



October 7 - 20, 2017 □ Volume 28, Number 19

Concerns simmer over water rates; Council to vote Nov. 30

By Maddie Johnson

Water rates in Tempe may be going up, even though city officials at a recent public meeting tried to offer a splash of hope that newly approved increases, if any, won't be as severe as some had feared.

Proposed water-rate increases were the topic of the meeting, at which city officials did their best to explain the proposed hikes and endeavor to dampen whatever confusion might have arisen as word of the planned increase spread.

After two public meetings in June and various

focus groups thereafter, city officials found that some confusion and skepticism remained about rate changes for water bills, which is why the city held two more public meetings in September.

City of Tempe outreach received feedback that

—WATER, Page 6

Padres hope beloved coach can win one more battle

The gymnasium at Marcos de Niza High School filled with students and staff at an assembly to cheer on football coach Paul Moro, recently diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. The state's all-time-winningest high school football coach, Moro joined the Padres in 2016. Said Jennifer Liewer, TUHSD director of community relations: 'The school and surrounding community are devastated by the news of his illness and are standing behind him as he faces this journey.' Later the same day, Moro reappeared for the Padres' weekly football game, where, said one varsity player, he stayed on the sidelines for the entire game, 'like he always does.'

— Alex J. Walker for Wrangler News



Kyrene, Tempe Union switching to mail-only for bond-election voting Critical need for support of school-funding overrides

By Diana Whittle

It's election season, but gone are the days of waiting to cast a ballot in person at your local polling place. This year, votes for the Kyrene School District's budget override are being cast with use of a postage-paid, mail-in ballot, which has to be postmarked by midnight Thursday, Nov. 2.

Ballots also can be dropped off in person on

— KYRENE, Page 25



By Diana Whittle

Community leaders from the three cities where Tempe Union High School District campuses are located have taken to the streets in support of an override election, passage of which they say is critical to forestall a multi-million-dollar funding shortfall by 2021.

Voters will receive a mail-in ballot to submit before Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

— TUHSD, Page 25



Sept. 16 - Oct. 4, 2017 □ Volume 28, Number 18

McClintock re-do
More votes to be added for voters?

Close-up look at disaster
by a man who's seen it all

7 teen suicides heighten concerns
Kyrene adds fulltime counselors at six middle schools

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Tempe St. Luke's to join largest U.S. private-hospital network

Tempe's first and only hospital, Tempe St. Luke's, has joined a group of 36 medical centers and other healthcare facilities in 10 states, moving it into a consortium managed by Steward Health Care System LLC, the largest private hospital operator in the U.S., with 37,000 employees, 1,400 employed physicians and 4,700 integrated network physicians.

Dr. Ralph de la Torre, Steward's chairman and CEO, said the acquisition marks an opportunity to expand the organization's physician-led model that focuses on quality care that also can keep patients close to

home.

Said de la Torre:

"We look forward to introducing patients, physicians and employees throughout Arizona to our high-quality care, innovative programs and community commitment."

Steward assumes operations at four Arizona hospitals including, in addition to TSL, Mountain Vista Medical Center in Mesa; St. Luke's Medical Center; and St. Luke's Behavioral Health Center in Phoenix. De la Torre noted that Steward doctors and staff deliver nationally recognized hospital care focused on quality and

safety, prioritizing preventative health to minimize acute care and lower costs.

The company is committed to strengthening the health and well-being of the communities served by hospitals in Arizona through its offering of innovative programs.

Steward now owns and operates a number of related businesses, including a managed-risk platform, Health Choice, which delivers managed care and health insurance services to more than 680,000 covered lives.

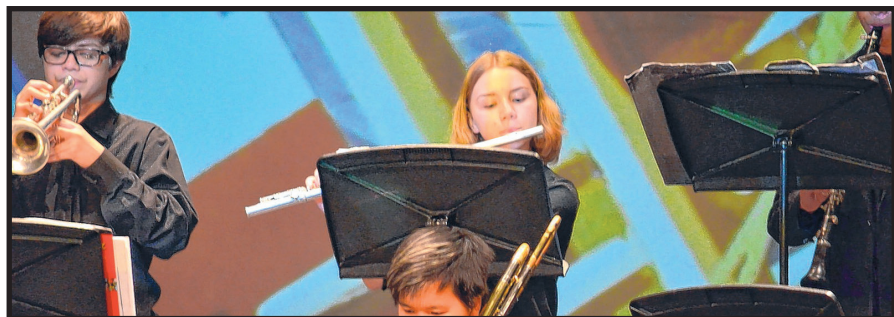
The total number of covered lives within Steward's integrated care network and these insurance products is more than 1.1 million, with paneled

lives estimated at 2.5 million.

In addition to Arizona, Steward operates facilities in Utah, Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Among its facilities, in addition to hospitals, are more than 25 urgent care centers, 42 preferred skilled nursing facilities, substantial behavioral health services, more than 7,300 beds under management and more than 1.1 million covered lives through the company's managed care and health insurance services.

Nationwide, the company projects 2018 revenues of almost \$8 billion.



Banding together

Members of Corona's bands held their annual fall concert Oct. 3, but this year, the event took on new meaning. That's because proceeds were to benefit Refugio High School. The Texas school band lost nearly all its equipment and its hall was severely damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Said David DuPlessis, director of Corona's bands: "Although we know it will be only a fraction of what is needed to rebuild their band, the Aztec bands wanted to do what we could to give back."

— File photo courtesy Jennifer Liewer, TUHSD community relations director

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Agnes, a Westchester Senior Living resident who scared off a would-be bike thief, was honored by the Tempe police department for her bravery.

Recounts 95-year-old crime buster:

'I'm calling the cops'

By Joyce Coronel

Not every crime fighter wears a bullet-proof vest or stands six foot four. That much was evident when representatives of the Tempe police department visited Westchester Senior Living to recognize an elderly resident who managed to thwart a bike thief.

At 95 years young, Agnes had no qualms about scaring off a would-be thief. Thomas Ballard, resident director at Westchester, asked Agnes how she managed to foil the plot.

"She said that when she saw him, she became suspicious so she yelled at him saying, 'What are you doing? Leave that bike alone! I'm calling the cops!'"

The suspect then ran away. He had already cut the security chain on the bike with a chain cutter he was concealing inside a guitar case. "Agnes said she loves her community and neighbors and would do



Briefly . . .

Chandler seeks aspiring police cadets

West Chandler young adults who have been thinking about a career in law enforcement can get a first-hand look at the field in the Chandler Police Department's Cadet Program, which is now accepting applications.

The program is designed for young men and women ages 14 to 20 who are U.S. citizens, maintain a 'C' average in school, and commit to two Monday-night meetings per month and one community service event per month.

Applicants are not required to be residents of Chandler.

Chandler PD will hold a recruitment night on Wednesday, Oct. 18, and

Thursday, Oct. 26, at the department's Chandler Heights substation, 4040 E. Chandler Heights Road.

Officer John Somerville described the program as being committed to molding young adults into career professionals.

"Our efforts focus on developing the skills necessary for success in any vocation, while instilling the values of personal integrity, service to one's community, and being part of something bigger than yourself," said Somerville.

Information: 480-782-4951 or CPDcadets.com

Sprouts store coming to Rural & Elliot

Sprouts Farmers Market, one of the nation's best recognized sellers of natural and organic food products, will expand into Tempe sometime in the early weeks of 2018.

The store, a site for which already has been chosen, will replace a discount furnishings retailer on the southeast corner of Rural and Elliot roads, in the same center as Passage to India and BR Fitness.

The move was part of an announcement revealing the chain's plans to open nine new stores around the U.S. in the coming year, bringing its total locations to nearly 300.

The announcement also included the company's plan to open recruitment for 120 jobs that will accompany the move.

Information is available by calling 866-925-2396.

Sister Cities to honor world humanitarians

Tempe Sister Cities volunteers participate in fundraising for humanitarian effort both locally and internationally.

The 11th annual "Making a World of Difference" event is planned Thursday, Oct. 12, to honor world humanitarians whose work brings help and hope to thousands of people around the globe. They are changing lives ... daily. Wells Fargo is the presenting sponsor.

This year there are four honorees. Kathi Juntunen, from Scottsdale, founded Chances4Children in 2005 to help the abandoned and starving children of Haiti. Today this organization serves more than 5,000 children.

Also honored will be Dr. Suresh Kumar who heads Harvest India, a program that reaches out to the "lowest of the low" in India with food, medical help, and education programs.

Michael Veitenhans, originally from Phoenix, serves as Director of Global Partnerships for World Bicycle Relief. This organization has furnished some 350,000 specially manufactured

bicycles to Africa, South America and Southeast Asia. With a bicycle more children can attend school, farmers take their goods to market, and medical help can reach remote villages.

Mark Huerta is a graduate engineering student at Arizona State University. He heads a team that is developing technology to provide water filters so that more of the world's population can have clean water to drink.

He states "To see those kids drink clean water for the first time is the most rewarding feeling you can ever have. I wanted to change the world. The thing I never would have expected was how the world changed me."

The public is invited to attend. The event will be held at Tempe Mission Palms Hotel with social hour beginning at 6 with dinner to follow.

Tickets are \$80 and reservations may be made online at tempesistercities.com or by calling Hackett House at 480-350-8181. A portion of each ticket goes to the honorees.

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Paid for by Keep Kyrene Strong, a political action committee in support of the Kyrene override and bond measures.

Water

From Page 1

residents wanted more transparency in billing, as well as a comprehensive long-term water plan.

Some residents voiced concerns that went beyond their own bills.

"We are developing at such a rate that I have a difficult time believing that we are going to sustain," Tempe resident Darlene Tussing said.

Tussing said she worries she is having to subsidize personal water use for new developments and such infrastructure as apartment buildings or multi-family residences.

Public Works Director Marilyn DeRosa noted that prices are based on the demand that each of these categories places on the water system, and therefore are fair and proportionate to each consumption group.

She acknowledged, however, that there is a lack of data collection from multi-family water use in places such as apartments.

"We have tons of data on how (residents) use water. What we don't have is tons of data on how multi-family customers use water," DeRosa told residents. "We plan to look more closely (at) how multi-family households use water, which will inform programs we can create for multi-family customers to conserve as well."

The city implemented a rate study in 2016 to more accurately measure water consumption and sewage disposal after water-rate hikes were cancelled this year.

The study concluded that the city needed to increase water bills an overall average 4.25 percent in 2018.

At the city's recently hosted public meetings on the proposed rate increases—the most recent of which was held at Tempe History Museum—about eight residents asked Tempe officials about the need for water bills to go up.

Steve White, planning and research analyst for Tempe's Public Works Department, said the price increases are due to changes in the industry.

"We can look at the rate adjustments from 2015 that were at 4.75 percent, so these new adjustments are not particularly high," White said.

The study split water consumption into six customer classes, each placing a different demand calculation on the water system and requiring slightly different rate adjustments.

The customer categories were divided among residential, multi-

family, commercial, construction, industrial and landscaping.

Residents with large lots (16,000 square feet +/-) also expressed concern about how theirs will be considered, specifically regarding landscaping.

These homeowners, considered to be "large-lot" residents, have been split into their own residential tier to differentiate their water use from the average homeowner's, according to the city's report. Many such lots have traditional landscapes which require more water than conservation-designed homes featuring xeriscape or desert landscaping.

Under Tempe's tiered rate system, higher water users pay more for each thousand gallons.

"Nearly universally there is a desire for us to acknowledge traditional



landscapes and the fact they require water," DeRosa told residents. "But it is most important that customers understand that our costs are increasing and we want to ensure that rates are fair and equitable."

The city is expected to consider the water rate increase at a public hearing scheduled Thursday, Nov. 30. More details about adjustment rates are available online at tempe.gov.

Movies in the Park at Kiwanis

Some of the most popular kids' movies on the big screen will open this year's season of Movies in the Park, a free series throughout screening at Kiwanis Park during October.

Families and friends can bring blankets and a picnic dinner to watch the kid-friendly films on one of the largest inflatable screens in Arizona. Each movie begins at dusk (around 6 p.m.) in the north soccer fields at Kiwanis Park, Baseline Road and Ash Avenue in Tempe.

The fall movie lineup includes:
Oct. 6 – Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, rated G; *Oct. 13* – Moana, rated PG; *Oct. 20* – Monsters Inc., rated G; and *Oct. 27* – E.T., rated PG.

Information: tempe.gov/movies or 480-350-5200.

From our readers . . .

Editor:

The Kyrene School District has a long history of providing quality educational experiences for its children and young people.

The support of the community in supporting overrides has been a critical factor in assuring Kyrene's excellence.

I was superintendent of Kyrene from 1972-1987.

I recall our first override in the spring of '72 and each third year thereafter.

The support of the Kyrene community was all-important in providing quality instruction and facilities that were safe and healthy; facilities that were designed to enhance the learning experiences of "Kyrene's Kids."

Please continue this support by voting "yes" for all three override issues on Nov. 7.

Dr. Ben Furlong

Editor:

As a long-time community member and a Tempe Union High School District Governing Board member from 2002 – 2012, I am writing in support of a YES vote to approve the TUHSD Maintenance and Operation Budget Override.

This Override is essential in maintaining funding for programs that directly impact our District students.

The current 10% includes support for core classes of Science, Math and English; elective programs including Fine Arts and Technical Education; preventative maintenance of school facilities; extracurriculars.

An additional 5% will exclusively be used for teachers' pay.

High quality public education is

key to the economic health of our community and supports the attraction of new business, increased property values and an available and educated work force. Tempe Union High School District provides high quality education now and your YES vote will make it possible to continue that level of excellence.

Please support our public schools by joining me in voting YES to support the Tempe Union High School District Maintenance and Operation Budget Override.

Zita M. Johnson

**Comment posted to
WranglerNews.com regarding our
story quoting Chandler Police
Chief Sean Duggan:**

You are doing an excellent job for the city of Chandler. I commend you, your officers and the rest of your police staff for all your hard work, dedication, community involvement and support you do give to the Chandler community. You make me so proud to live and be a part of Chandler. Keep up the great work.

— Crystal P

From our inbox . . .

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— Marilyn



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Crime-buster

From Page 4

anything to protect them," Ballard reported.

Tempe police visited Agnes at Westchester to express their appreciation. "She was recognized for her actions and given a Tempe badge pin and coffee cup for her bravery and courageous efforts," said Det. Liliana Duran of the Tempe police.

"There was no official award but she is certainly appreciated and loved by our police department. We also highlighted her on our social media pages," Duran said.

Ballard said he thinks Agnes may have picked up some crime-fighting skills at the senior living center. It's all part of an effort to break the cycle of crime in the city.

"We have a brand new Neighborhood Block Watch Program here at Westchester where residents have attended meetings sponsored by Tempe police teaching them about situation awareness and what to do in the event of suspicious activity. I think Agnes' alert and quick response was a testament to this training," Ballard said.

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From West Chandler to farflung outposts where need is profound

Offering help, hope to orphans in ravaged countries

By Deborah Hilcove

Battered by hurricanes and leveled by an earthquake, Haiti sits more than 7,000 miles away from the devastating drought and civil war suffered by Uganda.

Yet both poverty-stricken countries share the friendship of the Roman Catholic parish, St. Andrew the Apostle in Chandler, where Fr. Robert Seraph Aliunzi, AJ, serves as pastor.

Parishioner Gerry Smith describes the “unique outreach” of the parish. The Haitian effort, centered in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage in Jeremie, began in 2009 with the nonprofit, Grow Haiti’s Children. The goal was to assist children living in the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, where eight of 10 people were unemployed and more than half the country was illiterate.

Just a year later, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Hispaniola, the Caribbean island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic. More than 46,000 Haitians died, with many more contracting cholera. Then Hurricane Matthew stormed the island in 2016, killing more than 3,000. Just this past August, Hurricane Maria threatened the island.

Once called “the Pearl of the Antilles,” Hispaniola was devastated. Lush, tropical foliage turned brown. Tangled, broken trees, collapsed buildings and splintered wooden shanties serve as monuments to nature’s fury.

Describing Hurricane Matthew’s devastation, Pastoral Associate Bill Marcotte, who assisted with relief work says, “It looked like a bomb hit.”

In the midst of this wreckage, however, the OLPH Orphanage remained a haven. Housing 70 children, ages 5-19, it provides education from kindergarten through 10th grade. It also provides a hopeful future.

Smith explains, “Maybe the mother died and the father’s unable to care for one or more children. He might ask a relative to take a daughter. The relative’s likely poor, but agrees, saying she’ll be a servant to his family, walking at least a mile to fetch water in a five-gallon container, eating only leftover food scraps. There won’t be money for education. But, at the orphanage, she’ll have opportunity. She’ll have clothes and regular, nutritious meals and the opportunity to go to school.”

Not only does the staff encourage

schoolwork, but volunteers teach useful skills to older students. They’ve built bunk beds for the dormitories and installed mosquito netting at the windows. They’ve repaired walls, rewired electricity and tiled the restrooms.

Volunteers also encourage entrepreneurship. A bakery, managed by a 19-year-old and his teenage staff, supplies bread to the school, selling surplus to the community. Nearby, teenagers run two convenience stores, honing their managerial skills. Some of the girls have learned to operate treadle sewing machines and make uniforms for the other students.

The children dream, Smith says, and make plans for their futures. One girl wants to go to nursing school. A teenager wants to study agriculture and another wants to be an engineer. “These children want to go to college and to university. We’re working on scholarships.”

“The focus [for St. Andrew’s outreach] is what can help these kids. They’re the future leaders of Haiti, whether in government or trade.” He adds, “We’re trying to protect the kids. Keep them safe.”

On the other side of the world, more than 7,000 miles from that tropical island, the Republic of Uganda sits landlocked on the African continent.

Awed by its diverse landscape of snowcapped mountains, Lake Victoria and the Nile Basin dotted with lakes, Winston Churchill in 1908 proclaimed the British Protectorate of Uganda, “the Pearl of Africa.”

Since winning its independence in 1962, however, Uganda has been torn by civil war and corruption. Not only domestic problems plague Uganda, but the most severe drought in over 50 years has left 11 million Ugandans without sufficient food. Another 1.6 million hover on the brink of famine.

As recently as 9/26/2017, *USA Today* reported witch doctors brutally maiming and sacrificially killing children in a wild bid to end the drought.

Fr. Aliunzi, a native of Uganda and a naturalized American, was orphaned at an early age. His 17-year-old brother and wife struggled to pay for his education, knowing it meant survival.

Acknowledging the impact of education on his own life, Fr. Aliunzi is intent on educating the Ugandan children orphaned by conflict. He



The Rev. Robert Aliunzi, pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, top, visited his native Uganda alongside parishioners involved with E3 Africa, a non-profit that seeks to educate and empower orphans and marginalized children. Parishioners also traveled to Haiti last spring to visit the orphanage they support through the church’s outreach program, above.

established the nonprofit, E3Africa, with its mission to “Educate, Enrich, Empower” and envisioned St. Thomas Aquinas College, a secondary school in northern Uganda, serving more than 800 students and helping them grow into leaders.

St. Andrew’s parishioners have joined Fr. Aliunzi in his commitment to educate the vulnerable, impoverished children of Uganda.

The first phase of the building project—a multipurpose hall—was

completed in May, 2017. Referring to Ugandans, Marcotte says, “Education is like gold to them. It’s not just to make money, but education to empower themselves, to be an asset to their community and country.”

Summing up, he says, “We have so much here in America, and so much opportunity. We often take it for granted.”

A benefit dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at the church.

Information: standrew-cfc.org

With roots in their communities, newspapers still deliver

By Don Kirkland

Once every month or so our mailbox holds a copy of the latest Editor & Publisher magazine, the U.S. newspaper industry's bible that dates back to 1901 and, in my case, to the 1950s when I was a reporter for a couple of L.A.'s major dailies. I've skimmed the magazine's pages for all those years but, admittedly, sometimes overlook it entirely.



This month, however, the cover definitely caught my eye.

In a few words, it summarized its lead story with a headline that read: "With roots in their communities, local newspapers find ways to flourish and prosper."

By some accounts, people here seem to believe that Wrangler News has flourished since we published our first edition in the early 1990s. I think that's true. I can't say we've exactly prospered, though, as apparently some (thankfully, I'm sure) have, but because our motive has never been to get rich at this, I'm OK with having been able to pay our rent, pay our freelance writers and photographers, pay our home-delivery people, pay our printer and, of course, pay Joyce and me a stipend for what we do, day in and day out.

It's being able to do that for almost 30 years that has provided the source of my own greatest personal and professional satisfaction, and similarly Joyce's, and I hope that doesn't soon change.

I can't say our phones ring off the hook with calls from people telling us what a great job we do. But I can say that nearly every encounter we have with people in our community—our neighbors—reinforces our confidence that what we're doing is enjoyed, appreciated and looked forward to.

While we can't always delve as deeply as we'd like into the stories behind our stories, we try really hard to help you, our readers, know more about your community and your neighborhoods than you did before.

In fact, it's what motivates Joyce and me to frequently pause after each deadline and congratulate ourselves on "our best issue ever," only to sit down the next day and find things we wish we had done better.

Those who worked around our little enterprise in its early days remember me using that "best ever" superlative even then, which I guess suggests our efforts to keep on getting better is destined to go on indefinitely.

Which brings me back once again to E&P's lead article, which says that, even though we think

sometimes we're the only little hometown paper in the country sticking to the notion of small-town journalism, there are (again, thankfully) others doing the same, to wit:

- There are 92 daily newspapers in this country that have been in existence for more than 100 years, most of them family owned;
 - The quirks of small newspapers not only avoid the sameness of some corporately owned publications but also give people the sense that their paper is by and for members of their community;
 - The desire for communities to know themselves is universal, and consequently is what fuels micro-sized publications that can step into that niche and provide that service;
 - Decisions about what stories to write and how to play them in Wrangler News are made across the room by two people, not by large corporations whose staffs and offices can be hundreds of miles apart; and
 - Finally, that many of the young people who have graced our offices with their presence have built a foundation for their future right here in our microcosm of homegrown journalistic niche-dom—hopefully with training of which they, and we, can be proud.
- So maybe it's true, as E&P tells us, community newspapers are flourishing and prospering after all.



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Beware of hurricane, flood damage when buying a used car, advises expert

Staff reports

In our last issue, just as retired Tempe property-damage adjuster Mark Moorehead noted the potential for ripple effects from hurricane damage to people living far away, area auto insurance agents also have expressed concerns that the aftermath of flooding in Texas and Florida can sneak into the lives of Valley car buyers in unexpected ways.

A new, widely distributed advisory, which appeared in the Sept. 22 edition of The New York Times, focused on the problem of water-damaged vehicles possibly being sold in distant locales without buyers being aware that they were reassigned with salvage titles in their home state before being shipped elsewhere.

Mary Contreras, a longtime Tempe and West Chandler State Farm agent, has joined others in supporting a number of the precautions contained in The Times article and recommending that vehicle buyers be wary of a private seller they don't know or a company whose reputation might be questionable.

Contreras, who has owned her full-service agency for 25-plus years, said that while it might be assumed that recent hurricane regions would be the only places where flood-damaged vehicles are available, auto auctions around the country can and do purchase such vehicles and ship them to farflung locations.

While there are certain obvious signs of water damage if the buyer is aware of what to look for, it's easy enough to overlook certain telltale signs if you're not on guard.

One easily adopted cautionary measure, particularly if the buyer is looking for a car at a salvage auction, is to know that the salvage designation in and of itself is a warning sign that warrants additional research.

That, among other strategies, includes running the Vehicle Identification Number, or VIN, through a recognized database to find a step-by-step chronology of the car's history. Already, according to national reports, a large U.S. salvage company acquires roughly 3 million cars every year from sources nationwide, 30,000 of which this year came from the area in and around Houston after Hurricane Harvey.



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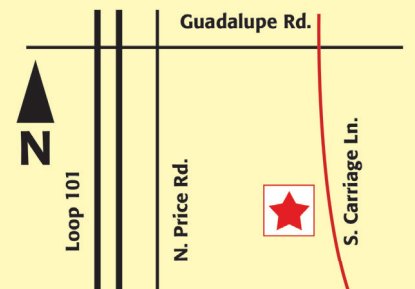
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Damage

From Page 11

Carfax, one of the most recognizable auto-history companies in the U.S., maintains a free service that monitors vehicle flood damage. Although history data is said to be reasonably accurate, experts remind users that each state may use a different formula to define the word "salvage," so a salvage company's statement might not include damage that could remain undiscovered for weeks or months.

While buying from a recognized, established dealership remains the way most vehicle buyers can feel confident in their choice, Consumer Reports offers a few tips for those who like the idea of buying from an individual seller.

Here are some of the warning signs that the buyer or the buyer's mechanic should keep an eye out for:

- Rust showing on unpainted metal,

even in such places as on screws underneath the dashboard.

- Headlights that have a water line showing on the lens or the reflector behind it.

- Drain plugs, notably rubber plugs, on the underside of the vehicle that may have been removed to allow water to escape.

- Mud that is caked on; new carpet in older vehicles; a musty odor from the interior.

- Traces of mud or out-of-place fragments of one kind or another found in less accessible parts of the vehicle, as in difficult-to-reach areas of the hood or trunk.

According to Contreras, purchasing a vehicle from a private party can be how some buyers—particularly those who consider themselves mechanically well-versed—prefer to negotiate what they consider a good deal.

But the advantage of buying from a reputable dealer typically represents a more characteristically problem-free purchase as well as establishing a two-way relationship that can last through the anticipated life of the vehicle.

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Work starts on new West Chandler museum

Residents in west Chandler will soon see bulldozers and construction workers near Chandler Fashion Center as construction begins on the new Chandler Museum.

The 10,000-square-foot facility will be located adjacent to the existing McCullough-Price House, 300 S. Chandler Village Drive. The house has served as the temporary home of the museum in recent years. While the new museum is built, staff will continue to provide programs, events, exhibits and presentations in the community, as well as field trips at Tumbleweed Ranch, an outdoor learning environment at Tumbleweed Park.

Upcoming Chandler Museum programs in the community include: Oct. 3-12: Life on a Cattle Drive youth programs at Chandler public library locations; Oct. 7: 100th Birthday Party for the McCroskey House at Tumbleweed Ranch; Oct. 17: Trivia Night with Marshall Shore at Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, 4955 S. Arizona Avenue; October-April: Tumbleweed Ranch Time Travelers early childhood program at Tumbleweed Ranch.

"Chandler Museum staff is excited to bring new programs to the community over the next year, including Tumbleweed Time Travelers and a talk on Zora Folley, a former professional boxer and member of the Chandler City Council," said Chandler Museum Administrator Jody Crago.

Staff and volunteers have relocated to Chandler city hall during construction. Information: 480-782-2717 or chandlermuseum.org.

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Tempe wants you

City boards, commissions list openings for volunteer positions



Tempe residents who are passionate about their city or want to find a community-focused outlet for their professional expertise are being invited to consider volunteer service on a city of Tempe board or commission.

Vacancies exist on Tempe's Board of Adjustment, Industrial Development Authority and Library Advisory Board, among others, according to Tempe spokeswoman Nikki Ripley.

Hundreds of community members currently serve on city boards, which advise the city council on a variety of aspects of life in Tempe. Some of the groups require Tempe residency or experience in specialized fields, such as plumbing, engineering or architecture. Appointments are made by Mayor Mark Mitchell, with formal approval from the city council.

"There are many ways residents can get involved, and serving on a board or commission is one of the most fulfilling volunteer jobs we have," Mitchell said. "We could not do all of the great things we do in Tempe without these dedicated community members."

The vacancies include:

The Board of Adjustment has three upcoming openings. Board

members must reside in Tempe. They hear and decide variance applications, consider appeals of hearing officer decisions about variances and abatements, and more.

The Industrial Development Authority currently has one vacancy. Authority members serve six-year terms and must reside in Tempe. The group promotes industry and develops trade in the Tempe area; acquires, owns, constructs, leases, sells and disposes of all kinds of properties; and assists in the rehabilitation, expansion and development of businesses and industries, which promote and assure job opportunities and an improved standard of living and property in the city.

The Library Advisory Board has one current vacancy and three upcoming openings. Board members are Tempe residents who advise the city council on policies relating to the Tempe Public Library and its materials.

A full list of vacancies is available at tempe.gov/getinvolved.

Applications are accepted year-round for all Boards and Commissions. For questions, call 480-350-4311.



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Building relationships, one neighbor at a time

Fitness buffs launch new-concept realty center

By Joyce Coronel

Who knew that pitching the benefits of leg lifts, pumping iron and swimming laps would eventually lead to a career helping others score their dream home?

Arizona native Ryan Dowell grew up playing sports until a busted knee ended his bid to play at the college level. That's about the time he began working at Lifetime Fitness in Tempe. At 19, he was promoted from greeting guests at the front door of the expansive facility to selling memberships.

"Jasson was there and kind of took me under his wing," Dowell said of his buddy and business partner Jasson Dellacroce. The two met 15 years ago at the upscale gym and last month celebrated the grand opening of The Synergy Team's venture, Real Estate and More, at Warner and McClintock.

"I helped mentor him at Lifetime and then we got into real estate about five years ago," Dellacroce said. The jump from selling gym memberships to selling homes is not such a leap after all, the two said. It's about relationships. And trust.

"It's about making those connections with people," Dellacroce said. He had to build new connections after moving here from his home state of Alaska in 2002.

"It rains 300 days out of the year—the polar opposite of here," Dellacroce said of his former digs. "One summer it rained 66 days in a row."

Both Dellacroce and Dowell branched into real estate after years in the fitness industry. Dowell made the move first and Jasson eventually followed.

"The guys I was working with, we all had different visions about real estate and that's when I called Jasson up," Dowell said. Over coffee, they discovered they had the same notion of a new concept.

"We want to bring it back to people," Dowell said. "In real estate they say, 'Location, location, location.' We preach, 'Relationship, relationship, relationship.' And that's where it started."

"It really is all about the relationships," Dellacroce agreed. "This office helps us gain and build those



Jasson Dellacroce, left, and Ryan Dowell share a passion for fitness and connecting with people in the community at their new office in McClintock Fountains.

— Wrangler News photo

relationships."

This is no maze of airless cubicles either. The Synergy Team's office in the McClintock Fountains plaza is an open space where 15 partners come and go throughout the day.

From an interior designer, a carpet and flooring specialist and People's Mortgage, Synergy Team aims to be a community hub. They've also become an authorized dealer for cabinetry.

"We see ourselves as facilitators. It's not just about selling the home," Dellacroce said. Clients may not be ready for a new house—but they may be in the market for refinancing, a remodel or interior design. Synergy is also aiming to build a reliable network of other partners specializing in areas like pool

maintenance or plumbing, each vetted by Dellacroce and Dowell.

Dowell and Dellacroce seem to have hit their stride in the real estate business but they still have a hand in helping others achieve fitness.

Uniquely, Synergy offers those who buy or sell a home through its offices a \$500 gift card for Lifetime Fitness. A banner advertising Synergy is on prominent display at Lifetime. Both men still work out at the expansive gym on Ruby Drive in Tempe, just a hop, skip and a jump from Synergy Team headquarters.

"We want people to know the Synergy Team is in the area and to be that hub in the community," Dellacroce said.

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Sports

With Alex Zener

State championship still a goal of Aztec Vball girls

Corona's defending state championship girls volleyball team lost key players to graduation, but the Aztecs have not lost a step in their quest to earn another DI state championship trophy at the end of the 2017 season.



Sitting at 23-1 after losing a match to Xavier in the highest, or Platinum, division of the Nike Tournament of Champions, the Aztecs are currently ranked No. 4 in Maxpreps.com's Excellent 25 Writers Poll and No. 2 in Arizona.

Before losing to Xavier at the Nike Invitational in three sets (25-23, 19-25, 11-15), the Aztecs had a 37-match winning streak

on the line dating back to last October.

Corona ended up taking fifth place in the Platinum division after beating Millennium in two sets.

"I am very pleased with our progress so far this season," said Corona head coach **Ben Maxfield**. "We continue to improve on our ball control which has allowed us to use all of our offensive weapons."

Corona returned several players from last season's championship team including **Brooke Nuneviller**, **Abby Meyer**, **Emma West**, **Madelyn Noble** and **Allie Wade**.

Nuneviller, Corona's outside hitter, was the kill leader on last season's team averaging 3.6 kills a set but this season has increased her kill average to over five kills a set.

Her hitting percentage is currently .424 which means in layman's terms that 42% of every one of her hits is a kill.

"Offensively, Brooke is hitting at a higher percentage because she is even more efficient than last season," said Maxfield. "She has such great vision which enables her to find the open spots on the court."

Nuneviller, a member of the USA Girls Youth National Team the last two years, contributes to Corona's success in all aspects of the game, including serve receive, digging, serving and blocking.

After playing libero on the national team, Nuneviller's serve receive and defense in the back row are outstanding. She is also the team's leading digger with currently 269 digs or over four per set.

"Brooke's serve-receive passing is even better than last season," said Maxfield.

Nuneviller is second on the team in service aces with 27 aces to Abby Meyer, Corona's returning setter, who currently has 47 service aces.

Meyer, who played last season as part of Corona's 6-2 scheme which involves sharing setter responsibilities, is the sole setter this season. She currently has 766 assists or over 10 assists a set, 34 kills, 11 blocks and 137 digs.



Newcomer Kaia Sounart, left, joins returning players from last season's championship volleyball team, including Allie Wade (9) and Abby Meyer (6), as well as others on this year's Aztec girls roster.

— Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright

"Abby has done a fantastic job running the court," said Maxfield. "She has always done very well at exploiting the blocking matchups and getting the ball to our 'hot' hitters."

Playing the opposite position, Emma West is hitting a steady 2.3 kills a set with 25 total blocks more than halfway through this season.

"Like Brooke, Emma is hitting with greater efficiency," said Maxfield. "She is scoring a lot of points for us because she has learned to move her hits around."

Noble, a freshman outside hitter last season, has gone from an average of one kill a set to 2.6 kills a set. Last season she had a total of 28 service aces but is on her way to improve in that area of her game as well since she currently has 24 aces.

"Mady Noble brings a lot of ball control to her position," said Maxfield. "She passes well, plays great defense, and offensively is very crafty and smart with her shots."

Wade, who was an outside hitter, moved into the libero position her senior year, is averaging 2.8 digs a set and currently has recorded 24 service aces.

"Allie Wade has been a pleasant surprise at the libero position," said Maxfield. "She has never played the position before, but as coaches, we noticed that she was very solid in serve receive. With our libero **Camryn Tucker** graduating, Allie has stepped in nicely."

The 2017 team also includes returning players **Lexi Vicek** and **Isis Mitchell**, along with newcomers **Kaia Sounart**, **Sadie McRae**, **Celestial Miller**, **Baylee Leavitt**, **Kacie McCain**, **Becca Morse**, **Alyssa Wissinger** and **Krystal Blair**.

Corona lost both of its starting middle blockers, **Lauren Forte** and **Jessica Murphy**, to graduation but currently have found other players attempting to fill this important position.

Senior Wissinger has 89 kills or an average of

2.2 kills per set along with 25 blocks while McRae, a sophomore, has recorded 84 kills and 37 total blocks this season and Sounart is averaging over a kill per set and has 10 total blocks.

"I am very happy with our two younger middle blockers, Sadie and Kaia, who have stepped in and played very well for us," said Maxfield.

"Sadie is doing awesome at middle blocker," said Maxfield. "She has really developed a lot of power in her hitting, and competing against Alyssa and Krystal in practice every day has elevated her game. Her blocking continues to improve. She has a very bright future in volleyball."

"Kaia is the most positive player and willing to play anywhere," said Maxfield. "She hasn't played middle since she was 13, but since we needed a middle she stepped into that position without a complaint and has done great things for us."

Corona was scheduled to play Desert Vista at home on Oct. 5 before competing in the Gilbert Invitational Tournament Oct. 6-7.

After that tournament, the Aztecs have five matches left in the regular season. The only chance to watch Corona play at home out of these five regular season matches will be on Oct. 19 against Gilbert.

Corona, currently ranked No. 2 in power point rankings, will most likely stay in that position when the first round of the DI state tournament starts on Oct. 31 which is scheduled to be played at the higher seed which should be Corona. The quarterfinals are scheduled for Nov. 2, again at the higher seed.

The semifinals, Nov. 7 and the finals, Nov. 9 are scheduled to be played at Mesquite High School.

Marcos de Niza Girls Volleyball

The Padres volleyball team, with a 11-14 overall record and 3-0 section record, is currently at the top of the standings in the 4A Desert Sky region.

Two juniors lead the team in kills. **Elyse Olson** is the kill leader on the team with over 130 kills or an average of over two kills a set. She is followed by **Katy Johnson** with 108 kills.

Freshman **Hailey White** has played in 45 matches so far amassing 96 kills or 2.1 kills per set.

Junior **Jennifer Lauer** is next with 85 kills playing in 65 sets.

While Lauer leads the team in service aces with 46, another freshman, **Olivia Craig**, has played in all 65 sets and is next in line with 33 aces while Johnson has 27 and **Justice Craig** has 18 aces.

White and Olson are the leadings blockers on the team. White has an impressive 27 solo blocks while Olson is close behind with 25. Other blockers worth noting are Johnson with 17 total blocks, **Alohna Taylor** with 14 total blocks, **Melahni Washington** with 13 and Lauer with 12 total blocks.

Playing defense, Justice Craig runs away with the dig category with an impressive 327 digs in 63 sets or 5.2 digs a set. She is followed by junior **Katy Denham** with 207 digs, Lauer with 126 and **Sophia Ashmeade** with 124.

Olivia Craig has the most assists with 243 or 3.7 assists per set followed

by Lauer with 197 or three assists per set.

Other members of the team contributing on and off the court include seniors **Daisy Salazar** and **Yahselah Thompson**.

With five out of their last seven matches on their own home court, the Padres have an opportunity to be one of the top teams to compete in the 4A state championship.

Marcos de Niza Football


The Padres were on a two-game winning streak defeating Bradshaw Mountain 16-11, on Sept. 15 and Casa Grande 51-20, on Sept. 22 before the pendulum swung the other way and Marcos lost to 4A defending state champions Saguaro 42-7 on Sept. 29.

The Padres offense was most successful on the ground, scoring points again both Bradshaw Mountain and Casa Grande by running the ball.

Against Bradshaw Mountain, the team rushed for 234 yards on 39 carries with two touchdowns.

Yakeen Baylis carried the ball 19 times for a total of 140 yards and one touchdown and was named player of the game by the coaching staff.

— SPORTS, Page 21



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Marcos de Niza Padres defeated Bradshaw Mountain 16-11 and Casa Grande 51-20 before falling to state champion Saaguaro.

— Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker



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Teddy Ladley and Megan Winter were elected king and queen at the Aztecs' 2017 homecoming.

— Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright

Sports

From Page 19

Quarterback **Marcos Moreno** completed six out of 14 attempts for a total in the air of 70 yards but also carried the ball for 13 times gaining 52 yards. Moreno scored the second touchdown of the game.

Alex Torres caught five passes from Moreno for 42 yards while **Joren Davis** gained 21 yards on three carries and **Torren Union** 32 yards on two carries.

In the win against Casa Grande on Sept. 22, **Mario Gastelum** was impressive with seven solo and a total of 11 tackles, but it was his two interceptions, one of which Gastelum returned 58

yards for a touchdown, that earned him defensive player of the game.

Sophomore **Adam Anchando** was named special teams player of the game in the Padres game against Casa Grande.

On defense, **Emilio Ortiz** was credited with sacking the quarterback for a loss of 10 yards and **Brock Young** recovered a fumble as did **Joe Chavez**, who also had eight total tackles. **Matt Canada** finished the game with 10 total tackles.

Currently, the No. 14 power point ranked Padres have four games left in the regular season. Up next they were scheduled to play at Cactus Shadows on Oct. 6. Then followed two home games: Seton Catholic Oct. 13 and Higley Oct. 20. The last game of the regular season is scheduled at Tempe on Oct. 27.

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Players under tutelage of Brian Bielinski, far right, are members of the 2U boys team. Bielinski is also the PE teacher at Kyrene de las Brisas Elementary School. — Photo courtesy Julie Albanese

Lacrosse gains fans, players as recognition spreads

By Kody Acevedo

Leaders of the Aztec Lacrosse Club are starting to see results from their nearly 14 years of determination to bring wider recognition to the sport, as well as a new generation of devotees.

Established in 2003, Aztec Lacrosse is a club sport at Corona del Sol High School. What makes it so unique, however, is that it doesn't focus just on high school athletes—it welcomes kids K-12 and aims to introduce the sport at the earliest age possible.

"Our youth is going to feed our high school program," said Kathy Wachtel, Aztec Lacrosse Club Booster president. "We're being very aggressive this year in trying to get into the elementary schools and middle schools and just expose the sport to the kids."

Two years ago, it was a challenge to fill all the roster spots needed to make the program

— LACROSSE, Page 31

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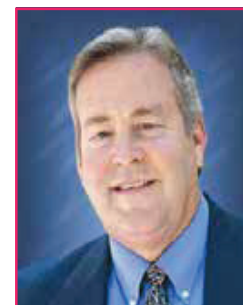
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October 2017



Saturn set to orbit starting Oct. 23

In 2015, the Tempe City Council approved an Orbit neighborhood circulator route for south Tempe. Named the “Saturn” route, it will begin operating Oct. 23 and is the city’s first circulator south of the U.S. 60 freeway.

Neighborhood circulator service was part of the Tempe Transit Tax approved by voters in 1996, with the five, free existing routes – Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter – implemented between 2007 and 2008.

Orbit Saturn will connect residents who live between the Tempe Public Library and Elliot Road with schools, shopping and other neighborhood destinations, as well as other Orbit routes and several Valley Metro bus routes that travel to destinations like downtown Tempe, ASU, Valley Metro rail and destinations throughout the Valley.

Saturn will operate every 30 minutes, seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. There is no cost to ride.

As part of the expansion of the Orbit system, eight 30-foot buses were purchased and will be put into operation on some of the busier Orbit routes like Jupiter and Mercury. The vehicles currently used for Orbit are 24-feet, have 17 seats and can accommodate up to six standing passengers. The larger buses will have 23 seats and accommodate at least 12 standing passengers. In 2013, the city conducted a test period with these larger vehicles to gather community feedback to determine if a larger vehicle was acceptable to Orbit passengers and area residents. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/orbit.

Veterans Day Parade is Nov. 10

All community members are invited to the annual Veterans Day Parade along Mill Ave. on Friday, Nov. 10. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at ASU Gammage and travel north to Tempe Beach Park. Join in the patriotic fun of this hometown tradition!



Fire Prevention Day event Oct. 21

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue will host a Fire Prevention Day event on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Tempe Fire Training Center, 1340 E. University Drive.

The event will include home escape plan training, fire extinguisher training, kitchen and electrical safety classes, information about smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, along with tips on discarding smoking materials and candle safety.

In addition, a mobile Safety Town will be set up with a variety of safety tips, and the Milo and Moxie Safety Ranger program will be presented for children.

In support of Fire Prevention Week, the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department encourages all Tempe households to develop a home escape plan together and practice it twice a year.

The plan should include working smoke alarms on every level of the

home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas.

The plan should also include two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place



(like a tree, light pole or mailbox) that is a safe distance from the home.

To learn more about this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out” and home escape planning, visit www.firepreventionweek.org.



Golf course closures for seasonal reseeding

Golf Tempe is gearing up the greens as golf season approaches. Overseeding will take place at Rolling Hills Oct. 9 through Oct. 22, reopening on Oct. 23. Ken McDonald will close Oct. 16 and the course will reopen on Oct. 30. Check www.tempe.gov/golftempe for updates, course information and to book a tee time.

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Alzheimer's fundraiser: 'A Night to Remember'



Tammy Etherton, right, alongside one of the Alzheimer's patients at Oakwood Creative Care sponsored by the Memory Keepers Foundation.

Story by
Diana Whittle

Watching a family member deteriorate, due to an illness, can be an excruciating experience.

But the toll it takes on a caregiver can be equally debilitating, especially for those who care for an Alzheimer's patient. It's to support those dedicated caregivers that the Tempe-based Memory Keepers Foundation is hosting a fundraiser, "A Night to Remember" on Friday, Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m., at the PERA Club, 1 E. Continental Drive, Tempe.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include a buffet-style dinner, served in a party-like atmosphere, complete with music provided by a DJ. Table sponsorships with eight seats sell for \$1,000; at the next level, 10 seats are \$2,000 and include free drinks, along with special recognition for the evening. All ticket packages can be purchased on-line at: www.memorykeepersfoundation.org

"The evening also will include entertainment," said Etherton. "We will have six casino tables, poker, black jack and roulette tables available.

"Each guest will receive a card for \$500 worth of chips. With every \$500 worth of chips won at the tables, a guest will receive a raffle ticket to win one of three prizes: a purple beach bike, a TV or a golf package. We also have planned a Silent and Live Auction items to bid on."

Mistakenly, many people believe Alzheimer's is dementia. It is not—even though in the early stages its victims can exhibit those symptoms. Alzheimer's is a terminal brain disease and the number of those with the incurable illness is growing worldwide.

Locally, Tempe resident Etherton started the Memory Keepers Foundation to honor her mother who passed away from Alzheimer's in 2014 at the age of 81.

"We started Memory Keepers in remembrance of Clarita Swift, who was my mother, and one of many loved ones affected by Alzheimer's," said Etherton. "We wanted to be able to see exactly where the money we raised is going and keep it in our community.

"Our first year, we raised money as a team for the Alzheimer's Association Walk, so all of that went to them. After that we decided we would like to help other caregivers out there that might be as lost as we were with where to turn for help."

She says all the money raised through Memory Keepers is used to benefit East Valley families. She is in the process of trying to help with the Dementia Friendly Tempe team.

"They have an awesome program and are teaching people how to become a Dementia Friend and by teaming up together we can provide support to help educate more people," said Etherton.

Etherton also chose to support the Oakwood Creative care center in Mesa, which specializes in working with dementia or Alzheimer's patients. So far, Memory Keepers has provided scholarships to two caregivers so that their family members can attend their all-day adult care program.

"We became aware of Oakwood Creative Care through former Tempe Mayor Harry Mitchell because that is where his wife attended. Harry attended our second event and was our guest speaker for the evening," said Etherton.

"Besides providing these scholarships, we have also donated craft items, coloring books and a sewing machine for them to use. Last year we provided money for their pumpkin pies for their Thanksgiving lunch and for Christmas we provided money for them to use on food and gifts from Santa."

Kyrene

From Page 1

Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

By using many outreach efforts—including fliers, social media and special events—“Keep Kyrene Strong” campaign chairs Michelle Hirsch, Dr. Jose Leyba and Christie Ellis say they’re hoping to educate area residents on reasons to vote yes in the upcoming override and bond election.

Traditionally, the Kyrene district receives a good show of support from area residents.

But, as one of the hands-on volunteers on the grassroots campaign, Hirsch says she wants to make sure all bases are covered before the ballots are cast.

“It’s important for voters to mail-in their ballots with yes votes to support these Kyrene School District overrides and bond re-authorization because not only is this critical to continued funding, which supports students, teachers and an excellent school district, but there is no increase in the tax rate that benefits our entire community,” said Hirsch.

“Kyrene’s excellent schools contribute to strong home values, great neighborhoods and our local economy by attracting families and homebuyers, along with businesses and continued economic development.”

Voters will be asked to approve three measures:

- Continuation of the current \$12.8 million Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Budget Override;
- District Additional Assistance Capital Override for \$6.8 million; and
- Bond reauthorization for a maximum of \$116.9 million

If defeated, district officials say, the loss of override funds will result in a decrease of the nearly \$12.8 million that currently is used for instructional programs and staffing to reduce class sizes, as well as for exploratory choices such as advanced placement courses, coding, music, art and physical education.

An additional \$6.8 million from the override will be used for student and school security, technology programs, maintenance, software systems and licensing, and maintenance for school buses and maintenance vehicles.

In addition, say campaign officials, bond funds of up to \$116.9 million will be used to address badly needed repairs and maintenance for aging school buildings, which are, on average, 30-years-old.

Currently, Kyrene is an A-rated district with 25 schools serving pre-school, kindergarten to eighth grades at locations in Tempe, West Chandler and Ahwatukee.

“Kyrene schools provide families with the educational choices they are looking for by offering the traditional and leadership academies, self-contained gifted and advanced-placement programs, along with a dual-language school,” said Hirsch.

Hirsch is a former school-board president and the parent of three grown children, all of whom attended Kyrene schools.

She notes that the district is widely respected for its responsible management of the budget.

“The override measure does not raise homeowners’ property tax rates. Instead, it only extends the override funding that now is in place.

“If approved, owners of a home with an average assessed value of \$238,270 would pay an estimated annual cost \$152.02 for the M & O Override portion; the DAA/ Capital Override cost would be \$80.85, and the bond reauthorization would be \$87.20, of assessed valuation, which is the amount they currently pay,” said Hirsch.

“Keep Kyrene Strong” is a coalition of parents, educators, businesses and community members organized to support the Kyrene Elementary School District through passage of bonds and overrides that ensure a quality public education for its more than 17,000 students.

TUHSD

From Page 1

Overrides are voter-approved initiatives that generate additional funding for schools above what the state provides. Budget overrides for Arizona school districts must be renewed every five years. If not authorized by public vote, overrides begin a phase-down with a complete elimination after several years.

Unless renewed by district voters, the current 10 percent override at the TUHSD will phase out by one-third in fiscal year 2020-2021.

“Support of the Tempe Union override is critical to ensure that we can fully support students, attract and retain our exceptional teachers, and maintain property values,” said Corey Woods, a former Tempe councilmember and one of the chairs of the Yes Support Our Schools campaign.

“The additional 5 percent Tempe Union is seeking will amount to \$3.8 million dollars that will go directly into the classroom in the form of salary and compensation to certified teachers.”

Other endorsements for the budget override, along with a detailed fact sheet, can be found on the website of the citizen-based outreach campaign at yessupportourschools.com

Elected officials including Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton and Representatives Kyrsten Sinema and Mitzi Epstein, among others, explain the need for the override, which will continue the existing 10 percent funding amount and will add five percent for teachers’ salaries.

In addition to higher compensation for teachers, the override will benefit students with smaller class size and help to maintain the district’s school buildings for nearly 14,000 students.

To look at specific numbers, the ballot measure extends the existing 10 percent budget of \$7.6 million. An additional five percent amounts to about \$3.8 million for TUHSD schools, giving teachers a raise for the next four years.

In terms of costs to area taxpayers, the 10 percent override currently is calculated at \$47.24 per year for a home with an average assessed value of \$204,500. If approved, the 15 percent override would increase one percentage point each year over the next five years, meaning that in fiscal 2022-23, when the full 15 percent increase would be in place and using the same formula, homeowners would pay roughly \$70.86 per year.

If defeated, said Woods, the loss of override funds will result in a decrease of funds that are used for instructional programs and staff to reduce class sizes, as well as after-school, athletic and extra-curricular programs along with facilities maintenance.

The district is known for strong academic standards and historically produces national merit scholars, according to Woods. Jennifer Liewer, spokeswoman for TUHSD, announced recently that 25 academically talented seniors will compete for the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship awards offered next spring.

According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, the pool of semifinalists, about 16,000 nationwide, represents less than one percent of United States high school seniors.

Semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school and have demonstrated leadership abilities along with participation in school and community activities. They must be recommended by the school principal, write an essay and earn SAT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Said TUHSD Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Baca:

“We are proud of all of our students who work so hard for this honor. We salute them for their dedication to their education and will continue to do everything we can to support and prepare them for life after high school.”

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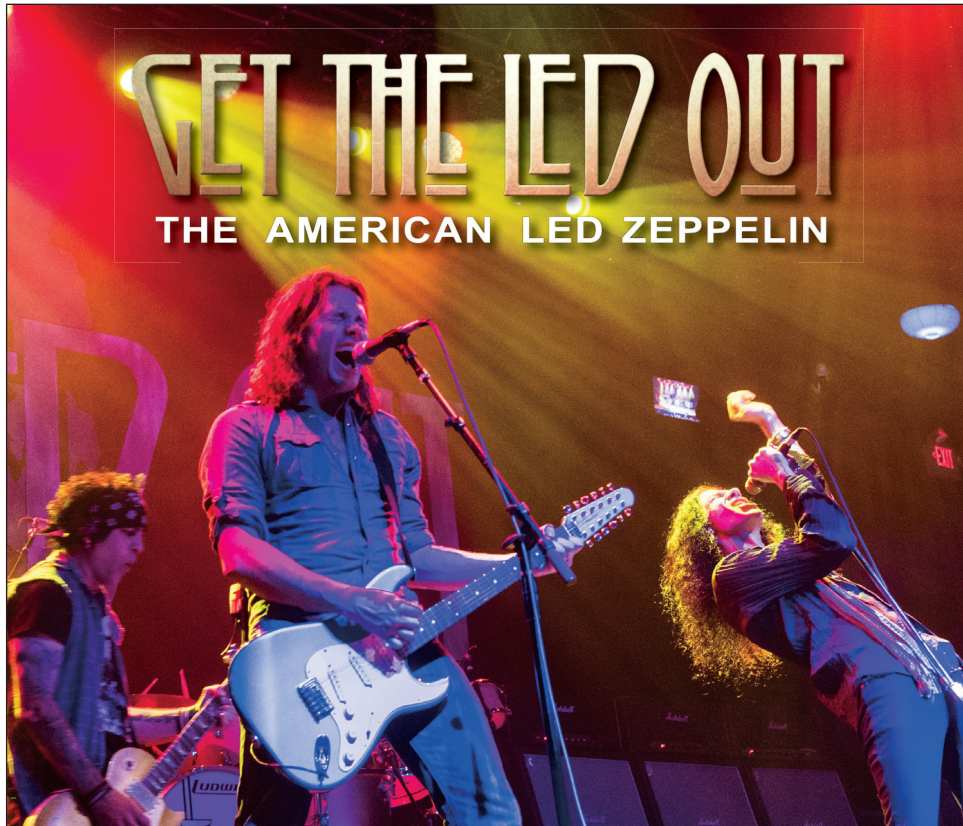



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Diversions

Crawling toward its finale, Blade Runner 2049 sags a bit

By M.V. Moorhead

As the makers of 2001: A Space Odyssey learned, it can be risky to put a specific year into the title of a futuristic sci-fi movie.

Ridley Scott's 1982 favorite Blade Runner, set less than two years off, in 2019, showed us a Los Angeles in which special cops of the title moniker hunt synthetic humans called "replicants" who have gone rogue.

The film's smoggy, neon-lit vision of the future was scary, but it also had a garish glamour, and accordingly it was done in the style of an old-school film noir—in its original release, it even had hard-boiled narration by Harrison Ford's title character.

That's the version I saw back in '82.

I remember enjoying it enormously, but it didn't become the cultural touchstone for me that it did for so many others.

I remembered it less for its plot and more for its details—Joanna Cassidy and the snake, Brion James getting a bullet in the head, William Sanderson's little guys wandering around the Bradbury Building, Daryl Hannah doing somersaults, Edward James Olmos doing origami.

I never saw any of the various director's cuts and alternative versions that become as complicated as the quarto-versus-folio textual history of a Shakespeare play.

I think I may have only seen it the one time, and in any case I hadn't seen it in decades when I saw this sequel.

This one is set 30-some years from



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now, and the glamour is gone.

The environment has collapsed, California is a hazy, snowy, defoliated wasteland, and farmers raise grubs for protein.

But there are still fugitive replicants, and thus still blade runners. Our title character this time is K (Ryan Gosling)—a spiritual cousin of Kafka's Josef?—and the twisty, violent mystery he chases unfolds against backgrounds that feel almost like expressionistic stage sets.

That's about as much of the story as I feel comfortable describing, however.

After the screening I attended, a studio rep read us a lengthy list of "requests" from the filmmakers about what we mustn't reveal, even going so far as to suggest wording to us—they seemed to want to bioengineer replicant movie reviews.

I will say that while the script, by Hampton Fancher and Michael Green, shows influences ranging from Soylent Green to Logan's Run to Her to, just maybe, Kurosawa's Ikiru, it's ingenious and intriguing, and that director Denis Villeneuve, abetted by the great cinematographer Roger Deakins, gives the film a superb look.

Villeneuve also gets strong performances—from Gosling, from Harrison Ford as Deckard, the now-reclusive hero of the first film, from Robin Wright as K's boss, from Sylvia Hoeks as a relentless corporate operative stalking the same quarry as K, from Jared Leto as her satanic boss, and from the beguiling Ana de Armas as K's roomie.

On the downside: As he showed in last year's impressive Arrival, Villeneuve is great at generating a brooding sci-fi atmosphere.

He does the same for Blade Runner 2049, but the result, this time, is that the movie is glacially paced.

It feels almost an hour longer than it needs to be, and even the action and fight scenes, though often shockingly violent, feel oddly lacking in urgency.

And the movie's environmental bleakness, though superbly realized on a visual level, also grows a bit oppressive over nearly three hours.

I just wish that forecasts like this didn't seem so plausible these days.

Blade Runner 2049 is rated R, and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, Harkins Arizona Mills and many other multiplexes Valleywide.

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Lacrosse

From Page 22

complete. Now, in 2017, the dedication to spread the word seems to have fixed that concern.

"This past spring, we were able to field all our own teams because of the expansion of the youth program," Wachtel said. "It's super exciting."

Wachtel and other highly motivated parents spend time at schools in the Kyrene district to inform young athletes about the opportunity to play in a sport that's been growing in popularity.

Their work is complemented with free clinics staged by Remo Montalbano, who serves as program director and head coach of the high school team.

The clinic is Montalbano's way to enlighten the younger generations about the sport he loves.

"We show them some basic skills, but really it's 'come try lacrosse for free'," he said.

In 2015, Montalbano began his tenure as head coach at the high school level. A former college player, he was a three-year captain and a four-year starter for Dominican College in New York, where he scored over 100 collegiate points.

He went on to graduate school at Grand Canyon University, where he served as an assistant coach

for four years. He said he made the move to the high school because he felt he was ready to be a head coach.

"It was also an awesome opportunity that popped up," Montalbano said in 2015. "The timing was really, really awesome."

Montalbano was one of those who preached building the youth program in its early days.

"When we first started doing the free clinics, we maybe had only 20-30 kids and almost half of those were in high school," Montalbano said. "A year ago, we had about 40 kids."

Now, Montalbano calls the clinics 'a borderline event.' Earlier this month, the club had 70 kids register; 60 percent had never played lacrosse before.

Montalbano said he is obviously excited about the increase in interest, but is not surprised one bit.

"It's a great game," he said. "It's a fun game. It's a mixture of a lot of different sports."

"I'm just happy that the word-of-mouth is starting to spread and we're getting better as a team."

While the main focus is on the younger kids, Montalbano is also dedicated to improving his high school athletes, not just as players but as men as well.

"They've been great as far as giving back to the youth," Montalbano said. "We'll cut a couple practices short and they'll go down and scrimmage and play with the youth players a couple times during

the season," he said.

"The kids really love it."

While one goal is to continue to stimulate youth involvement, the high school program is always looking for additions to the team.

Since Aztec Lacrosse is a club team at Corona, it doesn't officially qualify as an official varsity sport.

Therefore, students at Tempe High, Marcos de Niza and McClintock are eligible to play on the Aztec team based on district boundaries.

Montalbano said staff at Corona have been widely supportive in their efforts to grow the sport, yet he believes it will be a while before the team is sanctioned as an official varsity sport.

"When those first crops of youth players—with everyone putting in all this hard work—come up (to the high school level), I think it has a legit chance to go then."

For now, the players, parents, coaches and volunteers will keep grinding away.

Their focus right now is on upcoming fall ball practice nights which include 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5; and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17. Practices are held at the Tempe Sports Complex, 8403 S. Hardy Drive, Tempe.

You can learn more about the club at www.azteclax.club

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