



South Tempe resident Rose Jeffery sports one of the cloth masks she has stitched to help fill what has become a worrisome worldwide void. Story on Page 4.  
— Photo courtesy Jeffery family

## This is truly local journalism. You can help us keep it that way.

*Our thoughts on why — and how, with your help — we plan to be here for many years to come.*

By Don Kirkland

**F**or the many of you who have phoned, emailed, visited our offices or stopped to talk with us when we're out covering stories to tell us how important a role Wrangler News plays in your daily lives, we want to keep you informed about how we're staying afloat in these challenging times.

*First, let us make it clear that we're here to stay.*

After 30 years of producing a local journal of honest, informative neighborhood happenings, we think it's critical to keep this kind of small, hometown newspaper going strong for you and those who follow in future generations.

Also, because we're a recognized part of this community and want to continue to be, we believe it's possible to do so if you'll join us in keeping that commitment.

*Here are some ways you can help:*

• If you know of stories that people would like to read in our pages, let us know by phone, email or

letter. Or even by dropping by our offices when it's okay to lift the veil of social isolation.

The people we're interested in writing about—your neighbors and ours—remain another big reason we're here.

What are your friends, family or the folks on your block doing to help others? Who's the owner of the restaurant/retail store/service organization who continues to function by creatively addressing today's heretofore unimagined challenges?

Let us know about them.

• Additionally, if you believe as we do in the value that community newspapers bring to communities such as ours, we hope you'll encourage your neighborhood business owners to join those who already support us with their advertising dollars.

In other words, tell them that businesses receive more when they advertise in Wrangler News than just new or better-informed customers. They share the benefit that comes from a partnership where journalists can tell the real stories about a company—

its owners, its employees, its goals and how it plans to return to a successful, prosperous tomorrow.

These are some of things you can do to help us sustain our own future and those of the ventures that form the vibrant foundations of our city.

Finally, we want you to be aware of what we already are doing to ensure that we remain able to provide you with real, trusted local journalism.

You may see fewer pages in each issue. You may notice a slight change in the paper that our printer uses. And, of course, you'll see significant advancement of our online/social media initiatives, due to analytics that show our impressive growth in that medium.

Our long-term goal is to continue to provide you with an informative, entertaining window into this community, whether in a format preferred by readers who enjoy our print edition or those who already are engaged in the move to digital content.

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## Commentary

# Tempe's virtual classes lend tangible reality to those stuck at home

By Jennifer Adams

Right now, as you read this, I know you are at home. Maybe you are settled in on the couch, in your favorite chair on the patio or pulled up to the kitchen table.

That may not seem like a big deal anymore, after so many weeks of quarantine to hold back the spread of coronavirus.

But I want to say how much I support your choice to remain at home most of the day.

You are doing something critically important for the greater good – for the health of yourselves and your family, friends and neighbors.

Together we can flatten the curve and save lives. Your city thanks you.

And more than that – your city has something to offer you, too. As you know, at the city we have closed facilities and canceled events and programs in order to keep everyone safe.

Now the City of Tempe is launching a free assortment of virtual classes and activities to help keep you entertained, healthy and learning during this time period.

We are calling it Tempe at Home and you can join in right from the comfort of your phone, tablet, computer, laptop or TV screen.

This series of offerings from the city's Community Services Department includes programs from Tempe PRE, adaptive recreation, parks and recreation, the Tempe Public Library, Tempe Center for the Arts and

more.

Our city staff and instructors are all coming together to make sure that your time at home is as enriching and fun as it can be.

Look for fitness offerings like yoga, dance, Tai Chi and more, along with skills development in golf, basketball, softball and soccer.



workshops and at-home craft ideas. The Tempe History Museum is offering access to its online collections.

Do you have a preschooler? Tempe PRE, the city's preschool program, is putting teachers on camera for reading time.

In the coming days, you will be able to find all virtual content at [tempe.gov/coronavirus](http://tempe.gov/coronavirus) and click on the Things to Do section.

Follow these Tempe social media accounts for daily activities and tips:

How about specialty classes for cooking, sewing or learning a language?

Tempe Public Library is offering online tutorials, 'booktalks' with staff, Family Storytime and homework help and more.

Tempe Center for the Arts has opened up its art gallery online and will host a citywide coloring contest. There will be virtual artist

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What will you learn to do during quarantine? What fitness goals will you set and achieve? Share your stories with me about how you and your family and friends take advantage of these free opportunities!

Connect with me by calling 480-350-8835, following me on my City Council Facebook account (JenniferAdamsTempe) or emailing me at [jennifer\\_adams@tempe.gov](mailto:jennifer_adams@tempe.gov).

Stay healthy and connected with each other!  
Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council.



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# Hospital issues a plea; So. Tempe sisters launch mask production

By Joyce Coronel

With the Centers for Disease Control now recommending that people wear cloth masks when they are in public in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, the quest to acquire the protective gear just got that much harder.

Dignity Health Foundation East Valley put out a plea via email, asking the public for assistance in the endeavor to provide masks.

Employees at Chandler Regional Medical Center “are on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19.

“Masks are needed in this fight, all kinds. Your generosity in donating N95, surgical or hand-sewn masks would be greatly appreciated,” said the email from the foundation.

Two South Tempe sisters, Rose Jeffery and Lydia Mohr, have been hard at work sewing masks to help in the battle against the coronavirus.

Jeffery is a retired social worker and the mother of six grown children. Mohr is the mother of three adult children and a retired kindergarten teacher.

“The masks are going like hotcakes,” Jeffery said of the home-based project.

“I just felt because I knew how to sew, and the N95 masks were needed for healthcare workers, I had a moral obligation to make masks for the community.”

So far, Jeffery has made about 50 masks. It takes her about a day and a half to make 10, she said. “I went online and I was interested in what they were doing in China. They were already going through

this.” She found a more complex design that she says offers better protection to wearers.

With so many stores sold out of elastic to make wearable bands, where did Jeffery and Mohr come up with the materials for their creations?

“I just used whatever I had around the house,” Jeffery explained.

Growing up, she and her sisters learned how to sew in their home economics classes at school. Her father was an upholsterer, “so we all knew how to sew,” she said.

A few neighbors have donated supplies, but Mohr visited SAS Fabrics in Tempe three weeks ago and purchased a spool of 144 yards. That ought to keep them elbow deep in sewing for a while.

## Demand is high

South Tempe resident and physical therapist Jeff Petersen asked Jeffery if she'd be willing to make 20 masks for his staff. “One woman was going to charge us \$18 each,” Petersen said. “Rose sees this as kind of her ministry.”

The homemade cloth masks, he adds, “allay some of the fear and once the CDC recommended everyone should be wearing masks, it got even harder to find them.”

Tempe City Councilmember Jennifer Adams knows Jeffery and said she thought it was great her fellow South Tempeans were stitching masks.

She also pointed to FABRIC, Tempe's fashion incubator which is usually known for fashion shows

and helping new designers create apparel.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has snagged them a new role: their manufacturing area will soon be making reusable, medical-quality gowns and masks.

“FABRIC was designed to be nimble and to help people manufacture what is most needed by a community, and to help designers succeed. We are proud to be able to help our medical professionals in this time of urgent need,” said FABRIC co-founder Sherri Barry.

Adams says first responders received some good news about more N95 masks being delivered in the first part of April which will alleviate some of the pressure they have been feeling with short supplies.

“They also have been trained on how to disinfect the masks, so they can use them up to five times,” Adams said.

She added that the CDC does not recommend that first responders use cloth masks but that they were good for general use by the public and should be used “at all times” when shopping at stores.

For her part, Jeffery is hoping area seamstresses can work together to craft more masks as the pandemic deepens.

She wants the city of Tempe to help coordinate a central location for businesses and families to pick up the homemade masks.

“There should be a central place where businesses and individuals could connect with people who sew and where supplies could be donated and handed out to those willing to sew masks,” Jeffery said.



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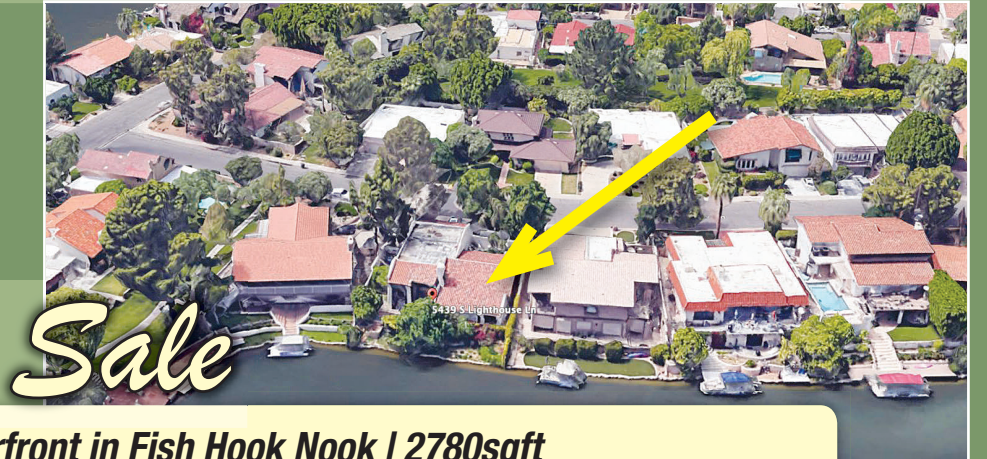
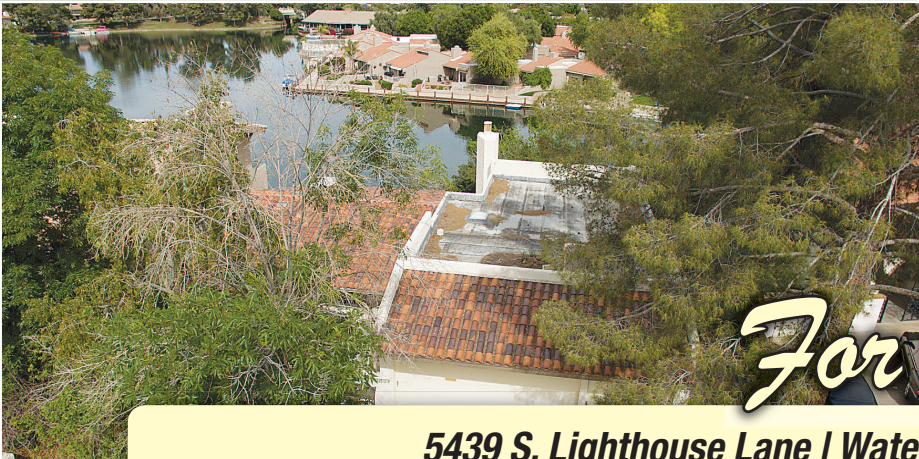
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# WE HEAR YOU . . .

## Support for local businesses

I want to recommend two local companies that were very kind to me during a very difficult time. My husband Tom, who proudly served our country in the US Navy for twenty years, passed away March 25th after a courageous three year battle with leukemia. I wanted the last clothes he wore to be his Navy uniform, and I wanted it to be clean. Oxford Cleaners, on the southeast corner of Ray and Kyrene, did not charge me. They refused to take any payment. I also recently went to the Crepe Bar, on the northwest corner of Rural and Elliott. I had never been there before but had read about it in this paper recently. The owner, Jeff Kraus, is currently in competition to be the head chef at a new Las Vegas restaurant. The show, Vegas Chef Prizefight, is currently showing on Thursday nights on the Food Network. Jeff was there when I arrived and could not have been nicer. When he heard about my husband he insisted on giving me food and drink.

Please consider patronizing these two local companies. They deserve our support.

Finally, if you are ever in the unfortunate position of needing the services of a funeral home, I can highly recommend Richardson Funeral Home. Troy Richardson was compassionate, very responsive and always available.

Sally Miller

## Schoolteachers and AZ retirement fund

Why don't you write about how most Charter school teachers and staff just lost a significant amount of their retirement fund in their 401k. It appears that the states care more about the owner who are allowed to make millions a year. They should be required to put their teachers and staff members in the AZ State Retirement System. Just ask yourself if you had to choose right now would you rather be working for charter or real public schools ?

Robert I. Trujillo

## Pollack efforts to aid small businesses

Thank you for running this piece. It is so easy to offer solutions without knowing the facts. I appreciate Mr. Pollack taking the time to explain his and other landlord's positions. In this era when mortgages are packaged and sold, there is no flexibility in the system for unusual events such as a pandemic. You would think that there might be a clause dealing with acts of God etc., but I suppose such a clause would cover a flood or an earthquake, but not a pandemic.

Lance C. Labun

*Editor's note: We welcome your email or online thoughts and comments. Contributions may be edited for length and clarity. Give us a call if you have questions. Thanks...and we look forward to m hearing from you.*

## Here's what to do if you miss your regular copy of Wrangler News . . .

If your regular edition of Wrangler News doesn't arrive on its usual schedule, be sure to notify us so we can hand-deliver a copy to you. You also can access us at wranglernews.com and all popular social media sites. For your convenience, full copies are available at these news-rack locations.

**Wrangler News office**, Warner Century Plaza, Warner Road just west of the Price/101 Freeway, opposite GoDaddy. 24-hour rack, front of building.

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**Downtown Tempe**, weather-protected outside distribution racks on Mill Avenue, 5th St. southeast corner; 6th St southwest corner; and 7th St east side opposite crosswalk. 24-hour pickup.

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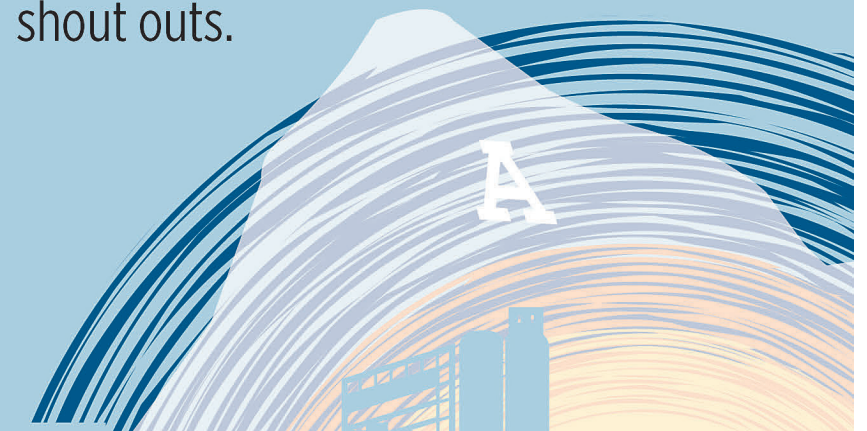


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# Essays retell Holocaust horrors

The Holocaust dealt its horrific blow decades before students at Kyrene Middle School were born, but three of them have been honored for the essays they wrote as part of a writing competition sponsored by the Holocaust Commission of the United Jewish Federation.

Debra Rosenblum, their English language arts teacher, is more than just a teacher—she's a best-selling author who takes the art of the written word quite seriously.

Under her tutelage, KMS has winners in the writing competition for the second year in a row. Rachel Sindlinger tied for 1st place with her essay, *Choices*. Anya Storch tied for 3rd place with her essay entitled, *My Family's Legacy*.

A third student, Casey Strauss, with her essay, *Just a Simple Word*, was in the Top 15.

"These students spent hours of class time and at home, writing, conferencing with their peers and with me in their quest to present their thoughts and opinions on the given prompts," Rosenblum said.

"Their dedication to the topics and to their writing skills is evident in their poignant pieces."

Rachel's essay pointed to the words of Elie Wiesel, the Auschwitz survivor who went on to become a Nobel laureate. "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness," Wiesel once said.

"This simple yet touching statement tells us that we can't sit in silence and allow the world's problems to pass over our heads. It is our duty as humans to stand up for what we believe. Silence can be more destructive than noise, especially in a situation like this," Rachel penned in her essay.

Anya wrote that she herself wasn't Jewish but that her relatives lived in Europe during the Holocaust. Her great-grandparents, who lived in an apartment in Amsterdam, did not stand idle in the face of evil, but "risked their lives and those of their whole family, and hid a Jewish family."

"It makes me realize how important life is, how I can just have that ability to help make someone's life better," Anya wrote.

For an expanded version of this story, visit [wranglernews.com](https://wranglernews.com)

## Laptops help kids during shutdown



With schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 crisis, educators have been working hard to keep students connected and engaged in learning.

The Kyrene School District asked families to take a technology survey so district officials could identify which ones might have a need for a computer at home.

The district then distributed more than 1,200 laptops to students using carefully scheduled pick-up times at district headquarters in South Tempe. A well-spaced distribution setup ensured social distancing at all times.

The district also delivered around 1,000 packets of curriculum materials for students to use as they work to continue learning while their schools are closed.

A March 30 announcement by Gov. Doug Ducey and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman extended school closures through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Families that wanted access to print versions of Kyrene's online curriculum materials filled out a request for paper copies.

The delivery system was a cooperative effort between the curriculum and transportation teams, which kept Kyrene bus drivers active on the job while still ensuring social distancing for all.

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# A community defined: How neighbors join efforts to assist those in need

By Michelle Hirsch

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” It was a memorable Fred Rogers line, one that holds particular meaning today.

In our 30 years of publishing Wrangler News, we’ve shared countless uplifting stories of the helpers in our neighborhoods.

Now, more than ever, community members are reaching out to support each other and stay connected, within the boundaries of social distancing.

Taking a walk or bike ride unveils an array of chalk art on sidewalks and driveways, offering positive messages like “smile loudly, stay strong, be positive, enjoy your walk, we are all connected” accompanying colorful drawings of hearts, flowers, rainbows, peace signs and smiley faces.

Teddy bears and Easter egg art in front windows give families something to “hunt for” on their outdoor treks to enjoy the weather and get some exercise.

Colorful notes posted on light poles and community mailboxes encourage activities like “name an animal that is yellow” or “look for 5 green things” to add to the exploration resulting from walks through the neighborhood.

Diane Repp said she wanted to bring hope and joy for neighbors who are holed up inside, which motivated her to make colorful bows that could hang on front gates in her Alta Mirada neighborhood.

She wasn’t sure how to get enough supplies to make one for every gate, so she stopped in Fred’s

Flowers to share her idea the owner.

Repp said she was “overwhelmed, and I cried tears of joy” when a big box of ribbon and wire magically appeared to support the bow project.

Two employees also volunteered their time to help Repp, her sister-in-law and a friend make over 200 bows with tags reading “Hope—Corona doesn’t mean surrender.”

Neighbor Judy Aguilar volunteered to help hang the colorful bows on front gates. The ladies were met with smiles and appreciation from neighbors, Repp said, as they went from gate to gate, placing their bows of hope in what Repp called a “labor of love, bringing some added hope and joy to their already beautiful community.”

Residents of the Circle G and Estate La Colina neighborhoods shined a collective light on some of the recent dark days to show support for healthcare and other frontline workers by displaying luminarias and candles in front of their homes.

“This allows our communities to shine bright despite the circumstances,” said one resident.

“Just drove through Circle G on the way home from my 12-hour shift in the ER,” said one nurse. Thank you from one working knee-deep, in the front lines. Having already been exposed multiple times to this virus, this truly warmed my heart!” posted another resident.

You can share on Wrangler News’ Facebook or Instagram pages more examples of how you or your neighbors are helping to keep the community informed and connected.



One of many chalk drawings that appeared around Tempe and West Chandler as the lockdown took effect.



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## Care Cards deliver cheer

By Amy Garza

As the coronavirus emergency situation continues, students from Arredondo and Holdeman elementary plus Ward Traditional Academy have found a way to stay busy as they bring cheer to senior citizens.

The students, who are currently participating in the Pen Pals for Seniors Program, are continuing to write to their pen pals at Oakwood Creative Care, Friendship Village, and the Area Agency on Aging. The pen-pal program has expanded while schools are shut down due to the pandemic.

That's in response to the many seniors in the community who are shut in right now in assisted living homes and communities, where they are isolated from everyone except their caregivers.

They are allowed no visitors, not even their own families and loved ones, as they are in one of the high-risk groups for contracting COVID-19.

Given that the elderly have given so much through the years, it seemed like a good opportunity for students and others to give back. Enter Care Cards.

Tempe Elementary is collaborating with Linda Arters, a certified senior advisor and certified living-in-place specialist, to offer words of encouragement, whether through handmade or store-bought notes, letters, or cards, bright, colorful hand-drawn pictures, or even photos. The district is asking students and families to create or purchase cards to cheer up seniors and other vulnerable adults.

The Care Cards program has been designed to communicate with those seniors who are isolated in assisted living homes around Tempe, the Valley, and possibly the state. "Since this age group prefers their traditional communication style of paper cards, letters and pictures, we believe sending

greetings of love, hugs, and smiles through the mail will bring them some comfort and cheer despite the isolation being forced upon them with the coronavirus pandemic," declared an email to Wrangler News from Tempe Elementary regarding the program.

"Isolation not only causes loneliness, it can negatively impact a senior's physical and mental health," Arters said. "We want Care Cards to be their isolation-busters during this national crisis."

Guidelines for the cards include: Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before starting; items must fit into a 9 inch x 12 inch envelope; use 8½ by 11" paper/construction paper; be sure to write big and dark so elderly eyes can see it; bright, colorful drawings/pictures are welcome and encouraged.

Arters says Kiwanis Club Tempe Sunrise will be covering the expenses of mailing messages to the assisted living homes that sign up with the program. Volunteers will sort through cards/letter/drawings and prepare the 9 x 12 envelopes per each care home's specifications on their registration request.

Items can also be dropped off at the district's Grab and Go Meal sites.

Visit [tempeschools.org](http://tempeschools.org) for addresses.

Cards can also be mailed to:

Care Cards, c/o Mail & More, 9920 S. Rural Rd. #108, Tempe, AZ 85284, or dropped off at Mail Plus, 1628 E. Southern Ave and Mail & More next to Babbo Italian, 9920 S. Rural Road, Tempe.

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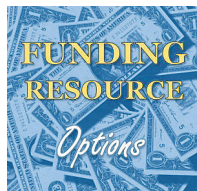
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# BRIEFLY . . .

## Gila River casino closings continue

Gila River Gaming Enterprises Inc. has extended the closure of Gila River Hotels & Casinos, Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva. The voluntary short-term closure, originally scheduled to end on Wednesday, April 1, has been extended until Thursday, April 30.

A spokesperson said the company has made commitment to ensure every team member will continue to be paid and receive benefits through the reopening date.

A press release noted that officials will continue to keep guests updated regarding the reopening of all three properties.

Information: PlayAtGila.com.

## Virtual tapdancing classes in lieu of in-person

Wall-2-Wall Tap Dance Center has cancelled all in-person classes through April 30. Owner Mary Wall says she's hoping to resume with the next in-person session, scheduled to begin Monday, May 11th. "I am preparing for the possibility that we may need to cancel that session as well," Wall said. If that happens, the next regularly scheduled session is set to begin August 3, she noted.

In the meantime, Wall has begun offering virtual tap lessons for some classes. She currently has classes available for Level 1 (beginners who have been introduced to the basics), Level 2.2 (soft-shoe), and Level 3 (advanced-beginner through low-intermediate level).

There are 7 weeks of classes for each level and those who sign up receive an emailed PDF each week with that week's lesson. The PDF includes written instructions, links to videos, and choreography notes. Each lesson has a warm-up, lesson on the steps, breakdown of how those

steps are incorporated into the choreography, and a cool-down. Each week's lesson costs the same as one in-person class.

"If people have missed lessons, they can register retroactively by emailing me. It's a lot more work than teaching in-person classes, but I'm hoping it will sustain me until we can reopen," Wall said of the effort.

Information: w2wdance.com

## Online effort to combat isolation

D.A.M.E.S., a community-based organization offering online meditation, fitness instruction and yoga/Pilates, is now offering a free, month-long membership to help combat social isolation.

The program, which originally was intended to help mothers who are raising special-needs children, provides its services online or via a mobile app.

The service is available at damesusa.com, according to Michele Thorne, who oversees its local operation.

## New ICAN program assists parents

ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth has remained actively serving youth and families throughout the crisis. The program was open full days the first two weekends of the crisis, providing emergency childcare to families who had no other options.

At the end of those two weeks, according to a spokeswoman, ICAN was able to have those youth placed in a local, partner emergency childcare center in Chandler and was also able to arrange for partners to cover the cost of that childcare.

For the remainder of the crisis, according to a press release, ICAN implemented a number of new program elements to support ICAN youth and families. Said ICAN CEO Shelby Pedersen:

"It is vital for families to continually receive resources

during this crisis—resources that promote well-being and provide tools to parents and youth to encourage coping skills and resilience". ICAN's new program components include:

- Kraft Kits: A complete "kit" of family-friendly activities that will be distributed by ICAN staff directly to families in partnership with the Chandler Unified School District, where daily meals are being provided, reaching well over 100 families a week in low-income communities.
- Virtual Parent Education: Family Program classes will continue and will be offered virtually, focusing on family bonding and healthy conflict resolution.
- Parent Check-Ins: Staff will be directly calling ICAN parents to provide needed referrals for services.
- Youth Check-Ins: Staff will be directly calling ICAN youth to check on them, see how they are doing and provide encouragement.
- Substance Abuse Task Force: ICAN Community Programs will be producing videos focused on tools and resources for building resiliency to be distributed electronically, along with hosting virtual presentations addressing adverse childhood experiences and trauma.

## Tempe agency feeds seniors during crisis

TCAA is offering a drive-through nutritious "meal on the go" for Tempe seniors and adults with disabilities on a daily basis (Monday through Friday). The catered meals can be picked up at the North Tempe Senior Center, 1551 N. Bridal Wreath, Tempe, between 10 and 11 a.m. only.

Register for the meal by noon one day in advance by calling TCAA at 480-858-6511. Meals are offered at no cost to eligible participants. Donations are welcomed.

Tempe seniors and adults with disabilities who are home-bound may qualify for a home-delivered meal at no cost. Contact Area Agency on Aging to pre-register at 602-264-4357.



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