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Kyrene chief's planned retirement draws sadness, kudos

Praise abounds for her successes, milestones

By Don Kirkland and Joyce Coronel

The Oct. 2 announcement that Kyrene schools Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely will be retiring at year's end managed to evoke a nearly instant outpouring from those who say they'll be sorry to see her go. Remarkably, in times when virtually every public figure manages to find detractors, none came forward to cheer the news.

While the news came as a surprise to many, it appeared that board members already had been alerted earlier and were in preliminary stages of launching a search for Vesely's successor.

"We are incredibly sad to see Dr. Vesely go, but she has certainly earned her retirement," said board president Mike Myrick, who is not on this year's Kyrene ballot because he opted to run instead for a spot on the Tempe Union High School District governing board.

"She has been an exceptional leader for Kyrene, particularly in the last seven months, as she guided Kyrene School District through unprecedented challenges," he said.

In her regular monthly message emailed to Kyrene parents and community members, Vesely said the decision was based on this year's upcoming board election and her belief that a newly reconstituted governing body should have free rein to work with a superintendent of their choosing.

"With new members joining the Kyrene Governing Board in January, it would be appropriate

for a new superintendent to begin this important journey alongside the newly configured board," Vesely wrote. "The board is engaged in the planning stages of a search for Kyrene's next Superintendent, and I have no doubt this board will select someone exceptional for the role."

— KYRENE, Page 9



Kyrene Superintendent Jan Vesely visiting students at Waggoner Elementary during a 2016 Summer Academy session. — Wrangler News file photo

It's here: Your trusted newspaper of the future

The snappy, two-dimensional bar, or Quick Response code you're seeing to the right of this article is just one more example of how Wrangler News is moving rapidly into the digital future.

No, it doesn't mean that the 30-plus years of driveway delivery to your home will become a thing of the past. However, it does suggest that our readers are going online for

quick, easy access to news updates—in some cases, every day updates—that we've found more and more people turning to as a trusted source of information about what's happening of interest in your neighborhood, your community.

Our analytics show, for example, that our WranglerNews.com website received just under 18,000 views in the last month alone, 73 percent over

the previous month's record.

It's why we're adding more access points, greater ease in connecting with those who advertise their products and services in our pages.

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More
stuff



Meet your Kyrene candidates

Five candidates, including one incumbent, are vying for seats on the Kyrene School District Governing Board. The election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3. See their bios on **Page 12**.



Staying together virtually

As a member of the Tempe City Council, Jennifer Adams was quick to learn that the decline of person-to-person gatherings doesn't mean we have to stop communicating. **Page 8**



A season-opening win for Aztecs

Alex Zener, our Wrangler News sports columnist since his junior year at Corona 12 years ago, is back with his Sports Notebook, reporting on his alma mater's opening win over Desert Vista. **Page 16**.

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FIND NEW ROADS™

Hispanics view Intel as their road to success

Editor's note: Hispanic Heritage Month runs through Oct. 15, and Linda Qian, Arizona communications manager for Intel, offered Wrangler News what she felt was an intriguing story told by two of the company's West Chandler employees about their struggles to find an opening in the tough-to-break-into world of technology. The pair, one an engineering program manager, the other a global account manager, talked to co-worker Jennifer Sanchez about the path they followed to reach the ambitious goals that many knew would present an uphill challenge. As Sanchez learned from her conversations, beating the odds was even tougher than many might have realized. Their stories appear below.

By Jennifer Sanchez

Gloria Velazquez and Jose Ramirez were the first in their families to obtain a college degree, an achievement that wasn't gained without a fierce determination to overcome the odds. Velazquez was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Ramirez grew up working in the fields in Yuma.

Velazquez credits her parents with implanting determination in her during her early days.

It's hard to say when I knew I wanted to be an engineer, but my family gave me the tools to make it happen," Velazquez said.

The rest of her story follows . . .

My parents are from Mexico. My mother, a housewife, is from Jalisco and only attended first grade. My late father,



Gloria Velazquez said she enjoys travelling the world with friends and connecting with people—and birds like this colorful pair in San Diego, Calif. — Photo courtesy Intel

a carpenter and construction worker, was from Chihuahua and went up to third grade. When my parents married, they emigrated to El Paso.

Despite not having much formal education, my parents taught us skills to succeed in life. They could rarely help us with our homework, so I learned to be independent and find answers. They never let us miss school, so I learned discipline and responsibility.

My family often made games of solving problems. My dad and I would sit on the porch for hours as we worked on the Rubik's Cube. My uncle would always give us brain teasers.

All of this forced me to develop creative ways to find solutions to win.

My dad always encouraged us to study computers because most industries depend on technology. I went to the University of Texas at El Paso, and followed in my brothers' footsteps, who both earned degrees in computer technology. I then earned my master's in business administration.

In 2010, I joined Intel in Arizona as a supply chain analyst, a role where I was a software engineer developing applications for supply chain decision-making. Today, I'm happy to be a program manager, where I'm responsible for managing and coordinating the validation of internet of things (IOT) products in alignment with customers' expectations and technical requirements. I make sure we stay competitive.

Ramirez's story also acknowledges family with his inspiration.

When I was a teenager in the 1980s, he says, summers in our rural desert town were for hustling to make money. That's where I originally gained the skills that led me to be innovative and fearless — and have helped me contribute to Intel's success for over 25 years.

I was born and raised in Yuma County, Arizona, on the U.S.-Mexico border, the third of seven kids. My dad worked the citrus, lettuce and alfalfa fields, and mom managed our cozy three-bedroom house. I didn't realize it then, but we were poor in material things, and rich in love, family and culture. I landed a job picking and packing lettuce — the best part was going inside the industrial coolers away from the heat. Once when my brother and I complained about the work, my dad shared his greatest wisdom: 'If you don't like this type of work,

— INTEL, Page 11



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I love Tempe too!



'Humbling:' How awards recipient finds helping others

By Janie Magruder

Amela Duric has been mindful of the blessings of volunteerism literally all her life — first as a recipient of services and, more recently, as a provider of them. The 28-year-old Ahwatukee woman comes full circle this month in receiving the Spirit of Tempe Karma Award from the Tempe Community Council at the Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards virtual event on Oct. 14.

The award, given annually to a notable volunteer who has significantly served Tempe, is connected to the concept that one drop of kindness has ripple effects throughout the community for generations.

"Amela Duric tirelessly and selflessly serves others," said Octavia Harris, TCC's executive director. "She is an example of what makes Tempe special— you can find community here no matter where you come from."

Where Duric came from is Bosnia, from which her family was forced to flee when war broke out in 1992. She spent the first seven years of life as a refugee, bouncing around cramped living quarters in Austria and Germany.

The family moved every other year, and Duric grew up believing this is what everyone did.

When her parents, older brother and she emigrated in 1999 to Chicago, with four suitcases, a few photos and the clothes on their backs, they didn't know English or anyone in America.

A family sponsor set them up in an apartment, donated household items and helped them learn English, enroll in school and find jobs. Kind folks took the children to museums and exposed them to life outside their bubble.

"If I hadn't had those resources growing up, I don't



Amela Duric plays with refugee children at a local apartment complex.

know if I would be where I am today," said Duric whose family moved to Tempe in 2002.

"I was the weird kid who didn't speak the language, and that made things interesting for

sure," she said. "But it allowed me a freedom and the ability to become who I am. I connected with other 'outsiders.'"

— VOLUNTEERS, Page 15

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First Person . . . by Peter Coronel

Our editor's son undertakes his first assignment. It's an eye-opener.

West Chandler resident Peter Coronel, son of editor Joyce Coronel, paid a visit to Tempe Community Action Agency to learn more about a grant the agency received to bolster its work in the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. What follows are his impressions of the work done by TCAA to serve those in our community who are encountering economic difficulties during the pandemic.

When I arrive at Tempe Community Action Agency, the lobby is full. Two employees work the front desk while phones ring ceaselessly throughout my time in the waiting area. Among those present, I notice a young family waiting to be seen by caseworkers. Their three well-behaved kids sit calmly; the parents look hopeful.

These are stressful times for most people, but the weight of the current situation, paired with the struggles that come with feeding mouths, carries extra burden.

I'm greeted by Deborah Arteaga, TCAA's executive director. What strikes me most about her is the mixture of resolute strength and kindness her personality exudes.

Now six months into the pandemic, Arteaga and her staff are still showing up, working long hours and dealing with a heavy caseload. Many families are struggling to make ends meet with layoffs and reduced pay and hours.

Additionally, with schools shut down and kids learning from home, families are seeing a spike in their utility and food bills.

So how has Covid-19 affected TCAA's workload?

"The pandemic has exacerbated some of the hardships that vulnerable households were already facing," said Arteaga. "There has been an increase in demand for emergency-type services like housing and food assistance, but also a number of new clients that are in a situation where they now are in need of help."

The reason I'm meeting with Arteaga on this day is to learn about a new program her organization is offering to the Tempe community.

Its economic assistance program is a fund available for emergency rent and utility assistance. Normally, programs like this are limited to certain income guidelines, but Arteaga notes that the pandemic has widened the criteria for qualifying applicants to include things like reduced work hours, illness, needing to care for a sick family member, child-care or other hardship-pandemic related expenses.

On a national level, the CARES Act provided \$4.8 million in state and federal funding to TCAA and nine other community action programs. So far, about half of that money has been used, money which needs to be spent by the end of the year, according to Arteaga. Individuals and households that meet the requirements can apply the funds to past due bills dating back to March.

Since July, 477 households have received rent assistance and 272 households got utility assistance through the program. To give context, that is nearly the number of homes that TCAA will normally service in a

full year of work.

This spike in demand is also being felt in TCAA's food center, with those in need exceeding over 100 per day. The food pantry is open Monday through Friday 8 to 11 a.m. as well as Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4 to 6:30.

In addition to the emergency rent and utility relief, TCAA is also prioritizing households that have been affected by the pandemic at the agency's financial success center. "This is sort of a Part B to services," Arteaga said. "We take care of the emergency relief needs and then if they need help getting back in the workforce or financial counseling, we can do that through the financial center."

There are about 43 fulltime staff members employed at TCAA but a large amount of work is also performed by volunteers. The organization offers both in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities for those that are interested in lending their skills and time.

"Thankfully we have had continued involvement from volunteers through the pandemic, they're really important... we need 15 to 20 volunteers a day just to keep the business running. We are really grateful to have the extra help, especially right now."

If you, or someone you know has fallen on hard times, visit TCAA's website at tempeaction.org for more information or call its hotline at 480-389-1375 to speak directly to a caseworker. For any who would like to donate time, resources or food to the TCAA cause, visit the website to learn how to help.

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Commentary . . . by Jennifer Adams

As we adjust to being apart, virtual gatherings help keep us together

As a member of the Tempe City Council, it is important to me to hear from people from all areas of the community. As part of this commitment, I host community conversation events every other month, each in a different zip code.

COVID-19 has changed everything in our lives, including how these conversation events take place. While the meetups are now happening in your home office or on your kitchen table,



I still try to focus on topics that are important to a particular Tempe zip code each time.

During each meeting, I offer up a "Top 10" list of important updates in either that zip code or our whole city.

My most recent list is below. By the way, my next Join Jennifer community conversation is at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2, and it is focused on the 85284 zip code. Get the details

at tempe.gov/adams and please join me.

10. Audit Committee—The new Audit Committee is seeking applicants for three community members.

This committee advises the City Council on financial oversight, among other topics. If you are interested in serving, apply at tempe.gov/clerk and select Boards and Commissions.

9. Development Projects list—Ever wonder what they are building in your neighborhood? The Community Development Department has an online mapping system that shows development projects in Tempe. Visit tempe.gov/comdev and click on the "Development Projects" link.

8. Non-profit grants—Our city is using \$500,000 of its CARES Act funding to support non-profits that are helping people impacted by COVID-19. This is one-time funding. The application and funding criteria can be found at tempe.gov/HumanServices.

7. Golf Tempe—As you know, we have two municipal golf courses in Tempe – Ken McDonald and Rolling Hills. The city is initiating a loyalty program to reward frequent customers and create new ones. You can help name the program by visiting tempe.gov/forum before the end of the day on Oct. 11.

6. COVID-19 information—Do you have questions about how COVID-19 is impacting Tempe? Visit tempe.gov/coronavirus for links to which city facilities are open, helpful programs for residents and businesses, and more. You can also see data on COVID-19 cases and wastewater testing results data at covid19.tempe.gov.

5. CARE 7—CARE 7 is offering online mental health resources, free counseling sessions and more. Please visit tempe.gov/Care7 for details to help you or someone you know.

4. New Interim Chief of Police—We will shortly be seeing a transition in Tempe Police leadership, with the resignation of Police Chief Sylvia Moir. Beginning Oct. 12, retired Tempe Police Commander Jeff Glover will be interim Police Chief for one year. During that time, City Manager Andrew Ching will lead a public process to hire a permanent chief.

3. Vote—The Nov. 3 election is almost here. Voters can find their sample ballot, request an early ballot in the mail, find voting locations and much more at BeBallotReady.Vote. New to this election – drive-thru drop boxes! Tempe Diablo Stadium is one location.

2. Get your flu shot—It is more important than ever to make sure you are up to date on your vaccines. Visit <https://www.maricopa.gov/1873/Influenza-Flu> to find a flu shot clinic near you.

1. Stay informed, stay healthy—The City of Tempe has been sending regular email updates about COVID-19. To make sure you receive these emails, sign up at <https://email.tempe.gov/coronavirus>.

As always, I welcome you reaching out to me with comments, questions and ideas. You can reach me by calling 480-350-8835, emailing jennifer_adams@tempe.gov or visiting JenniferAdams-Tempe on Facebook

Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council.

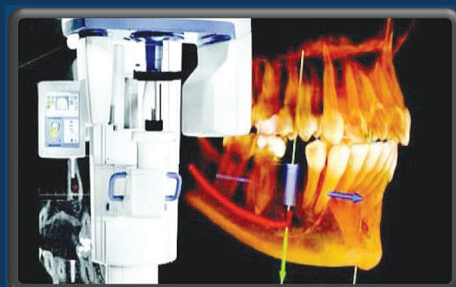
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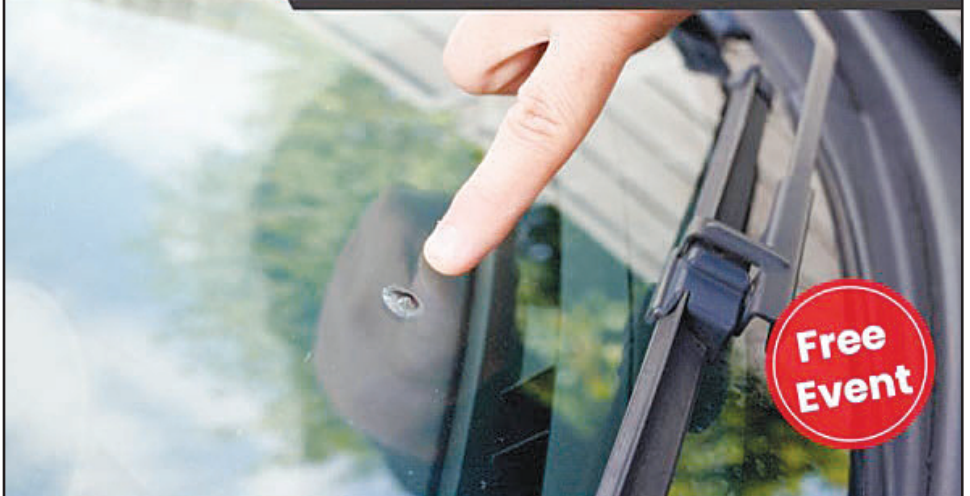
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Kyrene

From Page 1

The COVID-19 pandemic cast an aura of uncertainty and fear for educators, students and parents alike. Kyrene schools, like many others, faced the challenge of distance learning, cancelation of in-person instruction for months and much more.

Said Vesely:

“It was important to me to see the safe return of our students to schools before confirming a big decision after 43 wonderful years in public education. It feels right to finish my long career in education here, where I am surrounded by the most talented staff, the most engaged community and the most promising students. It has been the highlight of my career to know you and to serve you.”

Myrick said he was thankful Vesely delayed her plans to retire in order to personally oversee the transition to a new school year.

“That commitment to our students is the legacy she will leave in Kyrene,” he said.

The Kyrene board issued a statement regarding Vesely’s retirement, saying she has shown “extraordinary leadership during her tenure as superintendent.”

Additionally, the board said, “Dr. Vesely will be remembered not only for her exemplary leadership, but for always putting the needs of the students of Kyrene first.”

Asked why she was moving so quickly to implement change in the district her reported response was, “The urgency in my work is fueled by the reality that we have a very brief opportunity to have an impact on our students and to provide them with the support they need to achieve their full potential.”

Others were quick to join Myrick in his disappointment to hear of Vesely’s planned departure.

Bernadette Coggins, a past president of the board, called Vesely an “exceptional leader” who has been devoted to “data-driven decisions to close the achievement gap and supported Kyrene expanding its dyslexia awareness.”

In working alongside the board, Coggins said, Vesely called for a comprehensive performance audit of the district. “This audit provided transparency and also a framework to develop a 5 year strategic plan and this guided the district’s priorities. Her primary focus has always been what’s best for students and employees,” she noted.

“She has led Kyrene through some of the most challenging times in public education and Kyrene is better place because of her leadership.”

Jon Ladd, whose son Kobe, age 15, is autistic and attended Pueblo Middle School, said Vesely’s departure is a loss for the district.

“Dr. Vesely was a huge help to special-needs kids. I hear it from... parents all over the district, but my son in particular, after he was diagnosed with autism, the principal at his school tried to push him out of the school to where he couldn’t attend anymore.

“Then, within 24 hours of Dr. Vesely hearing about it, she had him back in school and getting the help he needed. The one thing I can say for Dr. Vesely is she always stood up for the kids and looked out for (them).”

One of the strongest endorsements for Vesely—and highest praise—came from Dr. Marianne Lescher, the principal of Kyrene Traditional Academy, which district officials say focuses on students utilizing advanced thinking skills to achieve academic success.

“Without her, we wouldn’t be in existence today”—a sentiment which, to those who have seen the results of kids attending classes in one of the nation’s most-recognized distinctions, an A-plus School of Excellence, would hardly quibble.

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Diversions . . . with M.V. Moorhead

Pair of new films arriving locally may spur movie-goers



pathetic, scrounging grifts imaginable, although Old Dolio tries to bring some parkour-style panache to them.

The yields of these scams are, at best, the likes of neckties or gift certificates for a free massage.

The Dynes live in a basement office beneath a factory that produces bubbles; they have to clean up the foamy froth that comes seeping down the walls on a daily basis.

This gets them a ridiculously low rent, on which, of course, they are nonetheless

badly in arrears.

Eventually the trio meets Melanie (Gina Rodriguez), an unflappable, free spirited young woman who more or less invites herself into the operation and throws everything into turmoil.

This is the set-up for this deeply

eccentric comedy-drama by writer-director Miranda July.

The story meanders, but the acting and left-field dialogue keep it coherent. Jenkins and Winger are so brilliantly, oppressively repulsive that the movie might be unwatchable without the fresh air that Rodriguez riotously provides.

The heart of the film, however, is Wood's Old Dolio—hat wretched name is explained in due course—who has grown up isolated in the world of her pitiful chiseling parents.

As a result she's a doleful, affectless blank slate in a track suit, with Rapunzel-length hair like her Mom (presumably to avoid the expense of haircuts). She's never experienced a minute of true love and affection in her life.

The stillness and deliberation of Evan Rachel Wood's performance gives Old Dolio the radiant sadness of a silent-movie comic heroine; she's hilarious and heartbreaking at the same time.

The title refers to Robert's life aspiration: He's content to skim and survive, while everybody else, he contemptuously notes, "wants to be a kajillionaire."

In its homestretch the movie seems to go completely crazy, yet July is able to turn Robert's grotesque meaning joyously on its head, and the final seconds of the film are beautiful and weirdly inspiring.

At Tempe and Chandler Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas.

Shortcut—Here's how bad an idea taking a shortcut turns out to be in this scare picture:

First, the charming Fiat bus piloted by a resolute driver (Terence Anderson) and carrying a quintet of bored British schoolkids gets hijacked at gunpoint by an escaped maniac (David Keyes) whose speciality, reportedly, is eating the tongues of his victims.

But soon after, this guy's menace is far overshadowed when the bus is besieged by a fanged, squalling creature like something from Stephen King's remainder table.

Eventually, the kids end up in an abandoned underground network of tunnels, a military base of some sort.

They seem pretty relaxed about the whole thing; rather than try with all their might to find their way out and back to civilization as quickly as possible, they split up and dawdle around, making time for squabbles and hints of teen romance.

Eventually we get some fairly perfunctory backstory on the monster, and the kids team up in the manner of *It* for a showdown.

Big chunks of this movie, an Italian production in English directed by Alessio Ligouri, don't make much sense, not even horror-movie sense.

But it's atmospheric, there are some scares, the actors are capable and attractive, and at just 80 minutes it doesn't tax our patience too much.

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- ★ 32 year resident of the greater Tempe area.
- ★ Tempe small business owner.
- ★ Raised four children who attended local public schools.
- ★ Will work to bring trade education back to our high schools.

Intel

From Page 3

then go home and study, go to the university. Get better, get a degree and get out of this environment.'

We were sold! Our next hustle: get into and pay for Arizona State University as first-generation college students.

With help from my older brother, I got in. (Six of us kids earned degrees from ASU and the youngest sibling graduated from Stanford University.)

I studied engineering because I liked manufacturing. When it was time for an internship in 1992, I took some time off from school, got a nine-month gig at Intel and moved to Albuquerque.

I used every minute to learn about the factory, machines and people and their roles. I returned to ASU and gradu-



Jose Ramirez

ated with a bachelor's degree in industrial and systems engineering.

In 1994, I joined Intel's Fab 12 in Arizona startup team. We were in construction trailers and reviewing everything by print.

Within a few years, I decided to go to graduate school at night to learn about our busi-

ness, too. I later moved into the supply chain organization and got the opportunity to understand our business model.

Intel in the 2000s sponsored two of my master's degrees – business administration and international business.

By 2010, I joined Sales and Marketing Group's Latin America regional team while based in Arizona.

For over 10 years, I've flourished in SMG, and I'm loving my job as a global account manager.

Navigating Intel has been my career hustle. I haven't done it alone.

I'm grateful for the support of ILN and several great managers, leaders and sponsors who have helped me contribute to our business.

Above all, I'm most thankful to my dad for his advice that hot day.

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Community Leader

Get to know those who are running — and why they want your vote

Profile: Kyrene School District Governing Board candidates

By Joyce Coronel

School board elections are supposed to be non-partisan, but in a wildly contentious political season taking place during an ongoing pandemic, emotions are running high. Area schools haven't seen an ordinary day in many months. Kyrene's middle school students don't return to in-person learning until Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Five candidates, including one incumbent, are vying for one of three seats on the Kyrene Governing Board. Michael Myrick, the current president of the board, is not seeking re-election but is instead running to serve on the Tempe Union High School District board.

Each member of the Kyrene Governing Board is elected to serve a four-year term. Every two years, either two or three positions are filled during the November general election which this year falls on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Board candidates must reside within the district boundaries for one year prior to being elected to office. Arizona law does not limit the number of terms a board member may serve.

The governing board is authorized under the laws of the state of Arizona to adopt all needed policies and regulations for the organization, evaluation and governance in the district.

Jose Ivan Alfaro is the father of four Kyrene students. Though he did not respond to a Wrangler News request for a statement, the website for the Office of the Maricopa County Superintendent contains information about

Alfaro. "Ivan has a personal interest in contributing to an educational community that provides and supports the academic, social, and emotional needs of his and all children. He believes an effective school board member commits to a vision of high expectations for student achievement and quality instruction and establishes



Jose Ivan Alfaro

clear goals and guardrails toward that vision. He has strong beliefs and values about what's possible for students and their ability to learn, and of the system and its ability to teach all children at high levels," according to the website. Alfaro is currently an executive director for a national education company.

Michelle Fahy has been an educator for 36 years and is running for a second term on the Kyrene Governing Board. "I understand the needs of students and demands placed on the district and will support and advocate for students and staff to ensure we provide the best education possible," Fahy told Wrangler News. "I bring my teaching experience to complex decision-making,

ask tough questions, seek thorough and transparent



Michelle Fahy

answers, and strive for excellence. I believe in our community and want to ensure that Kyrene continues to be worthy of our strong reputation of quality schools." Fahy said that her connections to the Tempe Union High School District—she is TUHSD instructional technology coordinator—mean that she is in a unique position to encourage continuity between students' elementary and high school experiences.



Wanda Kolomyjec

Wanda Kolomyjec is a former business executive, high school teacher, and now

a professor at Arizona State University in the Justice Studies program. She and her family have lived in the Kyrene district for 26 years and feel indebted for the excellent start in their children's education that Kyrene provided. Their oldest daughter is a surgical resident, their youngest daughter a third-year law school, and their son a junior in ASU's esteemed School of Sustainability. Wanda said she hopes to "help keep Kyrene a strong public education district that serves all families."



Trine Nelson

Triné Nelson is a curriculum manager at ASU and the mother of two current Kyrene students. She said her extensive volunteer experiences within the district have allowed her to see the strengths the diversity and the specific needs in the Kyrene community.

"I believe that it's critical that board members are able to lean in, listen, and then engage with the community so that the values of the community's values and priorities are represented," Nelson said. "Throughout my career, I've been able

to demonstrate the ability to identify priorities to successfully work with large groups often who have diverse viewpoints to work together to build consensus to achieve a common goal. I hope to be able to bring those same skills to the Kyrene Governing Board with a driven, balanced, and collaborative approach."

Margaret Wright has lived in the Kyrene School District for nine years and says her three children have "greatly benefited" from their education through Kyrene. "I have spent extensive time volunteering in classrooms and serving with the PTO as a board member, committee chair, and PTO president which has helped to spark a deep desire to continue to give back to this community," Wright said. "I am an adjunct biology professor and a



Margaret Wright

business owner with my husband. I understand the importance education can make in determining one's livelihood and ability to thrive and I want to make a difference in the educational lives of our students."

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- Our continuing effort to be your neighborhood's best source of local news.

We invite you drop by our office in Warner Century Plaza at 2145 E. Warner Road (look for the Wrangler News sign on the front of our building, across from GoDaddy). We'll look forward to seeing you and enjoy hearing your ideas about how we might do an even better job during our next 30 years!

Thank you for your support, and know how much we enjoy being your Tempe and West Chandler neighbors.

PHOENIX
M A G A Z I N E



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Volunteers

From Page 4

After graduating from McClintock High and enrolling at Arizona State University, where she eventually earned a bachelor's in sociology and a master's in psychology, Duric visited Bosnia for a family reunion. It was bittersweet — she was grateful to her parents for the life they'd given her in the U.S., but she also saw what she missed by not growing up around extended family and her native culture and language.

"This trip made me wonder about everyone — why are they who they are, why are they where they are," said Duric, a human resources coordinator. "And I wondered what I could do to give back."

She started with Hands On Greater Phoenix, helping at a temporary shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness.

"The kids were just addicting, and reminded me of who I was at their age and thinking that their circumstances were almost normal," she said. "There's a light in children, regardless of where they are and what's happening around them. There's that optimism — they still want to play basketball, they still want to play chalk."

Duric led projects to clean up neighborhoods, paint over graffiti,

feed veterans and help young adults. With Salvation Army, she both trains volunteers and organizes activities and games for homeless children.

And then, she joined the Welcome to America Project, which since 2001 has helped settle more than 2,000 refugees in Phoenix. It was a perfect match was made.

"The first time I entered this one-bedroom apartment with a family of six living there, I was, 'This was me, this is how I was raised.' This is my purpose, my passion. This is who I am," Duric said.

She has built close ties with people from Iraq, Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan, and is especially drawn to their kids. She also has volunteered in Peru, building a greenhouse for a local school, and in Ghana, teaching English and science at an orphanage.

The Tempe award means everything to Duric.

"It's extremely humbling and surreal," she said. "It makes me want to expand the platform that I have and bring light to these types of causes, to say, 'You can get involved.' Let's focus on the collective 'we,' and be a fellow neighbor, a fellow sister or brother."

Tickets to the Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards ceremony and after-party video/chat are available through Oct. 11 at tempecommunitycouncil.org.

We Hear You . . .

Editor: Sandy Lowe is worthy of your vote for re-election to the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board.

The November 3rd ballot is going to be crowded. As a result some important positions will be buried at the bottom.

One such buried position will be the critical race for Tempe Union High School Governing Board.

I urge everyone to keep Sandy Lowe on the Board. She has tremendous institutional knowledge, sound judgment and commitment to the students and families. We need Lowe's knowledge, wisdom and experience.

Sandy has served eight years during very challenging times with a clear sense of integrity, leadership, knowledge, vision—and a whole lot of hard work.

Sandy's priorities include academic success for each student, safety at each school, mental health support for students and staff and fiscal responsibility. During the ten years that I served on the Tempe Union High School Governing Board, I worked with Sandy on many District committees and clearly recognize that she possesses the qualities needed to fulfill these priorities.

I urge citizens to vote for integrity and experience and re-elect Sandy Lowe to the Tempe

Union High School District Governing Board. Learn more about her at www.sandylowe.com

— Zita Johnson

Editor: As a proud parent of a student who attends high school in the Tempe Union High School District, I remain very interested in our community, as well as the school district. Working in education for over 20 years, I feel it is imperative to have a strong, supportive school board.

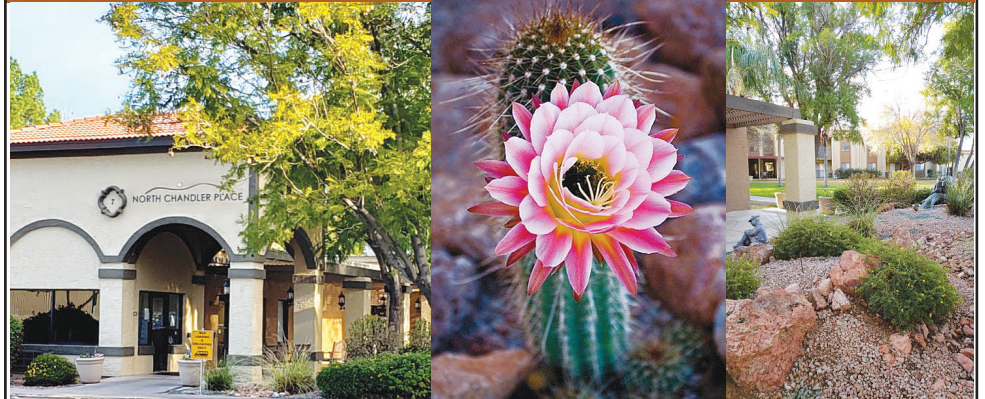
The residents in the Tempe Union District are fortunate to have Lori Bastian running in the upcoming school board election. I offer my personal endorsement of Lori Bastian as an important voice that needs to be included on the Tempe Union High School Board.

Lori is a thoughtful and committed advocate for all teachers, students and their families in the TUHSD community. She feels it is her responsibility to foster transparency and accountability within the Tempe Union High School District.

Lori is a compassionate, collaborative community leader that will support the teachers and all students. The district would be very fortunate to have Lori Bastian on their team!

— Emily Shafer, Corona Del Sol High School Parent and Educator for Chandler Unified School District

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Sports Notebook . . . by Alex Zener

Season opener offers redemption with Aztec blowout over Desert Vista



Alex Zener

Corona's football team redeemed itself, after a disappointing 29-22 loss in a close game last season, by soundly defeating Desert Vista 24-0 in a game played at home on Oct. 2.

The only disappointing aspect was very few people were allowed into the stands, due to COVID-19 regulations, to witness and celebrate the Aztecs' only third win against their crosstown rival in 10 years.

The first quarter established Corona's running game. Although the Aztecs did not score in the first quarter, the offense, led by senior quarterback **Quade Swearingen**, proved to the Thunder, and to themselves, that the Aztecs could move ball successfully on the ground with the help of a formidable offensive line and the outstanding rushing of **Anyale Velazquez** and counterpart **Scott Musgraves**.

Altogether, Velazquez put up numbers similar to former-Aztec-now-ASU running back **Ricky Pearsall**, with an amazing 136 yards on 22 carries, or an average of 6.2 yards per carry. Musgraves took some of the load, with six carries for 18 yards.

In the second quarter, two important things happened: the defense blocked a punt, and Swearingen let loose with the Aztecs' passing game demonstrating that Corona could put together a balanced offense that included both running and passing against the Thunder.

No. 8, senior **Tudor Georgescu**, blocked a punt, giving the Aztecs the ball on Desert Vista's 15-yard line. An ensuing Desert Vista penalty placed the ball on the 10-yard line.

On the first play from scrimmage, Swearingen ran the ball into the end zone, giving the Aztecs their first touchdown of the season.

Sophomore kicker **Carston Kieffer** punched the point-after kick through the goal posts to put Corona up 7-0.

The Aztecs pretty much controlled the game both offensively and defensively the rest of the way.

Some highlights included the two back-to-back receptions made by senior **Bryce Douglass** in the second quarter that moved the Aztecs up the field from their own 44 to the Thunder's 8-yard line and setting up a touchdown pass caught on the goal line, giving the Aztecs a 14-0 lead at halftime.

Three players scored receiving touchdowns, including Douglass, senior **Mitchell Coakley** and senior **Talon Williams**.

The Aztecs played outstanding defense starting from the Thunder's first snap to the very end. The Aztecs' defense never let down, whether they were tackling Desert Vista's runners or rushing the quarterback.

Altogether, they had 25 solo tackles and 15 assisted tackles for a total of 40 tackles, along with five quarterback sacks.

Senior **Jake Schmitt** led the team with five solo and three assisted tackles for a total eight tackles, one tackle for a loss. He was followed by Georgescu with five solo and one assisted for a total of six tackles with one tackle for loss. Georgescu was also credited with one quarterback sack.


Junior defensive and offensive lineman **Theren White** was credited with two solo and three assisted tackles for a total of five tackles, along with one of the five team quarterback sacks, while senior **Colton Mealer** was credited with 1.5 sacks along with four total tackles.

Juniors **Jeff Lambert** and **Nate Cormier-Ward** each had four tackles while junior **Elijah Sayer** had one quarterback sack.

The Aztecs' next game was scheduled with Basha (0-1) on Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. which as of presstime was not scheduled to be televised.

— Continued on facing page

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Padre heartbreaker

Marcos de Niza lost a 29-28 heartbreaker in an away game played in Flagstaff to Coconino on Oct. 2. The Padres were up 14-8 at the half but the Panthers were able to fight back in the second half to tie the game at 22 each at the end, sending the game into overtime.

Both teams scored a touchdown in the overtime period but Marcos missed the extra point.

Highlights included two rushing touchdowns, one by senior **Jayden Calderon** who carried the ball 22 times for a total of 133 yards and one by senior **Jacob Irick** who carried the ball 9 times for a total of 50 yards.

Senior quarterback **Antonio Hernandez** completed five out of nine passes for a total of 96 yards and two touchdowns. Senior **Nico Updyke** caught three passes for a total of 85 yards and one touchdown, while junior **Jamir Smith** caught a pass for one touchdown.

On defense, Irick, along with sophomore **Mason Stromstad**, led the team with eight tackles each, while junior **Isaiah Williams** was next with seven tackles and two quarterback sacks. Both Irick and Stromstad each recovered one fumble.

Up next: The Padres play Benjamin Franklin (1-0) on Oct. 9 in a pay-per-view live televised game on nfhsnetwork.com.



Corona del Sol enters the field for its long-awaited first game of the season, where they defeated Desert Vista 28-0 on Oct. 2.

— Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright

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Tempe Tardeada keeps alive city's Hispanic history, traditions

It's no secret—things were a lot different 140 years ago. The 1880 Census showed about 85 percent of Tempe's population was Hispanic, many living in the San Pablo area which then sat on the eastern edge of the city.

Dotted by the Catholic church, the Perez Saloon and stores operated by "Old Jim" Murphy, Harry Bernard and Ben Goldman, it was a rough-and-tumble outpost much like what's seen on modern-day movie screens.

So how to give modern-day folks a connection to those historic times? The solution: Tempe Tardeada.

The notion for such an event got its start in 1999 as a way to honor the city's Hispanic heritage, with planners envisioning a festival that would take place on a Sunday afternoon, a traditional time for Hispanic families to come together.

"This festival recognizes the Hispanic people who came here and where the barrios were where ASU stands today," said Normalicia Blanco, whose family

has helped organize the event since its beginning.

"These were all farmers who lived here."

Blanca Villapudua, who has been among planners for every Tardeada, noted that the original group realized the value of ensuring that future generations would have a way to remember those early days.

"Tardeada is keeping those traditions and the histories of those people who settled in San Pablo alive," she said.

While Tempe History Museum has photo albums of many of Tempe's early families available in its research center and normally on display at Tardeada, this year's event, due to COVID-19, is available only online, along with oral histories of Tempe Hispanic residents.

As of Oct. 1, these can be viewed at tempe.gov/tardeada as well as at tempe.gov/museum. Look in the green navigation bar for Tempe Tardeada.

As to the intrigue of an event that celebrates historical milestones, the planners didn't want to forget another memorable aspect of those days: it's food.

Thus cuisine plays a part of the celebration. Each year, volunteers demonstrate how to make tortillas. Later this month, people will be able to learn those revered skills through a video demonstration by some of the Tardeada volunteers.

The Tardeada Advisory Board gives away two scholarships to high school students. There's a coloring contest as well. The winners of these will be announced the last week of October.

Finally, say planners, while the festival is on COVID-19 hiatus, it should return in its usual form next year. (And for those who'd like to learn more about becoming involved in future Tardeadas, email diversity@tempe.gov.)



A traditional Mexican performer shows off his dance moves at Tempe Tardeada. — Photo courtesy City of Tempe

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Sister Cities outreach brings world together

Tempe Sister Cities has been named one of three recipients of the U.S. State Department's annual 2020 Citizen Diplomacy award. The local organization was selected out of a record 22 nominations this year, awards for which are presented to one winner and two runners-up.

"Sister Cities has been one of our nominating partners since day one," said a State Department spokesperson.

"Tempe Sister Cities stood out for their creative youth programs and teacher exchanges."

Officials said the award was created to celebrate the significant, beneficial contributions of U.S. citizens and organizations to furthering U.S. foreign policy objectives and strengthening relationships around the world.

Dean R. Gambino, the local group's first vice-president, said the award recognizes efforts made by Tempe members to help strengthen global friendship.

"It is with genuine

appreciation that Tempe Sister City accepts runner-up for the 2020 Citizen Diplomacy Award," said Gambino. "It is gratifying to know that our hard work and efforts 'in bringing the world together, one friendship at a time' has been noticed and appreciated."

"We are very honored and thrilled to receive this award—(we offer) our sincere thanks for this important recognition."

In the past, the annual award ceremony was held in the State Department's Harry S. Truman building in Washington, D.C. This year, however, it was streamed live on the State Department Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/EngageStateDept> and will be shared on the Sister Cities International Facebook page.

Tempe Sister Cities works with community leaders and officials from Tempe, along with those of its sister cities, to deepen relationships and grow through collaborative partnerships, according to Gambino.

Tempe State of the City report Oct. 30

Business development initiatives, strategic progress, challenges, opportunities and a glimpse into the city's future will highlight Mayor Corey Woods' 2020 State of the City report on Friday, Oct. 30.

The virtual event, presented by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Edward Jones, will be presented live beginning at 8 a.m.

With expanded its availability through a live broadcast platform, more than 700 are expected to attend.

The interactive event also will include a virtual fireside chat with Tempe Chamber President and CEO Anne Gill.

Said Gill:

"We look forward to sharing Mayor Woods' inaugural address, hearing his vision for the City of Tempe, and his plans to move the city forward through the pandemic and economic recovery as we head into 2021."

Virtual ticket packages, a full list of sponsors and details regarding the event can be found on the registration website at [/bit.ly/36gTmiO](https://bit.ly/36gTmiO).

W. Chandler car show will benefit veterans

Tempe and West Chandler are home to thousands of veterans, many of them having served during wartime.

Two organizations that serve veterans will be the beneficiaries of the proceeds from a Saturday, Oct. 10, classic car and bike show at American Legion Post 35, 2240 W. Chandler Boulevard in Chandler.

The show takes place 9 a.m.-2 p.m. All makes and models are welcome and parking starts at 7 a.m.

For \$25, pre-registration gets participants a T-shirt, dash plaque and goodie bag.

Day-of registration is still \$25 but no T-shirt is included.

The family-friendly event features food, vendors, music, a 50/50 drawing, free admission, and of course, plenty of cool cars and bikes.

Soldiers Best Friend, an Arizona organization that provides therapeutic companion dogs to U.S. military combat veterans living with combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury.

The dogs are mostly rescued from local shelters and train alongside the veterans to build a trusting relationship.

Proceeds from the show will also benefit Operation Shockwave, a suicide-prevention organization that assists veterans.



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We welcome your stories, photos — and ideas! Feel free to call with article suggestions. We accept manuscripts and photographs from area residents about topics of interest to our community. Sorry, we do not accept paid “advertorials.”

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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.

CHANDLER CHAMBER

CHANDLER
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2020

Community Award Winners

The Chandler Chamber honored local businesses, first responders and educators for their outstanding contributions to the community at the 33rd Annual Chandler Chamber Community Awards live stream event. Congratulations to all the winners as we celebrate your efforts during these uncertain times in continuing to make Chandler an outstanding community to live, work and play.



Ambassador of the Year
Robert Sinkule
Yoga's Arc



Business Diversity in Action
Dr. William Crawford, III
D.W. Consulting Group



Educator of the Year
Megan Vogus
Basha Elementary School



Administrator of the Year
Dr. Kymberly Marshall
Chandler Unified School District



Support Staff of the Year
Sheila Boyns
CTA Freedom Elementary School



Red Apple Award
Victor Serna
Seton Catholic Preparatory



James R. Snedigar Public Service Award
Lieutenant Shawn Hancock
Chandler Police



Scholarship Recipient
Michael DiMatteo



Chamber Cup
Mary Kaye Allen
Chandler Chamber



Chandler Cup (Mayor's Choice)
Douglas Allred Company



Community Cup
Chandler-Gilbert
Community College



Veterans Advocate Award
TurbineAero



Micro Business of the Year
NOW Financial



Small Business of the Year
Laser Creations



Medium Business of the Year
AvAir



Large Business of the Year
Salt River Project



Briefly . . .

Downtown Farmers Market opens

The Downtown Chandler Farmers Market has kicked off its fall/winter season in Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West with new hours and an attractive lineup of vendors. Market hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Produce and gourmet foods vendors like Black Orchard Farms, the Community Exchange Table, Bad Dog Salsa, AZ Queen Bee Honey, Positively Nuts and Ginger Brick Bakery are scheduled to have booths. Artisan vendors include Devlin Designs, Dirty Bird Soaps and Skinny Fat Farms.

Yoga in the Park will begin at 10 a.m. Oct. 10 in the parklet of Dr. A.J. Chandler Park by Crust Restaurant.

The free, 45-minute class is said to be perfect for beginners and experienced yogis alike, the only requirement to bring a mat, sunscreen and water.

Safety precautions will be enhanced in coordination with the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control in response to COVID-19.

Guidelines for Grocery Vendors

- Stay home if you are sick or have recently been exposed to sickness
- No cooking on site
- All hot food must be in covered to-go containers.
- Provide sanitizing or hand washing stations for both your team and customers

- Wear masks and gloves. Gloves are to be changed after each transaction.
- Contactless payment
- Vendors will put a table or bungees across the front of their sales table
- Social distancing among vendors will be marked out on the bricks by chalk

Guidelines for Customers

- Please maintain social distancing of 6 feet
- The use of gloves and masks is encouraged but not required
- Card sales instead of cash is encouraged to allow for contactless payment
- Prepared foods are to be taken off site and consumed elsewhere
- Produce vendors are adapting with new practices. Please follow their lead.

A complete list of vendors can be found at downtownchandler.org/farmersmarket.

Treasures 4 Teachers renews program

Educators in many U.S. cities face the problem of having to dip into their own pockets and purses to pay for desperately needed classroom supplies. Teachers in the Tempe/West Chandler area are no exception.

Now, the well-known Treasures 4 Teachers organization, with chapters around the country, has come to the rescue, providing free- and low-cost materials to help fill the void.

At two events later this month, the group will present Yoobi Classroom Packs to K-5th grade teachers in Title 1 Schools where a minimum 70 percent of the students are on the free and reduced lunch program.

The provisions will reach approximately 30,000 students in Arizona.

According to a Treasures spokesperson, the boxes include some of the fundamental tools that are needed to inspire learning and creativity in the classroom. There are enough in each box for 30 students, including those described as “fun, colorful...supplies that make learning fun while also giving back.”

Barbara Blalock, Treasures’ founder and executive director, said the help the group provides represents a meaningful economic boost. “On a national average, teachers spend between \$500-\$1,000 out of their own pockets on classroom supplies for their students each year” says, “These...classroom packs will help offset the amount teachers spend each year in order to provide their students with the tools they need to be creative and succeed.

“This could not have come at a better time, with teachers and students beginning to return to the classroom. The pandemic has caused an even bigger strain on teachers now that the CDC guidelines recommend that there is no sharing of supplies between students,” said Blalock.

Treasures for Teachers members will receive designated packs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct.7; Saturday, Oct. 10; and Saturday, Oct. 17.

A sign-up process is required to schedule an appointment for pickup. On the days of pick-up, teachers will drive through at a scheduled appointment time.

Information: treasures4teachers.org.



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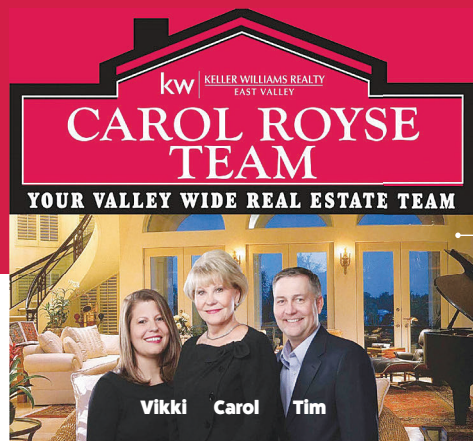


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Should I sell my home now, or should I wait until next year?

This is a question I get every day. Of course, I do not have that elusive crystal ball to look into the future. What I do have is data! Data is today's new dollar. What the data has revealed is a solid and healthy real estate market throughout our State. The Maricopa and Pinal County markets have been leading the way in appreciation. Again, looking at the data, I am convinced the next 90 days might be the best time to sell your home, even for years to come.

If you look at the price per square foot rankings for the East Valley, Tempe is up a whopping 9% year to date. This leads all cities in the East Valley; Mesa up 8.4%, Chandler 8.5% and Gilbert up 7.9%. Demand for Tempe, Mesa, Chandler homes has increased while the available inventory has certainly decreased.

With the lack of inventory sellers are worried to put their homes on the market for fear they will not find a home to move into. At the Carol Royse Team we are experts in working out the details of a sell first and buy without making that dreaded double move. If this is you, give me a call and I will be happy to explain our system for helping sellers who want to become buyers, and who do not want to make that double move.

Another concern is the Presidential Election. This election is viewed by many as a game changer for our Country, no matter who wins. I have lived through the Savings and Loan Crisis in the early 90's, the recession that followed when interest rates were 15%. I have lived through the tragedy of the 911 Terrorist's Attacks on our Country, and the meltdown of 2008 through 2012. Here is what I know. Life went on, people got married, children were born, homes were sold, and homes were purchased. Our real estate market is fluid. It ebbs and flows. Call me at 480-776-5231 and we can talk about YOUR situation. I will offer solid professional advice that relates to you and your family.

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spacious and open w/custom flooring T/O, island kitchen w/high-end Stainless Steel appliances & built-in refrigerator. Backyard features a pool, full length patio plus 2 additional sitting areas w/fire pit & built-in BBQ.



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\$700,000

Views of the Lake – Adora Trails

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Lakefront Property in Dobson Ranch

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