

OCTOBER 8 - 21, 2022 • VOL 32, NO 19



After missing the postseason last year, Marcos de Niza has a team to be reckoned with after a 5-0 start to their season. PAGE 22.



As times change, so do we. Take a closer look at how Wrangler News will grow its relationship with a broader age demographic. PAGE 3.

## DOGGONE HAPPY, X2

A memorable moment at Tempe's Arts in the Parks celebration, taking place at locations citywide. Details & more photos, Pages 12-13.

Photo by Billy Hardiman, courtesy city of Tempe.

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## Our social media numbers, now in the thousands, head even higher

Investing more of our energies in Twitter, Facebook . . . and the future

By Don Kirkland

s you may have read in previous columns, we spend a lot of time brainstorming ways to make our paper better. To provide stories, photos and advertising that appeals to your interests and answers your information needs.



Sharing ideas among ourselves is one of the processes we enjoy most, and something we look forward to doing whenever time permits between deadlines.

One of the most productive—and fun—sessions of recent weeks was one in which we targeted our discussion at social media approaches, some of which we currently use, others that we'd like to improve upon or expand.

Here are the highlights of what we shared in our most recent back-andforth exchange of ideas:

Based on what people have told us over the years, they "love this little paper." For them, we assume, a newspaper is what they have grown up with.

It's the pleasure they receive from seeing it in their driveway, from bringing it into their home.

From holding it in their hands as they've done for the better part of a lifetime.



It's also what we heard from readers after I wrote in an earlier column that we were looking for new ways to keep pace with a changing information environment. One common refrain: "We like knowing that you're thinking about making improvements—but please don't take our newspaper away from us."

Perhaps it goes without saying that we've given that sentiment a lot of thought, simply because we know it's important for us to keep pace with changing times, at the same time making sure we're appealing to a vast audience who don't need to hold a newspaper in their hands to receive enjoyment from it.

When we've asked young people in recent months for their view of print versus social media, I'm sure you're not surprised to hear their response: "We hardly ever look at the paper; we get all of our news from social media."

Quite a dilemma for people like us—like me—who couldn't start the day without a cup of coffee and not one but two printed newspapers awaiting my perusal.

As to that sharing of ideas described earlier, one of the decisions emerging from it was what I feel is a solution that straddles the best of both worlds.

That is, our ability to remain an all-local news and information source that can be enjoyed by a wide range of ages and interests—those who grew up with and still enjoy the newspaper that arrives in their driveway regularly, along with the group that finds all the information they need from the digitized content available on such platforms as Twitter and Facebook.

#### **Future**

From Page 3

Yes, there are many similar sources out there, but our research indicates the ones that are most avidly followed by our readership are, in fact, those two platforms.

What finally resulted from our brainstorming session was, in my mind, an idea that represented one of the most exciting new ventures of our entire 30-year publishing experience—the decision to take even better advantage than we do now of both of those seemingly dominant online platforms, Facebook and Twitter.

To expand the energy that we inject into producing a dynamic, digital presence, complete with regular updates that will help longtime Wrangler News followers not only feel the same sense of community they receive with our print edition but be able

to tap into what those of us in this industry recognize as breaking news—similar to how daily newspapers and the electronic media do it.

The difference, of course, is that by having established ourselves as a purely neighborhood-focused, community-friendly news and information source, our focus can continue to be on the people and places most familiar to all of us.

Will this newly expanded initiative work? Let me share with you what we've experienced so far and on which we base our plans for the future.

Our staff member Andrew Lwowski, who monitors closely the analytics of Wrangler News' impact on its market, tells a truly remarkable story.

For example, in a recent tabulation of one of our experimental Twitter posts, only slightly fewer than 6,500 impressions were recorded within the first 72 hours of their

posting. That number represents those who saw the posts online, a standard preliminary step that further resulted in more than 500 people who went on to view each item in its entirety.

These are the kinds of numbers that provide us the encouragement to move forward to aggressively expand our social media presence.

Are they comparable to the staggering analytics of a huge city- or state-wide company? Definitely not.

But for a small, neighborhood centric bi-weekly newspaper, the experts tell us they're quite amazing.

And, even better, they provide us with an eye-opening amount of potential to further increase readership—hopefully so that even more can honestly tell us:

"We love your little newspaper."

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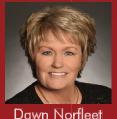
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www.azcrowncenter.com 0000 2490 W. Ray Road, Suite 2, Chandler, AZ 85224 Plenty to learn at fire station get-acquainted event

## Fire up the family for a fun-filled, safety-focused Nov. 1 open house



being invited to join their citywide neighbors for a free Fire Department open house from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Fire Station No.1, 1491 E. Pecos Road.

The whole family can enjoy tours of the station and get a close-up look at a fire truck and ambulance, as well as see apparatus displays and demonstrations of emergency medical services.

Free balloons and fire helmets will be available for children.

In addition to the fun, Chandler Fire will offer blood pressure checks and provide drowning prevention information. In a Fire Safety House display, children will get hands-on instruction on how to get out of a smoke-filled environment.

The event will also feature instruction on Hands-Only CPR, which when performed by a bystander has been shown to be as effective as "conventional" CPR in emergencies that occur at home, work, or in public.

In terms of generally accepted guidance, there are only two steps to remember: call 911 and push hard and fast in the center of the chest.

For more information, visit the event listing for Chandler Fire Station No. 1 Open House or call 480-782-2120.

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## First Person . . .

# A lifetime with the masters, ready for sharing

**By Carol Donigan** *Special for Wrangler News* 

Editor's note: While we seldom publish reader stories in a first-person narrative, the submission by piano teacher Carol Donigan caught our attention as one that could be best shared with our readers in the writer's own telling.

Thus follows a piece that we felt you'd enjoy reading exactly as she wrote it, with few editing updates, along with a couple of photos she shot of her students along the way. We hope you'll find it as enjoyable a tale as we did.

t all began when I was 8 years old and my Uncle Sam sent his own recording at the piano of "The Poet and the Peasant." I was hooked and begged my mother (who played the violin) for piano lessons.

Soon after a fine old oak upright appeared in our small house and lessons commenced with a local teacher who was much too lenient. Nothing could drag me away from my piano, and lessons with more advanced teachers continued through high school.

I paid for my own instruction with babysitting money until offered a full tuition music scholarship from Mt. St. Mary's University in Los Angeles. I was thrilled and worked hard to advance my repertoire and technique.

After teaching elementary school for 13 years I found my passion in music, and the wonderful mentors and teachers who put their indelible stamp on my heart.



- Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

"I will never forget Vladimir Horowitz and Alicia de Larrocha who dazzled the audience with their incredible artistry.

My first concert artist teacher was Leah Effenbach, who shouted at me for making six mistakes in the Chopin B Major Nocturne Op.32, No.1. This was a masterclass with pianists listening with scores. I was 'beyond humiliated.

"Anyone who plays as well as you has no business making that many mistakes!!" I'll never forget it and the high standard she set for all of us.

Johanna Graudan, a most regal lady, was equally exacting, and through the study of all the Chopin Etudes I improved my technique with quite a small set of hands. Illness put an end to our weekly studies.

Then I had a great opportunity to study some 7 years with Romania's leading pianist, Sofia Cosma, who escaped a hostile country in a clandestine manner.

A formidable pianist, she received much publicity upon her arrival in California. We met backstage at her performance of Rachmaninoff's 2nd piano Concerto and I became her first American student.

She had a lot of time then and lessons went on for some 3-4 hours bi-monthly. Her big composers were Chopin, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Liszt. Mine were Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert.

I learned the Chopin 3rd Sonata in B minor, Schubert A Major, D.959, Liszt Etudes and Venizia e Napoli, Brahms Rhapsody Op.79, No.1, Chopin 4 Impromptus and much more.

She often shouted "Vat are you doing there!!?" Ever higher standards like climbing a mountain that has no summit.

After 7 years I needed a break and she knew it. "Carol vay don't you go and find fresh inspirations?" What a relief as I had at that time 2 young children, aging parents and a growing piano studio. I was performing in recitals for local colleges, music clubs and gave several recitals at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. Youth was still on my side and I needed to stay close to home.

Soon I found Eduardo Delgado, whose Ambassador Auditorium recital made a huge





Piano student photos shared by Carol Donigan

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#### Teacher

From Page 9

impression on me.

Here was an artist with a wide palette of colors, nuances so sensitive, volume control so fine his artistic expression was spell binding. He answered my letter of inquiry inviting me to come and visit.

Thus began 2 years of exquisite study. I was a more polished musician by this time and he appreciated all the work I had done. He expanded my repertoire into the Spanish with music of Albeniz, Granados, Turina, de Falla, Malat.

A favorite was Granados Waltzes Poeticos.
He was from Argentina, world famous, and eventually went to Japan to teach at one of the Universities. Of course I was disappointed but he had worlds to conquer in far off places.

All of these great artists had a huge influence on my teaching and I have always strived to give my best to each and every student.

It is a real privilege to have a young person entrusted to me.

Many times I have taken a student from beginner to advanced, it takes about 10 years. I taught in my private studio and for Pasadena and Moorpark Community Colleges.

In California I belonged to the Conejo
Valley Music Teachers Association.

We were some 100 colleagues teaching various instruments and together we planned events for our students to excel and perform. I served as vice president for 2 years and as president for 4 years.

So now I am here in Arizona near my family just starting to teach again.

And I'm confident the highlights of years of study will inspire others, as it did me for my lifetime.



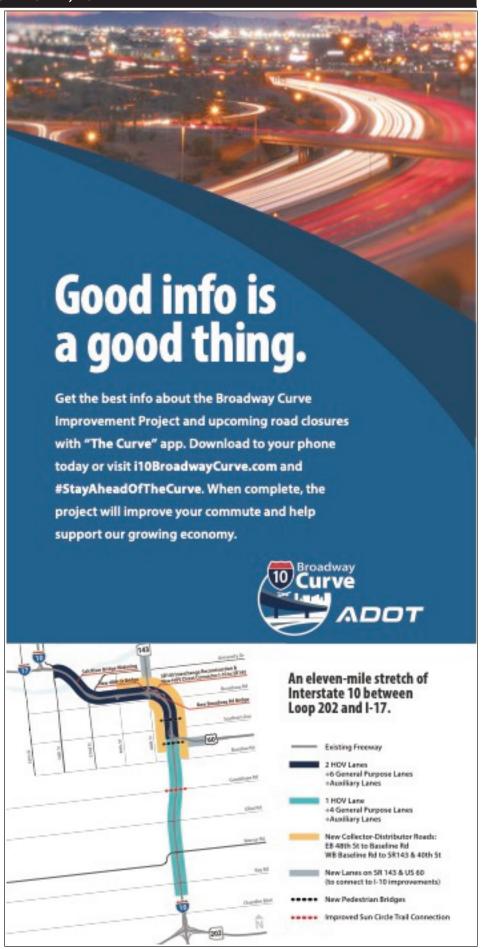
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Arts in the Parks is a city of Tempe program that brings arts-focused events and activities to neighborhoods. With 32 events and five temporary fence-art installations annually, the program activates outdoor community spaces, aimed at giving residents an opportunity to connect with their neighbors and local artists while expressing their own creativity. The goal, say planners: To create neighborhood programming that reflects the identity and values of each park's community. The program kicked off in September with eight events featuring live music by Tempe area artists. Planners asked community members what they'd like to see in future arts offerings via activities, games, surveys and conversations.

Residents were provided the space to be heard and celebrated while connecting, networking and creating art.

Learn more: www.tempe.gov/ArtsintheParks

Photos by Billy Hardiman Courtesy city of Tempe

















Group gathers as part of a fundraising event to generate support Tempe Community Action Agency's efforts on behalf of independent living for seniors.

## TCAA breakfast raises \$26,000 to support seniors' independent living

ore than 100 guests and supporters generated at least \$26,000 in donations at Tempe Community Action Agency's Good Neighbor Breakfast fundraiser, aimed at supporting the organization's senior independence programs.

The funding, which serves economically vulnerable residents, was encouraged through the words of such program recipients as Angela, who told of the impact TCAA has had not only on her but on volunteers as well.

"The breakfast is important because it makes a difference in my life as well as others," she said.

According to TCAA director of philanthropy Joe Rivera, social isolation and sustained loneliness among older adults can create barriers to individual and community well-being.

TCAA's 40-plus years of experience in delivering programs and services that enhance the quality of life for seniors helps those community members maintain their independ-

ence and dignity.

The organization began to offer senior center-based activities in 1976 and added a variety of nutrition services for seniors in 1981.

Said Rivera:

"TCAA works to prevent seniors from experiencing isolation, loneliness and serious health risks, so that they can age safely in their homes and within their community of choice. Our senior independence focus combines the best of our senior services experience with our expansive knowledge of the target population and the importance of nutritious, reliable food and social connections for healthy aging.

With help from volunteers and donors, Rivera noted, TCAA provides a continuum of services to older adults including access to lunchtime meals and activities at Tempe and Scottsdale Senior Centers, transportation, food, case management, home-based support, as well as opportunities to be of service. More than 1,000 area seniors benefit from these services each year, said Rivera.





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## W. Chandler dog lovers invited to join other area residents at popular Woofstock event

For West Chandler residents who've been hounding city officials for another run of the popular Woofstock event, their efforts pay off on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Tumbleweed Park.

Dog lovers and their well-mannered, leashed pups are invited to partake in festivities from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It promises to be a 'fur-filled' day of free family fun for all.

Owners and their pooch can visit the pet-related vendors and participate in activities that are sure to have him (and you) begging to come out and play. Activities include:

- Pet Adoptions are available through local non-profit agencies including Maricopa County Animal Care & Control.
- Low-Cost Vaccinations are available for purchase through Dignity Veterinary Hospital.
- Canine Sporting Demonstrations at various times throughout the day exhibited by Dog Training Elite and the Chandler Police K9 unit.
- Pet Caricature Drawings & Portraits created by local paparazzi.
- Pet Psychic Readings as told by Terrie Wallace.
  - Puparazzi Photo Contest Voting cast your

vote for Chandler's most adorable pups.

If you think your furry friend is top dog, be sure to enter the Puparazzi Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted now through Nov. 4.

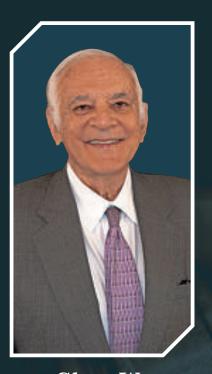
Finalists' photos will be displayed at Woofstock, where patrons can vote for the "Pet Lovers Choice" Award.

The cutest pup will win a paw-some gift basket valued at \$75.

The contest is open to residents and non-residents of Chandler.

In addition to the dog-related fun, pets and people alike can enjoy a variety of food and beverages throughout the park. There are no ATMs on site; some vendors may accept credit cards.

Tumbleweed Park is located at 2250 S. McQueen Road.



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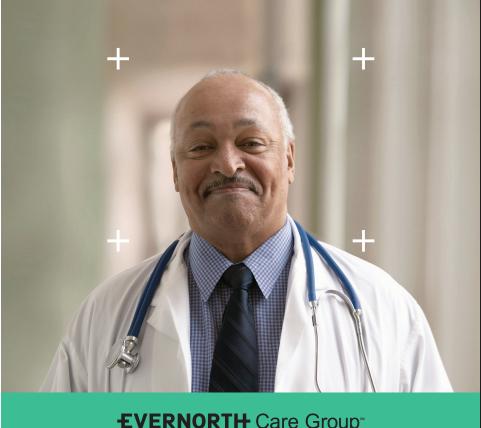


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#### COMMENTARY

## Friendships

By Glynn Gilcrease

s we age in life, it seems more important than ever to cherish and nourish our friendships.

As the years fly by and we get caught up raising families and succeeding in businesses, we realize that friendships are something to be treasured. Abraham Lincoln said that the quality of a man's life can be measured by the quality of his friendships. Lincoln's words ring so true.

Everyone is encouraged to reach out and connect with a friend. Sometimes we are hesitant when we haven't communicated with a friend for some time, but it only takes a minute to write and mail a card or a note.

The response is ususally "Thank you, I've been thinking about you."

Too often we get blocked in communicating with friends because we want to use "the right words."

The right words aren't fancy, and as long as they are heartfelt, there are no wrong words.

Our commuication with friends today is made both easier and in some ways difficult by modern high tech Facebook and Instagram tools, which can seem less private and personal.

The key is to get rid of any fear and reach out, whatever the method. It's really special when a friendship from the past is rekindled and when a current friendship flourishes because of communication.

Reach out! Communicate with a friend.

- Glynn Gilcrease is a longtime Tempe attorney who contributes regularly to Wrangler News

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## **Sports Notebook . . .** with Alex Zener

## Restrictions lessened, team also celebrates 'Tac' Smith's 25th year

orona's cross-country teams are happy to be able to compete normally once again after dealing with the COVID restrictions, especially the seniors who have just this one season left in their high school career.

This season is also a big one for head coach Patrick "Tac" Smith who will have been Corona's boys cross-country head coach for 25 years. Over the years he has had an impact on hundreds of student athletes.

There are eight senior athletes on the boys team and two seniors on the girls team who are part of Corona's cross-country team that competed every

> weekend in September. Senior Gabriel



finisher for the Aztecs in three of those four races. His best time of 16:27 was at the Oja Rojo Invitational held Sept. 17 at his favorite place to compete,

Tumbleweed Park.

"Gabe, in only his second year running cross country, has become one of our top runners," said Smith.

Alex Zener

"He is an extremely hard worker, following the mantra of business before pleasure. He is a potential state medalist and is also a varsity wrestler at Corona."

Gonzales hopes to continue running for a community college after graduation.

Senior **Tyler Tisinger**, who has been running for Corona since he was a freshman, can usually be found running neck and neck with Gonzales at some point in a race and sometimes finishes either right in front of Gonzales or right behind him.

For instance, Tisinger finished ahead of Gonzales to take 10th place at the Fountain Hills Invitational held Sept. 10 at Fountain Hills Park with a time of 16:38.15, his fastest time in September.

"Tyler is one of the top runners in the state," said Smith. "He was a state medalist last year, took fourth place in the state track meet in the 800 his

junior year and was fourth in the 1600 his sophomore year."

"He's a super student who will go to college for running and academics."

Grant Murad has consistently been the third or fourth runner to cross the finish line for Corona this season. He was the third runner at the Chandler Invitational held Sept. 3 at Tumbleweed Park, taking 66th place out of 164 racers with a time of 18:59.6 early in the season.

Murad was also the third Corona runner at the Desert Twilight XC Festival help Sept. 30 at Coyote Run Golf Course with an improved time of 17:37.9.

"Grant is a four-year runner for Corona with three varsity letters. He unfortunately spent last year injured, but is now healthy and making a big comeback," said Smith. "We are looking for big things for him by the end of the year."

Senior **Andrew Davis-Boerner** is another one of Corona's top runner consistently finishing as the third for fourth runner from Corona.

For instance, Davis-Boerner, was the fourth runner taking 73rd place out of 164 racers at the Chandler Invitational and was second at the Oja Rojo Invitational taking 66th place out of 294 runner on Sept. 17 with a time of 17:31.4.

"Andrew is another one of our athletes who has run cross-country all four years despite also being one of Corona's best soccer players. He is becoming an outstanding runner who has shown huge improvement this year," said Smith. "

Ben Brower has been part of Corona's crosscountry team for three years. His best time this season was 20:32 at the Chandler Invitational.

"Ben has improved tremendously this year after missing a year due to COVID," said Smith. "He is also an outstanding member of the Corona Choir."

Logan Sywak has run cross country for the Aztecs all four years. His best time was 21:31.6 at the Chandler Invitational, while senior Adam Soussi has been running cross country for Corona for three years.

"Logan is another one of our runners who has vastly improved this year, and Adam has also shown big improvement as well," said Smith. "Logan is the best pacer on the team and Adam is our big kicker in races."

**Diego Frausto** is another one of Corona's seniors who has been runninf on the cross-country team all four years of his high school career.

Brian Crane, in his sixth year as Corona's girls head coach, has two seniors on his cross-country team this fall, Taylor McClane and Kelsey Gunning.

This year is McClane's first on Corona's crosscountry team but she did compete at her old school before transferring to Corona.

"We are lucky to have Taylor," said Crane. "Taylor is a hard worker who is involved in many activities other than cross-country, including R.O.T.C, which she plans to continue when she studies business at ASU next year."

"Taylor is our seventh runner on varsity, plus she also plans on running track and field this spring."

Gunning runs both cross-country and track for

"Kelsey took last season off but is now back running XC for her third season at Corona," said Crane. "I am so happy to have Kelsey back. She is a natural leader who I can count on to finish workouts strong and motivate the younger athletes. Last track season, Kelsey made state in the 300m hurdles."

The Aztecs have one more meet, the Titan Invitational coming Oct. 13 to Crossroads Park, before the sectionals and state tournament which starts Nov. 2.

The Southeast Section is to be held at Crossroads, with the Girls Division 1 Southeast starting at 10:45 a.m. and Boys Division I Southeast at 11:15 a.m.

The Division I Cross Country State Championships will be Nov. 12 at Cave Creek Golf Course.

The Aztecs' last event will be the NXR Southwest Regional Championships on Nov. 19, scheduled to be held at Coyote Run Golf Course at Leisure World.



Back row: Diego Frausto, Andrew Davies-Boerner, Logan Sywak, Taylor McClane, Tyler Tisinger, Kelsey Gunning, Grant Murad, Adam Soussi; Front row: Gabriel Gonzales, Ben Brower.

— Photo courtesy Janell Davies

## The Nick Bastian Your Real Estate Experts Team



#### Welcome to the Team!



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Marcos de Niza football fans showed up Friday night as the team blew out Tucson Amphitheater High School, 55-7. The stout Padres gave up only seven points, they improved their record to 4-0 on the season. As stated prior to the start of the season, coach Anthony Figueroa said the team never wanted to experience what they went through last year. And now sitting at 4-0 with no signs of slowing down, the Padres have a promising look at a deep post-season run.

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman











## **Local artists** take the stage at Tempe Jam on Oct. 21

Take in the local vibe at Tempe Jam, a free music celebration featuring local bands The Stakes, Paper Foxes and Banana Gun with performances by local dance crew The Sacred G's.

Tie dye your own free event shirt, check out the food trucks and grab a beverage from the beer and wine garden run by Tempe Diablos.

There's something for every musical palette. The event is 7-10 p.m. at the Tempe Sports Complex, 8401 S. Hardy Drive.

The showcase will launch the next Tempe Playlist, a Tempe **Community Arts** program that brings songs together from local musicians – a uniquely Tempe experience.

Learn more at tempe. gov/TempePlaylist.

## Tempe **Tempe Veterans Day**

Tempe will continue its annual tradition of honoring military veterans with a Veterans Day parade on Friday, Nov. 11. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at ASU Gammage and proceed north on Mill Avenue, concluding at Tempe Beach Park at Mill

Parade is Nov. 11

Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway.

Veterans Day Parade participants include members of the Tempe City Council, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, local school marching bands, community members, veterans' groups and many more.

Join in the patriotic fun of this hometown tradition!

For more information on the Tempe Veterans Day Parade or to register your group to participate, visit downtowntempe.com.

## Shape the Tempe of tomorrow



Show us what you'd like Tempe to be in 2050 at the Tempe Tomorrow General Plan 2050 Public Meeting.

Share your ideas for development, land use, transportation, historic preservation, neighborhoods, art, open space and everything else that makes Tempe unique.

This event is intended for everyone who lives or works in Tempe to come and learn about the plan and ask questions while enjoying free refreshments, music and entertainment. Join us Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at **LEGOLAND Discovery** Center at Arizona Mills Mall, 5000 Arizona Mills Circle. Admission is free. Get details at tempe.gov/ 2050 or email 2050@tempe.gov.



Fall family fun at Tempe golf courses — As the temperatures drop, bring the whole family for some fun at Sunday Family Days. Every Sunday starting at noon, families get a free youth green fee with each paying adult at Ken McDonald and Rolling Hills golf courses. Enjoy gorgeous views, excellent course conditions and affordable rates. Visit tempe.gov/golf to book your tee times and view current promotions.

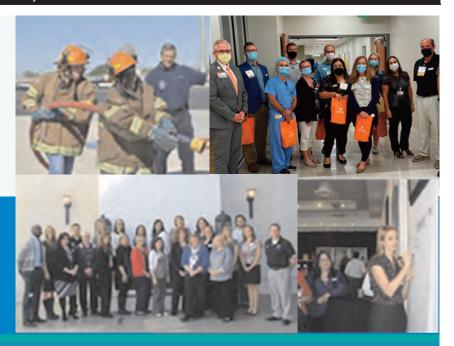








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## Wrangler News Classifieds • Place your ad at wranglernews.com/classifieds

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Former B&B in Mancos, CO— Historic 5 bedroom former B&B with separate 2 bedroom carriage house on .83 acres in the heart of beautiful Mancos, Colorado, Offered at \$849,000 Photos and more information at www.mancosrealestate.com

#### Wanted

Great Harvest Bread Co. is looking for customer svc and baking team members. Pay is DOE. Call 480-777-1141 or stop in & apply at 1730 E. Warner Rd, Tempe.

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