyler Newman, Danny Cowley, Matt Ladley, David Utagawa, Cade Verduusco, and Tyler Smith.**

“I told my team to try and stay positive, be there

for their family, and believe that things will get better soon,” said Webb.

Corona’s softball team, with only three seniors out of 16 players on the team, has a different scenario. Head coach **Jeep Ray** is retiring at the end of the season.

Ray has been Corona’s softball coach since the spring of 1997, or for 24 years, during which time her teams won a state title in 2003, was runner-up twice (2006 and 2008) and won 518 out of 746 games. Ray never imagined her final season being cancelled without a state championship run, but plans on retiring regardless.

Missing a great deal of their senior softball season are **Shelby Williamson, Summer Duran and Jada Wendling.**

Track and field situation

The one sport that attracts more student athletes than any other spring sport is track and field.

Corona, competing in Division I, has close to 300 athletes listed on its roster while Marcos, competing in Division III, has 80 athletes when combining the boys and girls teams.

Corona had six seniors on the boys team stand out after competing against 16 other teams in only one major meet, the Aztec Invitational, held on March 7, just before spring sports were postponed.

Zachary Johnson is ranked No. 3 in the Arizona Division I Track and Field Top 10 Rankings listed on athletic.net in the 1600-meter race, after crossing the finish line with a time of 4:30.74 at the

Aztec Invitational.

Johnson is also ranked No. 5 in the top 10 in the 3200-meter race after a time of 9:53.57 at the Aztec Invitational.

Tyson McLain is ranked No. 8 in the top 10 in the high jump event after jumping 6.0 feet at the Aztec Invitational.

Additional notable results by seniors from the boys team at the Aztec Invitational include McLain’s second place finish in the long jump event where he set a personal record of 20-10.50 and **Demetrius Rock’s** fourth place with a long jump of 20-06.00.

Miles Sheppard took fifth place with a personal best throw of 145-01 in the javelin while **Issam Zrek** placed third and **Jordan Nichols** placed sixth in the triple jump event.

The girls team has one relay team ranked in the Arizona Division I Track and Field Top 10 Rankings listed on athletic.net plus three seniors with top 10 finishes at the Aztec Invitational.

Corona’s 4x800 relay team of **Ashlinn Aguayo, Teadora Zawilak, Jazz Schineller and Dalee Higgins** are ranked No. 5 in the Division I top 10 based on their second-place finish at the Aztec Invitational on March 7 with a time of 10:22.60.

Senior **Anisa McLain** finished in ninth place in the 100-meter dash while **Olivia Nesky** placed first in the javelin with a personal best record throw of 101-07.

Peyton Deer finished ninth in the long jump event.

— Continued on facing page

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How volleyball is faring

Corona's head boys volleyball coach, **Geoffrey Horewitch**, has 15 varsity players on his team this spring with seven seniors.

"We are all hoping that the season is just delayed and not cancelled," said Horewitch. "Unlike the NCAA, these seniors can't get a year of eligibility back. They are all anxious to get back in the gym and work."

The seniors include **Loogmaan Ghare, Micah Lloyd, Ahmed Wali, Sebastian Burgos, Micah Reaban, Newton Tam and Thien Duong.**

Horewitch has been proactive in giving his team things to do while at home, including workouts and homework.

"Right now, the boys are doing at-home workouts to stay in shape and watching film to learn from their first several games of the season," said Horewitch. "They have been asked to review game film and watch some high-level volleyball while taking notes. They have been staying active at home and moving around the best they can."

Horewitch points out another aspect of team sports that these athletes are missing: the social interaction that comes with being part of a team.

"We have been communicating over 'WhatsApp.'" It has been nice hearing from the team, but all the guys are missing each other," said Horewitch.

"We are looking forward to having the opportunity to be back in the gym and together again."

Horewitch has been encouraging his team to follow Governor Ducey and the CDC warnings.

"I have been advising my players to stay home, not to go out unless to grab necessities and to practice social distancing," said Horewitch.

"They have been complying with self-quarantining overall."

Corona has five seniors on its sand volleyball team who, unless the season gets extended, will only have two matches left in the regular season if by chance schools closures are not delayed beyond April 10.

"I feel bad for our five seniors who have worked really hard during their high school careers to possibly not being able to compete as seniors," said head beach volleyball coach **Ben Maxfield.**

"It's really too bad that our season has been affected, but the reality is that our community health is more important than sports right now," said Maxfield.

"I have emphasized with my team the importance of staying socially distant."

Nobody knows for sure how long the schools will be closed or if spring sports will be just postponed or cancelled all together like so many professional sporting events.

"According to the information being provided by the AIA, their goal is to still have playoffs and some of the regular season," said Horewitch.

"If the school year gets extended, they are willing to extend the season as well. We are hoping that it is just delayed."

Business

From Page 1

"Today I probably made four times the amount of bread I would normally make. People are buying bread—they can't get it anywhere else. They're hunting this out and finding us."

Two days prior to Tempe's emergency declaration, Pollack Tempe Cinemas closed its doors in an effort to keep the public and the theater's employees safe. "We sincerely value your patronage and look forward to reopening as soon as it is safe to do so," said owner Michael Pollack. Tempe's emergency declaration has shuttered all theaters, bars and entertainment venues in the city.

Mary Wall, owner of Wall 2 Wall Tap Dance Center, has been stung by the crisis as well.

"I have had to stop operation of my business for the time being due to COVID-19. I hope to be resuming classes in a few weeks, but who knows?" Wall said.

Mary Contreras of State Farm says her firm has asked the majority of its clients to meet with agents over the phone rather than in person if possible. "We're trying to limit the ones that are face-to-face contacts," Contreras said. "We're trying to be respectful of distancing and things like that." The agency has postponed its annual Spring Fling event.

Anne Gill, president and CEO of Tempe Chamber of Commerce, and Terri Kimble, president and CEO of Chandler Chamber of Commerce, each said they are on the phone frequently with the governor's office, Arizona's congressional delegation and state legislators as the business community scrambles to deal with the crisis.

"We are all in this together but we also can't panic," Kimble said. "We need to talk about how we can help one another."

At press time, the city of Chandler had not closed local businesses, but as the public increasingly heeds the call to shelter in place, many local enterprises have suffered. In an email message to business owners, the Chandler Chamber emphasized its commitment to continuing support:

"During these uncertain times, the Chandler Chamber stands in solidarity with all our members. We know how important it is that our members receive the most current information, resources and strategies to assist in navigating the coming months," the email stated.

Gill, of the Tempe Chamber, said she's hopeful that the precautions taken by the city of Tempe will help limit the time of COVID-19's impact to on Tempe's businesses. Owners have had to make difficult decisions.

"This is their heart and their passion and they want to be there for the community but they also understand that they need to do their part to keep their employees safe," Gill said. The Tempe Chamber, like the Chandler Chamber, is offering online resources, webinars and other assistance to member businesses.

"Businesses are the backbone of our community and if we have a strong business community, we have a strong community," Gill said. And as businesses like restaurants and bars face tough times, she said the chamber is looking at plans for rent relief and encouraging "everyone to have that corporate generosity."

As pressures on businesses mount, though, it's time to come up with solutions, the chamber leaders said.

Pollack's efforts to aid small businesses face a complex battle

By Joyce Coronel

As COVID-19 continues to spread and devastate the economy, small business owners struggle to hang on. Onlookers might wonder, "Can't their landlords forestall or forgive rental payments until this crisis blows over?"

It's not so simple, says commercial real estate developer Michael Pollack.

"Unfortunately, I don't know any landlords that are capable of writing off rent for tenants," Pollack said. Almost all landlords have some form of loans on their properties, usually in the form of a first note deed of trust, that prevent them from waiving or reducing rent. Covenants contained in the loan documents state that if landlords should do so, it could be construed as a default on the mortgage.

"A lot of times, tenants will say, 'Wouldn't it be better to have somebody paying something rather than somebody paying nothing at all?' The logic of that seems reasonable except that lenders do not give landlords, in most cases, the ability to be able to do that," Pollack said.

If there is any good news to be had amid the bleak outlook, he said, it is that the federal government, through the Small Business Administration, is lending its hand.

Small business owners affected by the coronavirus emergency can apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loans offered by the SBA for up to \$2 million. "I tell my own tenants if they are having difficulty, to go to the SBA website and to go there immediately," Pollack said.

It's the federal government, he added, that has the ability to help resolve a crisis of this magnitude. In a career spanning 47 years, Pollack said he's never seen anything like that spawned by COVID-19.

"People forget that in the event of an emergency, the state of Arizona, the city of Tempe or any municipality, is missing one key element that the federal government has: They don't have a printing press—they can't print money."

And while running up the federal deficit doesn't sit well with Pollack, he said it's necessary in light of the pandemic.

"The backbone of America is our small businesses and they need help. And they need it right now," Pollack said. "There is hope for these businesses... I do believe that business will be back again."

Once the crisis is over, he said, local governments should help businesses recover.

"They're going to have to give them special considerations, whether that is faster approval times on things or a loosening up on sign codes. "When this door is open again, we're all going to find out what kind of leadership we have throughout the country."

He worries that even though many people are working from home to try to stop the spread of the virus, the fact that mass transit is still running spells trouble.

"How many people are going to get sick sitting next to each and cramming onto a closed bus or a closed train?" He also sounded the alarm about something many have not considered: the impact on tax revenue for government entities.

"if property owners—whether it be homeowners, business owners or commercial shopping center owners—if they don't get paid, guess what? How do the property taxes get paid? How are the sales taxes going to get paid? Anybody who doesn't understand that needs to wake up and sober up."

Like many Americans, Pollack said he's hoping a vaccine or cure will soon be developed to deal with the coronavirus that has shuttered so many local businesses. City governments, he said, should be pondering how they can be of assistance once things settle down.

"Our leaders better be ready to step up and help these small business. Let's not start worrying about somebody who's got an extra sign out. Let's worry about getting them all back into business."

DIVERSIONS

with M.V. Moorhead

Hey, if nothing else, now's a time to catch these faves

This past week I heard somebody observe that is the first time in history that we can save

humanity by laying in front of the TV and doing nothing.

“Let’s not screw this up,” they added.

Helping us keep our resolve in this struggle is the fact that, as of this writing, the

home and embrace our Inner Couch Potatoes.

The question is, of course: what to watch?

And the answer is: whatever you like. Watch favorites you’ve seen a hundred times. Watch stuff you’ve been meaning to get around to for years, but keep putting off to some mythical future date when you have more time.

That day, it appears, has arrived.

But here are a few specific suggestions, from among my favorites.

- Any of the fantasy films of Ray Harryhausen, but especially 1958’s *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*, in which the titular hero encounters a thuggish Cyclops, a massive 2-headed Roc, a sword-wielding skeleton and a dragon with a curiously canine manner.

It’s cinematic comfort food of a high order, suitable for high-spirited kids



M.V. Moorhead

movie theaters in the Kyrene Corridor, and indeed throughout the Valley, are closed. So it’s time for all of us to stay



1958’s 7th Voyage of Sinbad

so long as they aren’t too easily scared or upset by harm coming to innocent creatures; one of the Roc’s hatchlings is done wrong by scurvy members of Sinbad’s crew before the Mom returns. Bad luck for those guys.

- Among several high-profile releases scheduled for the next month or so that have been pushed back for months is *Peter Rabbit 2*. Disappointing, but in the short term you and your kids could revisit the cute 2018 original *Peter Rabbit*, with CGI lagomorphs and other fauna interacting with live-action people, slapstick and “fourth wall” shtick, all to a soundtrack that includes Eminem—whatever would Beatrix Potter think of that?

Still, many elements of Potter’s 1902 heist thriller and cautionary tale of juvenile delinquency are included in this modern-dress retelling: Peter’s siblings and cousin, the sparrows, Mr. McGregor (Sam Neill), the sieve, the flower pots in the shed, the blue jacket used as a scarecrow, even the grim backstory of Peter’s father.

After this, however, director Will Gluck and co-writer Rob Lieber invent a comeuppance for McGregor, after which they bring in his control-freak nephew (Domhnall Gleeson) from London.

This guy goes to war with Peter (excellently voiced by James Corden) as well, but on the sly, so as not to alienate his pretty neighbor (Rose Byrne), who loves the bunnies. Hilarious gags ensue, along with the

adorable sight of the bunnies inclining their foreheads together by way of apology.

- Or, you could opt for length. Don’t forget, we may be in this for the long haul, so maybe it’s time to watch Berlin Alexanderplatz or *The Irishman* or *The Ten Commandments*, or binge out on every episode of *The Crown*.

A friend told me that every year she and her father made it a tradition to watch William Wyler’s 1959’s *Ben-Hur* together—not only an engrossing movie, but one that, at well over three hours, really passes the time.

It does, however, in its depiction of a leper colony, show us a bit of enforced social distancing.

- If you really want to pass the time, you could turn off the TV and do what I did a few years back and read the doorstopper novel on which *Ben-Hur* is based, by Lew Wallace.

It has a leisurely pace at times, no doubt, but the text is full of gems, as when Wallace offers this bit of 19th-Century wisdom that the 21st Century seems to be having a hard time with:

“A certain facility of accommodation in the matter of religion comes to us after much intercourse with people of different faith; gradually we attain the truth that every creed is illustrated by good men who are entitled to our respect, but whom we cannot respect without courtesy to their creed.”

Health!

Are you a team player?

Wrangler News wants you.



We’re starting now to recruit one or possibly two outgoing, motivated, reliable high school juniors who’d like to spend part of their summer helping us with our social media program, monitoring newspaper rack locations, taking an occasional photo and helping us to stay in touch with our customers.

It’s a job that’s great for someone who enjoys meeting people and working in a fun, community-focused environment. You’ll need

a driver’s license, a good driving history and a couple of references, and we’ll be good to go. Send us email of 100 words or so telling us why you might be interested in such an assignment, and we’ll promise to get back to you in time to plan your summer.

And, who knows, this might even extend into the next school year if we find we can’t get along without you!

Minimum wage to start—possibly more as we move forward.

Email: editor@wranglernews.com

Tempe's coronavirus response

The City of Tempe is responding to the coronavirus pandemic and is committed to continuing to provide all critical services, such as public safety, transit, traffic control, water and wastewater, court services, solid waste pickup and more.

We are communicating about the latest public health information, local business activities and how residents can access services and safe educational and recreational opportunities. For more information, or if you have questions, visit tempe.gov/coronavirus or call Tempe 311 on weekdays at 480-350-4311.

Fill out the 2020 U.S. Census

In mid-March, each household across the country received a letter in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions on how to participate in this important count of all residents.

It is easy and secure to fill out the Census and it is vitally important for Tempe.

There are only nine questions. And for the first time, you can fill out the Census questionnaire online, and the letter you received tells you how.

If you have not replied online yet, you should soon receive a hardcopy of the Census questionnaire in the mail.

You can still complete it online at this point, or you can use the form.

According to the U.S. Constitution, all residents must be counted every 10 years.

If some Tempe residents are not counted, your community misses out on its fair share of federal funding for transportation, schools, housing and more.

Everyone living in Tempe must be counted, including college students who live off-campus, non-citizens (including international students and residents) and even infants.

Individuals who are homeless and those living in dorms or group homes are counted separately by the Census Bureau. More information is at tempe.gov/census.

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Tempe kids get a free transit pass

Tempe kids ages 6 to 18 can sign up for a Youth Transit Pass and ride all regional and local Valley Metro buses and light rail for free.

Beginning May 11, Tempe will begin issuing new transit passes to current and new participants of the program.

The new passes, valid July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, can be obtained at the Tempe Transit Store, located at 200 E. Fifth St., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Special Saturday registration will be held June 27 and Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Transit Store.

To sign up for the pass, bring a parent/guardian

and their ID, a copy of the youth's birth certificate and proof of residency, such as a utility bill.

In addition, students who attend Tempe, Marcos de Niza, Compadre and McClintock high schools and live in Tempe can get their pass at school.

For more information and to download the registration form, visit tempe.gov/YouthPass.

Interested in preschool this fall? Apply now

Tempe PRE, the City of Tempe's high-quality, full-day preschool program, has started accepting online applications for the upcoming school year.

The application process is for new families; current families have already secured their spots.

All students must be age three or four by July 31 and fully potty trained to be eligible for preschool. Families will be chosen by lottery and will receive email notifications beginning in April.

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Regardless of payment level, all families get the same benefits of Tempe PRE, including small class sizes, a play-based curriculum and early childhood-certified teaching staff.

The program serves 360 children at 12 established neighborhood schools in the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene school districts. For information about applying: tempe.gov/TempePRE. To contact staff: pre-k@tempe.gov or call 480-858-7735.

Tempe's golf courses are open!



Golf season is in full swing and it is affordable fun for the whole family. Ken McDonald Golf Course and Rolling Hills Golf Course offer gorgeous views, excellent course conditions and 30-day advance bookings.

Visit tempe.gov/GolfTempe to book your tee times and see promotions and monthly specials.

Schools

From Page 12

While completing assignments is optional (they won't be graded), it is highly encouraged, says district superintendent Christine Busch, so students can maintain their mastery over classroom materials.

Each day, staff in the district refresh the online content and post educational activities for students at tempeschools.org

Busch says she is grateful for the community's support of the district, but also recognizes the contributions being made by many people who are serving others.

"In this unprecedented time our world is facing, the real stories are those of the heroes. Our healthcare providers and first responders who leave their families every day risking their lives to care for others; our grocery and drug store employees who ensure that everyone has what they need to meet their basic needs of food, medicine and supplies; our restaurant owners and their employees who are thinking out of the box and innovating to provide food to the community in safe and unique ways.

Finally, parents, educators and community partners who are working to create, innovate and collaborate to keep educating, feeding and caring for our amazing children who will ultimately find the solutions to the problems we face as a global society."

Information about how the Kyrene School District is providing services to students and families is available at kyrene.org.

The district says it has created a user-friendly website that contains useful information. Click onto the Emergency Preparedness page to find resources for at-home learning; the location and times of bagged meal distribution; and the ability to sign up for text messages from the district to receive any updates.

In addition, Kyrene's Family Resource Center is open on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. for food boxes and hygiene items. Donations also are being accepted at the center, 1330 E. Dava Drive, Tempe.

Communications staff in the Kyrene district say a message from Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely was written especially for students at home. Plans are being developed to provide laptops to families who do not have computer access in the home—details will be posted on the district's web page.

Information about schools in the Tempe Union High School District is available at tempeunion.org/health-safety. Staff say many of the questions students and families have can be answered on this webpage.

Additionally, meals are being distributed at McClintock, Tempe and Marcos de Niza high schools. The district did distribute laptops for students to use, so if you still need one, send an email to the district office.

ASU introduces on-line tool

Announced by Michael Crow, ASU president: "The spread of COVID-19 may necessitate changes in the way we learn, but it does not change our desire to continue learning or the importance

of doing so. We know as precautions are taken to ensure the safety of our communities; we must find new methods to keep learning on track for everyone at every level.

"That's why Arizona State University has accelerated plans to provide learning tools and materials to keep all learners on track by launching the new ASU For You.

The remote learning website at: www.asuprepdigital.org/asu-for-you/ offers resources for teachers, adults seeking continuing education and some for-credit courses.

Arizona State Legislature

State legislators, concerned that classes may not resume for the rest of the school year, have introduced a contingency plan for extended school closures through the end of May.

Under the plan, introduced by Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Sylvia Allen, lawmakers would suspend a rule requiring students to be in school a minimum of 180 days, so students would not have to return to make up days over the summer.

The bill has two contingency clauses. If schools reopen before the end of the school term, the bill waives instructional hour requirements and extends the window to administer the state's standardized test until May 31.

Additionally, all school employees, hourly or otherwise, will receive pay for the duration of the closure, and schools can use the higher of their letter grades from either the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school years.

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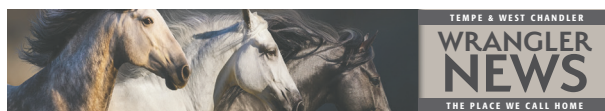
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Retired Tempe doctor's view of now vs past

By Joyce Coronel

As the healthcare establishment continues its battle against COVID-19, a retired Tempe physician, once a high-profile leader in the medical community, offered his take on the crisis.

"Richardson," we'll call him—the plain-spoken doctor prefers not to be identified by name—recalls when the nation faced the Asian flu in 1956 and the Hong Kong flu of 1968.

"They were pretty bad but they were not like this," Richardson said. "We've seldom have anything where the entire world is susceptible. That's why the numbers can be so incredible."

No one has immunity to COVID-19 until they've had it and survived it, he explained. "We have no vaccine and nobody's been exposed to this before so that's why it has the potential to overrun the hospitals even though most people are not very sick."

On the day Wrangler News interviewed Richardson, the total U.S. death toll from COVID-19 stood at 97. Three days later, it had more than doubled. At press time, the number of deaths in the

U.S. from the illness was 804.

Like other residents of Tempe and Chandler, Richardson has noticed the scarcity of staple items such as eggs, toilet paper and chicken. Outside a Tempe grocery store at 6 a.m. on a Friday morning, more than 100 people waited to enter the building. Not an ounce of chicken was to be had but there was a limited supply of eggs.

"That's pure fear. We haven't eaten so many eggs that we're out of eggs but many people are hoarding," Richardson said. "I think that will have to settle down because the chickens are still working. We'll have more eggs. When everybody's refrigerator gets full, why then we'll stop buying more but it will take a while."

Like many others, Richardson looks toward the day when a vaccine or cure for COVID-19 will be found. Medical experts say that may take anywhere from eight to 18 months.

"We can't have everybody get sick at once which is kind of what they were afraid of," Richardson said. Hospitals only have so many ventilators and sometimes have to

rent equipment during the regular flu season.

Should they become swamped by COVID-19 sufferers, the thought is that they could run short of life-saving equipment. In Italy, hospitals were rationing ventilators.

"We will get over it, but is it going to be in two months like people are talking about or is it going to drag through the summer and then flare up again next winter as respiratory infections always do? We just don't know."

Since respiratory illnesses are mostly a wintertime thing, Richardson hopes the coming hot weather will help dampen the number of COVID-19 cases.

He said he's not sure what lessons the medical establishment will take away from the crisis.

"Maybe they'll start hoarding ventilators," he chuckled.

In the meantime, he hopes that one lesson learned will be that the U.S. needs to produce more of its own pharmaceuticals.

"It will take some time but we can change that, so that at least we have alternatives.

"They don't have to all be here, but they can't all be in China."

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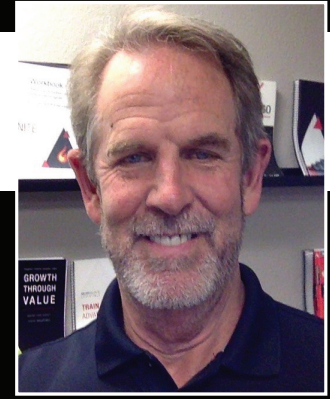
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