

# Wrangler NEWS

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April 15 - May 5, 2017 ■ Volume 28, No.8



## Divergent views as Tempe nears end of bike-lane study

By Joyce Coronel

The public meetings are over and the online-comment period has ended. Now Tempe's Public Works Department must analyze all the input that was received about the McClintock bike-lane situation and prepare to present a report to the mayor and City Council in June.

Residents as well as cycling enthusiasts from the McClintock corridor packed into the two public meetings held last month at Tempe Public Library and McClintock High School. Peggy McClain was one of those in attendance at the high school who opposed the changes made to the roadway. Those changes included the addition of a bike lane and candlesticks (a buffering device), as well as the removal of a vehicle lane along some stretches of McClintock from Broadway Road to Guadalupe Road. McClain said she's lived in the area for more than 30 years and that she wants things to go back to the way they were.

"I'm in sales, so I'm on the road all the time ... It's always backed up now at rush hour, even going north," McClain said. She attended a March 28

—MCCLINTOCK, Page 6



Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan updated a group of Valley news reporters on how his department is using technology and other strategies to combat crime. [Page 9.](#)



Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell and Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely helped dedicate new 'buddy benches' at Waggoner Elementary. [Page 13.](#)



Wrangler News photographer Robert Garcia drops in on a practice session by Corona del Sol's percussion group, recently ranked No. 1 in the nation. [Page 31](#)

What's Inside



## Easter Bunny's Bounty

Kids at Tempe's Optimist Park prowled the grassy playground for sweet treasures left behind by a generous Easter Bunny and his able assistants from nearby neighborhood. For more photos visit [wranglernews.com](http://wranglernews.com) — Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

## A baseball legend tells kids: Dream big

By Kody Acevedo

Ask any Major League Baseball player about Opening Day and they'll tell you it's special.

It's the one day of the regular season that stands out, where nerves unravel and emotions run high.

For Little Leaguers, opening ceremonies have a similar feeling. It's not nearly on the same level as a professional opener, but excitement always fills the air.

It also helps when a legend like Tommy Lasorda stops by to say hello.

"It gave me goosebumps," said Bernadette Coggins, whose son

Zane plays baseball for Tempe South Little League. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Lasorda, who managed the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1976-1996 and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997, took some time away from Dodgers camp during spring training to surprise the kids at Tempe South as they opened their 2017 season.

It was a moment orchestrated by Coggins and her husband, Tim. "While he was here for spring training he told Zane he would like to attend one of his games," Coggins said. "My husband suggested he come to opening ceremonies and speak

to all the children, and stay and watch Zane's game. He graciously accepted."

As part of the appearance, Lasorda agreed to give a speech to all the players who were there. Coggins said he spoke about sportsmanship, parenting and loving the game.

"He is wonderful with the kids and he has a great message," she said. "He truly is the ambassador for baseball and I have never witnessed someone with more stories and passion for what he truly loves: baseball."

At 89 years old, Lasorda still is involved with the Dodgers and

— LASORDA, Page 17



MLB legend Tommy Lasorda hung out with Little Leaguer Zane Coggins and his family following a recent spring training game.



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## Sunset Library series takes aim at city's history of land-fraud

The popular *Our Stories* speaker series makes its next appearance on Saturday, April 29, at West Chandler's Sunset branch library, with a presentation that highlights some of the Valley's most notorious land deals and the role Chandler's founder played in some of those transactions.

"Dr. Chandler and the Land Fraud that Built the Valley," will take place at the local library from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

There is no charge for admission.

Chandler Museum Administrator Jody Crago will talk about how the Town of Chandler was acquired and the role the land played in that process.

"Dr. A.J. Chandler was always looking for his next great business opportunity and he facilitated many business deals," Crago said.

"The hard truth is that some of those deals pushed ethical boundaries, including selling land and then reacquiring it when people couldn't pay their mortgages."

*Our Stories* is an ongoing series of Chandler and Arizona history presentations by guest speakers sharing stories and first-person accounts that are enhanced with multimedia presentations, demonstrations and music.

Crago, who holds a master's degree in history, has headed the Chandler facility since 2007 and has undertaken extensive research on the city and its origins.

The series is free, open to the public and presented by the Chandler Museum, Chandler Public Library, Chandler Historical Society and Friends of the Chandler Public Library.

The Sunset branch is located at 4930 W. Ray Road, just east of Rural.

For more information, visit [chandlermuseum.org](http://chandlermuseum.org) or call 480-782-2751.

## Arts Center to host children's spring concert

Chandler Center for the Arts will host Chandler Children's Choir's spring concert at 7 p.m. May 13 with a night of golden themes featuring guest artist and classical guitarist Erik Sloyka.

In *Fields of Gold*, the group weaves together the voices of children and the strums of an acoustic guitar and a string quartet for a pairing of sounds.

We will remember our many gifts:

"Rhythm of the Rain," "The Moon," "Cherry Blossoms," "Homeland" and "Fields of Gold" will be on the program.

Bright numbers such as "Here Comes the Sun" and "Stray Cat Strut" will round out the evening. A twist on a perennial favorite, "I Love You, Arizona," will be among highlights.

General admission is \$18; preferred admission is \$25.



**Without these, no Easter dinner is complete . . .**

Great Harvest employees check on the Tempe bakery and eatery's Easter specialty: golden loaves of their famous "Bunny Bread." — Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker

## Tempe streetcar project update scheduled for April 19 meeting

The city of Tempe and Valley Metro will host a presentation on design plans for the streetcar project planned for Tempe from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, in the Don Cassano Room at Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. Fifth St.

The meeting will include a brief

presentation on streetcar vehicle design, the public art process and next steps.

Project staff will be available to answer questions and take public feedback.

Information: [valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar](http://valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar).

## DUI enforcement grant focuses on high-risk times of the year

A \$60,000 grant is going to boost the Chandler Police Department's DUI enforcement during those times of the year when drinking and driving typically increase.

The DUI Abatement Council of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety has awarded the department's Traffic Unit with funding that will allow its officers to either host or participate in a DUI Task Force with other East Valley law enforcement agencies.

The funding will continue through Jan. 31, 2018.

Detective Seth Tyler, who announced the department's receipt of the grant, noted that officers working

under it are specially trained in the detection of roadway impairment due to excessive alcohol consumption and use of illicit or excessive prescription drugs.

"The goal of the task force is to remove impaired drivers from the road before the damaging, and often tragic, consequences that result from the poor decision to operate a vehicle under the influence," he said.

Added Tyler:

"Please remember to always wear your seatbelt and to designate a driver when alcohol consumption is a part of your celebration."

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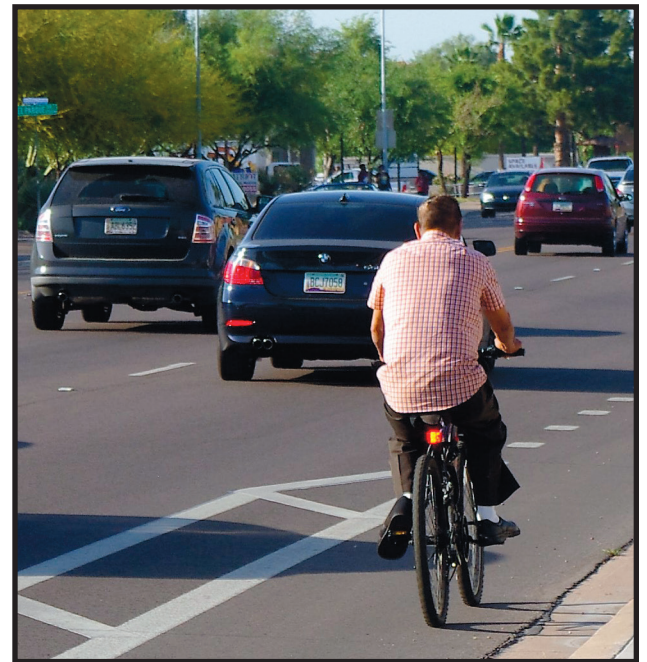
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Cyclists on McClintock Drive employ different strategies to commute to their destination—some in marked lanes, some on sidewalks in the right or wrong direction. Most observed did not use helmets.  
— Wrangler News photos

## McClintock

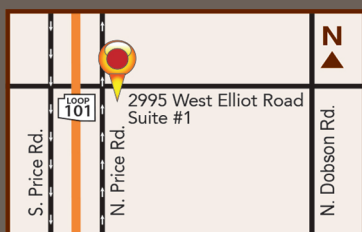
From Page 1

meeting at the library but was not happy with the way it went.

“I went into it thinking that there would be public comment and that we could fill out a card, go up to the microphone and talk for two or three minutes,” McClain said. “I didn’t expect them to listen to us, but at least we could comment on the record. And they didn’t let us do that.”

McClain said splitting up residents into breakout groups to discuss matters was a way to exert control. Without the entire group being able to hear all the questions asked, “You can’t put all the information together.” After raising her hand and not getting called on, she said she made her way toward the microphone but was told the meeting was about to be adjourned.

“I feel like the deed is done and they are going to



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do whatever they've decided to do and that this was all for show," McClain said.

Shelly Seyler, a traffic engineer who is also the deputy public works director for Tempe, disagreed with McClain's characterization. She was at the meeting at McClintock High as well as an earlier meeting at the Tempe library. Both meetings, she said, featured a presentation by city staff followed by breakout discussion groups.

"We did have some question-and-answer dialog with residents prior to breaking out into the small groups," Seyler said. The reason for the smaller groups was "so that we could adequately answer questions and talk with residents about what the different solutions were...the Q&A with the entire group was in between the presentation and the small breakout groups," Seyler added.

Acknowledging that the McClintock bike-lane situation was a "divisive issue," Seyler said she "wouldn't want anybody to think that we are not listening to what they are saying because that is what these public meetings were all about."

Those who attended also had the opportunity to fill out comment cards, and comments were being received online through April 5.

"Our minds are not made up—that's not how we work. We want to hear what the residents have to say," Seyler emphasized.

Nick Bastian, a Tempe Realtor, lived near McClintock Drive and Guadalupe Road for 13 years. "I drive McClintock every single day—my office is at McClintock and Southern," Bastian said. He also rides his bike on McClintock daily, he said.

"I am a longtime supporter of Tempe's transit and bike systems," Bastian said, but "my opinion is these bike lanes were a horrible use of taxpayer dollars and city resources. The amount of space on McClintock that is utilized for pedestrian traffic is far more than necessary...It drives me crazy what they did."

As a Realtor, he also has an opinion about the impact of the changes to McClintock Drive.

"If anything is going to negatively affect property values in that corridor, it's the amount of limited access the bike lanes have created to get to commercial developments," Bastian said.

Wrangler News observed traffic on McClintock on Friday, April 7 for 45 minutes. During that time, nine people were seen riding on bicycles. Of those, seven were riding on the sidewalk and two were using the bike lane. Of note, the cyclists in the bike lane were both wearing helmets. None of those on the sidewalk were doing so. Several said they were on their way to or from their job.

Randy Lawdahl said he rides his three-wheel bike up on the sidewalk because he's a diabetic and worries he might have a seizure. "I don't want to be in the street if that happens," he said.

Tim Daniel was riding on the sidewalk, southbound on McClintock, facing the traffic. "I'm riding on the sidewalk because I live on this side of the street and I'm riding against traffic. I do use the bike lane every day though," Daniel said.

Jose Magana was on his way to work, riding his bike but not in the bike lane. "Most of the time, I ride on the sidewalk," he said. "I feel safer up here. If I see someone coming, I go into the street."

Lamar Wimbey was on the sidewalk pedaling northbound on McClintock. "I'm on my way to work. I just got to Arizona and I'm not familiar with the bike lanes."



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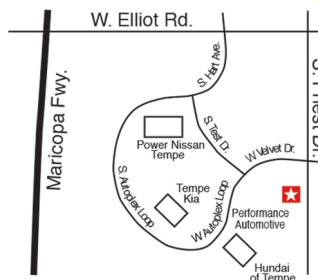
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# Tempe St. Luke's wraps up major ER revitalization

A massive two-year initiative to renovate and revitalize Tempe St. Luke's Hospital is now complete, as are final steps to expand the hospital's partnership with EmCare, one of the nation's leading practice management consulting firms.

The goal, according to Tempe St. Luke's CEO Jim Flinn: "Enhancing the quality of care that patients receive when they arrive at our hospital."

The transition to EmCare became official on April 1. As to when the public may begin to see the results of the latest improvements, Flinn says they should be evident immediately.

"The community should see a difference as soon as they arrive in our emergency department," he said. "With additional providers on staff and on schedule, wait times should decrease, allowing quicker care and more time spent with our patients."

Part of the timing, Flinn noted, relates to broader concerns about health reform and how it will continue to affect the quality of care hospitals are able to provide.

"Our main focus is on caring for the Tempe community. Of course, there are always discussions about reform and changes," Flinn said.

"As changes do occur, we will do what is necessary



Tempe St. Luke's celebrating the reopening of its remodeled surgical floor in a Wrangler News file photo from December 2015. The Tempe hospital has announced an expansion of its partnership with EmCare, a leading practice-management consulting firm.

to continue providing the highest quality of care as we always have."

In addition to a wide range of internal improvements, Flinn said the public likely will see an increase in the size of the emergency department's staff. "This will help to eliminate those longer waits in the lobby, and truly get patients in as quickly as we can, so they can be diagnosed appropriately, and then we can focus on the next steps in their care," Flinn noted.

While urgent-care facilities or so-called "minute clinics" have been proliferating recently, Flinn says Tempe St. Luke's goal is to provide all-around emergency care for the residents of Tempe and surrounding communities.

"We understand the capabilities of these other

options that have been introduced," said Flinn. "For those that need a higher level of care, we are here and available to them."

Although Tempe St. Luke's has been in operation since 1944, it has remained somewhat low-key in marketing its services in the same way that many of the larger hospital systems do.

That may now change. "Moving forward, we will include our transition and the services we provide in our marketing," Flinn said.

"This is a key initiative for our facility, along with many others within the revitalization plan. Our team does a great job of getting that information out to the community, and as the only hospital in Tempe, the community needs to be aware of all that is happening here," Flinn said.

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# Chief Duggan: Chandler police adapt to changing times

By Jonathan Coronel

In a world where everyone with a smartphone is a reporter, a story is going to be told with every interaction between the police and citizens.

The only question is, who's doing the reporting? "There used to be a time when police chiefs would wake up every day and think about how to stay out of the news.

That has changed," Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan explains to a room of reporters.

Accordingly, Chandler police are at the vanguard of using technology to ensure that the facts of any given case are made clear.

The importance of technology is most evident in Chandler's body-camera program: every single patrol officer wears one.

So far, body cameras appear to have been successful in presenting a close-up view of any given police encounter so that the matter can be properly dealt with in courts.

Additionally, Duggan argues that body cameras have reduced the necessity for officers to use force, which in his opinion always looks ugly.

"For most people, you tend to change your behavior, at least a little bit, if you are being recorded. This has proven to be a good de-escalation tool in some cases," Duggan says.

With the use of body cameras, Chandler PD really does stand out as a leader among police departments across the country. According to a survey by the Major Cities Chiefs Association and Major County Sheriffs' Association, only 18% of departments



Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan hosted a group of Valley news reporters for an update on how his department is utilizing technology and other strategies to meet 21st Century challenges of community policing.  
— Wrangler News photo by Jonathan Coronel

surveyed considered their body cameras fully operational in 2015.

In addition to body cameras, Duggan spoke to the assembled reporters about the other technologies Chandler officers have at their disposal, such as real time data analytics and the capabilities officers have in their patrol cars.

Chandler uses data analytics in order to deploy their officers more effectively and proactively. Chandler patrol officers also have computers in their cars with database information that they formerly would have had to return to the station to obtain.

Although Duggan considers Chandler police to be at the cutting edge of technological advances in law enforcement, he was also quick to emphasize that the cornerstone of their work, and what they have "tripled down on," is good old-fashioned community

engagement.

This is evident in their myriad community programs, such as the department's Citizens Academy class for adults, which offers classes one night per week from August to November, and allows students to do a ride-along with an officer or observe a shift in Dispatch.

The Chandler Youth Academy runs for four days and allows kids to get hands-on experience about use of force, crime-scene investigation and forensics.

For those who like having their best friend alongside when they walk neighborhood streets, Chandler police recently implemented a Dog-Walker Watch program.

Avid dog-walkers attend an hour-long class on how to better serve as valuable eyes and ears for the police department in their spare time.

According to information officer Det. Seth Tyler, the program has been a hit among dog-walkers thus far.

Overall, Chandler police are doing a good job, with the city's overall crime rate currently 21% lower than the national average, according to AreaVibes, a website that analyzes cities across the country.

While the innovations such as body cameras are effective and important in a society with rapidly changing technology, fundamentally it's the basics that really do the trick, says Duggan.

"We have to have the public's willingness to cooperate and help us.

"Treat people the way you want your family to be treated; it's a simple philosophy."



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# Our Neighbors, Our Faith

A recurring Wrangler News section focusing on our area's faith community

## Outrageous!

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### EASTER

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DEAD PEOPLE

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**A LIVE**

By Pastor Des Wadsworth  
Grace Community Church

**E**aster marks the most outrageous weekend in human history. When we look at Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we see two historical events that changed the world. What makes those events outrageous is this: they have the power to impact every person's life today.

What do you think about on Good Friday? The image of Jesus on the cross fills our minds, as we see Him enduring six hours of unimaginable pain and anguish. Through this physical, emotional and spiritual pain, He was paying an immense and outrageous price. But even in His darkest hour, Jesus poured out His amazing grace! We realize that He is an outrageous forgiver, an outrageous and compassionate healer, an outrageous teacher, an outrageous friend and an



Pastor Des at Grace Community Church shares an Easter message of hope.

— File photo

outrageous victor over sin and death.

In spite of what He experienced, Jesus is a relentless giver of outrageous grace. Consider this: Jesus' death on the cross was the critical once-for-all payment for sin – the ultimate sacrificial gift. But that gift needed to

be given. A gift cannot be given if the giver is dead! This is why we state that the most outrageous world-changing event in human history is clearly the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Yet questions remain. Perhaps you find yourself living with stress, guilt,

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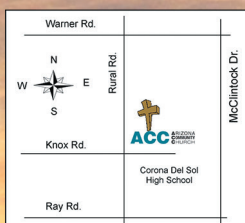
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### Easter Egg Hunt

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anxiety, shame, or uncertainty about the future. Do you feel that everything around you is dying? Hurting people often hurt other people, as the pain just seeps out. Each one of us is broken and in need of divine intervention. So here is the true power of the Easter story: The holy God of the universe reached down to us and became broken Himself.

But that was not the end of the story. He rose from the dead! He is risen and alive today – and invites us to be forgiven, restored, redeemed, saved and made whole. All of this happens when we embrace the death AND resurrection of Jesus.

After paying an outrageous price, Jesus presents us with an outrageous and free gift: His amazing grace. But this gift demands a response. We can decide to make an ALL IN response, where we choose to place Jesus as the leader, ruler and king over everything. This is how we accept His gift, and allow Him to show just how much He loves us. Instead of living defeated lives, we receive His peace and abundance. We discover that our personal freedom – and the source of hope and victory – is not based on what we can DO, but on what Jesus has already DONE.

My prayer is that this Easter you will embrace His outrageous grace in a new and vital way. Run to Him, seek after Him, or return to Him. He promises to replace a fear of death with a new life. Here is the key:

Easter is not about bad people becoming good – but about dead people becoming alive!  
Isn't that outrageous?

*Des Wadsworth is Lead Pastor at Grace Community Church in Tempe.*

## Understanding faith Easter offers an inviting time for newcomers

By Joyce Coronel

For those who haven't grown up Catholic, the prospect of actually joining the 2,000-year-old church might seem a bit daunting. How do you do that sign of the cross thing? When are you supposed to genuflect? How do you learn all those prayers?

Every year on the night before Easter, Catholic churches around the world bring in new members who learn all of that and more. St. Andrew Catholic Faith Community in West Chandler is no different. The mission-style church will see 15 men, women and children baptized by immersion and 24 others receive the sacrament of confirmation on Saturday, April 15.

The event is the culmination of a nine-month process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA for adults and RCIT for teens). Bill Marcotte leads the formation effort at St. Andrew's and is gearing up for the big

celebration this month.

Preparation began last summer, with the parish inviting those who are interested in becoming full-fledged members to weekly meetings that begin in September and run through Pentecost, the feast that falls 50 days after Easter.

"They learn about faith and spirituality," Marcotte said. "They learn some of the very basics like who Jesus is and what he wants, the sacramental life, why we need Jesus and what salvation is."

In an age when many are leaving the Christian faith, Marcotte remains optimistic about attracting new members of the church.

"God is still calling people to him and people are still encountering him in a real, experiential, tangible way where they can't deny it," Marcotte said.

The nine-month formation process includes two retreats and features speakers, sponsors and plenty of opportunity

for questions and prayer.

Kristy Hafey, a Chandler wife and mother, is taking the plunge, so to speak, at the Easter vigil this year at St. Andrew's. Along with her 17-year-old daughter, Braylee, a Corona student, she'll be baptized and confirmed on Saturday, April 15.

Kristy said she grew up with no particular religious training, though her grandparents were Catholic. Her husband's family is also Catholic. For years, she said, she's watched as nieces and nephews were baptized into the faith.

"Something told me it was time to get baptized," Kristy said. "We started at St. Andrew's last year. That church is amazing—everyone is so welcoming. That solidified my decision to start RCIA."

At the Easter vigil, she'll step into the large baptismal font that stands at the entrance to the sanctuary inside St. Andrew's.

— EASTER, Page 12

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## Our next issue: May 6

This is one of the 2 times a year when we build an extra week between issues. Our next edition will be **Saturday, May 6**. Please remember to contact us no later than **Friday, April 28** for article or advertising questions.



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## Easter

From preceding page

The Rev. Robert Aliunzi will baptize her, but it won't be the first encounter Kristy has had with the Ugandan priest who became pastor of the congregation last year.

"Father Robert has blessed me before and it was literally like my heart exploded. I started crying," Kristy said. "Something happened. I get chills thinking about it."

Marcotte reflected on the process by which people join the Catholic Church. He believes that those who come to the initial inquiry session do so because God has already begun a process in their heart.

"It takes a lot of inertia-breaking for someone to call the church and say 'I'm interested.' Usually part of that is because they have some kind of experience with God. They know they are being called, they have a desire for it and they come."

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The Easter Vigil Mass each year at St. Andrew's Catholic Church is the traditional time for those who have been preparing to be baptized and confirmed in the faith.



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Area H	MAR 27-31	
	Collection Dates	Collection Type
Area A	APR 3-7	BULK TRASH and GREEN ORGANICS
Area B	APR 10-14	
Area C	APR 17-21	
Area D	APR 24-28	

For full schedule, visit [www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash](http://www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash)

Items may be placed for collection no earlier than 10 days prior to Monday of your collection week and no later than 6 a.m. on Monday of your collection week.

## Kids learn kindness by 'buddying up'

By Joyce Coronel

There's nothing quite as lonesome as being the kid at school who has no one to play with.

Waggoner Elementary, a Kyrene school in South Tempe, has been encouraging its students to act with kindness and reach out in friendship, especially to those who might feel a bit lonely or unwelcome.

The school recently unveiled its "Buddy Benches" as part of an effort to instill the values of kindness and compassion.

It's all part of a program launched in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League. ADL's goal is to help schools develop strategies to prevent bullying and build more welcoming communities.

Waggoner Principal Lisa Gibson said the school was designated by ADL as a "No Place for Hate" school last year.

"We committed to doing three or more activities during the school year to promote kindness, friendship and compassion with kids," Gibson said. "This year we decided to continue our journey to hopefully become a 'No Place for Hate' school again. We find out in May."

The entire school read "The Sandwich Swap" this year as part of its kindness-building program. The PTO purchased a copy for each teacher to read to their respective students.

The story, in summary, explores the lives of best friends who like jumping rope, drawing pictures, playing on the swings together and trying each other's lunches. After discovering they have zero familiarity with the differing foods, they help organize a picnic so everyone at school can try one another's food and learn about the other's culture.

"We talked to kids about how to be compassionate, how to accept differences, how



Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell and Kyrene Schools Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely at school assembly where kids were introduced to new Buddy Bench.

to be kind to one another," Gibson said. "We wanted to continue something throughout the year instead of just a week, and the Buddy Benches did that for us."

A school assembly to showcase the bright blue benches brought out Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vessely as well as Mayor Tempe Mark Mitchell.

Waggoner will have one bench installed on the primary-grades playground

and the other on the intermediates' playground.

Cara Meaker, who serves on the PTO board of trustees, was there for the Buddy Benches ceremony. Her daughter, Ella, is a second-grader at the school.

"We are so excited about the Buddy Benches," Meaker said. "We have been focusing at Waggoner for the last number of years on kindness."

So what exactly is a Buddy Bench?

"When a child goes out to the playground and is feeling lonely or sad—or perhaps their friend is not at school that day—they can sit down on the Buddy Bench," Meaker said. That's the signal for other kids to come over, sit down, talk with the student and invite them to play.

"It gives kids a way to express those feelings without having to put words to them. It's hard to initiate sometimes," Meaker said.

"You sit on the bench and somebody walks up to you and says, 'Come play with me.' It's so much easier. And the kids are very excited about it—I think they understand the concept of it."

The PTO purchased both Buddy Benches and the city will install them.

"Thanks to Waggoner teacher Mary Brown and our PTO working together with the city of Tempe, we now have a wonderful addition to our playground that spreads the ongoing message of inclusion and kindness that our school believes in wholeheartedly," Gibson said.



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# Equal pay companies earn praise from mayor, council

A select group of local businesses—GoDaddy, Mountain Park Health Center, Express Employment Professionals, Architekton, Mulligan’s Manor, Landings Credit Union and Dinos2 Personalized Auto Sales Inc., along with the city of Tempe itself—have been recognized as Tempe’s first Equal Pay Business Partners.

Mayor Mark Mitchell and Councilmember Lauren Kuby acknowledged the recipients at a ceremony at Tempe City Hall.

Kuby, along with Councilmembers David Schapira and Robin Arredondo-Savage, led a City Council working group that had been exploring a business designation since February 2015.

The group took substantial time to verify that the city’s own standing as an employer committed to equal pay was solid.

As a result, the city of Tempe itself also received the designation.

The Equal Pay Partner program requires companies to complete a worksheet to determine if they are providing equal pay.

Payroll numbers do not have to be submitted to the city.

Businesses that need guidance to get to the equal pay designation can receive coaching from the city’s Office Strategic Management and Diversity.

Those that qualify receive Equal Pay Business Partner status, which gives businesses the opportunity to use the initiative’s logo on their websites, in hiring materials and on storefront windows.

Tempe officials say the city is also helping to close the wage gap through free pay-negotiation classes, which are designed to build confidence and skills around salary discussions, market worth, tools of persuasion and business strategies.

The sessions are open to anyone who lives, works or studies in Tempe. Workshops, which have the same content each time, take place at Tempe’s Business Resource and Innovation Center, inside the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

Information: [www.tempe.gov/EqualPay](http://www.tempe.gov/EqualPay).

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Ron Walters

## Hyper Local News: What it is, where you can (really) find it



As some of you know, one of my jobs here at Wrangler News is to extend our reach to the people who haven't had an opportunity to work

with us over the years.

Because we're really just a three-person operation, getting out to meet new people has, by necessity, often had to be relegated to a back burner.

So with me getting out and around, we have a chance to introduce ourselves and our product to those who may not know what we do and why we're here.

I frequently find myself discussing the difference between the big dailies and small, home-owned weeklies and bi-weeklies, like us, whose emphasis is their own communities. It's what many of those big dailies I mentioned earlier refer to as "hyper-local news," something they try to offer but usually just aren't set up to do.

That, as it turns out, is what we do best.

We seek out and publish stories about people and events in Tempe and Chandler. They're usually stories we've stumbled onto while talking to our neighbors, going to our neighborhood supermarket or walking our dog around the block.

Of course, we also help bring attention to Tempe and Chandler businesses with what we hope are creative, colorful and well-designed advertisements.

With 20,000 newspapers every two weeks and a following of 45,000-plus readers, based on how newspaper demographers assess readership, we feel that we're really what the term "hyper local" is all about.

And because we've been doing this here for almost 30 years, we like to think that our readers enjoy having a way to learn about our schools, clubs, sports teams, churches, local businesses, chambers of commerce and special places like Chandler Center for the Arts, Tempe Center for the Arts, Downtown Chandler, Mill Avenue in Tempe and the many other places that make up the fabric of our home community.

We know, of course, that online news has decreased readership and replaced many large newspapers in America and around the world. TV, radio and the internet announce instant news that is not always good or fun. Some of it, sadly, is what's come to be known as fake news.

In fact, it seems to me that negative news outnumbers the good news, which is just one more reason that we choose to print content with a different focus—content that we hope will encourage people to have positive feelings about where they live.

There may be something in the words of Rudyard Kipling, who has been quoted as saying:

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." It's a quote I choose to interpret to mean stories can have a positive or negative affect on our readers. Words can motivate someone to a higher calling or incite a riot. Words can be pleasant, fun, positive, supportive and motivating. Words can also be negative, critical, mean and degrading.

In our case, an opportunity to find a bit of "hyper local" news right here in our own community helps to bring attention to the greatness of where we live—to inspire us to see the positive side of our community and, when possible, to do our part of help sustain it.

That, I think, is what hyper local news is really about.

Please email or write us with your opinions and ideas, as we are always looking for local stories and things unique to Chandler and Tempe.

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- Books
- Automotive products (oil, fluids)

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# Sports

With Alex Zener

## State title looms at April 26 bout

The Aztecs, currently ranked No. 5 in the 6A division with a 16-5 record, have the experience, athleticism and pitching to make another run at a state championship starting April 26.

Corona returns 12 players from last year's team that is looking for redemption after losing in the first round of the Division I state championships to Chaparral by one run, 12-11, last season.

Four seniors, **Chase Hamilton, Jacob Clemens, Gehrig Sanchez** and **Christian Slater**, were expected to have an impact on the team's results before the season started by head coach **Dave Webb**, and have not disappointed.



"Chase Hamilton, our shortstop, is our leadoff hitter," said Webb. "He's hitting .258 this season scoring 13 runs on 17 hits with 15 RBI's."

Hamilton leads the team in stolen bases with 12 and has committed to Colorado Mesa, according to Webb.

"Jacob Clemens plays both first base and right-handed pitcher," said

Webb. "He hit .400 last year and is tearing it up again this season."

Clemens not only is batting .348 earning 11 runs and 14 RBI's but he has put out 109 batters in 21 games.

Clemens has also pitched 30 innings in seven appearances and is credited with four wins and 22 strikeouts with a 1.87 ERA.

"Gehrig Sanchez, at catcher, is the quarterback of our defense and is as tough as they come," said Webb.

Sanchez, in 20 games, has put out 108 runners in 125 attempts. He has a batting average of .344 with 21 hits and 7 RBI's. He has committed to play at Gateway Community College next year.

"Christian Slater is our do-it-all player," said Webb. "He has the highest batting average on the team at .377, has scored 10 runs and has 18 RBI's"

Slater, playing outfielder, has put out 36 players on only 39 attempts. He has committed to play at Colorado Mesa as well.

Other players having an impact on the offense are seniors **Venkat Narayanan** who has a .500 batting average scoring nine runs, eight hits and seven RBI's, **Patrick Walker** playing in 19 games hitting .292 and earning six runs on 14 hits and **Zak Repar** hitting .400 with 10 hits, four runs and three RBI's.

In addition to Clemens, Corona has a bevy of pitchers including **Daniel Sotelo, Brandon Bracy, Grayson Poole, Matt Novis, Luke Eno, Nick Schobinger** and **Nick Parke**.

"Daniel Sotelo, our left-handed pitcher, went 7-1

on Varsity last season as a freshman," said Webb. "So far this season he has pitched 35 innings, allowing only 24 hits and striking out 26 batters."

Bracy has also pitched 35 innings and is credited with three wins and one loss striking out 35 batters while only allowing 10 runs.

"Matt Novis plays in the outfield when he is not pitching," said Webb. "He hit .400 as a sophomore on Varsity and can really sling the ball as a right-handed pitcher."

Novis is batting .312 scoring 13 runs on 20 hits with 20 RBI's and has pitched 12 innings allowing only seven hits and three runs while striking out 14 batters.

Two sophomores have key infield positions: **Brian Kalmer** and **Wyatt Berry**.

"Brian Kalmer is our starting second baseman after playing on JV as a freshman last season," said Webb. "We also have Wyatt Berry splitting time at third base."

Kalmer has put out 21 runners while Berry has put out 13 runners. On offense, Berry has scored eight runs with three stolen bases while Kalmer has scored 11 runs with 7 RBI's with two stolen bases.

Other players contributing to the Aztecs' success on and off the field include senior **Luis Arriola** who is batting .200.

With only four more games in the regular season, the Aztecs were scheduled to play Mountain Pointe at home on April 13 before playing there again on April 18.

Senior day will be April 20 at home against Highland. Corona's last regular season game will be at Highland April 21.

The In-Play part of the state tournament starts April 26 and affects the No. 9 through No. 24 ranked teams, which should not affect the Aztecs, who should have a bye until the state tournament starts.

The 2017 AIA Baseball 6A State Championships starts at the higher seed April 29 top 16 teams.

### Corona Softball

With only three seniors, Corona should be rebuilding this season except for some of the seven juniors on the team who gained a great deal of experience last season.

They are **Alyssia Sanchez, Isabel Pfannenstein** and **Taylor Miller**.

Sanchez is one of the leading batters on the team hitting .338 scoring 15 runs and 23 RBI's in 25 games with three home runs.

Pfannenstein has played in 21 of the 25 games scoring seven runs on eight hits and stealing four bases, while Taylor Miller has put out 73 runners on 76 chances while playing in the infield.

Several of the leaders on the stat sheet are juniors including **Olivia Miller, Caleigh Tilden-Long, Jessica Lynch, Bailey Sejnoha** and **Mikaela Davidson**.

Miller is the leading batter, hitting .476 while scoring 34 runs with 10 RBI's on 40 hits with an amazing 18 stolen bases followed by Tilden-Long, who has also played in all 25 games hitting .468 scoring 21 runs with 17 RBI's on 36 hits.

Not far behind is Lynch, hitting .407 with 14 run and an amazing 32 RBI's after 34 hits with four homeruns.

In addition, Lynch has pitched 75.2 innings, striking out 100 batters while allowing only 74 hits and 24 earned runs.

Sejnoha is hitting .348 in only 19 games with six runs on 16 hits and six RBI's.

Davidson has hit four homeruns, hitting .315 with 14 runs and 23 RBI's in 23 games. Davidson has pitched 66 innings striking out 45 batters.

The other players on the team include senior **Haley Vallejos**, juniors **Nicole Neumann** and **Sydney McKarns**, sophomores **Ally Quintero** and **Reyna Mori**, and freshman **Jada Wendling, Sierra Fuchs** and **Summer Duran**.

Vallejos is the team captain while Neumann has played in 22 games hitting .250 with 13 runs on 13 hits.

McKarns has seen action in 13 games hitting .294; Quintero has played in 25 games putting out 32 players; and Mori has played in 13 games putting out 77 runners on 83 chances.

Freshman **Jada Wendling** has pitched 9 innings striking out seven batters while Fuchs has played in four games scoring four runs and Duran has played in 16 games hitting .233 with seven hits and five RBI's.

The Aztecs, 15-10, were scheduled to play Desert Vista on April 11, at Boulder Creek April 12 and at Mountain Pointe April 13.

They have three games left in the regular season. They will be at home against Mountain Point April 18, at Highland April 20 and at home for senior day April 21 against Highland.

### Marcos de Niza Baseball

The Padres are ranked No. 8 in Division 4A with a 15-6 record and only six more games in the regular season before the state championships.

With the experience of three senior and one junior pitcher on the mound, Marcos should go far into the state tournament that starts May 2 at the higher seed.

Senior **Jake Denham** has pitched over 39 innings, allowing only 29 hits and 17 runs while striking out 40 batters. His current ERA is 3.0 with four wins and two losses.

Fellow senior **Connor Woods** has pitched almost 35 innings, allowing only 15 earned runs on 29 hits while striking out 46 batters. He is credited with six wins and one loss. Woods has a similar ERA to Denham at 3.03.

Junior **Eric Oden** is credited with the most wins at five and no losses on seven appearances pitching in 32 innings. He has only allowed seven runs and has struck out 29 batters.

Senior **Drew Johnson** has appeared in three games, allowing seven earned runs in 11 innings while also playing second base.

Playing in the outfield for the Padres are senior **Jesse Guzman**, junior **Kevin Dunnahoo** and sophomore **Elias Martinez**.

Junior **Nick Leach** plays shortstop while senior **Buddy Watson** plays first base and junior **Max L'Heureux** plays third base and catcher.

Junior **JP Patterson** plays first base while fellow junior **Adam Sebastian** plays the infield as does freshman **Ethan Galleti**.

The Padres were scheduled to play three home games: Casa Grande, April 11, Shadow Mountain, April 17 and Tempe, April 18, senior day.

The last three games were scheduled for April 20 at Yuma; April 24 at St. Mary's; and April 25 at Higley.



# Lasorda

From Page 1

and MLB on an almost daily basis. He made his Major League debut as a player over 60 years ago on Aug. 5, 1954, with the Dodgers. He played for L.A. for two seasons before being traded to the Kansas City Athletics.

After the 1960 season, Lasorda retired and returned to the Dodgers organization where he worked in a number of roles until he took over as manager in 1976.

Forty-one years later, he found himself under the shade on a warm March afternoon in the middle of D-backs country representing the Dodgers. It didn't matter if you bled Dodger blue or Sedona red—baseball was the universal language.

“He told the kids to dream big,” Coggins said. “Don't worry if you make an error; big leaguers make errors. It was humbling to all the parents.”

Humbling that a man, who led the Dodgers to two World Series championships, would take time out of his busy schedule to reach out to a small Arizona community.

“I was amazed at how many grown men seemed to have a dream fulfilled that day by meeting Mr. Lasorda,” Coggins said.

After the ceremonies, Lasorda watched three innings of Zane's ballgame. Zane returned the favor by hitting his first Little League home run in front of the baseball legend.

Afterward, Lasorda met up with Coggins for dinner. The stories and advice about life and baseball simply continued.

It was a lot of time and effort given by a man who has always been a kid at heart.

“(Zane) will forever cherish that day,” Coggins said.



Major League Baseball great Tommy Lasorda shared treasured bits of his wisdom with Tempe South Little League players on opening day, encouraging them to dream big and not sweat mistakes.

— Photo courtesy Coggins family



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# Adopted dogs join reunion celebrating their 2011 rescue

By Deborah Hilcove

In this springtime season of hope and renewal, a small group of volunteers demonstrated the power of love.

Laurel Todd, a Tempe resident and longtime volunteer with Arizona Border Collie Rescue, recently hosted a reunion of the "Texas 21," a nickname referring to 21 border collies rescued from horrific conditions in an out-of-state breeding operation and puppy mill.

Only seven of the 21 were able to attend, but one by one, the rescues arrived:

Dylan, Kruz, Sarah, Rusty, Lyric, Sketch and Tucker.

They waited to be leashed then, tails tucked, joined their owners who

celebrated the sixth anniversary of the massive rescue.

Kelly Quinn, ABCR president, explained that even after six years of rehabilitation, the dogs suffered such mistreatment that they are still afraid.

"They'll never be totally okay," she said, "but this reunion is a very special event. We're recognizing the efforts of our volunteers in one of the most difficult rescues we've ever undertaken. There were so many dogs and that was difficult, but these were the most shut-down, the least socialized rescues we've ever taken in.

"It's almost surreal to see how far they've come."

Back in April 2011, a Jefferson, Texas, breeding operation and puppy mill was seized and shut down, leaving

more than 167 border collies at risk.

"The Texas group was overwhelmed," Quinn said, "and they were unable to care for so many dogs. They posted the story on social media and contacted border collie rescue groups nationwide. They shared a video showing the squalid conditions in which they found the dogs."

Said Quinn:

"It was horrible. Puppies, adults and seniors, living in filthy, rusty, metal cages stacked one on top of another. They were malnourished, lonely and afraid. Some had spread paws from trying to balance on the wire flooring, like chicken wire. Some were trapped in cages with sick or dead dogs. The owner had gotten sick and just left the dogs to fend for themselves. Maybe once a week, he'd empty bags of food on the ground."

ACBR Vice President Gail Chadwick emphasized the community effort of the rescue.

"The need broke our hearts," she said. "The volunteers were amazing. We found foster homes for 21 dogs."

Todd and five other Arizona volunteers borrowed three vans, loaded them with animal crates and drove a little over 10 hours and

700 miles to Odessa, where they coordinated the rescue.

"Some of the dogs wagged their tails at the sight of a human," Todd said, "but others tucked their tails and seemed terrified, backing away and fearing to come out of their cages."

The dogs were carefully collared and leashed, eased into clean crates for the long trip back to Arizona. Once in Phoenix, the newly freed collies were microchipped and placed in foster homes, where their physical and emotional rehabilitation were tended to, preparing them for adoption into forever homes.

Patience and love helped rescue these dogs. One stayed in foster care for three years before he was ready to be adopted. Another, Dylan, was one of the most shut-down. He didn't even know how to eat from a bowl. His foster parent sat on the ground near him and hand-fed him for two weeks until he finally began to trust her and eat normally.

Now his owner, Ann-Renee Jones, has enrolled this black-and-white fellow in agility training.

"The dogs are beginning to come

— Continued on facing page



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out of their shells, Todd said. “Several have been exceptional, winning titles in herding and agility competitions.”

An example is Kruz, another of the more troubled dogs, who was adopted by Kim O’Connor. She worked with him, imparting confidence until she felt he was able to compete in events. He did very well, although recently he’s been sidelined with hip surgery.

Reflecting on the 2011 rescue, Quinn said, “It was a massive endeavor and the first time we ever took on a national rescue. We may not ever see anything like it again. I’m sure none of us will ever forget it, and we’ll revisit the event for years to come.”

Chadwick agreed and summarized the experience, saying:

“We’ll continue celebrating, meeting from time to time. The rescue was horrendous, a once-in-a-lifetime event, and it makes me so proud of our volunteers, proud of our efforts. We [ACBR] do good work every day, but this represents the best of what we’ve accomplished—the very best we could be.”

*A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, ABCR relies on volunteers to foster border collies and to staff events and assist with administrative tasks.*

*For more information about volunteering with ABCR, adopting or relinquishing a border collie, visit [azbcr.org](http://azbcr.org) or the Arizona Border Collies Rescue group on YouTube or Facebook.*



## No wall divides rescued border collies from their ‘forever’ homes

Border collies rescued from a Texas puppy mill frolicked in Laurel Todd’s Tempe backyard during a reunion of the dogs who came to be known as the ‘Texas 21.’

— Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker

# Briefly...

## Guidance for teens

Robin Williams has a story to share, but it isn't a happy one. Williams will share the story of how she lost her daughter Lindsay, who was a passenger on a motorcycle driven by an individual who was driving under the influence of alcohol.

The Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse will host a public meeting from 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 18 at the Chandler Police Department, 250 E. Chicago St.

The evening is a partnership Mothers against Drunk Drivers.

The event is free and open to the public. It includes a discussion of what steps are being taken to reduce the

tragedy of drunken driving.

CCYSA is made up of Chandler youth, parents and city officials who work to educate the community about the dangers of substance abuse.

It is sponsored by ICAN, a free youth center in the East Valley that offers programming for youth, teens, families and the community.

ICAN's evidence-based programming is designed to equip youth to achieve personal and academic success.

Information: 821-4207 or [www.icanaz.org](http://www.icanaz.org).

## Backyard gardening

Who needs the produce aisle when you can harvest your own fruits, veggies and spices

in your own back yard? And now it's easy to do.

The Tempe Public Library's Seed Library is open for gardeners and would-be gardeners, featuring a variety of plant and herb seeds that can be checked out for free, then planted and grown at home.

The seeds are appropriate for all Arizona seasons and growing conditions. And it's simple to use— just check out seeds for free (up to three packets a month), start growing, then bring back the seeds of your harvest.

To celebrate, the library is hosting a grand opening event from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, April 15.

The specialty section is located in a repurposed card catalog on the main floor of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

The program is made possible through a partnership with Garden Pool, a non-profit

dedicated to sustainable food growth. For those new to gardening information about classes, online tutorials and more are available at [www.tempe.gov/seedlibrary](http://www.tempe.gov/seedlibrary).

## Revisit the West

For those who love National Public Radio's A Prairie Home Companion, Western POP Radio Hour will showcase Tempe history through stories and skits being performed April 21 at Tempe Center for the Arts.

The show features a night of music, comedy and melodrama inspired by the golden age of radio from the 1920s-50s.

The Western POP Radio Hour will be staged at 7 p.m. in the center's Gallery.

Admission is free for the entire evening.

The Radio Hour features a visit by Patsy Cline, portrayed by Lona Gearhart; a guest appearance by Tempe's own Walt Richardson; and music from local bluegrass fusion band Cisco and the Racecars.

Other participants include Mark Hickler, Katie Buetow, Joelle

Tambe-Ebot, Giselle Lee, Francisco Briseno, Chester Carmer, Phil Garrison Jr., Melanie Holm, Titus Kautz and Vanessa Naghdi.

Before the Radio Hour, visitors can check out TCA's ongoing exhibit, *Western POP*, featuring the rich history, mythology and influence the West has had on pop culture from artists and scholars to film makers.

A pre-show happy hour offers a stroll through the Gallery, coupled with the Happy Hour series EDGE featuring live music and "Bottle & Board" specials every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6-8 p.m.

Tempe Center for the arts is at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway.

## Kids sports camp

Put down the devices, walk away from screen time and get those kids moving outdoors. And while you're at it, help them develop some sports skills.

That's what will be happening at the Future for Kids sports camp on Saturday, May 20 at the ASU practice field, 511 S. Rural Road, Tempe from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kids ages 6-12 are invited to take part in the event, presented by Fiesta Bowl Charities.

They'll play football, lacrosse, hockey, soccer, golf and more.

They'll also receive a free camp T-shirt plus a free, healthy breakfast and lunch. Hosted by ASU head football coach Todd Graham and ASU football team, there is limited space available, and registration for the camp is first-come, first-serve.

The first 300 youth registered receive a \$50 value camp scholarship. You will receive confirmation if your child has been accepted

Information: [Futureforkids.org](http://Futureforkids.org)

## Holocaust remembrance

Speaker and author Marty Brounstein will give two keynote addresses on Holocaust Remembrance Day, Saturday, April 22 at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 3450 W. Ray Road, Chandler. The presentations will take place at 9:30 a.m. and again 6:30 p.m.



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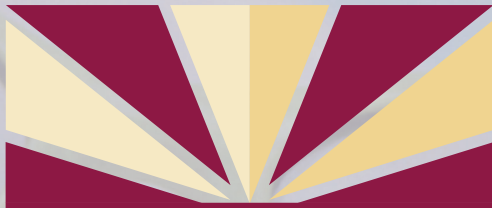
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Session 1 Registration: March 1 through May 10

## Session 2

June 14 through June 30

Session 2 Registration: March 1 through June 12

Session I	
△ Algebra 1-2	MA07A
* Algebra 1-2	MA07BM
Algebra 3-4	MA11A
Am/AZ History	SS01A
△ Art & Design	ART100A
Basic Freshman Eng	EN74A
Basic Sophomore	EN75A
Basic Junior English	EN76A
Basic Senior English	EN77A
Basic Phys. World	SC29A
Biology 1-2	SC07A
△ Chem-Physics	SC04A
△ Comp Applications	BU20A
Earth Science	SC23A
Economics	SS04
Basic Financial Math	MA19A
Financial Math	MA48A
△ Freshman English	EN100A
Geometry	MA09A
* Geometry	MA09BM
<del>Health Ed (On Campus)</del>	<del>PE26A</del>
<del>Health Ed (Canvas)</del>	<del>PE26A</del>
Jr. English	EN300A
△ Phys Ed 1-2	PE06A
Phys Ed 3-4	PE07A
Pre-Calculus	MA13A
Senior English	EN400A
Sophomore English	EN200A
△ Spanish 1-2	FL20A
Spanish 3-4	FL21A
US/AZ Government	SS03
World History/Geo	SS21A

Session II	
△ Algebra 1-2	MA07B
Algebra 3-4	MA11B
AM/AZ History	SS01B
△ Art & Design	ART100B
Basic Freshman Eng	EN74B
Basic Sophomore Eng	EN75B
Basic Junior English	EN76B
Basic Senior English	EN77B
Basic Phys. World	SC29B
Biology 1-2	SC07B
△ Chem-Physics	SC04B
△ Comp Applications	BU20B
Earth Science	SC23B
Economics	SS04
Basic Financial Math	MA19B
Financial Math	MA48B
△ Freshman English	EN100B
Geometry	MA09B
Health Ed (On Campus)	PE26B
Health Ed (Canvas)	PE26B
Jr. English	EN300B
△ Phys Ed 1-2	PE06B
Phys Ed 3-4	PE07B
Pre-Calculus	MA13B
Senior English	EN400B
Sophomore English	EN200B
△ Spanish 1-2	FL20B
Spanish 3-4	FL21B
US/AZ Government	SS03
World History/Geo	SS21B

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△ Courses that are open to incoming Freshmen.

+ Health is offered on-campus or as a Canvas course. TUHSD curriculum requires students to complete 10 hours of community service. This requirement must be completed to earn credit.



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# Music brings harmony to cross-cultural exchange

A photo montage by Tempe Elementary's Gabrielle Olson captures the enthusiasm—and the multi-generational spirit—of the Taiwanese visit.



By Diana Whittle

Not only did the kids at Fees College Preparatory Academy get a taste of Asian music and how it helps bring harmony in a different culture—it opened their eyes to a world they'd never before seen much less understood.

A youth orchestra from Taiwan recently visited Fees, and the experience proved to be eye-opening for students, says Amy Smith, Fees music teacher and orchestra leader.

Generally students focus on what happens in their immediate surroundings, but the international visitors served as a learning catalyst for the Asian country and its customs, she explained.

"We spent a few days before the visit planning and preparing—we learned about their schools, social life and the history of Taiwan."

As the teacher liaison for the Fees chapter of National Junior Honor Society, Smith recruited 10 members to help take the 80 visiting students on a tour of the school.

"Then, I had about 120 of our music students listen to the Taiwanese students perform. After the performance, 35 of my top orchestra members took the students to lunch in the cafeteria and then exchanged gifts and socialized with the students for about half of an hour," said Smith.

And, because the official language of Taiwan is Mandarin and the country's official script is written students



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worked with the visitors' Taiwanese teacher, Wen-Su Li, to come up with questions that worked around the language barrier.

An added benefit, she said: the Fees kids learned that music is a powerful language on its own, which helped to overcome any differences.

"While we didn't speak the same language, we were able to sit and play in an orchestra together and enjoy that experience without saying a word. It shows the kind of connection that music can create between people," said Smith.

Li received both his masters' and doctoral degrees from ASU. He decided to travel to Arizona to show his students the campus where he studied and to meet one of his instructors, Margaret Schmidt, who is still an ASU professor.

"(The Taiwanese) really seemed to enjoy having a tour in their own language," said Schmidt.

"Another high point of the trip was to see the music therapy lab that Li organized when he was a student at ASU."

Schmidt and Li have maintained a friendship for the last 10 years and she has visited Taiwan several times, where she was able to teach with him for three weeks.

"I started teaching in elementary and middle schools, and while I love teaching at the college level now, it also gives me a chance to reconnect with younger students," said Schmidt, who earned her doctoral degree from University of Michigan.

As for Smith, who's been teaching for about 15 years, she's a local native who grew up in Tempe and attended Rover Elementary and Fees before graduating high school at Marcos de Niza.

"I received a scholarship for music from ASU and finished my bachelor's degree there," said Smith, who also had Schmidt as a college professor.

Even for the experienced educators, the visit from the international students was an academic highlight.

"The students were so excited," said Smith.

"They thought all of the Taiwanese students were so nice.



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# Dr. Vesely: An ELA update

*Editor's note: Shortly after taking on her new role as the Kyrene School District's new superintendent, Dr. Jan Vesely announced a series of audits to examine widely ranging aspects of the district's instructional methodology. The following update relates to the district's findings in one area of classroom-resources.*

During the 2016-2017 school year, Kyrene released a solicitation for proposals for English Language Arts instructional materials for grades K-8. Kyrene follows a defined process when considering a resource for adoption.

Please visit ELA Resource Review for more detailed information.

Kyrene would like to thank each community member who took time to review resources and provide feedback.

The review process for resources includes an initial analysis of resources for standards alignment and vendor presentations.

This work was conducted by a resource review committee, which represented all 25 schools, all grade levels, and relevant district departments that provide learning services, such as Student Learning and Support Services and Educational Technology. Resources that met the criteria defined by Arizona State standards and The Publisher's Criteria were recommended for 60-Day Review.

The window for the 60-Day Review ran from January 11 through March 24. Survey respondents submitted their preference anonymously. Teachers and

leaders across the district provided thorough feedback that represented their passion and expertise in literacy instruction.

In addition to a teacher survey, community members and families were invited to review and provide feedback on the resources.

The community was notified of the 60-Day Review through press releases, articles in Wrangler News and Ahwatukee Foothills News and social media postings. Communications were provided via site councils, e-blasts, Parent Superintendent Council, parent teacher organizations and school/district events.

During the "Get Ready for Middle School" event, 150 flyers about the adoption and how to provide feedback were distributed. Upon close of the 60-Day Review, responses were collected and analyzed.

The goal of any resource adoption is to provide instructional materials to support the implementation of viable curriculum.

Teachers have expressed the need for comprehensive curriculum to support their instruction.

Audit findings have identified gaps in this area suggesting that the district focus efforts on the development of comprehensive curriculum guides and assessments. The foundation of Kyrene's curriculum will be guides developed through collaboration of teacher teams.

The guides will provide a viable curriculum explicit to direct instruction for all students.

# Diversions...

## Smurf redux

By M.V. Moorhead

The third entry in Sony's Smurf series focuses on Smurfette, the lone female among the tiny blue-skinned residents of Smurf Village.

The first two films in this series, from 2011 and 2013, were both directed by Raja Gosnell and mixed animation with live action. *The Lost Village* is all animated, and eschews any visits to the human world.

The plot concerns the discovery of a previously unknown neighboring Smurf village, called Smurfy Grove.

Smurfette, along with her pals Brainy, Clumsy and the buff Hefty Smurf, go on a quest to warn its inhabitants of a threat from the sinister wizard Gargamel and his familiars, the cat Azreal, who is much more observant than the boss, and the vulture Monty.

Gargamel is hoping, as usual, to rob the Smurfs of their precious smurfy essence in order to increase his magical powers.

In case you've managed to remain unfamiliar with the elfin race created in the late '50s by the Belgian cartoonist Pierre "Peyo" Culliford, the Smurfs (originally "*Les Schtroumpfs*") are named according to their defining characteristic, as in Brainy Smurf, Clumsy Smurf, Nosey Smurf, Paranoid Smurf, etc.

Only Smurfette lacks a signature trait. She has a rather Manichaean backstory, having been created by

Gargamel as an agent against the Smurfs, then won over to the side of light by exposure to their relentless niceness.

But she feels incomplete without her very own adjective.

The movie's acknowledgement of the presumption, longstanding in the narrative traditions of our culture, that Smurfette's gender is sufficient by itself to define her, is potentially interesting.

But nothing much is done with it, beyond acknowledgement, and otherwise this is a pretty by-the-numbers animated kid flick. Presented in 3D, it's watchable enough, but about the most that can be said for it is that it's inoffensive.

Demi Lovato replaces the earlier film's Katy Perry as the voice of Smurfette, while Rainn Wilson does his usual droll work as the voice of Gargamel, replacing the live-action version of Hank Azaria, and Mandy Patinkin replaces the late Jonathan Winters as Papa Smurf.

Residents of the newly discovered village include the likes of Michelle Rodriguez, Ellie Kemper and Meghan Trainor—who also sings a peppy number under the end credits—while the leader is voiced by Julia Roberts.

Strange to think that the Pretty Woman herself is ready for matriarch roles.

*Smurfs: The Lost Village* is rated PG and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion Center 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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# City of Chandler NEWS+ Events

[www.chandleraz.gov/newsroom](http://www.chandleraz.gov/newsroom)

## Valley's land fraud past discussed at Sunset Library

Chandler's Our Stories Speaker Series returns on Saturday, April 29, with a presentation that highlights some of the Valley's most notorious land deals and the role Chandler's founder played in some of those transactions. "Dr. Chandler and the Land Fraud that Built the Valley," will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Sunset Library, located at 4930 W. Ray Road.

Chandler Museum Administrator Jody Crago will talk about how the land that eventually became the Town of Chandler was acquired. "Dr. A.J. Chandler was always looking for his next great business opportunity and he facilitated many business deals," Crago said. "The hard truth is that some of those deals pushed ethical boundaries, including selling land and then reacquiring it when



people couldn't pay their mortgages."

Our Stories is an ongoing series of Chandler and Arizona history presentations by guest speakers sharing stories and first-person accounts that are enhanced with multimedia presentations, demonstrations and music.

The series is free, open to the public and presented by the Chandler Museum, Chandler Public Library, Chandler Historical Society and Friends of the Chandler Public Library.

Wright holds a Master of Public Administration and undergraduate degrees from The University of Arizona and is a past president of the Arizona City/County Management Association. In 2011, he was named Economic Developer of the Year by the Arizona Association for Economic Development. "I couldn't be more excited to join the City of Chandler team and become part of this incredible community," Wright said. "I have long admired Chandler's vision and its clear there is strong leadership within the City Council and on the team City Manager Marsha Reed has assembled. It's an exciting time to be in Chandler and I look forward to helping provide our citizens with outstanding service."

## Sign code changes

Public comment is sought on proposed amendments to Chandler's sign regulations. Chandler businesses and residents can review the proposed amendments at [chandleraz.gov/planning](http://chandleraz.gov/planning), complete an online survey and submit comments. In addition, comments have been gathered through stakeholder meetings with the business community.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct a public hearing to review and hear public comments on the proposed sign code at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, in the City Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago St.

Amendments to the code will be introduced at a public hearing during the Chandler City Council meeting on Thursday, May 11. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago St.

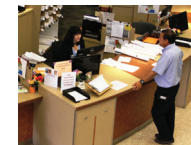
## Assistant City Manager hired



Josh Wright has been selected as the City's new Assistant City Manager effective May 1. He joins the City from the Town of Wickenburg, where he has served as Town Manager since 2011.

He previously held positions of Director of Strategic Initiatives and Assistant to the Town Manager for the Town of Marana, where he oversaw economic development, special events, intergovernmental affairs, strategic planning and communications.

## Electronic Plan Review Program



Applicants for a number of construction related permits can now apply and submit construction documents digitally. The new process enables the City to receive, review and return building and engineering design plans electronically. Customers will need to set up a login and password and first time users of the system are encouraged to call the City to speak with staff that can assist them. For questions, assistance or more information, contact Chandler Development Services at 782-3074.

## EVENTS

### APRIL

- 15 Family Easter Celebration, Snedigar Sportsplex, 782-2669
- 20 Chandler Farmers Market, Downtown Chandler, 855-3539
- 20 Easy Irrigation Troubleshooting & Repair, Chandler TechShop, 782-3580
- 21 Downtown Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-8539
- 22 Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration, Environmental Education Center, 782-2890
- 22 LibCon, Boys & Girls Club Compadre Branch, 782-2800
- 22 America in Times of Conflict: Creating Peace from Conflict, Center for the Arts, 782-2800
- 22 Southwest Cajun Fest, Downtown Stage, 855-3539
- 22 Chandler Track & Field Meet, Chandler High School, 782-2704

- 23 Kansas, 40th Anniversary Leftoverture Tour, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 24 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 27 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 27 Chandler Farmers Market, Downtown Chandler, 855-3539
- 28 City Budget & Capital Improvement Program Briefing, Council Chambers, 782-2250
- 29 Our Stories Speaker Series: Dr. Chandler and the Land Fraud that Built the Valley, Sunset Library, 782-2751

### MAY

- 5 CinePark Movies in the Park – "The Secret Life of Pets," Tumbleweed Park, 782-2669
- 6 Water Safety Awareness Day, Hamilton Aquatic Center, 782-2749
- 6 Our Stories Speaker Series: In Search of a Homeland-The story of a pioneer Chinese woman, Lai Ngan, Downtown Library, 782-2751

- 8 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 11 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 11 Homeschool Days - Hydrology, Environmental Education Center, 782-2890
- 12 CinePark Movies in the Park – "Moana," Tumbleweed Park, 782-2669
- 19 Downtown Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 19 CinePark Movies in the Park – "Sing," Tumbleweed Park, 782-2669
- 22 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 25 Public Hearing on utility rate changes, Council Chambers, 782-2256
- 25 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

For event details, visit [chandleraz.gov](http://chandleraz.gov) or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 782-2735.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny & City Council



# CHANDLER CHAMBER

## Business Education & Advocacy

The Chandler Chamber of Commerce offers many opportunities to sharpen your skills and advocate for your interests. Register for these events at [www.ChandlerChamber.com/calendar](http://www.ChandlerChamber.com/calendar)



### Women in Leadership Luncheon

**Susan Sly**  
*"How to Live a Ridiculously Fulfilling Life"*

Thursday, April 18  
Soho 63  
63 E Boston St  
Chandler, AZ 85225

#### Mentoring— 10:30 am, Keynote—Noon

At one point, Susan Sly was diagnosed with MS, got divorced, lost her business and ended up homeless, living on her brother-in-law's sofa. Susan shares the strategies that helped her climb out of the chaos to achieve the life of her dreams.

Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com](http://ChandlerChamber.com)

### Coffee with the Mayor

**Chandler Mayor**  
**Jay Tibshraeny**



Tuesday, April 25  
8 am to 9 am  
Chandler Chamber  
25 S Arizona Pl, #201  
Chandler, AZ 85225

Meet City of Chandler Mayor, Jay Tibshraeny for a cup of joe and get the scoop on what is happening in Chandler. Learn about new developments taking place, especially Overstreet in downtown Chandler. Find out what that will look like and what businesses will be going into that space.

Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com](http://ChandlerChamber.com)



### Ask an Expert

**Park Howell**  
*"Story Marketing—How to Craft & Tell Compelling Stories that Sell"*

Tuesday, April 25  
Noon to 1 pm  
Chandler Chamber  
25 S Arizona Pl, #201,  
Chandler, AZ 85225

Park Howell, the master storyteller guides you through this interactive workshop that will teach you to rise above the noise of the "Attention Economy," clarify your brand to stand out from the crowd and how to use Park's proven Story Cycle System.

Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com](http://ChandlerChamber.com)

25 S Arizona Place, #201, Chandler, Arizona 85225

### Economic Update Luncheon with Astronaut Ron Grabe



Wednesday, April 26  
11:30 am to 1 pm  
Chandler Hilton  
2929 W Frye Rd  
Chandler, AZ 85224

Join us for these dynamic keynote speakers: NASA Astronaut Ron Grabe, ASU Astronomy & Planetary Science Professor, Jim Bell talking about ASU's partnership with NASA, from GPEC, Amanda Straight and from the City of Chandler Economic Development Director, Micah Miranda with the latest on Chandler's newest projects.

Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com](http://ChandlerChamber.com)

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# BUSINESS ADVOCATE

For Wrangler News

## Flame Broiler Aims to Bring Healthy, Affordable Food to Tempe

By Chris Samuels, Tempe Chamber



A couple from California looking to bring something innovative to Tempe and the Valley of the Sun: healthy food at a low cost.

On the eve of opening their first location in the Valley, Kevin and Julie Manquen sat down with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce to unveil the Flame Broiler, the newest members of the Chamber.

The Flame Broiler started in California in 1995, when the founder Young Lee opened a restaurant that served healthy fast food alternatives, according to the chain's website. Lee started work as a travelling businessman and became tired of eating greasy fast food, the only food available on the road that was affordable.

"[Lee's] goal was to have a healthy option for people to eat," Julie Manquen said. "He really believes that this food is the perfect meal to have. It's got all everything packed into one little bowl."

Since then, the chain has expanded and exploded all over California, with over 175 locations in the state.

That saturation motivated the Manquens to move their business to Arizona. Having already owned one Flame Broiler franchise, they looked for a state that was more business friendly and wasn't already exposed to the restaurant. They settled on Tempe and celebrated their grand opening Wednesday on Priest and Warner, while starting to build their second location on Broadway and 55th St.

The couple was excited to bring the business philosophy of Lee to Arizona as we toured their new location prior to the Chamber's ribbon cutting.

"I think it's always easier to find food that's less healthy and cheaper," Julie said. "I think there are options out there that are a little more expensive for healthy food and I think that's nice about what we've found, really watching the quality but trying

to keep our prices reasonable for our customers."

The menu stays simple. Customers get a bowl or plate that starts with rice, then comes with a choice of beef, chicken, or tofu. Steamed vegetables then go on top. Customers can also choose between their "magic" sauce or three levels of hot sauce.

The main challenge of the restaurant is providing the nutritional benefit at a low price. In the food industry, cheap fast food is generally not healthy and healthy food is generally not cheap.

To change the paradigm, Flame Broiler seeks to keep operating costs down by keeping a strict top-down supply chain that is bought in bulk for every restaurant. The same chicken or beef that is used in California is bought here to assure quality and consistency. Every part of the operation is specially designed by the founder, Young Lee, to keep his commitment to his customer's health.

Even the custom-made grill. Seriously.

"Operationally, the grill that we use is specially made, manufactured and designed for Flame Broiler," explains Kevin Manquen. "It's a different type of grill so you can get a good char on the meat, it gives us the flavor that we're looking for." The mission of Flame Broiler is bringing a healthy alternative to fast food, and it appears the Manquens are well on their way to introducing that to Tempe.

## World's Largest Antenna Manufacturers Open Plant in Tempe



The Chamber celebrated the opening of Galtronics' new research and development facility in Tempe. Galtronics, an antenna manufacturer, doubled the floor space from their former facility, and will look to double the employees that work there, up to 30 positions.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

**Hot Topics and Lunch: A Conversation with Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery**

Thursday, April 20,  
11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Bill Montgomery will share his insights on critical legal issues in our state and county at this informative special edition of Hot Topics and Lunch.

The Graduate Hotel  
225 E Apache Blvd,  
Tempe



**Networking Development Mixer: Business Before Hours**

Tuesday, April 18,  
7:30 — 8:30 a.m.

The Chamber's monthly Mixer is open to the public and provides an informal atmosphere for business people to meet and network with fellow members of the business community.

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**2001 Mustang GT convertible**—Absolutely fantastic car, way too many features to list. New Pirelli tires and wheels, custom exhaust, top of line Kenwood touchscreen with satellite, Bluetooth, etc., new top, frigid AC. You will love this fantastic muscle car. \$6500 obo. 480-694-4141  
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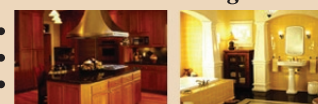
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**Community Relations Director:** Ron Walters

**Contributors:** Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead

Diana Whittle, Deborah Hilcove, Kody Acevedo

**Offices:** 2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 102,  
Tempe, AZ 85284-3497

(480) 966-0845

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# Corona percussionists SOUND OFF



**No. 1 in the nation:** Whether you're a Fortune 500 company or the percussion class in the local high school, the recognition is no less impressive.

It was that latter acknowledgement, of course, that caused the students at Corona del Sol High School to be showered with a deserved amount of praise, not only in their home town but from assorted drummer, cymbalist and xylophonist well-wishers around the country.

Less than a week after Corona's young percussionists won the Winter Guard International Percussion West Power Regional Championship in San Bernardino, Calif., the same kids took a championship spot in the Percussion Scholastic Concert division at the Winter Guard Arizona state finals—and learned they'd been elevated to the No. 1 spot in the nation.

The state competition was held April 1 at Desert Ridge High School, with Corona receiving the highest score, 93.05, of any of the competing groups. They had also received the highest score, 91.5, at the regional championship March 26. Since then, a series of other regional competitions have wrapped up, and with all the scores tallied, Corona finished with the best score in the country.

At the WGAZ competition, CdS senior Olivia Jackman, far left, won a scholarship for outstanding percussion member, said to have been the highest scholarship awarded for the evening.

The students are led by Corona's Director of Percussion Scott Werner, photo at left.

**Wrangler News photo feature by Robert Garcia**



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**Staycation Living**



Single level gem in South Tempe. Flagstone entry with professional front landscape. Amazing oversized private lot with sport court, pool, gazebo and gas fire pit. Two RV gates, mature trees and storage. Island kitchen w/ NEW stainless steel appliances, granite and cherry cabinetry. Spacious secondary bedrooms. Huge laundry room with sink and refrigerator. Updated baths. Split 4th bedroom is a 17x22' flex space or mother-in-law suite with walk-in closet and separate french door entrance. Pella windows and doors NEW 2017 Roof, NO HOA!

**Tempe - No HOA**

Charming 5 bed, 3.5 bath property located on a corner lot! This beautiful family home features grassy/gravel front landscaping, 2 car garage, Cozy fireplace, den, formal living-dining room, Designer paint. Lovely open kitchen offers matching appliances, ample cabinets and counter space, breakfast bar. The expansive backyard has an extended covered patio, a refreshing fenced pool, and paved seating area. Huge Lot! Great Location close to everything in Tempe!



**ASU Bound?**



Beautiful 5 Bd/2 Bath open floor plan, large eat-in kitchen with dedicated work space, solid surface counters, s/s fridge and gas range, private master retreat with large walk-in closet and brand new bath with claw foot soaking tub. Living Room, Family room, New carpeting, Freshly painted interior, washer and dryer INCLUDED! Perfect location for students under 2 mile bike, bus ride, or walk to ASU.

**Semi-Custom Stunner**

Extraordinary 3478 square foot home with soaring ceilings and a retreat-like feel is nestled in a private cul-del sac. The home has newly refinished solid oak flooring in the main rooms that compliment the high ceilings with wood beams. New carpet in the bedrooms, fresh paint, dual pane windows and an impeccable pride of ownership. Mature landscaping, pool, spa, fruit trees, and an extended covered patio. Built-in BBQ and shaded grass area are perfect for entertaining. Tons of Storage 4 Beds 2.5 Baths NO HOA!



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