



# WRANGLER NEWS

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Last performed in 2018 before massive renovation forced closure of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' historic Mesa Tempe, the annual Easter Pageant is back. Page 9



While many prepare for the joys of Easter, April always is difficult for the Vanderburs. Their son, Ridge, a popular Corona del Sol volleyball player, died of Acute Myeloid Leukemia in April 2015. Page 12



Photo by Riley Gay for Wrangler News

Bill Meiter, Arizona Community Church pastor, pens an Easter message of faith, **Page 8**. Photos of the church's annual car show, **Page 17**.

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THE STRAIGHT POOP

# Tempe firm not deterred in its quest to reduce gastric misery

By Nicole Greason  
Special to Wrangler News

Don't flush it. Donate it. Folks in and around Tempe now have the opportunity to be a little altruistic and earn extra money by doing what they do every day: going No. 2. But instead of flushing it away, they can donate it for use in the development of a treatment for *C. difficile*, an infection that causes severe inflammation of the colon and other debilitating symptoms that can lead to death. GoodNature, a stool-donation pro-

gram from biotechnology company Seres Therapeutics, recently opened an 11,845-square-foot facility at 725 S. Rural Road, its third such "donor collection" site. The company has others in Irvine, Calif., and Cambridge, Mass., where it is headquartered. The program collects samples from healthy donors and uses bacteria within to develop investigational microbiome therapeutics for patients with recurrent *C. difficile* infection, a malady that leads to more than 20,000 deaths each year in the U.S.

"We're thrilled to bring GoodNature into Tempe, giving residents an opportunity to contribute to the development of an investigational treatment for *C. difficile* infection while also earning extra money, simply by donating their stool," said Alex Murray, Seres Therapeutics vice president of commercial manufacturing. "Our new facility will bring more than a dozen jobs to Tempe, and we look forward to working with the community to do medical good together."

Scott, a resident of Newport Beach, Calif., whose last name is being withheld to preserve client confidentiality,

**'It's an opportunity to do something you're going to do every day, anyway, so why not be a part of a great opportunity to help people?**

— Scott, program participant

donated every day for seven months at the Irvine facility. He said he saw a GoodNature ad on Facebook and was intrigued. He also discussed it with a friend, whose mother experienced *C.diff* while undergoing cancer treatment.

"It's an opportunity to do something you're going to do every day, anyway, so why not be a part of a great opportunity to help people?" he said. Scott said he's been asked about his motivation and being compensated for doing his business. "That's not the most important part," he said. "The most important thing is that you're contributing to the care of others. These donations are critical to helping make people's lives better." The process of becoming a donor has several steps. Those interested must first complete an eligibility questionnaire at [goodnatureprogram.com](http://goodnatureprogram.com). Those who pass initial screening are contacted by phone to provide more information. After the phone screening, those who meet program criteria will be invited to the site to provide three donations, which will be tested to ensure that their microbiome contains the bacteria needed to create the investigational therapeutic.

— RESEARCH, Page 4

# Gore joins ASU Earth Week fete

Arizona State University marks Earth Week 2022 on its Tempe Campus with several marquee events, including a keynote by former Vice President Al Gore on April 19 and dedication of a new teaching and learning facility focused on reshaping a more habitable planet. ASU will launch its long-term initiative focused on threats to democracy posed by a destabilizing climate and potential solutions. The highlight will be a live virtual talk by Gore. His speech will be livestreamed at [youtube.com/arizonastateuniversity](http://youtube.com/arizonastateuniversity). For in-person attendance, register at

[thecollege.asu.edu/climate-conference](http://thecollege.asu.edu/climate-conference). ASU also will dedicate and unveil the name of its new Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building 7. The 281,000 square-foot, \$192 million building is the university's newest research and learning facility. The high-performance research facility will feature leading-edge research, including innovative endeavors focusing on the sustainability of food, water and energy. ISTB7 will have research labs for biological sciences, engineering, life sciences and sustainability. Dry lab space may include computing, cyber-security, engineering design and fabrica-



Former Vice President Al Gore will deliver speech during Arizona State University's Earth Week

tion, and robotics. The new research center is maximizing sustainable best practices to reduce operational energy, water demand and embodied carbon.

ISTB 7 is designed to meet specifications for LEED Gold at a minimum, with the intention of achieving a higher certification.

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## Research

From Page 3

Donors must be of normal weight, ages 18 to 50, have regular bowel movements, be non-smokers and have no history of gastrointestinal disease or excessive drug or alcohol use. Those who are pregnant may not donate.

GoodNature will pay stool donors in Tempe \$25-\$75 per visit and as much as \$1,200 per month.

Donations must be made at the facility – bringing in a sample jar and dropping it off. Donors receive compensation for time at the facility for medical screenings or exams as well as for visits for stool donations.

Program participants typically donate three to four times weekly for several months and can receive a \$500 bonus for donating at least four times a week during a donation period lasting two to four months or longer. The

timeframe for the bonus may vary by donor.

Donors may continue participating as long as they remain eligible. Some at other GoodNature locations have continued for nearly a year, earning as much as \$10,000.

According to Jenny Starr, Seres Therapeutics director of marketing communications, more than 150 in Tempe have made it through initial screenings and will be donating in a fairly straightforward process.

“We welcome you onsite,” Starr said. “You come, check in, a nurse asks you questions each time, you step into the bathroom and take a collection kit in with you. You essentially go to the bathroom and leave it there. Our team takes care of it as you leave.”

She said donors can make giving a daily routine if it’s convenient.

More information for prospective donors: 1-844-476-6748, or [contact@goodnatureprogram.com](mailto:contact@goodnatureprogram.com) or [goodnatureprogram.com](http://goodnatureprogram.com).

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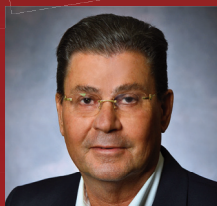


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# OPINIONS

## Power of connections makes Maricopa County the U.S. leader in talent attraction

By Jack Sellers

I'm a big believer in the power of connections. Connecting with your family and your community helps maintain social and mental health. Connecting also is crucial to building a healthy, robust workforce in a global economy. The networking and partnerships we have built in Maricopa County are why we have earned the top spot in the country for talent attraction for the second year in a row.

One effective method of connecting that we use in District 1 is through our partnerships at Sister Cities International. The worldwide organization was established after World War II to rebuild diplomatic relationships through cultural and educational exchanges. It has evolved into a great tool

for collaboration and economic development.

As vice president of Arizona Sister Cities, and president of the Chandler Sister Cities, I've been actively involved with the organization for many years



Jack Sellers

and firmly believe in the importance of these relationships.

Our Sister City relationship with Tullamore, Ireland, provided many local contacts for employees from Intel's Ireland facility who trained in Chandler.

The connection with our other Sister City, Tainan, Taiwan, started as a cultural exchange through Little League Baseball and has evolved into much more.

It's a continuation of a productive friendship with Dr. William Lai, vice president of Taiwan. When Dr. Lai was

mayor of Tainan and I was a member of the Arizona Transportation Board, I played a significant role in getting a reciprocal driver's-license agreement between Arizona and Taiwan.

It's also a continuation of a vibrant working relationship among Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix and the city of Taipei. The Arizona/Taiwan connection has resulted in a significant economic impact on our region.

Among the biggest economic wins was from the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company. TSMC purchased about 1,130 acres of undeveloped land in north Phoenix to build its multibillion-dollar semiconductor factory. Construction on the first phase is expected to be completed by 2024. It is the company's first U.S. factory in two decades and will be one of a handful of production sites outside of Taiwan. It will generate 1,600 new jobs in Maricopa County.

TSMC's development helps establish this region as a leader in advanced manufacturing and semiconductor industries. It also secures American jobs for work that is increasingly going overseas. This is the second major recent win for Arizona in this field. The first was Intel's \$20 billion expansion in Chandler.

Sunlit Chemical also broke ground on a north Phoenix factory, the first U.S. manufacturing facility to supply the Valley's growing chipmaking industry, including TSMC. It will commit \$100 million in two phases to develop the 900,000-square-foot facility on 17 acres at Seventh Avenue and Alameda Road.

As a member of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council's International Leadership Council, I'm pleased these relationships resulted in a signed agreement between GPEC and the Taiwan-USA Industrial Cooperation Promotion Office. This will attract and grow businesses in Maricopa County.

Leaders of the Arizona Commerce Authority, Bureau of Foreign Trade and Ministry of Economic Affairs in Taiwan also formalized a partnership to promote economic growth between Arizona and Taiwan.

Opportunities offered by these foreign investments should give us confidence about our ability to compete and thrive in a global economy. They also should reinforce the importance of staying connected.

*Jack Sellers of Chandler represents District 1 on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.*

## Are you risking lives to save a few minutes? ADOT takes action to slow drivers in Broadway Curve work zone

By Amy Ritz

As the project manager for the Interstate 10 Broadway Curve Improvement Project, I've come to expect the unexpected.

It's all part of leading the Arizona Department of Transportation's largest-ever urban highway reconstruction project: a four-year, \$776 million effort along the busiest 11 miles of highway in the state.

Yet one aspect of this project has taken me by surprise: the number of

people who risk their lives, and the lives of others every day, to save about three minutes. That's how much time you save if you drive the 11 miles of I-10 between Loop 202 (Santan/South Mountain Freeway) and Interstate 17 at 75 mph vs. the posted speed limit of 55 mph. Three. Whole. Minutes.

Speeding saves a small amount of time, yet takes many lives.

In 2020, 337 people were killed in speed-related crashes in Arizona and another 15,839 were injured. Speeding is one of the major causes of work-zone crashes. In 80 percent of fatal crashes that occur in work zones, the driver and his or her passengers are killed.

Construction crews also are at risk, even when they're working behind barriers. Their hard work makes our high-

ways safer and more efficient. Just like you, they want to make it home safely to their families, friends and pets every day.



Amy Ritz

Our project team decided not to sit back and accept that people speed through our work zone.

Instead, we're taking actions, such as adding more DPS patrols and using overhead message signs and billboards to share safety information. Also, I recently joined my project team colleagues Kole, Marcy, Edika and Jeremy to participate in a public-service announcement asking drivers to slow

down.

We're not actors. We're just people who work on highway projects, and who truly care about your safety and that of our crews in the field. I hope you'll watch our PSA and share it with others.

View our Work Zone Safety PSA here: [vimeo.com/690990740](https://vimeo.com/690990740).

Visit the project's Work Zone Safety campaign website here: [i10broadway-curve.com/work-zone-safety](https://i10broadway-curve.com/work-zone-safety).

We also care about the time, expense and inconvenience involved with putting the roadway back together after someone collides with a barrier, guardrail or attenuator. That's been happening about twice a week since our work

## Commentary

# Community good governance: Why Chandler gets it right

By Mark Stewart

It is city budget time again, and as the Community of Innovation, Chandler is committed to providing best-in-class services at the lowest cost possible.

I am reminded that cities in Arizona are, in essence, service corporations created by the state and that service means building communities that support quality of life and business.

There are several reasons Chandler has been successful.

First, we are committed to strengthening our infrastructure like roads, sewers, water and parks.

Second, we provide the best public safety and programs that improve our quality of life.

Both pillars of service come with an expense, and managing that expense is the secret sauce of Chandler's success. We stay in our lane and keep our costs low. It's not flashy and doesn't make headlines, but it

works.

The residents of Chandler are lucky because the city's financial-planning staff always looks to the future and plans accordingly. If we build a new park or add a city amenity, we require sustainable income to maintain those projects over the next 20 years.



Mark Stewart

One-time funding to build a park is easy. Having ongoing revenue to cut grass and water the fields is another.

Fortunately, Chandler has always managed this to perfection.

Chandler is in amazing financial shape because of our incredible staff and decades of responsible governance.

We can boast about our strong financial reserves and use this fiscal prowess to add police officers, widen roads and improve our parks.

The fact is, Chandler delivers a structurally balanced approach that has made us one of about 40 communities across the nation that holds a AAA General Obligation bond rating with all three bond rating agencies.

In other words, we have "good credit," meaning we can invest in our community.

This cultural commitment to strict corporate financial planning helps us keep property taxes low and still provide great service and infrastructure.

Chandler's mayor and Council will consistently look for ways to improve our customer-service levels, and like our staff, we are all committed to improving the consumer experience.

With your help, Chandler will continue to be the best-run city in America.

If you have any recommendations or questions, please email [Mayorandcouncil@chandleraz.gov](mailto:Mayorandcouncil@chandleraz.gov).

*Mark Stewart is a member of the Chandler City Council.*

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## As Abraham looked forward to Christ's resurrection, those of us today look back with same faith

By Bill Meiter

**I**'ve been to the tomb of Christ ... twice! Spoiler alert: It's still empty!

And no matter how you might try to get around it, there is an empty tomb in Jerusalem, for which we must all give an account.

Even the enemies of Jesus living in the 1st century couldn't deny it was empty!

*11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. — Matthew 28:11-15*

Many could care less if the tomb of Christ was empty. After all, why should anyone care if a man living 2,000 years ago rose from the dead or not?

Well, the answer is quite simple: You should care because that empty tomb is the only hope any of us have for anything better!

Let's be honest. The world is a mess! The world is full of disease, death, crime, war and the list goes on!

And if we are going to be even more honest, politicians have proven they can't fix what is wrong! As a matter of

fact, politicians often make things worse. Do I hear an amen? That's because what is wrong can't be fixed by politicians. It can only be fixed by God Himself!

That is precisely why Jesus was crucified. He died as an innocent sacrificial lamb, a substitute payment for the sins of mankind. His resurrection is proof that He overcame death, by which He now offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life for all who believe!

Would you like to know that your sins are fully forgiven? Would you like to know that when you die, you will live in Paradise forever? If so, then trust in Christ as your Savior.

This Easter is especially significant



Bill Meiter

because of what is happening in Ukraine. Believers around the world must join in prayer for the people of Ukraine and all who are affected by the terrible things happening in that part of our world.

It's a sad, yet powerful, reminder that this world is ultimately not our home.

In the Old Testament, a man by the name of Abraham was told that he would inherit much land and be greatly blessed by the LORD. Yet the Bible says that even Abraham looked for something better!

Hebrews 11:10 says...“For Abraham was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”

In other words, Abraham looked past this world and longed for the next! And just as Abraham looked forward in faith to Christ's death and resurrection, those of us living today, look back on it with the same faith! And it is by faith we are saved... Eph. 2:8-9.

*Bill Meiter is pastor of Arizona Community Church in South Tempe, a non-denominational, Bible-based church with a welcoming atmosphere.*





## COMMUNITY

### Couple surprised to be chosen to perform in Temple Easter Pageant

By Tony Gutiérrez

Special for Wrangler News

Mark Egan remembers attending Mesa Temple Easter Pageant as a kid.

Egan was excited to share the experience with his wife, Oregon native Aliyah, when the pageant came off hiatus that began in 2018 while the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' historic temple underwent renovations.

He was thinking they'd go see it. Neither expected to be in the pageant when it returned this year.

The Egans, members of the church's Alameda Ward in Tempe, met while they were serving a mission for their faith in Georgia and married in January 2020. In October of last year, they received an e-mail through their stake — a region in the church that includes several congregations, or wards — announcing that the pageant would be returning with the rededication and reopening of the Mesa Temple.

"We were like, 'How cool would that be to be in it?'" Aliyah said. "I've been waiting to go to this for two years."

After looking at the commitment involved, the couple submitted separate audition videos, without any expectation of being selected.

A month later, they were informed that they'd both be in the pageant, playing members of the "family cast" — or the multitudes filling in as extras throughout the performance.

The Mesa Easter Pageant, also known as "Jesus the Christ," is the largest annual outdoor Easter pageant in the world. The 75-minute perform-

ances continue through April 9, and then resume April 12-16. Each show begins at 8 p.m.

The Easter Pageant began in 1938 as a sunrise service on the Temple grounds with a choral presentation and brief narration on the life of Jesus Christ. In 1967, organizers put together a dramatic production on the life of Christ, highlighting his birth, childhood and teachings, culminating in his passion, death, resurrection and ascension.

"Hopefully I'm not spoiling it for you, but Christ comes back to life at the end," Mark said.

Since its last presentation during the 2018 Easter season, the pageant has undergone several significant changes, including new sets, new script and new music written by Valley composer Rob Gardner, whose recent work includes *Lamb of God: The Concert Film*. The score was recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra in January, followed by the singing voices and narration recorded locally.

"Our purpose is to bring all of us closer to the savior," pageant creative director Jenee Prince said. "We want to get to know Him, to feel His love and to feel more hope and peace. This pageant is our gift to the community."

Kevin and Katey Bersch, who attend the Summit Point Ward in Chandler, are longtime veterans of the pageant. Katey first participated in 2010. Kevin joined the following year. This year, Katey is a member of the family cast. Kevin plays a Pharisee.

"They pray over every application. They look at them and decide where they might fit and then pray over all of



Top photo: Tempe residents Mark and Aliyah Egan, were pleasantly surprised to be selected independently to perform in the annual Mesa Tempe Easter Pageant. Above: Performers go through dress rehearsal.

them," Kevin said. "I just feel blessed that we're still here, that they keep calling us back."

Volunteers comprise the 425-member cast. Every rehearsal begins with a prayer, and every performance is preceded by a devotional service at the Latter-day Saints meeting house just south of the Mesa Temple.

"There's a great spirit there. We have spiritual experiences almost every night of the performance, and many nights of the rehearsals," Kevin said.

While members of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are known for their open Scripture, including the Book of Mormon, in addition to the Bible, everything from the pageant is taken strictly from the New Testament and offers something for all Christians, as well as those of other faiths, according to the Egans.

"Everything you'll see you can find in the New Testament. If anyone is familiar with Christianity, they'll be familiar with some of the stories — if not all of them — being told in the pageant,"

— EASTER, Page 10



## Easter

From Page 9

Aliyah said. “Even people who aren’t Christian, or have heard a little bit about Christ, they’ll know, ‘Oh yeah, baby Jesus is being born in a manger. Love your neighbor, forgiveness.’ All of these stories are going to be teaching these morals.”

Cast members are not required to be Latter-day Saints, the Bersches said, recalling a family from the West Valley that participated although none of them were members of the church.

“We all view this whole thing as worshipping Christ,” Kevin Bersch said. “That’s part of the reason we do this. It’s all about bringing people to Christ. One of the reasons this pageant survived when they cut some of the others is this was the only pageant that actually dealt with the life of Christ.”

Although the pageant is at the Mesa Temple, the oldest Latter-day Saints temple in Arizona, participants from across the Valley and beyond participate. Kevin recalled a cast member who drove from Tucson every night and another family from Puerto Rico that took a month off to

spend in Arizona in order to participate.

“It’s been a great experience for me,” Mark said. “The music is a really great way of worshipping and remembering Christ. For us, this has been a really uplifting way of celebrating and worshipping God.”

## Mesa Easter Pageant

April 6-9 and April 12-16, 8 p.m., north lawn of the Mesa Arizona Temple, 101 S. LeSueur in Mesa. There is no admission charge.

Capacity is 9,500. It is recommended that audience members arrive at least one hour early to secure a seat.

All performances will be in English this year. Approximately 400 translation headsets will be available for Spanish speakers.

Parking for persons with disabilities is in the South Parking Lot of the Temple.

General-public parking is in the city’s park-and-ride lot at the northwestern corner of Mesa Drive and Main Street just north of the Visitors Center.

Travel to the pageant via Valley Metro Light Rail is strongly encouraged. A stop is just west of the Temple grounds near Main Street and Mesa Drive.

Portable restrooms are on the west side of the temple grounds, near the Visitors’ Center. Only handicapped restrooms will be provided inside the Visitors’ Center.

Bread. The way it ought to be.



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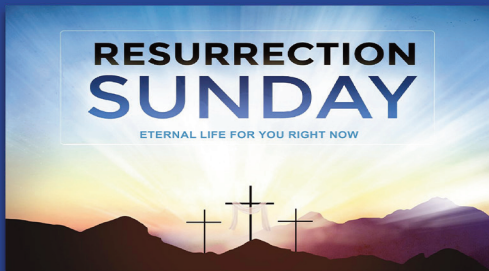
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Friday April 15, 7:00\* pm  
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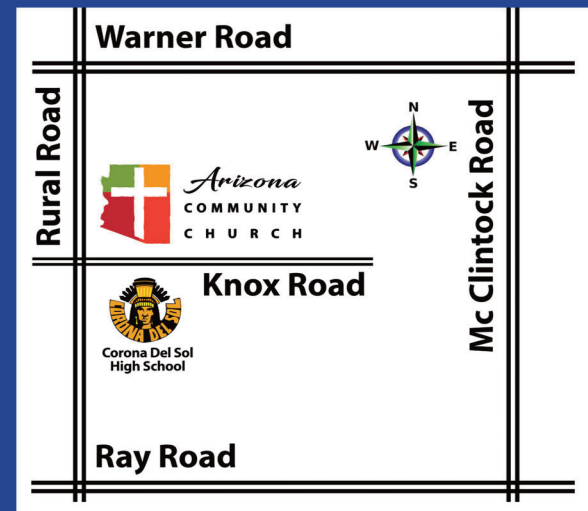
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## As Easter approaches, a community remembers a spirited Corona athlete

By Andrew Lwowski  
Special for Wrangler News



Community support was strong for Ridge Vanderbur, a popular volleyball player at Corona del Sol, while he battled the Acute Myeloid Leukemia that took his life. — Photos courtesy of Vanderbur family.

While many prepare for the joys of Easter, April always is difficult for the Vanderbur family. Their son Ridge fought Acute Myeloid Leukemia from July 2014 until April 2015, when his body couldn't continue any longer.

Ridge was diagnosed just before his senior year at Corona del Sol High. Throughout his eight-month battle, Ridge was not alone as the entire community fought with him until the end. Parents, teachers, administrators and friends from Corona and neighboring schools gave their support.

Ridge joined the volleyball team after getting in trouble for hosting a party while his parents were out of town.

"And that turned out to be a huge, huge blessing," Brenda Vanderbur, Ridge's mother, said with a laugh.

Corona's varsity volleyball program led the support for Ridge and the Vanderburs. It created #Aztec-Strong and dedicated its 2015 season to him by creating "Earned Not Given" shirts and "State for Eight" posters — 8 was Ridge's jersey number.

Devon Nelson, who had known Ridge since elementary school and played volleyball with him, recalls the energy and spirit around the team as it played for Ridge during one game against Mesa.

"This is a game that I will never forget. The feelings of comradery at that time, it was so close and it went to five (sets), and every single set was so close," Nelson said. "We were trading off with Mesa. Mesa would win a set and we would win a set. I remember going into the timeouts and I feel like we all went into them with such a drive. We wanted to win and we were all thinking about fighting for Ridge."

Having the team playing for one of its own who wasn't able to finish his senior year meant the world to Ridge and the Vanderbur family.

Ridge's care team, Media Support Services and the Events team at Mayo Clinic, where Ridge was a patient, teamed with CDSTV to livestream one of the last games of the season for Ridge to watch from a hospital conference room. That game was all Ridge needed to keep pushing.

"Ridge had already decided he was done," Brenda said. "After watching the game, Ridge said, 'I just need one good day,' and that was his one good day. I was meeting with hospice and we were going to transfer him for end-of-life care because he said he was done. Then this game happened and he said, 'I had my one good day. I'm ready to go.'"



Ridge Vanderbur

The following Friday, the entire Corona volleyball team traveled to Mayo to visit Ridge shortly before his death. "He was at peace and I think that was because he had his one good day," his mother said. "It was his time and he had his one good day thanks to his team. It was a huge impact."

"He would've never joined the volleyball team if he hadn't gotten in trouble, and it ended up being the one thing that helped him a lot."

As the seven-year anniversary of his passing approaches, Ridge's parents, Brenda and Vince, typically spend the day out of town and bring along Ridge's ashes.

"I take that day off every year. ... We would put them somewhere fun. On his anniversary we release some of his ashes in the ocean and in Flagstaff on some hikes," Brenda said.

Russell Johns, who was a close friend and team-

mate, still thinks about Ridge every day.

"Not a day goes by that I don't think about it. It seems silly because this was seven years ago when I was in high school, but for no reason at all during the day he'll just pop into my head and I'll think back to senior year and everything that the class went through," Johns said.

The Aztecs along with the Tempe community continue to support the Vanderbur family.

"I got a lot of letters and messages and phone calls," Brenda said. "I still get letters, even on Mother's Day, from people I don't even know."

But, Brenda recalls the turning point of Ridge's senior year thanks to the volleyball community.

"Looking back at the way things did happen — how he got his last good day because his mom was there, he got to see the game, got to feel like the king with all his food — he got his good day," she said. "So many things had come in motion. Now I can look back at it and see God was at work, but it took a while. It's still a work in progress, but I'm finding more peace."

The Aztec community experienced many tragedies during 2015 and 2016: Mitch Warnock died by suicide, Marcus Wheeler by suicide, and Wade Young, another volleyball player, was struck and killed by lightning while hiking Mount Humphrey in Flagstaff. The community came together in support of each other and has helped the healing through that sense of family.

Brenda said that Wade's mother has come over and the two have helped each other through difficult times. Kristine Nelson, mother of Devon, started a prayer group during Ridge's battle that continues in support of those who need it. And the Mitch Warnock Act was signed by Gov. Doug Ducey to raise suicide-prevention awareness in schools.



## DIVERSIONS

Film Fare ... with M.V. Moorhead

### Originality not lifeblood of 'Morbius,' but its performances are memorable



M.V. Moorhead

Jared Leto certainly has the physique and facial bones to play the title character in the Marvel flick *Morbius*. His performance as the hapless vampiric hematologist is good, too: quiet and haunted yet not oppressive, tinged with grim humor.

The movie, however, could use a transfusion of originality platelets.

Michael Morbius, the cadaverous "Living Vampire," was introduced in

comics in the early '70s as a nemesis to Spider-Man, and eventually headlined Marvel titles of his own. Like Barnabas Collins in *Dark Shadows*, he was a reluctant and tormented bloodsucker. Michael had brought on his condition, which includes superhuman strength and batlike gliding and echolocation ability, through a serum intended to cure the rare blood disease that was killing him. He craved blood but didn't want to hurt anyone, and, as with The Lizard (with whom Morbius famously clashed), Spidey empathized with him and tried not to harm him.

There are other good performances in the film, directed by Daniel Espinosa

from a script by Matt Sazama and Burk Sharpless (the team behind 2014's *Dracula Untold*). Matt Smith slyly plays Milo, Michael's mega-rich pal and research patron, who suffers from the same disease and soon notices the same side effects from Michael's serum, but feels less guilt over his bloodlust. Adria Arjona has a lovely sober quality as Martine, Michael's partner and romantic interest. Her gravity seems to bring out a hint of playfulness in Leto.

I really wanted to like this one. I'm fond of the comic character. And for the first half or so it cruises along enjoyably enough, though there's nothing really new to it, just standard spooky gothic flourishes. But as the movie progresses, the questionable logic increases. Why, for instance, would a boat on which secret medical experiments were being conducted, require a large team of heavily armed mercenaries? Why would Morbius want to commandeer a counterfeiting workshop's equipment to adapt into scientific equipment?

In the later scenes, as Michael and Milo clash in the shadowy streets of New York--*The Batman* has nothing on this movie for gloominess--*Morbius* descends into an unexciting muddle. It has a truncated, cut-down feel to it, a suspicion supported by the presence of scenes in the trailer that didn't show up

in the finished film.

The most disappointing of these is the paucity of Michael Keaton, as Adrian Toomes aka The Vulture. He's shown in the trailer, and I figured that if nothing else worked in the movie, Keaton would at least goose a little life into it. But (spoiler alert!) he only appears very briefly at the very end, and adds almost nothing to the picture unless I nodded off when he said it (even the line he speaks in the trailer was cut). In the sequel, if there is a sequel, I hope he gets a bigger role.

*Morbius* is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, Harkins Chandler Crossroads, Harkins Tempe Marketplace, AMC



### Fill your glass, plate or cellar at Cooper's Hawk in West Chandler

By Meghann Sepulveda

Special for Wrangler News

If you've ever visited Napa Valley, which is among California's premier tourist destinations, you can appreciate fine wine. From merlot and cabernet sauvignon to chardonnay and rosé, California Wine Country made its name.

But traveling 800 miles to get there may not be in the cards. Instead, you can experience world-class wine, along with contemporary cuisine, a Napa Valley-style tasting room and retail market in your West Chandler backyard at Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurants.

Founded in 2005 in Orland Park, Ill., by Tim McEnery, Cooper's Hawk was inspired by his approach to exploring and appreciating wine. Guests are encouraged to sip, learn, dine and share in well-appointed tasting rooms and meticulously designed restaurant spaces.

There are 47 Cooper's Hawks across the country, including two in Arizona: one in West Chandler, which opened last September at 3325 W. Chandler Blvd. near Chandler Fashion Center, and one in Scottsdale. A third is set to open in Gilbert this year.

The Cooper's Hawk wine collection, comprising 72 varietals, is designed for all palates.

"Our goal is to make wine approachable to a novice or expert drinker," said Kelsey Vargo, general manager of Cooper's Hawk.

Featuring the finest grapes from around the globe that are grown and harvested in both New World and Old World regions — including Italy, France, California, Chile, New Zealand and Australia — the winemaking team works closely with growers, nurturing the fruit for each wine according to individual needs.

Not sure what to try from the dizzying array? The tasting room is a great place to start. Select from dozens of traditional reds, whites and sparkling, as well as sangrias and hard seltzers. One of Cooper's Hawk's highly trained staff will offer suggestions based on your preferences and guide you through your wine journey.

You might go for the wine, but you'll stay for the food. A comprehensive menu features a variety of shareable appetizers, such as chicken pot stickers and Asian pork-belly tostadas, along with flavorful soups and crisp salads.

"One of the most popular items on the menu is the crispy Brussels sprouts with cashews, mint, sweet Thai chili and a sesame-siracha aioli," Vargo said.

Main courses include savory pastas and risottos, mouthwatering burgers, steaks, pork chop chicken and fresh seafood. A Life Balance menu is ideal for those looking for mindful portions (dishes that are 600 calories or less) and gluten-free options are available.

Every item on the menu includes a wine rec-



Patrons sample a wide selection of wines in the Napa Valley-style tasting room at the new Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant in West Chandler. – Photo courtesy of Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant

ommendation.

"Instead of pairing wine with food, we do the opposite," Vargo said. "We select the wine first and then source ingredients. The wine is the star of the show."

Specialty cocktails, martinis, beer and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages also available.

Kids are welcome and can choose from filet medallions, spaghetti and house-made meatballs, soy ginger glazed Atlantic salmon, or flatbread cheese pizza.

Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy dessert classics, such as key lime pie, flourless chocolate torte and salted caramel crème brûlée.

An outdoor patio is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for the dining room are strongly recommended.

Like any winery in Napa, Cooper's Hawk features a market, filled with unique gifts and merchandise for the wine lovers in your life.

You can join a wine club for \$21.99 a month for one bottle or \$41.99 a month for two bottles. Members get 10 percent off carryout and 10 to 20 percent off additional bottles purchased in the Tasting Room.

Members have access to special wine-club dinners and events, and can join unforgettable trips to wine destinations across the U.S., Europe and Australia.

*More information: [chwinery.com](http://chwinery.com).*

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## Faith in what's under the hood

There were plenty of big engines that produce unfathomable horsepower among the 200 vehicles at the recent Arizona Community Church car show – but the 1,500 visitors at the church's annual display were powered by an even higher authority. Entry fees supported Thrive AZ Foster Care.

*Photos by Riley Gay for Wrangler News*



## Ritz

From Page 6

zone was established and — you guessed it — the No. 1 contributor is speed. Thankfully, most people aren't seriously injured in these types of crashes, unless you count the headache of having to fix or replace their vehicles and paying higher insurance rates.

For us, repairing and replacing the damaged equipment requires closing I-10 travel lanes or ramps and putting detours in place — detours that often add more distance and time to a driver's commute.

How ironic.

While our team is hyper-focused on our work zone along I-10 in Phoenix, Tempe, Guadalupe and Chandler, we hope you'll remember that speeding through any work zone can be deadly and costly, and slows everyone down in the long run.

Are the few minutes you might save by speeding really worth it?

Please, slow down.

*Amy Ritz, a Southeast Valley resident and 16-year ADOT employee, is project manager for the Interstate 10 Broadway Curve Improvement Project and previously served as deputy project manager of the Loop 202/South Mountain Freeway Project.*

## Ride with the mayor at Chandler's Family Bike Ride on April 9

There is no official measurement of couch potatoes per capita in Chandler, but it's a good bet that the number increased the past two years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The time has come to take back the flab. The annual Chandler Family Bike Ride returns on Saturday, April 9, and city residents are invited to join Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke for a fun and leisurely ride along scenic Paseo Trail.

"I love this ride every year because it provides families with a great opportunity to get a little exercise, make new friends and celebrate bicycling in Chandler," Hartke said. "This year, I look forward to being back in-person on April 9, and also to seeing the fun posts and pictures from everyone who participates in the virtual event."

The 7.8-mile ride, in conjunction with Valley Bike Month, starts at Chandler's Park & Ride lot,



2100 S. Hamilton St., on the southwestern corner of Germann in Tumbleweed Park. Riders will pedal east through the park to Paseo Trail, then head north along Consolidated Canal to Tibshraeny Park, followed by the ride back to Tumbleweed Park.

Check in begins at 7:30 a.m. A youth Safety Bike Rodeo is 7:30-9 a.m. hosted by Phoenix Children's Hospital, featuring a bicycle-safety course, where young cyclists are shown where and how to apply bike-safety rules.

Pre-register online at [chandleraz.gov/FamilyBikeRide](http://chandleraz.gov/FamilyBikeRide). All riders must wear helmets.

More information: 480-782-3442 or [nancy.jackson@chandleraz.gov](mailto:nancy.jackson@chandleraz.gov).

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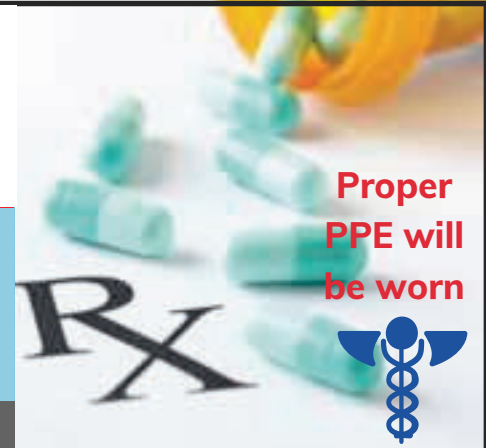
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## State-of-the-art aches and pain treatments run hot and cold at S. Tempe gym

By Andrew Lwowski

Special for Wrangler News

He started with a cryotherapy chamber, which cost nearly \$5,000, and soon Kevin Freeland's interest in other recovery methods at his South Tempe gym led him become the hub for local athletes, weekend warriors and even those who can't run to the refrigerator but have pain from arthritis or medical conditions.

Along the way, Freeland expanded Cryo Tempe to add leg-compression sleeves, Red Light Therapy, an infrared sauna and hydromassage beds.

Freeland opened Cryo Tempe, 8400 S. Kyrene Road, Suite 107 – just north of Warner, in May of 2019 after spending years in the training and recovery side of athletics. Cryo Tempe opened as the first South Tempe-West Chandler alternative recovery place and has since expanded its offerings.

Freeland began with the cryotherapy chamber and leg-compression sleeves before adding Red-Light Therapy, infrared sauna and hydro massage beds.

Cryo Tempe's latest in restorative technologies help you heal faster, perform better and live life with less pain, inflammation and stress, Freeland says.

"More people are focused on more holistic ways to be healthy," said Freeland, a West Chandler resident. "I've seen a lot of interest increase in all of these (recovery methods) because of that. The day I opened back up after the pandemic, I had a line of 20 people waiting to come in and business has done nothing but increase from that day forward."

That hasn't been the case for much of the past two years, although Freeland said that COVID-19 has produced some silver linings since he reopened.

Every week, Freeland sees about 85 clients for cryotherapy, the most popular treatment for aches and pains. The treatment consists of 3 minutes in a liquid-nitrogen-cooled chamber at negative 230 degrees Fahrenheit. The extreme cold triggers the body's biochemical response to produce endorphins and promote healing.

Red Light Therapy, a relatively new technology that Freeland recently acquired, draws about 85 clients a

week, he says.

His interest in alternative recovery methods led Freeland to research and invest in Red Light Therapy and infrared sauna.

"This room has five different wavelengths of light — three you can see in the 600-nanometer range, and two that are not visible at 810 and 850 (nanometers)," Freeland said. "Different wavelengths penetrate different distances into the body. Any cells they encounter spurs an accelerated recovery process. "During the course of your day, mitochondrial cells are damaged and cells die. Then your body will have to regenerate them. What they do is heal that damage so cells have a longer life span."

Patients are set up in time slots, working their way up in 1-minute increments each session, starting at 5 minutes and progressing to a 10-minute maximum. Freeland experienced firsthand how effective Red Light Therapy could be.

"At 50 years old, I started wearing reading glasses," he said. "I couldn't see my phone. I couldn't see my computer with glasses on. I got the Red Light Therapy in July of 2020. By January, 2021, when I was standing in front of my computer, I looked down and I was reading my computer screen and I went to adjust my glasses just out of habit, and I realized I didn't have them on. My eyes got that much better in six months. I haven't worn my glasses since."

However, Red Light Therapy does require frequency, Freeland added. The sweet spot for Red Light Therapy is about three times per week but seven days a week would not bring any ill side effects, he says.

Freeland also added an infrared sauna to his lineup, which operates at about 150 degrees Fahrenheit — about 50 degrees cooler than a traditional sauna. Freeland said that the lower temperature also helps patients feel relaxed and not so beat up afterward versus a session in a 200-degree sauna.

"What makes up for less heat is the infrared. It uses near infrared and what is called mid- and far-infrared, so the wavelengths change (from the Red Light Therapy)," he said. "You get the mitochondrial healing and you also get the detox effect. Studies show that people with regular sauna usage had 44 percent less risk of heart attack and stroke."

The initial time period for the infrared sauna is 30 minutes. Clients can work their way up to 45 minutes.

The world of alternative recovery and healing is growing and Freeland is fully invested.

"The goal over the next four or five years is to turn this place into a recovery-based business," Freeland said. "I'd like



Judi Achore does a cryotherapy session at minus-230 degrees under the supervision of Kevin Freeland at CryoTempe in South Tempe. — Photo by Lee Shappell for Wrangler News.

to get a hyperbaric oxygen chamber down the road, and some other things I have my eye on just to expand the recovery offerings."

Cryo Tempe sees patients from various sports and backgrounds who do high-intensity training, from high school football and track athletes, to those in mixed martial arts and older patients with aches or medical conditions.

He sees many athletes from Chandler Hamilton High and hopes to build his clientele among athletes from Corona del Sol and Marcos de Niza, as well.

More information: [cryotempe.com](http://cryotempe.com) or 602-552-6714.

## SPORTS NOTEBOOK . . . with Alex Zener

### Corona coach Webb gains 300th career victory

Corona del Sol High's long-time baseball coach **Dave Webb** won his 300th career game on March 28, when the Aztecs held on to defeat Desert Ridge, 7-6. The Jaguars put up five runs in the fifth inning to add suspense.

The Aztecs opened 6A section

play 3-0-1 for first place in the 6A Central Region.

Corona was to continue league play at home against Mountain Pointe on April 4 and visit the Pride on April 5. The Aztecs finish the week with a game at home against Sunnyslope on April 7.

Sophomore pitcher **Myles Harrison**, with an ERA of 2.80, was credited with the win in the milestone win over Desert Ridge. His 15 innings pitched this season rank third on the team, after junior pitchers **Justin Corless** and **Cole Carlon**.



The Corona del Sol High baseball team presented coach David Webb with his 300th career victory on March 28. – Corona del Sol baseball photo

Corless (3.44 ERA) has pitched 20 innings. Carlon (3.62 ERA) has pitched 19 innings.

Senior pitchers **Jalen Seward** and **Zac Wroble** also saw action on the mound against Desert Ridge.

In all, Corona has used 10 pitchers. The others are juniors **Connor Bigalow**, **Tommy Gearhart**, **Kobe Ladd** and **Gabe Carrizoza** and sophomore **CJ Arrellano**.



David Webb

Senior catcher **Landon Springmeyer** leads the team in putouts (63, for .990), followed by Seward (39 at first base), Carlon (26), junior utility player **Zane Coggins** (23), Bigalow (22) and senior **Braeden Schnabel** (17).

Other Aztec infielders include seniors **Austin Balmes**, **Keaton Walker** and **Jacob Gutierrez**, junior **Trey Anderson**, and freshman **Jaden La Re**.

Playing in the outfield are seniors **Ayden Crouse**, **Bryson Proctor** and **Angel Morales** plus junior **Owen Jansen**.

Corona plays at home April 11 against Queen Creek, April 13 against Chaparral and April 14 against Highland.

#### Marcos de Niza baseball

The Padres are on a roll after win-

ning three games and tying another. They are 5-10-1 overall and 0-1-1 in 4A Desert Sky play after beating Deer Valley, 18-17, and Combs, 9-6, in out-of-section play.

Sophomore **JP McIntyre** leads Padres' pitchers with a 2.33 ERA. He's also the team leader in runs scored (16) and hits (19).

Freshman pitcher **Izayah Abril** is second on the team with a 3.39 earned run average while junior Dallas Vacaneri is third at 5.12. Juniors **Noah Heyn** and **Jimmy Matuz** also see pitching duty. Others who've seen action on the mound include sophomore **Jadon Valenzuela**, senior **Noah Gutierrez** and sophomore **Spencer Schellhase**.

**Lino Valenzuela** leads the team in doubles and is second in hits and runs batted in. Heyn leads the team with 14 RBI.

Senior **David Flores** plays in the outfield along with fellow senior **Eric Ayala**, junior **Jacob Cazal** and sophomore **Chris Acosta**.

Playing in the infield are junior **Wyatt Young** and **Xavier Bueno** and freshman **Ryder Kowalczyk**.

Marcos was to play Seton Catholic (13-5) in back-to-back games April 4 and April 8 before a rematch at home against American Leadership Academy on April 11. On April 12, the Padres play at Tempe and on April 13 return home against Prescott.

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## **2022 State of the District with Congressman Greg Stanton**

Each year, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce presents the State of the District, a Federal Update with the 9th District US Congressman. This event welcomes community, educational, political and civic leaders for brunch while Representative Greg Stanton provides an update on federal issues affecting our district, state, and country.

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# BUSINESS

## *S. Tempe shops victimized*

### Police detective recommends steps to combat recent crimes of opportunity



Karly Olson listens as Tempe Police Detective Ryan Cook offers security tips for Olson's Energy House, near Warner Road and McClintock Drive, which has had three break-ins in 2½ years. At right: Cook inspects The Energy House.

**Story and photos by Lee Shappell**  
*Wrangler News Executive Editor*

**I**t can be as simple as a business owner forgetting to lock the back door at night. Or perhaps the front door has glass panels and isn't all that sturdy, making it the perfect target for a break-in.

Tempe Police Detective Ryan Cook says that several recent crimes against South Tempe businesses likely were preventable.

"Just take a minute to secure your business at the end of the day. It's often

just that simple," Cook said.

The Peppermill and the Word of Mouth Grill, both in the strip center at 7660 S. McClintock Drive, at Elliot Road, have experienced recent break-ins.

So has The Energy House, a mile south at 1721 E. Warner Road at McClintock – for the third time in the 2½ years that Karly Olson, 30, has owned the energy-nutrition bar that serves meal-replacement shakes, green teas, energy drinks and boasts a full protein coffee bar.

Olson said that in conversations she has had with other small-business

owners in the area and across Interstate 10 in Ahwatukee, break-ins – in some cases smash-and-grabs – seem to be a trend. Olson says that surveillance videos suggest that it could be the same person.

Law-enforcement officials aren't ready to confirm that. In fact, Cook said, the crimes aren't necessarily even directed at small businesses.

"They're crimes of opportunity," said Cook, a member of the department's Chief's Office of Community Policing – formerly the Tempe Crime Prevention Unit.

Olson's Energy House break-in was through the front door, where glass panels were broken out and the burglar then reached inside to open the door.

"I came in the next morning through the back door," Olson said. "As I walked up, I noticed that it was slightly open. My heart just dropped. I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, I'm the one of who closed yesterday, I can never see myself not locking this door.'"

"As I walked up to the front, three little windows in the front door were broken out."

Olson said the burglar took only the cash box, which had less than \$100 in it.

"They just took the cash. They left iPads, they left the tip jar," she said. "They obviously wanted to get in and out fast, and they went out through the back door."

"This seems to be a common theme as I talk to owners. They grab the cash box, they leave anything that can be traceable like an iPad, they grab one thing and they're out the back door."

Cook, who has been with the department for nine years, said there was a similar string of crimes just north of U.S. 60 before the COVID-19 pandemic. Through community outreach from police and cooperation from business owners, the streak was stamped out.

"I work with these small-business owners all the time just to do outreach and make contact with them," Cook said. "At Peppermill and Word of Mouth, I know both owners very well.

The Peppermill incident was not a smash-and-grab. An employee had left the back door unlocked overnight.

"I watched the video surveillance of the Peppermill incident. The gentleman who was there was exhibiting very unusual behavior. I don't know if it was led by a mental-health situation or possibly drug induced. He finally just pulled the door handle and it opened, and he went inside. He didn't take Apple laptops or expensive bottles of alcohol. He didn't even take cash. He took like the weirdest, smallest items."

Cook has several security suggestions for business owners, especially small-business owners. Generally, he says, crimes of opportunity against small businesses come down to securing the property outside the building.

"If there's a patio or seating outside, like at Word of Mouth, it may be a pain to bring it in at the end of the night or cabling it down outside but it helps keep unwanted people away in the middle of the night."

— BREAK-INS, Page 25





April 2022

## Climate action for and by the people

Tempe recently updated our Climate Action Plan. Instead of creating a document by and for government, the city took a modern approach to ensure this plan was created by and for our residents and businesses.

Tempe worked with local organizations, including Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission and Arizona State University, to ensure we listened to how residents and businesses were impacted by climate change and created a plan with climate actions they wanted to see.

The new plan builds on our 2019 plan, and includes four new agendas: youth, business, climate justice and neighborhoods. Each agenda has actions, partnerships and recommendations.

Read more at [Tempe.gov/SustainableTempe](https://www.tempe.gov/SustainableTempe).

### It's Earth Month! Go green and sign up for paperless billing

Sign up for paperless billing for your Tempe utility bill. Visit [tempe.gov](https://www.tempe.gov) and click on the "Pay" button to create an online payment account. You need to have your municipal utility bill account number and your billing zip code when registering. Your online account allows you to manage your paperless billing options and set up scheduled payments. You will receive an e-mail notification each month when your utility bill is ready for you to view and it has a link for paying online.

Receiving your bills electronically and making a payment online will save you time, and the City of Tempe will save on postage and printing. Visit [tempe.gov/CustomerService](https://www.tempe.gov/CustomerService).



## Tempe elects three City Councilmembers; terms begin July 1

*Newly elected are, from left, Jennifer Adams, Arlene Chin, Berdetta Hodge*

Jennifer Adams, Berdetta Hodge and Arlene Chin were elected to the Tempe City Council through the March 8 Primary Election.

They will take the oath of

office at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 1, in the City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.

Outgoing Councilmembers Robin Arredondo-Savage and Lauren Kuby did not seek

re-election. Thank you for your service, Councilmembers!

For more details about the election, visit [tempe.gov/election](https://www.tempe.gov/election).

## It's not too late to provide budget input

As budget preparations continue for fiscal year 2022-23, which begins July 1, the City of Tempe wants to ensure community members know how to find information and when they can offer input.

Each year the city follows a process for formulating the operating and capital budgets to meet the requirements and timelines set out in state law and the city's Charter.

All information about the current and upcoming budgets is available at [tempe.gov/BudgetPlan](https://www.tempe.gov/BudgetPlan) or by calling Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311. Earlier this year, the city held a virtual public forum and a monthlong online survey about budget priorities.

Additional public input opportunities will be available before the budget is finalized as part of the Council's continued budget hearing process during public meetings in April, May and June.

The agendas and links to join these virtual meetings will be posted to [tempe.gov/clerk](https://www.tempe.gov/clerk).

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## Break-ins

From Page 23

Cook also recommends monitoring the property, with the owner's own camera system or by hiring a monitoring company.

If Wi-Fi is offered, he says that closed networks are best.

"So at night, those simply looking to find an open Wi-Fi don't come to the location, he said. "Secure all exterior outlets, as well. It can bring in unwanted traffic at night if there's free Wi-Fi and electricity."

A laminate on windows, so it's difficult to see in but easy to see out and maintain vigilance, is good, according to Cook.

Inside the building, Cook says that motion-detection systems are a good call. Cameras, placed in opposite corners of the facility to get a crisscross view, are helpful.

And, he adds, "never, never, never keep cash in the register. At the end of the night, secure it somewhere, like in a vault, but never leave it in the register. That's the first line of attack: They go straight for the register."

Among Cook's duties is performing security assessments of business, both existing and those



Karly Olson and Tempe Police Detective Ryan Cook inspect the front door of The Energy House, where three windows were broken as a burglar gained entry overnight and grabbed the cashbox.

planned and under construction. Tempe Police Department, he says, is big on crime prevention through environmental design.

As he walked through Olson's Energy House, he noted that it was easy and relatively quiet for the front-door panels to be broken out to gain entry.

"A rock in a sock," he said. "It breaks inward. It's quiet."

Olson said it would cost about \$300 to replace the broken glass panels, but closer to \$1,000 to replace the front door with one of a more secure design. For a small business, that's a lot of money. Her insurance is \$500 deductible, she says, but payable only if the loss is greater than \$5,000, which hers isn't.

Cook encourages businesses to do what Olson and others are doing: network and share information.

"In the string of break-ins before COVID, we had an officer in our unit do a business alliance. The hotels, convenience stores and apartment complexes in the area got together with him and they talked. What are you seeing? Have you seen this person? Any unusual or suspicious behavior?" Cook said.

Olson, for the third time, will eat the repair cost of the break-in and the loss of the cash.

"It's kind of tough," she said.

"It happens so fast. They grab the cashbox and they're gone. All of these people have alarms and camera systems but it's like so quick that those things don't even make a difference. Our Police Department can only go so fast.

"But we can educate people that this is a theme and we all need to be watching this stuff and calling it in."

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# SCHOOLS



Julio Contreras



Katie Anderson



Tiffani Montelione

## 3 Kyrene teachers earn nation's highest credential, 2 others awarded renewal

Three Kyrene School District teachers have earned National Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential available to American educators, the school district announced.

Two other Kyrene teachers achieved a renewal of National Board Certification, according to the district.

Katie Anderson, English-language development teacher and academic interventionist at Sierra Elementary; Tiffani Montelione, fifth-grade teacher at Kyrene Digital Academy; and Julio Contreras, orchestra and mariachi teacher at Kyrene Middle School, are the newest certified

National Board members.

Amy Dean, middle-childhood generalist at Mirada, and Amy Ordonez, middle-childhood generalist at Paloma and Mariposa, had Board Certification renewed.

National Board Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment of a teacher's pedagogical skills and content knowledge. The certification takes one to three years to complete.

"Going through National Board Certification is like getting a teaching makeover," Anderson said. "As an experienced teacher, I have been immersed in my day-to-day responsibilities and school routines for a long time. This journey helped me freshen my priorities

as an educator and renewed my understanding of the power I have to impact students."

Anderson holds an Elementary Education degree from the University of Nebraska and a master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona. She has taught various grade levels at several Kyrene schools, including Lomas, Monte Vista, Esperanza and Sierra.

Montelione earned a master's in Instructional Technology from New York Institute of Technology and a bachelor's in Childhood Education from the State University of New York, College at Oneonta. This is her seventh year in the Kyrene School District. She completed a teaching intern-

ship in Australia, which broadened her knowledge and appreciation of diversity in education.

Contreras, born in Sonora, México, moved to the U.S. 10 years ago to attend Arizona State, where he received his undergraduate degree in Music Education. He is pursuing a master's in Music Learning and Teaching at ASU.

This is his sixth year at Kyrene. Prior to teaching orchestra and mariachi classes, Julio frequently performed with groups in the U.S. and Mexico.

Dean has passionately taught third-, fourth- and fifth-graders for 20 years, all at Kyrene. Raised in Arizona, she wanted to stay near family and continue her education. She attended all three state universities.

Ordonez has been in Kyrene for all 19 years in her education career as a classroom teacher, math coach, academic interventionist and now assistant principal. She received her undergraduate degree from ASU in Exercise Science and Physical Education and spent a few years as an athletic trainer. In 2001, she went back to school and received her post-baccalaureate degree in Elementary Education. While working as an academic interventionist, she received her master's degree in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University.



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## McClintock freshman recognized by CDC for research into her chronic blood disorder

The chronic blood disorder Thalassemia has created many hurdles for Eashani "Shae" Ghosh, among them being treated differently by her peers.

With Thalassemia, the blood does not produce enough hemoglobin, leading to reduced oxygen carried by red blood cells, in turn creating extreme fatigue in patients. Ghosh's condition impacts every area of her life and often causes her to miss school and the hobbies that she is passionate about in order to receive treatment.

Not many people are aware of the condition, she shared in a profile for a recent feature about her by the Centers for Disease Control. She has been dedicated to surveying Thalassemia patients and educating them, their families and doctors on the importance of hydration and care techniques. She also was invited to speak at the 2021 Colley's Anemia Foundation Patient-Family Conference in New Jersey due to her research.

Her presentation was so well received

and attendees were incredibly impressed with her maturity and professionalism, despite being a freshman in high school.

You would never be able to tell that the McClintock High freshman is battling health issues by looking at her. Ghosh, in McClintock's Peggy Payne Academy, a program for gifted students, does not let her condition impact her positivity or her outlook on the impact she can make. She shared that she lives every day knowing she is not defined by her condition.

"Thalassemia does not define who I am as a person and it doesn't stop me, nor will it ever stop me from being who I want to be," she said.

Instead, she has turned her condition into an opportunity to make sure that others who struggle with Thalassemia are heard. Ghosh has actively committed to improving the quality of life and medical care for those living with the disorder through increased educational opportunities and continual surveying of patients to grasp an understanding.

Her studies have yielded data that reveal a lack of understanding surrounding hydration and have even resulted in important techniques that patients, their families and doctors can apply to continue to ensure hydration remains a focus.

For example, one of the main areas of her studies has shown that hydration must continue to be emphasized in clinical visits for Thalassemia.

Ghosh actively makes a difference in the community by helping others embrace what makes them who they are. She is a member of the Mayor's Youth and Advisory Commission in Tempe, yet another avenue to express her passions. She embraces her Indian culture and takes lessons in the Indian classical musical dance form called Bharatnatyam. Ghosh is a mentor to younger children and helps them learn and embrace the beauty in Indian culture and dance.

She is learning Hindustani classical



Eashani "Shae" Ghosh

— MCCLINTOCK, Page 30



  
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## McClintock

From Page 28

music.

Peggy Payne Academy Director Laura Zinke reflected on her first year with Ghosh in the classroom and the amazing work her spirit has allowed her to do.

"Shae is an amazing young woman," Zinke said. "She is bright and beautiful and full of energy. She is not only committed to her academic success but is also involved in a plethora of activities on and off-campus."

## Student leaders helped plan all the details of 'Pueblopalooza' festival

Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School in Chandler hosted the first-ever Pueblopalooza Music Festival on Friday, March 25.

Student leaders helped plan and coordinate what the school hopes will become an annual event.

Pueblo is a "Leader in Me" school, where students and staff know that every student has the potential to be a leader.

Pueblopalooza gave students the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills as they helped arrange details necessary to pull off a full-blown music festival.

The night was full of entertainment, including the Pueblo Jazz Band, Orchestra, Choir, Drama Club, and a special guest appearance by the Kyrene de las Manitas Steel Drum Band.

Families indulged in yummy offerings from several mobile vendors.

Many students enjoyed carnival games created and run by students and staff, as well as the obstacle course, jousting and bungee inflatables.

All in all, it was a wonderful night as Pueblo students and staff highlighted their performing arts programs and leadership skills for the school and community.



Student leaders planned the inaugural Pueblopalooza. Kyrene School District photo

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Founder/Publisher: **Don Kirkland**

Executive Editor: **Lee Shappell**

**Contributors**

Andrew Lwowski, Alex Zener,  
M.V. Moorhead, Janie Magruder,  
Sally Mesarosh, Billy Hardiman,  
Pablo Robles, Nicole Greason,  
Meghann Sepulveda,  
Cliff Summerhill

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**The Nick Bastian Team**  
*Your Real Estate Experts*

**REALTY EXECUTIVES**

# Kyrene Corridor Market Report

## March Single Family Home Sales:

**85283, 85284, 85226**



**Average List Price:**

**\$591,191**



**Average Number of Days on Market:**

**30**



**Average Sold Price:**

**\$603,044**



**Average Price Per Square Foot:**

**\$300**

Call us to find out how much your home is worth or to help you find your next home!

**KyreneCorridorHomes.com 602-803-6425**



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& STAY IN YOUR HOME UP TO 6 MONTHS!  
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## LISTED PROPERTIES



**FOOTHILLS - S. MOUNTAIN  
OVER 1/4 ACRE LOT**



**COMING SOON - GRAYSTONE GATED COMMUNITY**



## PENDING & SOLD PROPERTIES



**PENDING / OCOTILLO EAST  
\$1,700,000**



**PENDING / GRAND RESERVE  
\$1,099,000**



**PENDING / SANDAHL  
S. TEMPE**



**SOLD / CUSTOM HOME  
\$1,225,000**

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FAST & FOR TOP  
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