

Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read Local.



March 4-17, 2017 ■ Volume 28, No. 5

What's Inside



FastSigns, a printing and sign company in Tempe, has doubled its size with a new, expanded facility on South Priest Drive. Tempe Chamber of Commerce was on hand to help celebrate the occasion. Pg. 12



Kyrene del Cielo parents Ashley Allison and Sara Danielson won the drawing held at Taste of Tempe event that raised funds for Kyrene charities, including Kyrene Foundation. Pg. 15



Fees College Prep eighth-grader Beth Many shares her passion for music and desire to continue to grow as a musician through the school's band programs and opportunities like district honor band. Pg. 19

Commentary Chandler takes aim at opioid epidemic

By Terry Roe

In the 1980s and early 1990s, Nancy Reagan worked with the American people to fight drug abuse with a campaign slogan of "Just Say No."



During this time, I was busy working in law enforcement on hundreds of investigations that often had one thing in common, drug or alcohol misuse.

While reviewing report after report, it also became clear that the abuse of drugs or alcohol not only impacted individuals; it also hurt their families and the community as a whole.

Fast-forward to 2017 and it is clear that the challenge of dealing with drug misuse continues. In many cases, individuals become addicted to painkillers after sustaining an injury,

— OPIOIDS, Page 13



Padres on track for a winning season

Semahja Mack exploded out of the blocks as Marcos de Niza's Padres faced their first meet of the season, with the boys 4x100 relay team of Anthony Steinpreis, Noah Tate, Keandre Greer and Joren Davis taking first place, as did the girls relay team comprised of Alohna Taylor, Lexi Ross, Drysten Muir and Melahnie Washington.

Complete details and more photos starting on Page 16.

Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

Not Irish, you say? That very well could change on March 17

By Joyce O'Coronel

It's that time of the year once again when everyone, it seems, is Irish. Amid the green T-shirts and shamrock-shaped cookies, eateries in Tempe and West Chandler are gearing up for a wee bit of celebration.



Barista Lauren Catron offers up an Irish coffee at Steve's Espresso

Steve's Espresso, for example, is offering half-off pricing of his signature Irish coffee on Friday, March 17, known the world over

as St. Patrick's Day.

At Tempe's Great Harvest Bakery, the day brings loaves of

traditional Irish soda bread and another Emerald-Isle-inspired delicacy: Guinness and smoked-Gouda bread. George Walston, son of Great Harvest owners Leslie and Ward Walston, said the latter features Guinness Beer instead of water, plus the savory, nutty and buttery sweetness of Gouda.

"It's kind of a throwback to that good old-fashioned, made-from-scratch bread from the Irish households, particularly with the Irish soda bread being buttermilk-leavened," Walston said.

Great Harvest grinds its own wheat daily, and most breads take a full five hours to prepare from start to finish.

"We don't take shortcuts," Walston said. "So it's like a leprechaun pops out of a book and is making it himself, like in 'ye

old days.' Except he's not short—he's an ornery old man called my father."

Walston pondered a bit: "Actually, there might be some Irish in there, ornery as he is."

Beyond the plentiful gastronomic delights that surround the holiday, however, there's much more to the day that celebrates the patron saint of Ireland. Every few years, St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday, making the celebration all the more festive.

As this year's observance affects the monthly Chandler Art Walk, a bit-o'-the-Irish luck came into play: March 17 is the regularly scheduled third Friday in 2017, and the "Shamrockin' Art Walk" in downtown Chandler will feature more than 30 local artisans.

— PADDY'S, Page 23

'Disrupt Fest' sidesteps decorum of today's theatre

By M.V. Moorhead

The concept of the "mash-up"—the mixing of different, sometimes seemingly incongruous artworks—has come into its own in the last few decades, from "sampling" in hip hop music to novels like *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

Now Tempe Center for the Arts is using the idea to disrupt the decorum of the traditional performing arts.

Hence on March 18 TCA offers Disrupt FEST, an evening presenting, for one price, three diverse performances—the play *Some Velvet Morning*; the L.A.-based nouveau-burlesque band Totsy; and the San Francisco-based hip hop classical fusion group Ensemble Mik Nawooj.

It's the brainchild of Ralph Remington, Artistic Director of TCA and Deputy Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Tempe.

— DISRUPT, Page 12

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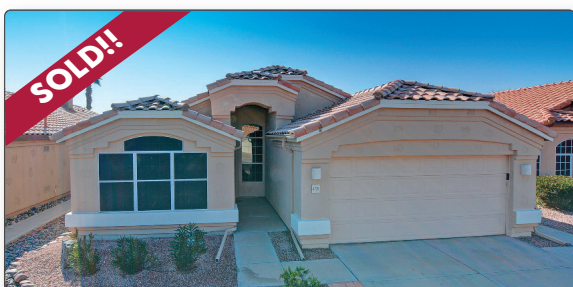
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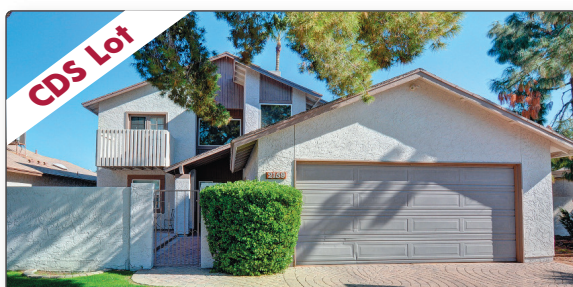
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Resolutions falling by the wayside? It’s not too late

By Jonathan Coronel



New Year’s resolutions, if you jumped on that familiar bandwagon when 2017 rolled around, likely have already found their way again into the pile of broken

dreams.

Yes, it’s the same this year as always. People make their resolutions, vowing to become more active and improve their health, yet by mid-February those good intentions have waned, and by December, nine months from now, the guilt of one more squandered year sets in.

Time for another year’s turn in the revolving door.

People of all shapes and sizes encounter it: The fitness enthusiast with the lofty goal to run a marathon, the first-timer who just wants to shed some body fat.

Though there is no substitute for hard work and good old-fashioned sweat equity, some simple tips can help people stay committed to their New Year’s resolutions—even if they’ve gotten off their path by a few weeks.

For example, a good startup goal is to set aside 20 minutes each day devoted solely to exercise. Studies show that even in this short amount of time, people can greatly reduce their risks of getting heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

“All too often beginners set these admirable—but unachievable—goals like working out for an hour every day at 6 a.m. What happens is, after a week or two, they give up because it’s just too hard. What they need to do is set reasonable, small goals in order to build healthy habits,” Ashley Flynn tells me.

Ashley and her parents Pat and Shannon moved to the Valley in 2012 and started a GNC franchise at Ray and Rural, applying their business knowledge from prior franchise experience to their lifelong passions of health and fitness.

Stores like GNC sell supplements for people with goals that fall anywhere from fitness like bodybuilding or sports to simply staying healthy as age takes its toll.

The key with supplements is to use them truly just to augment the hard work you should already be doing. No amount of pills or powder will make a

difference if you aren’t putting in the work when it comes to being active and maintaining a healthy diet.

GNC, for its part, advises people trying to get in shape and improve their overall health to focus on four main categories of supplements: Multivitamins, omega-3s, probiotics and protein.

Multivitamins and omega-3s provide the body with needed vitamins and minerals that promote overall health. Probiotics are healthy bacteria that allow the body to absorb more minerals and aid digestion. Finally, protein, despite popular belief to the contrary, is beneficial for everyone, not just bodybuilders, said Ashley.



These four types of supplements are a solid foundation of health and fitness when paired with regular exercise and healthy eating.

Another key to restarting—and sticking to—your resolutions is to surround yourself with people who will hold you responsible for your achievements. In fact, notes Shannon, it’s one of the most important philosophies on which they decided to build their business.

“We are family owned and this really is our livelihood, so we take pride in being knowledgeable on health and fitness, and on building partnerships with our customers. It’s a lot easier to stay on track when you have people supporting you and holding you accountable,” Shannon says.

By setting achievable goals, staying consistent, building a network of friends and family to hold yourself accountable and complementing your exercise and diet with the right supplements, you can stick to your 2016 resolutions and look forward to a healthier and happier you.

Area artisans among craft exhibitors at home show

Three area businesses were scheduled to be among local artisans showing their wares at the Maricopa County Home & Landscape Show March 3-5.

Included among designers (clockwise from upper right will be Don J Design of Tempe, showing such modern urban furnishings as coffee tables, pendant lighting and custom tables; Hound Street Boutique of West Chandler, with handmade dog-walking purses/backpacks; and Phoenix Spark Shop of Tempe, exhibiting sparked wood designs. The show runs March 3-5 at University of Phoenix Stadium.



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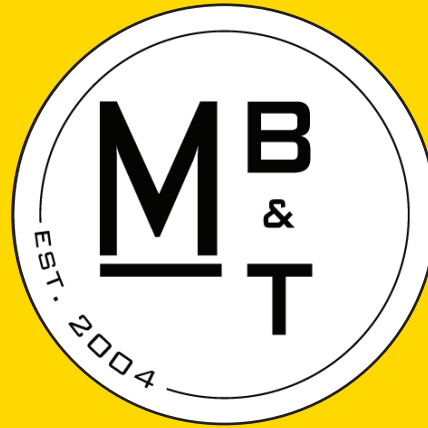
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Responding to audit's findings will be part of a new 'Visioning Day'

By Dianna Whittle



An extensive audit of the Kyrene School District is complete, and now the heavy lifting begins: responding to the findings.

First on the list of recommendations, which were shared publicly with the Governing Board, is to engage the collective energies of the Kyrene community to create a vision for the district.

To support this effort, Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely organized a "Visioning Day."

"As a district, we need to ensure that all students are provided appropriate opportunities to learn and are achieving at desired levels," said Vesely.

And that job, she advised, begins in each classroom.

"It's critical that teachers are thoughtful about how they engage students and identify the expectations held for their success, so we purposely set aside time to consider how we will best prepare for 21st Century learning."

Untangling the necessary hopes and desires of teachers and administrators can be complicated, however.

Enter consultant Leah Rodgers, manager of Education Strategy for the computer company Dell, who served as a facilitator for the day of visioning that assembled a broad range of stakeholders, including district officials, teachers, parents, community members and, equally important, Kyrene students.

"Dell offers school districts all over the country this type of experience, to gain input from their stakeholders on important issues," said Rodgers, herself a former principal and classroom teacher who spoke by phone with Wrangler News from the company's offices in Texas.

"For Kyrene, timing could not have been better because the audit was just finished."

Some of the questions posed to the group included:

- Who is the most educated and why?
- What is the most important skill or disposition?
- What role does technology play in personalized learning?

Rodgers assisted by providing some guidelines for coordinating the visioning process, and the district recruited the appropriate people. In the final group of 43 participants, there were 16 students who were eager to share their opinions on their vision for Kyrene.

Rodgers also organized various exercises throughout the day that included small-group conversation, being sure to include a student at each table of adults.

"We are deliberate about telling kids that they are the most important people in the room, and the kids

Audit

From Page 6

definitely took charge,” said Rodgers.

“We intentionally had one at each table to mix the ideas up and discover what they want to see in a learning environment,” she said, adding:

“The students were amazing in their participation and offered extremely valuable input. They demonstrated that they are knowledgeable about what they want in the classroom.”

Rodgers said she was also impressed at the participation of Vesely. “Dr. Vesely is a true visionary who is steadfastly moving the district in an exciting direction. She is open to new concepts and enthusiastic about the advances in teaching technology that are available.”

Vesely said that the information gathered during “Visioning Day” will be a critical component in defining the longterm vision for Kyrene, and that the day-long event exceeded her expectations.

She noted she will follow up with Dell on its suggestions and begin to work with her own leadership team to determine how to shape the vision for Kyrene.

“We are grateful to Dell, which offered Kyrene a complimentary service to facilitate the launch of this visioning process,” said Vesely.

“The input that was gained will be critical to defining the aspects of teaching and learning that will successfully prepare our students for the next steps toward high school success along with career- and college-readiness.”

Once broad goals are developed in the district, Vesely noted that subcommittees will be organized to develop the action plans.

Concluded Vesely:

“In Kyrene, we are committed to creating the concrete steps within a comprehensive strategic plan to build and plan for the future of our district and students.”



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Corona's Quiz Bowl championship team included, from left, Harrison Bradley, Sameer Vij, Daniel Farr and Vinay Pattalachinti.
— Photo courtesy TUHSD

Scholars' next stop: Facing nation's best in May finals

Corona del Sol High School has been selected as the National Academic Quiz Tournament's High School Team of the Week.

The team finished undefeated at the recent Arizona Quiz Bowl Association February Tournament held at Arizona State University.

Tournament Director and Arizona Quiz Bowl Association founder Bunnie Hadsall wrote the following based on her observations and interviews with the team:

"The Corona del Sol's A team is comprised of four young men with a passion for knowledge. Since they started playing quiz bowl they have all improved as players, but they don't play just for the statistics—they each express a vociferous passion for knowledge both in and outside the classroom."

Said Daniel Farr, Corona's most novice member:

"I thought that quiz bowl could be an opportunity to expand my own knowledge across a wide range of subjects, and I was exactly right."

He joined the team at the beginning of this school year, and has helped it quickly become a powerhouse in the Arizona circuit.

Sameer Vij shares, "Quiz bowl interested me due to the wide range of academic topics that it covered. I came to the first tournament and had a great experience, as my team came in first place for the novice division."

Sameer and his team are now competing in the varsity division, vying for the top spot at each tournament.

Harrison Bradley shared similar affection toward the game:

"Quiz bowl ties into both what was being learned in high school and outside. You're surrounded by other people in the club who share your enjoyment for intellectual pursuits and learning."

Vinay Pattalachinti had a rough start in quiz bowl, but he stuck with his team and improved drastically.

"In the beginning I was awed by how good some of the seniors in the club were, but the main turning point was when the team composed of me, Sameer and Harrison won the novice division my freshman year. This victory made me feel like I belonged in quiz bowl, and I might be able to achieve something."

Vinay also gives a shout-out to his coach, Sarah Blechacz, "who supports us along every step, despite how much of a pain we are."

Vinay's involvement in quiz bowl since his freshman year has helped him develop his skills, and he says he's "able to reinforce the knowledge and get a better grasp of the information that I will likely use in my life."

By finishing with a record of 10 wins and no losses, the Corona team qualified for the national championship tournament, to be held in Atlanta in May.



Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood:
Two Man Group
Friday, March 3 • 7:30 p.m.



Golden Dragon Acrobats
Sunday, March 5 • 6:00 p.m.



Art Garfunkel: *In Close-Up*
Saturday, March 11 • 7:30 p.m.



Frank Ferrante in
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Sunday, March 12 • 3:00 p.m.



The Doo Wop Project
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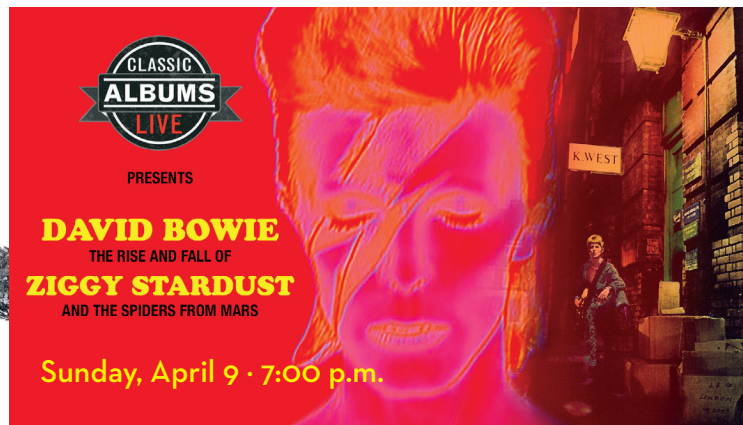
Piano Battle
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Hypnotic Brass Ensemble
Friday, March 24 • 7:30 p.m.



Stormy Weather:
The Story of Lena Horne
Starring Mary Wilson
Saturday, March 25 • 7:30 p.m.

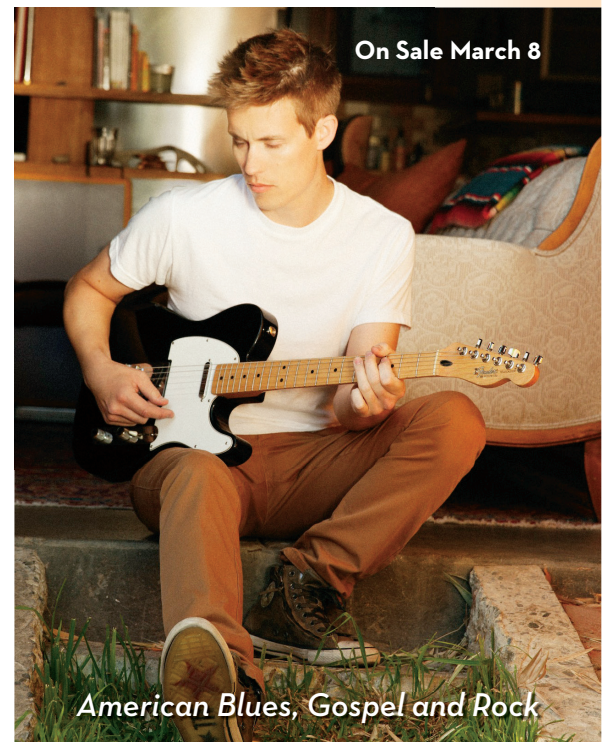


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First Person: Bernadette Coggins Proven standards used to assess learning in Kyrene schools

Editor's note: Bernadette Coggins, who serves on the Kyrene School District Governing Board and has closely followed the work of new district superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely, offered the following commentary on Wrangler News correspondent Diana Whittle's article describing the progress of Vesely's initial 90-day audit of district challenges and opportunities.

By Bernadette Coggins



As a longtime Kyrene Corridor resident, Kyrene parent and second-term Governing Board member, I wanted to share my perspective on the results of a recent audit of the District.

The audit represents many years of hard work by the Board to ensure accountability and optimum use of the limited resources in Kyrene.

For a long time, we have had to do more with less in Kyrene, working diligently to hold the

Administration accountable while keeping the focus on students. I am proud that we in Kyrene took this bold step with an audit.

But while Kyrene continues to outperform other districts in student achievement, as measured by AzMERIT, not all students are achieving equally and that has been cause for concern.

The audit, conducted by Curriculum Management Systems, Inc. and led by Dr. Randall Clegg, is the first time that this level of scrutiny has been applied to the District's systems of instruction.

The process was one designed specifically to assess the work of school districts. It is based on concrete and proven standards of assessing productivity, efficiency and the existence of clear and valid learning objectives and the use of assessments to improve effectiveness.

Dr. Clegg and his impressive team of education experts have performed more than 500 such audits nationally. I have been vocal regarding some of my concerns the past few years and I am not surprised by some of the audit findings, as they reflect issues we have been working to address for some time.

The audit findings and recommendations touch on many of the issues outlined in the Superintendent's Priorities, including the need to develop a curriculum management plan as well as a comprehensive student and program assessment plan. I am encouraged that we now not only have the supporting evidence, but the leadership and commitment of Dr. Vesely and her team, to address these critical areas so that we can be sure that we are meeting the needs of ALL our students in Kyrene.

Dr. Vesely has already taken some important first steps. Separate from the audit, she has

conducted a "root cause analysis" of enrollment trends and achievement data. As a result of the work, that analysis suggested a need to improve the responsiveness of our curriculum and learning services and to address the inconsistency in tiered interventions in our schools (interventions needed to help to students who are struggling below grade level).

It is this kind of committed action that will be required if we are to reinforce the standards of excellence in Kyrene.

We owe it to our community and more importantly to our students, to aspire to that level of greatness.

It has been an honor and privilege to represent the community as a member of the Governing Board, and my roots in Tempe run deep. For over 15 years, I have worked side by side with many of you on PTOs and Site Council.

I have sat next to you at Tempe South Little League games, and volunteered my time in support of our community. I am proud to have had three boys in Kyrene schools, two of them now attending ASU.

And my husband, Tim, attended Kyrene Middle School—the original KMS in a brick building where the District Office now stands.

So I am committed to once again rolling up my sleeves to do the hard work that will be required to take Kyrene to the next level of excellence. As Jim Collins stated, "Good is the enemy of great."

We will always strive to be "great" in Kyrene!

Coggins notes that her comments are not the representation of other board members.

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No need to be taxed over taxes when help is just around the corner

Editor's note: Tax season (groan!) has arrived, and once again we're faced with the all-too-worrysome process of preparing returns that are complete, properly constructed—and as accurate as we can make them. Our correspondent Diana Whittle was able to prepare a 2017 primer for Wrangler News readers, based on a conversation she had with the folks at Tempe-based TaxQue. What she learned, in summary, appears herein.

With the season upon us, if people are looking for a tax preparer, what are some tips to finding the right kind of professional for your needs?

Find a pro with longevity. Look for a company that is established, because an individual or new business may or may not be available if you have an issue, need to make changes on your return or should you be audited. It's best to choose a firm that has experience preparing individual returns and whose staff have recently updated their education, as laws change annually. While a CPA or tax attorney has credentials behind their name, it does not necessarily mean they are the right person

to prepare your return. It's more important to ask how many and how often they prepare returns for individuals.

If you have an at-home business are there specific deductions and records you should keep?

Common business expenses include car and truck expenditures, salaries and wages, rent on business property, depreciation for fixed assets, supplies, utilities, taxes, repairs, insurance, advertising, travel, legal and professional fees, meals and entertainment, mortgage interest—check with your tax professional to take the right deductions for your business.

Be sure to keep all supporting documents, which include sales slips, paid bills, invoices, receipts, deposit slips and canceled checks. It is important to keep these documents because they support the entries in your books and on your tax return. You should keep them in an orderly fashion and in a safe place. For instance, organize them by year and type of income or expense. Each year certain deduction amounts may change. For example, beginning in 2016, the mileage rate is now 54 cents per mile for business use of a personal vehicle.

In addition, in 2016, deductible expenses expanded for educators to include those expenses incurred while participating in professional development courses related to the curriculum or subject matter taught.

Many school districts and non-profits are promoting the idea that you can donate until April 15 for the 2016 tax year. Is this a new rule?

Yes, calendar-year filers have until April 18, 2017, to file their 2016 tax return, which is the same deadline to make qualifying contributions and claim these credits. The limits are \$200 for individuals, \$400 for married couples.

What is the best way to work with a tax preparer?

Bring a copy of last year's tax return, your identification for all of the adults you are claiming, Social Security cards for everyone you are claiming, certification that you had healthcare coverage, a school record showing the dependents whom you claim have lived at your address for more than six months of the year. If you are divorced and claiming Head of Household, bring your divorce decree.

Are there any new rulings or requirements that taxpayers should be aware of?

New this year, is the requirement that all tax preparers must complete Form 8867—the Paid Preparer's Due Diligence Checklist—for each earned income tax credit, child tax credit or American opportunity tax credit (which is a credit for qualified education expenses). In addition, written proof is required for each qualified child.

At Tax-Que, what kind of clients do you serve and what are the credentials of your professionals?

Our company was established by CPAs. We currently employ tax preparers with more than 10 years' experience preparing individual tax returns.

Our clients range from individuals, single parents with children to married couples and those with small businesses. Our preparers will not only take the time to learn about your individual circumstances and be sure you are getting all of the deductions you qualify for, they will also review your completed return with you and talk with you about your future year in order to be sure your tax liability is covered.

— To make an appointment with one of Tax-Cue's professionals, call 480-350-9321.



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Signs of growth

FastSigns, a printing and sign company at 1320 S. Priest Drive, Tempe, celebrated the opening of its expanded facility, with nearly double the floor space. According to the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, which was on hand for the event, the expanded space will allow for more staff and production.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Chamber of Commerce



Disrupt

From Page 1

“When I was artistic director at a place I founded in Minneapolis called the Pillsbury House Theatre, one of the things I tried to do was bring together audiences that would normally never be in the same room,” explains Remington.

“You cross-pollinate your artists, you cross-pollinate your audiences. And you grow your audiences. So that’s one of the first things I wanted to do when I came [to Tempe].”

Doors open at 5 p.m., and the evening, appropriate for audiences age 18 and older, kicks off at 6 p.m. with a performance of *Some Velvet Morning*, a one-act play by Neil LaBute about psychological and gender conflict between a man and a woman. Remington directed the work for TCA Theatre (the show’s regular run kicks off on March 9).

“It’s a piece that I thought would be good, especially for these times,” says Remington, “because we’re talking about what it means to be in a rape culture, and this play helps us to examine that.”

The play is followed, about 8:30 p.m., by Totsy, an ensemble that reinvents burlesque-style music through the vocals of Broadway performer Beth Curry.

“Totsy was a band we saw at Western Arts Alliance in L.A.,” says Remington. “We thought they’d be a great addition.”

After Totsy’s set, the “multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural” Ensemble Mik Nawooj takes the stage.

“They have rappers rapping over the orchestral music and opera singers all at the same time,” says Remington. “That band in and of itself is a fantastic mash-up.”

This may sound like a pretty full evening. But Remington notes there will be other musicians performing before and between these acts. Food vendors are also scheduled, so no need to go to dinner first.

Tickets for Disrupt FEST are \$50, \$30 for students. Go to tempe.gov or call 480-350-2822 for details.

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Chabad to celebrate Purim March 12

Chabad of the East Valley will host a festive meal and entertainment in celebration of Purim Sunday, March 12 beginning at 4:30 p.m. with a Megillah reading.

Purim commemorates the escape of the Jewish people from annihilation by the ancient Persian Empire. The celebration traditionally includes the exchange of food packages between friends, giving to the poor, eating of a festive meal and the reading of the story of Purim from the Megillah, or Purim scroll.

“It combines ancient Jewish traditions with a modern twist,” said Rabbi Deitsch. “We focus on doing interesting and innovative holiday programs yet still keeping with the holiday theme.”

The Pollack Chabad Center is at 875 N. McClintock Drive in Chandler. Cost for the event prior to March 7 is \$25 for adults, \$18 for children. After March 7, adults are \$30, children \$22.

RSVP to www.chabadcenter.com/purim
Info: 480-855-4333.

Our new community liaison chief invites your involvement

A Message from Ron Walters to our readers:

My newly established position with the newspaper you're reading is Community Relations Director. My top goals are to thank our loyal advertisers and hear what our Wrangler News readers have to say about their community—and us. I also have another goal relating to our advertisers: To create a mutual admiration society we can use to refer each other.

My marketing experience with three different industries, and as a result of owning my own company, has taught me that most successful businesses have great communication with their employees and customers. This leads to great relationships.

According to Don Kirkland, Wrangler News' founder and president, our 25-plus years here in Tempe and West Chandler have been most enjoyable and successful. We now have over 45,000 Wrangler readers and are growing again. Our tagline—Think Local, Read Local—says that when we talk about hyper-local news, we really do mean it.

As to the specifics of my earlier marketing career, I've dealt with several award-winning art departments in creating design and marketing brochures. I enjoy helping people, and it's my passion to help our advertisers grow their

businesses with color and great design. My wife loves Wrangler News, and when it hits our driveway she beats me to it and reads it before I do.

I'm next in line to read it, and afterward it sits on our coffee table until a new issue arrives in two weeks. Then I recycle the old one and replace it with a new one.

As a result of one issue or another being in our home practically all the time, when my wife and I shop we peruse Wrangler News first. It's the same practice we hear from our neighbors, who most of the time also keep a current copy within easy reach.

Please let us know what you enjoy reading about in our Wrangler News and what you'd like to see us add to our paper. I'm contemplating a Wrangler Readers area to help encourage you to share your opinions.

Maybe we have a free drawing for our readers who respond? Maybe we could call it "Wrangler Readers Speak Out"? Or "Wrangler Readers Send Us Their Thoughts"?

What do you think?

Send your ideas via email to:

ron.walters@wranglernews.com or call me any day Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 480-966-0348.

Opioids

From Page 1

recovering from surgery or enduring chronic pain.

Many well-intentioned physicians prescribe potent drugs to help patients with pain management.

These drugs are fairly expensive. Often, when patients are no longer able to obtain legal prescriptions, they turn to heroin or other illegal drugs.

Unfortunately, anyone can fall into a cycle of dependence, ranging from young athletes with injuries to victims of car accidents or senior residents with chronic pain.

We cannot deny that across the country, communities are facing a threatening opioid epidemic. Good people of all ages, from all walks of life are becoming addicted and dying from prescription drug and heroin abuse.

The challenge we face is real, but we must continue to look for solutions that aren't necessarily punitive. There is too much at stake. We simply must do our part.

The Chandler Police Department, led by Chief Sean Duggan, is well aware of the need to prevent and treat individuals affected by substance abuse. Each police substation is equipped with a prescription drug drop-off box intended for anyone to dispose of unneeded medications.

This service is entirely anonymous and is available 24/7 at the main police station located at 250 E. Chicago Street.

Keeping medications out of the reach of children or anyone susceptible to addiction is critical to the success of prevention efforts.

With the understanding that we can't incarcerate our way to a solution, the Chandler Police Department is creating new training for all officers to help reduce the stigma of addiction and respond to the needs of individuals affected by substance abuse. The department also is exploring providing first responders with medication to be administered to people overdosing on opioids.

One group, the Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse Task Force, plays an important role in getting the message out to as many people as possible.

The group's mission includes developing and implementing a strategic plan for addressing opioid abuse locally and regionally.

In order to educate, inform and succeed, they work closely with many community stakeholders, including doctors, pharmacists, school and church administrators, non-profits and our business community.

Terry Roe is a retired Mesa police officer and Chandler City Council member.



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Ashley Allison won first place and Sara Danielson took second place at a drawing held in conjunction with the Kyrene Foundation's annual Taste of Tempe event. Both are Kyrene del Cielo parents. Event organizers announced that 2,425 tickets were sold, raising \$11,705 for Kyrene Schools and \$12,545 for the Kyrene Foundation and Kyrene Family Resource Center.

Longtime reader leaves a nearly \$500k donation to city library

Annette Voth had a passion for reading, which didn't end when she retired as head librarian of the music library at ASU's Herberger Institute.

Officials at the Tempe Public Library announced their receipt of a \$460,000 testamentary gift from Voth, former head librarian at the ASU facility.

In addition, Voth was a longtime Tempe resident and an avid Tempe library patron.

According to library spokesman Woody Wilson, proceeds from the endowment will be used to expand and enhance the library's media collection of books, movies, documentaries, music and more.

A one-time initial donation of \$50,000 was presented at a Tempe City Council meeting in late February.

Said Mayor Mark Mitchell: "On behalf of the city of Tempe and the Tempe Public Library, we are honored to receive this generous

donation..." which he described as one of the largest individual private gifts in Tempe's history.

The endowment is managed and distributed by the Arizona Community Foundation and distributed by the Tempe Community Foundation.

The Tempe group was established in 1992 as a program of Tempe Community Council.

Its goal: to create a permanently endowed fund supporting human service programs and other endeavors to enhance Tempe residents' quality of life.

"The Tempe Community Foundation board of advisors is proud to play a small part in fulfilling Voth's wish to support our superb library," said Board President Mike Rooney.

"Tempe citizens will enjoy her generosity for many years to come."

Information: tempecommunitycouncil.org/tcf/.



Register now!

Classes begin in March

The spring Tempe Opportunities brochure features hundreds of programs for every interest, age and ability, including health and fitness, art, dance, special interest, sports, aquatics and boating offerings. You can view the brochure online or pick one up at a City of Tempe facility.



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Sports

With Alex Zener



The Padres' first track meet of the season found them competing on their home turf and scoring several first place honors, including both boys and girls 4x100 relays.

— Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker

1st season win for Padres' 4x100 relay teams



The Padres competed against San Tan Valley Combs in their first track meet of the 2017 season taking first place in several events at the Marcos de Niza track.

The boys 4x100 relay team of **Anthony Steinpreis, Noah Tate, Keandre Greer and Joren Davis** took first place as did the girls 4x100

relay team of **Alohna Taylor, Lexi Ross, Drysten Muir and Melahnie Washington.**

First place also went to the boys 4x400 relay team of **Jordan Johnson, Eric De la Garza, Luis Alvarez and Miguel Calderon.**

Marcos runners performed well in the individual events as well.

"The 100 meter and 200 meter individual races were all dominated but Marcos athletes," said girls head coach **Marianne Webb**, "but junior **Alohna Taylor**, competing in only her second year running hurdles, took first place in the 300 meter hurdles."

Senior **Kepano Ream**, in his second season competing in a Padres uniform, took first place in the

800-meter race.

"The track was not the only place the Padres showed their true brown and gold," said Webb. "We had some significant wins in the field events as well."

A familiar name to any Padres football fan would be **Marcus Naisant** who is also a star in the field events for Marcos.

As a senior, Naisant played in 11 out of 12 football games for the Padres, scoring 10 receiving and two rushing touchdowns to become the second leading scorer on the team with 72 points.

As a track and field athlete, Naisant seemed to have picked up where he left off last year when at the 2016 state meet he ran the lead-off leg of the 4x100 team that took first place. Naisant also placed first in the triple jump, second in the



Padre Mackenzie White passes the baton to teammate Maureen Juarez.

Sports

From Page 16

long jump and fifth in the high jump at state.

“**Marcus Naisant** swept the high jump, triple jump and long jump events in our meet against Combs,” said Webb. “

Alec Lindgren was first in the boys pole vault, while **Collin Wood** took second in the same event.

The Padres competed in a meet with Higley and Combs at Higley High School on March 1.

Up next, Marcos was scheduled to compete at the Desert Classic Invitational at Queen Creek High School on March 3. The next scheduled meet was not until March 22 at Tempe High School.

Marcos de Niza Boys Basketball

The Padres, who entered the 4A State Basketball Championship with a 15-10 record on Feb. 15 as the No. 11 seed, played superbly well to defeat No. 6 Rio Rico in a tight game 80-78 before falling to No. 3 Catalina Foothills, 71-56, in the quarterfinals Feb. 18.

Against Rio Rico, **Mason Stark** was the leading scorer, with 24 of a 80 total points making four out of seven three-pointers or shooting 57 per cent.

DaShawn Ray was the second leading scorer, with 16 points matched with **Zurell Livingston’s** 16 points. **Lovonne Brunson** was next with nine

points, **Jamari Robinson** with eight and **Tyson Union** with seven points.

In the quarterfinal loss to Catalina Foothills, Stark was again the leading scorer with 20 points, followed by Union with 13, Livingston with 12, Ray with seven and Robinson with four.

The Padres, who in the regular season were one of the best three-point shooting teams in the 4A conference, were held to only five three-pointers against the Falcons.

Honored on senior night in addition to Stark, Livingston, Robinson, Ray and Union were **Aaron Childers** and **Gaige Hale**.

Childers played in 19 games grabbing 45 rebounds with 14 blocks, four steals, three assists and 29 points.

Hale played in 17 games scoring 20 points and bringing down 19 rebounds.

Other members of the basketball team who contributed to the Padres success on and off the court are juniors **Sunny Ozuna**, **Orion Bryant** and **Jalen Porter** along with sophomore **Torren Union**. Marcos, 17-11, finished the season ranked No. 12 in the 4A conference one position ahead cross-town rival Tempe High School which finished ranted No. 13.

Tempe Boys Basketball

The Buffaloes entered the 4A state basketball championship an automatic qualifier as the No. 7

seed with a 13-5 regular season record.

They barely defeated No. 10 Estrella Foothills, 65-64, on Feb. 15 before losing in the quarterfinals to the No. 2 seeded Salpointe Catholic 70-48 on Feb. 18.

Naseem Vigil finished his junior season as the team’s leading scorer with 427 points in the 24 regular season games ahead of senior **Nate Manley** who was second with 259 points.

Sophomore **Kameron Spivey-Johnson** was close on Manley’s heels with 257 total points playing in all 24 of the regular season games, followed by senior **Allan Vigil** with 181 points and sophomore **Emmanuel Gore** with 107 points.

Manley lead the Buffaloes in rebounds with a total of 168 along with 58 assists. Spivey-Johnson had to most assists with 77 along with 132 rebounds, 28 rebounds head of Gore who had 104.

Players honored on senior night in addition to Manley and Allan Vigil included **Alex Beltran**, **Angel Flores** and **Fabian Lopez**.

Beltran played in 20 of the regular season games scoring 40 points with nine assists and 27 rebounds while Flores played in 14 games, scored 49 points with seven assists and 22 rebounds.

Lopez came off the bench in 16 regular season games, scoring 83 points with 81 rebounds and one assist.

Other members of Tempe’s basketball team who contributed on and off the court included juniors

— SPORTS, Page 18



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Sports

From Page 16

Jamal Al-Rashed, Elias Dorris and Abdul Vaughn and sophomores **Jzahantavyon Bryant and Jalen Gant**.

The Buffaloes, 17-10, ended the season ranked No. 13 in the 4A conference but with two of their players who will be returning next season ranked in the top 20 in points scored and assists in the 4A conference.

Naseem Vigil is ranked No. 14 averaging 17.8 points a game while Spivey-Johnson, only a sophomore, is ranked No. 20 in assists per game with 3.2.

McClintock Boys Basketball

The Chargers made it into the 5A state basketball championship as the No. 14 seed after defeating the No. 18 seed Williams Field 64-44 on Feb. 10 in the Conference Play-In Tournament.

Sophomore **Josh Baker** was the leading scorer against the Black Hawks with 24 points hitting five out of eight or 63 per cent of his three-pointers. He went three for three on his two-point shots.

Baker was followed by senior **Jamal Johnson** with 15 points when he also hit 63 per cent of his treys or five out of eight three-point attempts.

Senior **Adam Wright** was next with 10 points while senior **Derek Alexander** was credited with six and freshman **Armani Williams** with five points. Both senior **Tyrel Richardson** and junior **Andre Thurman** scored two points each.

Thurman was the leading

rebounder on the team, with eight rebounds against Williams Field.

Unfortunately for the Chargers, as the No. 14 seed, they had to play the No. 3 seed Sunnyslope in the first round on Feb. 15 at Sunnyslope. The Chargers lost that game 37-56.

Sunnyslope played a physically defensive game limiting McClintock to shooting only 28 per cent or making only 14 out of 50 attempts.

Williams was the leading scorer with 13 points hitting five out of seven shot attempts or 71 percent but the Vikings limited Baker to only nine points, hitting only 33 percent of his nine attempts.

Williams did manage to hit three out of his four three-point attempts while Baker his two out of four.

Richardson was next with seven points and an amazing 14 rebounds while Johnson scored four points, Wright three and **Lawrence Charles** one.

Honored on senior night besides Johnson, Wright, Richardson and Alexander was **Mason Leech**.

Johnson finished the season as the second leading scorer on the team with 257 points playing in all 27 games along with 90 rebounds, 80 assists and 47 steals.

Wright was the third leading scorer playing in all 27 games with a total of 201 points, 109 rebounds, 100 assists and 27 steals.

Richardson played in 24 games scoring 176 points with 137 rebounds, 28 assists and 37 steals.

Alexander played in all 27 games scoring 98 points with 35 rebounds, 35 assists and 26 steals while Leech played in 11 games during the regular season.

McClintock finished the season 14-13 ranked No. 14 in the 5A Conference but will return not only Baker, the leading scorer on the team with 428 points in 26 games along with 113 rebounds, 95 assists and 60 steals, but potentially eight other players with varsity experience.

These potentially returning players include current juniors Charles, Thurman, **Marquis Holloway Davison** and **Chris Rivera** plus sophomores **Jordan Martin, Mekhi Rodgers, Donovan Williams** and **Jalen Calvert**.

The Chargers should also return current freshman **Armani Williams**, who played in all 27 games and was the fourth leading scorer with 196 points, 81 rebounds, 20 assists and 56 steals.

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Eighth-grader motivated by her passion for music

Written by Beth Many
Eighth-grader at Fees College Prep

Music is like fire, an eternal flame that has placed itself in the hearts and souls of many.

The Fees College Prep band program, for me, is one of the things that keep that flame going. The students that take part in the band program—just beginning to learn how to play music or those who have played for a few years—can find themselves loving the pieces of music played and the process in which we learn how to play such pieces.

I have been playing the trumpet for about five years now and am learning a second brass instrument. I find that in being part of the band, I can also be a part of multiple different bands, such as the Fees College Prep Jazz Program.

We can also be part of many after-school programs that we are

nominated for by our director. These programs include the Tempe or Phoenix Youth Wind Symphony and the District Honor Band.

These programs allow band students to adapt to playing with different bands, and learn how to adjust to the styles and techniques used by others.

Being an eighth-grader, and going on to high school soon, I want to be able to leave the upcoming sixth-graders a legacy that they can be proud of.

I want them to love the program as much as I do. I know that once I'm gone I will no longer be part of this program that I love.

However, with the new band director who has just recently taken the position, and the soon-to-be eighth-graders, I can leave knowing that the program will live on and stay as good as it has always been.



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- March 25
The Great American BBQ & Beer Festival
- March 31 & April 1
18th Annual Chandler Jazz Festival

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Diversions

Written & compiled by M.V. Moorhead

‘Logan:’ Yet another rebirth of Wolverine earns a deserved ‘R’ rating advisory

Logan is the walking-around name of Marvel superhero Wolverine, a Canadian mutant with regenerative powers verging on invincibility and with long, claw-like blades he can distend from his knuckles.

He’s been played in the movies by Hugh Jackman since 2000, and this latest is said to be the last.



M.V. Moorhead

This one finds Logan, looking haggard and careworn, working anonymously as a chauffeur in a U.S./Mexico border town and caring for the enfeebled, dementia-afflicted Dr. X (Patrick Stewart). The men become guardians of Laura (the silent, spooky Dafne Keen), a little girl with mutant powers remarkably similar to Logan’s—right down to the claws—and the same feisty fighting spirit.

Soon they’re all on the run from corporate forces led by an evil security chief (Boyd Holbrook) and a mad scientist (Richard E. Grant). The director is James Mangold, who previously helmed *The Wolverine* in 2013, and whose earlier movies include the 2007 remake of *3:10 to Yuma* and 1997’s *High Noon*-ish police drama *Cop Land*.

His work often shows the influence of the classic westerns—the underdog facing powerful enemies with moral rectitude on his side. With *Logan*, Mangold overtly identifies his hero with the title character in *Shane*, but he also infuses a strong, even heavy-handed streak of religious allegory into the story: This is *Shane* meets *The Last Temptation of Christ*. With extendable claws.

As with the other Wolverine flicks, I greatly enjoyed this gritty, gripping, melancholy chase picture, even though I was never a devotee of these comics.

Be forewarned, though: With severed limbs and heads and bloody shootings and impaled henchmen from beginning to end, *Logan* was probably the most violent and gory superhero movie I’ve ever seen (though I missed the notorious *Deadpool* last year).

It’s rated R for a reason.

Logan is rated R, and plays at Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, Harkins Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.



89th Oscars celebration: ‘Painful, but sure not dull’

Editor’s note: To those of us who watched the running of this year’s Academy Awards, the laughs, the winners and the weirdness of the show’s ending have become nothing more than a footnote among our topics of conversation. What remains, though, is the reminder that many millions of prospective viewers, well, once again didn’t. So our correspondent M.V. Moorhead offers his own perspective of this, the 89th annual running of the stars.

Best Picture is usually the least interesting of all the awards at the Oscars. At least, that’s how it seems most years. After the results of all those other awards shows, which film will win often feels like a *fait accompli* going in. Even when it doesn’t, by the time we’ve arrived at the last award of the night, we typically have a sense of how things are leaning. There are exceptions, of course—*Shakespeare in Love* over *Saving Private Ryan* in 1999, for instance—but as a rule, Best Picture tends to be an anticlimax.

That definitely wasn’t the case this year.

The Feb. 26 show began in normal fashion. Host Jimmy Kimmel, not being of the Neil Patrick Harris, Seth McFarland or Billy Crystal mold, didn’t try to wow everybody with a big semi-ironic song-and-dance production number. That duty was handled by Justin Timberlake, extravagantly performing “Can’t Stop the Feeling,” his nominated song from *Trolls*.

Kimmel took over from there, and handled himself well, with some relaxed, mostly uncontroversial but definitely funny standup and an unobtrusive modesty.

There were oddball routines, like concessions dropping from the ceiling in tiny parachutes and a group of Hollywood-star-home tourists being led through the Dolby Theatre by surprise, that seemed, as such bits often do, like more laborious trouble than they were worth, but they still had some charm.

There were touching moments as well, like the

real-life, 98-year-old NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, played by Taraji P. Henson in *Hidden Figures*, being wheeled onstage to a thunderous ovation.

There were funny moments, too. A friend called me, happily amused, after a segment in which Seth Rogen, discussing 1985’s *Back to the Future*, observed that “They really captured future clothing pretty well, ‘cuz if you saw, like, Tilda Swinton wearing that exact outfit, you would not think it was weird.”

For most of its length, the show chugged along agreeably, if without any particular excitement. Casey Affleck winning Best Actor for *Manchester by the Sea* was perhaps a slight surprise, as Denzel Washington had taken the SAG Award for *Fences*. But on the whole, nothing suggested that *La La Land* wouldn’t win Best Picture as expected.

That *Moonlight* took the award instead would have been a surprise to begin with, but what made the upset great TV was an unfortunate mix-up: Presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway were somehow accidentally given the wrong envelope, a duplicate of the one reading Emma Stone for Best Actress in *La La Land*.

Beatty appeared confused, finally pausing to show the card to Dunaway who, thinking that Beatty was just clowning, glanced at it and again announced *La La Land* as the winner.

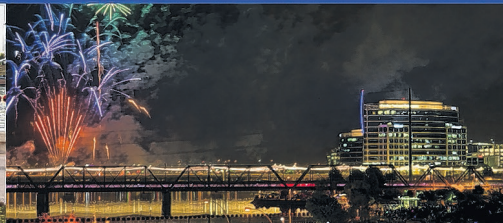
The cast and producers of that film came onstage and were in the midst of their acceptance speeches when the error was pointed out to them. Producer Jordan Horowitz stepped to the microphone, announced the mistake, and graciously called the *Moonlight* team to the stage, saying he was proud to present the award to them.

While I was less enthusiastic than most critics about *La La Land*, and while the stirring *Moonlight* topped my Top 10 List this year, it was hard not to feel for the *La La Land* gang, and harder still not to admire the grace with which they handled the situation.

March 2017



City of Tempe Page



Equal pay workshops continue

Free equal pay negotiation training classes are open to anyone who lives, works, or studies in Tempe.

The city has partnered with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to offer the workshops, which are designed to help community members build confidence and skills around salary negotiation, market worth, tools of persuasion and business strategies.

The goal is to train at least 8,000 women in five years.

Each class features the same information and all will take place in the Business Resource and Innovation Center (BRiC), inside the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

The planned classes are:

- Tuesday, March 21, 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. to noon
- Tuesday, May 16, 6-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 30, 6-8 p.m.

Registration for each class is required.

Visit: <http://www.aauw.org/work-smart-tempe/>.



Smart meters are here

Water meters throughout Tempe are being replaced or upgraded to include automated technology that can track water use in real time.

The City Council approved the project in May 2016 and the work will take place over the next few years.

This will be the first fully automated meter reading system in the Valley.

Currently water meters are read manually, once a month, making it challenging to identify leaks or unusual water use in a timely manner.

With the new technology, city staff will be able to collect water

meter readings in real time, from a remote location, eliminating the need to visit each meter.

The project includes a future phase to launch a portal so customers can monitor their own water use.

Tempe's installation contractor, Metering Services Inc., is working over the next few years. No service interruptions are expected.

Residents will be notified on their monthly bills when their meter has been replaced/upgraded.

State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshop

Join fellow Tempeans at the 2017 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops on Saturday, April 22, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

This year's event falls on Earth Day, so the focus will be on sustainability efforts for homes, neighborhoods and the community.

Mayor Mark Mitchell will deliver his State of the Neighborhoods address followed by awards honoring community members who are taking action and making positive contributions to Tempe every day.

Registration and a light breakfast begin at 8 a.m.

After the awards and the Mayor's address, there will be a "Spark" Session from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., with fun, quick presentations on everything from raising backyard chickens to re-energizing vacant lots. Register by April 14 at www.tempe.gov/stateoftheneighborhoods, or by calling 480-350-8234.

Many thanks to event sponsors SRP, HOA Document Archiving and Whole Foods.

New and improved Tempe 311 app coming

Later this spring, Tempe will launch an even better Tempe 311 mobile app to connect community members with services and information.

If you have used the previous Tempe 311 app, you will need to delete it and download the new app.

When the new app is announced, visit www.tempe.gov/311 to get the links for both iTunes and Android app stores.



Improvements to the app include:

- Automatic fill-in of a requester's address, using Google to capture more precise addresses;
- Easier-to-use search function; one-stop-shop for city services; and
- Easier reporting of code violations in your neighborhood.

Watch for the city announcement that the app is ready, download it and let us know what you think!

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For Irish lass, 2017 celebration proves a crowning achievement

By Joyce O'Coronel

When March 17 shows up on the calendar, many students at Corona del Sol High School sport traditional green T-shirts and leprechaun-inspired attire in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Having the 2017 Arizona Irish Lass in their midst, however, promises to make this year's celebration something special.

Sophie Looney, a sophomore, has been immersed in her Emerald Isle heritage ever since the day she spied Irish step dancers at the mall when she was 6. At a retail store, she stepped into some tap shoes.

"My mom kept asking me if I would be dedicated to this," Sophie said, recalling that she went to the front of the establishment and started dancing to prove her passion.

Irish step-dancing shoes are not the sort of thing you wear to school, after all. In fact, as they enter more advanced competitions, dancers end up needing a wig and some pretty pricey costumes, too. Mom needn't have worried: Sophie's been dancing ever since.

The Arizona Lass, title bestowed on this 15-year-old, is an honor conferred on young women ages 13-17 who have some Irish background. Presented by the Arizona Colleen and Rose Program, it's aimed at promoting Irish culture and community in Arizona.

She was crowned in December.

As the 2017 honoree, Sophie will assist the 2017 Arizona Colleen and Rose winners in representing the Irish community at various events around the state, including the Saturday, March 11 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire sponsored by the Irish Cultural Center.

"At first I wasn't planning to do it. I'm terrified of speaking in front of people," Sophie said. "I wasn't expecting to win at all, so it was a really big surprise and a great honor for me." A good friend and mentor, Colleen Callahan Pierson, wanted her to do it so badly that Sophie agreed.

"She lent me all her dresses and put makeup on me. I'm nothing like that, so it was a big change. I wear sweats all day."

Each of the Arizona Lass contestants must fill out an application and be interviewed. Sophie said she told the panel of judges that her role models were her parents. "My mom is the smartest person I know and my dad is such a great coach and so open," Sophie said.

Applicants must also demonstrate social skills and graces as well as a talent. For Sophie, the Irish step dancing was key. She practices three to four days a week but is at Chandler's Bracken School of Irish Dance five or six times per week, teaching younger students.

"I love kids a lot, so it's fun to play with them and teach them all these things," Sophie said. "When we're at competitions and I see them dancing, I get that satisfaction of saying, 'Oh, I taught them that!'"

Bailee Delci, an instructor at Bracken, said she is

— LASS, Page 23

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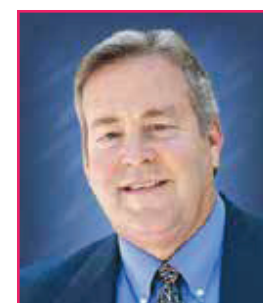
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Lass

From Page 22

happy for Sophie's title as Arizona Lass.

"She is so great with the kids. It makes her a better dancer, but also I know the kids love her. They look up to her," Delci said.

Delci herself has been hooked on Irish dance since she was 7. She works at a senior living facility and said the Bracken School was due to send a troupe of Irish dancers to perform there March 3.

March is a busy month for Irish step dancers, and Sophie will be performing at Murphy's Law, a pub in downtown Chandler, as well as several other sites.

Throughout the remainder of her term as Arizona Lass, she'll appear at various events to

promote the Irish culture—being expected, of course to wear her crown and sash and represent the local Irish community.

The Looney family is united in its love for all things Irish and recently returned from a trip to Ireland, where Sophie had the thrill of getting on stage with professional dancers. Her father, Gary, is newly commissioned to the advisory board of the Bracken School.

"Growing up, I never thought much about my Irish heritage until Sophie started dancing," Gary said. "I have gotten so into it. My money clip is a shamrock and I carry around a coin that we got in the Bunraty Castle when we visited Ireland last time."

"I just hope people can find their own heritage and really live up to it," Sophie said. "It's a great thing to get involved with. It can help you a lot in the future too like it's helping me."



Tapping, swirling and prancing their way through Irish step dancing classes (above), young students at Bracken School of Irish Dance gear up for St. Paddy's Day celebrations; Sophie Looney, (right) the 2017 Arizona Irish Lass, is a Corona sophomore who represents the local Irish community.

— Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker

Paddy's

From Page 1

Music for the festival will be provided by Kilted Spirit beginning at 6:30 p.m. Artisan offerings will include paintings, woodwork, illustrations, jewelry and more.

And while most of the merrymakers on St. Paddy's Day in Tempe and Chandler are American-born, the area is also home to a few natives of Ireland. The Rev. Joe Hennessy, founding pastor of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in West Chandler, remembers celebrating St. Patrick's Day in his homeland.

"One of the great benefits was, whatever you gave up for Lent, you could have on St. Patrick's Day. That was the big thing. If you gave up candy, you were saving all your candy for St. Patrick's Day and you really scarfed it down," Rev. Hennessy said.

"When I was growing up, the big thing about it was that it was a holy day of obligation and also there was a football game and a hurling game on radio," he said. Dances were not allowed during Lent either, but there was always a festive jig or two to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Additionally, Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix has published a dispensation for area Catholics that permits them to indulge in meat—not allowed on Fridays during Lent—as long as they perform some other act of penance. In other words, along with that corned beef and cabbage he's hoping they'll visit the sick or imprisoned or spend extra time in prayer.

One place to indulge in the savory Irish cuisine referenced above is Mac's Broiler & Tap in Tempe, where revelers can consume their fill of the traditional dish alongside Shepherd's Pie and Irish stew.

Open 11 to 11 on this day only.

Paul McGowan, a Chandler resident and native of Tullamore, Ireland—Chandler's Sister City—also remembers St. Patrick's Day as a mostly religious occasion.

"The thing I like about St. Patrick's Day here is it is widely celebrated," McGowan said, something that others also mentioned.

Both McGowan and others were surprised at the extent to which Americans take to the wearin' of the green.

McGowan and his wife Kara, owners of Chandler Mixed Martial Arts located at Ray and Kyrene, are the only two business owners from Tullamore who reside in Chandler. Paul serves on the advisory board of Chandler Sister Cities and has been in the U.S. since 1994.

He frequently returns to Ireland, he said.

On St. Patrick's Day, the McGowans attend the parade in downtown Phoenix and spend time at the Irish Cultural Center.

Ellen Harrington, who has been involved with Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities since its inception in 2009, said the organization will host a Wine-and-Design Evening at Burst of Butterflies in downtown Chandler Monday, March 13 to kick off St. Paddy's Day festivities. The group will also participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade and Faire in Phoenix.

The St. Patrick's observance honors the fourth-century bishop of Ireland who is said to have died on March 17. The shamrock so emblematic of the day was sacred to the pagan Irish of his time, and he used the three-leafed shrub to convey the doctrine of the trinity.

The wearing of the green evokes memories of a time in Irish history in which some were persecuted for wearing the color.



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The Last Word

How students are helping to mold their own educational futures

When Dr. Jan Vesely began to settle in as superintendent of the Kyrene School District last August, she already had some ideas in place and ready to go.

One such idea was reigniting interest in the Student/Superintendent Council that had been established during Dr. David Schauer's tenure to help strengthen the exchange of ideas between district administrators and those on the receiving end of Kyrene education: the kids themselves.

Rosalie Hirano, who serves the Kyrene district in the capacity of ombudsman/community relations, offered the following details about how students are being brought into the process and what the expectations are for the outcome.

The Student Superintendent Council is comprised of a representative from each Kyrene elementary school (one fifth-grader per school) and a representative from each grade level (6, 7, 8) in middle school.

Students meet with Dr. Vesely once a month and topics covered and activities in their meetings to date include:

- Leadership and team building;
- Field trip to the State Capitol (guests of Rep. Jill Norgaard and Bob Robson; students conducted a mock hearing on requiring cursive instruction in schools);
- Middle School redesign; students provided input into the redesign of Kyrene middle schools;
- Field trip to the Kyrene Family Resource Center; students heard from speakers on the value of community

service; completed service project preparing food boxes;

- College and Career readiness; students heard from a panel of Kyrene business professionals on how they achieved their career goals; what to do to prepare for college/careers;
- Students are asked to do a report each month about the topics presented.

So far, the participating students have turned in star performances, according to Dr. Vesely.

Said Vesely:

“These students are exceptional. I am so proud of them and the level of engagement at each meeting. Our speakers and guests always compliment them, not only on their behavior, but on the level of insight demonstrated in their questions. They are a reminder of why we do the work we do in Kyrene, and that is to nurture and encourage the academic achievement, intellectual growth and leadership skills of our next generation. I have no doubt these students are going places in the future.”

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