



When the Poor Clares monastery needed a fundraiser, they got one like nun other at Kiwanis Park. Page 10



With the Cactus League season reduced, the Tempe Diablos are grateful for financial aid from Angels. Page 12

Where they're ALL dog-day afternoons



Story & photos, Pages 15-17

— Photo by Pablo Robles for Wrangler News

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Tempe's wastewater-surveillance program saving lives here — and soon around US

By **Cliff Summerhill**

Special for Wrangler News

Tempe's wastewater-testing program, already recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a national model for a public-health alert system, has been selected by the National Association of County and City Health Officials to mentor communities in COVID-19 wastewater surveillance.

Tempe will receive a grant to mentor Genesee/Orleans County and Chautauqua County in New York to focus on advancing public health through wastewater-surveillance innovation.

Tempe officials and scientists from Arizona State University already are working with the CDC.

"The future of this program is to eradicate pandemics," said Rosa Inchausti, Tempe deputy city manager. "If we had national wastewater surveillance before this pandemic, there would have been an early-

alert system to help tackle the virus before it hit other areas."

Tempe will receive \$18,000 for this work.

The city will:

- Provide lessons learned from its innovation journey.
- Connect communities with experts.
- Assist with high-level action plans.
- Offer approaches for technical understanding and community engagement.

"We are humbled by the request to mentor at the national level," Inchausti said. "We are thankful for the trust our Tempe community gave us to advance the use of wastewater for local public health."

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods said the program provides data that, alongside other criteria, has helped it make decisions about how and where to deploy COVID-19 staff and resources.

"Tempe took an early lead on wastewater science," Woods said. "It's an honor to teach other communities to make use of this technology for their own res-

idents."

Tempe's wastewater-testing program already delivers data related to the COVID-19 virus in Tempe and in Guadalupe, but the technology can be used for many other public-health indicators, according to Dr. Rolf Halden of ASU's Global Institute of Global Sustainability.

"We are capable of measuring dozens of respiratory viruses and other health threats and markers of general health," Halden said. "There's lots of opportunities to monitor public health in real time."

Recently, the CDC announced a new wastewater dashboard, developed in the shadow of Tempe's first-in-the-world, data-sharing tool, to combat the pandemic. This tool can help communities across the country combat this pandemic and future pandemics, according to Halden and Dr. Amy Kirby, microbiologist at the CDC and leader of the National Wastewater Surveillance System.

— WASTEWATER, Page 4

Deputy city attorney named to fill Tempe's top legal position

Sonia Blain, who has been Tempe deputy city attorney since 2016, has been appointed city attorney by Tempe City Council.



Sonia Blain

She succeeds Judi Baumann, who announced her resignation early this year.

Blain has practiced law in Arizona for nearly four decades at law firms, a national bank, the Attorney General's Office and the city of Phoenix.

Her primary area of municipal-law expertise is in economic development.

Her appointment comes as Tempe

City Council reviews an economic development proposal from the Arizona Coyotes of the National Hockey League to construct an arena with massive ancillary mixed-use development near Loop 202 and Priest Road.

Blain holds a bachelor's degree in English and French from Barnard College. Her law degree is from Southern Methodist University.

According to the Tempe Charter, City Council has authority to hire and manage employment of four appointed positions: city attorney, city manager, city clerk and presiding judge of Tempe Municipal Court. All other city employees are managed by one of those appointees.

SoCal exec to head Tempe Chamber

Colin Diaz, who for more than four years was president and chief executive officer of the Culver City, Calif., Chamber of Commerce, has been named



Colin Diaz

president and CEO of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce by its Board of Directors.

Diaz succeeds Anne Gill, who retired.

"There are very few opportunities where a strong foundation, potential for growth and an engaged community coexist concurrently," Diaz said. "Tempe is experiencing this, and more, and is poised for greatness."

Diaz has more than 20 years of management, marketing, sales and

community-outreach experience.

"I firmly believe that Colin possesses the ability and expertise to grow the Tempe Chamber into an even more impactful and successful organization in these challenging times," said Raveen Arora, chair of the Tempe Chamber Board of Directors.

Diaz holds an MBA from Duke University and an MFA for Chapman University. As the leader of the Culver City Chamber, Diaz used a blend of his professional, personal and educational experience to grow reach, elevate the chamber brand and protect the reputation of the Chamber.

Diaz says that he values spending time with his family, including his wife Alicia and two daughters.

He cited the Southeast Valley's many activities and resources as being especially attractive to them.

Diaz' first day on the job in Tempe is March 30, when he may be reached at 480-736-4280 or colin@tempe-chamber.org.



Dr. Rolf Halden (center) of ASU's Institute of Global Sustainability says Tempe's wastewater testing delivers COVID-19 virus data. — Tempe photo

Wastewater

From Page 3

“If you look at the CDC dashboard today, you can tell it was built on the precursor of what we have done here in Tempe,” Halden said.

While getting COVID-19 tests is still an important tool for public health, wastewater testing gives a clearer picture of where the virus hot spots are and where resources should be deployed.

Testing through your doctor's office or a drive-through site is a choice. Using the bathroom is not, and that gives scientists an opportunity to examine the real data of viruses and other public-health markers.

“You flush and then we can see the data in real time every week,” Inchausti said.

How did this program start?

Halden had been among the leading proponents of wastewater testing for more than 20 years. While he

was met with varying degrees of skepticism, he continued his research and pushed for national recognition of his groundbreaking work.

By 2017, Halden persuaded Congress to enlist the FDA to ban several harmful chemicals found in wastewater across the country.

In 2018, Halden approached Tempe with a proposal to combat the ever-present opioid epidemic. Through a grant from Tempe City Council's Innovation Fund, Halden and Inchausti launched the wastewater-testing program with the hope of uncovering data that would help save lives.

“We need to do something, or people are going to continue to die in the opioid epidemic,” Inchausti said.

The program started with engaging the public and conducting informational town halls. Inchausti wanted to ensure that people knew that the opioid epidemic affects friends and family and that there was something that could help save those affected by addiction.

“These were powerful conversations to have with the city's residents,” Inchausti said.

Tempe went in with 100 percent transparency as it launched the online dashboard, which reported real-time data of the opioid hot spots around the city.

“To expose where your hot spots are for opioid use is risky politically and for things like property values. But isn't it worth it for a human life?” Inchausti said.

Tempe City Council supported the project.

Unfortunately, the opioid project was placed on the back burner in 2020 due to the rise of the pandemic. The shift was easy to focus on testing Tempe's wastewater for COVID-19 and its variants.

“Foundationally, we had the trust of the city, and we already had the testing sites,” Inchausti said. “This was a way to test for those who were asymptomatic and those who weren't testing.”

The impact

Inchausti added that “this program has saved lives.”

Wastewater testing proved to be a vital asset in combating the pandemic. Data was more accurate and timelier than testing numbers coming from the state and Maricopa County. This offered a chance to place resources where they were most needed before any peaks in infection rates, according to Inchausti.

“The county has been a great partner during this pandemic,” Inchausti said. “We leveraged getting increased resources from the county thanks to the data we were able to present.”

For example, Tempe's 85281 ZIP code continues to have the highest infection rate in the city. With this knowledge, officials can predict when a peak in infections will hit and immediately dispatch resources to that area, including personal-protection equipment for first responders, increases in vaccine sites in that ZIP code and warn people to make better-informed decisions about health.

“We try to prevent bad things from happening first,” Tempe Fire Chief Greg Ruiz said. “This project helps us do that.”

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a national shortage of PPE for first responders. Thanks to the wastewater program, the Fire Department allocated PPE in a more effective way to keep both the first responders and community safe.

“From the response side, our crews are more informed of hot spots and that's helped them better protect themselves and be prepared for the call in which they are responding,” Ruiz said. “They appreciate the fact that we are giving all the information they need to go out there and provide the services.”

Moving forward, the department will use data to

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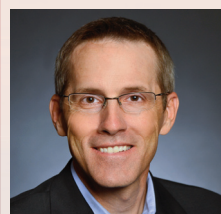
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Wastewater

From Page 4

continually inform its first responders, launch informational campaigns and deploy vital resources to hot spots.

The Tempe Fire Department also is part of the national mentoring program and during the next year will assist Halden and Inchausti in mentoring Genesee/Orleans and Chautauqua counties in New York.

How it's done

It all starts with testing spots around Tempe. There are 11 locations and more on the way. After samples are collected, they are transferred to Halden's team at ASU's Center for Environmental Health Engineering.

From there, samples are centrifuged, leaving only the materials needed for testing. What is left is a small amount of water containing a plethora of information. Halden's team analyzes the sample and extracts RNA, giving the team information on where the COVID-19 virus is currently infecting and even what variant is present.

Once the samples are completely analyzed, data is sent to the city and populated on its online dashboard.

"This is a one-of-a-kind alliance (with Tempe) that we've built, where the university was supporting their hometown, even before the pandemic, in a strategic move to improve public health," Halden said. "We've been doing this for over two years and created the world's first dashboard that is exclusively informed by wastewater management."

Testing sites are crucial to the wastewater-testing program, as they give better data than just collecting samples at the main wastewater plant. The program is expanding to more-specific areas of South Tempe to better pinpoint infection areas.

"We are never tracking the health of individuals or even know who they are," Halden said. "We just measure a composite of thousands of people to better

inform public health."

Halden also shares that the program is very transparent and shared with all stakeholders.

The future

Halden sees a future in which wastewater monitoring becomes routine.

"It will help us save lives, not only for COVID-19, but other diseases and substance use in communities," he said.

While this program is not always glamorous or popular, it's a superhighway of population health information that can improve public health, Halden said.

For example, by monitoring Guadalupe, public-health response was more efficient in bringing virus levels below the limit of detection.

Halden will continue his work with COVID-19 and other viruses but hopes to return to the program's original goals of tackling the opioid crisis. More than 100,000 people in the U.S. died of opioid-related overdoses from May 2020 to April 2021, including a 28.5 percent increase in Arizona.

The wastewater program can even tell which drugs have been processed through a human body or just flushed down the drain, giving cities the opportunity to see where these substances' hot spots are and where resources are needed.

"What we envision is we can take a real-time image of population health and can warn the city of threats, like the arrival of fentanyl," Halden said.

The CDC believes that public-health solutions are rooted in local governments and programs like Tempe's wastewater-testing program, and that they must increase public trust and help local governments act more proactively to public-health threats.

"The CDC is more interested in getting people to trust local government to do something with this type of data," Inchausti said.

More information on Tempe's wastewater-testing program and to view the dashboard: covid19.tempe.gov.

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Being over 45 years of age is a new stage in life—it's the age of 'reality' or practicality. At some point we've had to deal with the horrible human truth that we're not immortal, that our health isn't on autopilot. Whether we have an ongoing condition or we suspect that there might be an issue on the horizon, we have questions, we need answers from someone. Question is, who is that someone?



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OPINIONS

Remember Tempe, West Chandler vets on March 29

By Dennis Gorman & Glynn Gilcrease

After 14 long years of U.S. military involvement, the Vietnam War came to an end on May 7, 1975.

The war was unpopular among many Americans, prompting mass demonstrations in which thousands participated.

Many servicemen during the Vietnam Era did not volunteer. They were drafted into service.

As they returned to the States from Southeast Asia, they often were met with derision, harassment, spit and chants of “baby killer.”

It was wise to change into civilian clothing at the first opportunity.

As a result, Vietnam Veterans of America was created in 1979 after veterans realized that they needed to be their own advocates. It is the only serv-

ice organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

Its motto: “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

The goal is help current armed-forces personnel come home to a more receptive greeting than their Vietnam-era predecessors.

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a day to thank and honor our nation’s Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, and to remember those still listed as missing in action. If you see a Vietnam War veteran wearing a service hat or shirt, please extend a greeting. They’ll warmly greet you back.

Nationally, Vietnam Veterans of America has in excess of 85,000 members in 650 chapters. Among those is our East Valley Chapter 1011, which meets at 6:30 p.m., 10 months a year on the third Tuesday at First United Methodist Church in the Outreach Center, 15



Gorman



Gilcrease

An estimated 20 million gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed to kill plant life in order to deny the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese the cover of dense vegetation as well as food.

Agent Orange has caused and continues to cause the deaths of thousands of veterans who served in Vietnam. The Veterans Administration recognizes 17 health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to AO or

E. 1st Ave. in Mesa. Members need not to have served in Vietnam. It is a support organization. Lifetime membership is \$50.

More than 58,000 U.S. service personnel died in the war. Hundreds of thousands more were injured. Not only did our troops return with the obvious physical injuries, but they also came home with two silent but deadly killers: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Agent Orange, caused by a defoliant/herbicide.

other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits as a result.

Vietnam Veterans of America has trained hundreds of veteran service officers to assist fellow veterans in securing their entitlements from the Veterans Administration.

Sadly, Agent Orange impacted the DNA of those exposed, resulting in disease to the children and grandchildren of those veterans. Scientists indicate that this may pass down three or four generations.

Who will be there to represent and advocate for these descendants of veterans of a war fought so many years before? The VVA.

Its goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

VVA knows what returning veterans face. So if you see a veteran on March 29 in Tempe or West Chandler, give them a wave of acknowledgement.

Dennis Gorman is secretary of Vietnam Veterans of America East Valley Chapter 1011. Glynn Gilcrease is a Tempe attorney, who joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1969 as a volunteer at the height of the Vietnam War.

Medicare Advantage addresses care inequities

By John Skelton



Skelton

Inequities in our nation’s healthcare system occurred long before the COVID-19 pandemic began.

It is clear that the pandemic has deepened some of the existing issues among

lower-income, minority and older Americans, all of whom struggle with access and affordability issues that all too often prevent them from getting the care they need, when they need it.

We need to remember what we’ve learned over the past two years to address the issues that contribute to the many inequities that plague our health-care system.

Chief among these lessons should be

the importance of access and affordability.

For America’s seniors — especially those from historically underserved racial or ethnic minority communities — now is an especially crucial time as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is undertaking its annual Medicare Advantage rate-setting process.

To keep this program strong for the more than 28 million Americans who rely on it, it is critical that the CMS and Congress continue to ensure that it is properly funded.

My organization, Senior Helpers Tempe, recently participated in a Better Medicare Alliance roundtable discussion to advocate for a strong Medicare Advantage program.

Our organization is grateful for the opportunity to discuss this issue with other local community leaders as well as Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Arizona).

We are hopeful that she will take our concerns back to Washington. Medicare Advantage plays a unique role in our health-care system.

It is helping connect some of our most underserved communities with the critical services and offerings they need to get and stay healthy, including a much higher proportion of low-income and minority beneficiaries than who are currently served by traditional fee for service Medicare.

A full one-third of Medicare Advantage beneficiaries identify as a minority, compared to only 16 percent of FFS Medicare enrollees.

This includes 53 percent of Latinx seniors and nearly 50 percent of African American seniors nationwide.

Congress and CMS should not derail the progress this program is making to provide greater access, increase equity and overcome barriers to care that prevent many Arizonans from getting the medical services they need.

If reimbursement rates are reduced, it could threaten the many benefits that are helping at-risk seniors.

Seniors simply cannot find many of

these services in FFS Medicare, which is one of the reasons the Medicare Advantage program is so wildly popular with its beneficiaries.

A recent survey indicates that 94 percent of seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage are satisfied with their coverage and 93 percent believe protecting it should be a priority for the administration.

By the end of 2022, it’s projected that enrollment will reach 29.5 million Americans.

Our leaders in Washington should help ensure Medicare Advantage can continue to grow along with enrollment so it can keep playing a critical role in increasing access and equity while improving health-care outcomes for all Arizona communities.

John Skelton is the owner of Senior Helpers Tempe and is the former quarterback for the Arizona Cardinals.

Commentary

Tempe community made my service possible, fulfilling

By Robin Arredondo-Savage

My years as a Tempe City Councilmember have been the honor of a lifetime and, more than anything, what we have accomplished together will be what stays with me.

It has been a privilege to serve the community where I grew up and chose to raise two sons with my husband. Last year I made the difficult decision alongside my family to not seek a fourth term on the Council. Since then, I have been reflecting on all the people – community members, fellow Councilmembers, city staff and regional partners – who have made these 12 years so productive and impactful.

It was always about them – not me. Their vision and hard work led to some amazing community programs and services, including:

College Connect – More than 1,500 Tempe teens have been helped on their journeys to life beyond high school. If you have a young person in your life who has big dreams, check out this program, which can help

make them a reality, at tempe.gov/CollegeConnect.

Veterans services – During the next fiscal year, which starts July 1, Tempe will hire a veterans coordinator who can provide critical connections for our local veterans, active military and those entering the military. We have grown these services over the years and this future staff member will be the catalyst to expand our offerings and volunteer opportunities. You can even subscribe to a quarterly e-newsletter dedicated to veterans issues at tempe.gov/veterans.



Arredondo-Savage

Career Ready Tempe – This program is all about establishing a pipeline to link our talented young people to the great careers available at an array of Tempe businesses at tempe.gov/CareerReadyTempe.

Beyond these, my service on the Board of Directors

for Valley Metro Rail has been an incredible opportunity to advocate on Tempe's behalf while considering the larger needs of our region. I am beyond excited to help welcome the streetcar when it launches later this spring.

The experiences, friendships and partnerships I've enjoyed over the last 12 years will carry me into the next chapters of my life.

I'm not going anywhere – Tempe is my permanent home. My passion and dedication to our neighborhoods, schools, public safety and businesses will continue as a resident, along with all of you.

If you would like to connect with me about anything, please reach out at robin_arredondo-savage@tempe.gov, or 480-350-8792 or on Facebook.

Robin Arredondo-Savage is a three-term Tempe City Councilmember.

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There's nun other like it

Run at Kiwanis Park in support of Poor Clares monastery draws 1,000

Story & photos by Tony Gutiérrez
Special for Wrangler News

Steve Greene, who ran cross country in high school, vowed that he never again would run unless he was “being chased by a bear.”

He broke that vow to participate in the 13th annual Desert Nun Run at Kiwanis Park on March 5.

“Since this is for the Poor Clares out in Tonopah, that’s a good cause, so I thought, ‘Alright, fine. I’ll strap on the shoes and do another run,’” Greene said.

Greene took second place in the men’s 40-49-year-old division. His wife, Becky, took third in the women’s 40-49 age group. One of their daughters, Avery, was second in girls’ 11-12, and one of their sons, Donovan, won the boys’ 13-14.

“A bunch of us moms who have lots of kids and not a lot of time were training for the 5K and doing our best,” said Becky, who ran with other members of the Sacred Heart Home Educators, a Catholic home-schooling association.

“I’m glad it’s done. I think I’m going to go throw up,” she said, jokingly.

The annual Desert Nun Run raises money to support the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration at Our Lady of Solitude Monastery in Tonopah, affectionately known as the “Desert Nuns.” The Poor Clares are a Roman Catholic religious order of nuns who live a cloistered life focused on prayer and dedicated to Eucharistic adoration — a practice based on the Catholic teaching that once consecrated, the elements of

bread and wine used for Holy Communion become the body and blood of Christ.

The order is named for St. Clare of Assisi, a contemporary of St. Francis, who founded a community of women desiring to live in the Franciscan tradition. Founded in France in 1854, the Poor Clares have independent monasteries throughout the U.S. The Tonopah monastery was founded in 2005. Money raised from previous runs supported its building efforts. This year’s funds go toward landscaping.

“We’re six strong, and we have two women in formation,” said Sister John-Mark Maria, the order’s extern nun who acts as a spokeswoman. “Because the monastery is now complete, we are expecting the floodgate doors to open for vocations.”

There was even a popup confessional at the park.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, last year’s became a virtual run. The nuns mailed out T-shirts to registrants, who then submitted photos of themselves participating. One family in California sent photos with the ocean in the background. Another submitted photos on horseback.

After the hiatus, more than 1,000 were on hand at Kiwanis on March 5.

“It’s been something that we’ve been striving for, to have some normalcy back in life, both within our community and with the greater community,” Sister



Above: The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration at Our Lady of Solitude Monastery in Tonopah turn out for their fundraising Desert Nun Run at Kiwanis Park.

Below: Lauren and Michael Dube cross the finish line.





John-Mark Maria said. “It’s such a great event to bring people to know about the Lord and that there’s sisters in Arizona that are praying for them.”

Runners Jen Bradley and Christine Patterson, with their families, share an attraction to the run’s communal gathering. “We’ve been doing it for years,” Bradley said. “It’s such a nice Catholic event, and you’re around so many other faithful Catholics. It’s just a good community event.”

During the run, Bradley and Patterson both donned T-shirts representing LifeRunners, an international running group.

“By wearing the shirts to the run, we’re able to evangelize,” said Patterson. “Lots of people comment on them, and it brings up conversation about the pro-life community and supporting them more.”

Although several of the Desert Nuns made a rare excursion from their monastery, they didn’t run. Their absence in the field was offset by members of the Servants of the Plan of God, another community of Catholic sisters that serve at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Parish in

Tempe. “They have a beautiful vocation,” Sister Monica Nobl said of the Desert Nuns.

She added that participating was a way of “showing our faith through sports.”

Sister May Olanolan adapted her veil with a white baseball cap to keep out the sun during her run.

“I love running with my habit — the habit is part of our identity, and we want to show our faith,” she said. “I want to show we are consecrated women, and we’re going to show the beauty of the Church for anyone to see it. I don’t want to take it away, even for a run.”

The Very Rev. Don Kline, pastor of St. Bernadette Catholic Parish in North Scottsdale and vicar forane overseeing Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Phoenix’s Northeast Deanery, has emceed the run almost every year from its inception.

“I truly believe that the world needs to experience the incredible mission that is the Poor Clares and support them because the world has lost its focus,” Kline said. “The Poor Clares have a way of keeping us on track on what is truly important and good and beautiful.”

Above: Sister-Monica-Nobl resembled ‘The Flying Nun’ as she ran in her habit. Below: A good confession onsite is as good for the soul as a good run.



Spring training disruption just like old times

Civic-minded Diablos regroup after Cactus League funding source reduced for 3rd straight season

By Lee Shappell

Wrangler News Executive Editor

It was beginning to appear that the third time would not be the charm for the Tempe Diablos, a civic organization comprising volunteers that has given away millions of dollars to charitable ventures.

The Diablos derive a significant chunk of their annual revenue from Major League Baseball's Cactus League spring-training games at Tempe Diablo Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Angels, where the Diablos volunteer to park cars, take tickets and usher guests to their seats.

The past two years, the Diablos took a heavy hit on revenue as COVID-19 wiped out most of the Cactus League schedule.

As pandemic numbers eased this spring and people were getting back out and about, the Diablos thought they saw greener pastures.

Not so fast.

Major League team owners and the MLB Players

Association were so far apart on a labor agreement that the owners locked out the players from spring training. It was looking like there might be no Cactus League play, which after 2020 and 2021 would have been Strike 3 for the Diablos.

But, alas, the players and owners got it figured out in time to play approximately half of a normal Cactus League schedule.

"It's been rough," said Mike DiDomenico, first vice president of the Diablos. "We're happy that we have any schedule. There was a chance there could have been no Cactus League season whatsoever, so we're happy to have half a season. That's always better than nothing."

During the past year, the agreement among the Angels, Diablos and Tempe, which owns the stadium, was tweaked. Previously, the Angels designated one home game each spring "Diablos Day," in which Diablos Charities received all proceeds from tickets, parking and concessions. This year, the Angels instead cut the Diablos a lump-sum check for \$150,000. The Diablos still make money off supplying volunteer labor from

its membership at each game.

"We're thankful for it," DiDomenico said of the lump sum. "It's a number higher than we would have achieved in most years with a really good game. If you can imagine the Angels hosting the Cubs or the Diamondbacks on a very sunny Saturday afternoon, with a filled stadium and everyone buying lots of hotdogs, that was the best game we could have hoped for. Well, the Angels have just locked that number in for us this year. That really helps, because you could have a bad weather day, or a team that doesn't draw as well, or any number of things that could have impacted that day.

"The city has also worked with us so we're a little bit less dependent on the number of games and attendance on the revenue we can earn. Hopefully, at the end of the season the math is going to work in our favor. It won't be as good as a regular year but it will be much less painful than the last two years."

That's about as good as the news can get for a half season, said DiDomenico, 60, who heads the property management department for Kidder Matthews, a com-



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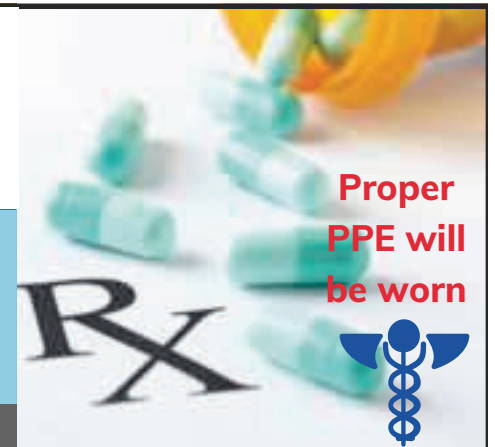
Tempe Coalition is a grant-funded project of  a 501(C)3 nonprofit

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(S/E corner of Hardy & Carver, between Elliot & Warner)



Tempe Coalition

TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRUG USE

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mercial real estate brokerage and management company.

The Diablos have awakened to the necessity to look for new sources of revenue.

Last year, they got involved in a new fundraising event with the city, the Tempe Playlist Jam Festival, at the Sports Complex on Hardy Drive in South Tempe. It was in June, in the heat, and on short notice. This year's event moves forward into May when it is cooler, and planning is well under way. The festival is expected to generate revenue.

Recently, the Diablos participated in Innings Fest at Tempe Beach Park and picked up additional revenue.

And they still have their signature Ignite the Night fundraiser. This year, it's back live, 6:30-11:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, after being forced to go virtual during the pandemic. The high-energy party moves to the larger Event Center at Rawhide, 5700 W. North Loop Road at Wild Horse Pass. There will be dancing, music, a live concert from Tempe native and Corona del Sol High graduate Zowie Bowie, silent and live auctions, food and drinks.

Individual tickets are \$200, a table of eight is \$1,600 and a VIP table of 8 is \$2,600. Sponsorship packages are available, as well. More information is available at IgnitetheNight.org or TempeDiablos.org.

The Diablos reinvest approximately \$1 million a



Parking cars at Cactus League games is a significant source of revenue for the charitable Tempe Diablos. — Wrangler News file photo

year into the Tempe community in high school scholarships, an extensive grant program to non-profits and a variety of services that help make Tempe families' and residents' lives better.

The Diablos fund 30 new full college scholarships each year and renew them for students for four years if they stay in school and make good grades.

"So at any point we are funding 120 scholars," DiDomenico said.

Another important event for the Diablos is its Ex-

cellence in Education Awards, essentially the Academy Awards for area educators, in which honors are presented to teachers and staff from Tempe Elementary, Kyrene and Tempe Union High School districts. The 30 new Tempe Diablos scholarship winners, who will be heading to Arizona State University or Maricopa Community Colleges, also are unveiled at the gala.

"We realize that this isn't the first time there's been a baseball lockout or strike," DiDomenico said. "Obviously, our work at the stadium is also weather dependent. And a few years ago, who would have ever thought of something like COVID taking the better part of spring training away from us — as well as two years of Ignite the Night events?"

"But we're going to keep working and find new ways to raise money and continue doing these worthwhile projects."

REMAINING LOS ANGELES ANGELS

HOME CACTUS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

At Tempe Diablo Stadium, 2200 W. Alameda Drive in Tempe

March 27—San Francisco, 1:10 p.m.; **March 28**—Oakland, 1:10 p.m.; **April 1**—Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m.

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Paving the way: Tempe Streetcar enters final stretch of preparation

The Tempe streetcar project is in the final stretch of preparation and is on track to open this spring.

To improve streetcar operations, reduce future maintenance and provide a safer, better street experience for all users, roadway surrounding the line is being repaved during March.

The repaving along the 3-mile streetcar alignment is being funded with \$30.5 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act in support of the nation's transportation systems.

The city and Valley Metro are making every effort to lessen impacts to the traveling public, businesses and residents, as well as accommodate all planned special events.

Closures, restrictions and bus detours can be found at tempe.gov/Street-Closures as well as on Tempe social media channels.

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- Google Review



Anna Lunaria,
Ms. Ac. L.Ac.
CMT CYT CHT

Kiwanis Pool temporarily closed - but improvements coming



Kiwanis Pool in South Tempe is closed until early April, but users of the indoor facility will find something new when it reopens. Among the maintenance and repairs being done during the closure: New slide and stair structure; Tile replacement in wave pool; tile replacement in slide-catch pool. While Kiwanis, 6111 S. All America Way in Tempe, is closed, lap swimming and water fitness are available at McClintock Pool, 1830 E Del Rio Drive in Tempe.

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New meaning to ruff-ing it

Upscale pet day care and hotel aims to pamper your pooch

By Meghann Sepulveda
Special for Wrangler News

Parents of fur babies, rejoice. A new doggie day care and luxury boarding facility will pamper all of your “upscale” pooches from West Chandler and South Tempe.

K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel opened in February for four-legged friends to stay and play, featuring spacious suites, top-quality meals and an outdoor courtyard. It caters to West Chandler, South Tempe and those who work in the vicinity of the Price Corridor. In other words, your high-roller pooches.

Dog owners know firsthand that traveling out of town can be challenging. In addition to booking flights and hotels, you also need a

place for Fido to stay. With so many boarding options available, it’s hard to know which to choose.

Dena Miller, a West Chandler resident, was thrilled to learn a new boarding and day care facility opened near her home. Her 2-year-old dog, Toulouse, a 13-pound Coton de Tulear, had had a bad interaction with a German Shepard that left him frightened of other dogs.

“We tried other boarding and day care facilities in the past, but Toulouse would always come back unsettled and wouldn’t eat for days,” Miller said. “It would never go well.”

When she called K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel, the staff listened to her concerns and were accommodating.

“They were so kind and helpful,” she said. “I decided to give it a shot.”

Early this month, Toulouse went in for an evaluation. He came home happy.

“It was shocking,” Miller said. “I couldn’t believe that we found a place that would actually be a good fit.”

Toulouse will likely be attending day care once a week to release energy and socialize with other dogs. In the summer, Miller and her family will be traveling and plan to board Toulouse for several days.

“When you’re gone, it’s comforting to know that your baby is safe,” she said.

At K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel, on the northeastern corner of Dobson and Germann, pet owners can select from three boarding options, including the top-tier luxury suite for \$85 a night that offers an 8-foot-by-8-foot cage-free space, glass privacy doors, premium bedding, in-suite television entertainment, high-quality meals and individual or group playtime.

“This option is our best seller,” said Keith Nicholson, franchise owner. “People consider their dogs members of the family and want them to be comfortable and feel at home.”

Smaller spaces – which also provide an abundant list of amenities – are offered in the executive suites, priced less at \$65 per night.

Those looking for a more-traditional boarding experience can select a standard (\$48 per night) or double (\$55 per night) compartment, depending on the size of the dog. A 50 percent discount is available for multiple dogs that share a space during their stay.

High-quality HVAC units maintain proper temperatures and keep fresh, clean air circulating throughout the facility and dehumidifiers control moisture.

Regardless of the breed, all dogs enjoy freedom to frolic in fresh air. K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel boasts a beautiful outdoor courtyard with two climbing structures, a shaded area and faux grass.

“We use specially formulated artificial turf that’s not only durable but provides good filtration and is designed to be cooler in the hot summer months,” Nicholson said.

Playtime ensures a pet’s physical well-being, but also has emotional and behavioral advantages, such as increasing mental energy, lessening separation anxiety, reducing destructive behavior, building confidence and lowering digestive issues.

All dogs who are guests at K9 Resorts are carefully screened for temperament and must be current on vaccinations.

As more people are working from home with their canine colleagues, many can’t give their precious pups the time and attention they need during the day. That’s also where a doggie day care comes in.

“We offer half-day and full-day options and feature several packages and specials,” Nicholson said.

Instead of being bored while you’re on Zoom calls, your best buddy can have fun playing all day and will come home exhausted. Stimulating and engaging spaces, created by skilled dog experts, will keep your dog busy socializing with new friends.

More information: k9resorts.com/chandler.

Photos Pages 16-17

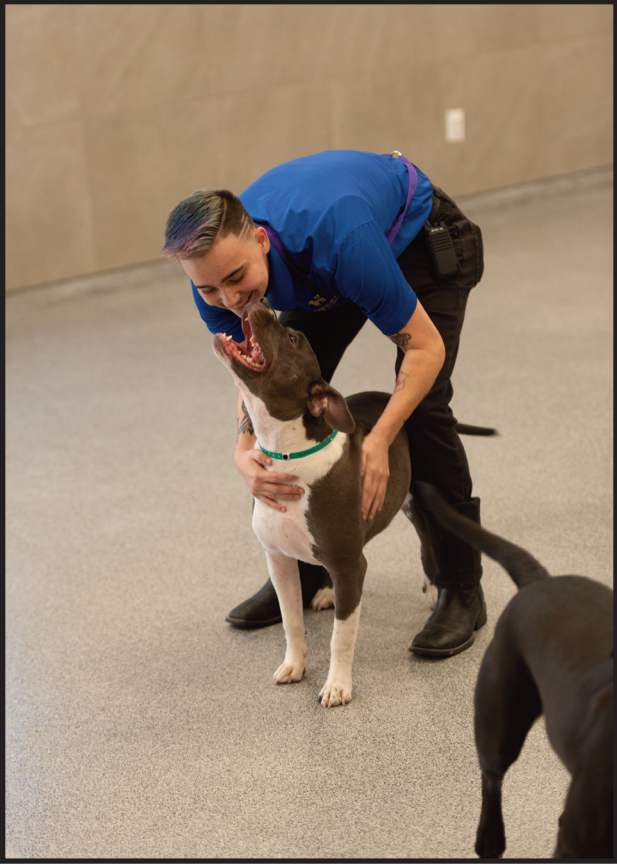
Living' r-r-r-right!

There are plenty of places where you can take your dog for day care or short-term boarding, but the new K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel, which claims to be the luxury hotel of doggie day cares, already is building a West Chandler/South Tempe clientele.

At right, top: Echo gets a bath from assistant manager Jecelle Muller. Below: Rosi enjoys playing fetch in the large play area where there's room to romp.

Facing page, top from left: Pet technician Tyler Peaster listens to a canine chat, and later provides a tummy rub. Bottom: Peaster and pet technician Haylee Quinney watch a King of the Hill competition in the resort's play area.







DIVERSIONS

Film Fare ... with M.V. Moorhead

'The Outfit' nearly fits like a glove, with perhaps a stitch or two too many



M.V. Moorhead

This gangster thriller *The Outfit* takes place almost entirely inside a small, classy shop in '50s-era Chicago run by an English tailor or, as he prefers, a "cutter."

The Savile Row veteran makes elegant suits, largely for Chicago gangsters.

He also has allowed a slotted box to be installed in his back room, from which the mobsters pick up messages. Some of the envelopes are marked with a symbol indicating that they are from "The Outfit," which causes the recipients to look at each other significantly and hurry off to who knows what intrigues.

The Cutter, whose name is listed in the credits as Leonard but to whom the gangsters affectionately refer only as "English," is played by Mark Rylance, close to the flawlessly made vest as usual. The great actor's bland, unhurried, maddeningly unperturbed line readings potentially generate the sense that he's got secrets, potentially dark.

He's quietly, politely paternal toward his lovely receptionist Mable (Zoey Deutch), and though she's a bit prickly at his fretting she seems to love him back. Otherwise he appears to have no life but his work.

Rylance plays the role with such authority that while we watch him confidently cut and stitch and smooth fabric, we never doubt what we're seeing for second. It feels like watching a

documentary.

Trouble starts when two of the hoods, who are looking for a "rat," who has been feeding information to the FBI, show up one night after a gunfight, one of them wounded, looking to English for a hideout and some impromptu field surgery.

The twists and turns and bloody violence keep piling up from there, and eventually the boss (Simon Russel Beale in a fine, cliché-free turn) shows up to this messy scene and everybody starts trying to deceive and outmaneuver everybody else.

The director, Graham Moore, who co-wrote the film with Jonathan McClain, plays a lot of this for grim comedy. The style is theatrical, not just because of the single set and small cast but because of the heightened dialogue.

With guns pointed at them and all manner of mayhem happening around them, the characters nonetheless launch into heartfelt, reflective monologues about their pasts. If you can accept this conceit, you're likely to find *The Outfit* is gripping, funny and moving.

Perhaps Moore and McClain push their luck a bit. The film has a twist or two too many.

Speaking of his craft at one point in the narration, English observes that perfection, though necessary as an aspirational ideal, is never truly attainable. This movie's last 10 minutes or so illustrate this perfectly, but as with one of English's suits, no one is likely to feel skimped.



Josiel Perez's MambAZ All-Stars are among featured performers April 2 at the Chandler Jazz Festival at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park downtown. — Photo courtesy of Josiel Perez's MambAZ All-Stars

Take the 'A' train to Chandler Jazz Fest

April is Jazz Appreciation Month and Chandler is right on top of it for aficionados of the genre with its annual Jazz Festival on April 1-2.

And for those who aren't quite sure about jazz, come give it a try. There will be live performances across a range of genres, including blues and Latin fusion, as well as family-friendly activities at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park downtown, 178 E. Commonwealth Ave.

Main-stage music is 5-10:30 p.m. each night. Gates open 60 minutes prior to the first act each evening at the 22nd annual festival. There is no admission charge.

Festivalgoers are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs to the outdoor concert.

"There's no better way to kick off Jazz Appreciation Month than with our free, two-day festival in Downtown Chandler," said Hermelinda Llamas, festival coordinator. "The Chandler Jazz Festival is a great way for the community to get ready for a melodic month of music."

The Chandler Jazz Festival features local and national artists each evening on the main stage set up at Stage Plaza, including Sugar Thieves, Dennis

Jones, Roxy Coss, Beth Lederman and Jazz Con Alma, and Josiel Perez's MambAZ All-Stars.

On Saturday afternoon, from 2 to 4:30, jazz bands will perform along the sidewalks of Downtown Chandler West Alley BBQ will host After Hours Jam Sessions from 9 p.m. to midnight each night.

Libations and cuisine will be available for purchase. Guests 21 and older may enjoy the festival's music-infused beer and wine garden, featuring local beers from Downtown Chandler's craft brewers as well as wine and popular cocktails.

Food from a variety of vendors and regional-artisan booths with paintings, photography and jewelry for sale will be onsite.

Many restaurants in Downtown Chandler also are within easy walking distance of festivities.

The complete festival entertainment schedule is available online at chandleraz.gov/jazz.

The festival is presented by the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, Phoenix Blues Society, The Nash, West Alley BBQ, Waste Management and Chandler.

New downtown Chandler restaurant-bar a whimsical nod to school days

By Nicole Greason

Special for Wrangler News

Recreo bills itself as a space for youthful remembrance of a lighter time in the school yard.

If only our school days and school yards could have been like this new restaurant and bar in historic Downtown Chandler – a chic indoor-outdoor bar combined with upscale dining and a laid-back patio that welcomes hipsters, tipsters, moms, pops, kiddos and anyone who wants to eat, drink and have fun.

Walk into Recreo and the first things that hit your senses are the bright-green color of the banquets against a long wall, upbeat music and low lighting from a whimsical chandelier made of jump ropes.

All of this adds to the restaurant's school

yard/playground-theme that includes an outdoor play area with a ping-pong table and cornhole boards, a school-bus art installation, a bar with swings instead of stools and an edible garden. There's also a live-music stage and DJ booth made from a shipping container mounted above the patio in the back of the restaurant.

"Recreo is bringing a fresh, youthful atmosphere to Chandler's downtown area," Henry Malachowski, general manager of the establishment, said in a written statement. "We are thrilled to provide fresh local ingredients, an inviting indoor/outdoor garden hangout vibe and unique cocktails."

On a recent Friday-evening, the music was bumping as the bar filled with end-of-the-week-celebrating patrons and wait staff scurried around a full-house dining room, serving what the restaurant calls "food-

venturous" fare.

Recreo's approximately 9,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor dining, with a capacity of 242, once was home to El Zocalo Mexican Grill, a locally-owned restaurant that operated for more than 20 years before the COVID-19 pandemic forced it to close permanently in May 2020.

"From the moment we discovered the site, we were instantly dedicated to recreating the space to honor our great state, its melting-pot culture, and to also create new experiences as a community," said Chris Field, founder of Allium Hospitality, Recreo's development company.

"Recreo celebrates the history of Chandler, while simultaneously looking forward to its vibrant, bustling

— RECREO, Page 20



Beth Lederman and Jazz Con Alma will perform at the Chandler Jazz Festival on April 1.

22nd annual Chandler Jazz Festival

FRIDAY NIGHT MAIN STAGE

5 p.m., Sugar Thieves; **6:15 p.m.**, The Tommy Grills Band; **7:30 p.m.**, Sir Harrison Band; **9 p.m.**, Dennis Jones.

SATURDAY NIGHT MAIN STAGE

5 p.m., Mike Ozuna Band; **6:15 p.m.**, Beth Lederman and Jazz con Alma; **7:30 p.m.**, Roxy Coss; **9 p.m.**, Josiel Perez's MambAZ Orchestra.

TCAA's fundraising 'Vicinity' back after 2 years with lineup of food, drinks, entertainment

By Cliff Summerhill

Special for Wrangler News

Tempe Community Action Agency's signature fundraising event, a foodie paradise known as "Vicinity," is back after a two-year hiatus, welcoming a variety of area restaurants.

Vicinity returns 6:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. on April 1 at the Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park, 1300 N. College Ave. in Tempe, with more than 13 Tempe restaurants showcasing their signature dishes and new menu items as well as beer and spirit vendors.

General admission is \$100.

"This is not your traditional fundraiser," Deborah Arteaga, chief executive officer of TCAA, said. "There's no boring PowerPoints or assigned seating. It's all about gathering as a community and celebration."

Many of Tempe's favorite restaurants will be featured, including Crepe Bar, Golden Pineapple Draft Lounge, Hudson Bar and Eatery and Crumbl

Cookies. Adventurous Stills will host a spirit tasting and showcase two new specialty drinks to sample.

"We did not expect so many restaurant vendors this year due to recent events and the struggles they've endured over the past few years," Arteaga said. "To us, they are the honorary guests this year. It's been a huge show of generosity."

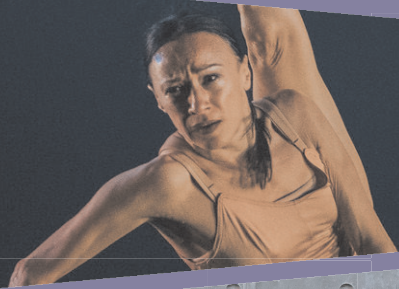
Vicinity will feature live music from Kevin Levine's Jump, Jive, and Wail, a local swing band, and a live auction and raffle with many unique items.

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods not only will be present for the fundraiser but he also is a raffle prize. Woods, who will co-host a tie-dye party, will do all the cooking for the lucky prize winner.

Another first this year: Family members from TCAA's founders, Lupe Esquer and Barbara Norton, will be in attendance to present awards and \$500 grants to outstanding community members and organizations.

— VICINITY, Page 20

Coming Up at Tempe Center for the Arts



TCA PRESENTS

Koresh Dance Company

Apr 2, 2022 | 7:30 pm

TCA PRESENTS

LP & The Vinyl

Apr 23, 2022 | 7:30 pm



TCA PRESENTS

Martha Redbone

Apr 24, 2022 | 7:30 pm



TCA PRESENTS

Amythyst Kiah

Apr 27, 2022 | 7:30 pm



TCA PRESENTS

Lisa Fischer

Apr 30, 2022 | 7:30 pm



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Tempe Center for the Arts



Recreo

From Page 19

future.”

The menu carries a travel theme with sections titled Boarding for sharable charcuterie boards, Destinations for main dishes, Layovers for salads, Carry-Ons for sides and The Landing for desserts. There's an affordable kids menu with tasty food to keep little diners happy at the table until they're full and run outside to the patio to hang out or play while you finish eating and sipping your favorite cocktail.

Signature menu items include the Buddha Bowl, a compilation of grains, roasted root vegetables and yogurt; fresh ceviche, sugar crusted ahi; and The Amazing Mushroom with portobello mushroom, burrata, zucchini, roasted bell pepper and arugula. Desserts include Crepes Foster with butter-rum bananas, cinnamon crepes and pecan caramel, and That'll Do, Fig with white figs, lemon marscapone and fresh mint.

The cocktail menu lists Elementary Cocktails, including That Mean Dog On The Other Side Of The Fence, which is a Greyhound; The Faculty Breakroom, an Irish Coffee, and That Little Redheaded Kid Wasn't Bothering Anybody, a Moscow Mule. There's also a wine and beer selection and soft drinks. Recreo, 28 S. San Marcos Place, is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday through Sunday.

More information: recreoaz.com.

Vicinity

From Page 19

In addition, those family members will present organizers of Tempe Empty Bowls with the TCAA Volunteer Achievement Award as the group transitions out after 20 years.

“They've handed over the bowls, so to speak, to TCAA's newest volunteer group, the Emerging Leaders Committee,” Arteaga said.

Emerging Leaders Committee is for young professionals who live, work and play in Tempe.

Vicinity began in autumn 2005 as “First Crush,” to symbolize the start of wine season in Arizona. About four years ago, TCAA rebranded it to Vicinity.

“We wanted it to be less about grapes and more about the community and community gathering,” Arteaga said.

While the name has changed, the tradition has continued as the event moved to new locations regularly while keeping its vendors and participants within the Tempe community.

TCAA is asking for water donations. With summer on the horizon, water-collection begins now in order to build reserve to serve those who will become overheated during the hottest time of year, including those who are experiencing homelessness.

More information or to purchase tickets to Vicinity: tempeaction.org.



Since its move to Wild Horse Pass, soccer team is Rising

Story and photos by Andrew Lwowski
Special for Wrangler News

It's no longer necessary for West Chandler and Tempe fans to drive across the Valley to enjoy professional sports action.

Now, all they have to do is drive across Interstate 10, to Wild Horse Pass, where the Phoenix Rising FC soccer team of the USL Championship has begun its second season in a state-of-the-art 10,000-seat stadium.

And unlike some of the other Valley pro sports teams, the Rising win.

Its 4-2 season-opening victory over Monterey Bay on March 12 is representative of the Rising's performance in recent seasons that built a strong, enthusiastic fan base, which outgrew a temporary stadium near Loops 101 and 202 two years ago and made the move to Wild Horse Pass Sports Complex, 19593 S. 48th St. in Chandler, necessary.

Rising general manager Bobby Dulles regards the first season in the new stadium a success. In 2021, the Rising went 20-5-7, winning both the USL Championship Pacific Division and Western Conference titles.

"It was great," Dulles said. "In the regular season, we didn't lose a match here. The location has been fantastic, it was a great partnership with Gila River Indian Community and it's definitely an improved fan experience in what our site was."

However, 2021 was not perfect.

"What was challenging for us last year was we were right in the middle of COVID, and we weren't sure how many fans we could have," Dulles said. "So, last year, with a condensed calendar and 50 percent capacity for the first handful of games, those were the challenges we were dealing with."

The new complex has seating for about 35 percent more than the temporary Casino Arizona Field had.

"We were selling out over capacity at our old site," Dulles said. "For us to be able to make some improvements to the fan experience – get more people in here, support the boys on the field, and create a really intimidating environment for the opposition – is what we were going for. We're fortunate to have great fans."

The club had been an itinerant tenant. It hosted games at Peoria Sports complex in 2014, when it was founded, before moving to Scottsdale Stadium for 2015.

The club moved back to Peoria for 2016 season. And then into the temporary quarters at Casino Arizona Field from 2017 to 2020.

Now, the club has a suitable home with ample seating and the ability to expand at Wild Horse Pass Soccer Sports Complex.

While the new location plays nicely for Chandler, Tempe, Ahwatukee and other Southeast Valley communities, its proximity to the new Loop 202/South Mountain Freeway easily connects it to the West Valley, where it hopes to make marketing and ticket-sales inroads this season.

"One thing that has been nice about this location has been the access to the west side of town," Dulles said. "Some of the fan zones on the south lawn, you see so many kids. Parents are comfortable with kids running around and having a good time. It's expanded the amount of people we can play in front of."

Connecting fans was the main target for Dulles and the FC soccer club when creating the new Wild Horse Pass venue.

With COVID restrictions gone, Phoenix Rising FC is looking forward to a full, normal 2022 season.

"We're looking forward to a more normal calendar and having full capacity at our matches," Dulles said. "We have fantastic supporters and our fans are very passionate. They have high expectations and we have high expectations."

Players are attracted to come here because of the facilities that we have, the culture we have established and most importantly, because of the passionate fans that they get to play in front of each week."

The size and location of the stadium along Interstate 10 help the growth of a sport that enjoys great popularity in the Valley as well as large bases of soccer fans in Casa Grande and Tucson.

"It's great, the amount of youth soccer players, people playing pickup soccer. The sport is growing tremendously," Dulles said.

"(It's great) for us to be able to have a facility like this and bring in teams from all over the country within our league, and we also get to host teams here for Major League Soccer for preseason."

The U.S. national team trained at Wild Horse Pass, for example.



"So the quality of facilities we have and how much care that goes into the facilities – players want to play on good fields, and that is something that we really pride ourselves on," Dulles said. "The type of facility that we have helps us attract and recruit players, but it also helps us attract and recruit other teams to come train here."

"Then, when the visiting teams come here and they see what type of facilities we have, they see the support of our fan base, these are the clubs that players want to play for."

More information: phxrisingfc.com.

REMAINING PHOENIX RISING FC HOME MATCHES

March 26 vs. San Diego Loyal SC; **April 9** vs. LA Galaxy II; **April 16** vs. New Mexico United; **April 23** vs. Miami; **May 7** vs. San Antonio; **May 15** vs. Tampa Bay; **June 4** vs. Birmingham; **June 11** vs. El Paso Locomotive FC; **July 2** vs. Orange County SC; **July 23** vs. Sacramento Republic FC; **July 30** vs. Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC; **Aug. 6** vs. Las Vegas; **Aug. 31** vs. RGV; **Sept. 10** vs. Oakland; **Oct. 1** vs. New York Red Bulls II; **Oct. 15** vs. Atlanta United 2.

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SPORTS NOTEBOOK . . . with Alex Zener

Experienced players set up Corona softball for long tournament run

Corona del Sol High's softball team, having won seven of 10 games and outscoring opponents 80-42, is focused on making a long run in the 6A state play-offs.



Alex Zener record, returned most of its players.

"It's clear that our team has put in a lot of work during the off season and have a definite focus this year on working hard to win games," said coach Sean Thornton.

Corona, currently No. 13 with an 8-6-1 record, returned most of its players.

"We are very lucky to return all-region players **Bella Cummins, Megan Ireland, Jacklyn Ibarra and Emmalyn Brinka**," Thornton said. "We also gained all region outfielder **Gina Jackson**."

"We are much better offensively than we have been in the past few year." Four Corona seniors have committed to play college softball next season.

"Emmalyn Brinka plans on attending University of Memphis," said Thornton. "**Teagan Neumann** is going to Southern Utah University, **Isabella Cummins** to Howard University and Megan Ireland at Vanguard University."

Thornton says the Aztecs have made strides in the power department led by Neumann, Ireland and **Isabelle Freund**. Ireland leads the team with a .750 slugging percentage followed by Brinka with .741 and Ibarra with .648.

In Corona's 15-1 rout of Desert Ridge, seven Aztecs hit home runs. Freund hit three. Neumann and Ibarra each hit two. **Madison Romero, Alani Beltran, Brinka and Ireland** each hit one.

"Jacklyn Ibarra is one of the best hitters we have," Thornton said. "While she does not hit for power, she is great at getting on base and setting the table for us."

Ibarra leads the team with 18 hits (.486). She has nine runs scored, seven RBI and 58.7 on-base percentage.

Junior **Layrsa Pagel** has the highest batting average on the team at .500. Pagel has scored five runs and has a .556 on-base percentage.

Romero has scored the most runs, 16, and has a home run and six RBI. Freund is close behind, scoring 15 runs, two from home runs, on 10 hits and 14 RBI. Ireland has scored 11 runs on eight hits with 10 RBI. Neumann has scored 10 runs on 11 hits with 13 RBI.

Sophomore **Siena Meraz** has a .545 on-base percentage, scoring three runs on four hits. Freshman **Miquela Tamarro** has scored two runs.

In the bullpen, Corona has Ibarra, Brinka and sophomore **Alyssia Munoz**.

"Jacky and Emma both have multiple years of starting experience at the varsity level and have had a lot of success," Thornton said. "Both pitchers have all region honors and we will need to rely on our pitching heavily this year."

Brinka has pitched 38 innings, striking out 58. Ibarra has pitched 26 inning, striking out 26. Both have an ERA of 3.68.

The Aztecs rely on Tom, Cummins, Ireland, Freund and Beltran in the infield.

Jacqueline Tom is behind the plate. All-region players Cummins at first base and Ireland at third anchor the infield. Freund at shortstop and Beltran at second base are strong defensively.

In Corona's outfield, Neumann and Jackson stand out.

"Teagan Neumann is a phenomenal outfielder with a cannon for an arm," said Thornton. "Combine her skills in the outfield with her power at bat and Teagan is a dynamic player."

"Gina Jackson is a transfer student



Corona's varsity softball team includes, from left, bottom row: Jacqueline Tom, Jacklyn Ibarra, Belle Freund, Megan Ireland; top row: Gina Jackson, Madison Romero, Larysa Pagel, Alani Beltran, Abby Ritchhart, Alyssia Munoz, Teagan Neumann, Siena Meraz, Bella Cummins, Emmalyn Brinka. — Photo courtesy Sean Thornton

that has the ability to cover every inch of the outfield. She has tremendous speed that we will utilize both offensively and defensively."

Corona will play Queen Creek at home on March 29 before playing at Desert Vista on March 31.

Marcos de Niza track and field

The Padres boys team took 12th in the Mario Castro Track and Field Meet at Tucson Sunnyside High.

Junior **Jamaal Young** won both the 100 and 200 meters, with personal bests of 11.21 seconds in the 100 and 23.10 in the 200. Junior **Juan Lopez** took sixth in the triple jump.

Senior **Kilimial Minter** took sixth and sophomore **Lorenzo Alexander** 10th in the 200.

Junior **Paul Garcia** took third in the 300-meter hurdles. Sophomore **Ian Smith** was 12th in the 800.

The 4x400 and 2x800 relays placed second and fifth, respectively. The 4x800 relay (junior **Tristan Bryant**, sophomore **Jayden Copeland**, sophomore Smith and sophomore **Andres Ortiz**) finished sixth.

In field events, juniors **Marcus**

Jones and **CJ Hopkins** took 10th and 11th, respectively, in the triple jump.

Jones finished 13th in the javelin throw, as well. Sophomore **DJ Drew** took 10th in the high jump.

The girls team, which placed fifth among 16 teams, had its strongest showing in field events behind seniors **Nichelle Moore** and **Zamirah Parker**. Moore took fourth in the shot put at 27 feet, 2 inches, and fourth place in the javelin at 72-4. Parker took fourth in the triple jump with a personal best 31 feet and fifth in the long jump at 14-6½.

Sophomore **Maya Coronado-Hensen** took eighth place in the discus. Moore, in her third event, was 12th the discus.

The top individuals in running events were Parker (14th in 100) and freshman **Lilia Safi** (14th in 400).

The girls distance-medley relay (**Paityn Lutostanski**, Safi, **Marley Young**, **Hannah Royalty**) crossed the finish line in fifth.

The Padres are to compete at the NIKE Chandler Rotary on March 25-26. Freshman and sophomores will compete at the Bears Underclassman Invitational at Bradshaw Mountain on March 30.

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Larry Hughes, pioneer of Aztec sports, dies at 83

Larry Hughes, a member of the Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame, and a legend in Corona del Sol sports since the day the school opened in 1977, passed away on March 16. He was 83.

Hughes was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000 for his success coaching the Aztecs girls basketball programs, but he guided Corona teams in two other sports to state titles, as well.

His girls basketball teams won the Class 5A state championship in 1981, 1993, 1994 and 2001, and were runners-up in 2002. The 2001 team went 31-0. He was 440-128 in 25

years.

Hughes' football team won the 1980 4A football state championship with a 12-1 record in its fourth season of operation.



Larry Hughes

He also coached the golf team to a state title in 1982.

Hughes is credited with being the very first coach at Corona when it

opened in 1977.

His boys golf team won a state championship in 1982.

Hughes grew up in Vernon, Texas. His first coaching job after moving to Arizona was as an assistant to fellow Hall of Famer Karl Kiefer at McClintock High in 1969.

Hughes moved to Corona eight years later when it opened.



BUSINESS

Semiconductor-industry supporter Edwards buys West Chandler manufacturing facility

Edwards, which supplies vacuum and abatement services to the global semiconductor industry, has purchased a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility that will create approximately 200 jobs in the West Chandler area, with scope to grow with the market.

The 200,000-square-foot plant will leverage the latest manufacturing and digital technologies to support the fast-growing North American semiconductor market for the efficient and environmentally sustainable production of chips.

Purchase price of the facility was not

disclosed.

“Unprecedented growth in the semiconductor market to meet the world’s growing consumer demand has resulted in extraordinary growth in demand for Edwards’ products and services,” said Troy Metcalf, president of Edwards Semiconductor Service. “Looking ahead, this growth is set to continue, with our customers in the USA investing billions of dollars in additional manufacturing capacity. At Edwards, we have a long tradition of supporting our customers with local service and manufacturing capabilities,



and our investment in the Chandler facility continues that tradition.”

There will be warehousing facilities, factory areas, meeting rooms and a dedicated training center onsite.

“Arizona is grateful Edwards has selected Chandler as the site of its newest manufacturing facility,” Governor Doug

Ducey said. “This announcement furthers Arizona’s reputation as an unrivaled manufacturing destination and strengthens the state’s growing semiconductor supply chain.”

Construction is expected to be completed during the third quarter of this year. The facility will boast advanced

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“Chandler continues to attract significant investment from the semiconductor supply chain,” Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke said.

“Edwards went through an exhaustive site-selection process and ultimately chose Chandler due to our first-class labor pool, excellent transportation access and great quality of life.”

Semiconductor manufacturing is essential to supporting developments across the technology, elec-

tronics, transport, scientific and health-care sectors. A recent surge in demand has seen widespread investment in U.S. manufacturing capability.

Economic-development officials call Edwards’ investment a significant step toward ensuring that there is supply-chain capacity to support growth.

“Edwards is a global leader in the semiconductor supply chain and we are proud the company will be part of Arizona’s semiconductor industry,” said Sandra Watson, president and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority. “Edwards . . . will advance Arizona’s leadership as a semiconductor hub while creating hundreds of skilled jobs.”

Edwards has roughly 7,000 employees worldwide.

Tempe business names executive to lead its biggest division

Mike Pask to direct CHASSE Building Team multifamily housing

Mike Pask, who joined Tempe-based CHASSE Building Team in 2018 and previously was a project director within the company’s multifamily division, has been promoted to director of CHASSE multifamily housing.

Pask will oversee CHASSE’s current projects, including The Crossing at Cooley Station in Gilbert, The Fillmore and Formation. He also will manage the company’s multifamily team members and develop new talent for the division while leading new business development across the Valley.

“I’ve been especially proud of the projects we’ve completed and are presently working on and look forward to the growth of our multifamily division and team,” Pask said.

Prior to joining CHASSE, Pask worked as a con-

struction manager at Sanders Construction in Denver for more than a decade, leading projects in various markets, including the UC Health Training Center for the Denver Broncos, DaVita Office Towers, Colorado State University Student Center and multiple multifamily projects.



CHASSE Building Team, an award-winning local contractor, oversees more than \$420 million in construction projects across Arizona. Over the past three years, CHASSE’s multifamily division completed notable projects SKY at Chandler Airpark, Novel Midtown, The Astor at Osborn, Aviva and Overture Kierland.

“Our multifamily division has tripled in recent years, so much so that we developed this position in many ways to serve as the CEO of these projects, and what we expect to be many more in coming years,” said company founder Barry Chasse.

More information: chasse.biz.



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SCHOOLS



Tempe El's Meyer students serve their community with some inspiring projects

By Robyn Martinez
Special for Wrangler News

After reading “When Stars are Scattered,” a true story about a refugee from Kenya who immigrated to Arizona, Meyer Montessori students Julia, Haven, Jack, and Nicola were inspired to do a service project collecting toothbrushes for local refugees.

Leading by example in giving back to the community, these students gave presentations to all classes at Meyer, 2615 S. Dorsey Lane in Tempe, about their project. They also collected and organized all donations.

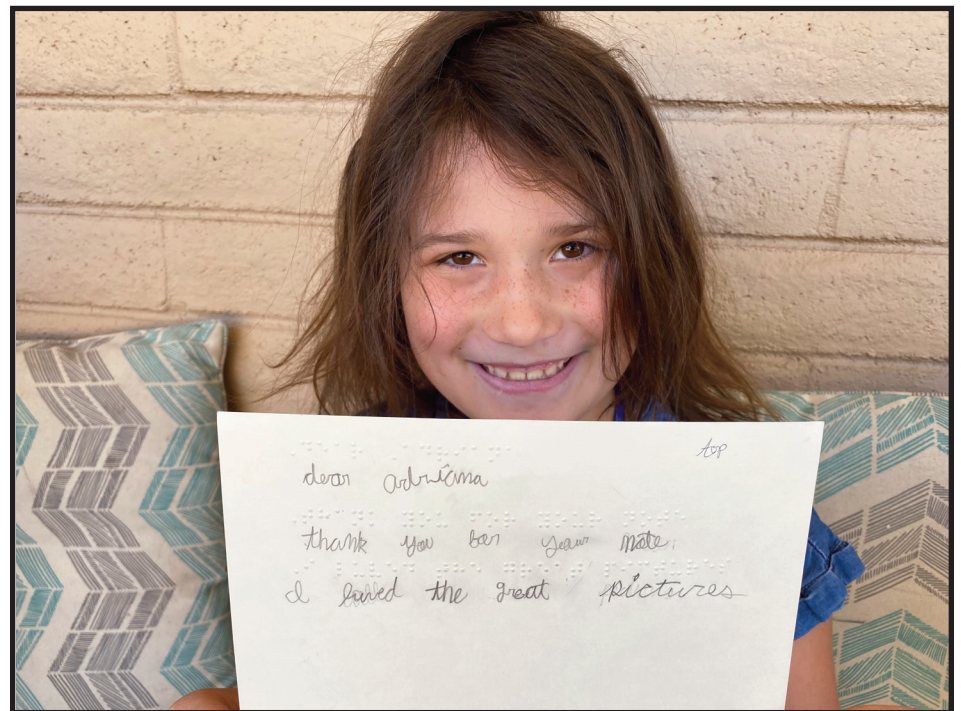
On Feb. 19, they delivered them to Gathering Humanity, 510 S. 52nd St. in Tempe. They were given a tour of the huge warehouse and learned all about how this organization supports refugee families new to Arizona. Gathering Hu-

manity was extremely grateful for the donation of 354 toothbrush/toothpaste items!

After reading the biography of Louis Braille, other Meyer students Max, Wesley, Adriana, June and Liam received a lesson from Miss Erin Feeney, TD3 district visual-impairment specialist, on how to write in Braille with a Braille typewriter.

The students said they really enjoyed learning about Braille and wanted to create a book in Braille and share with children with sight impairments. After connecting with the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix, they were asked to create raised-line coloring sheets about spring for an upcoming unit.

These students did just that. Now, children with sight impairments have something to touch and feel to color and can read the label in Braille.



Meyer Montessori students recently have engaged in two community-service project. Above left: Student Julia Bruner shows the photo in the book that inspired a toothbrush-donation drive. Top (from left): Max Parker, Liam Pasetio, Wesley Zehring, Adriane Raine and June Hensley work on a Braille book project. Above: Adriane Raine is proud of one of the Braille notes she translated. – Tempe Elementary District photos

On Feb. 18, the students traveled to the Foundation for Blind Children and hand-delivered their materials. They got a tour of the facility and learned more about how the organization helps children with sight impairments.

“It is awe-inspiring to see such giant

hearts being of service to the community,” said Jessica Foster, a Meyer guide. “They truly embody our district theme of ‘What Begins Here Changes the World,’ and I know they are definitely change-makers of the world.”

Tempe teacher provides running shoes for Gililland student-athletes

By Robyn Martinez
Special for Wrangler News

When teachers see a student in need, they try do whatever it takes to meet that need.

That is a philosophy that McKemy Academy teacher Kathleen Burd lives by.

While observing students running at a TD3 cross country meet, Burd noticed that many Gililland Middle School athletes didn't have proper footwear for running.

This broke her heart, and she

wanted to find a way to help.

Burd reached out to friends and family to see if they wanted to help. As a result, all 25 members of the GMS cross country team received a new pair of Nike or Adidas running shoes.

"When I learned about this act of kindness, it brought me to tears," said Jess Peña, who teaches sixth-grade social studies at Gililland and coaches cross country.

"I am really grateful because I know these kids really need it."

TD3 physical education/athletics coordinator Greg Howell says that the shoes enhance safety for the athletes.

"When you aren't in the proper shoes, you are prone to shin splints, ankle rolls and other injuries," Howell said.

"That's why having new, safe shoes will help them run better, faster and safer.

"Thank you again to this amazing teacher, Mrs. Burd, and her community."

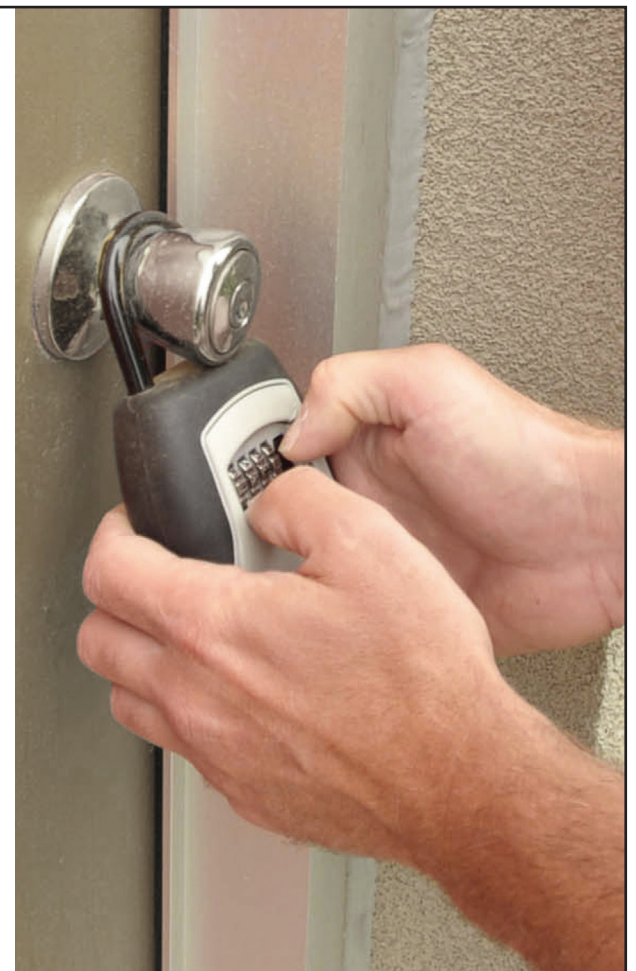


Gililland Middle School cross-country runners, with coach Jess Peña (center), are excited about their new running shoes thanks to fundraising by McKemy Academy teacher Kathleen Burd. – Tempe Elementary District photo

Senior Lockbox Program

Chandler Police offers a Senior Lockbox program, providing lockboxes for emergency personnel to gain access to the senior's home after being summoned for emergency purposes.

chandlerazpd.gov/communityprograms/lockboxes-for-seniors





Kyrene Aprende Middle School's AVID program is aimed at helping prepare students across campus to succeed in college careers and life. Aprende is a national demonstration school.

Aprende Middle School receives national recognition for accelerated performance

Special for Wrangler News

Kyrene Aprende Middle School has been selected a national demonstration school by Advancement Via Individual Determination, a nonprofit that gives educators real-world strategies to accelerate the performance of underrepresented students.

The goal is to help these students, and all students across campus, succeed in college, careers and life.

"It is a tremendous honor . . . and we are proud of our AVID program and our school as a whole," Aprende principal Renee Kory said. "The use of AVID strategies schoolwide has positively impacted students and staff, and we continue to see a more engaged and college-ready student body."

The school joins approximately 200 other AVID na-

tional demonstration schools and was selected through an application process that included a site visit.

AVID is used in more than 7,000 schools in 47 states, as well as schools in Department of Defense Education Activity, Canada, and Australia. The program impacts more than 2 million students in grades K-12 and postsecondary institutions.

"Schools recognized as national demonstration sites have proven their ability to successfully implement the AVID elective course and take the strategies schoolwide to impact all students," said AVID Chief Executive Officer Sandy Husk. "Kyrene Aprende Middle School was selected because it has implemented the AVID system throughout the school and can serve as a model for new AVID sites."

As part of the AVID demonstration-site network,

schools are expected to develop a model program with schoolwide participation. With AVID's methodologies used throughout subject-area classes, performance levels improve for all students but especially for those who are the least likely to attend four-year colleges.

Schools from around the world that are preparing to implement AVID will visit demonstration schools, such as Aprende, to observe a highly evolved AVID system.

AVID is a nonprofit, college-readiness system that closes the opportunity gap. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school's academic culture by increasing the number of students who enroll in postsecondary experiences leading to a college degree and/or successful transition into the workforce.

More information: AVID.org.

National eyes focus on Manitas' successes with innovation, inspiration pilot program

Special for Wrangler News

In 2019, Kyrene School District and the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University partnered to launch a pilot program at Kyrene de las Manitas that reimagined the standard classroom structure by combining innovative practices in learning environments, teaching methods and educator staffing.

Three years later, not only has it

been a success but ASU in February invited educators from across the country to Manitas, 1201 W. Courtney Lane in Tempe, to see it in action.

"When you walk into a Manitas learning studio, you see fewer walls, state-of-the-art technology and more adults available to provide students with individualized learning opportunities," said Manitas

— MANITAS, Page 31



Kyrene de las Manitas partnered with Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at ASU on a pilot program that reimagines the standard classroom structure by combining innovative practices in learning, teaching methods and educator staffing.

After three years, the program now is a national model.



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Manitas

From Page 29

Principal Sarah Collins. "The staffing and curriculum are designed to prepare students for colleges and careers that are changing rapidly."

Manitas students in Grades 3 through 6 spend their day in learning studios, each of which can serve as many as 120 students. They are taught by a core team of educators, including a teacher executive designer and certified teachers and teacher candidates. This staffing model puts more adults in the room with students and surrounds brand-new teachers with a support system they can turn to at any time during the day.

"By providing students with a team of teachers who are able to focus on their strengths, our students receive a dynamic learning experience that is tailored just for that student," said Julie Cleveland, a teacher executive designer. "There is a place for everyone at Mani-

tas."

As a result, learning is individualized at Manitas. Students drive their lessons via a project-based learning model, which has been shown to promote independence, active learning and encourage problem-solving skills.

During the ASU-led tour of Manitas, visitors saw students collaborating on projects in groups large and small, as well as working individually and engaging in lessons with teachers one on one. Many of the tour participants shared afterward during a question-and-answer session that they plan to take first steps toward implementing the model in their school or district.

This school year, the Kyrene Governing Board voted to grow the program schoolwide and to make Manitas a K-8 Innovation Academy. Manitas will expand to serve students through Grade 7 next school year and to include Grade 8 in 2023-24.

Interested families are invited to enroll online. The 2022-23 Kyrene school year begins July 28.



Manitas students in Grades 3 through 6 spend their day in learning studios, each of which can serve as many as 120 students.

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