# Wrangler KEVS

Think Local. Read Local.

May 6-19, 2017 • Volume 28, No.9

## What's Inside



far off, Friendship Village resident and World War II veteran John Bestall shared his life story, along with his passion for bronze sculpture, with Wrangler News Jonathan Coronel. Page 13

His 100th year not



Summer is upon us, a reminder that Kyrene kids and their neighbors citywide soon will be lining up for another season of wet, cool fun at the Valley's own Hall of Flame. Story and more photos on Page 24.



## **Revisiting Oktoberfest**

By Joyce Coronel

It might have been hard to do, but planners of last year's Tempe Oktoberfest were quick to admit their miscalculation: bringing in professionals to stage the popular downtown fest was akin to New Coke's marketing fiasco.

For decades, Tempe Sister Cities has promoted cross-cultural friendships and learning through its involvement in an internationally acclaimed student-exchange program. Teens from Tempe high schools spend five weeks in such farflung places as Timbuktu, Mali; Cuenca, Ecuador; and Regensburg,

#### It comes as no surprise that teenagers are in the high-risk category for accidents related

to the use of alcohol. Brad Breckow, Tempe PD's resource officer at Corona del Sol High School, has seen first hand the tragedy that result from teenagers driving while intoxicated. So have Nancy and Mark Clay, whose son Kale died as the result of a crash involving a drunken driver while serving with the U.S. Army at age 23. That was why Breckow and the Clays were early to among the first to sign up as speakers at a mock-crash assembly at Corona. The event drew a crowd of kids and an impressive turnout of first responders, all with the same mission in mind: To show close up the horror that results from drinking while driving. Said one student: 'I don't get very emotional, but (Mrs. Clay's) story really got to me.'





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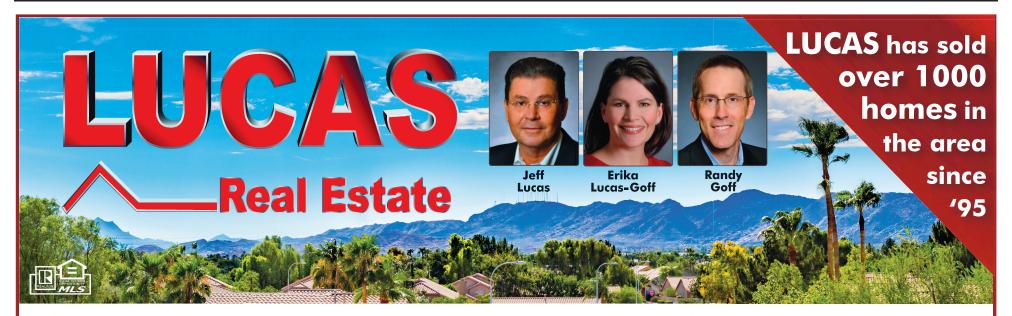
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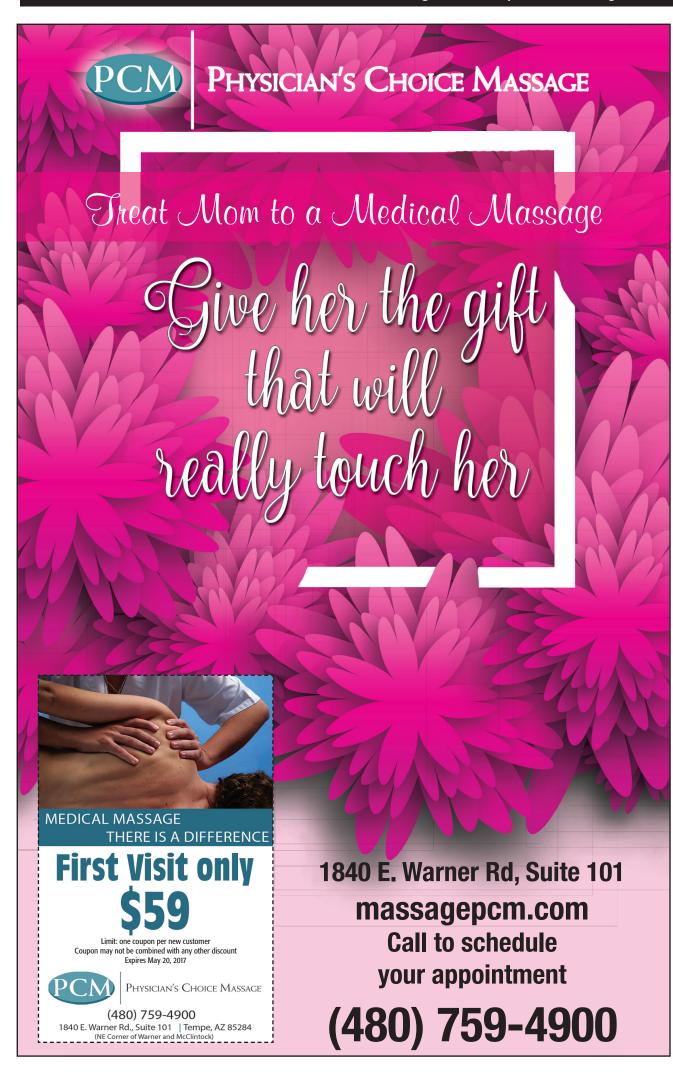


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Update . . .

## A longtime Wrangler friend moves on

The live in a constantly changing world: it's what keeps life interesting, right? Our lives were indeed made more "interesting" a couple of weeks ago when our publisher and longtime ally Tracy Doren was offered a sales position at the Scottsdale Chamber, an offer she truly couldn't pass up.

Tracy has an enviable history of making friends for whomever she's working for, so this new assignment is simply more evidence of her viability as a sales professional. We know she'll do well, and of course we wish her success.

Happily, Tracy will continue to be available when needed to help us ease the transition toward the person who steps into the job next.

Although we haven't yet made that selection—we want to be sure we enlist someone as energetic, and as capable, as Tracy—we've managed to absorb Tracy's responsibilities into our day-to-day routine quite nicely.

This thanks to Joyce Coronel and Ron Walters, two of the mainstays of our staff whose dedication has really proven itself during this interim rollover of duties.

To both of them, I extend my sincere appreciation, with the added note that it's the rare folks like this who have made it possible for us to remain a viable business for nearly three decades, and with each similar transition to be able to explore new ways of connecting with our readers and our community.

That's what has happened before when key people moved on, and what seems to be emerging now as we fortify our team with a spirit of collaboration and mutual support.

Not to say, of course, that there haven't been a couple of minor bumps along the way, but this issue of Wrangler News suggests we're on the road to accomplishing some innovative ideas that we hope will add to your enjoyment of our publication and motivate you to become more involved in its production.

Having said that, I encourage any of you who'd like to connect more directly with our little hometown enterprise to use this opportunity to get in touch with us, to tell us what you'd like to do for and with us, to help us reach the next step in what I have pledged to keep an ongoing, familiar part of our lives and our community.

I've always believed that newspapers like ours are vital to the sense of neighborhood that likely would be lost if we weren't here.

If you agree, and there are ideas you'd like to share or ways you'd like to be involved, either directly or indirectly, please send me an email (don. kirkland@wranglernews.com).

I'll be delighted to hear from you and of course keep an open ear, and mind, for any ideas about how we can do our job even better.

- Don Kirkland, founder & president



Demolition and construction have been underway at Tempe's Gethsemane Lutheran Church and School, presumably due in part to Valley Christian's expansion. — Wrangler News photo

## Valley Christian foresees enrollment of 600 for new Tempe junior high

Talley Christian has announced plans to expand to include grades 6-8, opening the new junior high school on the newly renovated campus of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Tempe.

The new school will open for the 2018-19.

According to Bryan Winfrey, spokesman for Valley Christian, the school already has begun a national search for a principal.

The school will utilize the upcoming year to upgrade classrooms and make necessary preparations for the 2018-19 school year, according to Winfrey.

The junior high will include a 1:1 technology program for all grades, a full athletics program, fine arts program, and STEM offerings.

Said Valley Christian Administrator Dan Kuiper:

'We've seen continued growth and exceptional demand for a Valley Christian education over the last five years, in large part due to the value added to our academic and extracurricular programs.

"We believe a family should not have to sacrifice any aspect of their child's education in order to attend a Christian school, so we have invested heavily in our faculty, in technology, and in creating high level opportunities for our students to succeed in and out of the classroom.

'We believe we can create this same value for students in junior high and better prepare them for high

school and college by offering our big school opportunities in a small school environment."

The school's Tempe campus will feature an academic building, multiuse facility, gymnasium and worship center. The two Valley Christian campuses will be located six miles from each other.

Valley Christian is one of the fastest growing Christian high schools in the nation over the last five years, Winfrey

The high school in Chandler is reported to be near capacity, with 420 students enrolled for the 2017-18 school year.

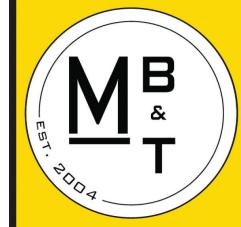
Valley Christian was established in 1982 and is ranked as one of the Top 50 Christian high schools in the U.S. by The Best Schools.

The school ranks highly due to academic performance, well-rounded opportunities for students, and faith based integration. Over the past three years, 97% of students have gone to college and 95% have been accepted into the school of their first choice.

Students enroll in the high school from more than 50 different public, charter and private schools across the Valley, representing over 90 churches.

School officials have announced plans to add a multi-story academic building within the next few years which will increase capacity to 600 students.

Families can learn more about the new junior high at vchsaz.org/jrhigh.



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## A Mother's Day tribute

# 'Super Mom' humble helper to kids, staff at Wood Elementary



Megan Hardesty, who volunteers frequently at Wood School in Tempe where her two children, Keeley and Liam attend, poses in front of a bulletin board she decorated just before departing for a school field trip. — Wrangler News photo

By Deborah Hilcove

egan Hardesty is a super mom. That's the unprompted and indeed unbridled view of Brittany Barnes, a third-grade teacher at Wood Elementary in Tempe.

And with Mothers Day just around the corner, what better time to plant the "Super Mom" label on someone who really deserves it.

Says Barnes:

"Megan was a parent in my classroom last year and I have never been so lucky to have such a strong parent influence our school."

The women have another connection, too. Last year the Parent Teacher Staff Association was cut, due to low interest and participation. However, Barnes contacted Hardesty and recalls what happened next:

"She helped ignite our PTSA this year. She has been working hard to make sure we have fun events for our students and that our staff feels appreciated. She does a lot of the idea-crafting, set up and contacting for our PTSA."

Hardesty smiles shyly at the praise and quickly deflects it, saying, "It's fun. Anything I can do for my kids to make their lives better, I'll do. And I have a great support system. Brittany Barnes and PTSA help. I think if I'm excited about school, my kids'll be excited. They're proud of me, and that makes me happy."

She sets aside her daily planner, pulls out her phone, tucks a strand of her long, reddish-brown hair behind an ear, and with trendy blue-manicured nails, scrolls through the phone's contents to find a picture.

"Here. This was the 'Trunk or Treat' event. Parents decorated the trunks of their cars and kids went around for treats and candy. My kids like Harry Potter in J.K. Rowlings' books, so we decorated the trunk to look like the Great Hall in Hogwarts School. We had the enchanted night-sky ceiling with hanging candles and a big spider. We made a copy of the magical sorting hat for the top of the car.

"In the story, the magic wands 'sort themselves,' and choose an owner. So we had a bag of 'magic wands' and the

## Mom

From preceding page

kids reached in for the one that fit."

The school web page features a letter from Principal Marilyn E. Jackson, where she states the motto and vision of the school is for students to be "Leaders of the PACK," (acronym for Positively Acquiring Continuous Knowledge).

After-school programs extend that vision with such opportunities as the Nerd Herd 2.0 Lego Robotics Club, sponsored by Barnes.

Hardesty's daughter, Keeley McGinley, belongs to Nerd Herd, and when the group needed to dress for the competition, Hardesty bought neon green T-shirts and stenciled each one with the team logo. She helped build team spirit and individual student confidence in other ways, too. As Barnes notes, "She helped students practice their research presentations and spent countless hours helping at practices."

One of Hardesty's favorite events was the recent "Glow Bright" Dance. She smiles a lot and is animated as she describes the first dance for kindergartners through fifthgraders. "I wanted it to be kid-friendly, with kids' bop and Disney music."

She flips through pictures on her phone again and shows her son, Liam McGinley, a first-grader. "Even the little ones danced, line dances like the 'Cupid Shuffle.' We had refreshments, of course, and glow sticks—and starshaped sticky notes for the kids. They wrote what makes them 'shine bright,' something that gives them self-pride, and we posted their stars on the wall."

Fundraising at Wood tends to be limited, Barnes notes, with events like a skating party specifically funding PTSA projects and events. Income from the three annual book fairs is earmarked for new library books.

Other initiatives are needed as well to help supplement declining funds, notes Barnes

She suggests that a working parent or grandparent might be able to help from home. "Our teachers have things to cut out," says Barnes. "Lamination and project materials could easily be cut out from home (that's where we do it). But honestly, just reading with your child for 20 minutes a day creates a big impact that helps us significantly in the classroom."

And if someone is able to help at a school, volunteer forms are available on the Tempe District website, (www.tempeschools.org). In the interest of child safety, most volunteers need to be fingerprinted and sometimes a TB screening may be required.

However, Barnes continues, "at any given school, you will see that we have areas of need around the campus. Our librarian always needs support, shelving books and repairing damaged materials. Our music teachers could always use a hand with organizing and cleaning their many musical instruments. Our PE has equipment that always needs organization, inventory checking or even simple air inflation. Our Robotics Club always could use help during their fall season with their competition research and skit practice. We've been trying to sustain a school garden, but we need support with planting, upkeep and harvest. Wood School could use your help."

Tempe students begin their summer vacation May 19. However, Hardesty—who works part time for a billing company—isn't putting away her planning notebook yet.

Her immediate project is 'Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week." Then there are three field trips to chaperone, followed by a field day fundraiser. And before everyone says goodbye for the summer, there will be an 'Aloha Dance.' Hardesty flashes her ever-present smile. "It's fun. It's fun to be with kids."



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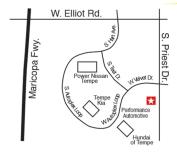
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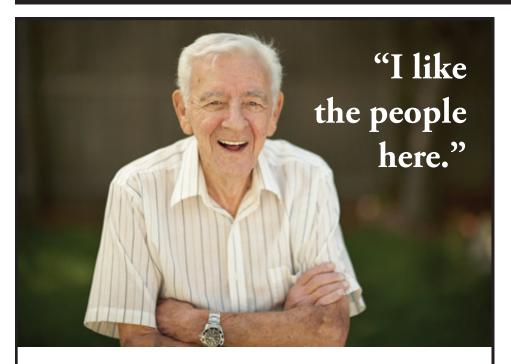
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# Tempe's LED overhead lights bring a bright new view to city streets





uring the last few years, LED lighting has been popping up on store shelves everywhere; now, in case you hadn't noticed, it's bringing a bright new look to your neighborhood as well.

Tempe crews are systematically making their way through local streets, working toward installation of new pole-mounted lights during a 4-year program designed to replace the old-style sodium and mercury-vapor bulbs that were installed years ago.

Isaac Chavira, the city's transportation maintenance manager, says the process is moving on schedule, with about a quarter of the 4,000 bulbs already installed.

For many reasons, according to Chavira, switching to LEDs was definitely a bright idea.

While the previous mercury-vapor and high-pressure sodium bulbs had a limited lifespan, the new LEDs can last as long as 100,000 hours or, if you do the math, 15 to 20 years.

Although the city originally began studying new lighting technology in 2008 as a way to increase both staff and energy efficiency, the LED concept was then still in the development stages. Additionally, many so far unproven distributors had jumped on the LED bandwagon, and the U.S. Department of Energy was watching cautiously as municipalities worked to find the best type of bulb available for their specific needs.

Particularly in the Valley, planners wanted to be sure that any lights selected would be able to withstand

the summer's heat so that each bulb's lifespan wouldn't be affected by extreme ambient temperatures. Technology now built into the system enables heat buildup to be more evenly dissipated, thus reducing the likelihood of early failure, according to Chavira.

As to how Tempe residents are reacting to the newfound brightness in their neighborhood, Chavira says, of the nearly 1,000 bulbs installed so far, only a couple have asked that baffles be installed to limit the amount of light coming into their yards from light poles installed on streets in front of or near those homes.

For others who may find the new neighborhood brilliance a bit more intense than they'd like, city crews will happily put covers in place, said Chavira, provided of course they don't interfere with the installation's main function: ensuring that the street is adequately lighted.

What to expect if your neighborhood hasn't yet been visited by the installation crew: A crisper, brighter light compared to the yellow cast of traditional sodium lights, providing greater visibility for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.

Finally, Chavira noted, the new lights are compliant with guidelines of the International Dark Sky Association because they direct light downward, eliminating most of the uplight. They have about half the wattage of the existing lights and produce less reflective glare, he added.

-Don Kirkland

## Stories Worth Telling Stan Morris

Editor's note: As part of our desire to profile some of our community's unsung heroes, we've launched a series, "Stories Worth Telling," in which we invite our readers to suggest people with compelling narratives about their lives, their achievements, their most worthwhile experiences.

This issue's column profiles Stan Morris, president of the Tempe Diablos and president of Peoples Mortgage Co. His company, with 150 employees, is planning a move to ASU Research Park.

Tell us about your history in Tempe and/or Chandler. Did you attend schools/colleges here? If so,which ones?

I'm a native to Arizona, but moved to the city of Tempe in 1969 to become a Sun Devil. After three years I earned a BS in Finance, established friendships and had grown roots!

What were your interests as a young person? Do you think you were always destined to do what you're doing now, or did your ultimate career choice become evident through other circumstances?

My career path was driven through circumstance. With a BS in Finance, I met with career services at ASU and was offered a few job opportunities out of state. I knew I wanted to stay in this community, so I interviewed with a local company in his field of study and fell into the Mortgage Business.

Did you have strong role models as a young person? If so, who were they and what did you learn from them?

I have grown lifelong friendships from my ties and commitments to the Tempe community. A member of the Tempe Diablos, when I go missing at the office, I can be found emceeing events, coordinating volunteers, sometimes plotting shenanigans, but always helping to plan the next event raising funds for Tempe Charities. I am so prideful of the time I spend with this organization giving back. "When you see what it does...it makes all the difference"

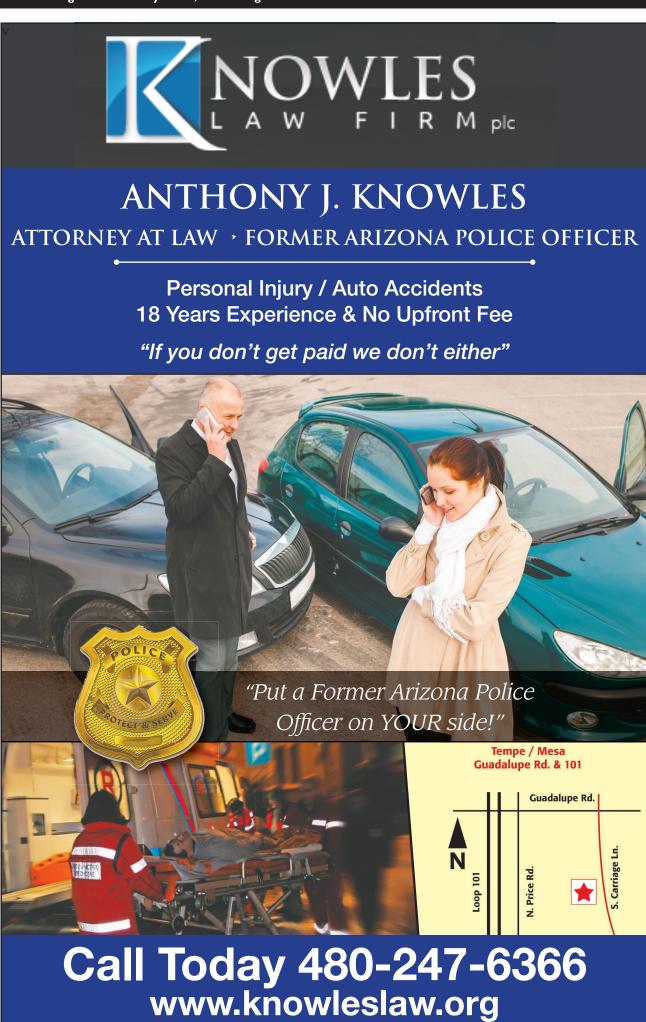
What would you tell a young person considering a career in your field?

Be prepared to work a lot of hours and spend a lot of time learning.

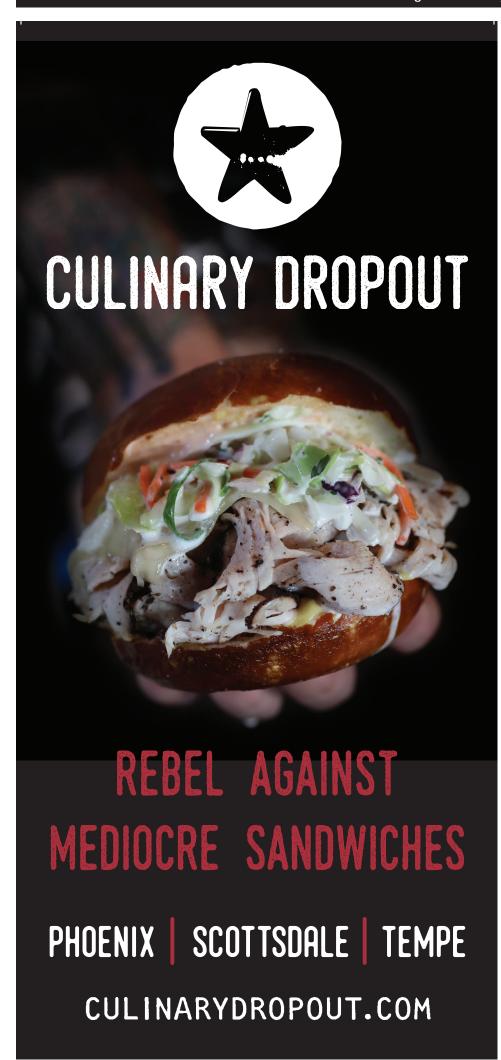
Be passionate about the business and passionate about the people you are helping...and even more passionate about your employees. Make sure they are taken care of!

What advice would you offer someone as to how to achieve success in the complex world of today?

In two words, be passionate. Work hard, learn your trade and be passionate about helping the people around you.



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Seth Giles with a tray of P.Croissant's signature baked delicacies.

— Wrangler News photo

# Popular Tempe bakery offers francophiles camaraderie plus a tasty 'French Connection'

By Ron Walters

Por more than 10 years, a few people who have one thing in common have been meeting at the closest thing to a Parisian sidewalk café that Tempe has to offer—P. Croissant.

All, it seems, want to practice their French language skills.

This club of French-speaking devotees has been coming together every Friday since 2007 at the French bakery, and each member brings his or her own reason for participating.

Stanley E. Rocklin, Ph.D, one of the founding members, learned to speak French because he insisted on understanding the secret code that his mother and her friend spoke in their home when he was just four years old.

He figured if his heroes, The Lone

Ranger and Tex Ritter, could crack the code, so could he. More than seven decades later he is still helping people at all levels decipher the language.

In 2007 Rocklin and Guy LaRoche started meeting on a regular basis with just a small group of people who wanted to become conversational in the language of love—and have been together ever since. There are no membership fees, rules or formal commitment, just a shared desire to want to converse with others. You don't have to be a fluent speaker; you just have a desire to learn and have fun.

Says Bethany Lambrecht, a retired high school French instructor:

"The club feeds your soul." As a teacher she likes to think she was instructing more than a language, she was teaching world peace. Her view of

language, she says, is that it's a bridge to understanding other cultures and, ultimately, helping to make the world a smaller and a happier place.

Another longtime member, Janet Laing, says the French phase "Tres GenTil" is the best way to describe the group. Its meaning: to experience the feel of the group, which she described as welcoming and friendly, which she says has been her experience when visiting France.

Lynne Avril, a Tempe resident and artist/illustrator who has been going to meetings for more than four years, says she makes regular visits to France, and much of her art is inspired by those visits. Avril is a minor celebrity at the group, having the distinction of illustrating over 50 books in the children's series Amelia Bedelia.

At a recent 10-year anniversary, Seth Giles, P. Croissant's owner, provided the group with a cake and a Parisienne-style welcome, which is repeated at 10 a.m. every Friday.

The only membership requirement is a love of the French language and of French culture.

Not difficult, since the atmosphere is strongly reminiscent of a Parisian sidewalk café.

One of the benefits of attending is trying to decipher the codes on each different croissant. Giles will gladly share his croissant code with any who ask. There's no agenda, no topics-just a casual group that welcomes new

Of the drop-ins who come for occasional meetings, Giles says the staff loves to see them.

"It's great for business," he says— "and it's heartwarming to see long lasting friendships develop over coffee and a croissant.'

P. Croissant is located on the northwest corner of Eliot and Warner roads in Tempe (in the same plaza as Dairy Queen).

#### Hey, teens: Got hangups? Actually, under new law, that's a good thing

Starting July 1, 2018, teens in Tempe and West Chandler had best keep their hands on the wheel and their minds on their driving-not on their cellphone.

Gov. Doug Ducey signed a bill dealing with the matter on April 26, taking a historic step toward concluding a decade-long effort to help reduce distracted driving by teenagers in Arizona.

With the new law, Arizona teen drivers will be prohibited from using wireless communication

devices, such as a cell phone, while operating a vehicle during the permit period and throughout the first six months of restrictions imposed via the Graduated Driver License Law, except for in emergency situations.

Teen drivers have the highest crash rate of any other age group in the United States, according to studies.

They are also among the most avid users of wireless communication devices.

According to one report, more than half of teen drivers report using a cell phone while driving, a dangerous behavior for both the driver and everyone they share the road with.

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## Oktoberfest

From Page I

Germany, as well as others across the globe.

A big part of the funding for the world-spanning goodwill mission comes from the Oktoberfest events held the second weekend in October each year at Tempe Town Lake.

The three-day outdoor festival is a colorful affair that draws some 200,000 people from across the Valley.

Hundreds of volunteers work together to pull it off with many of them pitching in year after year.

In 2016, however, the Oktoberfest board made a tough call:

With such enormous crowds, it

seemed like the right time to bring in an outside professional events company to run the show.

Along with the change came a decision to charge a \$10 entrance fee, something that hadn't been done since the first Oktoberfest was held 45 years ago.

Wil Sahane, head of the oversight committee on behalf of the Oktoberfest board, and Larry West, the longtime event chair, acknowledged that the changes were not well-received.

"You can't go from free forever to charging \$10 for an entry fee," Sahane said.

"There were too many changes too soon." Attendance at the 2016 Oktoberfest dropped, and rather than raising funds, the event lost money.

"Until you try, you don't know,"

Sahane said. The decision wasn't made overnight—it was something planners thought about for years."

"We're going back to a free event and we're bringing back all the volunteers," Sahane said.

"The people who really know how to run the event are the people who have been doing it for years and years."

Remember the New-Coke-versus-Classic-Coke flub? It was sort of like that, both West and Sahane agreed.

"We're moving on," Sahane said.

"We are going back to our roots. To have an event this large run by volunteers is something to be admired."

The Tempe Sister Cities organization is stronger than ever, he said. His own son and daughter participated in the program, so he's invested in seeing it continue to flourish.

The Oktoberfest organization is "extremely appreciative of its volunteers...and they're coming back in droves," Sahane said.

"The passion and commitment of the people is unbelievable. I marvel at it "

The massive, three-day festival takes the better part of a year to plan, West said.

"A big part of our volunteers are businesses that bring in their volunteers," West said. The all-out effort of some 600-800 volunteers who work four-hour shifts ensures that the event runs smoothly.

The goal of the festival is to raise about \$150,000 to send 32-34 students overseas and also welcome foreign students to Tempe. Until last year, there was "no problem surpassing that goal," West said.

Still, the upcoming student trips are fully funded, Sahane said. "We are going full-bore with the plans that were set a year ago."

Sahane and West underscored that Oktoberfest 2017 will represent a return to the previous blend of local entertainment and multiple points of interest across three stages.

"It's a great event and a great cause," Sahane said.

"We need all of Tempe supporting this. Come over and have some fun."





## Sculptures embody beauty . . . and centenarian's life

By Jonathan Coronel

Then carving out one's path in life, adversity often has a way of throwing a wrench in the best laid plans. Local centenarian John Bestall is certainly no stranger to adversity.

Growing up in Downey, Calif., the son of two Irish immigrant parents, Bestall learned the example of hard work from his parents. During World War II, because she was fluent in five languages, Bestall's mother applied for and was hired on the spot for an assistant position to a colonel in the Army, who was able to pull some strings and help his parents gain citizenship.

Meanwhile, Bestall, already married, began serving at Barbers Point Naval Air Station in Kapolei, Hawaii.

While serving there, Bestall became a metalsmith 1st class as a result of his skill at repairing planes that had been damaged by the enemy.

"There wasn't anything on an airplane that I couldn't fix—I was valuable to them and it was a good deal for me since I learned so much," Bestall says.

Tragedy struck one day while

working on the base, however, when a Japanese bomb exploded and left Bestall completely deaf. Luckily, thanks to his skill with his hands, Bestall would return to California and find work as an industrial arts teacher at a public high school.

He wouldn't catch any easy breaks, though, being assigned as a teacher at a high school notorious for its troublemaker students.

Bestall quickly proved his mettle and laid down the law.

"Some of these students did not

like me telling them what to do. One student was a lightweight boxer and brought two sets of boxing gloves to class one day, so we fought. He didn't cover up so I shot a left jab and caught him in his right eye—turned the right



WWII vet, now a resident of Friendship Village, expresses his love of life with bronze sculptures.

side of his face black," said Bestall.

It was a pretty good advertisement in case anyone else wanted to cross me!" he says laughingly.

As an industrial arts teacher, and later professor at the College of San Mateo, Bestall loved to create sculptures. Making casts to precise specifications, he would take them to the local foundry, where they were cast in bronze.

Today, every one of Bestall's sculptures starts with pen and paper, where he meticulously plans his project to make sure it

comes out just right. His precision and skill are evident in his favorite piece, a charming bronze sculpture, titled *Pulqueria* after the infamously rough and tumble saloons of the same name found in Mexico, that sits at the

entrance to his room.

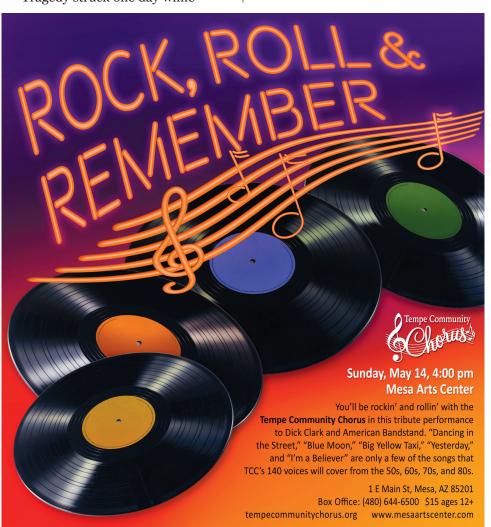
"The pulqueria is not a very nice place; it has a corrugated iron roof and an earthen floor. I named it that because I remember walking down the street knowing I shouldn't go in there."

Bestall's next sculpture, one he plans to give his granddaughter, will presumably be something totally different. "I'm 100 years old. I'm aware my age isn't going to get any easier, so it'd be a nice thing to do for her," Bestall says.

What shines through in our conversation with Bestall is his sunny disposition. Despite losing his hearing, and more recently his beloved wife, Bestall takes things in stride.

"You are who you are, so make the best of it—that's it. One reason I could be so free and easy about it was that I had skills to fall back on, like being a metalsmith, working on shotup planes. I knew no matter what the problem was, I could fix it."

Indeed, Bestall has sculpted his life with the same dedication that he does his artwork, and the result has been a masterpiece greater than any made from mere bronze.





# 20 years of excellence are cause for celebration

By Diana Whittle

Stacey Cochran gazes unfalteringly on the promising future that lies ahead for her Tempe-based charter school. But she doesn't lose sight of the past, either, recognizing that the school's history is what has propelled it to today's educational stature.

Center for Educational Excellence is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The school reached this milestone by remaining true to the vision of Cochran, its owner and founder, who says she believes in delivering personalized attention to meet the educational needs of each of the school's 380 students.

"CEE offers an exceptional, accelerated curriculum as well as other life-enriching opportunities to create a more complete learning experience," said Cochran. "We are recognized by the Arizona Department of Education as A-rated and achieved "Excelling" status for the past eight years.

According to the AZ DOE, an "Excelling" status is the highest distinction a school can earn and is only given to those meet or exceed the state's stringent academic requirements.

Primarily due to Cochran's personal

passion for educating youth and her highenergy enthusiasm for offering a wellrounded curriculum, CEE is known locally as a unique school, which teaches kids from all parts of the East Valley, including her own three children, who are now grown, and her nine grandchildren.

"When I started in 1983, we were just a pre-school; and then, in 1987, CEE grew to become kindergarten through third grade," said Cochran.

"One of my earliest supporters was Sen. John Huppenthal, whose children attended my school. He let me know about the start of vouchers in Arizona and so I applied to become a charter school."

Now, CEE serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade and with the help of vouchers, doesn't charge tuition like private schools.

Cochran says families whose children attend her school like the small size of the classrooms, which average between 18-24 students.

"My teachers are certified, high quality, and paid at the same rate as the public schools; but, unlike district schools, I provide them with all the supplies they need so they don't have to pay for their



classroom materials out of their own pockets," said Cochran.

Students are encouraged to become life-long learners and are given the chance to choose from many different extracurricular activities, enrichment programs and field trips to round out their charter school experience.

Cochran says that CEE graduates have gone onto both private high schools like Brophy or Xavier, as well as Corona and Marcos de Niza in the Tempe Union High School District.

"We have many students from CEE who

have gone onto college, both in-state to ASU, NAU or out-of-state," said Cochran, who attended University of Arizona on a gymnastics scholarship.

Cochran remains as involved in the school as the day she started the venture. She still interviews all the teachers who are hired and usually is on-hand to greet the students as they arrive for classes in the morning.

This personal approach to education is one of the main reasons that Kim O'Nan and her husband chose to send all five of their children to CEE, even though the



# PUCKER UP!



family lives in Gilbert.

"To me it's worth the drive to have my kids attend a school that we have been so happy with," said O'Nan.

"For us the school environment is like family because we know all the staff, teachers and the other families whose kids attend. In addition to volunteering for the school, O'Nan also serves as a substitute teacher.

"We have really been pleased with the way the school is managed and maintained," said O'Nan.

"If problems or concerns do come up, Stacey is quick to solve them. She knows each kid's name and greets them when she sees them.

"My oldest son is 26 and he started kindergarten at CEE and attended the school all the way through the eighth grade. My youngest children, now ages 8 and 10, are still there."

As a celebration of the school's 20th year of operation, Cochran hosted CEE families to a special event at the Rawhide Western Town and Event Center.

"We love the many family-oriented activities planned for after school-hours, the excellent extra- curricular offerings and particularly the drama and choir program," said O'Nan.

"Whenever I know people are looking for a school I guide them to CEE," said O'Nan. I think I have referred between eight to 10 families there because it offers the benefits of a private school without the cost."

The school is at 1700 E. Elliott Road, Tempe. Information: www.ceeschool.com/

## Summit offers summer academy

Smart Minds Summer Academy for gifted and talented children will be offered near Tempe this year on the campus of Summit School of Ahwatukee.

The program is designed to provide gifted, talented or highly motivated students entering second through seventh grades a chance to engage in what school officials describe as captivating and academically challenging opportunities in the company of peers who share the same enhanced abilities and love of learning.

Families can choose the morning program (9 a.m. to noon) or an all-day program (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) that includes courses in geometry, magic of science, public speaking and debate,

engineering in action, mastering Jeopardy and chess strategies.

The program's priority is to create a passion for learning by engaging the students in hands-on, creative, and investigative projects in each and every course offered.

Smart Minds has become one the most popular and favorite educational camps in the United States, and is frequently invited to present the program to the best international schools in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

Two identical 3-week sessions are available this summer, with one at Summit School of Ahwatukee, another in Scottsdale. Information: azsmartminds.com or 480-773-7455.

## Water project to create delays

Replacement of aging water infrastructure in the Brentwood Manor and Tempe Royal Palms neighborhoods is due to get underway this summer, with plans to ensure reliable water service for decades to come.

The project began May 1, starting at a time when Tempe typically experiences a 20- to 30-percent reduction in traffic.

Upon completion, the work will not result in a decrease of travel lanes, according to city officials.

During construction, the project will impact traffic along Rural Road between Alameda Drive and Southern Avenue, and on Southern between Rural Road and College Avenue. The work and related restrictions should be completed in early August, prior to school resuming.

During this time, transit passengers may experience Express bus and Orbit detours.

During construction, the city plans to minimize disruptions to the traveling public and local businesses, especially at peak hours, mitigate cut-through traffic in neighborhoods, maintain access to neighborhoods and businesses, and work to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

Information: www.tempe.gov/city-hall/public-works/water/water-distribution-wastewater-collection/water-project-updates-x2.

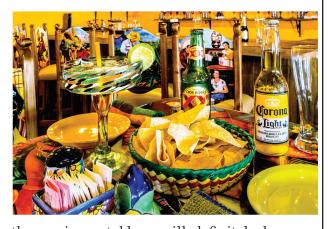


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# Sports With Alex Zener

# D1 a showcase for local talent

With the Division I state meet now complete, the Aztecs focused on getting as many athletes qualified as possible. The Tempe City Track and Field Championships gives student athletes from Tempe an additional opportunity to showcase their talents while at the same time get another opportunity to qualify for the state meet.



"Our boys and girls had an incredible meet," said head coach **Tim Kelly**. "On the boys team, we rolled up 65 personal bests and on the girls team, 35 personal bests. We also qualified quite a few more athletes for the state meet in May."

"We ended up with boys city champions in the 400 meter, 3200 meter and pole vault," said Kelly. "We also finished one, two, three in the 3200 meters."

Senior Jalen Bryant took first place in the 400



meters with a personal record time of 49.15 which gives him a No. 3 Division I ranking.

Senior **Liam Kovatch** placed first in the 3200 meters with a time of 9:49.47. He was followed by junior **Lincoln Johnston** who took second place and by senior **Slade Sumners** who placed third.

Senior **Tyler Black** was the third champion for Corona taking first place in the pole vault with a personal record vault of 14-07.

Black also placed seventh in the triple jump, eighth in the high jump and 10th in the long jump.

Other top finisher in the field events include **Josh Onwardi's** second place finish in the high jump and **Michael Hall's** fifth place with a personal record discus throw of 124-04

Top finishers in the track events included junior **Graham Eversden's** second place finish in the 1600 meters. Kovatch took fourth place and Johnston was sixth with a personal record time of 4:36.52 in

the same race.

Sophomore **Joel Wadsworth** set a personal record time of 2:00.65 to take third place in the 800 meters while fellow sophomore **Benjamin Miller** was fourth in the 400 meters.

In the hurdle event, junior **Adam Knuff** set a personal record time of 39.81 in the 300 meter hurdles while senior **Carlos Parra-Chak** placed third in both the 110 meter hurdles and the 300 meter hurdles.

The boys relay teams placed second in both the 4x400 and 4x800.

Running on Corona's 4x400 relay team was Bryant, **Kim Hunter**, **Daniel Bish** and **Sascha Delzeptch** while on the 4x800 team was made up of **Scott Carpenter**, **Dylan Waterhouse**, **Alexander Wylde** and **Aiden Leal**.

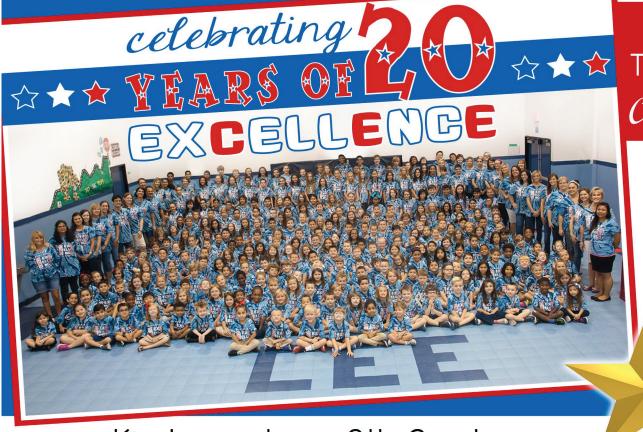
The girls team finished in first place in four events at the Tempe City Championships.

"We had girls place in almost every event including the JV and freshman girls who were extremely impressive," said Kelly. "Jackie Martin won two varsity championships, Riley Wright another and then our girls 4x800 relay team won."

Senior Martin won her championships in the 200 meters with a time of 25.73 and in the 400 meters with a season record time of 56.96. She also placed second win the 100 meters and was a member of the 4x400 relay team of **Renee Payne**, **Meg Horvath**, **Cybelle Cozart** and Martin who placed second.

Wright set a season record with her championship win in the 1600 meters with a time of 5:29.68. Wright was also ninth in the 800 meters.

Corona's 4x800 relay team of Payne, Mackenzie



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Burgess, Cozart and Mia Da Rosa placed first with a time of 10:02.40. They are currently ranked at No. 7 in Division I 4x800 relay teams.

Kelsy Lum set a personal record in both the 300 meter hurdles and 100 meter hurdles when she finished second with a time of 48.37 in the 300 meter hurdles and fifth in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 16.55.

Other top results for the girls team included a sixth place for Horvath in the 100 meters, an 8th place for Haley Johnson in the 200 meters, a second-place finish for Payne in the 400 meters and sixth place in the 800 meters and an eighth-place finish for Burgess in the 800 meters.

Josephina Wright led the girls team in the field event with a second-place finish in the pole vault by vaulting 12-01. Jolynn Fleming was fifth, Christina Fleming seventh and Caroline Keith eighth in the same event.

Lauryn White and Marina Bafaloukos ties for fifth place in the high jump while Keith was seventh. Amber Burrell placed seventh in the shot put.

The Aztecs look in pretty good shape for the state meet which will be held May 3 and 6 at Mesa Community College.

"As of right now, all relays, the 4 x 100, 4 x 400, 4 x 800 in both boys and girls have qualified for state,

"On the girls side, Jackie Martin, Kelsy Lum, Josie Wright, Renee Payne Lauren White and Taylor Hyter have qualified in individual events," said Kelly. "On the boys side, Jalen Bryant, Joel Wadsworth, Liam Kovatch, Carlos Parra-Cihak, Adam Knuff,

Ben Miller, Slade Sumners, Graham Eversden, Tyler Black, Josh Onwaordi and Tyson McLain have all qualified in indivdual events."

#### **Tempe High results**

Senior **DeAndre Hughes** led the Buffaloes with a first-place finish jumping 47-05.7 in the triple jump and a second place in the long jump by leaping 22-01.00. Both were personal records for Hughes moving him into a first-place Division II ranking in the triple and into eighth place ranking in Division II long jump.

Hughes also finished sixth in the 100-meter dash. Fellow senior My-King Johnson had a good outing as well finishing third in the discus with a throw of 135-02 and eighth in the shot put.

Ivory Williams, another Buffalo senior competed in three individual events where he placed third in the triple jump, fourth in the 300 meter hurdles and seventh in the 110-meter hurdles.

Senior Nate Manley took fifth place in the 400 meters setting a personal record and placed 12th in the triple jump.

Other notable finishes included a ninth place in the 100 meters for sophomore Pharoh Williams, seventh place in the 300 meter hurdles for junior Stevie Maddox, ninth place in the 110 meter hurdles for senior Omrao Emudianughe, seventh place in the long jump for sophomore **Cameron** Peters and a 10th place in the shot put for sophomore Tristen King.

The Buffaloes competed in two relay events with the 4x100 relay team of Peters, Johnson, Manley and Pharoh Williams taking sixth place and the 4x400 relay team of Ivory William, Harrison Weems, Naseem Vigil and Manley coming in sixth.

Other members of the boys team who finished in the top 20 included Nathaniel Zurn, Jaime Martinez, Javier Romero and Alex Beltran in the long-distance races and Richard Lamey, Jose Alvarado and Donnell Card in the field event.

On the Tempe girls team, junior Danyella Miranda led the team with a third-place finish in the 1600 meters with a personal season record time of 5:33.06.

Miranda also took fifth place in the 3200 meters, seventh place in the 800 meters and was part of the 4x400 relay team of Karely Flores Garcia, Miranda, Darla Islas Ayala and Jasmine Neal that placed third.

**Rubi Aguilera** ran the same three races as Miranda with a seventh-place finish in the 3200 meter, eighth in the 1600 meters and 10th in the 800 meters.

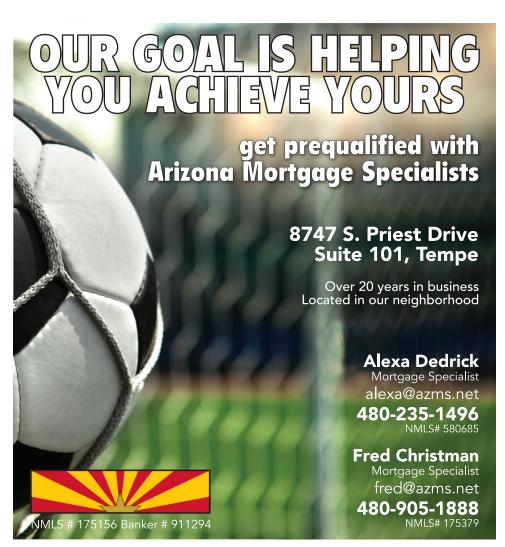
The 4x100 relay team of **Cassidy Durland**, Asli Burnham-Walker, Cecilia Castro and Eve Aranda-Carter placed fourth.

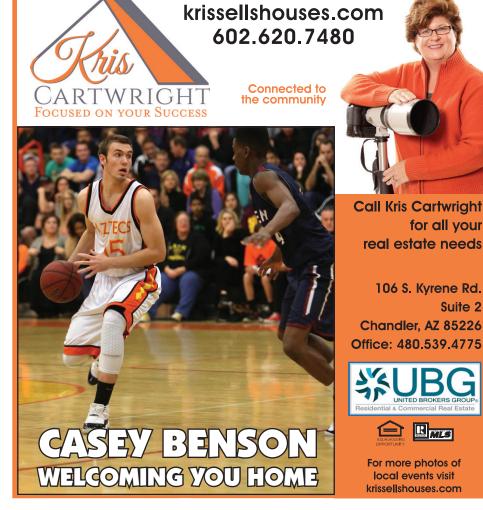
In the field events, **Keanah Bailey** was the top finisher taking eighth place in the shot put followed by Jennifer Garnica who was 11th and Da Zhai **Nelson** who placed 14th.

#### **McClintock results**

The Chargers 4x400 relay team of Jack White, Adam Torregrossa, Carson Streiff and Zachard Land were the first team to cross the

Suite 2





finish line with a first-place championship time of 3:25.80.

The 3:25.80 time in the 4x400 relay has this team ranked in Division II at No. 3.

The 4x100 relay team of **Tyrese Green**, White, **Jerone Davison** and Torregrossa finished in third place.

In the other running events, junior **Sergio Medina** was fifth in the 300 meter hurdles while **John Cleveland** was fifth, **Torren Baker**, seventh, **Casey Brown**, ninth, and **Nathaniel Talkalai**,
11th, in the 800 meters.

Torregrossa placed sixth in the 400 meters and White was seventh in the 200 meters.

**Jacquon Smith** led the Chargers in the field event with a fourth-place finish in the triple jump while **Damon Crawford** also finished fourth in the shot put and sixth in the discus.

**Jazin Hodge** placed sixth in the high jump while fellow senior teammate **Mason Leech** was ninth. Sophomore **William Roberts** was eighth in the long jump.

Other Chargers who finished in the top 20 in the field events included **Emery Tate** with a ninth place in the discus and a 13th place in the shot put. **Phillip Holton** and **Tyrese Green** also competed in the field events for McClintock.

Freshman sensation **Navaria Ortiz** made a big impression for the girls team with a fourth-place finish in both the 200 meters and 400 meters but by also helping the 4x400 relay team of Ortiz, **Kennidee Hill, Kennedy Nichols** and **Ellione Williams** take first place with a championship time

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The Chargers 4x100 team of **Miah Cooper**, Ortiz, Williams and Hill also ran a fantastic race coming in second with a time of 51.67,

Cooper and Hill both ran the 400 meters finishing eighth and ninth.

#### Marcos de Niza results

Senior **Marcus Naisant** concentrated on his field events at the Tempe City Championships taking first place in both the high jump and long jump and second place in the triple jump.

Naisant set a personal record with a 6-07 high jump which ranks him at No. 3 in Division II.

His triple jump record moved Naisant into the No. 2. ranking. He is currently also ranked No. 4 in the long jump.

Naisant ran a personal record time of 14.74 for a first-place finish in the 110 meter hurdles as well to give him a No. 3 ranking in Division II.

The Padres have two sophomore pole vaulters that both set personal records. **Alex Lindgren** placed third with a 12-07 vault while **Orion Hunter** was fourth with a 12-01 vault.

Junior **Carlan Naisant** placed sixth in the shot put and seventh in the discus.

In the track events, senior **Kepano Ream** placed fifth in the 3200 meters, ninth in the 1600 meters and 13th in the 800 meters.

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The 4x800 relay team of **Miguel Calderon**, **Isiah Morris**, Hunter and Ream placed third with a time of 9:13.63 while the 4x400 relay team of **Luis Alvarez**, **Eric De la Garza**, **Trey Mason-Peninger** and **Jordan Johnson** took fourth place.

The 4x100 relay team of Johnson, **Anthony Steinpreis**, **Noah Tate** and De la Garza placed fifth.

On the girls team, the top finisher in an individual event was junior **Melahni Washington** who jumped a personal record height of 5-01 in the high jump to take second place.

Freshman **Jendayl Sells** was next with a thirdplace finish in the discus and fourth place in the shot put.

Senior **Braylen Drew** placed eighth in the discus and ninth in the shot put while **Jocelyn Posey** placed ninth in the pole vault.

In the track events, **Alohna Taylor** had a good meet with a fifth-place finish in the 300 meter hurdles and a seventh place in the 100 meter hurdles.

**Gia Keith** placed fifth in the 100 meters and was part of the 4x100 relay team of **Aireanna Broom**, Washington, **Kalea Hughey** and Keith that took third place.

The relay team of Taylor, **Krysten Muir**, Washington and **Alexis Ross** placed fifth while **Kathryn Meyers** placed 11th in the 1600 meters for Marcos.





## A tribute ...

#### From Brian Fleming, Assistant Principal/Athletics, Marcos de Niza High School

I wanted to share a feel good story with you all. Yesterday Marcos de Niza hosted the Flagstaff baseball team in the state tournament. As of earlier this week one of (Flagstaff's) senior baseball players died suddenly, and the cause is as yet undetermined. Flagstaff wanted to play in honor of him and they traveled to the Valley for the game.

Our coaching staff took it upon themselves to honor this young man in a very touching and appropriate manner. They went out and had this young man's number 25 painted on the field in place of the batting circle in front of their dugout.

They also had his number and initials written in white Sharpie on their ballcaps. They went one step even further and raised \$250 as a donation to the family and presented them two cards at the end of the ballgame. It was truly touching. Marcos Coach Steve Schuck was then given the opportunity to speak to the Flagstaff team at the conclusion of the game and sent a warm and touching message as to the courage that they showed his team for their attempt to play the game in such horrible conditions. There was not a dry eye in the group of all that were present.

We were received by the Flagstaff parents, players and administration at the beginning and end of the game with words of class, dignity and respect. They somehow received an aerial picture of the field with his number on it, and that memory for Flagstaff will last forever.

Steve Schuck, I take my hat off to you, your staff, and your players for one of the most memorable moments in recent Marcos de Niza sports contests. We are proud of you!!!!

Thanks, Brian Fleming





Members of Flagstaff's baseball team honored the memory of teammate Evan Wissen, 17, who died unexpectedly the previous weekend after collapsing at home.

Gathered around a painted white 25, Wissen's number, they remembered a star first baseman who had recently signed a letter of intent with George Fox University.

— Photos courtesy Christi Patterson





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## A-plus: Deserved, earned and now received

By Diana Whittle

No matter when this kind of good news arrives, or who receives it, it's a thrill to say the least.

Connolly Middle School, part of the Tempe Elementary district, finds it no less so. Connolly is one of the newest recipients of an A+ School of Excellence designation for the 2016-17 academic school year.

The Arizona Educational Foundation recently announced the names of 39 Arizona public schools to receive the coveted A+ awards. The entire Connolly community celebrated with an assembly that was attended by students, teachers and other staff.

AEA Board Member Mike Gardener presented Connolly with a banner signifying the school's A+ achievement, which is now proudly displayed on the school grounds.

The award is valid for 3½ years.

Professionally, Gardner is a partner with Triadvocates, one of Arizona's largest government relations firms. He also served in the Arizona House of Representative for three terms and was the Chairman of the Government Operations Committee and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. During this experience he became frustrated by

the many negative comments made about public education in Arizona.

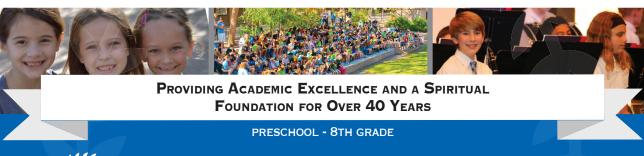
"I chose to serve on the board of the Arizona Educational Foundation to help celebrate some of the wonderful programs in our public schools," said Gardner, a fifth generation Arizonan, who also was raised in a household of educators—his father, mother, wife, father-in-law and two brothers are all public school teachers.

The Arizona Educational Foundation started the A+School of Excellence Program to assess public schools and to tout their accomplishments. AEF has identified and honored exemplary pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public schools in Arizona since 1983.

"School recognition through the A+ School of Excellence<sup>TM</sup> program can help to increase confidence in Arizona's public schools and create greater parent and community involvement," said Gardner.

"In addition to the banner, schools receive \$500 and scholarships from Argosy University Phoenix for staff and faculty."

Connolly Middle School became eligible for the A+School of Excellence award by submitting an application





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that provides demographic information, a description of current programs and practices, documentation of parent and community involvement, a profile of the school's leadership and commitment to excellence, equity, and service.

"Connolly Middle School is highly worthy of this distinction," said Christine Busch, Tempe Elementary School District Superintendent. "Our Connolly students, staff, and parents demonstrate all that is exemplary and noble about public education."

Connolly earned this award for their superior ability to identify and meet the academic and non-academic needs of their student population.

"The staff of Connolly Middle School continuously collaborate to create an environment that allows learning, critical thinking, cooperation, tolerance, and self-discipline.

"We encourage students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens," said Principal Kathy Mullery.

Connolly Middle School offers a unique educational experience for a wide-variety of students, due to the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, as well as being home to ASPIRE Academy, which is designed for the most academically gifted middle-school students.

The school is also proud of its music programs, which offer many opportunities for music-oriented students, says Mullery.

"Connolly is one of the only middle schools in the state of Arizona to provide a full symphonic orchestra experience to band and orchestra students." Even students at the school are eager to sing its praises. The Connolly Student Body President, Alexis Moreno, an eighth-grader is proud of the many programs offered by the school.

"The best thing about being a student at Connolly is the diversity of programs we have," said Moreno. "From our Connolly Jazz Band to ASPIRE or the PBL engineering classes, there's something for every student!"

Mya Lichner is a seventh-grade student at Connolly and served as tour guide for the judges from the Arizona Educational Foundation.

"The AEF judges were very nice and excited to learn about our school," said Lichner. "I feel even more proud to be a student here now that we are an A+ school."

Connolly Middle School is a school for grades sixth through eighth in Tempe, Arizona, and is part of the Tempe Elementary School District. It is a Title I school, and serves more than 1,000 students.

The mission of Connolly Middle School is to prepare students for college readiness and success in a global society through rigorous coursework and critical thinking.

Connolly Middle School is committed to the success of all students, creating a learning environment that emphasizes academic integrity and fosters emotional connections.

For more information about Connolly Middle School, visit www.tempeschools. org/connolly.



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## Red light cameras back in Chandler

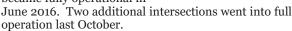
Photo enforcement cameras are now operational at nine West Chandler and other nearby intersections, with each being monitored at the approaches for north- and southbound traffic.

Sgt. Daniel Mejia, Chandler PD media relations officer, noted that violators captured on the cameras at these intersections will receive a warning in the mail for their respective violation through May 31.

On Thursday, June 1, cameras will be in full operation, and citations will be generated for speeding and red light violations.

In all, a total of 12 Chandler intersections are equipped with photo enforcement cameras through the city of Chandler's photo enforcement vendor, American Traffic Solutions.

All are monitored for both red light and speeding violations. Five intersections became fully operational in



Monitored locations include:

- Westbound Chandler Boulevard at Kyrene Road
- Southbound & Eastbound McClintock Drive at Ray

#### Road

- Eastbound Ray Road at Rural Road
- Westbound Chandler Boulevard at Dobson Road
- Southbound & Westbound Dobson Road at Ray Road
- Eastbound Ray Road at Alma School Road
- Westbound & Southbound Warner Road at Alma School Road
  - Southbound Arizona Avenue at Warner Road
  - · Southbound Arizona Avenue at Ray Road



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## Congratulations

to this year's Excellence in Education Award Recipients

For 28 years, the Tempe Diablos' Excellence in Education Awards have recognized outstanding educators. This year's recipients received cash awards of more than \$31,500. It's a small way of giving back to the teachers, administrators and staff who make a difference in the lives of the children in our community.

## The Piablos salute you!



Teacher of the Year **Julie Wilson** Getz School



Teacher of the Year **Paige Jeanty**Kyrene de los Niños

Elementary School



Teacher of the Year

Bianca Caryl

Desert Vista High
School



Leadership **Deanna Krajenke**Scales Technology
Academy



Leadership

Sharon Bond

Kyrene del Pueblo

Middle School



Leadership

Darcy Boggs

Desert Vista High
School



High Impact

Stephanie

DiPiazza

Hudson Elementary
School



High Impact

Nancy Randolph
Kyrene Traditional
Academy
Elementary School



High Impact

Kelly Muchmore

Marcos de Niza High
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Class Act
Charles Thompson
Curry Elementary
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Class Act

Andi LeVecke

Kyrene de los Lagos
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Class Act

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Ward Traditional

Academy



Inspiration **Shari Lilly**Kyrene de los Lagos

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Inspiration

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Marcos de Niza High
School



Lifetime Achievement Amanda Beakley Tempe Elementary District Office



Lifetime Achievement Kelly Alexander Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School



Lifetime Achievement **Deborah Benedict** Corona Del Sol High School



Rising Star **Karen Saettele**Scales Technology
Academy



Rising Star **Jennifer Sadallah** Kyrene Altadeña Middle School



Rising Star **Svenja Wagner** Tempe High School









# Wet, wild and cool: A recipe for summer fun

By M.V. Moorhead

Summer is unmistakably coming, and with it the need for some cool fun. If you can combine water activities with learning a little history, you have a recipe that's sure to be a hit with kids.

It's how dozens of wide-eyed young ones from such local venues as Kyrene del Cielo Elementary School, the Tempe Family Y and the Tempe Boys and Girls Club found a wet and wild escape last year.

Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting, which houses the world's largest exhibit of firefighting history, offers just such a program to kids in day camps, YMCA programs, home school field trips—any place where kids get corralled in the summer months.

Starting in spring and continuing through about mid-October, the museum offers "Junior Firefighters Workshops" to groups of kids older than 7, and "Wet n' Wild Storytimes" to groups of those 7 and younger.

Workshops include a guided tour of the museum's spectacular collection of restored antique fire apparatus, as well as a fire safety presentation. Wet n' Wilds include a fun, non-threatening fire safety story. Both programs include the chance to play on a real firetruck—and both also include a trip outside to participate in a bucket brigade, which involves shooting a fire hose from a real fire engine.

And in both programs, the kids get a pretty good soaking from the spray of the hose.

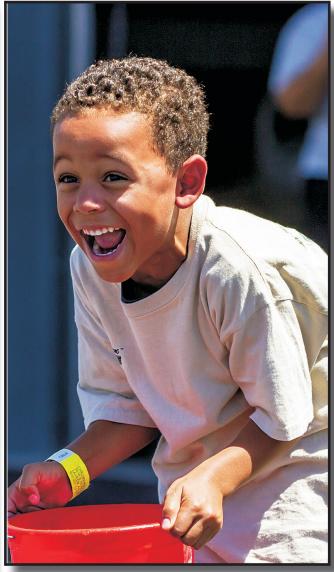
These programs, which must be booked in advance, are available for groups of 10 or more kids (up to 50). The cost is \$7 per child, with one adult chaperone admitted free for every five kids (adults above that ratio are also charged).

Of course, if you'd like to bring a group to the museum but would prefer not to leave with a bunch of soaked kids, storytimes (kids 7 and younger) and guided tours (kids older than 7, and adults) are also offered without the water activities.

These likewise must also be booked in advance, and are \$4 per child—again with one adult admitted free with every five kids.

To book, or for details, call 602-275-3473.







Wrangler News photos

# Tempe Elementary School District Offers Specialty Programs and Schools to Meet the Varying Needs of Each Learner:

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and emotionally.

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academic program with an
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a K-5 school with a high population of gifted students, serving their unique cognitive and affective needs through discovery, enrichment and accelerated learning opportunities.

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Tempe Elementary School District

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## Dr. Jan Vesely: More on ESAs

This year marks my 40th year in public education. In those 40 years, I have seen a growing movement to undermine the very basic principles that form the foundation of the work that all of us—school board members, administrators, teachers, parents and community members—do to educate our next generation of leaders. It seems harder and harder each year to protect the sanctity of our public schools.

For I believe, as our Founding Fathers did, in public education. In 1785, John Adams wrote, "The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expenses of it. There should not be a district of one mile square, without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the public expense of the people themselves."

And as our country welcomed more immigrants, public education became a means to creating productive citizens, ending poverty and crime and unifying an increasingly diverse population. Those societal goals are as relevant, if not more so today as they were then.

Our public schools were established to make education universally available to all children, free of charge. We educate the vast majority of U.S. students and are accessible in all parts of the country, including areas where few or no alternatives exist.

Which brings me to expansion of the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts. While we do not know, at this point, what the true impact the ESA expansion will have on Kyrene, it is of great concern to me. When I became Superintendent nearly a year ago, one of the top priorities was to develop a response to the challenge of declining enrollment, a challenge that most districts in Arizona face.

I have worked with the Governing Board to identify strategies that will help us manage that challenge—expansion of our early learning options, extending our Kyrene Traditional Academy to PreK-8, establishing an International Baccalaureate program at KMS. And I am confident that these initiatives will bring and retain more students in Kyrene moving forward.

But at our last board meeting, our demographer delivered the news that the anticipated recovery in enrollment, first projected for 2019-20, would not be realized for at least another 5-6 years. Combined with the expansion of ESAs, our challenge is now multiplied.

## Chandler selects longtime municipal official as its new city clerk

Dana DeLong, city clerk in Prescott for the past four years, has been named to the same position in Chandler.

The appointment was made by the Chandler City Council at its April 27 meeting.

"This is a critical hire for the City and its residents, and Dana will be a tremendous asset for us as she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position," Mayor

Jay Tibshraeny said. "I look forward to working with her in the coming years."

Prior to her position in Prescott, DeLong worked at the city of Tucson for nearly 20 years in positions covering all facets of the City Clerk's Office. She is a certified municipal clerk, certified municipal election official and a notary public.

DeLong will begin her new post on June 5. She will succeed Marla Paddock, who will retire later this summer after serving in the post since 2002.

The City Clerk's Office is the source of information regarding the City Charter, City Code and City Council meetings and actions.

The city clerk conducts municipal elections, coordinates statutory legal publication and public meeting notification and serves as the records custodian for the City, as well as providing the public with notary services, passport processing and election assistance.





# It's time to enroll preschool and kindergarten students.

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www.kyrene.org 480-541-1000









## Renew your Youth Transit Pass for 2017-18

eginning May 15, Tempe will begin issuing new transit passes to current and new participants of the Tempe Youth Transit Pass program.

Valid July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, the new pass allows youth ages six to 18 who live in Tempe to ride all Valley Metro bus routes and the METRO light rail free.

All that's needed to sign up is an accompanying parent or guardian and a copy of the youth's birth certificate and proof of residency, such as a utility bill.

Throughout the year, students will be able to stop by the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. Fifth St., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to get the

Special Saturday registration will be held at the Transportation Center on May 20, July 8 and Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also, students who attend Tempe, Marcos de Niza, Compadre and McClintock high schools, and live in Tempe, can get their passes at the schools. To download the registration form and learn more, visit www.tempe.gov/youthpass.



## Tempe welcomes GRID Bike Share program in May

This month, Tempe debuts its GRID bike stations as part of the regional bike share program. GRID Bike Share, currently available in Phoenix and Mesa, is another way for residents to use the vast biking infrastructure and explore

Tempe plans to launch the for-rent public bike program in May with 300 bikes and 31 stations. The stations will be located in high-activity areas of the city.

Station locations are targeted to reach the highest bike ridership parts of the community, major destinations (Town Lake, Mill Avenue, Tempe Public Library and more), bikeways and ASU campus, as well as link to the regional light rail system, future streetcar route and the other transit options in Tempe.

Bike share programs support greater access to more sustainable transportation and reduce dependency on automobiles.

Tempe is excited to bring this much sought-after Valley amenity to residents.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/bikeshare.



### 2017 Water and Solid **Waste Rate Study** needs your input

Tempe invites community members to be part of the 2017 water and solid waste rate study.

A public involvement process is underway to solicit residents' perspectives and opinions. Public meetings, focus groups and a webinar are being conducted.

Check out the city's event calendar and Facebook page for specific public involvement opportunities.

Updates also will be posted to www.tempe.gov/utilityrates.



### **Register for Summer Reading Program**

The Tempe Public Library offers a fun and engaging Summer Reading Program throughout June and July. There are programs for babies, tots, kids, teens and adults.

Participants can keep track of their reading progress to earn badges and prizes. Register at www.tempe.gov/library.

### Go back in time to Tempe's first train

The Tempe History Museum is presenting a summer enrichment program called "Tempe Time Machine: Trains of Tempe," in June and July.

Guests will journey back to 1887, when the first trains arrived in Tempe, and see the history of transportation through today and into the future.

The kids will enjoy crafts, model trains, demonstrations and train stories.

Sessions will be held each Wednesday and the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Visit www.tempe.gov/ TempeHistoryMuseum for more information.





























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Employment — Kyrene is now hiring School BUS DRIVERS FT 30 hrs/wk Benefits offered. Paid training and CDL testing onsite. Flexible work schedule with split shifts. Starting salary \$14.49-\$18/hr. Additional info at www.kyrene.org/hr 5/17

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