

# WRANGLER NEWS

SEPT 12-25, 2020  
VOL 30, NO 17



**TO GRANDMA, WITH LOVE**  
Ruby Montoya's great-grandson, Jameson  
Weise, helped her and others at Desert  
Marigold Senior Living celebrate an early  
Grandparents Day. **MORE ON PG. 12.**

*Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman*



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Exterior shot of new Postino Wine Cafe at Warner & Rural roads while finishing touches were still being completed inside.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

## Postino due to celebrate its long-awaited opening on Sept. 16

By M.V. Moorhead

January seems like a decade ago, so you may be excused if you've forgotten what big news it was at that time that Tempe Public Market Café was closing.

This was quickly followed by the news that Postino Wine Cafe would be taking over Public Market's location on the northwest corner of Rural and Warner roads.

Then, of course, came COVID-19, and all those best laid plans were put on hold. And, by us in the public, largely dismissed. But now Postino South Tempe is back on track, and slated to open to the public on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

This isn't, say the owners, just another clone of the popular wine bar, launched originally in Phoenix's Arcadia neighborhood in 2001 in the shell of an old post office (hence the name). The décor of Postino's South Tempe location will pay homage to the city's skateboard culture as well as its celebrated indie music scene, through concert posters donated by Stinkweeds owner Kimber Lanning.

Local artists such as Josh Rhodes and Fort Guerin will be represented on the walls, and a midcentury modern vibe is established through a hostess stand repurposed from a '60s-era cigarette machine used in the TV show

"Mad Men."

Sadly, of course, the pandemic is far from over, but the owners claim that the new Postino arrives armed for the fight: roll-away windows to allow indoor-outdoor dining and thus expanded room for social distancing while eating and drinking in.

The increasingly important carry-out side of the operation will feature "contactless mobile payment, designated curbside parking spots, and steel fabricated way-finding signage to guide guests seamlessly through the pick-up experience."

We are told that the place "proudly pours a wide variety of Arizona craft brews, paired with an ever-changing selection of approachable boutique wines, including more than 30 wines by the glass." Five-dollar mimosas are served with weekend brunch, and there are weekday happy hour specials.

As it happens, I rarely drink wine or beer. Or mimosas. So all I could do to evaluate Postino was to spend much of last week eating their food. To get an advance peek, I went to the Arcadia location, South Tempe not yet being available.

I started with a lunch combo of the roast beef sandwich on focaccia—juicy, done but not overdone meat topped with the impressively-named crescenzastracchino

cheese, paired with Postino's "Soup of the Moment"—in this case a lovely, light Tuscan-style chicken.

Day Two's lunch also had an idyllic Italian theme: Tuscan Tuna, coarse-ground fish with white cheddar, pickle and a surprisingly spicy dijonnaise.

On a third visit, I had a bowl of French onion soup, with no cheese blanket on top, just a piece of crostini floating in the broth which was splendidly savory. On the side, I had a succulent chicken skewer for a nod to protein.

My companion had the Nine Iron, sliced grilled chicken on focaccia with straciatella, tomatoes and greens. Satisfying as a good golf swing (so I've heard).

Rounding out these meals were Postino's three tempting dessert choices. There's Chocolate Bouchon, warm ganache topped with vanilla bean ice cream, and a delicate and scrumptious crème brûlée. The most ambitious, however, is the salted caramel sundae, topped with chocolate-covered corn nuts and four architectural-looking pretzel sticks.

My conclusion, therefore, is that even if you never touch wine, there are plenty of good reasons to go to Postino.

*Postino South Tempe is at 8749 S. Rural Road. For details go to [postinowinecafe.com](http://postinowinecafe.com).*

# Human trafficking: The plight of being young, unwanted, unloved

*Special report by Lee Shappell*

**T**hey're young, confused, desperate and vulnerable. They're usually from difficult home backgrounds that left them seeking things they have long missed: food, shelter, money, affection, love.

And there are people out there who can't wait to prey upon them.

Human trafficking isn't foreign to Tempe and Chandler.

One need look no further than the major bust in January by a consortium of East Valley law enforcement entities, in which more than two-dozen people were arrested in a major human-trafficking bust.

On Aug. 24, a former University of Arizona football player who now lives in Tempe was indicted and then arrested on human trafficking charges on Sept. 4.

One alarming but not altogether surprising trend is that many of the victims have come through the foster-care system.

That is not a slam on Arizona's system, per se. It happens across America. Foster families are well-meaning, loving people who sacrifice to attempt to give children in bad situations a good home and a fresh start.

As well-meaning as they are, though, it doesn't always work.

And then, when young people time out of the system, they become particularly vulnerable to those who want to exploit them.

"Kids are generally not abducted here. Trafficking is different than snatch-and-grab kidnapping," said Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowich. "These are complicated

kids with complicated lives, so they're more likely to be trafficked than anyone else because they have more wants and more needs. Ninety-eight percent are vulnerable kids who get lured, so the trafficker could be male or female."

Roe-Sepowich, 48, of Phoenix, is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University. She is the director of the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research. Her expertise includes sex-trafficker profiles, establishing a prevalence of sex buyers and sex-trafficking victim prevention and intervention design. She is a consultant to police departments from Las Vegas to Phoenix to Tucson. She is regarded as the expert in the Southwest.

Roe-Sepowich said that there is an unmistakable trend among trafficking victims of a background in foster care. At least 85 percent have been in the system.

"When we talk about push factors that keep a person moving toward that victimization, foster kids have many more of those vulnerabilities, those red flags that make them more likely for a trafficker to find them," she said. "One of the pieces of trafficking is that most 14-year-olds don't know how to go put an ad up or go sell sex on the

street. They are disconnected in many cases from their friends and family. They've been moved from school to school. We are working on that to make sure that kids in foster care get to stay in the same school to keep that social support, but that does not always happen."

Victims don't always come from impoverished families, according to Roe-Sepowich. She's seen girls who were daughters of police officers. One had a dad who was a pharmacist and a mom who was chiropractor.

"And we've had people whose moms were also trafficked and prostituted during their life," Roe-Sepowich said.

"There is no way that south Tempe kids, or Ahwatukee kids or west Chandler kids are in any way safer than other kids, especially with social media access and all the ways that people can find vulnerable kids. Traffickers will find them regardless of where they live.

"The vast majority of victims, more than 99 percent in situations where they're exchanging sex for something of value, do not have any power, do not have any other choices. That indicates victimization. We have had kids as young as 11 or 12 in our community who have been trafficked and kind of sold on the market."

From her research, Roe-Sepowich said that among those trafficked before age 18, the average age is about 14½. When considering all victims, the average age is about 23.

In 2017-18, one in 20 men over age of 18 in Maricopa County were looking for sex online, according to Roe-Sepowich.



Dominique Roe-Sepowich

“So there are about 70,000 sex buyers looking for sex online each day,” Roe-Sepowich said. “It’s pretty terrifying.”

And it’s a thriving business.

Court records show that former University of Arizona football player Smith was arrested in Tempe this month on a grand jury warrant charging sex trafficking, pandering, receiving earnings from a prostitute, money laundering, conspiracy and illegal control of enterprise.

Smith is accused of using constant surveillance and threats of retaliation to keep a victim. He is being held on \$100,000 bond. His arraignment is Sept. 10, according to court documents.

In January, 27 men were arrested as part of a multi-jurisdiction undercover sex crimes operation, Operation Silent Predator, which included police in Tempe and Chandler, along with Homeland Security Investigations and the Arizona Attorney General’s Office to target the demand for child sex crimes and human trafficking.

Officers and undercover detectives placed ads on websites and apps commonly sought out by suspects seeking illegal sexual contact with children. The arrested men, ranging in age from 21 to 69, were accused of making arrangements to meet a child for sex.

Global Connections International, an organization that focuses on educating the public on human trafficking, estimates that more than 40 million people around the world are victims of sex-trafficking. According

**Oftentimes,  
(the) victim feels  
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opportunity.**

— *Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowich*

to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, many of these victims come from the foster-care system. A GCI report said that in 2018, 88 percent of the endangered runaways were identified as likely child sex trafficking victims missing from foster care or group

home placement.

Prevention, therefore, is the No. 1 goal, according to Roe-Sepowich.

“Stability, poverty, addiction, gang membership, homelessness, being a runaway – all of those things we can support in other ways,” she said. “Oftentimes, (the) victim feels they don’t have any other choice, and someone offers them this thing that feels like an opportunity.”

Those who’ve aged out of the system at 18 are especially vulnerable.

“They’re still young, and that’s a big concern,” Roe-Sepowich said. “We’ve worked with some kids who didn’t know where they were going to go and they end up going back to their biological family --and then were trafficked by that family, which is probably one reason they were taken away in the first place.

“If you age out, you have an opportunity to stay engaged in our child welfare support system, Young Adult Program. We want kids to stay engaged. We want them to keep their caseworkers. We want them to stay connected to the system because there’s lots of support in that. Persons who turn 18 don’t suddenly have all the tools they need and they become extra vulnerable because they don’t have their needs met any longer. They don’t have housing and food and clothing. That is a push factor.”

For more resources, visit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at [missingkids.org](http://missingkids.org)



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# Make a splash at city parks, playgrounds

Tempe city facilities are continuing to reopen, using county, state and federal benchmarks to guide the process. As of Sept. 4, all neighborhood park playgrounds and outdoor exercise equipment were reopened to the community.

The city's splash pads at Esquer, Hudson and Jaycee parks also reopened, and Kiwanis Tennis Center resumed leagues, drop-ins, challenge courts and mix and match.

Kiwanis Park's fiesta playground and The Cloud at Kiwanis Park will remain closed until further notice due to their size and the potential to attract crowds larger than 50.

Several new guidelines are in place at playgrounds, splash pads and exercise equipment to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep residents safe:

- Stay 6-feet away from people who are not in your household
- Face coverings required for everyone age 6+ when physical distancing is not possible;
- Stay home if you are sick or feel symptoms;
- Wash or sanitize hands before, during and after use;
- Don't share personal items with people outside your household; and
- Consider returning later if playground is crowded

Residents are encouraged to visit playgrounds and splash play areas in their own neighborhoods and to return at a later time if a park amenity is too crowded.

Enhanced cleaning protocols are in place at all playgrounds and splash play areas, including multiple weekly cleanings.

New safety protocols are also in place at Kiwanis Tennis Center and court fees have resumed. Access to the courts has returned to normal, with players and guests entering through Kiwanis Recreation Center.

City-led tennis lessons are expected to resume at the end of September.

All city athletic fields and volleyball courts have reopened and can now be reserved. Ramadas are open and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Physical distancing guidelines must be followed at all times.

*For up-to-date information, visit [tempe.gov/reopening](http://tempe.gov/reopening).*



## Splish, splash . . . havin' a (wet & wild) bash

Splash pads, along with other fun facilities at Tempe city parks, are now open and ready to welcome back those who've been eagerly awaiting the arrival of at least a partial return to everyday life. — Wrangler News file photo by Billy Hardiman

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# 2020 Community Awards

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Kirsten Peregrina and her husband, K Watanabe, comfort their son Jacob who is battling cancer.

## Pinwheels for Hope spin awareness, \$9,200 so far for childhood cancer

By Janie Magruder

Kirsten Peregrina was relentless.

Something was wrong with her 2-year-old son, Jacob, whose symptoms grew from random vomiting and dizziness to lethargy and unresponsiveness. Peregrina took her son to a variety of physicians, sometimes two and three appointments a week earlier this year, but most downplayed the warning signs.

"I just would not accept that," she said.

A particularly bad spill on March 8 put Jacob in the hospital, where a CT scan revealed a mass in his brain. The boy immediately was airlifted to Phoenix Children's Hospital, and an MRI revealed a brain tumor wrapped around his brain stem.

Peregrina's child had cancer.

"It's one of those things you think is so rare," she said, "but it's only rare until it happens to your family. It's devastating."

Jacob had surgery two days later, and when Peregrina and her husband, K Watanabe, learned that months of chemotherapy and another surgery were required, they moved from Tucson to Tempe to be close by.

They were connected to Children's Cancer Network (CCN), a Chandler-based nonprofit founded by Tempe residents Patti and Steve Luttrell in 2004. The Luttrells had experienced

a lack of services and support when their own young son Jeff was diagnosed with leukemia.

Today, CCN annually helps hundreds of Arizona pediatric cancer patients and their families. Nearly \$5 million in gas and food cards, wigs, bus passes, health and wellness activities and other benefits have been provided, in addition to college scholarships for older survivors and research funds.

With September being Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, CCN is hosting Pinwheels for Hope, a virtual event aimed at rallying the community around the cause. The goal is to raise \$22,500 — \$25 for each of the 900 Arizona children in cancer treatment.

As of press time, \$9,200 had been raised, and donations are being collected through Sept. 30 at [childrenscancernetwork.org/pinwheels](http://childrenscancernetwork.org/pinwheels)

More than 300 Arizona kids are diagnosed with cancer each year, and the average length of treatment for the most common form, leukemia, is more than three years. The National Cancer Institute reports 15,270 children, from birth to age 19, are diagnosed annually in the U.S., and there are more than 600,000 childhood cancer survivors.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic, we've all experienced what cancer families experience



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Children's Cancer Network provides much needed support to families of childhood cancer patients like Jacob. — Photos courtesy Kirsten Peregrina

every day — the isolation, the fear of walking into a store,” said Patti Luttrell. “And it has raised our empathy quite a bit.”

Luttrell was invited to participate in crafting the 2020-24 Arizona Cancer Control Plan, a five-year strategy for preventing and fighting cancer in various populations. The goals for childhood cancer are to raise awareness, increase resources and build advocacy.

“The main reason childhood cancer is the most overlooked and underfunded area of all cancer research is that the numbers (of diagnoses) are small compared to the numbers of adult cancer patients,” Luttrell said. “The survival rate is improving (82 percent, depending on the cancer), but two-thirds of these kids have late effects that can be chronic and even life-threatening. So the impact on society is greater, even though the numbers are smaller.”

Peregrina's son has lost his hair, eyebrows and eyelashes, and is sometimes plagued by vomiting, weakness and fatigue. But Jacob is learning to speak,

and crawl and walk again, and his parents are taking this journey one day at a time.

“He’s been amazing,” she said. “He’s still laughing and playing, and he’s so resilient.”

Luttrell and CCN have provided the Watanabes with cleaning supplies, gas and food cards and arts and crafts and small toys for Jacob. But the support — from someone who knows what she’s going through — has been the biggest blessing.

“I’ve been thinking of what can I do when we are through this to help other families, like CCN does,” Peregrina said. “That’s what God is trying to show me.”

*Next month:* CCN has rescheduled its Run to Fight Children’s Cancer, postponed from April, as a virtual “Spirit Week,” Oct. 18-25. Run, walk, jog, bike, etc. in the 5K or 10K, help build awareness of childhood cancer and raise money for research, treatments, patient education and support services. \$45. [runtofightcancer.com](http://runtofightcancer.com).

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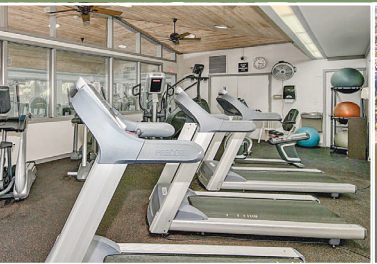
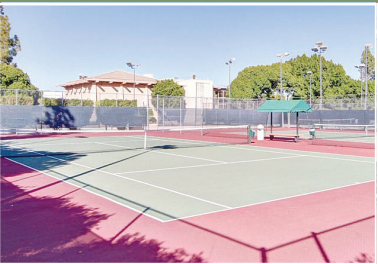




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Clockwise from left: Dave Dressel holds up a photo of his grandson's Eagle Scout celebration; Pat Munn recalls a trip she made six years ago to Congo to meet her adopted grandchild; Barbara Steinbeck treasures photos of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Samantha Rector and Tim Bogenreif of Desert Marigold helped organize the early Grandparents Day breakfast; Lottie Hofstetter shows off photos of her two grandkids and two great-grandkids.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

## It was their day. At this senior center they made the most of it.

**By Joyce Coronel**

*Editor's Note: With the Sept. 13 observance of Grandparents Day, Wrangler News headed to Desert Marigold Senior Living of Tempe to catch up with an array of grandparents. The newly named facility, once known as Westchester Senior Living, is a longstanding fixture in the community.*

Virginia Bresnehan remembers when the retirement community where she lives was first built 40 years ago. That's when she lived half a mile away and became a regular volunteer.

"I was here when it was Westchester and I started volunteering with a group from church. We put on the birthday parties over at the care center for over 30 years. I quit there just three years ago."

The 92-year-old once worked for the Kyrene School District and is the mother of eight adult children. She's also grandmother to 55 and offered sage advice to those new to the role of grandparent:

"Just keep loving all of them. I don't think anybody hates me and I think that's very fortunate," Bresnehan said with a grin.

Dave Dressel has two grandsons and two step-grandkids, a boy and a girl. He doesn't get to see them as they live out of state, but he's proud of them and says so, holding up a photo of one grandson's Eagle Scout ceremony. "He's 24 now and working on his doctorate at the University of Washington in

cancer research."

Dressel's best advice for being a grandparent? "Try to be a friend to them and create as many memories with them as you can. I remember taking them fishing on the Canyon River in Minnesota.

"This boy here," Dressel says pointing to the framed photo, "caught a huge fish. It's catch and release up there but we got a good photograph before we tossed it back."

Lotti Hofstetter held up a photo of her two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She says she loves being a grandparent.

"Everybody is so sweet and so good to me." A resident of Desert Marigold for the last seven years, she says she doesn't get to see her grandchildren very often since they live in Minnesota. Her advice for new grandparents is straightforward: "Just love the tar out of 'em."

Bobby Hoecck has two grandkids and great-grandchildren too, but they live in California. They connect with her via Facetime calls, including her in family celebrations.

"They'll call me so I can be with them to sing happy birthday and open presents. I can see their faces and I watched them look for eggs in their backyard at Easter." The children are a joy, she says, adding that she lost her husband in January after 65 years of marriage.

"The funny thing is that I'm 88 now and I don't have much energy. When I see these little girls, they are like (Energizer) bunnies, wandering around with just endless energy."

Barbara Steinbeck is a grandmother to eight children and great-grandmother to several more. She doesn't get to see the

grandchildren and great-grandchildren often since they live in Oregon.

She says she has special memories of the children as babies. Her best advice about grandparenting? "Just enjoy them," she says with a knowing grin.

"You know why grandparents and grandchildren get along so well? They share a common enemy!"

Billy Hardiman, Wrangler News' stalwart photographer and the eldest of a large family, considered Steinbeck's theory and offered his take:

"That may be true."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, visiting at Desert Marigold has some restrictions. Samantha Rector, Community Liaison Director, said visiting is limited for residents of the memory care and assisted living units.

"In our independent living, however, family members have been able to visit while wearing face masks as long as they have no signs or symptoms," Rector said.

Amador Ortega, Desert Marigold's executive director, said staff hopes to add additional services such as outpatient therapy.

"Our goal is grow our residents' lifestyles and have them remain as independent as possible through the foreseeable future," Ortega said.



# Briefly . . .

## Voodoo Daddy's comes a-live with music

Tempe is home to a bit of Cajun country and lovers of catfish, crab cakes, pulled pork plus po' boys and more are well-acquainted with Voodoo Daddy's Steam Kitchen on Elliot Road. Ambiance isn't limited to the colorful décor but often includes live music performances. Patrons will be treated to Cheryl Thurston's jazz and blues tunes Friday, Sept. 11.

Then on Saturday it's Mike Eldred, another jazz and blues musician.

Voodoo Daddy's, 1325 W. Elliot Road, is open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Information: voodooaddys.com

## Vision Gallery streams free art for kids

Chandler's Vision Gallery will offer a series of free art classes taught by professional artists for youth ages 6 to 16. Classes are streamed online on Saturdays in the morning (10 a.m.) and afternoon (1 p.m.), Sept. 19-Dec. 5.

All classes will take place virtually via Zoom.

The Vision Kids program provides children with the opportunity to work with a professional teaching artist to create a piece of art that represents their own creativity. Participants are given the means to develop important

avenues for self-expression and an understanding of the creative process as they learn techniques in a variety of media, including pencil, watercolor, ceramics, photography and more.

Several classes are created in conjunction with exhibitions on display in the Vision Gallery and The Gallery at the CCA in downtown Chandler.

"The Vision Kids program is designed to inspire children's creativity and empower them to integrate art into their daily lives," says Peter Bugg, visual arts coordinator for the city of Chandler.

"Students come from all areas of the Valley and represent a wide array of diverse backgrounds. We invite all to participate."

Vision Kids is a free program made possible through the support of the Chandler Cultural Foundation.

Space is limited. Register for the program or find out more at [visiongallery.org](http://visiongallery.org).

## Ostrich Festival postponed again

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a toll on local entertainment offerings.

The Chandler Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Steve LeVine Entertainment & Public Relations,

has announced the Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival scheduled for Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, will be postponed until March 2021.

The annual event dates back to 1988 and features live ostriches, national and regional entertainment, carnival rides, food and upscale arts and crafts.

"The Ostrich Festival has been a longstanding community tradition and a year without it is difficult for us to comprehend," said Terri Kimble, president/CEO of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce.

"Our main focus remains the well-being of our attendees, staff, vendors and all people involved in the festival.

"Because the state and federal executive orders on large gatherings are still in effect, the Ostrich Festival will be postponed until March of 2021. We look forward to bringing the community together again in March and can't wait to share more information on what's in store."

All 2020 tickets will be honored on the new spring dates.

Tempe's Four Peaks Oktoberfest and the Arizona State Fair, mainstays of the October local entertainment scene, have also been canceled this year due to the pandemic.

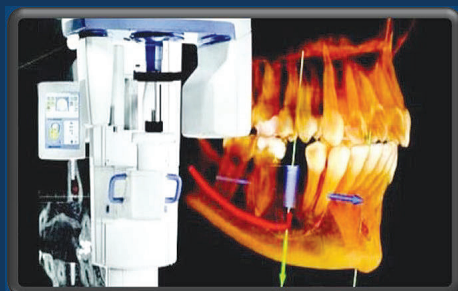
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 In the Costco Plaza Center, South side of Elliot between Priest & Hardy

# HEPA filters add a layer of safety as kids return to school

With a view to increasing safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, Kyrene Elementary School District's Governing Board has approved the purchase of HEPA air filtration systems for every classroom in Kyrene.

The board voted to approve the purchase at its Aug. 25 meeting, and filters are scheduled for installation prior to Sept. 17, when the first students will return for in-person instruction.

Individual Portable HEPA Filtration systems will be installed in classrooms, health offices and other areas across Kyrene's 25 in-person campuses, as well as the district office, providing an additional layer of health and safety to Kyrene's current mitigation plans.

"An important requirement for these filters is that they aren't a distraction in the classroom," Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely said.

"These machines are whisper-quiet, creating a safer environment without disrupting learning."

Kyrene selected the Bissell air400 Air Purifier, capable of capturing 99.97 percent of particles that are 0.3 micron or smaller.

In a study on the efficiency of HEPA filters, NASA found that filtration is almost 100 percent efficient at .01 micron, with the Coronavirus measuring at around .125 micron.

The air400 purifier is capable of recirculating air in a 1,200 square foot space, easily supporting Kyrene's standard classroom size of 1,000 square feet.

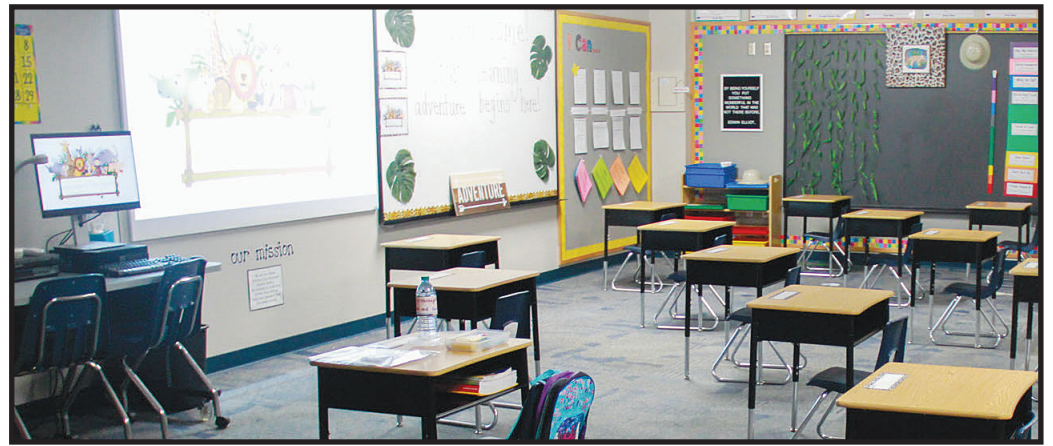
The district will cover the cost of the equipment—\$442,416 total—by allocating bond funds.

"Kyrene is grateful to have the support of voters in Tempe, Phoenix, Chandler and other communities within our boundaries," said CFO Chris Herrmann.

"This purchase is possible, thanks to voters who reauthorized the bond in 2017. Your dollars make our schools safer."

Air purification is just one of Kyrene's many safety initiatives for a safe return to school and in-person learning.

Information: [Kyrene.org/safestrong](http://Kyrene.org/safestrong).



A Kyrene classroom in which desks have been spread apart to allow for social distancing; a colorful sign in a restroom reminds students to wash their hands to fight germs; a large floor sticker advises students to stay six feet apart. Students are scheduled to begin returning to the classroom Thursday, Sept. 17.

— Photos courtesy Kyrene School District Marketing & Communications Services

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# Tempe Sports Complex one of two experimental sites for trial of organics



Lauren Kuby

*By Lee Shappell*

Have you ever taken a child or a pet to a city park to frolic and enjoy the outdoors, wondering what you might be exposing them to as they play on the grass?

Pesticides? Harmful chemicals from fertilizers and other maintenance products?

The folks at Tempe City Hall wondered the same thing, so they entered into a partnership to convert select city parks to a “green” maintenance pilot program, a nonchemical approach to turf and landscape management, with an eye toward converting all city parks.

Tempe Sports Complex and Dwight Park will be among the early adopters.

Tempe is teaming with Stonyfield Organic, Beyond Pesticides and Osborne Organics in the #PlayFree initiative, which aims to convert public parks and playing fields across the country to organic grounds management.

“We found that over 26 million kids play on parks and fields and that 65 percent of those fields are managed with a chemical cocktail of harmful pesticides,”

said Britt Lundgren, Director of Organic and Sustainable Agriculture at Stonyfield Organic. “To help make all parks and fields organic and free from harmful pesticides, we joined together with experts and advocates like Beyond Pesticides, Non-Toxic Neighborhoods and Osborne Organics to help communities and families across America take the necessary steps to manage fields organically and free from harmful pesticides.”

While nobody seems willing to say exactly what the program will cost the city, Stonyfield has made a \$5,000 donation to Tempe to support the conversion and arranged in-kind support from Beyond Pesticides and Osborne Organics. Safeway and Albertsons have committed to match Stonyfield’s donation of \$5,000.

Tempe Vice Mayor Lauren Kuby said that determining those costs is key to the Stonyfield grant process.

“We are eager to learn from the experience,” she said.

Lundgren said that with its many beautiful neighborhood parks Tempe is an attractive location to support local conversions and offer education resources through Stonyfield’s nonprofit, organic-maintenance partners. The Tempe team that applied for Stonyfield’s Community Donation was passionate and eager to make the community organic, she said.

Lundgren added that by Year 3 the benefits of managing fields organically become clear as healthy soil begins to do its work. “We have worked with our

collaborating organizations to develop a set of requirements for the communities we partner with that are based on the national organic standard,” Lundgren said. “Stonyfield’s program requires playing-field managers to start by using a systems approach to build healthy soil and deter pest problems. Stonyfield’s program prohibits the use of toxic persistent pesticides, synthetic fertilizers and genetically modified organisms.”

Building healthy soil by using organic amendments and compost, proper plant selection and cultivation, and monitoring to detect pests and weeds are keys to success of the program, which will begin this fall at Tempe Sports Complex Field No.1, 8403 S. Hardy Drive, and Dwight Park, 500 W. Manhattan Drive. The goal is to complete the transition to organic maintenance by July 2023.

Chip Osborne, president of Osborne Organics, Inc., and founder of the Organic Landscape Association, said that initial soil tests will determine cost. He estimates that the cost will be comparable or slightly higher initially. A reduction in cost occurs over time, he said.

“Conventional (chemical) programs largely focus on a product-based approach, where a variety of products are applied by calendar date to do specific things,” Osborne said. “Soil testing is not always part of that program.

It can oftentimes be a program that is quick fix. Materials for fertility can work very quickly and those used as herbicide-



Chip Osborne



Britt Lundgren





Tempe Sports Complex on Hardy Drive is home to athletic fields, a skateboard park plus other amenities and will be a site for organic maintenance starting this fall.

—Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

control products can do significant things in the short term.

“An organic program is systems-based. We have a goal of working to get the soil to a point where it will contribute in a greater degree to the health and productivity of the plant. We work through an organic system to sequester greater amounts of carbon over time and to gradually improve organic matter so that more water can be held in the soil and better water infiltration can take place.”

Organic programs begin with soil testing, which is expected to begin in September. A strong focus is placed on the soil’s biological life and the understanding that a healthy microbial biomass and healthy soil is central to success in an organic program.

Kuby said the city saw “a great opportunity to see the benefits and best practices for implementing organic land management” in the Stonyfield program.

“We selected a neighborhood park, whose turf is used more passively, and a sports complex’s lighted, multi-use field, that is used actively,” Kuby said. “Applying organic land-management efforts over both of these locations will allow us to determine what is needed to transition over a larger portion of the park system.

“Fundamentally, we want to be open to adopting the proven best practices so that present and future generations enjoy our parks and fields without threat to individual and community health.”

Tempe recently implemented a formal integrated pest-management program.

“We are proactive in managing our parks and fields,” Kuby said.

Osborne said that new equipment need not be purchased to implement the program. Appropriate equipment for synthetic-turf maintenance can be used for organic maintenance.

Osborne added that there are enough successes now to show that the organic-management program works. Universities are doing research on side-by-side trials with chemical management. Research shows that an organic program is not a quick fix but that if time is invested with a commitment to an organic protocol, in the long run organic can provide as much quality as a chemical program, Osborne said.

“We expect that both Dwight Park and Tempe Sports Complex will see a more-healthy overall soil and plant ecosystem, resulting in a more sustainable park and recreational experience to the passive and active park users,” Kuby said.

“I would love to see organic land-management practices applied to more and more city parks and properties. The Stonyfield grant allows us to gauge the costs, both for labor and materials, to plan for the future.”

# MCC hygienist students offer free dental screening series

For South Tempe resident Debi Sparks and healthcare professionals worldwide, maintaining dental health is one of the most vital aspects of protecting one's overall good health. That's why she's focused on a series of complimentary oral health screenings starting Saturday, Sept. 12, and continuing on a personalized schedule in weeks to come.

The program, being conducted by Mesa Community College dental hygiene students, is designed to recruit patients for follow-up services, especially those who have not received dental care for three years or longer or who have been diagnosed with dental health issues.

The screenings, scheduled at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, 5855 E. Still Circle, Mesa, will be available at 9 and 10:30 a.m. and noon and may be made by calling 480-248-8195.

Screenings are not comprehensive exams and treatment will not be provided during the event. Although the screening is complimentary, those selected as patients for the program will be charged for any customized oral health care services provided.

Screening participants must agree to have a full set of x-rays taken. Copies of x-rays may be purchased for \$20 and picked up the following week during hygiene clinic hours: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Said Sparks:

"Dental hygiene students only progress in their education through the participation of community



members through events such as this. The students' clinical requirements state that care must be provided for individuals who have been diagnosed with periodontal (gum) disease and never had it treated, have been told they need a deep-scale cleaning, or have other dental hygiene issues such as puffy and bleeding gums." Sparks is director of the MCC Dental Hygiene Program.

Some patients will be invited to participate in the program and will receive personalized fee-for-service care provided by MCC dental hygiene students. Students provide quality care using the latest technology under the

supervision of licensed dental hygienists and supervising dentists.

The MCC clinic provides a full range of dental hygiene services offered during convenient evening hours at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health Clinic, according to Sparks. To schedule an appointment outside of the screening event, contact the clinic at 480-248-8195.

Additional information about the MCC Dental Hygiene Program and the dental clinic is available online at [mesacc.edu/dental](http://mesacc.edu/dental).

Sparks noted that MCC's program offers a rigorous and intensive science-orientated program and is accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation.

She added that dental hygienists traditionally provide preventive and therapeutic oral health care to patients in a dentist-supervised work setting. Career opportunities are available in private dental offices and clinics, nursing homes, schools, post-secondary institutions, public health, research, and in private business.

The program is designed to help students who successfully complete the course of study to be prepared to obtain necessary licensure requirements and be eligible to take written and clinical exams necessary to obtain licensure in any state in the U.S.

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## Virtual memories will take the place of Tempe Exchange Club's Healing Field flag display this year



Volunteers have gathered at Tempe Beach Park in previous years to set up 3,000 flags honoring the lives of those lost on 9/11. Due to concerns this year over the inadvisability of large crowds, Exchange Club of Tempe is staging the observance as a virtual event. The broadcast will be found on the Healing Field Memorial Facebook page. At 5:46 a.m., the reading of the victims' names will begin. This is the time that the first plane hit on Sept. 11, 2001. Tempe Mayor Corey Woods and others will speak. Information: [tempehealingfield.org](http://tempehealingfield.org)

- File photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

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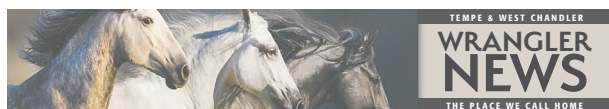
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Kyrene Corridor Residents

Announcements appearing in our Neighborhood Services section are placed by local business owners who want to be a reliable go-to source that you can trust now and in the future. Ads in this section appear in 6 consecutive issues at a cost of \$150, plus tax, which includes an accompanying classified ad at no additional charge.

Call 480-966-0837 for details. Note that ads appearing on this page expire with the date shown on your invoice. Please call 10 days in advance to ensure renewal.

## Hankerin' for an extra copy of Wrangler News?

Here's a partial list of the community-minded merchants and service providers who invite you to drop by their location to pick up a current issue. And, as long as you're there, take a moment to look around, say hello and tell them thanks for being part of our efforts to bring neighbors — and neighborhoods — closer together.

### A note to our neighborhood businesses

Would you like to add your location as a place where we could leave copies of Wrangler News in a wire rack or small desktop display for people who'd like to pick up an extra issue? It's a way to show your support for the community AND bring in visitors who may not have been there before. Just email [editor@wranglernews.com](mailto:editor@wranglernews.com) and we'll add you to our dropoff schedule AND to our newspaper listing. Just one more way to get your



Wire rack for Wrangler & other publications



Plexiglas desktop rack for Wrangler News

Kyrene School District, lobby, Kyrene & Warner, Tempe

Crackers, homestyle breakfast & lunch, outside rack, 1285 W. Elliot Road, Tempe

Tempe Union HS District, lobby, Guadalupe east of Kyrene

Mill Avenue rack in front of Hippie Gypsy, downtown Tempe

Tempe City Hall, lobby, downtown Tempe

Mill Avenue rack, east side, just north of Rula Bula, Tempe

Tempe Elementary School District, Rural north of Southern, Lobby

Tempe Public Library, Connections Cafe, Rural south of Southern, Tempe

Pier 54/The Lakes, On the Water, 5394 S. Lakeshore Drive, Tempe

Marcos de Niza HS, Main Office, Guadalupe & Lakeshore

Bogeys Sports Bar & Grill, rack near front door, Guadalupe & Rural, Tempe

Tempe Smile Design, periodical rack, reception area, Guadalupe & McClintock, next to Rubio's

Freeway Chevrolet, Always friendly, always great deals, Customer Lounge, 1150 N. 54th St., Chandler

La Casa de Juana, The best Mexican cuisine around, on decorated bench, lobby, 1805 E. Elliot, Pollack Tempe Cinema complex

Dairy Queen, top of rack, Home of the famous Blizzard, left of entry, Rural & Elliot, northwest corner

Sunset Library, 4930 W. Ray, Rural & Ray, Chandler

Arizona Central Credit Union, rack at front entrance, 1805 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler

Chandler City Hall, lobby, 175 S. Arizona Ave., Chandler

Chandler Chamber of Commerce, 2nd Floor, 25 S. Arizona Pl., Chandler

Corona del Sol HS, Main Office, 1001 E. Knox Road, Tempe

Arizona Community Church, all are welcome, receptionist, 9325 S. Rural Road at Knox

Great Harvest Bread, Like mom used to make, inside rack, Warner & McClintock, southeast corner

Seattle Espresso, outside rack, 1840 E. Warner Road, McClintock Fountains Center

Wrangler News office, 2145 E Warner Road at Price/101 Fwy. (Across from GoDaddy). Open M-F 9-5. Always glad to see you!

Ophthalmology Physicians & Surgeons — 3200 S. Country Club Way, just north of Southern, west side, Tempe.

**CALL US AT  
480-966-0837 FOR  
MORE INFORMATION.**

Commentary . . . by Jennifer Adams

## Take that extra load off your hips — and your mind — as summer's end nears

**W**e have nearly made it through another long, hot – hotter than normal! – summer in the Valley. This year, it was made even tougher with the pandemic, with fewer options for venturing out and about with other people.



Recently, I took my dog to the veterinarian and she said that, thanks to COVID-19, many pets – especially dogs – are now overweight. That definitely struck a chord with me, because if we humans have felt cooped-up over the last few months, imagine what our pets are feeling! I am determined to make the most of this fall by taking more walks with my sweet pup.

Since the weather will soon be cooperating, plenty of places are now opening up and several activities are happening. I want to give you some ideas for getting out, doing some exercise and having fun – all while following safety guidelines so you and your family can stay healthy.

Take a look at these options to help you make it a fun fall:

### Playgrounds and splash pads

This is some news that is sure to put a smile on the faces of Tempe kids: all neighborhood park playgrounds and the city's three splash pads at Esquer, Hudson and Jaycee parks have reopened to the community! We are so happy to welcome you back.

We believe we can safely reopen these amenities but need the community's help. Please follow all the guidelines posted on park signs. Stay 6 feet away from those who live outside your household. Wear a face covering. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend masks while playing in the water, but they are required on Tempe playgrounds for everyone ages 6+ if physical distancing is not possible.

### Stretch your legs

All city athletic fields and volleyball courts have reopened for reservations. Skills, drills and practices are welcomed, with new safety guidelines in place. Visit [tempe.gov/recreation](http://tempe.gov/recreation) for info.

Kiwanis Tennis Center is now open for drop-in, challenge court, mix & match, and league play. Classes will resume late this month. Visit [tempe.gov/tennis](http://tempe.gov/tennis) to learn more.

### Get artsy

I am happy to report that Arts in the Parks is returning this fall to Selleh, Harelson, Daley and Hudson parks. Residents in these neighborhoods voted for their favorite activity ideas. All will be staggered, held on different days, or spaced out to maintain physical distancing guidelines. Learn more at [tempe.gov/ArtsintheParks](http://tempe.gov/ArtsintheParks).

### Chow down

Downtown Tempe Authority and Shop On are offering two Fall Foodie Strolls on Sept. 19 and Oct. 17. You can stroll around downtown Tempe at your own pace and sample brunch and taco goodies while physically distancing. Get your \$5 access passes for either or both of the dates at [downtowntempe.com/2020foodiestrolls](http://downtowntempe.com/2020foodiestrolls).

### Virtual options

If you are not quite ready to get out and about, no problem. Many City of Tempe recreation offerings have gone virtual. Our fall classes are underway with a blend of virtual and in-person classes to meet your needs, on your time. Virtual classes include arts, fitness, adaptive recreation and more. In-person boating, martial arts and some sports classes are also available. Safety guidelines are in place for those. See all options and register at [tempe.gov/play](http://tempe.gov/play).

For all of the latest information on city operations, coronavirus data, masks and staying safe, visit [tempe.gov/coronavirus](http://tempe.gov/coronavirus) and [tempe.gov/recovery](http://tempe.gov/recovery). It is absolutely possible to mask-up and get out there safely this fall – I hope to see you!

As always, I enjoy hearing from you. Contact me anytime with ideas, feedback, neighborhood issues or city concerns. Contact me by phone at 480-350-8835 or via email at [jennifer\\_adams@tempe.gov](mailto:jennifer_adams@tempe.gov). You can also follow me on my City Council Facebook account (JenniferAdamsTempe).

*Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council.*



### Kiwanis Park

This beautiful home sits on a large corner lot and backs up to a large grass area at Kiwanis Park! You'll love the privacy of having no neighbors behind you and the convenience of walking out your back gate to enjoy everything the park has to offer. Featuring 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, 1573 square feet, a great floorplan, beautiful flooring, huge covered patio, RV gate, and no HOA, this is a nicely updated and well-maintained home. Opportunities like this one don't come around often!

**Call us to tour this home or see more photos at [www.3WestDuke.info](http://www.3WestDuke.info)**

**[KyreneCorridorHomes.com](http://KyreneCorridorHomes.com) 602-803-6425**

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## Ask the Expert

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### The Top 11 Home Inspection Items that Cause a Sale to Cancel

I do a weekly radio show on 550 KFYZ radio. As a host of a one-hour show on Maricopa and Pinal County real estate, I must prepare and have become a student of the real estate market. As a result, I know the current number of listings in our counties, the average price range and how many days to get a property sold. I am an expert in Real Estate, having sold over 7,000 homes in my real estate career.

So, you are thinking, I want to get my home on the market, but I am concerned with the home inspection. Maybe you have friends and neighbors who have sold a home and had a nightmare experience with the inspection process.

According to industry experts, there are at least 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection. I have identified the 11 most common of these and, if not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair.

*When you put your home on the market, you do not want any unpleasant surprises that could cost you the sale of your home. These 11 items are as follows:*

- 1; Roofing, even with tile roofs, the underlayment according to most licensed roofers have a lifespan of 15 to 20 years. This is one of the most common causes of buyers canceling a home purchase, roofing that needs to be repaired/replaced.
- 2; AC, many units may need replacement or repair. Be sure your AC has been serviced and is running at the correct temperature splits.
- 3; Defective plumbing.
- 4; Electrical circuits, electrical panels, GFCI outlets.
- 5; Inadequate wiring.
- 6; Structural/foundation problems.
- 7; Attic spaces, do you have adequate insulation.
- 8; Adequate security features, smoke detectors, window and door locks and seals on dual pane windows can be a problem.
- 9; Pool pumps, motors and heaters for pools and spas.
- 10; Deteriorated fascia board on patios and roofs.
- 11; Pests, termites, scorpions, and roof rats.

I can help you to better understand what to do to get your home market ready.  
Call me today for a no obligation consultation. 480-776-5231

**VISIT CarolHasTheBuyers.com**

*I am here to serve you and the needs of our community at the highest level.*

**Carol Royse, Keller Williams Realty East Valley**  
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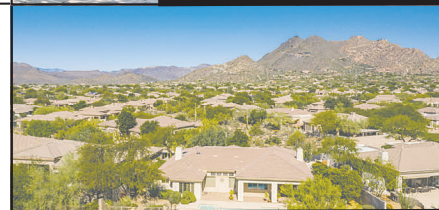
**Pheasant Ridge Tempe**  
Quality custom home with RV garage, oversized lot with pool.  
Parking for 7 cars!  
3800 sq/ft recent updates. No HOA!

**\$650,000**



**Great Interior Lot. No HOA**  
In Tempe. Stunning staircase leads into the formal dining and living areas. Kitchen overlooks the family room. Sparkling pool w/waterfall, Beehive gas fireplace w/seating plus a BBQ area.

**\$500,000**



**Terravita an Active Lifestyle Community**  
Views of Black Mtn & backs up to a natural desert preserve. Only 3 homes w/this open floorplan, perfect multi-generation home, large kitchen island, master suite w/sitting area & two-way marble fireplace. Community had a \$5 Million renovation to clubhouse – amazing activities for everyone.

**Call for Current Pricing**



**Gilbert**  
New wood-plank floors, 9 ft ceilings, 4" baseboards & crown molding throughout. Open concept w/split floor plan, island kitchen w/granite slab counters & upgraded cabinets. Water filtration system with R/O. Pebble Tech pool, travertine pavers & custom landscaping & low maintenance turf. 3 car tandem garage.

**\$469,000**



**Parke Tempe**  
Corner lot home, great-room floor plan, vaulted ceilings, great kitchen which overlooks the family room. Subdivision offers great parks. Near shopping centers, dining and freeways.

**\$350,000**



**Twelve Oaks - Chandler**  
Interior lot, large eat-in kitchen, stainless steel appliances, lots of tile, upgraded lighting. Spacious master suite w/walk-in closet and laundry room w/room for storage. Garage has epoxy floor & built in cabinets, large backyard. Kyrene school district.

**\$330,000**



**Semi-Custom Home – Gilbert/Queen Creek,**  
Over 3500 s/f this home features a spacious open floorpla. 12x24 tile plank floors, large island kitchen with Bosch kitchen appliances, 5 burner gas cooktop, upgraded cabinets & pendent lighting. Oversized master suite & a huge walk-in closet, media/game room. Enjoy the private courtyard w/pavers.

**\$665,000**