Wrangler EWS

Think Local. Read Local.

June 3 - 17, 2017 • Volume 28, No. 11

What's Inside . . .

Hundreds of students from Tempe high schools donned caps and gowns for graduation ceremonies, marking the milestone with celebrations and, naturally, selfies. Special grad section starts on Pg. 13.





Helping kids improve their game and maintain a positive attitude are part of the game plan for Tim Brotherton, a dad who coaches his daughter's volleyball team at the Tempe Y. **See Pg. 4.**

Survey shows link between teacher satisfaction, student success

Most in Kyrene enjoy their jobs, pass positive feelings along to kids in district classrooms

By Diana Whittle

allup, the well-known pollster, reports that the majority of teachers in the Kyrene district say they care about the quality of their job performance and believe strongly in their professional mission as educators.

The teachers' personal commitment and enthusiasm for their work are qualities that researchers say are recognized by students and translate into the students' improved academic and social performance.

The finding is one of the key outcomes of the survey, which was developed by Gallup and administered to 1,989 employees in the district, for a total participation rate of 83 percent.

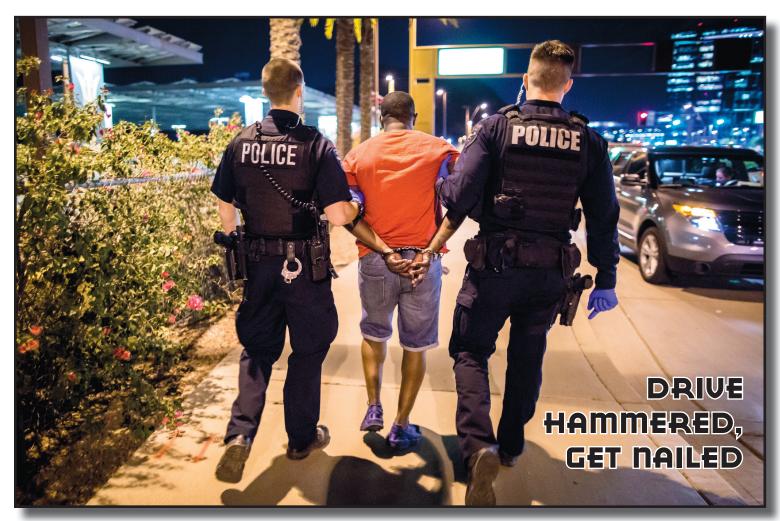
The final results, shared at a recent Governing Board meeting by Dr. Mark Knight, assistant

superintendent of the district, indicate that most employees also are engaged in what they do day to day in Kyrene classrooms.

"Engagement is an important indicator of performance on the job," said Knight. "Gallup uses similar questions at schools across the country to identify attitudes and trends in employee behavior.

"In (the pollsters') experience, teacher engagement levels are directly related to the engagement levels of their students, which are also tied to student achievement. Even a percentage-point

-SURVEY, Page 12







The recent Memorial Day weekend gave Tempe, Chandler and other Valley police agencies a chance to raise motorists' awareness to the dangers of alcohol- and substance-related driving — and to make sure violators know of the strict penalties contained in Arizona's DUI laws, some of the toughest in the nation. Amassing a virtual armada of uniformed police, local agencies stopped and checked suspect drivers, hauling some of the most serious offenders off to face potential jail time and stiff fines. More than 500 arrests, a near record, were made statewide over the holiday weekend. Tempe officer Kelly Angel of Tempe PD's Traffic Bureau DUI squad, above right, said the exercise also served to remind drivers that similar shows of force will be scheduled again, likely including the July 4th weekend.

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News • More photos, Page 31





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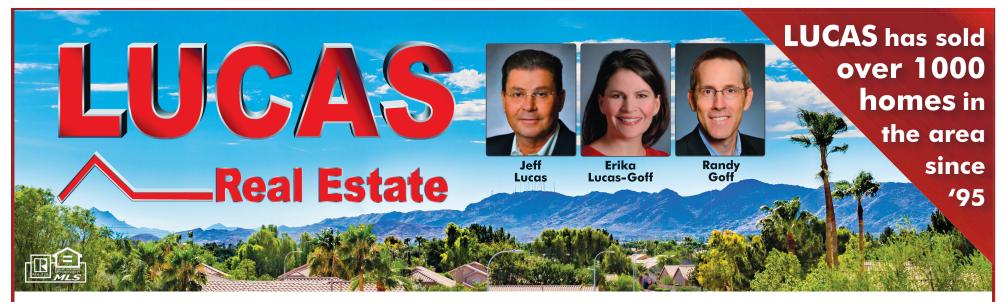
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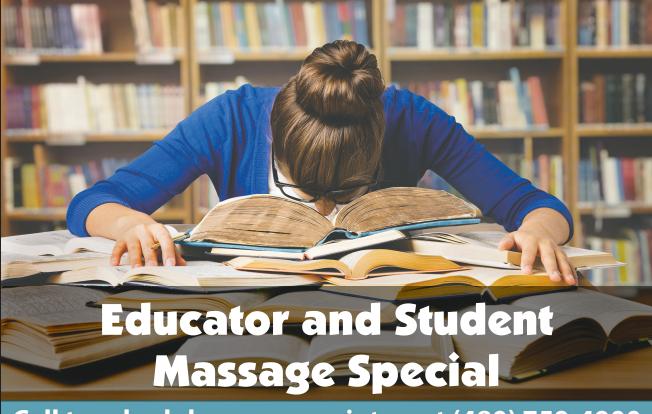
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A tribute to Dad **For volunteer**

coach at Tempe Y: Every day is Father's Day

Editor's note: Look for the next installment of this two-part series featuring an interview with Dominic Balistriere, an owner of the recently opened BR Fitness in Tempe, as he describes ways the center provides training for clients, both young and older, to get—and stay—in shape.

By Deborah Hilcove

rempe Family YMCA coach and father to 11-year-old Regan. And while fathers throughout America celebrate their special day on Sunday, June 18, Brotherton will also be celebrating his birthday and hoping to talk his wife into playing a round of golf.

When he was an 8-year-old, Brotherton began playing basketball. In fact, he played at the Tempe Y, little imagining he would one day be coaching there.

The facility sponsors a variety of activities for a healthy lifestyle and currently offers a summertime camp for kids. Brotherton adds that "the 'Y' offers an affordable way to get kids introduced to sports and coaching that can otherwise cost thousands of dollars for families.

It's a great avenue for allowing kids to try multiple sports in a low pressure and risk environment."

Last season, Brotherton coached a mixed volleyball team of 4th through 6th graders. Although he played basketball in high school, he says, "I started playing volleyball and really fell in love with the game."

Now he shares that love of the game with elementary students.

Asked about the qualities of a good coach, he says, "I think the most important thing for a coach for kids is a belief that sports and competition have a positive impact on kids and their development. You have to enjoy teaching."

Complimenting his wife for her help and organizational skills, he continues, "You have to be able to maintain a positive attitude and realize that winning and losing are both lessons that kids have to learn."

Although last season's volleyball team consisted of many new players, he says, "Watching them get better over the course of two months was incredible. We didn't win a lot but there were some great moments where the kids executed something we'd worked on in practice or did something completely unexpected that I didn't think they were capable of. Those are the best moments, to see the joy on their faces when they are successful."



ON HIS SPECIAL DAY, A BIT OF FATHERLY LOVE

Tim Brotherton and 11-year-old Regan have a father-daughter moment at the Tempe Y.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

With so many young players learning the game, mistakes were bound to happen. He encouraged them to learn from a mistake, keep their heads up and focus. At the end of every game, though, he says they all were "looking forward to slap hands, do knee pad slides under the net and of course, have after-game snacks."

His favorite memories from the season came at the end of each practice, when the team would work on spiking, that powerful move of forcefully slamming the ball over the net and onto the opponent's court.

He says, "Since our oldest players are 6th graders, spiking isn't really happening, but I'm trying to set up their footwork and approach for the next level and to have some fun. I was amazed at how well they did."

Giving an example, he says, "We had one girl on the team who couldn't

be more than 4 feet tall but by the end of the season she was one of the best at getting the approach to the ball correct and hitting it over the net with some pace.

'Again, just watching them develop and succeed is pretty special and gratifying."

Brotherton makes it clear that being a coach is an extension of being a good father to his daughter.

"I do my best to be engaged and be there for my daughter. I love spending time with her during the fun times, but also try to make sure that I'm helping her during the tougher things she has to do as well.

"It's important to me that my daughter understands that I have a lot of expectations for her, a lot of faith in her ability to accomplish her goals and that I'll always be there to love and support her."







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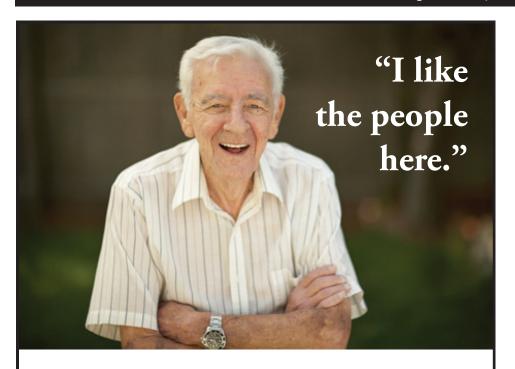
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Tempe police SWAT team on the move in anticipation of a situation that might need their training, commitment and expertise. — File photo

Terror attack vs concert-goers prompts renewed local vigilance

By Joyce Coronel

hough Manchester, England lies more than 5,000 miles from Tempe, a deadly terror attack there last month following a concert has grabbed worldwide attention, including that of Sgt. Josie Montenegro and fellow officers at the Tempe Police Department.

Tempe is the site of some of the nation's best-attended concerts, and the city's Marquee Theater will be hosting several this summer, including Yngwie, Seether and the Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular in June alone.

"We have a good working relationship with the Marquee," Montenegro said. "Obviously, here in Tempe, we do have many large-scale events." Those include the annual Fourth of July festivities, New Year's Eve block party, Pat's Run and others.

At the concert in Manchester, thousands of young people had gathered to hear Ariana Grande, an American pop star. Upon leaving the crowded venue, concertgoers were attacked by a suicide bomber who detonated an improvised explosive device.

ISIS, the international terrorist organization responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent civilians, later claimed credit for the carnage.

"In law enforcement, when we're at work, we're vigilant. We're always aware of our surroundings and try to pay attention, especially to the things that seem abnormal," Montenegro said. "We have a history of preparing for these large-scale events and having different security plans in place."

The venue itself, she added, submits and must adhere to a security plan. "They have to advise if they are going to be serving alcohol or not, and that changes the number of security that they have," Montenegro said. In addition to that, venues will often hire off-duty police officers to work handin-hand with their security.

Tempe's off-duty officers "are there as an extra deterrent and a way of connecting with the police department immediately if more assistance is needed, Montenegro added.

Depending on crowd size, the Tempe mounted patrol might be called in. "The horses are an excellent deterrent and resource," Montenegro said.

But is there anything the public can do to help thwart an attack?

"We have people from around the world that come to Tempe," Montenegro said. "We as police officers and law enforcement—we can't be everywhere. We're not going to be able to see and hear everything. So we rely a lot on our community."

The Tempe Police Department, she said, has an excellent relationship with the community and sees cooperation between citizens and the department as evidence of teamwork.

"We encourage the community to be our eyes and ears," Montenegro said. "If they see something or hear something that is abnormal or suspicious, we encourage phone calls and we take our suspicion calls very seriously." At times, she noted, such calls from citizens have helped deter a crime.

When at a concert or large gathering, there are a few things to look for that just might make the difference between an attack taking place and a plot being deterred.

- Look for people who aren't watching the concert but seem to be observing the crowd instead.
- Does what they are wearing seem appropriate to the venue and the occasion?
- Is there anything suspicious-looking visible in pockets or elsewhere in the clothing?

"If somebody calls in and points someone out, we can at least make that face-to-face contact—that in itself can be a deterrent," Montenegro said.

"If something just looks weird on somebody, if they don't really look like they are there to enjoy the venue, then that is suspicious behavior."



Terri Kimble, president/CEO of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, visited the Star Worldwide studios of Valley radio and television icon Dave Pratt. Pratt is emceeing the 30th Anniversary of the Chandler Chamber Community Awards on June 1 at Wild Horse Pass.

Tempe Sister Cities named 'Best' among similarly sized communities

Editor's note: Doug Royse, a Tempe native and longtime supporter of the Sister City program, forwarded the following announcement from Dick Neuheisel, a founder and Board of Directors member of the Tempe chapter, to announce a welcome honor recently bestowed on the organization.

Congratulations! We learned today that for the eighth time our Tempe program has been honored as "Best Overall Sister City Program in America" in our population category.

Being named a "Best Overall Sister City Program" for 2016 is a tribute to all of you. It gives us a challenge for the future. We are the BEST.

Let's Keep it Up and Do Even Better.

One of our keys to success is that we work hard...and we play hard. The second key is that we have Jane Neuheisel writing our award applications.

She has done it eight times now.



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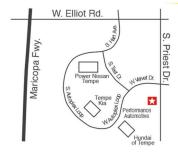
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Desert splendor blooms despite heat

Tempe and West Chandler residents are gearing up for another Arizona summer, prompting the staff at Desert Botanical Garden to suggest ways to explore the beauty of the desert while staying cool and safe, even during the hottest months.

More than 600,000 visitors annually are drawn to the garden's 50,000 desert plants as part of what has gained stature as an outdoor living museum.

Here are some tips for an enjoyable

In a different light – Garden hours are extended from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. May through September to make the most of the cooler times of the day. Come first thing in the morning, say officials, as the wildlife is waking up, or explore the garden during the "golden hour" of sunset.

Early bird gets the worm -Avoid the heat of the day and join expert birders along the garden's trails at 7 a.m. to explore the doves, owls, roadrunners and more that call the place home.

Garden after dark - Experience flashlight tours Thursdays and Saturdays now through Sept. 2 to see how desert nights shimmer. Flashlight

tours are sensory adventures to see, hear and feel how desert nights shimmer. Guests beam their own flashlights along the self-paced trails to capture the night-blooming plants and animals that chirp, whirr and whisper in the desert after dark.

Dress for less distress - Plan to dress accordingly. Wear loose-fitting and light-colored clothes, and cover as much skin as possible to ward off direct sun exposure. Bring a widebrimmed hat and avoid darker fabrics that retain heat.

Hvdration is kev – Make sure to bring a reusable water bottle when visiting and fill up bottles at any of the refill stations available throughout the garden. Reusable bottles can be purchased in the garden shop and from vending machines.

Duck out in the shade - The garden has shade throughout the trails. Step under the canopy of a lush mesquite tree or duck under cover with a meal at Gertrude's to enjoy delicious food and air conditioning.

To learn more about Desert Botanical Garden's summer classes, events and other offerings, visit dbg.org or call 480-941-1225.





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Tempe launches online database for info seekers

Public-records requests may have become a thing of the past in Tempe, thanks to the city's launch of a new open portal that links residents to a vast database of municipal-government information.

The site, at tempe.gov/open-tempe, provides access to downloadable datasets that officials say can be the springboard for new businesses, new apps and scientific and academic research.

The information may be easily shared with other cities, helping to provide data on ways to solve regional and national issues. The system also allows people to access the available data whenever they want without the need for a public records request.

"The new open-data portal shows Tempe's commitment to transparency and customer service," Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell said. The portal offers about 40 data sets at this time, with more to come, officials said.

No private information is used in these datasets. Tempe will continue to protect resident privacy, confidentiality and security.

Some of the datasets include: Medical emergency response times, Crime data, Approved commercial sign packages, Graffiti locations, Zoning information. Tempe's partners for the open-data project include the Center for Government Excellence (GovEx) at Johns Hopkins University, the Government Performance Lab at the Harvard Kennedy School, and the Sunlight Foundation. Tempe's draft policy stresses that information is open by default, meaning the city strives to provide free, accessible data that is available anytime.

The goal, say officials, is to provide people access to as much data as is safely possible without the need for a public-records request.



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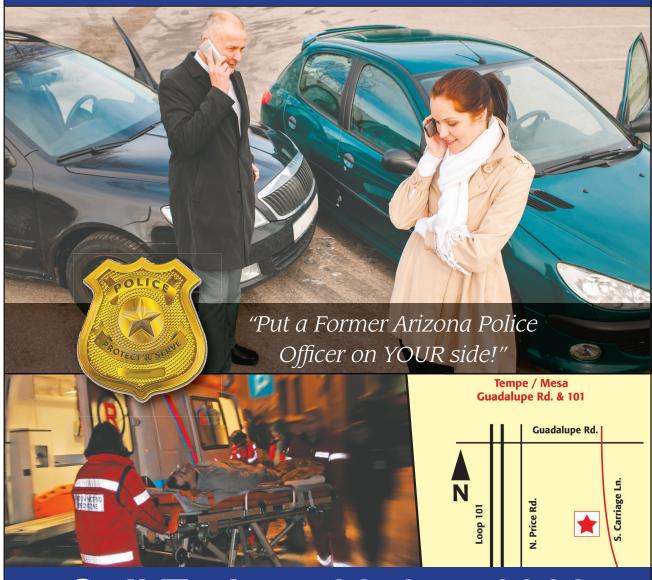




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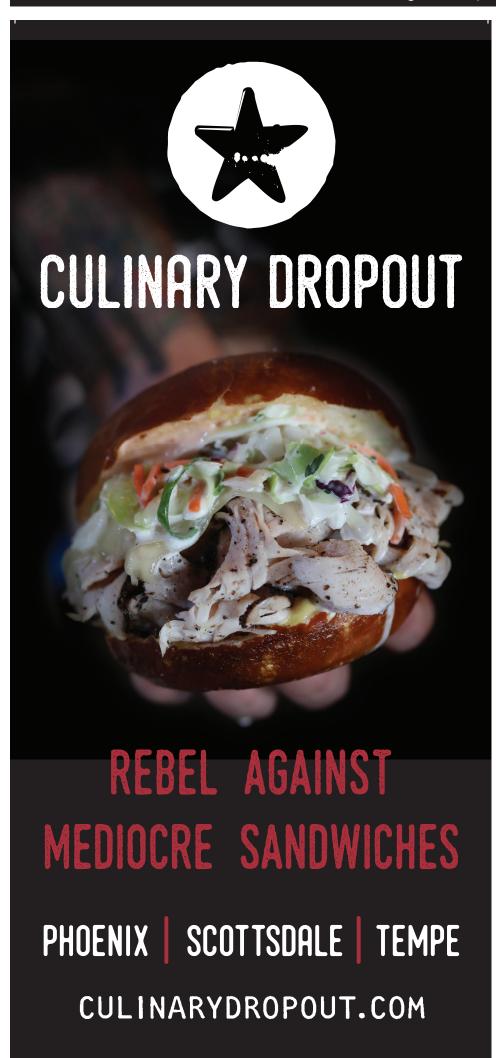
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Commentary from the Mayor

7 West Chandler projects included in city's 2017 budget proposal

By Jay Tibshraeny

On May 25, the Chandler City Council tentatively adopted the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year Budget and the 2018/2027 Capital Improvement Plan.

Final adoption is set for June 8, with adoption of the annual property

tax levy on June 22.

The budget, at \$934.5 million, represents a 3.8 decrease from last year and a proposed property tax levy reduction of two-cents, down to \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

• A new bus route along Ray Road will be funded and start in west



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- Improvements to the concession area/train station associated with the popular train in Desert Breeze Park will occur and include replacement of wrought iron fencing, building repairs and painting. (Cost: \$180,000);
- A new 10,000 square-foot museum will be constructed next to the current museum by the Chandler Fashion Center (McCullough-Price House). (Cost \$6.7 million);
- Bike lanes will be added to Kyrene Road and McClintock Drive from the Loop 202 north to Chandler's border with Tempe (north of Elliot Road). (Cost: \$4.5 million);
- A new bike lane will be added to Chandler Blvd. between I-10 and 54th Street. (Cost: \$904,540);
- The pool deck surface at Nozomi Aquatic Center will be replaced. (Cost:part of \$500,000 budget for several aquatic centers);
- The medians will be re-landscaped on Rural Road between Galveston Street and Ray Road and along Chandler Blvd between Gila Springs Boulevard and Galaxy Drive. (Cost: part of \$500,000 budget for various streetscape and median improvements around the city).

Yes, we still have some challenges that include an unstable global economic environment as well as an underfunded state public safety retirement system. But, at the same time, I remain encouraged that our community continues to move in a good direction.

Chandler's solid economic foundation is the product of more than two decades of sound financial planning — policies that have been strictly adhered to by those you have entrusted with your hard-earned tax dollars.

I want to thank my fellow Councilmembers who fully understand the impacts of this strategy, and have worked tirelessly on this budget to ensure we remain fiscally strong.

The 2017/18 budget is a solid one, and we again are able to fund road projects, build parks and maintain basic services and infrastructure.

At the same time, we celebrated many successes over this past year (the fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30). We renovated and upgraded several parks, and we continue to construct and widen roads in south Chandler, aggressively maintain and improve others, and have undertaken some critical new utility projects.

We continued to focus on neighborhoods and celebrate residents. My Listening Tour continues, and seems to grow in popularity with each stop. In February, we announced our third annual Neighborhood Excellence award winners and I again hosted my Teen Leadership Academy in March.

We welcomed many new businesses to Chandler including Waymo's (formerly Google) autonomous vehicle testing site in West Chandler. Rogers announced it will move its headquarters to Chandler this year and Intel announced a \$7 billion expansion at its Ocotillo campus, generating several thousand jobs. The business community continues to find Chandler as an attractive place to locate and grow.

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Survey

From Page I

increase in a school's average student engagement level can be associated with gains in academic achievement."

The survey included participation from teachers, principals, classified and support personnel.

Of the 12 questions used on the survey, eight responses showed improved scores in their accumulated results.

For example, 13 schools reported gains in their employee engagement from previous surveys, with Colina and Mariposa increasing the most. The highest overall engagement at an elementary school was at Waggoner; at a middle school, it was Pueblo.

Other important findings show that elementary-school employees achieved the highest percentage, at 51 percent of engaged employees; middleschool employees came in at a close second, with 47 percent being engaged; assistant principals demonstrated the highest rate of engagement, at 56 percent.

Knight explained that the results of the survey are shared with employees at each school and action plans for improvement are created.

"We value the survey because we want to maintain the status of Kyrene as a high-achieving school district," said Knight.

"The success is measured by setting high expectations and then monitoring progress along the way. The survey is simply one measure of a variable that influences student achievement. In this specific example, the variable is engagement."

Each year for the last seven years, employees were asked the same 12 questions for the sake of consistency. This also allows comparison between Kyrene and other school districts, Knight noted.

The effort at consistency, however, brought into discussion a question from Michelle Fahy, a Governing Board member and teacher for the Tempe Union high schools, who asked if additional questions could be added to any future surveys.





Tempe's high schools have once again sent their best and finest on to the next step toward their future—a time when these outstanding young people, the Class of 2017, will go forward into a new and challenging world.

We at Wrangler News have worked with and personally know many of these students — teens who have contributed not only to us but to their community, their friends and families and, not to be overlooked, to a future that we're sure will be better because of them.

Based on what we read and see in today's media, some of us occasionally ask where our world is headed. If we answer that question by looking at the young people who are celebrating their high school graduation this year — students who have made their way through four challenging years at one of our Tempe Union High School District campuses — we can feel confident that this world of ours indeed will be a better place. To them we say congratulations, go forth, make your mark. And, what we think is important parting advice, Carpe Diem.

Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

If you need extra copies of this issue or our previous issue containing the list of graduates from Corona del Sol and Marcos de Niza high schools, email your request to: editor @wranglernews.com or call us at 480-966-0845. We'll send you a link to our new flip-page edition.

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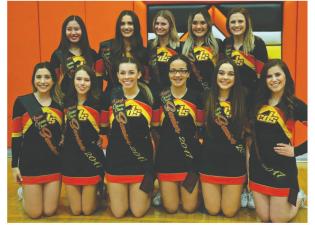
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Wrangler News • June 3 - 17, 2017 • Page 16

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Wrangler News • June 3 - 17, 2017 • Page 19

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A graduation to remember

Photo feature by
Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News







Corona among top quiz bowl winners at 2017 Atlanta tourney

By Sarah Blechacz and Praveen Balaji

Students from Corona del Sol joined 303 of the top high school quiz bowl teams at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis on May 27 for the 2017 High School National Championship Tournament.

The team consisted of Harrison Bradley, Daniel Farr, Denis Liu, Vinay Pattalachinti and Sameer Vij.

Corona was one of five Arizona teams competing, finishing the preliminary rounds with a 5-5 record.

There were some tense moments. Corona suffered a heartbreakingly narrow loss to Marist from Atlanta, Ga., 190-175, during round 6 and defeated Detroit Catholic Central D from Novi, Mich., by the narrow margin of 245-225 during round 13.

Corona was on the brink of elimination when it defeated Detroit Catholic Central D in round 13 to stay alive. Unfortunately, they lost to Midtown Classical from Tallahassee, Fla., ending their shot at the playoffs.

The tournament champion was the A team from Hunter College High School of New York, New York.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of four students. Teams use buzzers to answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports and popular culture.

The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in quiz bowl is designed to reinforce lessons from the classroom and encourage players to develop new intellectual interests.

Sarah Blechacz coaches the Corona team and Praveen Balaji is the club president.

Tempe streetcar project to be discussed at June 7 public meeting

A public meeting designed to provide a chance for those interested to meet the design team and artists for the Valley's first streetcar project will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, at Tempe Transportation Center.

The meeting will include a brief presentation to provide an update on streetcar-vehicle design, art concepts for the 14 streetcar stops, traction power substations and next steps.

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

The center is at 200 E. 5th St., Tempe. Information: valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar.

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Sports

With Alex Zener

Spring banquet honors schools' top performers

The Tempe All-City Association awards banquet for spring sports honored a wide range of deserving athletes at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Tempe, where all four local schools took home recognition for their excellence in baseball, softball, tennis, sand volleyball, boys volleyball and track.

Corona had 19 athletes recognized, starting with three senior baseball players.

Brandon Bracy was recognized for his pitching ability as part of Corona's team with its 23-8 record. Bracy pitched over 35 innings for the Aztecs striking out over 35 batters with a 1.58 ERA.

Jacob Clemens was recognized for his play at first base and **Christian Slater** for his success in the outfield. Both Clemens and Slater started and played in all 21 games excelling both defensively on the field and offensively in the batter's box.

Corona's softball team had three juniors recognized at the banquet including Jessica Lynch, Olivia Miller and Calleigh Tilden-Long.

Lynch pitched 115 of the total 200 innings during the 2017 season striking out over 150 batters while winning 11 games with only six losses.

Both Miller and Tilden-Long were recognized for their play in the outfield with over 90% fielding percentages. Where these two players stand out is their ability on offensive as batters.

Miller played in 32 games, hitting .482 while scoring 47 runs on 55 hits with 16 RBI's while Tilden-Long hit .479 playing in 30 games with 29 runs on 46 hits and 24 RBI's.

Corona's boys tennis team had senior Chris **Steele** recognized in both singles and then doubles with his partner, sophomore Logan Cromeens.

Corona had the only athletes recognized in sandy volleyball. Junior **Booke Nuneviller** was recognized for her skill in the sport, along with teammate Erica Rondo.

The Aztec boys volleyball team had three members recognized at the banquet.

Junior **Christopher Davis** not only was the kill leader on the team with over 200, but he shared setting duties with sophomore Niko Zeiner, each getting credit for over 400 sets during the season, averaging almost four assists a set.

Davis was also one of the leading blockers and servers on the team with 14 solo blocks and 58 total blocks and 37 service aces.

Recognized, as well, from Corona for boys volleyball were seniors Dion Deguzman and Conner Niemtschk.

Deguzman played libero in all 110 sets, leading the team in digs at 212 or almost two a set. He is also one of the leading servers on the team with 32 service aces over the season.

Niemtschk, on the other hand, was a hitter and blocker playing mainly at the net as middle blocker. He led the team in blocks with 68 total and in hitting percentage with a .242. He had 95 kills over the season.

Corona had three seniors given awards in boys track: Jalen Bryant in the 400 meters, Liam **Kovatch** in the 3200 meters and **Tyler Black** in the pole vault event.

Bryant was the Tempe All-City champion and the Division I state champion in the 400-meter race.

Kovatch was given his award for 3200 meter running event but he was also part of Corona's 4x800 relay team that placed third at the Division I state meet.

Black was honored for his pole vaulting ability. He took sixth place in this event at the Division I state meet where he vaulted 14-06 but he also participated in the long jump and triple jump for Corona throughout the season.

The girls track team had two runners receive awards at the Tempe All City banquet. Senior Jackie Martin was given an award in both the 200 meters and the 400 meters while junior Riley Wright received her award for the 1600-meter run.

Martin placed sixth in both events at the Division I state meet but also ran in Corona's relay teams, including the 4x800 all four of her years at Corona.

Riley was recognized for her efforts in the 1600 meter run and she participated in several of Corona's relay teams including the Aztecs' 4x400 team that finished fourth at the Division I state meet.

Marcos de Niza awardees

The Padres had five athletes recognized at the Tempe All-City Association banquet: **Marcus** Naisant, Conner Woods, Maxwell L'Heureux,

— Continued on facing page

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Nicholas Leach and Carmen Cabrera.

In his senior track season, Naisant was paid tribute for this speed and jumping abilities. He was presented an award for the 110 meters and in both long jump and high jump.

Naisant took first place in 110 meter hurdles, third in the triple jump and fourth in both the long jump and high jump at the Division II state track meet.

Woods, also a senior, was awarded for his play as catcher on the Padres (21-9 record) baseball team, where he started and played in all 28 games, batting the highest average at .524.

He scored 36 runs on 47 hits with a team high 32 RBI's and six homeruns.

Woods also pitched for the Padres and is credited with seven wins and only one loss pitching over 53 innings.

L'Heureux, a junior, received his award for his play on third base, participating in all 28 games. He also was also one of the Padre's leading batters, hitting .524 on the season scoring 28 runs on 44 hits with 31 RBI's and three homeruns.

Leach, a junior, was recognized as an outfielder but mostly played shortstop for the Padres playing in all 28 games with a batting average of .524 scoring 35 runs on 54 hits with 22 RBI's and 21 stolen bases.

Cabrera played second base on the Padre softball team and was named as one of the captains.

McClintock had two members of their baseball team receive awards at the spring sports banquet: **Jonah Wiley** and **Casey Patterson**.

Wiley was honored at second base for the Chargers while playing in all 31 games putting out 33 players while batting .324 on average, scoring 20 runs on 35 hits with five stolen bases. He also pitched 61 innings where he was credited with seven wins and three losses earning a 1.84 ERA.

Patterson was recognized for his play in the outfield where he played in 30 games putting out 26 players when on defense while scoring 25 runs on 27 hits with 26 RBI's with two home runs with a batting average of .346 while playing offense. He is also credited with 12 stolen bases.

Tempe High School

Tempe had two athletes recognized at the Tempe All-City Association banquet: **Desiree Muniz** for softball and **DeAndre Hughes** for track.

Muniz, a senior, was honored as an outfielder on the Buffaloes' softball team but she was so much more to her coplayers.

Muniz performed in all 28 games, batting .400 scoring 29 runs on 36 hits with 13 RBI's.

She only struck out one time all season but was successful in stealing 19 bases on 21 attempts.

In addition to putting out 44 players she also pitched 36 innings for the Buffaloes, earning a 5.64 ERA with three wins and four losses.

Hughes, one of the Buffaloes' football stars, was recognized for the triple jump in boys track.

He placed fourth at the Division II state track meet with a jump of 45-.04.25 and placed first at the Tempe All-City meet with a jump of 47-05.75, a personal record.











Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely, left; C.I. Waggoner Principal Lisa Gibson; Kyrene de la Mirada fifth grade self-contained gifted teacher Amy Dean; Kyrene Akimel A-al Library Media Technician Dixie Prosser; and Open Enrollment and Community Relations Specialist, Bonny Dolinsek. — Photo courtesy Lauren Clark

Foundation honors top Kyrene staffers

Strong employee engagement was on display at a recent special event to honor staff.

Sponsored by the Kyrene Foundation, with support from Landings Credit Union, the annual Employee Appreciation event recognizes three categories of dedicated employees who were nominated by their peers.

• This year Lisa Gibson, principal at C.I.Waggoner Elementary, was named the 2016-17 Administrator of the Year.

• Dixie Prosser, from Akimel, and Bonny Dolinsek, from the district office, were tied as Kyrene's Education Support Professionals of the Year. For 11 years, Dolinsek has served the community through enrolling students and families in school and community education programs.

• 2016-17 Teacher of the Year is Amy Dean from Kyrene de la Mirada, who the awards panel said shares her passion of learning and empowers her students to be the best leaders they can be.

In addition, employees with significant employment anniversaries were acknowledged, including 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service, along with retirees.





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July 4th Festival lights up the sky over Tempe Town Lake

elebrate Independence Day at one of the largest fireworks displays in Arizona. The ✓annual FOX 10 July 4th Tempe Town Lake Festival is back and it's a patriotic party for all ages.

The event, produced by the Kiwanis Club of Tempe, happens Tuesday, July 4, at Tempe Beach Park, at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway. Gates open at 5 p.m.

All ages can celebrate the holiday with live local entertainment, kids' activities, games, inflatables and rock-climbing walls.

The 35-minute fireworks show will be launched from the Mill Avenue Bridge and choreographed to popular music.

Net proceeds from the event will benefit the Kiwanis Club of Tempe Children's Charities.

Visit www.Tempe4th.com or call 480-350-5189 for information on tickets, entertainment, parking and transit, and items allowed in the

Tempe's 2017 Utility Rate Study is currently underway

Tempe is conducting a utility rate study for water, wastewater and solid waste. This study occurs every two years to evaluate present and projected costs in order to ensure we continue to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective services to our community.

Water, wastewater and solid waste services are exclusively paid through user fees.

Water and wastewater studies are driven by policy directives and the above guiding principles.

Based on the results of this process, changes may be made to the rate structure and rates, to better align costs to each customer class.

As the rate study progresses, details and recommended changes, if any, will be provided during public participation meetings and City Council meetings.

When it comes to solid waste, changes are being considered such as incentive

pricing based on container size and same-day collection for solid waste and recycling.

These are being reviewed to see if they would help the city meet its goals for diverting waste from landfills to recycling centers and for expanding its green organics program.

Tempe wants your opinion on rates for our 2017 Utility Rate Study. There are two public meetings for you to attend, and the same information will be presented at each:

- Wednesday, June 7, Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.
- · Saturday, June 10, Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural Road.

The rate study will continue through the summer, with additional public meetings in September. In November, the City Council will hold a public hearing to discuss rate adoption. If approved, new rates will go into effect January 2018. Details are at www.tempe.gov/ utilityrates.

McClintock Pool reopens this summer

Get ready to dive back in! McClintock Pool, 1830 E. Del Rio Dr., is reopening to the public this summer for recreational swim.

It will feature increased depth for diving, an ADAaccessible entry and updated equipment.

The pool was closed to the

public in 2010 and has been used by schools and swim clubs since.

In summer 2015, Tempe City Council approved funding for the renovations.

A reopening celebration is in the works for mid to late summer. Check www.tempe. gov/pools for updates.

Download the NEW Tempe 311 App

Tempe 311's new-andimproved mobile app is your one-stop-shop for city services and information.

You'll need to delete the old app, download the new app from the iTunes app store or Google Play and create a new account. In the app store,

search Tempe311.

Improvements include: automatic fill-in of addresses; better search function; and easier reporting of code violations.

Tempe 311 is also accessible at www.tempe.gov/311 and at 480-350-4311.

Smart meters are here!

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

The City Council approved the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project in May 2016.

The replacement project began late 2016 and will continue to take place over the next few years.

This is the first fully automated meter reading system in the Valley.

For more detailed information, visit http://bit.ly/2rx8Rv8.











Driving home the value of books

Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell, Valley Metro CEO Scott Smith, Curry Elementary School Principal Ken White, Valley Metro Bus Operator Jermaine Bethea and Curry Elementary kindergarteners, joined by government and school district officials, celebrated Valley Metro's Driving for Books donation drive.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Elementary and Valley Metro

Pueblo Middle School Softball Champs

The Lady Bulldogs softball team, coached by 12-year veteran Kyle Snyder, won their second straight Kyrene School District Softball Championship by defeating Altadena 17-5 on May 1.

The team started achieving success in 2015 when they placed second in the district championships finishing the season 7-5-1. In 2016 they went undefeated, 12-0,

to take home their first district championship.

This season, with a group of four core players who have been on the team for three years, since they were sixth graders, the Lady Bulldogs repeated as district champions compiling an 11-1 record.

This group of players, who plan on playing at Corona next year, include Tristin Jamar at shortstop and outfielder, Krystyna Pagel at third base and outfielder, Alex Reeve, outfielder and first base and Ali Staples, pitcher and outfielder.

Two West Chandler locations are sites for Back-to-School dropoffs

West Chandler's Sunset Branch Library and the nearby Desert Breeze Police Substation will be drop-off sites for Operation Back to School/ Chandler, an event designed to bring entire communities together to provide disadvantaged students with school supplies they'll need for the coming school year.

The city's Diversity Office and its community partners are busy preparing for this year's event, which will be held 7-11 a.m., Saturday, July 22, at Chandler High School.

Donated school supplies, shoes, socks and underwear, as well as supplies from a recommended wish list directly for federal program students, may be dropped off until Wednesday, July 12.

Hours at Sunset Library, 4930 W. Ray Road, are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday-Saturday; and 1-5 p.m., Sunday.

Hours at the Desert Breeze Police Substation, 251 N. Desert Breeze Blvd., are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Another West Chandler site, Hilton Phoenix Chandler, 2929 W. Frye Road, is open 24 hours for drop-offs.

To view a complete list of school supplies needed, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation online, visit backtoschoolchandler.org.





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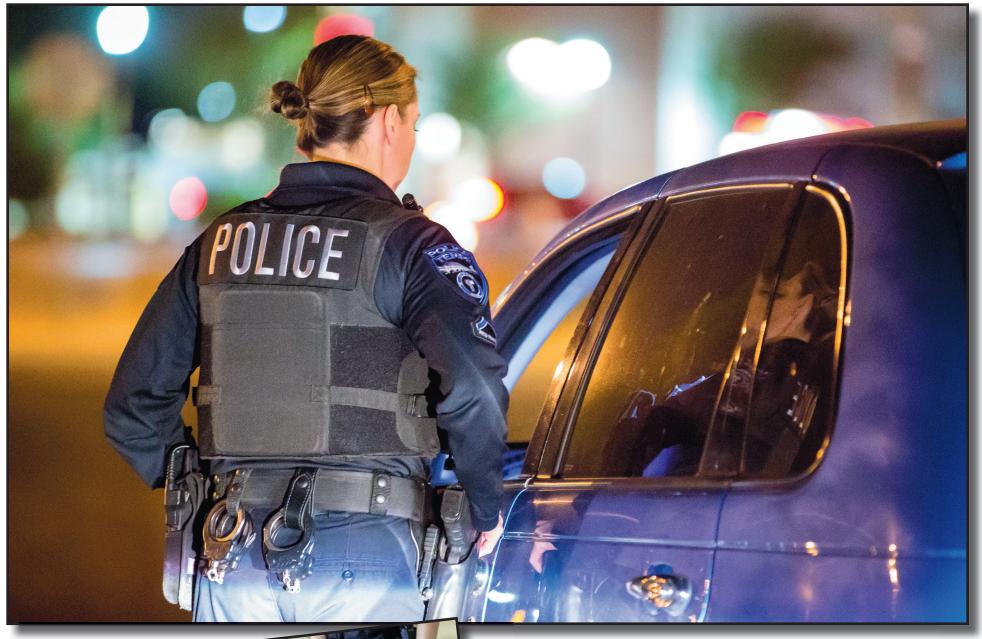
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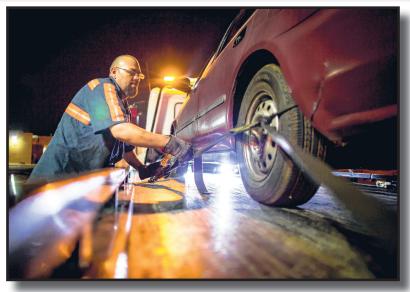


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Police officers, including Kelly Angel of Tempe PD, top photo, were out in force over the Memorial Day weekend in an effort to snag under-the-influence motorists. The task force is planning a similar enforcement initiative during the July 4 holiday.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

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