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TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Graduation 2020

Boxed in with nowhere to go

As students ponder what comes next after achieving the milestone of graduation, we hear that more and more of these young people feel boxed in and uncertain of what their future holds. Our longtime photo contributor, who graduated from ASU with a degree in engineering and now is employed by a leading aerospace company, tells us that although opportunities were plentiful for him two years ago, he understands the cloud of concern that hangs over today's grads. The photo illustration shown below captures what he recognized as the emotions that swirl in today's young minds, along with the longing for a pathway to a better future.

— Photo illustration by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Business groups lead efforts to stem erosion of U.S. diversity

Leaders of two area chambers of commerce have moved aggressively into the national spotlight over racial equality, launching separate but pointedly specific strategies to stem the tide of black and Hispanic distrust that lately has consumed much of Americans' concern about where our efforts should go next.

Terri Kimble, president and CEO of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, offered details on how her organization can help businesses—and Chandler residents—confront challenges today and in the future.

Ann Gill, who oversees work by Tempe Chamber members, said her group will collaborate with the U.S. Chamber in developing a comprehensive plan of action.

Kimble said she's focusing on dual challenges.

"The Chandler Chamber is guided by our mission: To support business and our community by providing vital programs and services that attract and retain business while embracing diversity.

"We promote this mission by deepening our long-held commitment to inclusion and by finding new ways to listen, understand and build unity.

"With a country divided by fear, anger and frustration, I believe our commitment to diversity and inclusion has never been more important. Individuals of diverse backgrounds and cultures make Chandler a better place and allow us to serve our diverse business community better.

"Discrimination, injustice and violence allow no place for our business community to grow. Our communities are hurting, and we see it as our job to not only help them heal but to offer hope.

"As our nation struggles with equality and inclusion issues, the Chandler Chamber will continue to work with community leaders to identify opportunities that will generate lasting change—now and for years to come.

"We are committed to doing our part to provide businesses equal access to high quality services no matter their race, religion, economic or ethnic background. As a business community, let's be the agents of change and be different together."

Ann Gill says she plans similar initiatives. "We are partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on a national move to address inequality of opportunity.

"The chamber will join the U.S. organization's



Grads stymied by shrinking job market

By Lee Shappell

Rob Hartland decided to put the hammer down and complete his sustainability degree from Arizona State University in three years.

Hartland, 21, a Southeast Valley native, and two former high school

buddies rent a home in Tempe conveniently located one block from Four Peaks Brewery. They all became legal this year. Yet it did not seem to impede academic progress.

Hartland is a former Eagle Scout. He came to ASU with credit from Advanced Placement classes in high school. He's a goal setter and time manager. He recently left ASU with

his degree, as well as a certificate—essentially the same as a minor—in global energy, and a minor in parks and protected-area management. Thanks to a Provost Scholarship that covered roughly half of his expenses and parents who wisely planned and covered the other half, he left not only early but also debt free.

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Six vie for three open spots on Chandler City Council

Veteran, entrepreneurs, activists among wide slate of hopefuls



BETH BRIZEL



CHRISTINE ELLIS



O.D. HARRIS



RICK HEUMANN



JEREMY McCLYMONDS



MARK STEWART

By Joyce Coronel

Editor's note: As the plethora of signage populating street corners attests, we're in the midst of an election year. In addition to races for U.S. Congress and posts for state-wide offices, Chandler will hold its city council election Tuesday, Aug. 4. Six candidates are vying for three council seats, including one incumbent, another who was appointed to serve and one

other who is a former city council member. Wrangler News asked each candidate to submit a statement and photo. The following article is a compilation of what was submitted to our office.

Beth Brizel has lived in Chandler for 25 years and said she wants to utilize her experience and knowledge gained from more than 17 years as a small business owner, four years

on the Kyrene Governing Board, and 25 years of community involvement. "Chandler needs to ensure we continue to have sound fiscal policies—especially during the COVID-19 crisis," Brizel said. She also wants the city to "expand public-private partnerships, and provide a forum for open communication with all stake-holders." Her main issues are public safety and schools; eco-

nomie development; and neighborhoods and quality of life. "My background as a small business owner, and overseeing the Kyrene School District's operational hundred-million dollar budget during the recession, enables me to understand the importance of balancing the needs of protecting core programs and services while being fiscally prudent," Brizel said.

Christine Ellis, a native of Haiti, came to the U.S. at age 17 and has lived in Chandler for 30 years. A registered nurse with over 30 years' experience, Ellis said her passion has always been to take care of the elderly and those in need. Ellis has worked as an RN for many hospitals and facilities and has held high level positions such as director of nursing. She has

received governor-appointed positions on different boards representing assisted living homes. She co-founded the Haitian Disaster Relief of Arizona following the major earthquake in Haiti where she worked to help the earthquake victims of her native country. She was nominated in 2011 by The Arizona Republic as "one of

— COUNCIL, Page 10



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Tempe Center for the Arts hosts all-day virtual Draw-a-Thon for kids, families



Morning Looney Tunes Cartoons with artists from the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity: printmaking, crazy creature drawing, digital drawing, how to draw a dragon and more.

Also new this year, the Gallery at TCA has created a free Draw-A-Thon coloring and sketchbook, which features original artwork by 10 Arizona artists and is available for download at tempecenterforthearts.com/drawathon.

For those who love to draw, doodle and create—or for anyone looking for family fun—the event promises something for everyone.

For a full schedule, list of artists, downloadable coloring book and how to participate, visit tempecenterforthearts.com/drawathon.

The Gallery at TCA will digitally host its annual Draw-A-Thon from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 20.

For the first-time, the popular all-day festival, which celebrates the art and science of drawing, will be a virtual event and will stream live via [facebook/tempecenterfor](https://facebook.com/tempecenterforthearts.com)

thearts.com.

Featuring workshops and tutorials live from the artists' studios, the event is free and open to all ages and skill levels.

Online visitors will be able to participate in some or all of the interactive activities throughout the day, including *Saturday*



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June 20 campaign at Epiphany church targets education, voting, hunger

Members of Episcopal Church of the Epiphany are showing up at the church campus for a drive-through event from 6 to 10 a.m. Saturday, June 20, to support public education and neighbors in need. The public is also invited.

Three separate offerings will be available.

Visitors can:

- ✓ Sign a petition to get an Invest in Ed initiative on the November ballot, as well as take petitions with them for family and neighbors to sign. Deadline for submission is Tuesday, June 30.

The act would provide additional funding for public education by establishing a 3.5 percent surcharge on taxable income above \$250,000 annually for single persons or those married filing separately.

It would draw revenue from taxable income above \$500,000 annually for married persons filing jointly or head of household filers.

The act also dedicates additional revenues to hire and increase salaries for teachers, classroom support staff and student support services personnel, as well as provide mentoring and retention programs for new classroom teachers.

Career training and post-secondary preparation programs are included as well, as are changes to Arizona Teachers Academy and related governing statutes, including an annual accounting of additional revenue.

Also being offered at the event are opportunities to:

- ✓ Register to vote.
- ✓ Make a donation of staple food or cash for Matthews Crossing Food Bank. Cereal is the most needed food.

Explaining the church's motivation for the three-pronged community program, Epiphany pastor Fr. Hunter Ruffin said:

"This is a way for us to live out our faith. We must act to support our neighbors and our community, especially in these challenging times."

He added that Epiphany, as a member congregation of Valley Interfaith Project, has learned of the necessity of sustainable funding for public schools.

"Our children and our families count on good schools and good teachers, especially as we repair our economy that's been damaged by the pandemic. It's time for us all to decide on more funding for schools."

"Caring for our neighbors takes on many different forms in the current pandemic. Education is one way that Church of the Epiphany is responding to the Gospel imperative to love our neighbors as ourselves. Another way is by collecting food to support the mission of Matthew's Crossing Food Bank."

Epiphany parishioner June Crane stressed the importance of helping support the work of the recipient organizations during the current crisis period.

"They have taken a real hit on donations because faith communities have not been meeting. This gives us a way to restart our support," she said.

"We've had a longstanding relationship with Matthew's Crossing. Their services are vital for people now and for months to come."

The event, taking place at the Church of the Epiphany campus, will follow established guidelines to keep participants safe. The church is at 2222 S. Price Road, three blocks south of Broadway on the south-bound 101 access road.

Tempe Kiwanians will celebrate 4th with a display that really sparkles



Tempe Sparkles, an observance designed to mark this year's July 4th holiday, is how members of Kiwanis Club of Tempe plan to celebrate a national tradition dating all the way back to 1777.

Because the club's planned 2020


Festival was suspended as a result of current conditions, the members this year will distribute more than 70,000 small American flags and two accompanying sparklers.

The club is quick to warn, however, that sparklers are not toys and should be used only under close adult supervision.

Delivery of the celebratory flag and sparklers will occur between June 22 and July 2.


As a highlight of this year's celebration, Kiwanians have asked household members to go outside at 9 p.m. on July 4, wave hello to neighbors, light the gifted sparklers—and be sure to stay safe.

Questions about the program can be directed by email to jaldrich419@cox.net.




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Parting words . . . by Noah Kutz

One of our all-time fave employees is gone, but not likely to be forgotten

So are you a Corona guy?" He asked me as if we'd known each other for years and were just catching up. "No," I replied, "I'm not 21 so I don't drink beer yet."

Don Kirkland, of course, was curious if I'd recently graduated from Corona del Sol High School. I, on the other hand, was apparently more familiar with the imported beer than I was the school, and we both laughed at the purely accidental misunderstanding that occurred there at Great Harvest Bread as I prepared his order.

My first encounter with the folks from Wrangler News still gives us a chuckle, but the feelings of hilarious reminiscence have slowly turned to a reflection on the various interactions I've had with local people as I finalize my departure from the paper.

I had worked at the South Tempe bakery for several months before I met the local newspaperman that day.

We were familiar with all of our regular customers, but nobody seemed to relate to the Walstons and their employees with more bountiful neighborliness than Don.

If accompanied by his friends or fellow newspaper people, they seemed to be quite familiar with his severe case of friendliness and his tendency to walk into the back of the bakery and shout greetings at the staff.

Eventually, I left Great Harvest and began to work for Wrangler, realizing that those types of exchanges among



While he could always be counted on to maintain his focus on home, work, friends, family and the Marine Corps officer he aspires to be, Noah managed to weave some fun time into his everyday life, both on and off the job. For us, Noah's arrival was always a bright spot in our day. Best wishes, Noah, and Semper Fi.

all of us occurred on a daily basis. I slowly made the transition from bread boy to newsie and established great relationships there in the office with Don and Joyce, who quickly became my second family.

We traveled all over South Tempe and West Chandler, and I witnessed their involvement with the community, from meetings with local businesses to random encounters with old friends at the library — all of which seemed to be brimming with nothing less than true neighborly love.

Working for the local paper (specifically, working for Don), has made me realize the importance of cultivating strong relationships with our neighbors on a daily basis.

I used to hate talking about the weather and how the Cardinals will be better next season with people at the farmer's markets where I sold bread for so long, only

because it seemed so painfully mundane and overtly simple.

Now, I realize that those conversations turn two strangers into two friends, and those relationships are what make the world go round.

I realized after working for Wrangler News for a little while that my way of interacting with strangers became much more relaxed and friendly.

Just as I felt when Don treated us this way at the bakery, people tend to be a little shocked when someone they've never seen before greets them as if they've known each other for years.

Those interactions, I would argue, will only ever happen on a local basis and have never been more important in our world today.

Something so small that it can't be seen by the naked eye has turned the globe upside down and catapulted everything into chaos, to the point where even a handshake is seen as a threat to safety.

While we must respect others' safety, I can think of something that's even more contagious than the coronavirus: neighborliness and courageous friendliness.

Working for these local establishments over the years has taught me that treating strangers as if they weren't strangers at all is something that must be preserved and exploited in our everyday interactions, and if we forget that fundamental element of being a loving neighbor, then COVID-19 wins.

Over two years ago someone I've never met before asked me if I'm a Corona guy, and his neighborly manner caused me to mistakenly believe that he just wanted to share a beer.

Although I believe that asking someone the same question in today's climate might have a completely different meaning, I look forward to the time when we can all share a drink together.

For now all we can do is be good neighbors to each other— six feet apart, of course.

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Grads

From Page 1

But now what? Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and a shaky economy that is bleeding jobs in many sectors, Hartland and thousands of other recent ASU grads are tossed into an uncertain world.

"It's different, but you can't ever really have an expectation of what the future's going to be, anyway," Hartland said.

Lorenzo Rios, also 21, just finished his junior year in criminal justice. He came to ASU from Los Angeles for that program and got into Navy ROTC, where he has selected the Marines option. He plans to be a pilot and will have a commitment to the service upon graduation next year.

"So I pretty much know what path I'm on for a few years," Rios said. "I'm really grateful for this opportunity. I see a lot of kids struggling right now, wondering what's next for them."

Stories like Hartland's and Rios' are music to the ears of Brandee Popaden-Smith, Arizona State's director for career readiness. Among her missions is teaching students how to be nimble while negotiating a changing employment landscape; that there is more than one way to do things; and that those who graduate as Sun Devils have a culture of confidence imbedded.

"Our message and the work we do is coming from a place of how to help our students focus on what they have control of and always making forward steps," Popaden-Smith said.

That includes teaching students to build networks. That could include an active LinkedIn profile or connecting with potential employers.

"We're making sure our students who graduate are very confident in being able to articulate in a resume, in an interview, when building a network or meeting new people that they know they are on the job hunt, and what they bring to table."

"We want our students really believing they have a quality skill set and a quality tool kit prepared through their time at Arizona State University, and that they've just got to pull out the right tools in the right situation. That's imbedded in the ASU culture."

Hartland got a good dose of it at home, too. His mother, Christine, is an educator. Now. Along the way, she got a degree in marine biology ("really cutting up rat brains at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine neurology physiology labs"), a law degree ("most boring thing ever"). She became an artist selling her paintings around Ahwatukee, an award-winning taxidermist because her son loves to fish and hunt, and is now a teacher of English at Valley Christian High in West Chandler.

She is an example of what Popaden-Smith is preaching to new grads.

"Where are the additional opportunities in different industries, different sectors, where your skill set is transferable?" Popaden-Smith said. "We try to help our graduates understand that maybe the plan was to pursue an opportunity in a particular industry or job function, but you might have to transfer into one that you may not have even considered that may be heavily hiring in a time like this."

As an educator herself, Christine Hartland attempts to teach adaptability and creativity to solve problems.

"Kids are going to have to now put that to use. It's time for creativity," she said. "I think they are less traditional today in their expectations, so that makes them more willing to be flexible. You can work for yourself. You can open your own business. There is a lot more entrepreneurial spirit out there. A lot of kids go a less-traditional route. They're not looking as much to get with a corporate giant and stay there for 40 years."

Rob Hartland said that he recently applied for a variety of jobs: air-quality monitoring, waste-stream management and environmental compliance.

"My ultimate goal is to build my own personal brand," he said. "I hope to end up doing what I love and work off of that enthusiasm, end up self-employed in something I'm truly interested in. If you're somebody who has skills and motivation to work, you're going to be fine."

Popaden-Smith and those in her office are there for those who need a hand connecting with resources to start career paths.

"I would say to our recent graduates, 'Don't give up,'" Popaden-Smith said. "I guarantee you that as a graduate of Arizona State University you are prepared and supplied with a diverse and impressive background of experiences that absolutely are going to help you through difficult times like now and the really good times that I'm sure we will get back to. Stay open to new ideas and potential employment opportunities, even if they're in a different sector."



BRANDEE POPADEN-SMITH



CHRISTINE HARTLAND



ROB HARTLAND

Driven by her passion for Latino community, Marcos grad reflects on her experiences

Editor's note: Meenah Rincon, a public information officer for ASU, provided Wrangler News with the results of a Q&A exchange with graduating seniors who expressed a desire to share their experiences with hometown readers. The following captures the thoughts of one of those students.

Angélica César, a graduate of Marcos de Niza High School, spent the last three years at Arizona State University seizing opportunities and advocating for the Latino community and undocumented immigrants.

As a dual major studying in the School of Transborder Studies and School of Politics and Global Studies, César participated in a variety of experiences including serving as a Democratic staff intern at the Arizona Legislature, interning with U.S. Representative Mike Levin through the Hispanic Caucus Institute and serving as president of ASU's Aliento.

"I was able to see the broad concepts that I was learning in class specifically for my civic education and political theory classes and how it actually functioned in the real world," César said.

As a first-generation student, César said she never expected to participate in any of the experiences she has, or even to pursue a degree.

"I never thought that I would have the opportunity to obtain a bachelor's degree or anything of the sort, just because I never saw it," she said. Her dedication to obtaining a degree goes beyond the impact it has on her own life; she said she's also doing it for her family.

"The last time that I got to go to Mexico City, they all greeted me with a huge hug and were just telling me how proud they were that I would be the first person to graduate from college and that I was pursuing the things that I was passionate about," she said. "I know that it means a lot to them and I know that for instance, like my mom, that's why she came to this country. I know that she wanted me to have these opportunities. So to me, getting this degree is not just about me getting it. It's also recognition for my family and I understand how much that means to them. And I understand that this is a transformational experience for them as well. For instance, my mom has taken up classes at the local community college to hone her English skills."

César said her experience in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was aided by the encouragement by mentors and professors who answered questions and encouraged her to take on new opportunities, while helping to make sure she stayed on track. Reflecting on her journey, she said her choices have always been intentional and driven by passion.

"I don't take on opportunities just for

the sake of doing it. It's all because I really care about the Latino community. I really care about moving forward great work here in the state of Arizona and ensuring that students who come from families like mine or students who wouldn't typically have access to the opportunities that I've luckily had here at ASU, have it in the future and are connected and can find those resources as well."

César answered questions about her experience at ASU.

Question: What was your "aha" moment, when you realized you wanted to study the field you majored in?

Answer: I grew up here in Arizona during the era of SB 1070. I have undocumented family members and that kind of served as my call to enter not only the political sphere but also advocacy and organizing. So I knew just from my experiences, and I think from the experiences of my family members, that I needed to become engaged. I really felt the necessity and a kind of responsibility to learn more about politics, specifically immigration policy and economics and how that impacted my family and members of my community. So political science and transborder studies really helped me to hone those interests and to develop my goals as a young advocate.

Q: Did you encounter any challenges coming to or while attending ASU? If so, how have you overcome them?

A: One of the biggest challenges was funding and, as a first-generation student especially, I think just coming in not knowing how I was going to pay for my education was very difficult. But that challenge was overcome through different opportunities that I was able to apply to. I was able to apply to the ASU Sun Devil Family Association scholarship, the director scholarship with the School of Politics and Global Studies and the School of Transborder Studies scholarship. I was fortunate enough that those opportunities were there because I think that had it not been for that support, I would not have had the ability to go out and take on professional development opportunities through internships. I think that I would have been more focused on just working as opposed to studying and really developing professionally during my undergrad.

Q: What has been your best memory at ASU?

A: I'm a part of Kappa Delta Chi, a Latina founded sorority. We focus a lot on community service and academics. I think that just joining and being a part of that has been among my greatest moments as an undergrad at ASU.

— ASU, Page 19



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Council

From Page 3

the top 10 most inspirational woman in Arizona” for her dedication to people in need. She is active in Chandler and currently serves on committees in the mayor’s organization For Our City.

OD Harris is a U.S. veteran and entrepreneur who built a chain of 35 accounting firms across seven states before selling to a major competitor. He was recognized by *The Phoenix Business Journal* for his business acumen and says it is this type of budgeting experience the city of Chandler needs to recover from the effects of the pandemic. “His commitment to public safety, neighborhood improvement and security is strong, particularly with the traditional neighborhoods in Chandler without HOA protections,” said campaign manager Brian Fox.

“OD will ensure that our schools are properly funded, that the goal of the 1:1 ratio of students with access to computers and internet is met, along with a commitment for continued support for suicide prevention and training for our schools staff and administration.”


Rick Heumann, who previously served on the Chandler City Council 2009-2016, said he plans to put his eight years’ experience to work. The one-time Chandler vice mayor said he brings “expertise in dealing with the financial implications of the past great recession as we enter into unknown territory with the Covid-19 virus.” One of his goals includes renewing his work with the Chandler Education Coalition that he started in his previous terms.

“Also to make sure we are financially sound and make sure that city crucial services such as public safety are not disrupted,” Heumann said.

Jeremey McClymonds currently serves on the Chandler City Council and is seeking reelection. “I’ve learned that it will take vision and leadership to keep Chandler moving forward,” McClymonds said. “Chandler must prioritize innovation in all aspects of our community. We should seek innovation in our economy and move government out of the way so industrious entrepreneurs can thrive.” He said he also favors prioritizing resources for police and fire “so they can protect our communities and supporting stronger neighborhoods for our kids as they will inherit the future of Chandler.”

Mark Stewart is a current member of the Chandler City Council seeking re-election. He is a small business owner and a nearly 20-year resident of Chandler, having relocated to Arizona from the Midwest with his college sweetheart in 2001. The couple raised their children in Chandler, sending them to schools in the Chandler Unified School District.

“I believe that it is important to place people above politics when making decisions that affect us,” Stewart said. “We are in challenging times, and I am confident my experience on council and business acumen will help Chandler find innovative ways to help all Chandlerites recover from this crisis and build on our foundation of community. Chandler leads on innovation, opportunity and I am committed to continuing to work hard to help Chandler thrive.”



RE-ELECT MARK STEWART

CHANDLER CITY COUNCIL

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- East Valley Partnership Board of Directors
- Chairman for the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee

Chambers

From Page 1

June 25 national town hall event, at which business and community leaders will discuss concrete actions that can be taken by government and the private sector to address inequality through education, employment, entrepreneurship and criminal justice reform.



TERRI KIMBLE

Anne Gill, president and CEO of the Tempe group, said that as a partner on the U.S. chamber's initiative, her organization will host local and industry dialogues to further the discussion.

"During this pivotal moment in our history, it is imperative that we bring community and business stakeholders together to collectively share perspectives and identify collaborative ways to bring about systemic change," said Gill.

Also, she noted that comments by Suzanne Clark, president of the national chamber body, were thoughts that could be considered by local business-supportive groups, such as her own Tempe organization.

Said Clark:

"The moral case for greater diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace is indisputable, and there's overwhelming evidence that greater diversity benefits the American economy, businesses, communities and employees."

According to Gill, the efforts of the national initiative will build on the work already undertaken by the Tempe Chamber to support goals set for education and workforce strategies, public policy and business development.



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Chandler doc beats the odds

Recovery leads to best Father's Day gift ever

A young Chandler physician who was given a nearly 100 percent death prognosis from COVID-19 has made an extraordinary recovery thanks to a last-resort, lifesaving medical intervention at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.

And, with timing involved in so many of life's unexpected events, it was just in time for Father's Day.

After nearly two months of being hospitalized, Dr. Karl Viddal was released from St. Joseph's and reunited with his family.

"I can't wait to see my wife and kids after spending almost eight weeks in the hospital. It's hard to believe this happened to me, said Viddal. "I'm young and without any past medical issues, and this virus nearly ended my life," said Viddal, 46, who was in top health prior to contracting COVID-19.

"The nurses and doctors have been incredible. They've literally saved my life. I'm so grateful to the medical team that cared for me. They literally had to navigate through uncharted waters. If it wasn't for their early interventions, I wouldn't have made it. They gave me a second chance."

Doctors are calling Viddal's recovery "remarkable" after he spent 28 days in a medically induced coma, 34 days on a ventilator and a total of 55 days in the hospital fighting for his life.

They credit a lifesaving intervention called ECMO for his significant outcome.

ECMO, for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, essentially takes over and does the work of failing lungs. Few hospitals have an ECMO program, resulting in Viddal being only the 32nd patient in the United States and the second in Arizona to be placed on ECMO therapy for COVID-19.

He spent 16 days on the device—more than any other COVID-19 patient on the lifesaving machine in Arizona.

Physicians said Viddal faced nearly 100 percent mortality within 24 to 48 hours if not for the immediate and lifesaving ECMO intervention. He's believed to be among the nation's most critically ill COVID-19 patients to make such a recovery.

"Using ECMO allowed us to rest Karl's lungs," said Dr. Raed Suyyagh, intensivist and medical director of the ECMO program at St. Joseph's Norton Thoracic Institute.

"It is a very specialized medical treatment and is only used after all other conventional treatments have failed. We were going to do everything possible to help Karl fight this illness."

Rapid decline raises alarm

Viddal, a family practice physician, began experiencing flu-like symptoms days after returning from a trip abroad in March. Within days, his health began to rapidly decline and he was admitted on March 22 to Dignity Health Mercy Gilbert Medical Center.

The illness was already so deep in his lungs that it did not present in his nasal cavity for some time. As a result, he had three false-negative results before testing positive for COVID-19 through a bronchoscopy specimen.

While at Mercy Gilbert, Viddal relied on a ventilator at maximum support to help him breathe due to severe pneumonia caused by the virus. The medical staff at Mercy Gilbert called on the experts from Norton Thoracic Institute as the condition of Viddal's lungs continued to worsen and it became clear he needed a higher level of care.

"Dr. Chirag Patel, one of our Norton surgeons at Dignity Health, went to Mercy Gilbert and placed Karl on the EMCO machine, and then helped a skilled team from Norton coordinate the state's first ECMO transfer from Mercy Gilbert to St. Joseph's," said Dr. Ross Bremner, thoracic surgeon and director of the Norton institute.

"This kind of transport is incredibly complex, but it is something our team has experience with because of our lung transplant program."

In addition to the ECMO treatment, Viddal also underwent repeated prolonged bronchoscopies and had a tracheostomy and a chest tube placed while hospitalized. Suyyagh, the hospital's ECMO director, said these additional procedures may have been largely avoided at many other medical centers due to the higher-risk for staff exposure to the virus.

"Thankfully, we had the proper PPE and re-designed intubation boxes for the team to safely perform these ul-

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timately lifesaving tasks,” he added. Viddal was also given two doses of a drug commonly used for rheumatoid arthritis, tocilizumab, to help treat the pneumonia.

“It was hard comprehending what happened to me when I became conscious. I woke up and I was paralyzed, unable to speak,” Viddal explained.

“I feel blessed to have such incredible nurses and doctors. They never gave up on me and I am optimistic I will make a full recovery.”

Once off the ECMO machine and the ventilator, Viddal was transferred to the hospital’s inpatient neuro-rehabilitation program managed by St. Joseph’s Barrow Neurological Institute. After less than two weeks of intensive physical and occupational therapy, Viddal regained enough strength and balance to safely walk on his own again and return home.

“Karl is a true warrior,” said Viddal’s wife, Alyssa Viddal. “The kids and I have been counting down since he started rehab. After 55 days in the hospital, we can’t wait to have him home.”



A FATHER’S DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER

After two months of hospitalization and a nearly fatal struggle against COVID-19, a family doctor and father of three young children will celebrate a poignant Father’s Day with his family. As a patient at two area Dignity Health hospitals, Dr. Karl Viddal spent 34 days on a ventilator and 28 days in a coma. He praised the work he received from doctors and nurses whose efforts saved his life.

– Photo courtesy Dignity Health

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Tempe Streetcar



*Photo essay by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News*

Construction on Tempe Streetcar continues as workers labor along the University Drive and Mill Avenue intersection. Crews are also working along Dorsey Lane at Apache Boulevard. Most of the track has been installed along Mill Avenue and the Apache curve. A project of Valley Metro, Tempe Streetcar will serve one of the highest transit ridership centers in the region. The line will connect riders to neighborhoods, major business centers, and regional events and destinations. As the Valley's first modern streetcar line, it will add to the comprehensive transit network in Tempe, which includes buses, circulators, light rail, bicycle and pedestrian amenities. Streetcar vehicles are smaller than light rail vehicles and operate individually, not linked together like trains.







Kyrene schools chief outlines roadmap

Students to return July 30; new safety measures, masks required

Editor's note: As the pandemic continues to unfold, Kyrene Superintendent Jan Vesely issued a statement relating the safe return to school, now scheduled for Thursday, July 30.

The text of that message follows.

Thank you all for your thoughtful comments, phone calls, messages of support, questions, and concern for your children these past three months.

As we shared with you in our message last week, announcing Kyrene's framework for a Safe Return to School, our plans are flexible and will continuously evolve to adapt to the trends of the COVID-19 pandemic. All decisions are based on evidence and expertise, not on opinion or ideology. We recognize the need for uniform parameters and considerations that are specific enough to be actionable, but broad enough to be flexible.

Our goal is to safely re-introduce all of our students to a safe, healthy, and engaging learning environment, whether in person or remote.

Face Coverings

I would like to share with you an update on Kyrene's plan regarding face coverings (masks) in schools. Arizona

is currently experiencing a surge in community spread of COVID-19.

Based on the increasing rate of infection in Arizona and in Maricopa County, specifically, Kyrene will require face coverings when physical space does not allow students and staff to maintain a safe distance of six feet apart.

This means masks must be worn in classrooms by all students (PreK-8) and staff.

(Exception: Any individual with difficulty breathing or who is incapable of physically removing the mask on his or her own will not be required to wear a face covering. Alternate methods of protection may be discussed.)

Students will not be required to wear face coverings during physical activities and when social distancing is maintainable, though they may voluntarily wear face coverings at any time.

Students may bring their own face coverings to and from school.

A limited supply of face coverings will be available at each school, for unforeseen loss or damage to a student's face covering.

Plastic face guards will not be required or provided but are permitted.

Common Questions

My team and I are currently working our way through hundreds of messages received in the past week alone, to identify the most commonly asked questions.

You can find new and additional information at kyrene.org/safestrong.

Our website is a responsive platform that can be updated constantly and will always contain the most current and accurate information.

Please bookmark www.kyrene.org/safestrong and check back often for updates.

If your question is not addressed today, please know it has been read and shared with the appropriate design group for consideration.

Thank you for your patience, as Kyrene School District leaders continue to work around the clock to plan for all possible scenarios.

We look forward to having our entire Kyrene family come together, in-person or online, to continue our important mission of student success for all, by providing engaging, challenging educational environments which promote and inspire passion for learning, leading, and achieving transformative life outcomes.

With deep gratitude for your kindness, passion, care, and commitment to returning our children safely to school.



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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



Racial equality: How one area school district will address it in the coming years

Wrangler News invited representatives of each school district in our Tempe/West Chandler coverage area to provide a 250-word description of how their district is working to incorporate racial equality into their classroom curriculum.

The following response was received from Megan Sterling, executive director of community relations for the Tempe Union High School District.

Tempe Union High School District has taken a methodical, dual approach to incorporating racial equality throughout its community, by doing work at both the organizational level as well as in the classroom.

Dr. Cliff Moon, TUHSD's coordinator of diversity and inclusion, works closely with textbook adoption committees to provide guidelines to a thoughtful, diverse approach in selecting textbooks and ancillary resources.

Dr. Moon also works with student groups who wish to address and discuss diversity, as well as designing professional development workshops for teachers and staff around diversity and cultural inclusion.

These workshops for teachers assist them in their efforts to bring equity and inclusion into the classroom experience.

The District has partnered with a local university to bring an interactive courtroom drama that explores the highly charged issues of race, class, religion and gender where the class is the jury and engages in discussion following the play.

Additionally, many teachers have begun to embrace restorative practices in the classroom and create a sense of community and support with the learning experience.

The district also continues to find ways to enhance curriculum by providing different experiences that support its commitment to embracing students from all backgrounds and creating a supportive and inclusive culture.

While the most recent current events do indicate that there is always hard work and listening to be done in the area of racial equality, TUHSD is fully committed to ensuring that the importance of a diverse school environment and curriculum are valued by all in its community.

Tempe council to keep police at full funding, despite protest march

By Lee Shappell

When the Tempe City Council approved its 2020-21 fiscal-year budget on June 11, full funding for the Police Department remained despite efforts by several groups that banded together and marched on City Hall, hoping to divert some or all of the department's money.

City Council approved the \$777.6 million budget that includes nearly \$97 million for police. Officers in riot gear greeted the several-hundred marchers outside City Hall after their half-mile trek in triple-digit heat from Tempe Beach Park, organized by Black Lives Matter Phoenix Metro, Semillas Arizona, Young Democratic Socialists of America and Tempe Against Police Violence.

The gathering was peaceful and there were no arrests.

Demonstrators, acknowledging that the budgeting process was too far along to make drastic changes, sought to divert \$22.5 million in CARES Act pandemic relief funds from police to education, affordable housing, homelessness, public transportation and community services.

The attempt to defund the Police Department is consistent with a nationwide movement in the wake of the Memorial Day police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis that set off both peaceful nationwide protests but also rioting in many cities.

Tempe has been spared the violence.

Council members acknowledged an outpouring of requests to redirect money from the police.

Tempe Police Chief Sylvia Moir said officers are trained to uphold a high standard, including the sanctity of human life.

"The tragedy and the pain and the anguish of those moved by Mr. Floyd's death is very real, and that calls on all of us to examine equity in action and equity in government service and how we engage there," Moir said in an interview with *The Wrangler News*. "I'm not in the position of those who are marginalized but I certainly can understand their anguish and pain."

"I'm very concerned socially about what is occurring. And we've seen signs of

— POLICE, Page 20

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4th of July fun often includes sparklers, but one local eye doc cautions would-be users about potential hazards, and urges caution.
— Wrangler News file photo

Fireworks: Traditional family fun, but can be dangerous, too

Editor's note: This interview with Dr. Jon Konti first appeared in Wrangler News a few days prior to the 2016 observance of July 4th. It contained information that a number of readers said they found useful, so it is reprinted this year as a reminder to enjoy our national holiday—but be sure to do it safely.

As a 10-year-old growing up in the Midwest, Jon Konti remembers the anticipation that started weeks before the July 4th holiday—those big industrial-strength skyrockets set off at the hometown stadium, the secretly purchased Chinese firecrackers that some of his buddies somehow mysteriously acquired, even the hand-held sparklers that offered an always exciting, though presumably harmless, thrill.

That was then. In the ensuing 25-plus years, Konti no longer looks forward to what has emerged as the No. 1 day of the year for fireworks and, as a staggering byproduct, the horrific injuries that increasingly have become associated with them.

Now, as a practicing, board-certified ophthalmologist, Konti and his medical-practice partners know they'll likely have to face anguished parents and sometimes agonizingly burned children in Valley hospitals where emergency room doctors have sent out an urgent call for an eye specialist.

"You can't believe what we sometimes find when we arrive," said Konti, noting that even something as commonplace as a sparkler set off in the family's front yard can inflict life-altering injuries.

It takes only a quick search through Google's massive collection of eye-injury

images to acknowledge Konti's grasp of the severity that comes with our nation's infatuation with fireworks—a search, by the way, that we don't recommend to any with an aversion to viewing, close-up, the damage that can be incurred by something so seemingly innocuous as store-bought Bangers, Bouquets or Bombettes.

Since he has started volunteering for the recurring July 4th duty that takes him to East Valley hospitals, Konti says he has memories of cases where he was able to save the eyesight of a child because of his specialized training, sadly yet another where he had to remove a child's eye when it was beyond repair.

While indeed life-threatening injuries can result from some of the larger, commercially produced fireworks, Konti says the majority of cases he's called on to treat involve those seemingly innocent sparklers that kids have looked forward to as far back as most adults can remember, and no doubt beyond.

While he doesn't want to—and of course cannot—put a damper on families' enjoyment of one the 4th of July's mainstays, Konti advises parents to keep kids, who often are bystanders to locally bought fireworks displays, well away from any such activities.

"Some of those can be very dangerous," he warns.

To parents who don't want their kids to be deprived of one of the July 4th holiday's biggest attractions, Konti says there's one major safeguard they can keep handy—in addition, that is, to parental common sense: a pair of safety goggles, the kind that can be found in hardware, sporting goods and other stores.

"Even those inexpensive ones that can

ASU

From Page 9

I was able to find a support system that is much needed, especially when you're in advocacy and you're studying politics and all these things that are constantly changing. Just to kind of have that home away from home on campus, to have people who share your background, share some of your experiences and are really passionate about the same things ... I think that's been my greatest moment at ASU.

Q: What skills and/or what experiences have you gained from your time in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that will help you achieve your future goals in life?

A: The college helped me to develop the skills that I needed to be successful at these internships and that I know I'll need beyond graduation in whatever pursuit I take on. It's also helped me to find the issues that I'm most passionate about by providing me with the opportunities both on and off campus to integrate myself into work that's already being done in areas like immigration or education policy. So it's been great in that sense. And then too, having mentors who have

guided and paved the way for me to be able to take on these opportunities.

Q: Which professor taught you the most important lesson while at ASU?

A: Dr. Simhony. From the first class that I took with her, she always encouraged all her students to be prepared and bold and to ask critical questions both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. And then in my work with her as a junior fellow, she really pushed me to be bolder in the questions that I would ask or to really challenge myself and push outside of my comfort zone and how I was questioning some of the concepts that we were discussing in class.

So her advice, it's really helped me not just in the classroom, but I've found it helpful in how I interact now with my coursework and approach professional development opportunities. She really encouraged me to be more confident and bold.

Q: What's the best piece of advice you'd give to those still in school?

A: Pursue the things that you're passionate about with no reservations. ASU has so many resources and opportunities for engagement so don't be afraid to just show up. I think it takes initiative from us as students to become involved and to really contribute to campus, don't be afraid to do it.

I think that held me back for a little bit and then the second that I was able to realize that nobody was judging me for wanting to be involved — that in fact people are very welcoming — that really helped me.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: It's still in the works as of now. I know I'm participating in a summer institute with Duke law, taking courses on law and public policy and how the laws apply to specifically Congress and then the administrations. I also have received an offer with the U.S. House Judiciary Committee staff to be a legislative fellow but haven't accepted yet. I think ultimately I really want to take the next year to prepare my law school applications and to really hone my skillset and advocacy, specifically with immigration policy, so that I can be as best prepared to serve in the future as I can.

Fireworks

From Page 18

be found in almost any hardware store are better than nothing at all," says Konti. Best bet, however, are those that incorporate polycarbonate resin into their lenses, since those typically offer a greater degree of protection.

As to where he stands among the nation's mainstream ophthalmologists, Konti travels in impressive company. The American Academy of Ophthalmology and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission present a unified front in the ongoing battle to reduce fireworks-related eye injuries.

A 2015 poll conducted by the Academy uncovered the not surprising fact that such injuries increased to 1,300 in 2014 from less than half that number in 2012.

As part of its efforts to minimize the long-term damage should an eye injury occur, Konti and the Academy offer these recommendations:

Seek medical attention immediately; do not rub your eyes; do not rinse your eyes; do not apply pressure; do not remove any objects that are stuck in the eye; do not apply ointments or take any blood-thinning medications such as aspirin or ibuprofen.

Summarizing the advice from Konti and other concerned ophthalmologists nationwide, let professionals produce your family's July 4th entertainment.

Otherwise, should you elect to stage your own home-grown show, maintain a safe distance, use common sense and don't forget the margin of eye-protection that comes with using safety goggles.

Reminds Konti: A few simple precautions can help prevent a lifetime of regret.

Dr. Jon Konti is board-certified ophthalmologist with Ophthalmic Surgeons and Physicians, a long-established and highly regarded medical practice at 3200 S. Country Club Way, Tempe. Phone: 480-839-0206.

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Police

From Page 17

it even in Tempe, about giving people time and space to vent in places where it's inappropriate, but I don't think we can just allow people to vent grievances and frustrations in ways that lack dignity and respect."

Racism lives, Moir acknowledges. Police brutality lives. Opportunism that turns peaceful grieving into violent confrontations also exists, she says. Moir said she understands that people are angry and they're venting years of perceived systemic wrongs, foremost being racism and police brutality.

Moir also acknowledges that some of the marchers' complaints are valid. Officers in her department have been taken to task over several incidents in which suspects have died or were injured by perceived heavy-handed police tactics.

"Every isolated incident gives us opportunities to examine where the system or the individual failed," Moir said. "Our policy guides us to render aid after force is used as immediately as possible. That is part of our training in Tempe and essential to who we are."

"We have experienced tragedies. We own them. We will not forget them, and we will not forget what damage might have been done to the trust we have built in the community."

Casinos will aid nonprofits

Gila River Hotels & Casinos—Wild Horse Pass, Lone Butte and Vee Quiva—are accepting submissions from Arizona nonprofits for jackpot funds, applications for which will expire at 5 p.m. July 6.

Arizona 501(C)(3) nonprofit organizations that are recognized by the IRS and that enhance the lives of Arizonans through educational programs and children's welfare will be eligible for consideration.

Selected applicants and the total available funds will be finalized by the end of October, and recipients will be recognized at the annual Gila River Cares Night of Giving.

Last year, more than \$74,000 was distributed across five nonprofits, including UMOM New Day Centers, Kids in Focus, Foundation for Blind Children, Beyond Autism and Hope Community Services.

"We are committed to continuing our philanthropic reach by supporting nonprofits in our state as they strive to meet the needs of the community," said Teaya Vicente, the club's public relations manager.

"More than ever, we understand that our support is vital, and we are excited to begin the search for our next round of recipients."

To apply and see qualifications, nonprofits can fill out the online application at playatgila.com/self-excluded-jackpots.

Q&A with Sylvia Moir

Our writer goes one-on-one with Tempe's police chief

Editor's note: Our writer Lee Shappell interviewed Tempe Police Chief Sylvia Moir for our last issue regarding the use of force and the recent racial unrest in response to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The following is a continuation of that Q&A. To read part one, visit wranglernews.com

Part 2 of Q&A

Q: As rioting and violence spread across the country, where peaceful daytime marches against racism and the technique used by the Minneapolis PD give way, do you believe this is all really about Mr. Floyd?

A: The tragedy and the pain and the anguish of those moved by Mr. Floyd's death is very real, and that calls on all of us to examine equity in action and equity in government service and how we engage there. I'm not in the position of those who are marginalized but I certainly can understand their anguish and pain.

But at night, it's a criminal element that is opportunistic. I entered policing in July of 1988. Much of the social anguish is in my DNA, my history. And being in California, I'm informed by the Rodney King riots, when LAPD gave up ground at Florence and Normandie. We learned from that. Their focus was it's just property crime, let's focus on people. What we learned is that when one property crime is ignored the symbol of the

institution is on fire. To give up ground and you don't protect property empowers and emboldens a criminal element. People died after that. Businesses were lost after that. There was harm done for days after that.



CHIEF MOIR

I clearly see the distinction between our constitutional imperative as police officers to give people space and safety to protest, and we have done that over and over. But to examine them through the same lens as those rioting at night is improper and it is a trap. I'm arguing that we employ tactics that are different.

We hold them accountable to the rules. The peaceful people deserve that.

Q: Did the Minneapolis PD cede credibility when it backed off and essentially sacrificed its 3rd Precinct building?

A: The symbol of the institution is gone and what is the result? I'm very concerned socially about what is occurring. And we've seen signs of it even in Tempe about giving people time and space to vent in places where it's inappropriate. I don't think we can just allow people to vent grievances and frustrations in ways that lack dignity and respect.

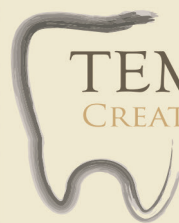
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DIVERSIONS

Big screens mostly closed but streaming part of 'new normal'

By M.V. Moorhead

The High Note—Tracie Ellis Ross plays a superstar pop singer. She'd like to work on new material; her handlers, led by Ice Cube, want her play to it safe with a Vegas residency. Dakota Johnson plays her put-upon personal assistant, who of course is an aspiring music producer. Kelvin Harrison, Jr. is the inexplicably obscure young musical prodigy the assistant falls for, and would also like to produce.

Although I don't know if audiences will (or should) share my reasons, I liked this movie, precisely because it was an undemanding big-budget indulgence; a pop-music story without a lot of drug use or other torturous, tire-some self-destructive behavior on parade.

Although Dakota Johnson is attractive and agreeable enough as the reckless heroine, the star performance is the charming, funny Tracie Ellis Ross; defiantly batty, mercurial and high-maintenance, but not a villain. Mostly thanks to Ross, *The High Note* stays on-key.

Streaming online, and playing onscreen at Roadhouse Cinemas in Scottsdale.

The King of Staten Island—Although undeniably funny in the right dosage, the Saturday Night Live comedian Pete Davidson never struck me as a having a broad range. But playing the semi-autobiographical title character in



Comedy-drama "The King of Staten Island" stars Pete Davidson.

this, his first star vehicle, he shows the ease and emotional accessibility of, well, a star.

Working from a script he co-wrote with director Judd Apatow and Dave Sirus, Davidson plays Scott, a 24-year-old stoner and aspiring—though not very promising—tattoo artist, living with his weary but doggedly upbeat widowed Mom (Marisa Tomei) in New York's persistently unglamorous Fifth Borough.

The son of a firefighter who died in the line of duty—Davidson's real-life dad died in the 9/11 attacks—Scott is funny, intelligent, likable, even charismatic, but also traumatized, stuck in adolescence, and quietly, almost unconsciously desperate.

Even for Scott, though, change is of course inevitable. His younger, better-adjusted sister (Maude Apatow) heads

off to college, and soon his Mom has started a relationship with another firefighter (Bill Burr).

Scott responds to it all with bursts of edgy anger—something like Adam Sandler without the mannered eccentricity—offset by a peculiar gentleness that suggests self-awareness and the potential for growth.

Like many of Apatow's movies—others include *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up*—this extremely foul-mouthed film meanders around at a dawdling clip, exploring subplots and secondary characters, setting up gags that will pay off far down the road, if at all.

Not everything works, but it's a natural approach for a movie about an aimless hero, and we keep rooting for him.

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3 MCC faculty recognized for excellence in student survey

Many students from Tempe and West Chandler attend Mesa Community College and, like many of their counterparts nationwide, they often check online reviews of instructors and professors before signing up for a course.

This month, Cisco Networking Academy recognized three MCC computer information systems faculty based on reviews each received from students. The faculty members honored are Steve Bowes, Bob Samson and J.B. Files.

Bowes and Samson are Cisco Experts (top 10 percent of instructors worldwide); Files is an Advanced Level Instructor (top 25 percent of instructors worldwide) based on student feedback.

All three received positive comments from student survey questions concerning instructor presentation ability, participation encouragement and how confidently the students would recommend the class to another peer.

"It was a great honor to be recognized by Cisco. It is both satisfying and rewarding to be awarded based on feedback from our students; to know that we are doing the right things to educate current and future generations of potential employees for the digital workforce," Bowes said.

This is the second such honor for Samson, who was first selected by the institu-

tion in 2017 with a Cisco Network Academy Above and Beyond Award for his continued efforts creating sustainable and positive impacts in his community.

"I love teaching and seeing the difference that it makes in the lives of our students and their families," said Samson. "They motivate me to do my best and not let them down. It is an honor to share these recognitions with two such talented and dedicated individuals as Steve Bowes and J.B. Files."

Files, who certifies upper level Cisco Networking Academy instructors and earned expert and advanced awards five times prior, speaks a word of advice to anyone looking to earn an excellence award for themselves.

"It takes dedication to earn these awards each year while keeping up with the ever changing requirements of the industry. For instructors that strive toward the Instructor Excellence awards, there is no one silver bullet," Files said. "But, instructors that shine take the time to know the material inside and out."

Cisco technology courses are available at MCC under the guidance of these recognized instructors and other qualified staff. Information: mesacc.edu/programs/fields-of-interest/computer-information-technology.

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WE HEAR YOU

Facebook and WranglerNews.com feedback on our June 6 article regarding Valvoline coming to South Tempe

I feel like if other developers were interested in the lot, they should have submitted a development plan. Obviously, it's a great lot for Valvoline and not so much for other developers.

—David Palmer via Facebook

I don't think we necessarily need another Lube/Oil/Filter shop. That land could be so much better used to help our property values.

—Brian Sears via Facebook

I'm fine with the decision. Private property rights are one of the laws of our land.

—Tom Sands via Facebook

I understand this use was within existing Tempe zoning. A gas station was there before. It is next to a tire shop. It makes sense. No objection.

—Lee Jacobs via Facebook

Remember this at election time, neighbors. Jennifer Adams was the only council member fighting for us! Thank you for your concern, Jennifer.

—Karen K. Polick via WranglerNews.com

The solution for the neighborhood is easy: Do not spend your money at this establishment and encourage your neighbors to do the same. All they care about is money and you have the power to take that away from them.

—Brit Foster via WranglerNews.com

So how is the Valvoline any different from the gas station/auto repair shop that used to sit on the site? And the tire shop directly to the south of the site? I mean really?

—A. Hope via WranglerNews.com

If you want a Sushi restaurant there, buy the property and it will be yours to do as YOU please.

—Curtis Wood via WranglerNews.com

I was a regular at McClintock 76/Shell. They were a gem in the community. Let's hope Valvoline follows suit. Discount Tire is next door and they are great as well.

—Peter Graves via WranglerNews.com

Thank you Councilwoman Adams for fighting for us. What we really could use in this area is an Equine Feed and Tack store.

—Kimberly Woodward via WranglerNews.com

LETTERS

As a South Tempe resident since 1992, I find it appalling that our City Council completely ignored the wishes of local residents by quietly voting on May 27th to allow Valvoline to develop its store at McClintock and Warner Rd. Neighbors made it abundantly clear, using the Character Area Plan, as a basis for the opinion that the store is unwanted at that location. And yet, members of the Council have chosen to violate the trust of the community it represents.

I hope that the voting public will remember this when the terms of these council members are scheduled to end and not re-elect them.

—Susan Stenson

Wondering about something going on in your neighborhood? Have a story idea for us? See something you like or don't like in Wrangler News? Let us hear from you!

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Tempe Chamber of Commerce Announces Partnership with U.S. Chamber of Commerce Equality of Opportunity Initiative

On June 9, 2020 the Tempe Chamber of Commerce announced its partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on a national initiative to address inequality of opportunity in areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship, and criminal justice reform.

The Tempe Chamber will participate in the U.S. Chamber's nation-wide town hall event on June 25th to discuss action items that can be taken by government and private sectors to address inequality. As a partner on this important initiative, the Tempe Chamber will host local and industry dialogues to further the discussion.

"During this pivotal moment in our history, it is imperative that we bring community and business stakeholders together to collectively share perspectives and identify collaborative ways to bring about systemic change," said Anne Gill, President and CEO of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. "As Tempe business leaders, we have an opportunity to offer support and help remove barriers, so that we can generate equality in education, employment, entrepreneurship and criminal justice."

"The moral case for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace is indisputable, and there's overwhelming evidence that greater diversity benefits the American economy, businesses, communities and employees," said U.S. Chamber President Suzanne Clark. "We are proud to partner with Tempe Chamber on this initiative and help develop a robust plan of action."

The work of this national initiative will build upon the work already undertaken by the Tempe Chamber to support programs in diversity and inclusion, education and workforce development, public policy, and business development.



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Tempe pursues new initiative to create opportunity for all

The Tempe City Council has agreed to explore the formulation of a plan to address opportunity gaps in underserved families that put the city's youth at risk.

The aim is to evaluate and address some of the underlying, systemic issues that are the root causes of underserving and disenfranchising communities of color, especially youth. The idea, being dubbed as "The Right to Breathe," was recommended by the city's Office of Strategic Management and Diversity after discussions with the City Council-appointed Human Relations Commission and African American Advisory Committee.

It was conceived during the course of discussions with the city's advisory groups following the horrific killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of four police officers.

In the recent past, Tempe has experienced tragic and high-profile incidents involving people of color. Therefore, the Mayor and City Council believe that these local and national events have compelled them to act to find Tempe-specific ideas to combat systemic racism in all areas of our community.

The City Council will soon consider a contract to hire a consultant, selected through a competitive process, to perform a "failure analysis." This examination will attempt to identify data and factors that contribute to negative outcomes for youth in Tempe, ranging from truancy to police encounters. It will analyze the impacts

of factors like poverty, racism, lack of access to education and healthcare, substance abuse, mental health, childhood traumas and more.

The resulting analysis is expected to point to specific issues and gaps where the city can address the systemic problems that affect its youth. With community brainstorming around these issues, to include school districts, non-profit groups, our faith-based community and others, a comprehensive plan to address opportunity gaps will be developed. City employee groups and departments also will review this plan and contribute to suggested actions.

The Right to Breathe initiative is one of several actions the Council is taking. For more information about Tempe's diversity and inclusion efforts, visit tempe.gov/diversity.

2020-21 city budget

Conversations with the community, employees and City Council about the fiscal year 2020-21 budget took place in June and were anticipated to continue into July.

The new fiscal year starts July 1. The coronavirus pandemic has prompted economic impacts in Tempe and around the country. In Tempe, we are seeing reduced tax revenues of various kinds.

City departments proposed budget adjustments in order to accommodate expected lower revenues during 2020-21.

You can stay up to date about budget planning by visiting tempe.gov/BudgetPlan.



Is your pet monsoon ready?

Storms can be scary, especially for your furry friends. Follow these tips to keep your pet safe this monsoon season:

- Make sure your pets are safely inside before sand, thunder, lightning or rain hit – this can prevent pets from running off or getting sick.
- Be sure your pet is microchipped or wearing a collar in case your pet does escape – this can increase chances of being reunited.
- Pick up pet poop before a storm hits – pet waste is full of bacteria and pathogens, if it gets into storm drains it could pollute our water supply. Find other monsoon tips at tempe.gov/monsoon.

Popular Tempe summer programs go virtual

Two of Tempe's popular summer programs for youth have gone digital this year.

Summer Reading is underway at Tempe Public Library, where kids can track their reading to earn points and prizes. Register at tempepubliclibrary.org/SummerReading. Tempe History Museum launched a virtual version of Tempe Time Machine, featuring *Video Games Through the Decades*. Throughout June and July, explore vintage, retro and modern video games with online playable versions.

Take part in crafts and activities at home and stay tuned for an announcement about a live game competition later this summer. Weekly themes are announced every Wednesday at Tempe.gov/TimeMachine.

Tempe is here to help you with monsoon clean up

Worried about downed trees and other debris during monsoon season? Tempe's solid waste and recycling team can help. We offer residents a 10 percent discount on roll-off rentals.

You can take all your downed trees, shrubs and other green organics to our compost yard at 1001 N. Rio Road.

Residents can also request a Bulk Trash or Green Organics pickup outside of their regular schedule for a fee. Call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311 for current prices or to schedule a pickup.

www.tempe.gov

tempe **311** One Call to City Hall

City of Tempe

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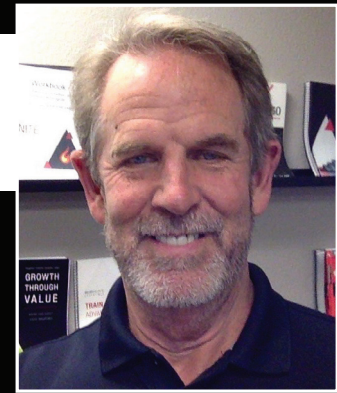
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Patti Agnew

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