



August 5-18, 2017 □ Volume 28, Number 15

TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

SNUFFED OUT

Neighbors fume over smoke shop bid



Nick Bastian was among protesters who responded to a call that mobilized neighbors in response to a proposed smoke shop at McClintock Drive and Warner Road in Tempe.

— Wrangler News photo

By Joyce Coronel

The vacant space inside the strip mall on the southwest corner of McClintock Drive and Warner Road in South Tempe will not be the

place to buy tobacco, bong, rolling papers or smoking paraphernalia, thanks to the efforts of a group of nearby residents.

At least for now.
Gravitate Smoke

Shop, which operates stores in Scottsdale and Peoria, applied to Tempe's Development Review Commission for a use permit but was denied last month at a public hearing.

Tempe spokeswoman

Nikki Ripley said the business owner or residents are able to appeal the decision to the commission or the Tempe city council.

"If that is the course

— PROTEST, Page 11

Oktoberfest rewind: Free tickets, all vols

October might seem like a long way off when slogging through the sweltering days of August, but organizers of this year's Four Peaks Oktoberfest are meeting weekly in preparation for the big day this fall when the festival makes its 45th return visit to Tempe.

After last year's less-than-hoped-for turnout, organizers decided to revisit the event's roots, again featuring free admission and local, family-friendly entertainment as it did for the first four decades of its existence.

The fun begins Friday, Oct. 13, but before the beer gardens and food booths spring up and musicians stand before microphones, months of preparation and legwork lie ahead to make sure all goes smoothly.

The annual Oktoberfest celebration draws throngs of families and individuals for three days of fun in support of the Tempe Sister Cities program.

Larry West, who's been involved planning the event for many years, said organizers are optimistic. "It's all local entertainment and I think we've got a great lineup," West said.

That includes The Wes Williams Band on the main stage Friday night and Fayuca, a rock-reggae band, on Saturday night. Mogollon, a country rock band, closes Sunday night.

The ever-popular dachshund races are back this year, too, after an absence at last year's celebration.

Having suffered an exodus of free help last year when a management company took over the event and hired paid staff, going back to the original concept is taking a bit of work.

"We still need volunteers," West said. "Most of them will work a four-hour shift either in a beer or food tent. We also need volunteers on Saturday morning for the Frank Kush race."

Most Oktoberfest volunteers are giving of themselves, West said, because of their gratitude to the Tempe Sister Cities program and what it taught their children. They also earn points toward expense-paid trips, an approach that will be restored for this year's event.

Ultimately, it takes about 1,500 volunteers to make sure Oktoberfest operates efficiently.

—OKTOBERFEST, Page 14

IT'S ELEMENTARY . . . At Arredondo school, new year, new kids, new look

Kids, parents and staff due to return to Arredondo Elementary School on opening day will have a whole new look awaiting them, and a welcome one at that.

The ceremonial ribbon-cutting on Aug. 3 that preceded their first day back was accompanied by the

school's traditional Meet the Teacher night, followed by a tour and, to make sure the students got a palate-pleasing taste of their newly remodeled digs — free hot dogs.

The school, which was originally built in 1973,

— ARREDONDO, Page 22



Principal Alison Bruening-Hamati

Wrangler News photo

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The horses are back, an update on Alex and a view of the future

By Don Kirkland

My earliest newspaper memories date to the 1950s in Southern California, when we received—and I eagerly consumed—what seemed to my parents to be virtually every inch of the news published in our daily edition of the now mostly forgotten Los Angeles Examiner.

Not only did those pages provide an abundance of fascinating stories from L.A. and farflung corners of the world but a layout and look that, for whatever reason, had unexplainable eye appeal, at least for this particular 10-year-old.

So, not surprisingly, it came as something of a shock when I retrieved our familiar morning paper from the driveway one day to cast my eyes on an entirely new look—modernized, I assumed, to keep pace with what the editors must have considered the post-World War II habits of a changing population.

It is this memory perhaps more than any other that has hung over me whenever we've discussed changing some familiar design or content element of Wrangler News.

This, of course, includes the time we changed our name from Warner Wrangler, deciding to recognize the wider scope of coverage we had undertaken that was well beyond the horse-property confines along Warner Road where we got our start.

It was time, we agreed, to give ourselves a new horse-less image.

But when our new advertising artist a couple of weeks ago asked, innocently enough, "Hey, what do you think of when you hear the word 'wrangler'?", all in the room came back with the same answer: horses.

Therefore, if you've noticed our ongoing experiment during the past several weeks to insert those once-abandoned stallions back into our nameplate, you'll perhaps understand when and where it started, and why we're doing it.

No matter how much our neighborhoods have grown, no matter that horses obviously don't occupy everyone's backyard, they remain a recognizable backdrop—not only for our community but for a newspaper that we hope can continue to provide a path for Tempe to retain, and honor, its heritage.

So stay tuned...and giddyup!

About Alex

Having written in our last issue about the near-tragedy—and tragedy—that befell our photographer Alex J. Walker and his friend while riding their motorcycles on the Price/101 freeway a few weeks ago, we'd like to bring you an update.

Funeral services were held three weeks ago for Alex's friend, Jeremy Finn. Several hundred turned

out to say a sad goodbye.

As to Alex, he spent almost two weeks in intensive care, but has now been released from the hospital and is on the road to what appears to be the promise of a full recovery.

For any who followed Alex's progress while hospitalized, the word "miracle" finds its way easily into the conversation.

For all who became involved in this horrific accident—from those who stopped to render aid to those who prayed for Alex's recovery—we once again offer our collective gratitude, boiled down to two simple words:

Thank you!

About the future

We have been graced in these last few months with an abundance of talent, enthusiasm and energy for this new era that seems to have found its way to our doorstep.

We look forward to the start of our next 30 years, and once again invite you to share your ideas for how we can do an even better job.

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We're always glad to hear from you.

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Senior Environmental Specialist Pat Johnson inspects the contents of items dropped off at Chandler's Household Hazardous Waste collection facility.

Stored paint cans: Chandler wonders if they're the elephant in your garage

You know that half-empty can of paint and the used automotive fluids taking up room in your garage? There's a safe way to dispose of them and it doesn't include dropping them into your trash bin.

Last year, Chandler residents safely disposed of 79 tons of hazardous waste—enough to equal the weight of 13 elephants.

All that trash represented a five percent increase from the prior year and included latex paint, oil, antifreeze, and batteries.

Chandler residents can schedule appointments in advance for hazardous household waste by calling 480-782-3510. The facility is located at the city's Recycling-Solid Waste Collection Center, 955 E. Queen Creek Road.

The service is provided free for Chandler residents who pay for city-provided solid waste services. Once residents arrive at the facility, trained staff remove the items from the vehicle. Motor oil, brake fluid and antifreeze are sold to a local vendor; cooking oil is donated to make bio-fuel; paint is offered to city community cleanup projects and charities; and rechargeable batteries are recycled.

Fluorescent and CFL tubes are placed in an apparatus that removes mercury vapor and crushes the glass, which reduces containers and disposal costs. Contents of propane tanks and aerosol cans are emptied,

and the metal containers recycled.

These and other precautions are in place because improper disposal of hazardous waste can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health. Improper disposal can include pouring materials down the drain, onto the ground, into storm sewers, or, in some cases, putting them out with the regular trash.

The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but in the case of tossing materials in alleys, streets or storm drains, the risk to human health and the environment can be significant.

Monsoon rains this time of year means a lot of storm water is entering the city's storm drain system from alleys, driveways, streets and parking lots.

Unlike the water from sinks, showers and toilets, storm water flows untreated into storm drains that lead to nearby retention basins, greenbelts, parks, golf courses, washes and community lakes.

This runoff can contain the household hazardous waste people improperly discard, including pesticides, fertilizers, petroleum products, automotive fluids, paints, solvents and chemicals.

Having a place where residents can bring such materials is important.

Information: chandleraz.gov/recycle and chandleraz.gov/stormwater.



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School's back

Ideas for you, kids to start the year right

Summer break is drawing to a close as students across Tempe trek back to classrooms and ready themselves for a new year of learning.

They won't be lacking in assistance in that effort. The city of Tempe has teamed up with local school districts, Arizona State University, Rio Salado College and other community partners to provide myriad resources for both students and parents.

Students from pre-school through graduate school can access tips and information on student safety, educational resources, transportation options and ways to get involved in the community in one convenient location: www.tempe.gov/BackToSchool. Students can also get real time tips and info by following @Tempegov on Twitter/Instagram and CityofTempe on Facebook.

"We're excited to join together with our community partners to kick off a new school year in the city of Tempe," Mayor Mark Mitchell said. "We are proud to offer a variety of resources and programs to students of all levels from pre-school to doctoral candidates. The city of Tempe strives to support the needs of all of our students."

Here are just a few key resources to get students started:

Student safety

The Tempe Police Department and ASU offer an array of student safety tools, ranging from Facebook crime/safety alerts to drinking prevention to personal safety apps like the ASU LiveSafe Mobile App.

Transportation

The Tempe Youth Free Transit Pass program allows youth ages six to 18 who live in Tempe to ride all Valley Metro bus routes and the METRO light rail for free. Passes for this school year are valid July 1 through June 30, and can be obtained any time throughout the school year.

Students can obtain a pass at the Tempe Transit Store or on their school campuses at Tempe, Marcos de Niza, Compadre and McClintock high schools. To get a pass at the transit store, students must bring a parent or guardian, a copy of their birth certificate, proof of residency dated within the last 60 days and the parent or guardian's driver's license or photo ID.

Educational resources

Teens ages 13-18 can get free clothes, shoes, hygiene products and school supplies at THREADZ Tempe Teen Resource Center, located at Tempe and Marcos de Niza high schools. Proof of residency is required.

Students have access to online research tools through the Tempe Public Library, Tempe Youth Library, Tempe History Museum and more. Before and after school Kid Zone enrichment programs (tempe.gov/kidzone) keep the learning going after the school bell rings. Students looking for college and post-high school options can get involved in College Connect, a series of workshops, sessions and one-on-one counseling that help guide students through the college process.

Getting involved

There are several ways for students to get involved this year, from volunteer opportunities in government offices to taking part in Adopt-A-Street or Adopt-A-Park programs.

School start dates

Kyrene School District, Thursday, Aug. 3; **Tempe Elementary District**, Monday, Aug. 7; **Tempe Union High School District**, Monday, Aug. 7; **Arizona State University**, Thursday, Aug. 17; **Rio Salado Community College**, rolling start dates.



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Tempe mom catches a break with 21 other mothers of children with disabilities

Crystal Leon shares a smile with her 7-year-old son, William, better known at "Wildman Willie," and daughter Isabell, 11 (facing page) at their home in Tempe.

By Deborah Hilcove

Twenty-two moms from Tempe and other parts of the United States — all filled with hope — recently gathered for a luncheon at Babbo's Tempe restaurant and an opportunity to share the successes and frustrations of their ongoing battle against holoprosencephaly.

The condition, a congenital brain malformation with no cure and no standardized treatment—is the focus of their virtually nonstop diligence.

With their rare weekend collaboration, in which they were able to leave their children with dads and nurses, the seemingly never-ending responsibility of caring for a disabled child came to what all described as a brief but welcome respite .

Tempe resident Crystal Leon remarked that "a weekend of fun and companionship is such a blessing for us moms, and refreshing to get together, as we all can relate to each other when it comes to the care our medically fragile children need."

Holoprosencephaly, or HPE, is a genetic disorder caused by the embryo's forebrain failing to divide into left and right halves of the brain. This failure, which ranges from mild to severe and limits life expectancy, can cause defects in facial development and in the structure and function of the brain.

According to the Carter Centers for Brain Research, "It is estimated that HPE affects between one in every 5,000-10,000 live births." The report suggests the incidence may be much higher, perhaps even one in 200-250, because "only 3% of all fetuses with HPE survive to delivery and the vast majority of these infants do not survive past the first six months of life."

The weekend retreat at Babbo's was organized by Heather Rinard, a southeast Valley advocate and board member for Families for Hope. She notes that several of the moms attending the retreat adopted

— Continued on facing page

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children.

She says, "Some of the parents knew the children were affected, but about half didn't know till symptoms began.

"With my own daughter, Charliedawn, she was just four days old and we were about to be discharged from the hospital. I noticed she couldn't coordinate her breathing, sucking and swallowing. Her physical signs were fine, but some children are born with facial irregularities."

"This moms' weekend is important," Rinard added. "The moms become isolated and have little freedom. You can't use a regular babysitter. Charliedawn's four and a half now. She has a one-on-one nurse on the bus and at school. She has therapy—physical, occupational, speech and vision. And she has a medical-alert dog to warn if she stops breathing, has a seizure or if her tracheostomy tube is dislodged.

A disability like HPE affects the entire family.

Says Rinard:

"You gotta have a sense of humor," referring to the handicap decal on her car. Glitter-decorated, it reads, "Please leave room for the princess." With a laugh, Rinard says, "Charliedawn loves gold sparkly anything. With something like HPE, you can either laugh or cry. We chose to laugh about it."

Leon joins Rinard in acknowledging that "to be away from our kiddos is hard, but much needed.

We all need a break from the round-the-clock care we provide to our loved children who require so much."

Rinard mentions the Families for Hope organization supporting families of unborn infants with HPE and those grieving the death of a child. Together with the Carter Center, the nonprofit works to provide families with more information about an HPE diagnosis, as well as funding geneticists and researchers to study the brain malformation.

"They're exploring new treatments and technology," she says.

"We're hopeful."

Free swim day Saturday, Aug. 5

The countdown to the first day of school has begun but there's still time to squeeze in a bit of summer fun—and learning.

Tempe's Escalante Pool is inviting the first 300 people who show up from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, for Water Safety Day to swim for free.

Everyone who comes to the pool can have fun while learning to be safe in the water by taking part in mini swim lessons and watching the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department demonstrate CPR and water rescue techniques.

Prizes, snow cones and face painting will also be part of the mix.

The event is also an occasion to recognize August as Drowning Impact Awareness Month.

"August is still a high-risk month for child drownings and Water Safety Day helps us reach a large group of parents and children to remind them to be aware and safe in the water," said Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Chief Greg Ruiz.

Call Escalante Pool at 480-350-5770 or visit tempe.gov/pools for more information.

Escalante Pool is located at 2150 E. Orange St., Tempe.

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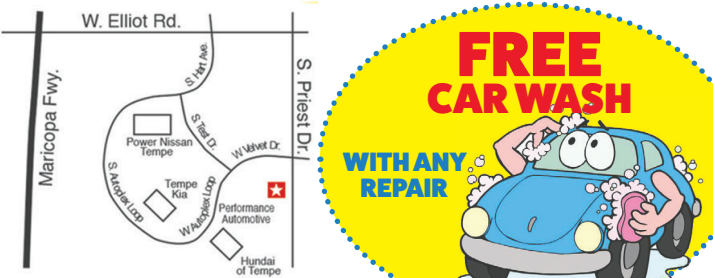
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‘It’s never too late’

Tempe center helps residents keep minds, bodies engaged

Story by Joyce Coronel
Photos on facing page
by Billy Hardiman

Tom Ballard punches a code into a key pad at the entrance to the memory care center at Westchester Senior Living in Tempe. He pushes the door open and steps through, greeting residents and

employees.

“We came at the 2 p.m. shift change,” Ballard said as he observed caregivers engaged in a discussion. Nearby, Louise Hilton stacked plastic cups, forming a pyramid. The activities assistant makes it her mission to discover which activities residents enjoy most.

Woody, dressed in bright orange top, likes to shoot the foam “bullets” loaded into a Nerf gun she places in his gnarled hands. After that, it’s a turn operating the remote-control car, sending it in circles around the meeting area.

Woody was once a race car driver. “I think it’s very important for them to have these activities,” Hilton said as she readied the next enterprise. Smoothies for the residents stood on a nearby table.

“What’s the point of sitting in your room doing nothing?”

Ballard emphasized the significance of engaging residents in activities.

“It’s very important that they receive stimulation to help them stay cognitively engaged in their environment because the alternative is loneliness, boredom and helplessness which we consider to be plagues.”

While Hilton had some of the residents involved in activities, two

women, further advanced in the memory-loss continuum, sat quietly in wheelchairs several feet away. What about them?

“The fact that they are here and semi-engaged—it’s still beneficial for them because they are being stimulated. They are not just lying in bed,” Ballard said.

“They are observing activities and seeing people. They don’t know who these people are, but they just know that there are other people around them and that makes them feel safe and secure. They don’t feel abandoned.”

“I feel I’ve done my job when I go home at night and I can tell that they have enjoyed themselves, that they did something fun,” Hilton said.

“I work really hard on the internet trying to find new things for them to do.”

One of those things is the “It’s Never Too Late” program known as IN2L that offers hundreds of interactive games, quizzes and activities through technology.

Hilton also plans Bingo games, monthly birthday parties and holiday celebrations. Some residents have loved ones who escort them to movies or restaurants.

“Louise finds out which activities

will make a resident come out of their rooms to participate,” Ballard said. “One resident loves doing artistic activities so Louise sets up art classes for her. Another resident enjoys watering the plants and feeding the birds.”

Woody, grinning after his turn with the remote control car, spoke of his days racing cars. His favorites, he said, were Porsches. Corvettes, not so much. “They wobbled all over the place.” He pointed to a scar just above his eyebrows, a toll that was exacted when he crashed his ride at Phoenix International Raceway after skidding on an oil slick.

He once competed in—and finished—the Mille Miglia, the thousand-kilometer race through Italy. What was it like?

“Long! There comes a time when you go, ‘Gosh, I wish I hadn’t done this.’ But I stayed at it. I finished the race and it about finished me too,” he said with a chuckle.

A Dementia Friends information session facilitated by Vicki L. McAllister will be held 5-6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17, in the Fiesta Room at Westchester Senior Living, 6150 S. Rural Road, Tempe.



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Hitting their mark

Residents at Westchester Senior Living's memory care center in Tempe—including a retired race car driver—spent a recent afternoon taking turns with a remote-control car and playing darts. It's all part of an ongoing recreational therapy program that keeps residents cognitively engaged.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year!



This week students arrive in our schools, backpacks brimming with supplies. The new school year, just like the fresh pages of new notebooks they'll open on the first day, reminds us that their future is waiting to be written, holding infinite possibilities for the story it will tell. For me, the start of a new school year gives opportunity to reflect on progress we have made in continuing Kyrene's legacy of excellence, in providing teachers the support they need to nurture academic progress, and in supporting families' confidence in choosing Kyrene schools.

As Superintendent, I have worked closely with our Governing Board to address the challenges of growing enrollment, and providing employees the compensation they deserve for the important work they do. We have taken important steps to meet these goals. They include expanding our preschool options to serve more families, a redesigning of our middle schools with an emphasis on responsive instruction and student agency to support academic achievement, and honoring a commitment to employee compensation. We have shifted precious resources from the District Office and dedicated them to where they are needed most—in our schools and classrooms.

Teams have been busy this summer improving and expanding curriculum resources and instructional strategies. Educators have been in trainings to continue their learning as part of our ongoing commitment to provide high quality instruction that contributes to your child's success. Our technology and facilities staff spent long hours making sure classrooms are ready when the students arrive. Our goal is that students will feel as excited to be back in school as we are!

Excellent schools are the cornerstone of all great communities, and Kyrene has a lot to celebrate. Our neighborhood schools provide safe and caring learning environments in which staff believe that every student has the ability to meet high expectations, given the right support and encouragement. Thank you for choosing us for your child's education.

With my best wishes for a successful school year,

Jan Vesely, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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'We want you back' campaign aimed at reaching high school dropouts

As thousands of young people across Tempe head back to school for a new year of learning and growth, dreaming of successful futures, Tempe Union High School District officials turn their eyes toward those who, for one reason or another, stay home.

The program, dubbed "We Want You Back," involves school principals, administrators and community volunteers—including Tempe mayor Mark Mitchell—knocking on doors and visiting with students who have a high probability of not returning to school.

Teams are meeting individually with each family to find out why their student has struggled to get to school in the past.

Jennifer Liewer, executive director of community relations for TUHSD noted that many families face transportation, financial and other barriers when it comes to attending school.

"The district hopes to provide assistance and guidance on how to remove these barriers," Liewer said.

Teams visited the homes of students who had not returned for second semester back in January and the program was considered extremely successful.

Students are identified by each school based on absence and other information that would put them at being at risk of dropping out.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average high school dropout can expect to earn an annual income of \$20,241.

That's more than \$10,000 less than the average high school graduate and about \$36,000 less than a person with a bachelor's degree.



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High Maintenance, a smoke shop within walking distance of Corona del High School, stocks an extensive inventory of glass pipes and other paraphernalia. — Wrangler News photo

Protest

From Page 1

this use-permit takes, it will come to the council as a quasi-judicial item, which means that the council must conduct itself as a court in its consideration of the matter and not as a legislative body.

“In these cases, the council is akin to a judge,” Ripley said. Community members would be able to attend and testify at any of the scheduled public hearings of the DRC or city council, Ripley noted.

Nick Bastian, an area Realtor who has lived near McClintock Drive for the last 15 years and in Tempe for most of his life, was one of those opposed to the proposed smoke shop’s permit application.

“The thing the community came out against is that it just didn’t seem like a good fit for the neighborhood. There’s one thing about maybe a high-end cigar shop, a true smoke shop, but this

place seemed to be geared more toward bong and pipes and things like that,” Bastian said.

Bernadette Coggins, past president of the Kyrene School District Governing Board, pointed to the presence of nearby schools as one more reason Gravitare shouldn’t be allowed to operate in the area.

A member for the last 10 years of Tempe Coalition—an organization devoted to reducing teenage drug and alcohol abuse—Coggins said she believes “these types of businesses send the wrong message to our youth.”

Coggins referred to a survey conducted by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission that includes 8th, 10th and 12th graders living in South Tempe, which she said revealed how “desensitized our youth have become regarding smoking marijuana.”

The 225-page report, available online at azcjc.gov, includes the survey given to students. Coggins said the report indicates that “71.3 percent of youth see no or only slight risk

— PROTEST, Page 12

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Protest

From Page 11

associated with marijuana use and 53.9 percent see no risk with smoking regularly.”

Matt Smith of South Tempe attended the hearing at which Gravitare sought a permit. He fumed that the vape shop owner “openly dismissed and disrespected neighbors during their testimonies. “If this is how he treats the community today, why would we expect anything different once he opens up shop?” Smith said.

“It’s clear that the vape shop owner didn’t do his research,” said Smith. “McClintock and Warner is an active, family-centered community. People like to walk here, ride their bikes and meet neighbors for coffee,” Smith said. “Nobody is walking around looking for a place to buy a bong.”

As to whether it would appeal the DRC decision, Gravitare’s owner did not return phone calls from Wrangler News requesting comment.

Although the company has so far been prevented from opening in South Tempe, that doesn’t mean the area is free of such businesses. “High Maintenance,” a smoke shop located in a plaza within walking

distance of Corona del Sol High School’s campus, has been around for years. A sign on the door advises that only those age 18 and up are permitted entry.

Wrangler News visited High Maintenance and spoke with 23-year-old Dakota, an employee who declined to be photographed but allowed photos of merchandise on display. Among the wares for sale are rolling papers and a substantial array of glass pipes, some costing as much as \$551.

“The pipes are for medical, tobacco and hookah,” he said. “They are for tobacco use only.” When asked if the pipes could be used for marijuana, he replied: “That would be your call.”

Two large, neon-lettered signs near the entrance to High Maintenance advertise bongs and scales. And the colorful flag emblazoned with a large marijuana leaf? “It’s just a decoration,” Dakota said.

“We are not a [medical marijuana] dispensary. We don’t sell any of that. If you have your card, there are certain glass things and vaporizers you can purchase.”

Some 80-200 customers visit the store daily with an average purchase of \$40, Dakota said, adding that clientele is “literally from 18 to 80” years old. He repeatedly stated merchandise was for “tobacco use only.”

Officer Brad Breckow, the Tempe police resource officer for Corona, said he is aware of the shop’s existence and doesn’t doubt some of its offerings may pop up on campus. Most people who smoke tobacco buy commercial cigarettes, he said, not loose tobacco.

Breckow’s main focus, he said, is educating students about marijuana and other drugs.

“I try to have open and honest discussions,” Breckow said, adding that most kids learn about drugs from friends or movies—not medical journals. “I hear a lot of things from them that are not true. I give them the facts.”

Marijuana, Breckow tells the students, is not a benign substance and can lead to negative short- and long-term consequences. As far as the pipes sold at High Maintenance, he said, the police can’t do anything until someone puts something illegal in them.

“Probably most of that stuff is not used for tobacco,” he said. As to the effect the shop’s presence has on Corona students, Breckow said:

“With the shop being there, it definitely piques their interest.”

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Non-resident registration opens Aug. 21

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Linked in? Expert tells why you should be

Those LinkedIn invitations lurking in your inbox are more valuable than you might think.

The Chandler Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an event that will feature keynote speaker Amanda Collins who will discuss best practices on making LinkedIn work for attendees.

Collins, founder of The Grammar Doctors, now known as Ink & Quill Communications, a corporate communications firm, will speak about how to make a LinkedIn profile into a portfolio and the best ways to post and engage through the medium.

She'll also address the importance of monthly blogs and ways to increase one's reach through LinkedIn. The luncheon and presentation takes place Tuesday, Aug. 15 at Soho 63, 63 E. Boston St., Chandler.

Members pay \$25 and general admission is \$35. Walk-ins are \$30 for members and \$40 for general admission.

Open mentoring begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by open networking at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon at noon.

All are welcome to attend the drop-in mentoring and network sessions. Raffle tickets will be available at the luncheon with proceeds to benefit Positive Pathways.



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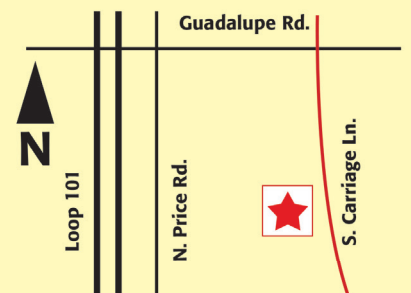
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Oktoberfest

From Page 1

Proceeds after expenses are split evenly between Tempe Elementary School District and the Tempe Sister Cities organization, amounting to around \$5,000 for each.

Every year, the Tempe Sister Cities program relies on the proceeds from Oktoberfest to send the 32 summer seniors—students who are between their junior and senior years—to one of Tempe’s 11 Sister Cities.

After four decades, more than 900 young people students have participated in the Sister Cities program that stretches from Regensburg, Germany, to Timbuktu,

Mali and other far-flung regions.

Students spend time abroad with a host family, learning about the culture, history, language and flavor of their particular Sister City.

They then return the favor later in the summer when their Sister City’s host student visits Tempe.

“These students are Tempe’s best and brightest,” West said.

“They’re smart kids and highly motivated. This foreign experience gives them depth to carry on when they go to college.”

President Dwight Eisenhower began the Sister Cities program in 1956.

“As he understood the ravages of war, he thought citizen diplomacy might be a positive alternative,” West said.

— Joyce Coronel



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A matter of principals



Kelly Alexander: Reflections of three decades at Kyrene

By Diana Whittle

For nearly 30 years, Kelly Alexander has been a familiar face to families in the Kyrene District. Most recently, she served as the principal of Pueblo Middle School.

In preparing to retire, she is reflective upon her career and the people who she met.

“As I look back on my years of service to the Kyrene School District, the highlight of those years will always be the many relationships that I was able to build with colleagues, students, and members of the community,” said Alexander.

“I also really enjoyed working directly with students, teachers and families to provide the best education possible.”

Her entire career has been spent in the district—first as a teacher, then as a principal at Kyrene Akimel A-al Middle School and serving for a time at the district level where she was the director of community education and outreach services.

“I enjoyed my time at the district office and being able to create and offer programs that families desired for their children, such as before and after-school programs, and

those held during the summer.”

She feels that the area residents are very supportive of the Kyrene District.

“I believe that our community is incredibly proud of the Kyrene school district.

“Our community wants to support our young people and provide them with the best educational opportunities for their future. The members of the community that I speak to are thankful for the many program options and committed staff members of the district,” said Alexander.

Alexander has been an Arizona resident for over 40 years. “I live in Chandler with my husband, Lonnie, and our two children, Brad and Kate.

“I have both an undergraduate and graduate degree from Arizona State University in the field of education. I am also a diehard Sun Devils fan. In my leisure time I enjoy gardening, travel and spending time with my two Labrador retrievers.”

In retirement she also hopes to continue helping the community.

“I plan to support the community by working on many community service projects and serving as a member of the Kyrene Rotary.”

Kyle Ross: Exploring the arts brings excitement to new role

By Diana Whittle

As of Aug. 3, students returning to Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School are being greeted by Dr. Kyle Ross, the new principal who district officials describe as a longtime, respected educator with a notable track record. And that’s just for openers.

He is new to the district and waxes enthusiastically about the learning process at Pueblo. “This is such a fantastic place,” said Ross.

“One doesn’t have to be on this campus very long to see a healthy learning environment, where students feel safe and loved by their teachers. I most look forward to seeing the students shine in their environment, whether that’s in the classroom, on stage, or on the athletic field.”

Pueblo already is known as an A+ School of Excellence, so it’s obvious that the school’s staff has laid a foundation of high achievement, which adds to Ross’s passion for his new role.

“I don’t expect to make major changes at the school, but we’ll have a renewed focus. Kyrene del Pueblo has been on a journey to become an arts integration

school, and we’ll continue that journey strongly,” said Ross.

“Arts integration is not a sacrifice of core academics but an approach to teaching in which students make connections between the core content and the myriad art forms that we’re lucky enough to enjoy in life,” he said.

“In every way, Pueblo provides students with the complete middle-school experience including academics, activities and athletics, along with the added bonus of being able to explore the arts,” he adds.

To his new leadership position, Ross brings 18 years of varied experiences as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and district program director. He says he personally likes to gather data before making changes and to observe his team to discover their strengths.

“When working with a team, my leadership style is to seek what everyone’s work strengths are and use them to their fullest potential. As long as we have a shared vision and mission, everyone can work within their own strengths to help us achieve our goals,” said Ross.

Education, it would seem, is the Ross

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Sports

With Alex Zener

Barcello, Lee departures leave a tough challenge

It's going to be hard to fill the basketball shoes and score the points typically made by **Alex Barcello** and **Sabin Lee**, Corona's star players who will be heading off to play Division I college basketball this fall: Barcello at the University of Arizona, Lee at Vanderbilt.

Lee and Barcello, both named to azcentral's All-Arizona team their senior season, were terrific guards and prolific scorers for the Aztecs.

Lee, who had to sit out the second half of the season his sophomore year due to injury, came on strong his junior and senior seasons averaging over 20 points a game for the Aztecs with his speed and high-flying athletic dunks.

Barcello, who played on the varsity team all four years, scored 2,254 career points at Corona shooting over 55 percent from the field and almost 90 percent from the charity stripe his senior season.

During Barcello's storied high school career, he not only was named Gatorade Arizona Boys

Basketball Player of the Year his sophomore and senior year but left a legacy that will be hard to follow when he broke and exceeded the school's career-point record set by **Lamont Long** 20 years ago.

Long who averaged 33 points a game his junior year and 28 points a game his senior season set Corona's career points record with 2,118 points 20 years ago before heading off to play at the University of New Mexico.

The current Aztec basketball team spent the summer working on individual skill development in the hopes of filling some, if not all, of the void that will surely be felt with Barcello and Lee's absence when basketball practice starts in Nov.

"Summer, for us, is about giving our guys an opportunity to focus on addressing individual weaknesses on both sides of the ball without risk," said head coach **Neil MacDonald**. "We don't spend much time on team concepts, except for defense, during the summer."

"We firmly believe that players are made in the summer and teams are made in the fall," said MacDonald.

The coaches did spend time with the players this summer, especially with any new players, on the basketball program culture at Corona.

"We spent a lot of time working to maintain the healthy culture that has made CDS successful over the years," said MacDonald. "We believe this group of young players understands the importance of that culture."

Keeping with the summer goal of individual skill development, the team did participate in two non-traditional tournaments where the pressure of wins and losses was not the focus.

"We played two weekends, one at Gilbert High and one at Campo Verde, where we played four games each weekend," said MacDonald. "The organizers of these non-traditional tournaments just look to make competitive matchups where there are no winners or losers."

These non-traditional tournaments not only gave the coaches an opportunity to identify areas that each player may need to work on, it also allowed players to showcase their improved skills on offense.

"We had different players stand out at different times as far as offense goes," said MacDonald. "Our scoring was pretty balanced in the tournaments but we had good performance inside from juniors **Keb Summers** and **Jaron Reval** and senior **Miles Allen**."

"We had good perimeter work and scoring from sophomores **Eric Blackwell** and **Dalen Terry** along with junior **Sha Vere Yarde**."

Most coaches think you can never be too good defensively which is probably why Corona works on team defense at every practice.

Some basketball players relish playing defense.

"When it came to playing defense during the tournament games, seniors **Kobee Marion** and **Hale Samuelson** added defensive toughness as did sophomores **Derek Zarate** and **Jaron Reval**," said MacDonald.

The big question may be what players can the fans expect to take over the guard play of Barcello and Lee especially as it related to the point guard position.

It may end up falling to Blackwell and Terry, both guards, who gained valuable experience last year playing as freshman on the varsity team with Barcello and Lee.

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“We are expecting more from our returning guards plus there will be plenty of opportunities for guys to step in and fill those minutes played in the past by Barcello and Lee,” said MacDonald. “Filling their shoes will be a group effort, at least in the beginning.”

To finish off the summer break, the Aztecs held informal scrimmages with Perry, Millennium and Tempe High but did not attend any summer team camps.

“Overall, we were very happy with our skill development this summer,” said MacDonald. “We got to work with some new faces from our 17-1 record JV team last season.”

“We are confident that we will be putting a very competitive group on the floor this upcoming season.”

Casey Benson transfers to Grand Canyon University

Corona basketball fans will be able to watch former Aztec and Oregon basketball player **Casey Benson** play his senior season at Grand Canyon University after he announced after the NCAA tournament

that he was transferring from Oregon.

Benson, who graduated from Oregon in three years, will be eligible to play right away under head coach Dan Majerle.

Benson, who played a major role in the first three of Corona’s four consecutive state championships will also be playing under his brother, T.J., an assistant coach for the Antelopes.

While at Corona, Benson was name Player of the Year his junior season. He often appears to personally will his team to win games, especially in the state tournament when he took over games scoring one big three after another.

He set a new career assist record at Corona after recording 444 assists.

Cassius Peat to Play Football at Scottsdale Community College

Another athlete who played basketball at Corona and was part of all four of Corona’s basketball championships, **Cassius Peat**, has landed at Scottsdale Community College.

Peat, a two-sport athlete



Miles Allen, left, and Jaron Reval

— Photos for Wrangler News by Kris Cartwright / More at kris.cartwright@smugmug.com



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Sports

From Page 19

playing both football and basketball at Corona, has been on a recruitment rollercoaster of sorts since graduating from Corona in 2015.

Cassius, who chose football to play in college like his father, Todd, Sr. and two older brothers, Todd, Jr. and Andrus, has a recruitment history with two major college programs: UCLA and Michigan.

While in high school, he first verbally committed to UCLA to play defensive lineman for the Bruins only to change his mind after going on a recruitment trip to Michigan State.

Peat withdrew his commitment to UCLA and signed with Michigan State.

After redshirting his freshman year with the Spartans, Cassius left Michigan State before the 2016 season for undisclosed personal reasons.

He ended up at Pima Community College enrolled as a student. He worked out with a trainer but did not play football.

Last winter he recommitted to UCLA to play defensive lineman starting in the fall of 2017.

That was before Michigan State and head coach Mark Dantonio asked him to return to the Spartans.

He once again shunned UCLA for Michigan State but was informed just before he was to leave Tempe for East Lansing not to come.

Peat was hopeful after being told not to return to Michigan State that he could land another D1 scholarship but he ran into a series of roadblocks that made it necessary to accept the offer at Scottsdale Community College if he wanted to play football this fall.

The good news is that he will be able to play football this fall offering him the opportunity to not only show off his football skills but have an impact on the football field playing in front of his family and friends.

Peat should also be able to finish his Associate Arts degree and be eligible to transfer to a D1 school for the spring semester or at the least during the summer.

He will still have two full years of D1 eligibility left to play football.

The Artichokes play their first game Sept. 2 at Glendale Community College and then play at home Sept. 9 against Phoenix College.



A Phoenix Rising fan is enveloped by the red-tinged clouds from the traditional celebratory smoke bomb that regularly erupts over the stands each time Phoenix scores a goal.
— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

By Kody Acevedo

It's an exciting time to be a soccer fan in the Valley right about now.

Phoenix Rising FC, the highest level professional soccer franchise in Arizona, is putting on quite the show in 2017.

It began with a highly successful re-branding effort capped off with the opening of a new 5,000 seat stadium on McClintock Drive and Loop 202 near the Tempe/Scottsdale border.

But flashy new uniforms and a new soccer-only facility are only part of the excitement. All of the hype means very little without a quality team to put on the field.

Phoenix Rising has solved that problem too. Throughout the summer, the team has turned heads across the Valley.

It started with the signing of Didier Drogba, a former MLS striker who is most famous for playing with Chelsea in the Premier League.

"We have a desire to play with intensity," Drogba said following a 2-1 victory over Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC on July 15. "I've been here for six weeks and the team has improved."

Following Drogba's signing, the team went on a six-game unbeaten streak after a 4-5 start to the season.

"We have a great team. Young guys full of energy and a desire to win here at home," Drogba said.

On top of Drogba's signing, the team hired Patrice Carteron to be their new head coach on May 22 after former coach Frank Yallop resigned in April.

Carteron is a former Mali National Men's Team manager and took over in early June.

"I want our fans to feel that we are fighting every time," Carteron said. "Of course we want to play good football... definitely we need to progress, but I'm so happy about what we did in the last six games."

Carteron highlighted the excitement Drogba brings to the Phoenix Rising environment, both with the players and the fans.

"We cannot play defensive football when so many thousands of people are coming to support us. We have an offensive player like Drogba, we need to give him the ball if we want fans to see what he can do with the ball."

"Patrice wants us to win every game," Drogba said. "That's the mentality we need to have. You know you can't win every time, but you have to give everything and that's all we've been doing the last few weeks."

The efforts by Phoenix Rising, formally Arizona United SC, are not just to attract more fans, but to attract the attention of MLS officials.

In January, Phoenix Rising submitted an expansion application bid to join Major League Soccer.

Phoenix is one of 12 markets bidding for an expansion team.

"Phoenix, Arizona is ready for Major League Soccer," Phoenix Rising FC governor Berke Bakay said in January. "Phoenix is the largest expansion market in the United States. We offer MLS the largest population of Millennial and Hispanic soccer fans, and the most TV households. Phoenix is also the only expansion market without an existing MLS team within 300 miles. It's time for the MLS to come to the southwest and rise with our fans in Phoenix."

Phoenix joins Charlotte, Cincinnati, Detroit, Indianapolis, Nashville, Raleigh/Durham, Sacramento, St. Louis, San Antonio, San Diego and Tampa who all submitted applications earlier this year.

Major League Soccer will announce two new expansion teams before the end of 2017.

Currently, there are 22 teams, but MLS plans to add Los Angeles FC in 2018 and a Miami team, pending a finalized stadium plan.

Phoenix is hoping to be team 25 or 26 and will begin play in MLS by the 2020 season.

Two additional expansion teams will be announced at a later date. The timeline for selecting clubs 27 and 28 will be decided later this year.



Phoenix Rising, a Tempe-based team that owners hope will soon become a Major League Soccer organization, came away with a 2-1 win over the Colorado Springs Switchbacks. Phoenix Rising forward Didier Drogba, number 11, left, helped lead the team to its first-ever triumph over the Switchbacks.

— Photos by
Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News



Arredondo

From Page 1

underwent extensive renovations over the 2016-17 school year, expanding the campus to 66,813 square feet, with 27 classrooms, three music rooms and project and assessment labs.

The new and renovated spaces, part of the work undertaken by McCarthy Building Companies, included:

- Five common spaces throughout the campus within the classroom areas (breakout areas with secondary supervision)
- A new updated learning commons (library) designed to be a community asset; renovated multipurpose room; and a 3,000-square-foot cafeteria with a new kitchen/ serving area
- Increased parent and staff parking and student drop-off and pick-up
- Enlarged and dedicated bus drop-off and pick-up location
- Day-lighting within all classrooms, designed to result in energy savings
- Increased security throughout the campus
- Reoriented campus to provide a welcoming front entrance
- Outdoor learning spaces

The \$11.8 million project was funded as a result of passage of a bond election in 2009. DLR Group served as the architect on the project.

“In projects like Arredondo, it is important to understand the difference between renovation and transformation,” said Pamela Loeffelman, DLR’s vice president of education.

“Arredondo is more than a renovation with new additions; it really represents a transformation of the entire facility reflecting the heart and spirit of the community,”

Arredondo Elementary School’s name honors longtime Tempe residents Alejandro and Josefa Arredondo.

Mrs. Arredondo worked in Tempe Elementary cafeterias. All of the Arredondo children have worked in education.

McCarthy Building Companies Inc. is the oldest privately held national construction company in the country.

Ross

From Page 15

family business. His father was a public school teacher. His wife is the assistant principal at Kyrene de la Paloma Elementary School, next door to Pueblo. In addition to being Kyrene educators, they are parents of a two-and-a-half year-old son.

Ross grew up in Indiana and moved to Arizona in 1994 to attend ASU.

With aspirations of becoming a principal, Ross went onto earn a doctoral degree in educational administration and supervision from ASU.

He wants to stay in touch with Kyrene families, so he has created social media accounts. “On Facebook and Twitter I have professional accounts @DocRossPueblo, and welcome the community to follow me for school updates and celebrations.”

Tempe Diversity: ‘Everyone welcome’

Diversity is a core value for Tempe, according to Ginny Belousek, who manages an initiative that encourages acceptance.

It’s part of the city’s charter, she notes, and a point of pride for the community, without regard to race, religion, age, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

The imperative, she notes: “To help ensure that people are welcomed and included.”

Toward acquainting residents with her own and the Tempe Human Relations Commission’s stand on the subject of diversity, Belousek and others have collaborated with the city of Tempe Office of Strategic Management and Diversity to create posters for people, businesses and organizations to display.

These represent a visualization of the work done every day by Tempe to create, maintain and celebrate this welcoming atmosphere, Belousek says.

Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell agrees. “Diversity and inclusion are core values for our city,” he adds. “It’s the diversity of the people in our city—residents and visitors alike—that make our community great. Everyone is welcome in Tempe.”

Posters may be picked up at Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St.; Tempe’s Business Resource and Innovation Center at Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road; and at Tempe Chamber of Commerce, 1232 E. Broadway Road.

Tempe’s Office of Strategic Management and Diversity advocates for inclusion at every level; from ensuring city policy is on point to hosting award ceremonies and educational programs.

Some of the events, programs and services Tempe offers are:

MLK Diversity Awards, Regional Unity Walk, An Equal Pay Initiative with Pay Negotiation Training and Business Designations; Gay/Straight Alliance; Inclusion Training; Domestic Partner and Transgender Benefits for city employees; Tempe Tardeada; Adult and Teen Diversity Dialogues; “Who’s Your Neighbor?” brown bag luncheons; City-wide ADA Self Evaluation; Mayor’s Commission on Disabilities; Mayor’s Disability Awards; Adapted Recreation Classes; and Diversity Supplier Program and Tempe Human Relations Commission.

According to Belousek, Tempe’s Office of Strategic Management and Diversity has won wide acclaim, including some national awards, including a *City Cultural Diversity Award from the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; Workforce Diversity Award from the Arizona Society of Human Resource Management; Arizona Minority Contractors of America Award; Women In Transportation Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award; United Latino Business Coalition; Greater Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Business Equity Index Award; City Cultural Diversity Award from the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; and ONE Community Spotlight on Success Local Heroes Award.*



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City of Tempe Page



Tempe considers mail-only city elections

The City Council is considering holding Tempe's March and May 2018 elections as vote-by-mail elections, and they want your input. Voting by mail is increasingly popular among Tempe voters. In the March 2016 city election, nearly 94 percent of voters cast an early ballot.

Moving to an all-mail election is estimated to save \$55,000 per election, for a total of \$110,000 for the spring 2018 elections. If the Council decides to move to all-mail elections, there would be no early voting locations or polling places; however, there would be a ballot center open the several days prior to each election, including the weekend, and from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, in case voters misplace their ballots, need new ballots or don't mail them in time. Every registered voter would automatically be mailed a ballot, beginning 27 days prior to the election.

Tempe Forum, which is Tempe's online feedback portal, will collect input on this issue throughout August; visit www.tempe.gov/tempeforum. In addition, two public forums will be held on Aug. 12 at 9:30 a.m. and Aug. 15 at 6 p.m., at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. At the forums, staff from the City of Tempe and Maricopa County Elections Department will provide an overview of vote-by-mail elections and answer questions. The Council is scheduled to review the input and discuss the issue on Sept. 18 at its public Work Study Session.

Tempe Center for the Arts celebrates 10 years

New 2017-18 "TCA Presents" season kicks off with gala anniversary weekend

Tempe Center for the Arts sponsored by Northern Trust celebrates its 10th anniversary year with its new TCA Presents 2017-18 season, filled with music, theater and dance performances featuring some of the most ground-breaking, "buzz-worthy" artists on the scene today.

The 10th anniversary festivities will kick off Sept. 8 with a gala hosted by Friends of the TCA featuring American Idol winner and Arizona native Jordin Sparks in concert.

The celebration weekend

continues Sept. 9 with a tribute to Nat "King" Cole, whose daughter Natalie opened the TCA in 2007, featuring Tony-nominated performer Keith David and "Too Marvelous For Words."

The Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts will open a retrospective called "Tempe Xhibition," which will celebrate the creative, funky and innovative spirit of Tempe.

It runs Sept. 9 through Jan. 6, 2018.

Tickets for the Gala Weekend and 2017-18 TCA Presents season are available now by calling 480-350-2822 or at www.tca.ticketforce.com.

Visit www.tempe.gov/tca for full listing of events and exhibitions.



Healing Field tribute

Tempe will honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with a display of patriotism and unity at the 14th annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park, located at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway.

The free event runs Friday, Sept. 8, through Monday, Sept. 11, from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

On Sept. 8, there will be a Freedom Concert featuring local school choirs. On Sept. 11, there will be a memorial ceremony at 5:46 a.m. and a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m.

A moving display of American flags, Healing Field is presented by the Tempe Exchange Club.

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

Mark your calendar for GAIN events

The City of Tempe invites you to join fellow neighborhood and homeowners association chairs, apartment managers, block watch captains and residents to do some Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) party planning.

City staff will help residents start planning their parties at the GAIN Kick-Off at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

The aim of GAIN is to work together to foster safer and more connected neighborhoods. Whether this is your first experience with planning a GAIN event

or you are a seasoned party planner, there will be tips, handouts and information, along with chances to win raffle prizes from our event sponsors, and opportunities to win party visits from city departments such as Tempe Fire Medical Rescue, Tempe Police and Public Works.

Pre-register your event at www.tempe.gov/GAIN or come prepared as your neighborhood representative the evening of the Kick-Off, and we can get your neighborhood registered.

Tempe GAIN Night will be held in neighborhoods across Tempe on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 3-7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/GAIN, or contact the Neighborhood Office at neighborhoods@tempe.gov or 480-350-8234.



New: drop off your green organics free!

Tempe residents can now drop off green organics for free at the Solid Waste Compost Yard, 55 N. Rio Road (near Rio Salado Parkway and Hardy Drive), on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (excluding holidays) from 8 a.m. to noon. No appointment is necessary.

All incoming green organics must be free of other material.

Green organics also are collected during curbside bulk trash pickups three times a year.

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



Students representing Tempe and its 11 Sister Cities around the globe celebrated the program's recent recognition as best in the nation for cities its size. Tempe's history of ranching inspired the denim, leather boots and cowboy hats pictured above. — Photo by Dennis Ederer

From Tempe to the world and back again . . . lasting friendships abound **Sister Cities program once again lauded among nation's best**

By Jane Neuheisel

The summer heat doesn't seem to stop Tempe Sister Cities volunteers. The organization has been bringing the world to Tempe for more than four decades with no end in sight.

As of now there are 74 teens in Tempe, representing 12 countries, participating in the annual student exchange.

Tempe Sister Cities was recognized last month by Sister Cities International as having the best overall Sister City program in the country for cities with a population of 100,000 to 300,000.

It is the eighth time Tempe has won the award.

Tempe students participate in a competition to become exchange students, with winners selected in March.

The organization pays for the plane tickets to take students to the various destination cities, and then later host their new "brothers and sisters" for five-

week homestays in Arizona.

During the time they spend in Arizona, the students camp at the Grand Canyon, attend a Tempe City Council meeting, travel by double-decker bus to California for a day at Disneyland and another day at the beach, tour Arizona State University, attend a Diamondbacks baseball game, visit Kartchner Caverns and more.

Parents of the students host a welcome-home dinner, a farewell dinner featuring a typical American Thanksgiving menu, and plan various trips around Arizona.

Ask any student who participates: the experience is life-changing.

One of Tempe's sister cities is Timbuktu, Mali, which authorities say is not a safe place to visit right now. However, the local Sister Cities group invited two students from Timbuktu to experience the exchange and purchased their plane tickets, with local families stepping up to host. In addition, this

is the first year Tempe is participating in a student exchange with its newest sister city, Agra City, India, home to the Taj Majal.

Almost 2,000 students have participated in the exchange since it began in 1972. That year, four students were selected to go to Skopje, Yugoslavia, now Macedonia.

Marshal Tito was still in power and the cold war was raging. The creation of this student exchange got national headlines and is ongoing.

Today Tempe has eleven sister cities: Skopje; Regensburg, Germany; Lower Hutt, New Zealand; Zhenjiang, China; Timbuktu; Beaulieu sur Mer, France; Carlow, Ireland; Cuenca, Ecuador; Cusco, Peru; Trollhattan, Sweden; and Agra City.

Membership in Tempe Sister Cities is open to all. Information: tempeisitercities.org.

Jane Neuheisel and her husband Dick helped launch Tempe's Sister City program in 1971.

County helping East Valley agencies to fight homelessness

The fight against homelessness has received a new injection of money and support from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, with a sizeable portion of the allocation aimed at East Valley programs and projects.

The board approved nine contracts, worth \$1.3 million, that support regional solutions for homelessness. Officials say the contracts will fund programs that offer rapid re-housing and support services as well as emergency shelter.

“By coordinating these services with dedicated and experienced local partners, Maricopa County has positioned itself as a regional leader on this complex issue,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Denny Barney, whose district spans Tempe and Chandler along with other area cities.

Barney noted that the challenges of homelessness require an understanding of the relationships between available and affordable housing, mental health, the justice system and support services, which Barney says are being addressed.

Bruce Liggett, director of the Maricopa County Human Services Department, analyzed ways in which the county’s initiative is progressing. “Maricopa County is developing linkages between programs using proven approaches to provide solutions,” said Liggett.

The six new contracts recognize the need for homeless services that’s will provide housing for approximately 50 individuals and, in the coming year, shelter for over 1,700 individuals.

Shelter providers also assist with housing placements. These contracts leverage new and existing fund sources in innovative ways, working with local communities and non-profits to find solutions that make sense for each area.

A New Leaf will provide shelter services to single adults in the East Valley.

Circle the City will provide medical respite and shelter to single adults.

Native American Connections will offer youth shelter, as well as rapid re-housing services, with a priority for referrals from the county’s Correctional Health Services.

AZCEND (formerly Chandler Christian) will offer rapid re-housing services.

Lutheran Social Services will provide shelter services with other local faith organizations.

Three of the nine contracts will receive continued funding, reflecting the county’s commitment to current homeless services offered at the Human Services Campus in Phoenix.

St. Vincent de Paul and Lodestar Day Resource Center will provide temporary shelter and supportive services. CASS will provide ongoing shelter with an increased emphasis on outcomes and pay for performance.

The Housing and Community Development Division of Maricopa County’s Human Services Department will coordinate and oversee the contracts.

‘H2O for Heroes’ drive on Aug. 5 to aid firefighters

It takes a heroic amount of water to rehydrate a firefighter who may spend several hours in the Arizona heat fighting a fire, on the scene of an accident, or in a training drill. A fire crew can drink gallons of water to help them recover before responding to the next call.

So, to help supply first responders with a cool drink on a hot summer day, Arizona’s 39 Firehouse Subs restaurants, including the five in Tempe, are participating in the sixth annual H2O for Heroes water collection drive to reach a single-day goal of 20,000 cases. On Saturday, Aug. 5, all Firehouse Subs restaurants will provide one medium sub to each guest who donates an unopened, 24-pack of bottled water as a thank-you.

In the East Valley, water will also be accepted at a collection event, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m Saturday, Aug. 5, outside the Albertsons at 4060 W. Ray Road, Chandler. Those donations will be given to the Tempe and Chandler fire and police departments for their own use and to hand out to people in need.

“During the summer, if you see any one of the hundreds of local first responders take an appreciative gulp from a bottle of water, chances are we have a community member to thank for it,” said Tom Medrano, local event coordinator for Firehouse Subs.

A bottle of water can also be provide a bit of comfort to people who are outside for some time.

“As first responders, we see many people in emergency situations who need some relief from the excessive summer heat. To help them, our Scene Support staff gives out water donated through H2O for Heroes,” said Tempe Deputy Fire Chief Mitch Bycura.

Local fire departments are also making the Albertson’s location event a time for water safety education.


A Tempe fire truck will be on display and staff will offer water safety handouts and other public education materials for anyone who stops by.

Information: 480-726-8200.



Exchange Club President Ryan Royle presented Donna Bird with an award for her service to the annual Tempe 3000 Flag Field event. The presentation, at Bogey’s Sports Bar & Grill, hosted 100-plus guests, with proceeds helping to keep the annual flag ceremony in Tempe. It is said to be one of the oldest and largest 9/11 commemorative events in the USA.

— Josh Collom for Wrangler News



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Diversions

A movie primer for whom the school bell tolls

By M.V. Moorhead



Parents traditionally rejoice, and students are traditionally glum, and here in Arizona, both are traditionally pleased by the approach, on the distant horizon, of cooler weather. But however you feel about it, back to school time has undeniably arrived.

The back-to-school experience, with its sense of lost freedom and imposed drudgery, and also with its promise of new and exciting experiences, has been the subject of countless movies. Here are a few favorites:

Grease (1978)—This adaptation of the stage musical, starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, starts on the first day of school, with the rousing production number “Summer Nights.” I’ve always had a soft spot for this movie, and this has always puzzled and disturbed me, since it’s a rapturous celebration of social conformity, peer pressure, and the behavior of the sort of thuggish jerks that often made high school a lousy experience for me, and a far lousier one for the sorry souls even farther down the

dork pecking order than I was.

Rock ‘n’ Roll High School (1979)—Released just a year after *Grease*, this lower-budget, pleasingly iconoclastic high school fantasy from director Allan Arkush concerns an autocratic, rock-music-hating new principal (the superb Mary Woronov) trying to stamp out enthusiasm for The Ramones at Vince Lombardi High. P.J. Soles is memorable as the Ramones-obsessed Riff Randell, and so is Clint Howard as the entrepreneurial Eaglebauer.

Animal House (1978)—Back to school, college-style, is the theme of this classic, incalculably influential campus comedy, about the slovenly, lecherous, drunken, prank-playing and hugely self-satisfied denizens of Delta House, a mangy last-resort fraternity at a small Pennsylvania college in 1962, and their persecution by a baleful, fed-up dean and a snobby rival frat. At the center of it all is the grungy, boozy, gluttonous, voyeuristic Bluto, played with a wonderful subtlety and delicacy of facial expression by John Belushi,

in the signature role of his brief movie career.

Back to School (1986)—The movie that actually uses our theme as its title is another college romp. This one stars Rodney Dangerfield as a rich guy who enrolls in college to help his son socially. Much partying ensues. The young Robert Downey Jr. had one of his earlier noticeable film roles as the son’s friend, and the late comedian Sam Kinison had one of his few roles as maniacal history teacher.

Ferris Bueller’s Day Off (1986)—This one isn’t about going back to school; it’s about ditching school. Upper-middle-class kid Ferris (Matthew Broderick) decides he needs a day off, and takes his girlfriend (Mia Sara) and best friend Cameron (Alan Ruck) on a spree in Chicago. He’s stalked both the snide Principal (Jeffery Jones) and by his sister (Jennifer Grey), who’s had it with her brother’s popularity. Charlie Sheen has a small but excellent early role, and Ben Stein, as the most boring economics teacher

in history, makes a compelling case for our hero's truancy.

Mean Girls (2004)—Lindsay Lohan stars as a girl new not just to American high school but to school, period—she's been homeschooled in Africa by her scientist parents. She initially views the predatory and dominance behavior of her new environment in terms of the African wild, but soon enough she slips into it herself, falling under the influence of the title characters, a clique led by Rachel McAdams. The script, by Tina Fey (who also co-stars as a math teacher), uses the teen-comedy template to ingeniously dramatize teenage folkways and mores.

Dazed and Confused (1993)—You might want to include this one in your back-to-school festival, if only to give yourself something to look forward to. Not only is Richard Linklater's slice-of-life, set at a Texas high school in 1976, one of the best teen comedies of all time, it's also set on the *last* day of school.

Atomic Blonde: Fun to watch but, in the end, disappointing

There's some enjoyment, certainly, in watching the stunning 41-year-old Charlize Theron beat the snot out of skeezy-looking guys.

And you can get your fill of this pleasure from this espionage thriller, set in Berlin in 1989, against the backdrop of The Wall coming down.

There are lots of fight scenes, intricately choreographed, superbly shot, and performed with a percussive, grunting-and-groaning violence by Theron and the heavies assaulting her, and these sequences go on for a long, long time.

They often feel like fights in a stage play, with the actors "selling" their highly telegraphed moves with loud vocalizations. The combatants slow down as the fights progress and they get increasingly tired and injured.

They're left bloody and dirty and scarred, and our heroine is forced to take ice baths to revive herself afterwards.

This is not to say, of course, that the action in this film is really much more plausible than that in any Bond or Jackie Chan movie.

It's just stylized in a different way, and after a while the brutality of it becomes funny—you wonder what makes these people so doggedly determined to kill each other, what could possibly inspire such loyalty and commitment in the face of such savage punishment.

But it is fun to watch. Many of the film's brawls and stalkings are ingeniously edited to '80s techno-pop hits, Bowie and Falco and Nena and the like, and as with the '70s stuff in the *Guardians of the Galaxy* flicks, it's a terrific, nostalgic playlist.

Theron plays Lorraine, sent by MI6 to investigate the murder of a British spy just as the East German government is unraveling, and to recover the McGuffin he was chasing, some sort of list that could restart the Cold War. This allows



Theron to be spectacularly showcased, both in terms of her physical abandon and her nicotine and Stoli-charged '80s glamour.

But there's nothing especially distinctive about Lorraine as a character, and while I didn't particularly notice any deficiencies in her British accent, the person with whom I saw the film did.

The star, the fights and the music have to hold us through a story that's both complicated and somehow uninvolved.

Lorraine's bosses tell her to trust no one, including *Their Man in Berlin* (James McAvoy).

Other shady sorts include Sofia Boutella as a neophyte French operative, John Goodman as a CIA man, Til Schweiger as a contact in a watch shop, Eddie Marsan as the Soviet asset they're trying to smuggle into West Berlin, and Toby Jones and James Faulkner as the British Intelligence honchos.

That cast is a game and capable bunch, clearly, but the script, adapted from a graphic novel, doesn't release their full potential.

And the director, stunt unit specialist David Leitch, doesn't find a way to unwind the plot twists coherently.

The movie feels overlong to no notable benefit; stretches of it are entertaining, but it's ultimately unsatisfying.

Atomic Blonde is rated R and plays at *Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion Center* and other *multiplexes Valleywide*.

'Hip Historian' to bring a bit of trivia to Chandler

Alex Trebek must be wondering if his *Jeopardy!*-host successor may already be in waiting.

Chandler Museum and a downtown nightspot will host Trivia Night with Arizona "Hipstorian" Marshall Shore from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 15.

Now a quarterly mainstay in downtown Chandler, the fun evening of trivia brings a bit of heated competition to the hip and cool space of The Ostrich, located in the basement of Crust restaurant, 10 N. San Marcos Place.

Small teams of trivia fans will test their knowledge of hot newspaper headlines from Chandler's past while enjoying a special cocktail made just for the occasion.

"Trivia night at The Ostrich has developed a loyal following and some friendly competition," says Chandler Museum administrator Jody Crago.

"Everyone can forget about the sweltering summer and just enjoy fun with friends, a little kitsch and delicious food and drinks."

Arizona's Hip Historian, more generally known as Shore, will share headlines and photos from the museum's extensive archive to weave his unique storytelling magic that is sure to educate and entertain everyone.

"Marshall's passion is uncovering the weird and wonderful—people, places and events that have made Chandler what it is today," Crago said.

Mike Merendino, owner of the downtown host establishments, says his customers love trivia nights.

"We really enjoy hosting this event with the Chandler Museum. As always, we will have special drinks and food on the menu just for trivia night attendees."

Trivia Night reservations are required for teams of four to six to take part in the fun. Information: chandleraz.gov/museum or call 480-917-4903.

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The Big Questions

• • •

Got a story to share? Would you like to contribute to our Wrangler News team? Curious about something going on in our community? Got any hot news tips for us?

Let us do your sleuthing for you!

Contact us:
editor@WranglerNews.com



Our next issue is Saturday, Aug. 19. For advertising space reservations be sure to let us know by 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11. For story or photo ideas, call 480-966-0845 or email editor@wranglernews.com by 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7. You're also welcome to drop by our office at 2145 E. Warner Road, just across the street from GoDaddy, any time 9-5 M-F. **We're always glad to see you.**



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We welcome your stories, photos — and ideas! Feel free to call with article suggestions. We accept manuscripts and photographs from area residents about topics of interest to our community. Sorry, we do not accept paid "advertorials."

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The Last Word

By Jennifer Liewer

Editor's note: Jennifer Liewer is executive director of community relations for TUHSD. The following commentary is in response to a Wrangler News request for a discussion of the challenges and opportunities faced by the district at the start of this new school year.

Today, young adults face a multitude of challenges not experienced by many previous generations. In addition to academic success, high school students are faced with issues that can affect their social and emotional wellness.

At the Tempe Union High School District, we believe our students are not only capable of facing these but that, by working together with peers,

educators, families and others, they can use them to make themselves stronger, kinder and more prepared for success in life.

Each and every day, the staff of our schools strive to provide campuses that reflect these ideals. In fact, we held several events last school year to provide educators, students and families with the skills to help adolescents understand the importance of social and emotional health.

Thank you to everyone who attended one or more of these events.

This year, we look forward to continuing these programs and creating more opportunities for

parents, students and educators to understand and promote social and emotional wellness. We are proud to announce several initiatives.



Teen Lifeline phone number on every student ID — Suicide is currently the third-leading cause of death among young people age 15 to 24 and our community is not immune.

Last year, two of our schools partnered with the local non-profit, Teen Lifeline, to put a crisis phone number on student badges. This year, every student enrolled in a TUHSD school will have this on their badge. It is a simple action, with minimal cost, that can help save a life.

The message is simple, “You are not alone,” and in Tempe we want all young people to know that

support is nearby and available. With this simple act, we hope to empower students to ask for help, to support parents as they communicate with teens, and to encourage everyone in and around our schools to better understand this issue.

Governor's High School Health and Wellness Grant Program — This summer, TUHSD was granted funding to participate in the Governor's High School Health and Wellness Program through the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. The award brings dedicated money for programs in our schools that will work to prevent underage drinking, marijuana use and prescription drug misuse and abuse.

The grant provides funding for three prevention coaches, facilitation of life-skills training and curriculum targeting 9th grade students, town hall meetings for parents and professional development for teachers. With these additional resources, we believe we can make a difference.

Challenge Day 2017 — In partnership with the city of Tempe, our students will have the opportunity to experience Challenge Day, a powerful one-day social and emotional learning program. This will be the fourth year in a row that students have participated in what has been called “a life-changing day.”

Challenge Day has taken place in more than 2,200 schools in the U.S. and 10 other countries, going beyond traditional anti-bullying efforts to build empathy and connections among students while addressing common community issues.

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