

Surprise!

Kyrene family' News of awards catches teachers off guard

'We are a

Teachers and school staff seldom go into the field of education hoping to become rich. Similarly, they don't often receive accolades for the hard work and long hours they put in to ensure students are able to meet and exceed grade level proficiency.

One local school district aims to change all that with quarterly awards and accolades.

Kyrene Values Teachers, a collaborative

- TEACHERS, Page 24

Cielo teacher Natalie Richardson reacts to an unexpected visit from Supt. Dr. Jan Vesely.



3rd lane, new striping among McClintock solutions

After nearly two years of gathering public feedback and collecting traffic information, Tempe will move forward with a plan that includes keeping bicycle facilities while adding vehicle capacity back to a three-mile stretch of McClintock Drive.

As part of a repaying project in July 2015, Tempe reconfigured McClintock between Broadway and Guadalupe roads to add bicycle lanes on each side, which required removing at least one vehicle lane.

The city maintained a minimum of two vehicle lanes in each direction as well as the center turn lane, medians and formal turn lanes at signalized intersections.

Since making the changes, the city has been working with residents, businesses, schools and others, gathering feedback through public meetings, online questionnaires, emails and phone calls.

In late 2016, Tempe staff and consultants began working to develop concepts to achieve the city council's goals of improving traffic flow, decreasing congestion and providing facilities for bicyclists.

At a Sept. 7 city council issue review session, staff

- MCCLINTOCK, Page 31



Two days of thanks pay tribute to veterans

By Maddie Johnson

Related column by Robin Arredondo-Savage, Page 23

Tempe shines its spotlight on local veterans and offers a chance for the community to say "thank you" at two upcoming events: The 11th

annual Tempe High Veterans Appreciation Breakfast and a Veterans Day parade.

Tempe High School will be hosting the breakfast to honor veterans at 7 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 in the school cafeteria. Its purpose: to honor and celebrate those from the community who risked their lives for service to the country.

All veterans attending have a chance to introduce their rank and receive a show of appreciation by way of a complimentary breakfast. Organizers say families of veterans are encouraged to attend alongside their loved ones for a price of \$5 and with an RSVP.

"This is important to remind the community of the sacrifice veterans have made though wars and conflicts over the years, and the overall war on terror that is going on all the time," said Cliff Jones, one of the breakfast organizers.

Capt. Philip Roos will be guest speaker at the event, accentuating the importance of the dedication and sacrifice that veterans have made through their service.

Roos is currently commander of the Navy and Marine ROTCU at Arizona State University, the largest group of its kind in the nation.

- VETERANS, Page 14



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City will continue to expand fleet in next five years Tempe rolls out its own 911 ambulance service



First responders stock necessary supplies inside one of two new ambulances in the city's fleet — Photo courtesy Marie Chapple-Camacho, City of Tempe Public Information Officer

The next time you hear sirens inthe neighborhood, it might just be one of two new ambulances the city of Tempe rolled out Oct. 30. That's because the city has begun to assume 9-1-1 ambulance service to the Tempe community from a private ambulance company.

The city ambulances supplement the emergency ground transportation provided by private ambulance company under an agreement with the city.

"More than 80 percent of emergency calls we see are medical in nature, so it makes sense that Tempe Fire Medical Rescue oversees the physical assets and the employees—who will train and work alongside other Tempe first responders," said Chief Greg Ruiz, Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department.

Within five years, the department will have a fleet of ambulances staffed by teams of non-sworn paramedics and emergency medical technicians but will continue an arrangement for backup emergency services with Professional Medical Transport. Tempe 9-1-1 Ambulance has a longterm goal to be fiscally self-sustaining through its service fees. Those fees are set by the Arizona Department of Health Services through its Arizona Ground Ambulance Service Rate Schedule and are the same as the contracted service. The first-year's operational cost is estimated at \$1,971,773, which includes three equipped ambulances, personnel and supplies.

Patients receiving ambulance service by the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department will see a bill from Tempe Fire Medical Rescue. Otherwise, a patient can expect to receive a bill from the private ambulance company that provided the transportation service.

The changeover began in 2016 when the Tempe City Council approved a renewable one-year contract to purchase ambulances for the program. In 2017, a council-approved budget allowed for non-sworn positions to be hired for the ambulance service.

Information: tempe.gov/medical.



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Energy tutors help schoolkids learn a real-life lesson

By Amy Garza

Two fifth-grade classes at Hudson Elementary learned a real-life lesson from SRP about energy usage and conservation that could help their school—and their parents—save money.

Hudson Elementary is one of two SRP Schools of Energy in the Tempe Elementary district (Ward Traditional Academy is the other). This means the schools have partnered with SRP in order to educate their teachers and their students about the importance of energy conservation, both at school and at home.

"It's never too early to learn about energy conservation," said Hudson Principal Dr. Jeff Shores. That's one of the reasons we at Hudson Elementary wanted to partner with SRP and become an SRP School of Energy."

Amie Poletski and Katie Anderson are both fifthgrade teachers at Hudson; they are also the energy ambassadors for the school and for the district.

They spent two Saturdays attending SRP Powering Our Future trainings, learning how to implement the energy conservation program in their own classrooms and schoolwide.

On the day SRP came to offer an energy conservation lesson, Poletski's and Anderson's classes made predictions to see what appliances and electronics use the most energy—an alarm clock, blow-dryer, desk fan, incandescent light bulb, CFL light bulb, LED light bulb, tablet, laptop, cell phone, or electric pencil sharpener.

Students then divided into groups and rotated to different stations throughout the classroom to test each appliance using SRP's Tricklestar energy monitor, which reads the appliance's real-time cost per hour, day, month or year on an LCD display.

Each student noted the readings in a booklet. After rotating through all the stations and conducting tests using the Tricklestar device, they discovered that their prediction of the blow-dryer being one of the lowest users of energy was the exact opposite, actually using the most.

They learned that traditional incandescent light bulbs use more energy than LEDs and CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps). They also found that their electric pencil sharpener costs about \$100 per year to use.

Multiply that by the number of classrooms that use them, and going back to the hand-powered or little plastic pencil sharpeners would save the school a significant amount of money.

Fifth-grader Alyssa O'Dell got a lot out of the lesson. "I feel like it's giving us a chance to learn new things that we don't usually get to learn," she said. "And it's about real world things we can use. It's very interesting."

When asked what she learned from this, classmate Nyomi Zuniga added, "We learned that we shouldn't be using a blow-dryer so much."

This project really had the students thinking about how much energy the devices around them, both at school and at home, use. In a class discussion, one boy raised his hand and asked how much energy the Tricklestar energy monitor itself uses. So they quickly tested it and discovered that it doesn't even draw enough power to register on the monitor.

"Some appliances use energy even when you have them turned off," explained Poletski. "They're called energy 'vampires'."

The TrickleStar energy monitor can help you find these vampires, so you can



Students at Hudson Elementary were blown away by the revelation of energy conservation taught by SRP officials using SRP's Tricklestar energy monitor. The students now have an understanding of what common household items use more energy than others and how to be conscious of their usage. — *Photos courtesy Amy Garza, Tempe Elementary School District*

unplug these devices when you aren't using them. Once you know how much energy your appliances and electronics are using, you can take action to reduce your energy usage and lower your monthly energy bills.

At the end of the lesson, the students all received silicone wristbands that say: "Be a Hero. Power Down to Zero."

The wristbands are a simple reminder for them about the importance of conserving energy any way they can.

Two of the biggest energy wasters at schools are laptop carts and laminators. Unplugging things when they aren't being used really helps. It's really just a habit, like turning off the lights when you leave a room.

Poletski said she hopes the energy saving measures they implement this year will result in much lower energy bills for the school. They are monitoring and will be able to tell just how much they saved at the end of the school year.

District Energy Education Coordinator Steven Church says SRP will be regularly supplying reports to the school on its electricity usage, similar to what he tracks districtwide.

The program is much more focused on the



students and getting them involved in conserving energy at their school, he notes.

"It's like having me at the school every day, all day, looking for ways to save, which I obviously can't do for every school and district site," said Church. "It is a great program and I hope we can expand it to more schools in the coming years."

Poletski and Anderson also hope to start an afterschool energy conservation club so their students can become energy ambassadors for the school as well.

Amie Poletski is excited about being an energy ambassador for her school and for the district. "Energy means money," she said simply.

^{*}If we can save energy, we save money, the polar

bears, and eventually the planet. If we can show it at the school level, they can also take what they have learned home and use it there as well."

Hudson Elementary has a TrickleStar energy monitor available in their library for class or student checkout, but Valley residents can also check out a TrickleStar energy monitor at the Tempe Public Library or other nearby public library for free, to find out how much energy their household appliances and electronics use.

(The devices are also available for purchase through Amazon.)

Find locations to borrow a TrickleStar energy monitor: http:// www.savewithsrp. com/advice/appliance/ EnergyAnalyzerLocations.



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Mind care, car care, spirit care

Bringing sense of community to the business of auto repair

By M.V. Moorhead

couple of weeks ago the engine light in my car came on. For those of us with minimal automotive knowledge, this can be an alarming development.

That's why it's nice to have a presence in our community like Frank Leutz, owner of Desert Car Care of Chandler and host of *The Wrench Nation Radio Show*.

According to Leutz, his mission on the airwaves is "to talk mind-care, spiritcare, car-care."

Leutz came relatively late to his current vocation. Born in Frankfurt, Germany, he moved with his family to New York as a child in the early '70s, growing up in Harlem and Washington Heights.



As a student at Hebrew School of the Arts, the first aptitude he displayed was for music specifically, the trombone.

"As the typically tall, lanky boy in the class, I got the brass instrument," Leutz recalls. "The goodlooking kids get the oboe and the violin."

Nonetheless, he took to the instrument, and the experience gave him a lifelong respect for education and educators.

"I do the free oil changes for teachers [selected dates each summer], and that's near-and-dear to my heart because I had teachers who took me seriously.



Frank Leutz is Chandler's living proof that Renaissance men still exist today. Leutz is the owner of Desert Car Care of Chandler, host of The Wrench Nation Radio Show, and an extremely active community member.

Community

From Page 6

"I didn't take myself seriously, but they did."

His experiences in the All-City and the Tri-State jazz bands led Leutz to performances around New York. including on stage at Carnegie Hall and backing greats like Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie and Tito Puente.

But Leutz, whose high school grades were a little shy of the requirements for a prestigious music school, didn't make the trombone his career.

"I took a hard left and joined the military," says Leutz. "I became a signalman in the Navy." Serving aboard the U.S.S. Peoria, "I dealt with semaphore, Morse Code and, at the time, Allied signal flags. Very World War II-style."

After he left the Navy, his career took another sharp, unexpected swerve.

As Leutz observes, he found that skill in semaphore came with few opportunities. So he turned, for the first time, to automotive work.

"It was in 1990 when I got started wrenching with my father-in-law," he says. After stints as a mechanic at Lou Grubb Chevrolet and Auto Nation, "I started my first garage in '95, and it was hell-fishing tackle box for a tool box."

That initial business, at 19th

Avenue and Mountain View in Phoenix gradually shifted eastward and became Desert Car Care. It also became more sophisticated and more civic-minded.

While Leutz proudly notes that his many awards include 2016's Small Business of the Year from Chandler Chamber of Commerce and two years in Ranking Arizona's Top Ten for Auto Service, he also insists that "my garage is sort of a community center."

Examples of this are the classes and clinics he holds for people to educate them on car care. "Tonight I've got a Girl Scout automotive-maintenancebadge class," he says. He also sits on the Mechanic Ops Committee of the Automotive Service Association.

"I'm out there," says Leutz, "As best as I can—I hate to use the expression-to clean up the industry. But consumers deserve it."

This impulse to educate and enlighten extends to his radio show, Wrench Nation, heard at 4 p.m. Wednesdays on 88.7 The Pulse. Leutz hopes eventually to syndicate the show.

"We're working on that," he says. "Right now I'm focused on content, booking quality guests."

Leutz boils Desert Car Care, the radio show and his community work down to a simple essential mission: "We try to keep folks moving forward."

Desert Car Care of Chandler is located at 95 N. Dobson Road in west Chandler. For details go to desertcarcare.com or call 480-420-3555.

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Buena Vista Ranchos in Tempe hosted English riders, photo at left, the same day the Biz Kid\$ met. In photo at right, Robin Lee with her handmade cards and Ellen Liebig with her German stars offer their products to neighbor Jeanette Doherty at a table set up near the Buena Vista corral. — Photos on this page by Alex J. Walker/Wrangler News, with more on Pg. 26

Biz Kid\$ stage a 'revolution' among area teens Even in urbanized society, 4-H still plays a vital role

By Joyce Coronel

In an era of crushing credit-card debt and widespread financial illiteracy, a south Tempe mom has helped to launch a local "Revolution of Responsibility."

It's one that finds its source in 4-H clubs spread across the country, including Tempe, that teach young people how to make positive changes in their community. Katy Holditch, who helped develop the Buena Vista Mavericks 4-H Club in her neighborhood, has been leading the charge for 12 years. "Join the Revolution of Responsibility" are the watchwords for 4-H clubs that reach millions of kids to help them learn by doing.

Growing up in Yuma County, Holditch gained a lasting effect from 4-H, prompting her to share that heritage with her daughter, Sarah. The family has made its home in the equestrian Buena Vista Ranchos for years with many youngsters, like Sarah, who, through hands-on learning, pledge to serve and build stronger communities.

After Sarah left for college, Holditch figured she'd retire from her 4-H duties.

That's when a club member approached and asked if she'd be willing to serve as a secondary leader for an entrepreneurship program. Holditch agreed, assuming it would be a small, low-key affair.

And that's how the Maverick Biz Kid\$ club was born. The growing club teaches young people many of them horse-lovers—how to create and run their own business. Each member learns to be an entrepreneur by creating, developing, running and marketing a small business.

Cary's Critters, owned and operated by a middle school student, offers care for horses, chickens, dogs and cats, for example.

"By employing Cary's, you help her fund her horse-riding activities and pay for her extracurricular activities. Her dream is to own her own horse," the club's webpage announces.

"When kids want to pursue something, they find out that it's not free—especially horseback riding," Holditch said. A saddle alone costs \$500-\$1,000 and the food isn't cheap either.

"A food bill for a horse could be about \$100-\$200 per month, depending on what the horse requires," Holditch said. Then there are the fees for entering horse shows.

While plenty of parents living in Tempe could easily write a check to cover those costs, many are realizing that the lessons learned through hard work represent a bigger payoff.

"They learn money doesn't grow on trees. They also learn the pride of earning the money and spending it on something they want," Holditch said. "There is gratification that comes from actually using your own money to purchase something you want."

The 18 kids in the club also learn a fundamental financial fact: When the money's gone, it's gone. Holditch said she encourages club members to start small, thinking about a skill they have they can market. Ellen Liebig, 13, is an eighth-grader at Kyrene Middle School. Her specialty is crafting paper stars for decorations or gifts, something she learned from her German-language teacher.

"No one was doing it, so I thought why not? It's a unique idea," Ellen said. She sells the origami pieces at events such as the neighborhood picnic and parade. Though she's saving most of the money, some of it will fund riding apparel and maybe a grooming brush for when she takes horseback riding lessons.

Robin's Nest features high school junior Robin Lee who crafts pop-up greeting cards and light-up jars. She said she's saving money for college, clothing and big-ticket items such as electronics.

Other "Biz Kid\$" offer help with computers, tutoring, baby sitting, car washing, yard work and even baths for pets. There's Soggy Doggy Pet Grooming, run by middle school student Mia Castillo, who will give man's best friend a bath and grooming on the go. She's also available to walk Fido around the block.

"The club is teaching them financial literacy," Holditch said. "It's bringing the parents and the kids together to talk about finances in an open and honest way."

The Biz Kid\$, as well as a few adult crafters, will offer their wares to the larger community at a holiday boutique from 5 p.m. -8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18 at 8603 S. Terrace Road, Tempe.

Information: BVMavericks.org





⁶⁶Our daughter has thrived in kindergarten and has been challenged academically and nurtured socially by expert, caring, and professional staff.⁹⁹ *-Abbey Green, Parent*



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Kyrene School Choice Fair

November 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Kyrene District Office 8700 South Kyrene Road, Tempe, AZ 85284 (*NW corner of Warner and Kyrene*) School exhibits are available with principals present to share information and answer questions.

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Don and Abby: Two minds, six legs. Team effort.

Commentary

More insight into why and how — our little publishing enterprise seems to just keep dogging along By Don Kirkland

It didn't take long for Abby, the Australian cattle dog who came into our lives nine years ago, to make it known that taking a daily walk around the neighborhood was one of the rewards she expected for agreeing to accompany us out of the idyllic confines of the county animal shelter.

As I was quick to learn, that demand was nonnegotiable, recognizing that pet-adoption carried with it some pretty-much inviolable rules.

Now, those nine years and who-knows-howmany walks behind us, our mornings together have become a routine that's both physically and mentally good for us. (I'm pretty sure she feels the same as I do about the mental part, although she's never actually mentioned it.)

During the time we're out every day, we always manage to sniff out some new adventures-mine presumably cerebral, hers, I'm guessing, more ephemeral.

Either way, I'm sure we agree that walks are among the day's highlights for both of us. From my viewpoint, the time spent in this hour of reverie has provided a birthplace for many of the ideas that you and our other readers occasionally see expressed in the columns of this little bi-weekly enterprise you've come to know as Wrangler News.

It also has reinforced my awareness that producing this newspaper these past few years has represented the most enjoyable, most rewarding-most fun-career experience that any one person could ever expect out of life.

The people we work with regularly, including many of whom we support and who, in return, support us, represent the joys of owning and publishing a small, neighborhoodfocused hometown paper.

FARIR Experience Kyrene!

November 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Which takes me back to my morning walks with Abby.

The time that she and I spend together does, I'm sure, give our combined six legs, as well as both our minds, a chance to wander-she no doubt pondering the origin of new smells that have been left overnight along the way, me revisiting events of the day before and hoping that, overall, what we accomplished made it all worthwhile.

If the day before, for instance, was dominated by emails from people who appreciate what we do, who don't focus on minor faults but express genuinely felt appreciation for our efforts, then those few moments of early-morning reflection start my day on an upbeat note.

Simply said: Another great day awaits, as does what we hope will be your satisfaction with the time and effort we've invested in bringing a bit of information, enlightenment-and pleasure-into your life.

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Experience Kyrene at the School Choice Fair.

Learn more about Kyrene schools, programs, and enrollment.

Families will have the opportunity to meet principals and learn more about each of our 19 elementary schools located in Ahwatukee, Chandler, and Tempe. Learn more about Kyrene's PreK through Grade 5 school options. Principals and representatives from Community Education will be present to share information and to answer questions.

Kyrene School Choice Fair

November 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m. - School Exhibits Presentations on program options at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Kyrene District Office • 8700 *South Kyrene Rd., Tempe, AZ* 85284 • NW *corner Warner and Kyrene* RSVP requested at www.kyrene.org/KyreneChoiceFair

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Local veteran and Girl Scout walk hand in hand down Mill Avenue in last year's annual Veteran's Day parade.

Veterans

From Page I

The Veterans Day observance picks up again two days later, with the oldest continuous veterans parade in the Valley. This year's event kicks off its 70th year at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at ASU Gammage to give the entire community a chance to show support for area veterans.

Maneuvering down Mill Avenue, the parade expects to see 3,000 along the route and will have appearances from area political and social luminaries, including Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, various military units, seven bands and more than 1,000 Boy and Girl Scouts.

Producer of the parade for its 38th year James Grone will walk the route to Tempe Beach Park where he and members of the Tempe American Legion, who together raised funds for to provide hot dogs and other refreshments, will welcome attendees. A special veterans program begins at 11 a.m.

Parade organizers encourage all groups and individuals to join the celebration of service running through the heart of Tempe and to show support for the entire veteran community.

"The parade is to honor not the average citizen it's the people in the military that are in harm's way and are doing the work of the country in terms of (ensuring) freedom and keeping us safe," Jones said.

Tempe continues push to raise disability awareness



isability-law compliance is not just Michelle Stokes' job—it's her passion, and she wants to make sure that Tempe can justifiably be seen as inclusive and accessible to all people.

With Disability Awareness Month having just ended, Stokes, the city of Tempe's disability-law compliance specialist, reminds residents to help make sure that Tempe remains inclusive and accessible to all people.

Here are a few ways:

Respect accessible parking spaces. People with disabilities need accessible parking spaces so they can get into and out of their vehicles.

You can report abuses to the nonemergency Tempe Police Dispatch number at 480-350-8311 (TTY 711).

Report accessibility infrastructure issues. Report sidewalks, curb ramps or pedestrian crossings that need repair or prevent accessibility to the city's information line at 480-350-4311, contact Tempe's ADA Compliance Specialist Stokes at 480-350-2704 or send email to Michele Stokes@tempe.gov.

Nominate someone fabulous for the 30th annual Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards. Visit www.tempe. gov/disabilityawards for more information.

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Recommend a good service provider for us to add or, if you know someone who could benefit from the list. share it.



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Aztec win pushes D.V. out of bracket seedings

orona's football team may not have had the best of seasons, but the Aztecs definitely had an impact on the 6A state playoff scene with a come-from-behind 14-10 victory over Desert Vista on Oct. 27.

The Aztecs' win on the Thunder's home field not only moved Desert Vista out of the predicted No. 9 seeding in the 6A playoff series but totally took them out of the bracket seedings altogether.

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Junior quarterback **Ryan Helt**, who completed 18 out of 26 passes, for a total of 177 yards to five receivers, had help from the Aztec defense which intercepted the Thunder's quarterback three times. Two of these passes ultimately led to Corona touchdowns.

With the Aztecs railing in the first quarter 0-7, Brandon Gavel intercepted a pass returning it 55

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Corona's varsity team charged the field with a momentum that never wavered, earning them a huge win to knock out Desert Vista from competing in the upcoming State Championships.

— Photo courtesy Kris Carwright / smugmug.com



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Sports

From Page 16

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Junior **Ricky Pearsall** caught Helt's 20-yard pass in the corner of the end zone for Corona's first touchdown. The point-after kick failed, leaving the Aztecs down one point, 7-6, midway through the first quarter.

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Corona girl's volleyball seniors huddle together at their last regular season game before they head to playoffs to defend their 2016 State Championship title. — Photo courtesy Kris Carwright / smugmug.com



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Sports

From Page 17

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Junior **Ricky Pearsall** caught Helt's 20-yard pass in the corner of the end zone for Corona's first touchdown. The point-after kick failed, leaving the Aztecs down one point, 7-6, midway through the first quarter.

Desert Vista scored a field goal before the end of the first quarter to go up 10-6, the only points scored by either team until the fourth quarter.

Nothing much happened offensively until eight minutes remained in the fourth quarter. Desert Vista's 2017 playoff hopes went out the window when senior **Aaron Arenas**, playing in his last football game of his high school career, picked off an errant pass from the Thunder's quarterback.

The Aztecs, fired up by the interception, used the change in momentum to march down the field scoring on a 42-yard touchdown pass from Helt to Gavel and take the lead for the first time at 12-10.

Corona went for a two-point conversion to force the Thunder into having to score a touchdown to win the game. Helt charged into the endzone to put the Aztecs up 14-10, leading to the spoiler loss for the Thunder but a great way to end the season for Corona football players and fans.

Altogether, the Aztecs' offense combined for 271 yards, 94 rushing and 177 receiving.

Gavel led the team in rushing by carrying the ball nine times for a gain of 49 yards followed by fellow seniors **Kobee Marion** and **Luther Saxton**. Helt carried the ball four times for a total of 32 yards or an average of eight yards a carry.

Pearsall was the leading receiver with eight receptions for a total of 69 yards or 8.6 average yards per carry and one touchdown.

Marion was next with five carries for 46 yards followed by Gavel who only have two receptions for 45 yards or 22.5 yards per reception, on average. Gavel also scored one touchdown.

Juniors **Josh Webb** and **Jaron Reval** had receptions against Desert Vista.

On defense, senior **Evan McQueen** led the team with seven solo and five assisted tackles for a total of 12 while fellow senior **Brooks Canfield** had four solo and six assisted tackles for a total of 10 tackles.

Seniors **Devan Tursini-White** and **Trey Bussler** each had three solo and five assisted tackles

Sports

From Page 20

for a total of eight tackles. Bussler had the only sack of the game leading to a seven-yard loss for the Thunder.

Senior Brian McCluskey and Reval each had six total tackles while junior **Ben Rafalski** was recorded with four solo and three assisted tackles. Rafalski was the third Aztec player to catch an interception against Desert Vista.

Although Corona's seniors were honored at the last home game, Oct. 20, against Mountain Pointe, most enjoyed defeating Desert Vista more their last game of the season.

Additional seniors honored at senior night included Nathan Hemingway, Quinten Hunter, Ignacio Lopez, Xavier Burrell, Matt Cerwinske, Gabe Baca, Matt Gill, Eric Cota, Parker Christenson, George Redheffer and Justus Stockton.

Marcos de Niza and **Tempe High School Football**

The Padres defeated Tempe High School, 27-16, on Oct. 27 to secure the No. 9 seed in the 4A state championship playoff which started Nov. 3.

Marcos de Niza were due to play at Cactus Shadows, the No. 8 seed, in the first round. If the Padres won that game, they will most likely meet the No. 1 seed, Sunrise Mountain, on Nov. 10.

Tempe, playing its last home game of the season, had an 8-0 lead in the first quarter against the Padres with a two-point safety and a touchdown reception from quarterback Nathan Clayton to Isaiah Burner.

The Buffaloes, whose passing game started the game on target, lost momentum when penalties started to have an impact.

Tempe was called for roughing the kicker on a punt in the first quarter, which would have given the ball back to the Buffaloes. Instead the Padres kept the ball and ultimately scored on a 30-yard pass from quarterback Marcos Moreno to senior Joren **Davis** to make the score 8-7.

Two interceptions in the second quarter ultimately led to two Padre touchdowns in the second quarter.

Anthony Steinpreis intercepted one Tempe pass and Keandre Greer the second.

The Buffaloes did manage to score another touchdown by Burner to add six more points.

Then Amaru Johnson sacked Moreno once again in the end zone for an additional two points but those were the last points the Buffaloes would score.

The first half ended with Marcos up 20-16.

Tempe quarterback Clayton was reinjured in the third quarter and carted off the field to the hospital, which put a damper on the players and fans.

Omari Rogers took over at quarterback but was playing that position for the first time in something other than practice. His regular position is free safety and wide receiver.

Tempe was not able to overcome penalties and the loss of their quarterback on the night they were honoring their seniors.

Marcos scored one more touchdown when

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Sports

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Moreno rushed into the end zone for the 27-16 win.

Tempe's seniors included Jaren Walker, Cameron Peters, Isaiah Bruner, Dominick Harper, Stevie Maddox, Moses Ruiz, Jorge Arredondo, Luis Llamas, Malik Fitch, Jesus Beltran and Jaime Marmolejo

Corona Volleyball Defending State Championship Title

Over the next two weeks Corona's girls volleyball team will be playing in the 6A state championship playoffs in the hopes of defending the state championship title they won in 2016.

With a 38-2 record, the only two losses coming against Xavier in tournaments, the Aztecs have been a steady team on the court all season

"We have played very consistently over the season, trying to play clean volleyball no matter the opponent," said head coach **Ben Maxfield**.

Instrumental to a successful run through the playoffs to the championship finals will be several key players including junior outside hitter **Brooke Nuneviller**, senior setter **Abby Meyer**, senior opposite **Emma West**, sophomore outside hitter **Madelyn Noble**, senior middle blocker **Alyssa Wissinger**, sophomore middle blocker **Sadie McRae**, and defensive specialists senior **Allie Wade**, junior **Kacie McCain** and sophomore **Becca Morse**.

Nuneviller leads Corona's team in kills at over five kills a set culminating over 500 kills in 103 sets during the 2017 regular season plus she is terrific playing defense with over 430 digs or 4.2 digs a set.

Nuneviller's 430 total is 141 digs over the next player, Morse, who accumulated 290 digs in only 71 sets or 4.1 digs a set.

Noble and West will be needed contribute to the team's success on the outside hitting and blocking. During the regular season they tallied for 250 and 225 kills respectively along with 41 blocks for West and 32 blocks



Led by coaches Delphina Jackson-Flores, Cynthia Washington, Kira Smith and Dustin Kuczak, the Aprende Varsity Cross County team was able to end the season on a high note, making this the first season when all four teams took home awards at the Kyrene District Conference Meet. The Varsity Boys team took home gold in the Boys Middle School category at the Nike Desert Twilight Invitational as well as finishing the season as Conference Champions at the Kyrene District Conference Meet. The Aprende Varsity Girls, Junior Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity Boys all took home silver at the Kyrene Conference Meet.



First Person From one Tempe veteran to our many others: Thank you

By Robin Arredondo-Savage, Member, Tempe City Council

n Tempe, we have so many examples of veterans giving back to our community to enrich our quality of life.

They continue to serve and it motivates me to honor them.

Joe Spracale is one of those veterans who leads the way. He's devoted his life to community service.

As an educator, councilmember and founder of the Tempe Impacts Education Foundation, Joe has been a tireless advocate for improving the lives of children and families.

For several years, a dedicated, local group of veterans has been committed to preserving the

history of veterans through the Veterans History Project.

This program at the Tempe History Museum documents real stories of military veterans' experiences to be shared with others so they can better understand the realities of war and the sacrifices made for American liberty.

Soon, James Grone,

who's been producing the Tempe Veterans' Day Parade for 37 years, will be walking down Mill Avenue with hundreds of students, marching bands and community members recognizing our veterans.

His dedication and commitment to organizing the event and raising funds is heroic. The parade, in its 70th year, contributes so much to our community as a living monument to those who've proudly worn the uniforms of our nation's military. It gives us a sense of pride and allows younger generations of Tempeans to appreciate the history of national service.

Then there's Joanna Sweatt.

She's brought us an exceptional workforce development program for veterans called "Four Block."

This career readiness program creates a supportive learning environment that has proven to lower the unemployment rate of veterans. The program operates at the Tempe Public Library's Business Resource and Innovation Center.

We also have a great Veterans Commission led by former soldiers Keith Finkle and Michelle Bravo. These Army veterans, along with several other veterans and veteran service providers, have distinguished themselves in working with our

Human Services Department and CARE 7 to offer social services support through the East Valley Veterans Education Center.

This partnership with the EVVEC has grown to make it the city's one stop for veteran services in education, employment, and health and wellness.

As a veteran myself, I'm proud to serve the community alongside the more than 150 veterans who work for the city. Some of the accomplishments the city has realized in supporting our military and veterans include:

Valor on Eighth - This new veterans' housing development, on city-donated land, is scheduled to be completed by December, with the first families calling it home in January. These 50 units are the result of a partnership the city made with the Arizona Department of Housing, Save the Family Foundation, and Gorman & Company.



Veteran Supportive City - Tempe was the first city in Arizona to receive this recognition from the Governor's Office.

Veterans Commission – Tempe established this commission to advocate for policies and programs important to our city's veterans.

East Valley Veterans Education Center – Tempe collaborated with Maricopa County Community Colleges and other partners to create this center to be the one-stop place for veterans' services.

Community Salutes – this special recognition ceremony honors future military service members and their families.

As the stories above illustrate, veterans from all walks of life and backgrounds continue to serve in a variety of ways. So as Veterans' Day approaches, let's remember we're all Americans and take time to honor and thank the veterans who have served our nation and continue to serve our community.



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Teachers

From Page I

effort between the district and local business leaders, got underway when Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely paid a surprise visit to several schools.

Teachers had no idea they were going to be in the spotlight. It's not something they seek.

"Recent polling suggests that the majority of Arizonans recognize the importance of education, and

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out the new

ensuring fair compensation for the work our teachers do day in and day out to educate our kids must be a high priority for our state," Vesely told Wrangler News.

'Kyrene will continue our commitment to addressing teacher compensation within the limits of the funding we receive from the state, but a program like this acknowledges in some small way, that we appreciate all that they do."

Kyrene Values Teachers celebrates the top teachers in the district each quarter, honoring those who are remarkable in their efforts.

Understanding begins with understanding children. Offering **ClearCorrect**[™] CHILDREN'S DENTAL Virlage ALAN L. LONGFELLOW, DDS ChildrensDentalVillage.net 7360 S. McClintock Dr., Tempe 480.838.6949

District officials say the new program is in recognition of the critical role that teachers and school personnel play in student achievement and the vital influence they have on the future of the community.

Bashas grocery stores, along with John Kloc, corporate real estate benefits director for HomeBenefitIQ, are sponsoring Kyrene Values Teachers. Kloc said his children attended a Kyrene school so the program hit home for him.

"Teachers are very special to me," Kloc said. "We are a Kyrene family, and I know how hard our Kyrene teachers work to educate students.

"As a business leader who depends on having a quality, educated workforce, I value the role they play in keeping our economy strong. Without their dedication, it would be hard for businesses like mine to continue to be successful."

Kloc accompanied Vesely to schools throughout the district to present them with a certificate of appreciation along with a gift card to a local department store.

Teachers recognized include three from Brisas: Patricia Foster, Amanda Herting, and Catherine Koshick. Two from Cielo who were honored were Natalie Richardson and Jasmine Yap.

Susan Juetten of Mirada and Susan Li of Norte also were recognized. Four from Aprende Middle School were honored, including Heather Staudohar, Sarah Coombs, Tonia Deer and Amy Furman.

Billie Lamkin of Kyrene Middle School and Beth Honeyman of Pueblo also received the recognition.





33rd Annual **Thinking About** Expanding Your Family? about **vour annual** Please join us for our Friday, November 17 Women's Services Meet Tour the hospital pen House and Birthing care team Thursday, Nov. 9, 5 - 7 p.m. Enjoy We care for women at every stage of life. Stop by to learn more about our comprehensive women's services including wellness exams, pampering. pregnancy care, minimally invasive gynecological surgery and more! Nosh on refreshment Pre-register to let us know you're coming and be automatically entered into a prize drawing! Tempe St. Luke's Hospital tempestlukeshospital.org

Dayspring Preschool and Kindergarten **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**

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Saturday, November 18

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Dayspring Preschool & Kindergarten 1365 E. Elliot Road, Tempe (480) 838-9097 dayspringpreschool.com/boutique



Is the USPS hopping on the electric-car train?

This prototype mail delivery truck was spotted cruising around Tempe. The vehicles are a part of USPS's green initiative to reduce environmental impact. The new generation mail-and-package-laden cruiser will replace the boxy Grumman Long Life Vehicle that has delivered letters and packages since it was put into service in the 1980s. Of the 215,000 mail trucks in rotation, 140,000 are at least two decades old. The new contract could be for as many as 180,000 trucks.

- Wrangler News Photo





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Mavericks all

Photo essay by Wrangler News photographer Alex J. Walker *Full story on Page 8*









An English horse show, above, left, was the backdrop for members of the Maverick Biz Kid\$, left and above right, who met near Buena Vista Ranchos' corral to rein in some of the items they'll be offering at a Saturday, Nov. 18 holiday boutique. The club spurs kids' entrepreneurial spirit as they create, manage and market their own small business. The 18 members learn to cope with the realization that efficiently managing money is no trot through the park.



Veterans **Day Parade** is Nov. 10

All community members are invited to the annual Veterans Day Parade along Mill Avenue.

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!

Fantasy of Lights Opening Night Parade

A treasured holiday tradition continues this year with the return of the Fantasy of Lights Opening Night



Parade, presented by Wells Fargo. Enjoy floats and marching bands surrounded by the lighted trees on Mill Avenue.

On Friday, Nov. 24, the festivities start at 5 p.m. and the parade begins at 6 p.m. It launches from Mill Avenue at Rio Salado Parkway and heads south on Mill, west on Seventh Street then north on Maple Avenue.

The annual tree lighting ceremony and visits with Santa take place at Centerpoint Plaza right after the parade.

For more information, visit www.downtowntempe.com.

City Council to vote on utility rate adjustments

A public hearing will take place on Thursday, Nov. 30, for the City Council to formally adopt the proposed utility rate structure for water, sewer and solid waste.

The hearing is slated to be part of the 6 p.m. Regular Council Meeting in the Tempe City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.

If adopted, adjusted rates will take effect in January 2018.

For more information, including videos of past public forums, visit www.tempe.gov/UtilityRateStudy.

Zero Waste Day is Nov. 18

Tempe makes it super-easy to recycle those difficult items - and you can recycle it all for free at Tempe's Zero Waste Day, on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tempe Fire Training Center, 1340 E. University Drive.

Residents can drop off the items that cannot go in their blue bins and we will make sure they get properly recycled. We will also be giving away free recycled paint and accepting non-perishable food donations for the Tempe Community Action Agency.

Visit www.tempe.gov/ZeroWaste for a list of acceptable items and to learn more about how these items are recycled at Tempe's Household Products Collection Center.

Recycle holiday cooking grease

hether you stuff, roast or deep-fry the bird, holiday cooking can create a significant amount of grease.

You can help put that grease to good use – and keep it from ruining your pipes – by having it recycled.

Every year the City of Tempe partners with Rev Biodiesel, the Valley's only cooking-grease-tobiodiesel recycling facility, to provide a convenient way for residents to recycle turkey grease and other used cooking oil.

Tempe residents can drop off used grease from late November to early January at four locations:

Household Products

Collection Center – 1320 E. University Drive

Fire Station #2 - 3025 S. Hardy Drive

Fire Station #3 - 5440 S. McClintock Drive

Fire Station #4 - 300 E. Elliot Road

atempegov @



Residents can pour fryer and cooking grease directly into barrels at the collection locations, or simply place containers of grease on a spillproof surface next to the barrels.

For more information. call 480-350-4311 or visit www.tempe.gov/SlashtheTrash.

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Our next issue is Saturday, Nov. 18. For advertising space reservations be sure to let us know by 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10. For story or photo ideas, call 480-966-0845 or email editor@wranglernews.com by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6. You're also welcome to drop by our office at 2145 E. Warner Road, just across the street from GoDaddy, any time 9-5 M-F. **We're always glad to see you.**



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Sock it to 'em Kyrene Middle School students launch drive to help needy kids

By Joyce Coronel

In the waning days of October, a group of eighthgrade girls sat in a circle on the floor at Kyrene Middle School, their legs stretched out in front of them. Feet arrayed in colorful socks, they giggled as they waited for Wrangler News to arrive and tell the story of "Socktober."

Yes, Socktober. You mean you haven't heard of it? If 13-year-old Janelle Sneed has her way, the entire global community will soon be celebrating the hosiery-fueled campaign.

That's because these KMS students are partnering with We Help Two, a non-profit that works with schools to raise money to purchase prosthetics for needy children in developing nations. For each pair of socks purchased, the buyer also receives a pair of socks to give to a homeless person.

"The best part is helping people," Janelle said. "I'm going to buy them for my whole family and give them away at Christmas." She's also dreaming up an Instagram page and plotting for a trending hashtag dubbed #KMSSocktober.

"Social media is such a big thing these days, everyone's there so we can get it global and help so many more people," Janelle said.

Then there's the dance fundraiser—a sock-hop of sorts—that will raise even more funds for the compassion-building project.

KMS, in the midst of its first year introducing the International Baccalaureate program, launched Socktober to helps students learn to think about the broader global community—a feature of the IB program—and serving others.

Kathie Cigich, IB Middle Year Program coordinator for KMS, said she snagged Socktober at a conference. Trevor Bergman, founder of We Help Two, was on hand to explain how his project fits in with the Learner Profile Attributes—an IB term that stands for the traits and characteristics educators work to develop in students. Caring is one of them.

Megan Haggerty, 14, was clearly touched by the message of reaching across the globe and caring about others. The gift of a prosthetic limb could be life-changing for one of her peers in Africa, she said.





"I think it's going to give them a second chance at life," Megan said. The students learned of a young girl named Patricia who was unable to attend school because she didn't have a prosthetic leg.

"She couldn't go to school because she couldn't walk around. But since she was in this program, she was able to get a limb and now she's in school."

Cigich said that at the beginning a few KMS students wondered why the school would have a program to help children in far-flung Africa when there are needy students in Arizona.

"We're more fortunate in America. We always have clean water, we have roads, we have hospitals," Cigich said. In developing nations, that is frequently not the case. The We Help Two website features the stories of several children in Uganda, where the life expectancy is only 55 and the child mortality rate is the highest in East Africa. With high rates of poverty and one of the worst health care systems in the world, children born without limbs or who lose limbs through violence or trauma are caught in a downward spiral. KMS students are working to alleviate some of the suffering.

"We do take for granted what we have, I think. Doing things like this really opens our eyes," Janelle said.

"It's easy to forget about people that don't have it as good as we do. We caught up in our lives. Thinking about

Janelle Sneed, Kyrene Middle School international baccalaureate coordinator Kathie Cigich, Tyra Frazier, Lucy Kelly, Isabelle LeBlanc and Megan Haggerty, top, from left, are working to publicize Socktober in their school and in the wider community. The KMS fundraiser, dubbed Learning for Legs, is selling colorful socks to help amputees in developing nations receive prosthetic limbs. It's all part of the IB program's emphasis in broadening students' perspective and teaching kindness.

In photos at left, two children in Uganda received prosthetic limbs through the We Help Two program.

other people in that situation—shoot, it makes me want to cry."

Cigich has high hopes that Socktober's lessons will be similarly impactful for other students.

The IB program helps them to be "open-minded and empathetic, teaching them that there is a whole world out there other than just your local community," Cigich said.

Now for the math lesson: Each package of socks includes three pairs and sells for \$12. For every 80 packages of socks sold, We Help Two can purchase an above-the-knee prosthetic limb for a child. According to the organization's founder, the most common cause of amputations for students is violence, but some of the children were born without a full leg.

The online campaign at KMS began Oct. 18 and continues through Nov. 29. So far, the effort has sold 54 packages of socks. The goal is 160.

Turning to the students, Cigich impressed upon them the far-reaching effects of the action one man took to help others.

[']Trevor, the founder of We Help Two, is one person," Cigich said. "It's not a big company, it's not a giant nonprofit. We always say, 'What can I do? I'm just one person.' Well, the founder of We Help Two is one person that is changing these kids' lives in Africa."

Information: kyrene.org/kyr

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Diversions Latest superhero movie sports a new element: Fun

By M.V. Moorhead

Superhero movies have been on a roll lately. For the first decade or so of this century, my reviews of Marvel and DC films have amounted to a lot of grumbling that they were heavy, they were overlong, they were sometimes jocular but lacked true humor, and above all that they were repetitively caught up in a post-9/11 fixation with urban destruction, buildings crumbling to rubble.

In short, I didn't find them fun. And then I did.

For the last few years, superhero movies suddenly lightened up. Ant-Man, Dr. Strange, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man: Homecoming and (if you count them) the Guardians of the Galaxy flicks were all fine entertainments,

and even the more standard, turgid entries like *Captain America: Civil War* and *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* and *Avengers: Age of Ultron* had scenes or performances that zapped some life and looseness into them.

This trend reaches its zenith with the latest Marvel release, *Thor: Ragnarok*. Those who demand seriousness from their superhero flicks may disapprove, as this movie is played more or less entirely for laughs. But it kept me smiling from beginning to end. It's almost like an antidote to the preceding Thor flick, 2013's chilly *Thor: The Dark World*.

This movie's world is pretty bright. Chris Hemsworth returns, and remains agreeable, as the Marvel version of the Norse deity with the hammer only he can sling.

"Ragnarok" is the term for the prophesied End Times in the Norse tradition, the day when the giant Surtur will lead an attack on Asgard. This does come into play in the movie, but the principal villains here are Thor's long-dormant sister Hela (Cate Blanchett) the Goddess of Death, and a character called simply Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum), who presides over gladiatorial games on a chaotic planet.

Blanchett is an elegant Maleficent type, topped with an elegant antler headdress and attended by an impressive monster wolf. But it's Goldblum who steals big chunks of the picture, bringing the same halting, diffident delivery to tyrannically ruling a violent world that he does to pitching Apartments.com on TV.

He's hilarious. The director is the witty New Zealander Taika Waititi, working from a script by Eric Pearson, Craig Kyle and Christopher Yost. Waititi serves up plenty of other cheeky performances from his large cast. Tom Hiddleston

Tom Hiddleston is back as the ever-devious, everlikable Loki, as is Anthony Hopkins

as crusty old man Odin, and Benedict Cumberbatch as Dr. Strange, and Mark Ruffalo as the chagrined Bruce Banner/The Hulk, who has gone soft with cheap celebrity on Goldblum's planet. Tessa Thompson, the love interest in *Creed*, makes a quite adorable Valkyrie here, Waititi himself is hilarious, behind motion capture, as a mild-mannered revolutionary rock monster, and his countryman Karl Urban gets a nice turn as Blanchett's rather sheepish toady.

The talented cinematographer Javier Aguirresarobe bathes the movie in cheery colors, and Waititi stages one sly, silly set piece after another. The movie clocks in at over two hours, but just slightly. It's a trifle, but it hit the spot, and with the exception, maybe, of *Spider-Man: Homecoming* earlier this year, it's the first superhero movie in recent memory that I could imagine wanting to go see again.

Thor: Ragnarok is rated PG-13, and plays at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20, Arizona Mills and many other multiplexes Valleywide.



A man rides his bicycle in the buffered bike lane along McClintock Drive in Tempe. Changes are again coming to the busy thoroughfare. — Wrangler News file photo

McClintock

From Page I

presented a project update with several alternatives for McClintock Drive. Councilmembers reached consensus on a plan that includes both bicycle facilities and additional vehicle lanes between Apache Boulevard and Baseline Road. They also asked staff to work with residents to address neighborhood access concerns in certain areas.

The vertical barriers or "candlesticks" installed by the city have now been removed. Amanda Nelson, a public information officer for the city of Tempe, said the candlesticks were part of a pilot program.

"It was to gauge public perception and see how they held up," Nelson said. "The public sentiment was mixed, like everything else, about McClintock Drive, but when we went back to the City Council, that was one of the things they asked—that we remove the candlesticks."

The city plans to add a third southbound travel lane and restripe northbound and southbound to include 3-foot buffered bike lanes.

Nelson said there will be bike lanes the whole way but not every segment will be necessarily buffered. Instead, portions will be buffered, meaning marked with the special paint lines in the section between the vehicle travel lane and the bike lane.

The changes to McClintock Drive will be made through a combination of restriping, widening the roadway where necessary and modifying sidewalks and landscaping – including removing planter boxes in the railway underpass section between Apache and Broadway, according to Nelson.

During the first half of 2018, the city will contact neighborhoods that do not currently have mid-block signals to discuss ingress/egress issues. Two public meetings will be held regarding the section between Broadway and Southern to provide information on the construction process as well as to gather input on any desired changes to the landscaping between Broadway and Del Rio. Construction is set to begin in August. Info: tempe.gov/mcclintock drive or 480-350-4311.

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Events

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King of Glory's second annual Holiday Market is being held November 11th, 10-2p.m. Vendors will be selling handmade, vintage and direct sales. 2085 E. Southern Ave. Tempe. See you there!

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Briefly

Lil Buck to strut his stuff at Tempe Arts Center

Well-known street dancer Lil Buck will perform at Tempe Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.

The internationally acclaimed performer is known for his style of street dance known as "Memphis jookin" and has appeared in high-profile commercials for Apple Airpods and Lexus.

He's also strutted his stuff in live performances on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and the Superbowl with Madonna.

Lil Buck comes to TCA with cellist Mihai Marica and special guest movement artist Jon Boogz to challenge the boundaries of what their respective instruments-the body and the cello-can do.

Tickets for What Moves You are \$38 and \$48. Information: 480-350-2822 or tca.ticketforce.com/ tcapresents

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Heggs Auto Group is hosting free prostate cancer screenings at the East Valley Cancer Center from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 4.

Prostate On-Site Project, a medical mobile service, will be providing prostate cancer screenings to men 40 years and older.

Younger individuals may attend if a history of prostate cancer runs in the family. Prostate Cancer frequently presents itself without any signs or symptoms. One in six men will develop the disease in their lifetime; if detected early, the course of treatment is less evasive and survival is nearly one hundred percent possible.

The exam and physician consultation will be conducted by a Board Certified Urologist.

There is limited space available so make sure to call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Information: East Valley Cancer Center, 480-964-3013 or 1-800-828-6139.



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Stylist ensures her new shop continues to be a cut above Where 'everyone comes in as a client, goes out a friend'

Story & photo by Chelsea Flood

o live in a state of paradise is all relative. For longtime Tempe Lakes resident Launie Harlacher, being able to wake up each morning to the calming sight of the lake is hers.

"The moment I moved into The Lakes community in '92, every day feels like San Diego," Harlacher says.

Although the Arizona native could not get enough of her (nearly) utopian waterfront lifestyle, she clung to the idea of keeping her professional life separate. Harlacher owned a salon studio for nearly 18 years in South Tempe until her dream transitioned reality, when the opportunity to own a salon right off Tempe's first manmade lake became available.

"One day in April I dropped in to say hello to the salon's then-owner and I discovered it was closing. I left that day without thinking anything of it. But then, the thought kept nagging at me because I always wanted to own this place. I knew I just had to do my research and looked into it immediately."

Harlacher notes that the process almost felt too easy. For every worry she had each one was squelched by a solution.

By June she was signing the lease to declare the place hers and now be able to enjoy the kind of "pizazz" that being an owner would bring.

And from that was born—what else?—PAZAZZ Studio.

"Every time I asked myself 'should I really do this?', the answer was always yes," Harlacher says.

Like any business owner, she has tackled various challenges over the last couple months, between a complete remodel of the salon and trying to find the right stylists to work side by side in the cozy, lakefront—don't forget utopian—environment.

"Being a resident of this neighborhood for over 20 years has allowed me the advantage of thoroughly understanding the type of stylists that would mesh well here. My biggest challenge, hands down, has been finding those right, experienced professionals. The right people are out there— I know it—I just have to find them," Harlacher says.

Currently the salon clique consists of Harlacher, who is a Redken Hair Color Artist; Rick, who specializes in men's hair styling; and Denise, a seasoned nail technician. Harlacher is pleased with the start of PAZAZZ and the environment it has easily adapted to.

"Clients are comfortable and relaxed the moment they step foot inside these doors. I want this to be a place where people can gather and enjoy themselves, while at the same time they can trust that they're receiving a high level of care," Harlacher says.

Calling on her memories of dreading certain visits when she was a child, Harlacher jokes, "I pointed out to my dentist that people actually like to come see me." Looking forward, Harlacher is living in the moment and channeling her energy one day at a time. Her five-year lease will allow her to sort out the usual challenges of opening a business.

"I'm so incredibly pleased to have this opportunity and I wouldn't change a single thing. I don't feel like I work anymore. People come in, laugh and leave feeling two inches taller.

"Everyone starts out as a client and becomes family. It's so incredibly rewarding. I'm open to whatever the future holds and I hope I get to live out my days right here—with this gorgeous lake right behind me." **ALL NEW DIGITAL PROJECTORS & ALL NEW SEATING!**



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