

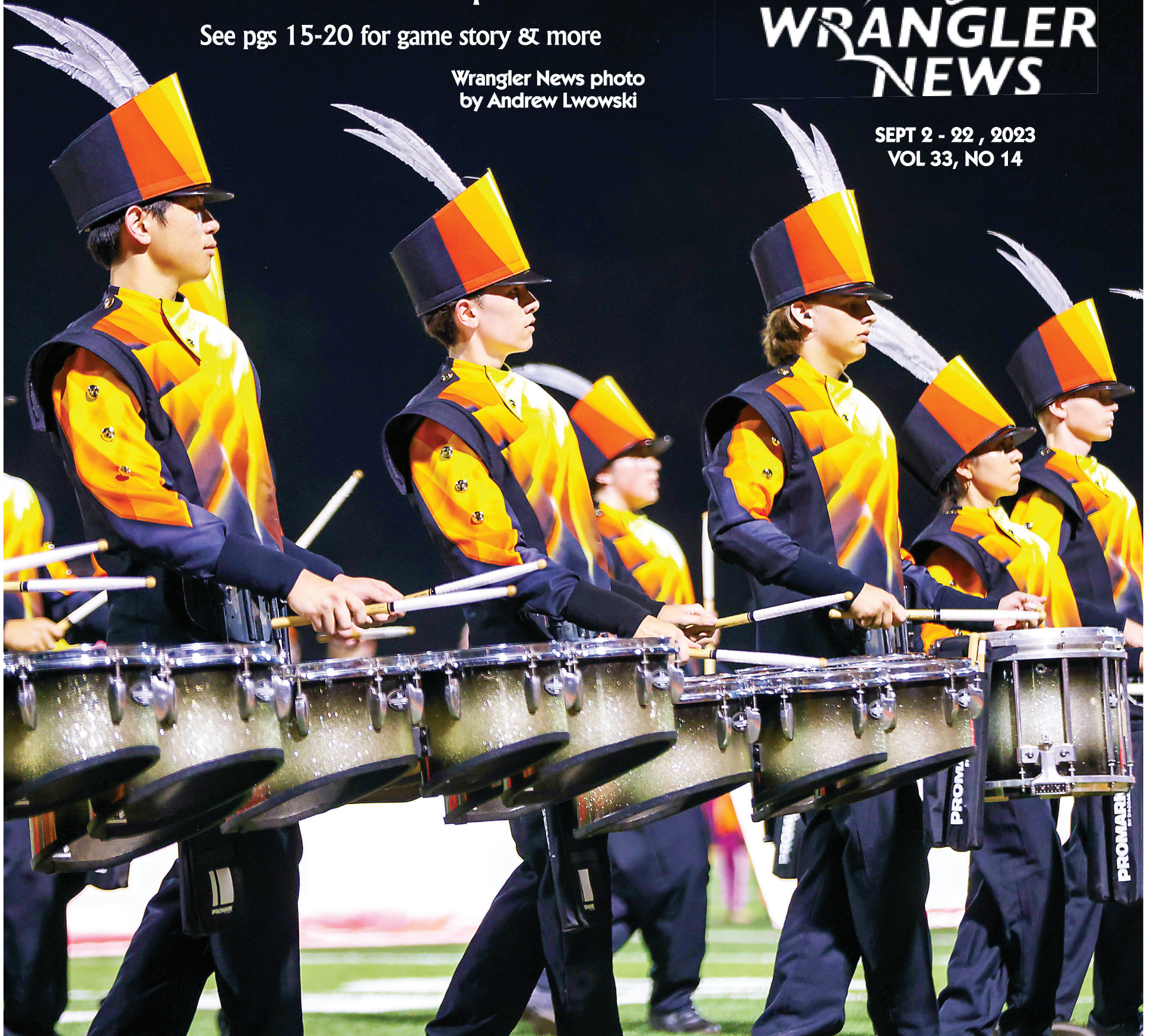
Aztec marching band strums its way into the school's 2023 football opener

See pgs 15-20 for game story & more

Wrangler News photo
by Andrew Lwowski



SEPT 2 - 22 , 2023
VOL 33, NO 14



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In his usual form, Glynn Gilcrease Jr. counsels a young knowledge-seeker with information, guidance.

— Wrangler News photo

The encourager's legacy: Celebrating selfless dedication to Tempe's future

40th Don Carlos Humanitarian Awardee, a champion of youth and civic causes and an inspirational future-builder

Special for
Wrangler News
by Barbi Walker-Walsh

Glynn W. Gilcrease Jr. is the 40th recipient of the Don Carlos Humanitarian Award for his decades of volunteer work with youth and civic initiatives and his selfless dedication to Tempe's bright future.

Gilcrease received the esteemed

humanitarian award for his decades of volunteer work with youth and civic initiatives and his selfless dedication to Tempe's bright future.

A longtime community leader, Gilcrease has been selected as the recipient of the 40th Don Carlos Humanitarian Award by the Tempe Community Council. The award recognizes those who enhance Tempe's livability through impactful, lasting

efforts that address vital community needs. It is named after founder Charles Trumbull Hayden, fondly referred to as "Don Carlos" by Hispanic pioneers, and is Tempe's most prestigious award.

Throughout his tenure, Gilcrease has continued his legacy of selfless dedication to human services through leadership with numerous charitable organizations. He has spent decades

volunteering for multiple humanitarian efforts, including long-time support of youth and other civic efforts.

His philanthropic efforts have supported Tempe Sister Cities' international cultural programs and sponsored many youth in their international student exchange program. As a Tempe South Rotarian, he has given years of service to various endeavors, living out their motto "service

above self."

An esteemed trial attorney in Tempe, Arizona, and former U.S. Marine, Gilcrease is known for his multifaceted roles. He's

— Continued on Page 4



— Continued from Page 3

a prominent member of the Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley and has served as both director and chairman.

His dynamic talents also extend to his role as a professional Abraham Lincoln impersonator, captivating audiences of all ages, including elementary school children, college students, and Rotary Clubs.

His admiration for Lincoln's eloquent writing is evident.

He carries a ragged paperback copy of the 16th president's great speeches in his coat pocket and reads from it daily.

The copy is so worn that the book reads "GREAT PEECHES" according to Wrangler News reporter Samuel Voas, who wrote about Gilcrease several years ago.

The book has been used so much that the "S" has worn away. No surprise because Gilcrease lives by the phrase "What would Lincoln do?" when confronted with a problem.

Gilcrease also believes deeply in being an encourager and discusses the values of being so

in his "How to Encourage Others" episode of the "Glynn and Abe" podcast.

The episode aired on May 11, 2022, and is available on Apple Podcasts.

Spreading kindness and encouragement is something Gilcrease wishes we would do more of on social media, he states in the episode.

Gilcrease believes if we spread encouragement, the world will be a better and brighter place for everyone.

He tells co-host Anthony Smith he also loves the word "encourager" because it includes the term courage—something Gilcrease ascribes to, whether as a Marine or an attorney.

His long-time friend and former attorney, Dennis Gorman, said there was never a case that intimidated Gilcrease. He's based his life around the values he learned in the military and being a member of the worldwide service group Rotary International, adds Gorman.

"Glenn has been a Rotarian for many, many years and lives by their guiding principles in all areas of his life," Gorman said.

His standards and ethics are beyond approach, as are his kindness and generosity. Gorman said he

knows Gilcrease has even used his personal funds to support the Boys and Girls Club.

The long-term effect of kindness, such as Gilcrease's, is backed by research and underscores the positive impact of kindness on health and happiness, nurturing trust and cooperation within society.

Tempe is the direct benefactor of Gilcrease's lifetime generosity of spirit, spreading compassion to our community.

Gilcrease lives up to the motto, "service above self," and continues to inspire and uplift many by doing whatever it takes through his commitment to the never-ending service of others.

This year's Don Carlos awards ceremony, sponsored by the Salt River Project, is scheduled for Sept. 27 at the SRP PERA Club in Tempe.

The event celebrates the efforts of individuals like Gilcrease who have contributed to making Tempe a caring community.

For inquiries related to the event, tickets, sponsorships and program ads, contact TCC at 480-858-2300 or visit its website at Don Carlos Awards Tempe Community Council.

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How goodness, kindness can bring light into the darkest of times

EV Chabad to host woman's tale of hope and positivity



By Janie Magruder

For the first 15 years and 364 days of her life, Esther Basch experienced the joy of being a rural kid in Eastern Europe. The only child of a rabbi and his wife, Esther grew up sheltered by her parents and grandparents on a farm in the Carpathian Mountains, which then was in Hungary and now is in Ukraine.

The girl was quite the tomboy, racing her friends to climb trees and collect fruit. All that changed on May 28, 1944.

"She got off the train in Auschwitz on her 16th birthday, was separated from her parents, and never saw them again," said Esther's daughter, Rachel Turet, referring to Nazi Germany's brutal actions during World War II.

The 95-year-old Prescott woman will tell her incredible story of survival and forgiveness during a program sponsored by Chabad of the East Valley on Wednesday, Sept. 6 in Chandler.

Rabbi Mendy Deitsch said Chabad of the East Valley is fortunate to host Esther, because her message of hope and positivity and her

understanding of the resilience that humans possess is important to share, especially with young people.

"We are humbled by the opportunity to host Esther because she is a symbol that, regardless of what a person goes through in life, what kind of traumas they have to experience, we, as human beings, can find the inner strength to grow and be productive, contributing members of society," Deitsch said.

Esther is among a dwindling number of survivors of the Holocaust which, as defined by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of 6 million European Jews by the Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

In 1944-46, she was imprisoned for nearly a year, including almost four months at Auschwitz, Nazi Germany's largest concentration and extermination camp in southern Poland. There, Esther was starved, slept in shabby, crowded barracks, and stripped of all dignity. She spent most of that year in a slave labor camp at a munitions

factory, Turet said.

In April 1945, toward the end of the war, she was led on a Death March with other women to the Salzwedel concentration camp in Germany.

"American military was approaching, so the Nazis were retreating and closing down," Turet said. "The Death March took a couple of weeks and many died en route. When they got there, they were locked in, without food or water for the two weeks before they were liberated."

Esther was able to reclaim her life, and eventually married, had four children, two of whom still survive, and she also has eight grandchildren. In 2007, she met Max Lieber, one of the American soldiers who liberated her camp.

These days, she travels the country to share her story in a poignant way that moves and motivates others. Esther is the subject of a future documentary, "The Honey Girl," which will enable her to share her message globally.

Turet said her mother plans to speak out "until her dying breath," because when "history is forgotten, it makes way for it to repeat itself."

What cannot be forgotten, Deitsch said, is that, although there will always be evil in this world, "We can overcome it with goodness and kindness, and bring light even into the darkest of times.

"There are many more heroic, caring, liberating people in this world, and we hope that each and every person who attends (Esther's program) will be empowered to live a life of understanding the responsibility and unique gifts they were given to make this world, a better, more inhabitable, tolerable world," he said.

Esther's story is especially important to learn today, Deitsch said, when many people tend to give up or run from challenges in their lives. "Her story shows us what we can become, even though there are some who may hate, who may be bigoted or spiteful," Deitsch said. "We cannot let the evil people in this world control the conversation."

"Esther Basch: The Honey Girl of Auschwitz" will begin at 7 p.m. Sept. 6 at Chandler Center for the Arts (doors open at 6:15 p.m.) Tickets, \$15 for students, \$25 general admission, and \$45 premium admission, are available at www.chabadcenter.com.

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A look inside Tempe's newly revised park ranger program

Commentary by Jennifer Adams



Jennifer Adams

Once upon a time, the City of Tempe had a robust park ranger program, but it was discontinued when the Great Recession hit and communities across the country were forced to make drastic budget cuts.

Since my initial election to City Council in 2018, I have led the effort to bring this program back to Tempe.

The City of Tempe operates based on a strategic plan, which includes five priorities for the Council to consider when making decisions. Our #1 priority is to ensure a safe and secure community through a commitment to public safety and justice.

Tempe has always been proud of its large number of parks for a city our size. We have

52 neighborhood parks, community parks and preserves.

These are beautiful places where families go every day to relax, exercise and enjoy life. At the same time, our residents have told us through annual satisfaction surveys that there is room to improve the feeling of safety within our parks. And we know that cities like ours all over the country are dealing with increased calls about undesirable behaviors in parks. I believe we can positively impact both realities.

Thankfully, Tempe is now in a stronger financial position than it was when the previous park ranger program ended, allowing the Council to approve increased funding for programs and services that will meet the needs of our residents.

Our newly revived Tempe Park Ranger program will return this fall with improvements to make the service even better than it was before, and it will help us to meet Council priority 1.23 – an increased feeling of safety in our parks.

The program will reside in the Community Services Department, and we are hiring 17 new employees to staff it – one supervisor, three leads, 12 rangers, and one administrative support role. These full-time positions will be the community's connection to our parks, preserves and green spaces.

They will be friendly faces providing resources and information, as well as education about park rules.

They will not carry firearms and they will have the ability to issue city citations, though their focus will be on education first. These new park rangers will patrol our city parks seven days a week, 20 hours a day.

The city went through an extensive process this summer to gather community input so that the program truly reflects the parks and neighborhoods where the rangers will be serving. Tempe Park Rangers will have a focused approach on building connection among community members and providing information about resources and services.

They will truly serve as ambassadors of our green spaces and as first points of contact for residents and visitors.

I look forward to spending more time with my fellow Tempe community in our beautiful city parks, with this increased focus on public safety firmly in place.

As always, I welcome you to connect with me if you ever have questions or concerns at jennifer_adams@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8835.

— Jennifer Adams is vice mayor of Tempe

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Wrangler News: A love story we keep on telling



By Don Kirkland
founder & publisher
Wrangler News

I've started to write this several times, but each time I seem to get sidetracked and eventually end up starting over again. So if you're reading this online or in print, you'll know that Bella didn't pester me to go for a walk and that my phone didn't ring with a call from a talkative friend 3,000 miles away. If there's such a thing as a labor of love, finally telling this story to completion may be part of the rationale for my start-and-stop, start-and-stop compulsion.

No, the passion for publishing a neighborhood-friendly, driveway-delivered bi-weekly newspaper that has consumed my weekday, weekend, daytime, nighttime hours for what soon will be three-plus decades doesn't show signs of changing any time soon.

I guess I could tell you it's because of the passion (see above) I have for this little enterprise that goes back to childhood days, which I'm sure is a big part of it. But the bigger motivation is the satisfaction, the enjoyment I get from having people around me who, even though they may have come on board with a bit less time in grade, appear to generate the same abundance of rewards

that I get over this unrelenting regimen.

May I share the names of some of those stalwarts with you?

If so, accept my thanks in advance, because I believe it's important to let you, and them, know how I feel.

Even if you aren't especially curious, I hope you'll keep on reading because these are people who deserve the credit for what we produce and, ultimately, why my (our) enthusiasm never seems to diminish.

If that kind of motive surprises those among you who have, like most normal people, counted the days until retirement finally arrives, and ask why I don't do the same despite having reached a point well beyond the norm, I simply say it's because I love what I do.

I love the opportunity to share the joy I get from the people I work with, from knowing what a great community we live in, from understanding that the sense of neighborhood we share remains such a powerful incentive for us to try hard to make each issue better than the one that went before it, ad infinitum..

There have been many people, in addition to our current staff, whose contributions to what we do deserve recognition. Kyle Maki, who spent 14 years with us, never missing a day, rightly holds one

of the top spots.

Tracy Doren, who agreed to a short-term fill-in and who ended up staying with us for nearly four years, is also on the list.

Corry Slama was among the inspired founders who helped guide us through our early days. David Stone was a brilliant photographer whose work set a milestone for others to follow. Joyce Coronel; Alex Zener; M.V. Moorhead; Noah Kutz (today a U.S. Marine Corps officer on active duty); J.J. Cooper, now a reporter for The Associated Press—they're all representative of the talent and dedication that have given Wrangler News such a special place in our memory.

Finally, not to overlook such current staffers as Ty Tabat, our associate publisher, and Andrew Lwowski, a young writer and photographer whose growing-up years at Waggoner Elementary, Kyrene Middle School, Corona del Sol and finally the Walter Cronkite School at ASU that help us maintain a truly hometown flavor.

I'm sure there are others whose time with us is of equal stature, and who I may have inadvertently overlooked in the wee hours of writing this. But for all whose names assuredly can be found in the Wrangler News history books, they too helped build a foundation for what we hope will go on for years to come.

We hear you . . .

Editor:

Keep on keeping on!

My husband Richard and I think you are doing just a great job with the Wrangler News! I am responding to Don Kirkland's commentary. We really look forward to your community newspaper every other Saturday. Thank you for the way you do things and for all that you include.

We look forward to your newspaper every time!

— Christine and Richard Nagasawa

Editor:

I was so excited that Wrangler News will be receiving the Media Award from Delta Kappa Gamma Society International from the State of Arizona.

This award goes to a company or person currently working in the field of publication or broadcast that covers and supports education and professional educators or promotes programs that enhance a child's life outside of school in Arizona. Your newspaper fits the bill on both cases.

I felt your newspaper really deserved the award. Below is what I submitted on the application along with articles (Kyrene de las Manitas Innovation

Academy; Cardboard houses teach kids city planning skills; First graders bring life to these cute (and smart!) robotic wonders: and a sample of how you publish teacher awards at the end of the school year.)

"I would like to nominate the Wrangler News for the Media Award Nomination. In practically every issue, they report community news regarding the schools which includes one or more of the following: Innovative teaching, teacher awards, school awards, sports.

The communities of Tempe & West Chandler know exactly what cool things are happening in our schools. I pass many of these articles on to my chapter (Alpha Epsilon) to keep abreast of the trends in teaching. Wrangler has given me permission to forward these articles."

Delta Kappa Gamma is an international society which was founded in 1929 and conceived by the idea of an organization of women educators. This is the time when women involved in organizations was frowned on.

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— Debby Webster



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Wednesday, Nov. 1 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Overcoming Victimization: Building Resilience Through Community

Instructor: Cassie Harvey
Monday, Nov. 13 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Vietnam: Your Next Vacation Destination?

Instructor: Dan Fellner
Wednesday, Oct. 18 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Designing and 3D printing a Geometric Cookie Cutter

Instructor: Brett Kennedy
Friday Nov. 10th | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Listen to Your Oracles: Delphi & the Greeks

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Bolmarcich
Wednesday, Dec. 6 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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Diablo stadium to be site for heart association annual walk

Tempe Diablo Stadium will be the site of the Adult Congenital Heart Association's annual Walk for 1 in 100 on Sunday, Nov. 5.

The association aims at increasing awareness, pursuing research and helping people live with a higher quality of life.

The family-friendly event will feature activities, with the Salt Cellar restaurant providing refreshments. Check-in for the event begins at 9 a.m.; opening kickoff is at 10.

This year marks the association's 25th anniversary, highlighted by an overall goal of raising \$550,000 nationwide. The organization challenges walkers to pledge \$25 or more.

Leading up to the event will be such incentives as tickets to the Phoenix Zoo and a visit to Top Golf.

Said Mark Roeder, association president and CEO:

"There are approximately 2 million adults in the United States with a congenital heart disease and only 10% of those are getting the specialized care they need."

Funds generated through the Phoenix walk will support an accreditation program, which works to elevate and standardize care for people living with ACHD nationwide.

In addition, the upcoming Valley event will help fund medical research, advocacy efforts and various educational and outreach initiatives.

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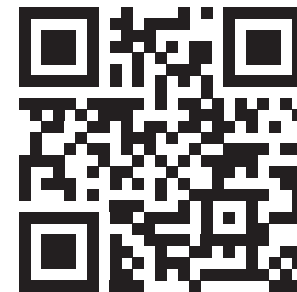
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Elementary-to-middle-school stress eased via mentorship program

By Nicole Ashton

Where everybody belongs: It's the idea behind a program at Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School that divides incoming sixth graders into small groups so they can feel more involved—and more connected—in their new school environment.

Eighth-grade student leaders at the West Chandler school welcomed 150 incoming 6th graders recently for the school's annual Where Everybody Belongs orientation right before the start of the 2023-24 school year.

The reasoning makes perfect sense, say officials behind the program.

For many students, teachers note, the transition from elementary to middle school can feel daunting as the kids leave a campus they've called home for years.

In middle school, students must adjust to a much larger campus where they will interact with students matriculating from other elementary schools.

"(The program) is built on the belief that students can help students succeed," Pueblo



principal Ashley Schutkowski said.

"Eighth-grade students are trained to be program leaders, and (they) act as mentors who guide the 6th graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school."

At this year's orientation event, 30 student leaders divided into small groups with new students to build connections aimed at lasting throughout the school year. By building these connections early, say those behind the program, 6th grade students will have a trusted source of information they can turn to should they have questions or need insight from a peer who's been at the same school for a longer time.

Such mentorship continues throughout the

year through peer academic support, social events planned by program leaders and continuous check-ins.

As students in a Leader in Me school—one that's part of a widely recognized movement to create a culture of trust and engagement—Pueblo kids are taught to lead their own lives and motivated both to make a difference with others and provide tools for them to better achieve goals.

According to principal Schutkowski, Pueblo educators work to create a culture of student empowerment designed to help them learn how to become self-reliant, increase interpersonal skills and develop the skills and self-confidence to successfully lead their lives among other things.

The Where Everybody Belongs program is just one of the ways that the school works to achieve this culture, said Schutkowski.

"The orientation is always one of my favorite days of the year," Schutkowski said. "I love watching our 8th grade leaders as they plan and prepare for the event, and it's great to see the difference in the 6th graders from the beginning of the day to the end of the day.

"They start off timid and unsure about middle school, and they leave excited and confident about starting school."

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SPORTS



A return to the excitement of Friday Night Lights kicked off the high school sports season with fans back to full spirit. Among the highlighted games were this one between Corona del Sol's Aztecs and the Casa Grande Cougars. Story and more photos by Andrew Lwowski on the following pages.

Barro earns first shut-out win as Aztecs' coach



Running back Nick Mustacchia trots into the endzone to extend Corona's lead over the Cougars in the opening quarter. See following page for more. — *Wrinkler News photo by Andrew Lwowski*

Story and photos by Andrew Lwowski

Corona del Sol hosted Casa Grande Union in the highly anticipated season opener, and while it certainly wasn't pretty, the Aztecs started their season with a win in a tale of two extremes, says coach Jake Barro.

"(The) defense played really well," he said. "A shutout is great, it's the first shutout we've had since I've been here, so I'm happy with that. Offensively we played as bad as we've played since I've been here."

While Barro said those are all fixable mistakes, he was most disappointed in was the amount of laundry on the field, so much so that Barro had to remind his team they were 1-0 and that was

something to celebrate. There were roughly 30 penalties throughout the entire game, with Corona having nearly the same number of plays (20) as flags thrown in the second half. Some of which took turnovers and points of the board for the Aztecs.

"It's a lot of it was personal fouls, which are inexcusable, you can't have that," he said. "Kids talking trash after the whistle...late hit over here,

— Continued on Page 18



Padres, Chargers to battle it out during Week 2

The Padres opened their season against another formidable contender in Yuma Catholic in the 4A conference on Friday night, and fell in shocking fashion.

The Shamrocks rolled into Tempe and left with a 56-28 victory. Both programs recorded impressive records and playoff berths in 2022, and are looking to replicate their success in 2023.

The Padres quickly fell to a 20-6 deficit early in the second quarter but were able to climb back and ease the pressure by half, only down 35-28.

Unfortunately for the Padres, the Shamrocks anchored down and shut out Marcos quarterback Braeson Leon and company during the second

half.

Yuma Catholic then rattled off 21 straight points and handed Marcos its first loss of the season at home.

The Padres didn't register their first loss until week eight during the 2022 season, and now, faced with adversity and possible uncertainty, the Padres will have to regroup and right the ship against McClintock High in week two.

McClintock High Chargers

McClintock opened its 2023 season against Maricopa High with an offense that was well prepared and able to come out with guns blazing, led by quarterback Jaxon Knutson.

Knutson was 20 of 30 while throwing for 478 yards and seven scores.

Receiver Khalil Bender made easy work of the Maricopa secondary, connecting with Knutson for



256 yards off nine receptions and reeling in four touchdowns.

On the defensive end, the Chargers recorded seven sacks while never allowing the Rams offense to find rhythm.

The high-flying offense of McClintock will look to keep its momentum as they gear up to face rival Marcos de Niza this coming week.

— Continued from Page 16

just stuff that can ever happen.

We had an interception wiped out because of defensive holding, things that when you're playing later on in the season that will cost you the game."

However, the game was more than just another opponent on the schedule, it was a game against Barro's former program that he won the 4A state title with in 2021.

Barro has deep roots in Casa Grande, but said he tried to not let the emotions disrupt his preparations.

"I personally tried not to think about it," Barro said. "It's a tough one for me. It's just emotional. That staff over there's a lot of guys that coached with me. A lot of the players I remember from when they were young, that (number) 34 kid that was really good – that big tall kid I remember him being in fifth grade. So, a lot of memories from being down there for so long. I just kind of tried to put that out of my mind as best I could and just treat it like any other game."

With only 10 games in the regular season, Barro understands how important each one is.

The Aztecs jumped out to a quick 14-0 lead in the opening quarter, but those would be the only points scored for either side all night.

While points weren't abundant for the Aztecs, splash plays were, and that's exactly what Barro said he was hoping for.

"We're every bit as explosive as I thought we could be," he said. "We're running open, we just got to complete the ball. We've got time, we just got to be a little bit sharper in our reads and defensively, we're fast and cover sideline to sideline and make plays."

The Aztecs completed passes of 21, 22, 28, 37, 70 and 90 yards on the night, and had 282 total yards, 254 of them came through the air. Senior quarterback Connor Ackerley connected with junior receiver Raiden Vines-Bright on a 28-yard completion on fourth down, which led to a score a few plays later.

Again, later in the first quarter while back up at Corona's own 10-yard line, Ackerley found Vines-Bright on a slant, which he flashed his elite burst and outran the Cougars secondary for a 90-yard

score.

Vines-Bright showed glimpses of his athletic potential during his sophomore year and now a junior, seems ready to lead the Aztecs receiving core behind his chemistry with Ackerley. Against the Cougars, he registered three catches for 170 yards and a score.

Vines-Bright said his dad, who is a personal trainer at LifeTime Fitness in Tempe, is a major inspiration to his game.

"I definitely think I wouldn't be here today without him," he said. "He's like a mentor, like mentally and physically he just looks out for me and helps me with the things I need."

The connection between Ackerley and his receivers is something to be excited for, especially given how hard the schedule is down the stretch. The Aztecs proved they can come away with a win no matter how ugly or pretty, and there were plenty of positives to take away from the Aztecs opening match of the season.

Expect Barro and company to have a more polished game when they head to Centennial during week two.



SPORTS NOTEBOOK . . . with Alex Zener

2022 momentum is 2023's inspiration

Corona's football team is determined to build on the momentum of last season, when the Aztecs went 8-3 and made it into the playoffs. This occurred under what was head coach **Jake Barro's** first year at the helm, with the Aztecs defeating 5A Casa Grande Union 14-0 and recording the Aztecs' first win in Barro's second season. Casa Grande was where Barro coached starting the 2015-16 season before taking the job at Corona last year for the 2022-2023 season.

Barro took Casa Grande, which had a 2-8 overall and a 1-4 section record the year before he was hired as head coach to an astounding 9-3 overall and 5-0 section record during his first year with the Cougars. In 2021-2022, Barro led Casa Grande, then a 4A school, to a 14-0 season record, winning the school's first state championship.

The Aztecs, who returned last year's quarterback **Connor Ackerly** and leading receiver **Raiden Vines-Bright**, scored two touchdowns at the end of the first quarter.

The first six points were scored when senior Ackerly threw a 10-yard pass to junior wide-receiver Vines-Bright who caught the ball around the Aztecs' own 20-yard line and proceeded to run 80 yards into the endzone for a touchdown.

The point-after kick was good to put the Aztecs up 7-0. The second touchdown came at the end of the first quarter when senior running back **Nick Mustacchia** ran in from 10 yards out to give Corona a 13-0 lead. The second point-after kick was good to put the Aztecs up 14-0.

Ackerly threw for 254 yards, keeping in stride with where he left off last season when he averaged 246 yards and 2.4 touchdowns a game.

In one superb 70-yard pass to freshman wide receiver **Jai Jones**, Ackerly, who was forced out of the pocket, scrambled to his right and threw a right-on-target pass while on the run.

Jones not only pulled in the pass at the 50-yard line but ran it down to the Cougars' 20-yard line.

One additional highlight was an interception by senior defensive end **Zuri Glenn**.

Although the Aztecs played well at other times during the game, Corona did not score in the last three quarters.

Up next, Corona was due to have two away freedom games: Sept. 1 at Centennial and Sept. 8 at Pinnacle.

The Aztecs will then have two home freedom games the last two Fridays of the month. They will play the Chandler Wolves on Sept. 15 and Marcos de Niza on Sept. 22 before their first Central Region game on Oct. 6.

Marcos de Niza football

The Padres must have felt like they ran into a buzzsaw their first game of the 2023-24 season when they lost 56-28 to Yuma Catholic on Aug. 25.

With about four minutes to go in the first quarter, the Shamrocks had already scored two touchdowns to be up 14-0.

The Padres rallied to score their first TD with less than three minutes to go in the first quarter when senior running back **Lorenzo Alexander** ran 71-yards into the endzone to put Marcos within eight points at 14-6.

Marcos missed the point-after kick so the score remained at 14-6 until Yuma Catholic scored another touchdown with less than a minute in the first quarter to go up 21-6.

The Padres finished the first quarter deep in the Shamrocks territory when senior quarterback **Braesen Leon** completed a 33-yard pass to junior wide receiver **Jamari Turner** inside the 20-yard line to end the first quarter.

The Padres scored on the first drive of the second quarter when Leon completed an 18-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver **Manwe Castro** to bring Marcos within nine points of the Shamrocks at 21-12.

Marcos went for and made a two-point conversion when senior wide receiver **DJ Drew** rushed the ball into the endzone, putting the Padres only seven points behind at 21-14 with plenty of time for the Padres to catch up before halftime.

The scores went back and forth the rest of the second quarter, with Leon completing a 37-yard pass to senior running back **Jamari Johnson** who ran the ball deep into Yuma Catholic's end of the field before he was pushed out of bounds at the 27-yard line. The Padres third touchdown was a 27-yard pass from Leon to Turner in the endzone.

Marcos, once again, missed the point-after kick giving, the Shamrocks a 28-20 lead.

Yuma Catholic scored another touchdown, resulting in a 35-20 lead before Alexander recovered a Yuma Catholic fumble to run 21 yards into the endzone for his second and the Padres fourth touchdown.

A successful two-point conversion pass from Leon to senior tight end **Tegan Ligouri-Melendez** once again had the Padres within one touchdown to end the half at 35-28,

Yuma Catholic went on to score three more touchdowns in the second half to go up 56-28 while the Padres went scoreless. Leon passed for 227 yards out of the 299 yards for the entire game.

Up next, Marcos has two away games. On Sept. 1, a non-section game against McClintock and then on Sept. 8 a non-section game against Fountain Hills. The next game is due Sept. 22 at Corona.

Corona badminton

Corona's badminton team won its first match of the season 9-0 against the Mesa Jackrabbits on Aug. 24. The No. 1 singles player for the Aztecs, senior **Michelle Chen**, easily defeated her foe 21-11 and 21-5 while the No. 2 singles player, senior **Rachel Sindlinger**, started slow, losing in the first set 20-22 before rallying to defeat her adversary 21-7 and 21-14 in the last two sets to win the match.

Corona's No. 3 singles player, junior **Joy Tokishi**, defeated her opponent 21-15, 21-11 as did the No. 4 singles player, junior **Surahya Hashim**, 21-19, 21-11.

Senior **Julia Tran**, Corona's No. 5 player, easily won the first set 21-4 but then lost by two points in the second set before coming back strong to defeat her Jackrabbit foe, 21-11.

Senior **Mel Burnside**, Corona's No. 6 singles player easily defeated her Mesa opponent, 21-9, 21-13. Corona's three doubles teams easily defeated Mesa's doubles to finish off the match 9-0.

Tokishi and Sindlinger, the No. 1 team, defeated Mesa's team 26-24, 21-17, while the No. 2 team of Chen and Burnside won 21-11, 21-17.

Tran and Hasim, the No. 3 doubles pair defeated Mesa, 21-12, 21-13.

The Aztecs were scheduled to play in the Flying Feathers Badminton Tournament at Highland High School on Aug. 25-26.

Up next, Corona has a match scheduled at Mountain Ridge on Aug. 30 but will be at home Sept. 5 against Alhambra.

In a pickle for some cool morning fun? Take a hint from these folks at the Tempe Lakes

Camaraderie is only one of the factors helping to make pickleball the fastest growing sport around the world, and the Tempe Lakes community is the latest to have its own on-site facility. The three new courts at the Lakes are a hot commodity during the cool morning hours on weekends, and residents can play regardless of age. Couples and friends alike enjoy competitive cordiality while creating new relationships shared around a wiffle ball, paddles and smiles.

**Photo special assignment
by Andrew Lwowski
for Wrangler News**



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DIVERSIONS with M.V. Moorhead



Another visual success story for 'permanent teenager' Seth Rogen

The title quartet in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* are all named, for some reason, after Italian Old Masters: Donatello, Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael.

They dwell in the sewers of New York under the strict protective care of their teacher and adoptive parent, the mutant rat Splinter (voiced by Jackie Chan), but they long to go to high school, maybe have girlfriends.

On one of their sorties into the city, they meet high schooler April O'Neil (Ayo Edebiri), who's an

aspiring journalist. They also run afoul of an evil scientist (Maya Rudolph) as well as a gang of other mutant animals led by the monstrous Superfly (Ice Cube).

It's a striking movie to look at.

The visuals have a garish, roughed-out, graffiti-esque look, and the animation has a stylized hint of stop-motion in the Rankin-Bass manner. Among the writers are Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen; Rogen also provides the voice of the mutant warthog Bebop.

The trailer and poster say the movie is "FROM

PERMANENT TEENAGER SETH ROGEN."

The jabbery, overlapping dialogue is ticklingly funny, and I appreciated the characterization of the young April, who in the earlier movies has seemingly served as eye candy for the dads in the audience, as a smart and brave but unconfident kid with a typical body shape.

As with earlier entries in the series, the film is packed with product placement, to the point that it becomes part of the comedy.

The Turtles made their debut in 1983, way too late to be part of my childhood; my nephews were

fans. I remember finding the '90s-era live-action TMNT movies annoying, but I found the live-action features of 2014 and 2016 surprisingly fun, even without a nostalgic attachment. *Mutant Mayhem*, however, may be the best-looking and funniest of them all.

As is so often the case in movies for kids, the ultimate goal that our heroes are seeking is, of course, acceptance, popularity, or simply "to be normal."

This persistent theme can be tiresome, but undoubtedly it does reflect a common wish among this film's target audience. Permanent Teenager Rogen and his collaborators know their business.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem is rated PG and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Chandler Crossroads and other multiplexes Valleywide.



Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School will be the place to go when Chandler Recreation launches a series of community nights every third Friday of the month, from Sept. 15 through May 17, excluding March.

Programming, from 6-8:30 p.m., will include interactive offerings for children and adults with varying interests, including arts and crafts, yard games, open gym and more.

Each night features a different theme to provide what planners say will be fun and imaginative ways to enjoy seasonal activities.

Programming schedule:

Sept. 15 – Fiesta Friday; Oct. 20 – Autumn Extravaganza; Nov. 17 – S'more Fun; Dec. 15 – Ugly Sweater; Jan. 19 – Move & Groove; Feb. 16 – Game Night; April 19 – Spring into Fun; May 17 – Summer Olympics.

The school is at 360 S. Twelve Oaks Blvd. Information: City of Chandler Special Events webpage or 480-782-2905.

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Tour gives students an in-person classroom for French language studies

Submitted by Michele Coble and Shannon Corcoran

Although the trip is now history, French students from Corona del Sol High School are still relishing the memories they gained during their French exchange trip in the renowned wine-producing city of Bordeaux, France.

A port city in the southwestern part of the country, Bordeaux claims 250,000 inhabitants with a history dating back to the ancient Celts.

While there, the students say they were recipients of the city's warmth and hospitality as they spent a week with host families from the private Catholic school St. Marie Bastide.

It marked the first year of the exchange between Bordeaux and Tempe, and plans are to continue every alternate year.

"Thanks to an online French-teacher community, I was able to take over an existing exchange between schools in Atlanta and Bordeaux due to a teacher's retirement," said Michele Coble, a French teacher at Corona.

"It has long since been a goal to launch an exchange which would provide students the opportunity to forge new friendships, find meaningful context for their language skills and invite our families to be part of the experience as well," said Coble.

"Language comes alive through travel and experiences; this is the beginning of continued exchanges with Bordeaux in the future."

The first few days of the trip students explored the sites of Paris: the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, and finished with a sunset cruise along the Seine River called the Bateaux Mouches.

After taking the TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse, which offers high-speed rail connections throughout the country) to Bordeaux, students continued their French-speaking adventures with their host families.

Upon arrival students were greeted with a convivial welcome dinner hosted by our generous exchange students and families. During the exchange, activities included a walking tour of Bordeaux, shadowing their host student's classes, learning to master taking the tramway, as well as a day trip to the beachside town of Arcachon.

"Meeting my host family was both very exciting and nerve wracking," said Corona senior Ryan La Ra.

"I was very nervous to meet my French student since I was in a different country, had to speak French, and had never seen him face to face.

"There were a lot of new experiences happening all at once. But after seeing him for the first time, I started to feel less anxious and became more comfortable with speaking, even if I was making frequent mistakes.

"My host student and his family were nice and understanding, as they knew I was trying my best. Even though I was nervous, it was definitely worth the experience and I can't wait to host him early next year."

While students had prior correspondence via video with their host students and families, experiencing the daily life of a French family brought classroom learning to life. The immersion experience challenged them to engage and utilize their French language skills.

While students appreciated exposure to the day-to-day experiences of their French counterparts at school and bustling about Bordeaux, they found most rewarding the free time spent with their host families including family dinners, outings to concerts and sporting events.

"I went to a Ninho (French rapper) concert and it was amazing," said Abby Rugg, also a Corona senior. "It was my first concert and I loved having floor seats and being so involved with the crowd."

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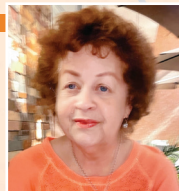
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