



Oct. 21 - Nov. 3, 2017 □ Volume 28, Number 20

TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Boots and hoots as iconic store nears century milestone

By Chelsea Flood

Despite the drastic changes in urban development throughout all of Chandler in the last nine decades, there are some families who hold its Western history close to their heart—and their homegrown business.

The year was 1927 when David Saba Sr., an immigrant from Lebanon, strolled into town and rooted himself in the still new city. His dream: the determination to operate the first Western apparel store in the quaint, desert town.

The excitement of sustaining the store wavered a bit for the next four years due to the harsh depression. But Saba continued his resolve to provide the community with top-notch Western apparel—plus a safe place at that time to secure their mode of transportation: their



Downtown Chandler Community Partnership's Tracy Doren talks some horse sense to Twister, who came along to help celebrate Saba's 90th birthday, courtesy of 4-H sponsors at Buena Vista Ranchos in Tempe.

— Photo courtesy DCCP

beloved steeds.

Fast forward to 1954, when David Sr. passed the reins to son David Jr. and his wife, Joan. It seems almost surreal today, 90 years later, how Joan paints

the picture of the town and the store, as if straight out of a motion picture.

"It was not unusual to allow a customer to buy something

— SABA'S, Page 31

Neighbors talk, Tempe listens

Planners heed residents' concerns in park, fire station discussions

By Joyce Coronel

Residents living near McClintock Drive and Warner Road will be receiving notification from the city of Tempe this week as planners gear up for a Monday, Oct. 30, public meeting regarding a proposed Fire Station #7 to be built at Estrada Park.

Currently, the plan is to build a fire station on park property, which lies behind the McClintock Fountains shopping mall at the busy south Tempe intersection at McClintock and Warner. Some residents in the area have said in the past they do not object to fire and rescue capability being housed nearby but are unhappy that precious green space would be lost and unwanted facilities added as part of the construction.

After weighing input from residents in the area, officials say the city has decided against the addition of certain park facilities, including tennis and sand volleyball courts, as well as a dog park which was opposed by 81 percent of the 73 nearby residents who posted comments on a city website.

In August, members of the Estate La Colina Neighborhood Association formulated a vision statement regarding the park based on responses to the city's first round of public comment and

— PARK, Page 25

9 E.V. youth suicides since school year started

Groups mobilize to curb alarming rise in teen deaths

By Diana Whittle

The tragic loss by suicide of the lives of nine young people in the East Valley in the last several weeks has led to a concerted effort to educate parents and the community on prevention.

A town hall meeting regarding the tragic spate of deaths drew a crowd of more than 500. The nine teens between the ages of 12 to 18 who chose to end their lives since the start of the school year has led to

an outpouring of concern.

This time, none of those who died by suicide lived within the specific Wrangler News' boundaries, but that didn't stop area parents and educators from taking action, including the mother of a Corona student who took his life last year.

A new spark of awareness was lit and people are talking about the tragedy—lots of people, according to Katey McPherson, executive director of the Gurian

— MOBILIZING, Page 14

Sept. 18 - Oct. 8, 2017 □ Volume 28, Number 18

McClintock re-do
More room to be added for vehicles

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

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

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Hey, check it out

New to Tempe library patrons: Books by bike

Everyone should have access to books. Unfortunately, not everyone does. That's the Tempe Public Library's motivation for a new "Book Bike" program designed to bring reading opportunities directly into the community.

Explains Kathy Husser, the project's "spokes-person":

"The library is a place for everyone. We want to ensure all members of our community have access to books and to library and city services. The mobile nature of the book bike will help us build strong community ties outside the walls of the library."

The project uses a modified bicycle that holds dozens of donated books for checkout. It will cruise the streets of Tempe, attending events and visiting city parks and community centers.

It will target underserved populations that may not have a way to get to the library or are unsure about what services are available.

Though the Book Bike will serve everyone, a special emphasis will be placed on Tempe veterans, the homeless population and seniors, according to Husser.

The mobile nature of the bike, and the special training of a group of Book Bike ambassadors, are designed to encourage personal relationships with members of the community who can benefit from library and city programs.

The service is made possible through a grant supported by the Arizona State Library and funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. An observance unveiling the program took place at the library earlier this month, with Mayor Mark Mitchell, along with library staff, city councilmembers and Book Bike ambassadors, on hand for the project's official christening.



Sean King, Tempe's new Book Bike Ambassador, top, is a Marine veteran who served two tours in Afghanistan. He says his time overseas made him much more appreciative of everything back home and sparked a desire to serve the community. Above, library staff and volunteers were on hand for the launch.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

Briefly . . .



Survey seeks feedback on anti-tethering law

Residents concerned about the tethering of dogs on private property are being asked to take an online survey regarding a proposed ordinance that would regulate the practice.

The survey will be online until Sunday, Oct. 22.

City officials say the intent of the ordinance is to protect the health, safety and welfare of both residents and dogs in Tempe.

Residents can provide feedback by visiting www.tempe.gov/forum and clicking on the Proposed Anti-Tethering Ordinance link.

The proposed ordinance is the

result of a City Manager's working group established in 2016 with Councilmembers Lauren Kuby and Randy Keating.

It regulates required levels of supervision for tying out dogs as well as accepted types of tie-outs, weather restrictions and shelter requirements.

It is expected to be brought before the City Council Committee of the Whole on Thursday, Nov. 2, for direction on whether to move forward with public hearings and a vote at future Council meetings.

Agenda item update: www.tempe.gov/MeetingAgendas.

Bahai'is mark 200th anniversary with festival

Baha'is of Chandler mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, on Sunday, Oct. 22, with a Light of Unity Festival at Chandler Center for the Arts.

The 4:30 p.m. program will include drama, music, art exhibits, storytelling, prayer and devotional programs in celebration of the day, according to Brandon Bullock, a member of the local administrative council.

Bahá'u'lláh was a spiritual teacher who announced in 1863 that he was the bearer of a new revelation from God. His teachings have spread around the world, forming the basis

of a process of social transformation and community building unique in its global scope and diversity of participants. Most cities in metro Phoenix have a Baha'i community.

Bullock, the local representative, said the festival is a celebration of the transformative impact of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings on the lives of families, neighborhoods and communities around the country and the world.

"Now more than ever we need positive models of social change that bring people together rather than divide them," he said.

Information: bahaisofchandler.org or <http://www.bahai.org/>

Councilmember Nora Ellen seeking state seat

Chandler City Councilmember Nora Ellen has announced her candidacy for Arizona State Representative for Legislative Dist. 17.

Ellen is serving her second and last term on the City Council, where she

has been actively serving for over 27 years.

"I have enjoyed serving on the City Council and want to take the successful work I have done in Chandler to the state level," she said.

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Advises Tempe St. Luke's psychiatrist News of tragedies can trigger relapse in those struggling with PTSD

By Joyce Coronel

As headlines about the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas begin to slowly fade, Americans are left with questions. The biggest one, understandably, is why.

Why would someone commit such a murderous act? Was Stephen Paddock mentally ill?

Dr. Naveen Cherukuri spends his days treating patients who suffer from severe mental illness. The vice-chief of staff at St. Luke's Behavioral Health Center in Phoenix also serves on the medical staff at Tempe St. Luke's Hospital.

"The vast majority of the mentally ill don't cause problems for themselves or others, but my patients are the exceptions," Dr. Cherukuri said. "They're the ones who have caused a lot of problems for other people."

They also tend to grab headlines. Of course, not everyone who struggles with mental health perpetrates violence; millions of Americans are locked in an ongoing battle against debilitating depression. Many suffer in silence, not getting the care they need because of the ongoing stigma associated with mental health issues. So how does a society begin to break down those barriers and make it acceptable for people to admit they need help?

"I think the first thing is by noticing how common it is and how prominent it is, even in our history," Cherukuri said. "Depression and mood disorders—they've been here for a long time."

From Abraham Lincoln to Oprah Winfrey and Terry Bradshaw, Americans have plenty of examples of successful, functional adults who have struggled with depression. The lingering perception that mental illness is a character defect can stop people from getting the help they need.

"They don't want to be labeled crazy," Cherukuri said. "They don't want to be labeled weak and they don't want that stigma of having mental illness."

"The sad part is that we have newer medications that can help people with depression and we can make it so that it's not so bad."

Having a mental health issue is often related to



Dr. Naveen Cherukuri

From our readers . . .

Editor:

As the Mayor of Tempe, proud graduate of McClintock High, and TUHSD parent, I would like to add my support for the proposed Yes Support Our Schools (YSOS) Ballot initiative.

Tempe Union has a strong history as a high performing school district. The TUHSD consistently earn an "A" grade from the Arizona Department of Education.

TUHSD has produced high performing students, a quarter of whom are enrolled in advanced placement courses.

Many students go on to attend prestigious universities and programs including Barrett the Honors College, Stanford, and Duke.

Passage of the proposed budget override is critical to the continued high performance of Tempe Union.

A "YES" vote will provide the funding necessary to continue providing small classroom sizes and school-based student support services such as Gifted and English Language Learners.

Additional funding directed towards competitive teacher salaries will maximize our students' academic growth.

I strongly believe that a well-educated population translates to economic growth within our community. YSOS will give the TUHSD resources necessary to continue to provide the excellence in education our children deserve.

I consider this override to be a sound investment in the future of our community. I hope you will join me in voting "YES".

— Mark Mitchell, Tempe Mayor

Editor:

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

Editor:

Loved your piece about neighborhood newspapers! And congratulations on what I very much view as a success and a service to south Tempe and Chandler. And rest assured, though they might not always find the time to personally thank you,

your advertisers know that people read Wrangler News!

— Pam Goronkin

Editor:

Our ad for this latest issue looks AMAZING! Thanks so much to you and the designer. Appreciate your help and look forward to the edition this week!

— Blessings, Karen Goetz,
Office Manager,
Arizona Community Church

Editor:

When you look at Kyrene Schools what do you see?

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Kyrene requires capital, staff, support, technology and resources.

If we want to continue to keep answering yes to the questions above then we as a community need to support Kyrene the business to in turn support our future leaders and home values.

We need to vote yes to continuing, not increasing or changing, but simply continuing our bond authorization.

We need your "yes" vote on all three initiatives so we can create the future we want for our kids.

Jose, Michelle and Christie are voting yes and ask you to do the same!

Keep Kyrene Strong Co-Chairs
Christie Ellis
Michelle Hirsch
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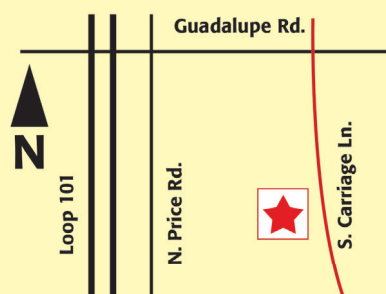
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Diversions

Hotshots' heroism hits the big screen

By M.V. Moorhead

Wildland firefighting is regarded, on the whole, as more strenuous and demanding than structure firefighting, and usually more dangerous. But it isn't more cinematic. A structure firefighter with a hose gets to enact one of the iconic cinematic dynamics—shooting at an enemy.

But the methods of wildland firefighters, while no less agonistic, are subtler—digging in the dirt, cutting trees and brush with chainsaws, and sometimes, counterintuitively for us laypeople, actually setting fires.

This is what we get in the firefighting sequences of *Only the Brave*, the story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, the wildland crew connected to the Prescott, Arizona fire department.

Nineteen of these young men—all but one member of the active crew—died in the Yarnell Hill Fire in June 2013, resulting in the worst loss of firefighters since 9/11 and the worst loss of wildland firefighters since the '30s.

There's terrifying spectacle, certainly, in a wildfire, but the response to it is guys hiking, digging, sawing. So the meat of the film is less this drudgery than the lives of hotshots, and especially that of Brendan "Donut" McDonough (Miles Teller), who was assigned as a lookout that day and thus became the Ishmael of the Granite Mountain Hotshots.

McDonough had a history of substance abuse and petty crime until he became a hotshot, and was mentored by Granite Mountain Superintendant Eric Marsh (Josh Brolin).

Despite the hopeful outcome of McDonough's story, there's no good way to present this material that isn't horrifying and heartbreaking, and director Joseph Kosinski doesn't try. There's a sense of restraint and dignity to his work, and that of the actors. The flavor for much of the movie's length is that of a John Ford/Howard Hawks/Raoul Walsh male bonding drama, and there's action and humor and touching sentiment and inspirational uplift, but a somber tinge hangs over it, at least for viewers who know where the story's heading.

This is reflected in Brolin's performance. The movie's Marsh has a look in his eyes that suggests a foreknowledge of disaster, and a sad acceptance of it.



M.V. Moorhead

Photo by Jennifer van Son,
White Tank Library

A photograph of a young boy and girl standing in a desert landscape. The boy, on the left, is wearing a blue hoodie and grey pants, and is smiling. The girl, on the right, is wearing a grey hoodie with a butterfly pattern and blue jeans, and is also smiling. They are both wearing sunglasses. In the background, there are several saguaro cacti and some green shrubs. The text "Tempe St. Luke's Hospital. Here for the community. Here for you." is overlaid on the image in white. The text "Here for you." is the largest and most prominent.

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

A brief history of the difference between news and advertising. And why we don't overlap them.

By Don Kirkland

Going back once again to my days as a young reporter in L.A., I remember the barbed wire fence and machine-gun turrets that separated the advertising salespeople from those of us who comprised the news-reporting staff.

No, of course there was no fence nor mounted guns, but there might as well have been.

One of the first rules that was drilled into new reporters was that employees of the advertising and editorial departments shouldn't comingle, at least professionally.

Pity the poor ad rep who somehow overlooked protocol and ventured into the space inhabited by writers and editors, who presumably had been ordered to shoot to kill, or at least maim, for such ill-advised incursions.

This was why, even though it was advertising dollars that helped keep the presses running, and thus us newsroom types working, that no ad sales personnel dared suggest that a particular client might be doing something newsworthy and therefore deserving of a story.

No, the line between advertising and editorial was drawn, and not ever — EVER — was it to be crossed.

While this unwritten rule seemed a bit excessive to me at the time, I eventually realized that it had a redeeming purpose:

By not publishing fluff about an advertiser in our news columns, the newspaper couldn't be accused of the kind of favoritism that ultimately could undermine readers' confidence and lead to our diminished credibility as a balanced, unbiased source of news.

Again, it may have seemed a bit extreme at the time—well before the arrival of the currently popularized “fake news” hysteria—but it's one of the lessons from my early days that has remained with me these many years. It also has provided the basis for a moral template that overlays the way we have done business throughout these nearly three decades.

Fast forward to the changing (read: real) world we live in.

Advertising dollars are not just a way to compensate us for the work we believe in and love:

It's the life's blood that allows us to keep our doors open. So, in return for the economic advantage we gain from businesses that advertise with us, we try to support them in any way we can:

By calling on their expertise when we want a local voice on a subject of wider interest; by writing about the people who make up their workforce, particularly when they have an interesting or

worthwhile story to tell; by giving a small edge of priority to them when it comes to deciding what stories will appear in the often-

overcrowded

pages of an upcoming issue. Please don't read something into this explanation that may suggest more than meets the eye.

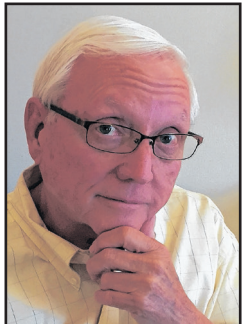
We never have—and never will—make a coverage decision on the adage “buy an ad and we'll write a story about you.”

Nor do we allow advertisers to dictate what stories we run or what content we include on our pages.

We long ago made a promise to our readers, a pledge that continues today, to retain the independence we have believed in and observed for many years.

It's because we want you to have confidence in what you read in Wrangler News and because it's vital that you be able to rely on our credibility.

Those early days in the newsroom, mentioned above, are now a distant memory, but they remain a foundation for our promise to you, our readers, that you can count on the kind of trustworthiness that was justified then and that will remain so into the future of Wrangler News—even without the barbed wire fence.



Tap, tap, tap your way to happy feet . . . But don't tell anyone

By M.V. Moorhead

As a member of Tap Club, the first imperative is: Don't talk about Tap Club. No, wait, that's Fight Club. Sorry. You can talk all you want about AZ Tap Club—a merry band of steely toed connoisseurs of an art form that dates to the jazzy minstrels of the mid-1880s—that meets Sundays from 2-3:30 p.m.

Indeed, when she's not tapping away at the group's McClintock Drive headquarters at Wall-2-Wall Dance Center in Tempe, club co-founder Jenefer Miller was willing to talk a lot and answer a reporter's questions about the club, its history and its future.

A sampling:

What is AZ Tap Club? —AZ Tap Club is a place for tap dancers to gather, share and grow. It began as an idea between two friends, nationally sought-after Miller, a master tap teacher, and Tucson resident and owner of Danswest Studio, Megan Maltos.

We are creating a place to host classes, share footage of dancers from the past and present, talk



Members of AZ Tap Club hone their skills and share tips on tap with nationally recognized dancer Jenefer Miller, co-founder of the group. The club meets at Wall-2-Wall Dance Center in Tempe.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

— TAPDANCE, Page 24



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Relapse

From Page 6

what's happening around us. From the 9/11 attacks, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Great Recession and the ongoing terror attacks, we live in a stressful world.

Cherukuri said he thinks a lot of people are still suffering the effects of those things.

He remembers the financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the patients he treated in its wake.

"They were functional, they were perfectly fine before, but what happened was that the economy tanked, they lost their job, then they lost their house and they became homeless or were living with family. They were very depressed," Cherukuri said. "It wasn't anything they did or didn't do."

Many of those who survived earlier trauma are still dealing with it. Cherukuri said that as he was watching

the coverage of the Las Vegas shooting, his mind turned to those who had unresolved PTSD or other mental health issues.

"When I was watching the tapes of the shootings, I could easily imagine someone who came back from the Iraq war, if they're struggling with mental illness or PTSD. That could exacerbate their symptoms, just seeing those videos. Even people who have had treatment—that would be something very hard to deal with."

So what should you do if a loved one is suffering but won't seek help?

"That's a tough one. I would start by telling them that mental illness, depressive symptoms, happen to everyone—mood disorders are very prominent and we live in a society that causes a great deal of anxiety and stress," Cherukuri said.

"You have to think of mental illness as a chronic condition. People want to think it's something short term. It's the equivalent of diabetes or hypertension or a heart issue: You have to take care of it and you can't ignore it."

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Breaking ground

Bank of the West

News relating to the scheduled arrival of 1,000 jobs in one of South Tempe's key business and industrial areas has been met with predictions of newly fueled economic and real estate growth, both locally and nearby.

Bank of the West, a subsidiary of BNP Paribas headquartered in San Francisco, announced that it is opening a major center at 1625 W. Fountainhead Parkway, which local officials say will expand the bank's presence in the Valley, at the same time creating employment opportunities.

The bank plans to hire for what it describes as a wide range of positions, including those in the fields of accounting, worker's compensation, employee relations, mortgage loan origination and client due-diligence, among others.

According to a spokeswoman, bank planners selected the Valley's metro area due to its strong roots in real estate and financial services, robust pool of local talent and favorable business conditions.

John Thomason, a 20-plus-year veteran of Bank of the West, will lead the office. Thomason launched his career at the bank as a real estate lender and held a number of major roles in the bank's real estate business. He also has served on the bank's senior management committee for a decade.

Construction of the new facility is underway.

Chandler Corporate Center

The ceremonial shovels dug in for the groundbreaking of the soon-to-be constructed Chandler Corporate Center, a 115,000-square-foot office development by VanTrust Real Estate.

The project, located in West Chandler on McClintock Drive, adjacent to Chandler Fashion Center, is being constructed by Layton Construction Company and was designed by Butler Design Group.

"We thank VanTrust for its support and dedication to advancing Chandler's economy," said Chandler's Vice Mayor, Kevin Hartke.

"Our fiscal stability, exemplified by Chandler's Triple A bond ratings, clearly illustrates to our private partners that Chandler is a wonderful place for this type of investment."

Chandler Corporate Center is being developed on 11-acres and is estimated to be completed during June 2018. VanTrust plans to develop the remaining land.

"As a partner to the city of Chandler, VanTrust envisions Chandler Corporate Center as cutting-edge office space that could eventually house more than 700 jobs," said Keith Earnest, executive vice president of VanTrust.

"There's a significant demand for quality suburban office space in the area, and with a 6- to-1,000 parking ratio, this building will be easily adaptable for any size tenant from a variety of markets."

Save the Dates!

Academies of Tempe Parent Information Nights



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www.tempeschools.org/aspire



Ward Traditional Academy
(grades 6-8)
Wednesday, November 8, 2017
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
1965 E. Hermosa Dr.,
Tempe, AZ 85282
(480) 491-8871
www.tempeschools.org/wta



Tempe Academy of International Studies
McKemy Campus (grades 6-8)
Thursday, November 16, 2017
5:30 - 7 p.m.
2250 S. College Ave.,
Tempe, AZ 85282
(480) 459-5048
www.tempeschools.org/tempeacademy

Academies of Tempe At A Glance	ASPIRE Academy	Ward Traditional Academy	Tempe Academy of International Studies
International Baccalaureate World School			✓
All-day gifted program	✓		✓
Traditional classroom instruction		✓	✓
1:1 computing (every student receives laptop)	✓	✓	✓
Application required for admission (no cost)	✓		✓
K-8 School		✓	
Grades 6-8	✓		✓
Honors/gifted classes	✓	✓	✓
Two electives daily	✓	✓	✓
Algebra, Geometry and Spanish for high school credit	✓	✓	✓
Art class	✓	✓	✓
Spanish class	✓	✓	✓
Free musical instrument rental	✓	✓	✓
Afterschool Care (Kid Zone and/or Boys and Girls Club)	✓	✓	✓

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Connect with us!

Mobilizing

From Page 1

Institute, an organization dedicated to educational improvements, which is based in Chandler.

As a long-time educator and former principal in the Valley, she is well

networked in educational circles; so, she personally fields questions from teachers, parents, administrators, and even elected officials.

"We need to keep the conversation

going because I am learning there are many people who don't know where to turn when it comes to getting help with their kids' mental health issue," said McPherson.

The Tempe Union High School District reached out to McPherson to pro-actively educate its families and employees.

The district already has a section of its website devoted to mental-health issues, including social-service resources and organizations that offer individual counseling.

"The TUHSD is very supportive in exploring new ways to help the community and we are working together to produce another town hall for all the schools in the district, which also includes a invitation to any families who attend Kyrene and Tempe Elementary schools," said McPherson.

The second town hall is planned for Monday, Nov. 6 at the Desert Vista High School, 16440 S. 32nd St., Phoenix. Entitled "#SOS: Turning Distress into Success," the public event will offer attendees ways to support students and discuss how to best connect with them.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. so that families can visit tables with information from behavioral health resources in the Valley.

The keynote speaker begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee, the retired superintendent of the Palo Alto Unified School District in California.

A question-and-answer period follows with members of local social-service organizations.

"Among the questions we will address is a child's mental health a school issue, a parental responsibility or both," said McPherson.

"Earlier in the day, we are hosting a roundtable discussion and study session for educators and school counselors.

"This will be facilitated by Dr. McGee, Dr. Baca from TUHSD and Dr. Vesely from Kyrene."

State legislation may mandate suicide prevention education in schools

One initiative The Gurian Institute encourages is to help communities develop partnerships between schools, parent and legislators.

McPherson is in the fledging stage of an Arizona-based initiative and had a meeting with state representative Mitzi Epstein which looks promising, she reports.

The goal of any legislation would be to fund suicide prevention classes for teachers and to include information in all schools' curriculum.

McPherson urged the public to point out to lawmakers and funding organizations that mental health issues are debilitating—they impact school budgets, grades, test scores, discipline systems and every marker of success other than physical cuts and scrapes, scuffles and disagreements—even physical bullying.

The effort to prevent suicide will continue to become more visible statewide if McPherson has her way in succeeding with new legislation.

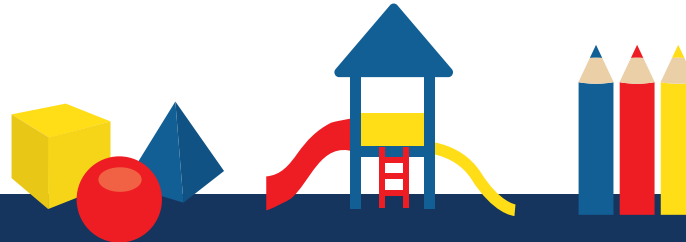
She is being assisted in the effort by Lori Warnock, a teacher with 26 years of experience and the mother of Mitchell, who was a senior at Corona when he committed suicide.

"Katey and I connected through the group called Save Our Students, which was created by Christina

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Nguyen and other mothers in the East Valley who are concerned by the rash of suicides in the area," said Warnock.

"I joined the group and spoke to the fact that my son, Mitch, had passed by suicide and I had been attending TUHSD board meetings to show that I was still present and that our small group of concerned parents and advocates in Tempe were still waiting for teachers to be trained on how to identify students who are potentially at risk."

Warnock said she was frustrated by the lack of suicide prevention training available for teachers.

"I want that rectified," she said. "Children are literally dying, while others are suffering. Our students throughout the Valley are well-connected via sporting events, clubs, and, of course, on social media.

"We are just at the beginning stages of this work and we continue to meet within our various school districts about training and student support within schools.

"Students are a captive audience within our schools and we have a prime opportunity and obligation to inform and assist them," said Warnock.

She met with McPherson in August and gave her the history of her son, who was a teammate of Marcus Wheeler, another Corona student whose life ended by suicide on the school's campus in 2015.

She has already researched laws in the 25 states that have mandated suicide-prevention education in schools.

"Since suicide among teens has soared 81 percent since 2009, we wanted to develop a way for legislation in Arizona," said Warnock.

"We are setting up meetings with other state legislators, as well, to express our concerns and receive their feedback.

"We are persistent and we are mothers—we will not rest until that is acknowledged and systemic change occurs for not only East Valley students but every student in Arizona," concluded Warnock.

Tempe El Supt. Dr. Christine Busch addresses school grading controversy

In a letter to district parents, Busch wrote:

The A-F letter grades were released by the media today, ahead of the scheduled date. We wanted to make you aware the letter grades are now available. The A-F Accountability System is designed to provide feedback on student progress and school success. The formula created by Arizona Board of Education, includes proficiency and growth as measured by the AzMERIT test given in the 2016 and 2017 school years.

The formula also includes the progress of students learning English and several acceleration/readiness measures such as students in middle schools taking high school end-of-course tests. Educating the whole child is critical to our vision and mission in Tempe Elementary and it is important to know that the A-F letter grade system does not measure student success in every area.

Tempe Elementary is proud to share our letter grades. We value accountability and the transparency that comes with it. Our students and staff have so much to celebrate and yet, we have much work to do to ensure that every child shows continuous improvement toward college and career readiness. We celebrate our many schools receiving A and B

letter grades, and have developed comprehensive plans for improvement for our schools receiving a C or D. Putting a lens on our student achievement and student growth is an opportunity to continue the conversation about the hard work that takes place every day in our classrooms and what continues to challenge us.

We can discuss how some of our schools struggled to find highly effective teachers, or schools that had long-term substitute teachers or staff who are just beginning to learn about standards-based instruction. However, the focus of our work will be on improving instruction and increasing success for all students, as well as to provide the best and brightest teachers and leaders for every school.

We believe passionately that all children can achieve success if given the right amount of opportunities, time, and resources. This is the passion that drives us to make the best decisions for every child, in every school, every day. Seventy-four percent of our students in Tempe Elementary qualify for free and reduced lunch, which is defined as students living below the federal guidelines of poverty.

In providing a variety of educational choices for our families, we have children who attend their neighborhood schools and we have students whose parents drive them to other schools in our district to receive the education that best meets their child's unique needs.

Tempe Elementary is richly diverse and our students come from around the world and represent 77 different languages, 70 countries, and 68 Native American tribes. Our commitment is to provide an exceptional learning environment for every child

who walks through our doors so they can fulfill their dreams.

Every day that we greet our students with welcoming words and smiles that light up their lives, we are helping to build a better world. Every day we create more engaging learning environments, construct project based lessons designed to immerse our students in real world learning experiences, develop stronger instructional practices, attract and retain teachers who believe passionately about the importance of their role in educating our students, we are building a better world.

As we work daily to unlock the keys to success for every student, every employee throughout Tempe Elementary is focused on providing exceptional learning environments for every child.

We have much work to do in improving lifelong learning outcomes for our students, but in doing the work each and every day, there are numerous stories of teamwork and collaboration, of comfort and kindness, of dedication and commitment, and of excellence and heroism.

Because of the team in Tempe Elementary, your child can count on coming to school in an environment where they are safe, respected, well cared for, and challenged to be the very best they can be using education as their tool for a brighter future and a stronger world.

I would like to thank our students, parents, staff and the many members of our Tempe Elementary family and community who are rising to the challenge and have an unwavering belief that together we are better, together we can overcome any challenge, and together we make the difference for our children.



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Sports

With Alex Zener

A state record becomes cause celebre for Aztecs

Corona's football team celebrated with one of its own when **Ricky Pearsall Jr.** set a 6A state record for single-game receiving yardage by catching 14 passes from Aztec quarterback **Ryan Hilt** for a total of 342 receiving yards.

Corona's junior wide receiver bested the 6A record of 332 yards set by Basha's Terrell Brown against Desert Vista in 2016.

Although Corona ultimately lost to Gilbert 48-34, Hilt completed 33 of 54 passes for 510 yards, including five touchdown passes to Pearsall.

Besides Pearsall's 14 receptions, **Kobee Marion** caught nine passes for 74 yards, **Quinten Hunter** snagged four passes out of the air for 28 yards, and **Brandon Gavel** caught two passes for 37 yards.

Pearsall scored all five of Corona's receiving touchdowns for a total of 30 points. The additional four points came from two-point conversions by

Marion and Gavel.

On defense, seniors **Aaron Arenas** and **Brooks Canfield** led the team in total tackles with nine each followed by **Jack Schobinger** with seven and **Brian McCluskey** and **Devon Tursini-White** with six each.

Xavier Burrell had the only quarterback sack while **Nathan Hemingway** had the only interception.

The Aztecs, currently with a 1-7 record, was scheduled to play their last home game against Mountain Pointe on Oct. 20, which was scheduled to for the team to honor the senior players.

Corona will play its last game of the season Oct. 27 at Desert Vista.

Cross Country

Corona's boys cross country team took second place and the girls team finished sixth in the 5,000 meters big school varsity bracket at the 4th Annual Titan Invitational cross country meet at Crossroads Park in Gilbert on Oct. 13.

Senior **Lincoln Johnston** was the first Aztec to cross the finish line at the Titan, where Corona's team finished just three points out of first place with 87 points to Brophy's first place finish of 84 points.

Johnston placed sixth out of the 169 runners from 25 schools. Junior **Joel Wadsworth**, who finished in 14th place, was the second Aztec runner to cross the finish line.

Next senior **Dylan Waterhouse** crossed in 21st place with a time of 17:07. Teammate junior **Zach Johnson**, who was neck and neck with Waterhouse heading down the stretch, finished in 22nd place, just .65 seconds behind at 17:07.65.

The other members of Corona's team that ran in the big school varsity division included sophomore **Dominic Arellano** who finished 24th while senior **Andrew Ferreira** was 25th, and junior **Kyle Swindler** was 32nd.

At the 45th Annual Doug Conley held Sept. 23 at Shalimar Country Club in Tempe, the Aztecs finished fourth out of 17 teams competing in the 5,000 meters elite division.

Lincoln Johnston was the top finisher for Corona in this race coming in 16th out of 121 runners in the elite division with a time of 15:56.6 followed by Wadsworth in 24th, Zach Johnson in 34th, Waterhouse in 39th, Swindler in 42nd and Ferreira in 53rd.

Corona's girls team has been steadily improving this season and just finished sixth out of 20 teams with a total of 138 runners at the Titan Invitational.

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Sports

From Page 18

"We are super excited to be doing well in this downhill stretch towards the end of the regular season," said girls head coach **Brian Crane**. "We think we have a good chance to make it into the state meet this season which would mean a lot to the girls after not qualifying last year."

First to cross the finish line for Corona was freshman **Jade Bare** in 22nd place.

"Jade has been one of our most consistent runners all year," said Crane. "She is really a hard worker plus it's great that she's only a freshman who has lots of room to grow and get better."

Bare was followed by two seniors, **Riley Wright** in 27th place and **Mia Da Rose** in 35th.

"Riley and Mia are such hard workers who quietly lead by example the younger girls," said Crane. "I never have to worry about them being prepared and ready for practice or a meet."

Another freshman, **Peyton Burnside**, was the fourth runner for the Aztecs, coming in at 49th.

"Peyton has worked really hard this season and has gotten progressively better," said Crane. "She is a pleasure to have on the team and like Jade has time

to develop and improve over the next three to four years."

The last three Corona runners in order of finish included juniors **Mackenzie Burgess**, **Emma Hedberg** and senior **Kristina Phillips**.

"Mackenzie has been one of our top five finishers all season," said Crane. "In practice she brings our top runners along with her because she is so fast."

"Emma got to run her first varsity meet at the Titan and did well," said Crane. "Kristina has been working hard on her arms, stride and consistency all season and it's starting to pay off."

The top finishers in the Doug Conley included the same runners, with the exception that seniors Da Rosa and Wright were the top two finishers for Corona.

Da Rose crossed the finish line in 30th place out of 112 runners from 17 high schools while Wright surged forward at the finish to take 34th place in 20.01.1 minutes or .1 seconds ahead of Santos from Red Mountain who recorded a time of 20.01.2.

"Mia Da Rosa is probably the hardest worker we have on our team," said Crane. "Riley came late to the season because she was in the Sister City Exchange program but has been getting back to racing form faster than anticipated."

Bare finished in 48th place while Burgess was

next in 49th place and Burnside was 83rd. Phillips and **Isabella Sarno** were the last two racers who finished the race for Corona.

Marcos de Niza, Tempe and McClintock high schools had teams participate at the 45th Annual Doug Conley on Sept. 23.

The Marcos de Niza boys team took sixth place against 35 teams and 573 runners in the 5,000 meters non-varsity division.


Padre senior **Joseph Tryeman** finished in first place with a time of 16:21.9 beating out two Mesa Mountain View and three Highland runners.

The Padres' second runner to cross the finish line was junior **Orion Hunter**, who finished in seventh place with a time of 17.08.2.

Senior **Miguel Calderon** was the third runner to finish for Marcos. He placed 39th and was followed by junior **Jaden Pahona**, freshman **Sky Hart**, junior **Samuel Lumbra**, freshman **Braeden Mattson**, freshman **Ashton Boosey**, junior **Ricardo Palma**, sophomore **Ethan Storment**, senior **Isaiah Matus**, and sophomores **Pierce Hammack** and **Alexander Marina**.

The Padres girls team had five runners compete in the 5,000 meters non-varsity event.

— SPORTS, Page 20



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Sports

From Page 19

Sophomore **Clarissa Estrada** was the first runner for Marcos to cross the finish line in 141st place out of 346 runners from 30 high schools. Estrada was followed by junior **Vanessa Hernandez** who took 186th place

Senior **Shenea Manheimer**, junior **Blanca Vargas** and sophomore **Natalie Bigman** were the last three runners for the Padres.

Marcos had two runners compete in the higher level 5,000 meters invitational. Junior **Maureen Juarez** finished 99th with a time of 22:40.5 while senior **Anna Bell** was the 138th person out of the 176 runners to cross the finish line with a time of 23:56.3.

The Tempe High School boys team finished 18th in the 5,000 meters non-varsity event while the girls team had runners in both the 5,000 meters non-varsity and the 5,000 meters invitational event.

Senior **Cris Bajarano** was the first Tempe runner to cross the finish line as the 56th runner out of the 573 athletes from 35 schools who competed in this non-varsity event.

Junior **Jesus Gomez** was the second runner from Tempe's team to cross the finish line when he finished in 87th place.

The next three Tempe runners whose points counted for the team's total were sophomores **Jaxen Davis** and **Ivan Felty** and senior **Jacob Davis**.

Twelve more Tempe runners crossed the finish line in the following order including sophomore **Nico Garnero**, junior **Jose Sanchez**, freshman **Mikhael Borja**, senior **Alexander Tovar**, junior **Jose Bernal**, senior **Gabriel Garcia**, freshman **Ricardo Barajas**, juniors **Andres Morales Mendoza**, **Christian Alvarado**, **Manuel Cervantes** and **Gustavo Dominguez** and freshman **Rogelio Garcia Corona**.

Tempe's girls team competed at the Doug Conley in both the 5,000 meters non-varsity where they took 16th place out of 30 teams and in the 5,000 meters invitational division where the team placed seventh out of 27 teams.

In the non-varsity division, freshman **Dayanara Gomez** was the first runner Tempe to cross the finish line placing 65th out of 346 runners.

Senior **Madie Damasco** was the next finisher followed by freshman **Jessica Roman**, sophomore **Daniela Chavira**, junior **Brenda Juarez**, sophomore **Kimberly Soto**, junior **Michelle Gonzalez**, senior **Karla Islas**, junior **Miriam Hadi**, freshman **Karolina Rojas** and sophomore **Vanessa Galvin**.

Danyella Miranda, now in her senior year, has continued to be the lead runner for Tempe where she

finished in the invitational division in fourth place out of 176 runners with a time of 19:30.6.

Sophomore **Jasmine Neal** was the second Tempe runner in 49th place followed by seniors **Rubi Aguilera** and **Symantha Ramos**, sophomore **Karely Flores Garcia** and senior **Reyna Cruz**.

The McClintock girls team finished 18th out of 30 teams in the non-varsity division when freshman **Rachael Pabst** finished 61st out of 346 runners.

Junior **Emilie Berthiaume**, in 83rd place, was the second Charger runner to cross the finish line. She was followed by sophomore **Jimie Sanders**, freshman **Amanda McAlphin**, and seniors **Apryl Secakuku** and **Mayetizi Hernandez**.

The Charger boys team had four runners in the non-varsity division finish the race. Sophomore **Carter Vierra** was the first McClintock runner to cross the finish line.

Senior **Liam Huggins**, freshman **Seth Villa** and **Carter Miller** were the next three runners for McClintock.

All Tempe Unions School District high school boys and girls cross country teams were scheduled to participate in the Tempe City Championships held Oct. 18. Up next will be the AIA Sectionals towards the end of Oct. and then the state meets.



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Clint Santoro, better known as Flash, motivates runners to work hard to reach their goals, not just in the sport but in life.
— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

Getting motivated for life in a 'Flash'

By Kody Acevedo

It takes only a few moments walking—or running—in the shoes of Clint “Flash” Santoro to feel motivated. Motivated to give 110 percent to any obstacle you face. Motivated to push yourself to new limits. Most importantly, motivated to be the best person you can possibly be.

“You know how teachers get into teaching because they want to make a difference in kids’ lives?” Santoro said. “I’m always trying to get kids, or adults, to get something to click.”

Santoro, 42, can be seen during the week helping customers at Sole Sports as the marketing director for the store’s Youth Sports Division. But on the side, his passion lies in coaching.

A running master who has competed across the country and around the world, Santoro blends his passion of running with lessons about life.

“The fact that I was a nobody gives me the ability to communicate with young people better than a coach who was a good athlete himself,” Santoro said. “I was the exact opposite.”

So, I can help instill in any athlete, at any age, the principles of hard work, how to go about it, how to set goals and how to go about achieving those goals.”

Santoro’s drive to help others stems from his early days in high school in the small town of Stafford Springs, Conn.

A letter from the cross-country coach at Stafford High School opened the door to what would eventually become his infatuation.

“I was the kid who was picked last for everything,” Santoro said. “I was an 85-pound freshman. Not an ounce of muscle on me and no coordination.

I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I had never run a step in my life.”

— RUNNER, Page 22

West Chandler auto-repair shop to join in anti-drunken-driving initiative

Yes, the aftermath of a highway crash often does bring people to auto-repair shops. But who’d think of such a destination before an accident leaves twisted metal—and broken lives—in its wake? Frank Leutz did.

The well-known entrepreneur, owner of West Chandler-based Desert Car Care and a familiar contributor to many of the community’s top organizations and events, will team up with Mothers Against Drunk Driving again this year for a Tuesday, Dec. 12, showcase of the efforts underway to stem the tide of death and injury caused by impaired motorists.

On hand at the 95 N. Dobson Road repair facility, hosted by Leutz and MADD volunteers, will be members of

Chandler PD’s traffic squad, along with a number of other supporters of the anti-drunken-driving initiative.

Now in their sixth go-round of collaboration, Leutz’s company and MADD organizers are planning this year’s “Tie One on for Safety” event at Leutz’s Dobson Road repair center.

According to Sherry Butler, a spokeswoman for the event, in 2015, most recent year for fatality statistics, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows Arizona ranked 21st in drunk driving fatalities.

More than 270 people lost their lives in accidents in which at least one driver was alcohol-impaired.

Of the 893 total traffic-related deaths, 30.46 percent of all fatalities were alcohol-related accident fatalities, according to Butler’s report.

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Runner

From Page 21

But by the end of his first two semesters, earned “Freshman of the Year” honors from cross-country coach Steve Levinthal.

It was the peak he needed to begin his athletic journey.

“It was hard work, but I did it all by myself,” Santoro said. “I loved it because it was the one thing I had to define me.”

Santoro’s journey continued after high school

at the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University. But he never forgot the lessons he learned from his high school coach, Levinthal.

An altercation with Levinthal in high school gave Santoro what he calls “the greatest lesson an athlete can learn: how to be a decent human being.”

“There’s no one person (on a team) who’s all-important,” Santoro said. “You want to know why I still run? So I can teach kids how to be valuable, productive members of society as a result of all the lessons they learn through running.”

For Santoro, his lessons have proven to be successful both on and off the track.

Running has led him all over the world including France, New Zealand and Vancouver, B.C., the latter being his favorite as the site of his first international win, where he brought home the gold in the steeplechase competition just last year at age 41.

Not surprisingly, Santoro always seems to run the extra mile when he goes overseas.

“One of my bucket-list goals for myself (is) I want to be able to greet everybody of every culture in their target language,” Santoro said.

So far, he can get by in French, Spanish, Italian, German, even a little Swedish.

It’s all part of that go-getter mentality that Santoro brings to the sport of running, to his students and to his 14-year-old daughter as she launches into high school sports.

“I want (her) to be an athlete for life,” Santoro said. “Every semester in high school there’s a sport to be done, (when she’s) on a team. I told her to do her best with the skills you have. You don’t doubt yourself. You don’t have a bad attitude about it.

“Put yourself out there and if you’re not good you practice until you get better.”

It’s a mentality that goes back to his own high school days. It’s what molded that scrawny, 85-pound freshman in 1986 to the man known today as “Flash”—a fitting name for a runner that also was the name of his favorite superhero as a kid.

And it’s a mentality that continues to be passed along to the generations of runners he touches.

“When I won gold at ‘worlds,’ it was awesome. But it doesn’t compare to the lessons I’ve taught. That’s my gold medal.”

Santoro can be reached at www.flashesantorotrainingssystems.com.

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Moorhead

From Page 8

It's an old-school star turn in the Henry Fonda vein, one of Brolin's best. He even gets a Sam Shepherd-ish Oscar-clip monologue about the flaming bear that haunts his dreams.

But Teller also does strong work in the "tenderfoot" role of McDonough, Taylor Kitsch throws a charge into his scenes as hotshot Christopher Alan MacKenzie, and Jeff Bridges, as wildland chief Duane Steinbrink, has a great moment, a small groan of grief that's like a gut punch.

I had the opportunity to talk with Kosinski and Brolin before the film's opening, and they both stressed how they spent a lot of time in Prescott with the families and friends of the hotshots, and became close to them, in order to achieve authenticity.

But this may have led the filmmakers, in understandable deference to the feelings of the survivors, to omit or soften errors or interpersonal conflicts within the crew that may had a bearing on the disaster. The climactic scenes, though inevitably powerful, also leave it unclear as to what led to the decisions that placed the crew in the path of the fire.

Partly, no doubt, this is because it remains unclear even from reports of the official investigations. But in terms of the movie's narrative, it's just confusing, and it's about all that keeps this well-crafted, well-acted movie from feeling like a triumph.

Only the Brave is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion Center and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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Tapdance

From Page 11

through the history of the art form and tell stories, as well as find time to spend with one another.

Whether one is a lifelong practitioner of tap, a budding young tap dancer, or dance educator in Arizona, AZ Tap Club is the best place to hone their craft and share ideas.

It's a place to dive deeper into music theory, phrasing, improvisation, to work with live musicians, train the next generation of tap dancers and teachers, and embrace our tap dance history. By rotating advisers (local and guest teachers), we keep the material fresh. Together, we will up the tap game in Arizona and put the heat of the feet on the tap map.

What was your first experience with tap? — It goes back to when I was about 4 years old and my mother showed me Sammy Davis Jr. tap dancing on TV. I was mesmerized and began taking classes at age 5. I got serious somewhere around middle

school and I've had the opportunity to train with Savion Glover, the Nicholas Brothers, Dianne Walker and Jimmy Slyde, all greats of the industry.

How would you define tap dancing, compared to other familiar forms of dancing? Tap dance is a highly energetic, polyrhythmic, percussive dance form created right here in the United States. Influenced by jazz music and musicians, it is meant to express emotion.

What level of fitness should a person be in before attempting tap? — I think anyone can tap dance. And I mean that. It's a great way to get your heart rate up, and many tap dancers I have known have danced well into their 80s. In fact, I studied with Harold and Fayard Nicholas of the famous Nicholas Brothers when they were in their 70s.

Does Tap Club ever perform publicly, or is it strictly for fun and exercise? — I personally travel around the country both teaching and performing solo. In addition, Megan and I both dance with local tap



Members of AZ Tap Club are gearing up to perform in the Phoenix Tap Fest in January 2018. For now, they're moving in rhythm as they tap their way through the energetic dance form. — Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

company Tap 24.7, which I co-founded with another local tap teacher, Suzy Hall. For now, the club is more about sharing, but the public will be able see

some of us perform at the Phoenix Tap Fest in January. We want the world to know tap dance is alive and well.

Go to aztapclub.com for details

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Residents of the Estate La Colina neighborhood and surrounding area met with city of Tempe officials last August to discuss upcoming changes to Estrada Park.
– Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Park

From Page 1

feedback to board members from neighbors.

The statement reads in part that the group wants to “preserve as much open green space as possible that can be used for recreation by a majority of nearby neighborhood residents of all ages, and not use green space for niche elements that will not be used by a majority of the 380 households in Estate La Colina neighborhood association” as well as other nearby homes.

Niche elements in this case related to the proposed playing courts and the dog park which, according to the group, tend to attract people from distant neighborhoods who could utilize similar amenities at such nearby venues as Kiwanis Park.

In response to those residents’ concerns, the city has decided not include any of the neighborhood-opposed elements in the rework of the park, according to Tempe spokeswoman Nikki Ripley.

Several weeks ago, Mckell Keeney, an Estate La Colina Neighborhood Association board member, contacted Wrangler News following recent public meetings about possible changes at the park. The statement she provided points to neighbors’ desire to preserve as much green space as possible at Estrada Park, as follows:

“We are hearing more and more from residents who value the grass and open sky. They want places to put down a picnic blanket or fly a kite, as the soccer field is often in use,” the statement reads.

Neighbors were also objecting to the fact that mature trees at the park would be cut down to make way for the fire station and replaced with smaller trees that will take years to grow and provide shade.

The city of Tempe estimates that 1¼-1½ acres of the 8-acre Estrada Park will be taken up by the new fire station—a facility they say studies show is needed

to improve critical response time in the nearby area.

As to Keeney and her association-board allies, they feel the proposed upgrades to Estrada Park are not compensation for the loss of green space once the fire station is built. She and another neighbor attended a Tempe parks board meeting in August and a city council work study about a week later regarding the changes at the park.

“Even if a big chunk of the park was not being taken over for a fire station, there is a city council mandate to enlarge and improve all city playgrounds. That means even though the city gave us a survey on what kind of playground pieces we wanted, Estrada Park will be getting the types of equipment in this inclusive playground initiative,” Keeney said, even though the park would be receiving the same installation eventually anyway.

“We will be getting an enlarged and improved playground because of the inclusive playground initiative and because we were scheduled to get one within a year or so anyway.”

Nikki Ripley, spokeswoman for Tempe, agreed that Estrada Park was scheduled for improvements “within the next few years” but that the process was bumped up in order to minimize disruption at the site.

“The idea is to reduce the impacts of construction on the surrounding area, rather than two separate projects at different times,” Ripley said.

“The public input process for Estrada Park has been done thoroughly and in keeping with other park enhancement projects in terms of extensive resident involvement. We respect and seek the input of many neighbors in any park improvement project.”

Based on all of the Estrada input, staff is finalizing chosen amenities and the architect is finalizing design,” Ripley said.

“We anticipate funding for the enlarged playground and fitness/walking trail, per the resident input received.”

Information: Tempe.gov

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City of Chandler NEWS+Events

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It was 16 years ago that Chandler's Public Works Department began the ambitious program of widening some of the City's more congested intersections. Eleven intersections were improved over that time, resulting in less congestion and an average reduction in accidents of 43 percent.



We truly appreciate the understanding shown by those impacted by our construction and encourage the public and anyone who has avoided the intersection to please return and patronize the retail establishments and other businesses at the new and improved Alma School Road/Chandler Boulevard Intersection.

EVENTS OCTOBER

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- 24 Eco-Friendly Water Gardens Workshop, TechShop, 782-3580
- 26 Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 27 Halloween Spooktacular, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park Stage Plaza, 782-2665
- 28 For Our City Day, Gazelle Meadows Park, 782-4354
- 28 Our Stories Speaker Series: From Chandler to the Vietnam War, Downtown Library, 782-2800
- 28 Pumpkin Dunk, Mesquite Groves Aquatic Center, 782-2750
- 28 Pat Blackburn Open, Chandler Bike Park at Espee Park, 593-1042

NOVEMBER

- 1 Small Business Dev. Wkshp: Part 1, Sunset Library, 782-2800

- 4 The Family Stone, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 4 Fishing Clinic & Outdoor Safety Event, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2907
- 4 Sister City Tea, Tumbleweed Recreation Center, 782-2214
- 4 Vision Kidz Workshop, Vision Gallery, 782-2697
- 6 City Council meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 6-9 Through the Eye of the Soldier exhibit, Chandler-Gilbert CC, 782-2214
- 8 Small Business Dev. Wkshp: Part 2, Sunset Library, 782-2800
- 9 City Council meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 9 Homeschool Days, Environmental Education Center, 782-2890
- 10 Veterans Day Holiday, City offices closed
- 10 The Underwater Bubble Show, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 10-11 Chandler Chuck Wagon Cook-off, Tumbleweed Ranch, 782-2717
- 11 Safety and Veterans Expo (SAVE), Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2222
- 11 STEM Saturday, Tumbleweed Ranch, 782-2717
- 12 Chandler Symphony, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 12 Arizona Harvest Fest and Open Air Market, Downtown Chandler, 855-3539
- 15 Small Business Dev. Wkshp: Part 3, Sunset Library, 782-2800
- 16 Sonoran Sunset Concert, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2889
- 17 Chandler Art Walk, Downtown Chandler, 855-3539
- 17-19 Chandler Fall Classic NTRP, Chandler Tennis Center, 782-2651
- 18 Woofstock, Tumbleweed Park, 782-2735
- 18 Our Stories Speaker Series: Stories from the Arizona Army Nat'l Guard, 782-2751
- 18 Chandler Bike Park Competition, Chandler Bike Park at Espee Park, 782-2730
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Day holiday, City offices closed
- 24-26 Nutcracker, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

For event details, visit chandleraz.gov or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 782-2735.

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The Big Questions . . .



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Our next issue is Saturday, Nov. 4

For advertising space reservations be sure to let us know by 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27. For story or photo ideas, call 480-966-0845 or email editor@wranglernews.com by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23. 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.

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Saba's

From Page 1

and promise to pay later. Most people would come in and pay when they said they would. Their word was good and we trusted them. There was no such thing as Master Card or Visa," Joan said.

The idea of spreading the Saba's culture to other towns became possible in 1948 when an opportunity arose to venture into Scottsdale. At that time, there was no other store there of its kind.

One of the greatest advantages for the original Saba's in Chandler, according to Joan, was the opportunity to expand the size of the store by moving into the old J.C. Penney location off Boston Street in 1958. Today, Saba's operates eight locations all over the Valley.

One might wonder what makes this local business thrive despite the various challenges over the years, watching fellow businesses surrounding them come and go.

"Our 'secret sauce' to success is simple: family and community involvement, loyal employees, extensive inventory—and we take care of our customers to the point where we make lifelong friends," Davey Saba, David Jr.'s son, notes.

"I trust my staff wholeheartedly to do a good job."

Davey, who is now director of the Chandler store, reminisces on his own love affair with the store that sprouted from an early age.

"When I was eight years old we had a midnight sale at the store, and I got to stay up late and help out in my pajamas. It was a fun time."

The Saba's retail operation coursed through his veins. As he continued to mature, Davey had an office at the store by the time he was 14. Lending a helping hand was no rarity for all the family members, young

and old.

"We had a fire sale in '72 and I was a freshman at Chandler High at the time. The secretary called my name over the loudspeaker and instructed me to leave school immediately, and walk to the store because I was needed," Davey said.

Davey, who has been an authentic cowboy from the start, has always been an active member of the community. In his early years he was a member of Future Farmers of America, Rotary International and Arizona National Livestock Show, while simultaneously raising cattle, branding and taking part in the cattle auctions.

"I'm a real cowboy, not just a storekeep," Davey said.

Although he has hung up his saddle in order to run the Chandler store and seek further community involvement through the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, the Chandler Chamber and his realty business among other projects, he insists he wouldn't have it any other way.

Today, the Saba's enterprise is mainly run by David Jr. and David Jr.'s younger brother Richard; Davey and his two older cousins, Roger Jr.; and Mark. With the century-anniversary mark only a few years away and the store celebrating nine decades as one of the city's best-recognized pillars of success, Saba's—the store and the family—show no sign of slowing.

As to the future, Davey affirms that the family has no intentions of opening another store beyond the current eight, saying:

"We are happy and comfortable with the status of our stores. We will continue to expand our vast selection and compete with the current trends to stay relevant. "As far as where Saba's will be in another 90 years? All I know is that I'll be retired and it'll be left in good hands."

Saba's Western Wear in downtown Chandler still has a hitching post out front, an amenity that allowed Twister the Horse to take part in the store's 90th anniversary celebration that featured a singing cowboy and plenty of cowpokes, including Tex Earnhardt.

— Wrangler News photos by Alex J. Walker





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