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WRANGLER NEWS

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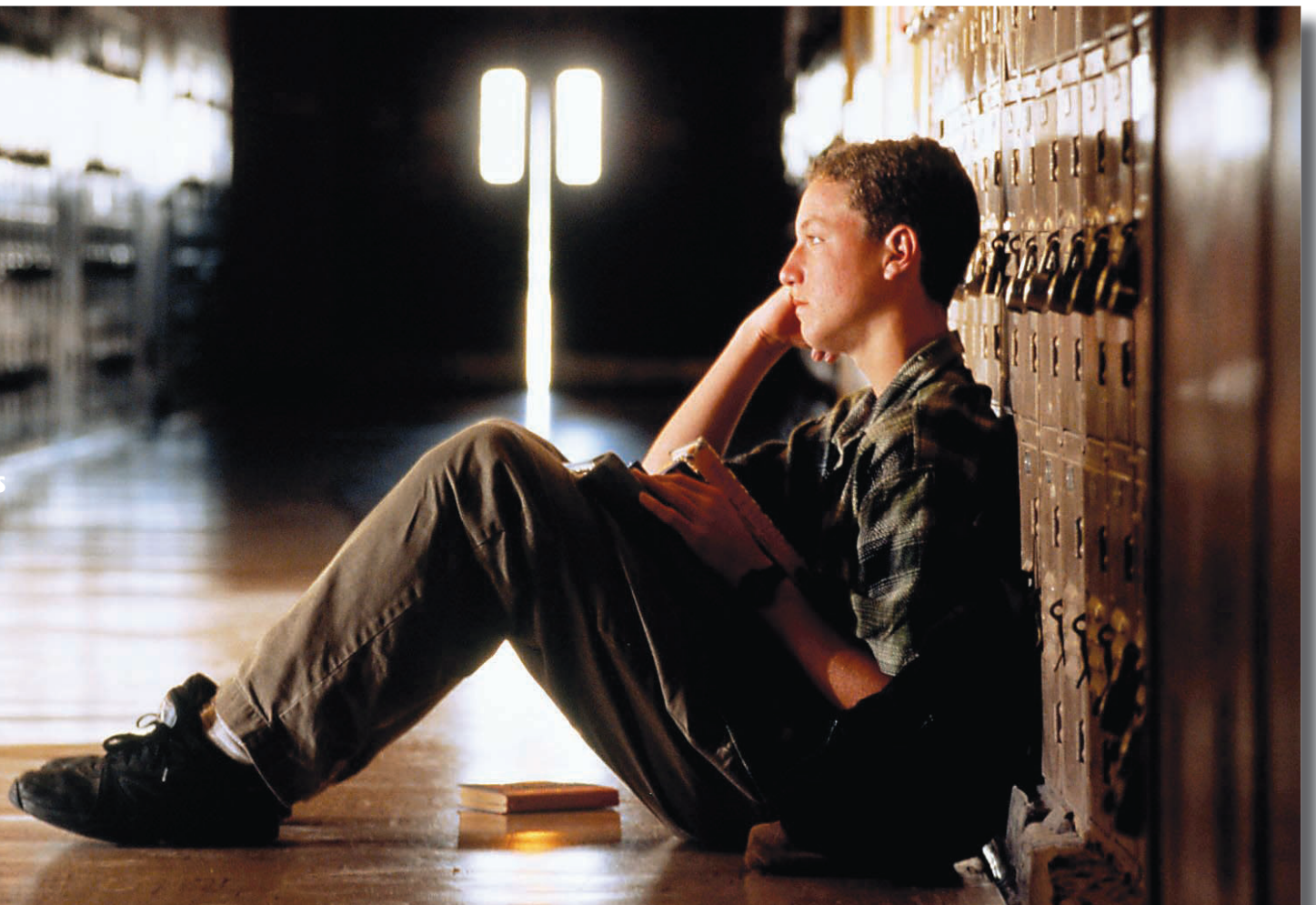
Nov 18 - Dec 1, 2017 □ Volume 28, Number 22

COMMUNITY REELS AS TRAGEDY STRIKES AGAIN

By Joyce Coronel

It's the kind of letter principals dread sending. Nate Kleve, principal at Corona del Sol High School, wrote just such a letter Nov. 8, informing parents that a young man, a sophomore at the school, died by suicide.

— TEENS, Page 14



Advocates say home values, teacher salaries will get a welcome boost School override measures coast to easy victory

By Diana Whittle

Community support of education continues to thrive in both the Kyrene and Tempe Union High School districts, evidenced by the recent passage by wide margins of three budget overrides and one bond-authorization extension.

While the election for the Kyrene district attracted only about 27 percent of the area's registered voters, those numbers spoke loudly, with passage of a bond reauthorization at 68 percent; a Maintenance and Operations override at 64 percent; and a third override at 62 percent.

In the Tempe Union ballot measure, the district easily won approval to continue its 10 percent override and to

gradually increase the rate by 5 percent over the next few years to increase teacher and staff salaries.

The additional 5 percent will be used exclusively for teacher and staff salary increases.

Tempe Union area voter turnout was 24.02%, and passed at 63%.)

Corey Woods, a former Tempe councilmember and one of the chairs of the "Yes Support Our Schools" campaign, thanked voters for their support of the override for TUHSD. "Residents' support of the district will ensure that we can fully support students, and continue to attract and retain our exceptional teachers, and maintain property values," said Woods.

A thank-you video can be found at tempeunion.org.

Additional support came from the Chandler, Tempe and Ahwatukee chambers of commerce, which campaign co-chair Michelle Hirsch credited with communicating to area businesses the importance of continued school funding.

"Most people who vote don't have kids in schools," noted Hirsch, "so it's important for them to understand how good schools enable less crime, safer neighborhoods, better property values and more people wanting to move in."

Credit also went to members of the Kyrene Business Alliance and other businesses, which provided volunteer time and more than \$50,000 in contributions at the start of the pro-Kyrene campaign.

KBA was launched within months

after the arrival of Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely and coordinated in the ensuing months by Joelle Green, the district's business and community development coordinator.

KBA's goal has been to engage the business community to support local schools and provide business partners with an opportunity to meet with the superintendent to discuss topics of interest and provide feedback.

Volunteer time and in-kind donations also were received, including professional graphic-design assistance, labor in erecting and removing street-corner campaign signs and providing office space and meals for phone bank and canvassing volunteers.

Related stories, photos on Page 8

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Saturday, Nov. 18 A doggone good time



By Maddie Johnson

Bring those four-legged friends out for a day of peace and puppies at Tumbleweed Park at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18 for Chandler's 2017 Woofstock pet-fest.

Canines and kids alike are promised a tail-wagging good time at this free event, with activities ranging from pet psychic readings to a Chandler K9 Unit demonstration.

The event welcomes all families and their canine friends with no charge for admission.

"Woofstock grabs every family—small, big, pets, no pets," said Annette Watson, city of Chandler coordinator for the event.

"It's all inclusive and has something for everyone."

The event includes opportunities for play, but just as many for giving back.

The event, hosted in partnership with the American Service Animal Society, will include a walk to honor veterans as well as a booth to raise money for animals displaced during Hurricane Irma.

Donations of money and specific pet supplies will be accepted by the Humane Society of Broward County from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Performances will run through the duration of the event, until at 1:30 p.m.

The performance schedule starts at 9:10 a.m. with a Purina Pro Plan Performance Team, which tours events across the country, showing off the team's impressive line-up of the world's most athletic dogs.

Local performances will be on the schedule as well, including the Beyond Motion Dancy Company from Mesquite High School at 11:45 a.m.

Vendors will be scattered throughout the park serving the interests of pets, kids and parents alike.

Visitors are being invited to hit as many of the booths as they can to be entered to win a commemorative t-shirt for the events 10th annual appearance. Other chances to win prizes include a pet photo booth that will provide free pet portraits to the first 175 in line.

The event seems to grow with every year, said coordinator Watson, and Tumbleweed Park this year expects to see more than 4,600 doggy peers and paws on the lawn.

For more details on vendors and volunteering, as well as the official event schedule visit chandleraz.gov/woofstock.

From our readers . . .

Editor:

To the voters of our Kyrene community: Thank you for taking the time to vote and pass our Bond Reauthorization, M&O Override, and Capital Override.

The continued support emphasizes community commitment to student success. We have much to celebrate as a learning community, and we are dedicated to providing engaging educational environments which promote and inspire passion for learning, leading, and achieving transformative life outcomes.

The combined effort to support all students with achieving their maximum potential to become problem-solvers, creators, and visionaries of tomorrow requires partnerships between home, school, and community.

The community backing of these initiatives creates funding for areas such as teacher salaries, instruction, facilities, instructional technology, and transportation.

The 2:1 margin for passing these ballot measures is a strong message of endorsement that this community values our schools.

— Jan Vesely, Ph.D.,
Superintendent

Editor:

I'm always impressed with people of character, integrity with leadership skills. I have recently been working with just such a person. In my opinion Jennifer Adams, candidate for Tempe City Council, is a person that demonstrates these attributes.

Jennifer is a South Tempe resident who recently completed 29 years of service with our city. As a proven manager she was charged with the operation of Tempe facilities and was responsible for a combined annual operating and capital budget of nearly ten million dollars.

As a resident of South Tempe she would give our area a voice in city government. She is honest, hard working, and understands how our city operates.

Jennifer will bring the depth of experience and insight necessary to be a council member.

She will champion our causes and concerns for water, roads and parks.

I hope all of Tempe will join me in supporting the candidacy of Jennifer Adams for Tempe City Council.

—Jon Mulford,
Warner Ranch Resident

Editor:

The following letter was sent to the Tempe Mayor and City Council Members regarding the new Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Station #7, to be located at Estrada Park near McClintock Drive and Warner Road.

As the Community Services Director at the time, it was my responsibility to negotiate the acquisition and preliminary development of Estrada Park. Coincidentally, our family lived one block from the site. Our children were to spend countless hours at Estrada Park; over the years I must have seen hundreds of soccer games and practices there, as well as enjoying visiting neighbors and watching the families enjoy the facilities.

In acquiring the site, storm drainage extension was to be the prime determination for the location. However, it also provided the site and preliminary development at no cost to the City of Tempe.

It was not normal for a neighborhood park to be located adjacent to a major arterial street (McClintock Drive). Therefore, we required additional acreage over and above our normal size. We also required a fence buffering McClintock Drive.

Normally, I would not be supporting any proposal to use part or all of a Tempe public park. Our parks have been strategically located in neighborhoods throughout our community, for the benefit of nearby citizens.

However, the proposal to locate the Fire Medical Rescue Station is outstanding.

Living nearby, we fully support the proposal. Having 24/7 security adjacent to the park is something that we would like for all parks. Having paramedics so close to our homes is very comforting.

In addition, interaction between the firefighters and neighbors has a very positive affect on everyone involved. In reviewing the site plan and efforts to integrate the station into the park, I am satisfied that it will complement the parks use.

I doubt that I can attend the community forum, where this proposal will be discussed.

However, you can count on our support.

— Sincerely,
Ronald and Bernita Pies

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For area veterinarian, Pet Cancer Month generates an advisory — and memories

It came as no surprise to Dr. Evan Ware that Pet Cancer Awareness Month had rolled around once again on Nov. 1. Not only, he said, does the yearly campaign alert area pet owners to advances in veterinary oncology but reminds him of his own dog's battle with primary bone cancer.

Now, says Ware, director of Tempe-based University Animal Hospital, veterinary patients that previously had very limited options when a diagnosis of cancer was made have a better chance of extending their pet's lifespan.

"Our patients that previously had very limited options when a diagnosis of cancer was made now potentially have several options to choose what is best for them and their pets," said Ware.

Ware was commenting on news from the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University marking the start of this year's pet cancer awareness initiative.

While doctors at the university noted that skin cancer remains one of the most common cancers, they noted that primary care veterinarians can usually treat cancerous skin tumors without referring the pet to specialty care.

However, more serious types of cancer—including tumors that appear in the bone, mouth, glands (such as anal sacs), or lymph nodes—may require surgery, radiation and/or chemotherapy.

In some situations, a combination of treatments may be necessary to prevent the cancer from relapsing.

For example, an animal may undergo surgery to remove a cancerous tumor—but that doesn't mean the animal is free of cancer cells. The animal may still need chemotherapy to remove remaining cancer cells from the body, which can help prevent it from developing again.

Ware agreed with the Texas A&M report that one thing to consider when looking for a cancer treatment is finances. Though pets are often considered family, cancer treatment for our furry friends can get expensive.

Dr. Brandan Wustefeld-Janssens, a fellowship-trained surgical oncologist at Texas A&M, suggested working with one's own veterinarian to find the most cost-efficient treatment plan.

In addition, looking into pet insurance—when you first get your pet—can help cover the cost of cancer treatment.

There are also clinical trials to be found at vetcancertrials.org or the American Veterinary Medical Association's online database.

Clinical trials are partially or fully funded programs that determine the effectiveness of a treatment.

As to his own dog when its cancer was discovered, Ware said the lack of treatment options resulted in a poor prognosis with an expected three months or less left.

"Fortunately, with our fast action and aggressive treatment of surgery and chemotherapy, I was able to spend the next year with him experiencing a great quality of life—no missed meals and no missed walks, except for the first two weeks post-operatively."

The same reports are heard regularly at UAH, said Ware.

"It brings us the most pleasure hearing these stories on a daily basis."

University Animal Hospital is at 2500 S. Hardy Drive, Tempe. Phone: 480-968-9275.

Turkeys, pumpkins, eggnog—for which, yes, we're eternally thankful

Editor's note: Our longtime Discerning Diner returns via the following reprint from a column written for us many Thanksgivings ago—for which, of course, we offer our enduring thanks.

As November wanes and visions of pilgrims dance in our heads, it's hard to avoid the obvious seasonal discourse on, what else, turkey.

One caveat before proceeding, however: If you worry that a discussion of poultry mating habits might offend, please avert your eyes now and withhold your regular reading of this column until it appears again, when we will no doubt explore something less prurient, like eggnog or fruitcake.

Still with me? Okay. The white breast meat of the turkey is so prized that today's domestic turkeys have been bred to be extremely top-heavy—so top-heavy, in fact, as to render ineffectual the birds' natural mating position.

Since the birds are unable to breed, turkey eggs are now fertilized by artificial insemination.

Moral concerns aside, people seem

divided on the merits of turkey. Most of us like it in a lunch meat capacity, but were it not for the crushing weight of holiday tradition, I suspect that many Americans would as soon have a Thanksgiving steak.

Personally, I love turkey. I'm not a turkey nut or anything—I don't remember the last time I bought turkey off-season—but I do look forward to Thanksgiving.

Perhaps the turkey-tired have had only *bad* turkey, tough and tasteless. By its very nature, this big, lean bird hovers on the brink of blah. It's easy to dry it out.

Here are two things you can do to keep it moist. First, consider brining your bird: four to six hours in a solution of two cups salt, two gallons water. Use a big stockpot if you have one, otherwise a clean bucket, and keep the brining bird in the fridge. Be sure you use a regular turkey, nothing "self-basting."

Brining works wonders to keep the meat juicy. It's a big pain in the rear, but so is cooking a turkey at all. I think the extra step is worth it.

Also, don't overcook it. This sounds

obvious, but it's not: If you follow U.S.D.A. guidelines, your turkey will be overcooked every time. Yet roasting it to a lower temperature does not necessarily compromise your safety.

The excellent magazine *Cook's Illustrated* points out that salmonella and campylobacter are killed at 160 degrees. Turkey tastes best, says *Cook's Illustrated*, when the breast reaches 165 degrees and the legs 170 to 175. I agree.

If you're concerned about food safety, mind your stuffing instead. Stuffing cooked inside the bird doesn't always reach its safe temperature of 165 degrees, even when the rest of the turkey is overcooked.

Cook it in a separate pan instead. It will taste just fine, and get a nice crust to boot.

Turkey tidbits

In at least one previous column, I mentioned the world's biggest pumpkin, which tipped the scales at 1,458 pounds before succumbing to pumpkin rot.

This time, I can't resist trotting

out another statistic: the weight of the world's biggest turkey. According to the University of Illinois Extension, honors go to a bird that reached 86 pounds before succumbing to...well, Thanksgiving dinner or something. I'm not really sure.

Still, it's amazing, the stuff you can learn on the internet.

Here are some more turkey facts with the University of Illinois Extension's imprimatur:

- Turkeys used to be seen as cunning, in a good way. Ben Franklin thought the turkey was a "bird of courage" and a suitable candidate for our national bird.

By contrast, the bald eagle, he wrote his daughter, is "a bird of bad moral character."

- There are probably still some wily wild turkeys running around, but today's domestic turkeys are pretty dopey. Turkeys have been known to drown in the rain—really. Turkeys will sometimes stand in the rain with their beaks pointed skyward, while rain pools in their nostrils.

Talk about "duh."

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Realtors view bond passage as benefitting home values

By Diana Whittle

Area Realtors were quick to credit voters for their support of school ballot initiatives, noting that a community's home values have a strong relationship to its residents' support of education.

Carol Royse, who has been one of the area's leading Realtors for 25-plus years, said one of the questions she hears most often from prospective buyers involves the condition of nearby schools.

"Parents today have many choices, not only related to the area they live in but where their children go to school," said Royse.

"Neighborhood schools are still the best option for most parents....if the schools are excellent. Parents do not want their children in average or below-average schools, and will not move into an area that has such schools. "Thus, Royse noted, it is extremely important to homeowners in the area to keep schools strong academically, and excellent.

"If not," she said, "homebuyers will look in other areas and we will be left with declining neighborhoods."

Another area Realtor, Brad Cox, said he was born and raised in Tempe, attending Kyrene schools, and graduated from Corona del Sol.

He says he enthusiastically voted for the overrides and the bond authorization because it's personally important to him to have strong school districts.

"I am proud to work in a community with school districts that are highly sought after, because residents are willing to invest in them," he said.

In his free time, Cox further supports the area by volunteering as a Tempe Diablo and sits on the organization's committee to support educational programs and provide scholarships.



Clockwise from left: Mark Foster and Larry Keen of The Keen Band; Kyrene Superintendent Jan Vesely cuddles with a future Kyrene student; Terri Kimble, president and CEO of Chandler Chamber of Commerce, celebrates with an override supporter; Michelle Hirsch, co-chair of Keep Kyrene PAC, chats with Vesely; Vesely, Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell and Assistant Superintendent Laura Toenjes share a moment of gratitude.

— Wrangler News
photos by
Alex J. Walker



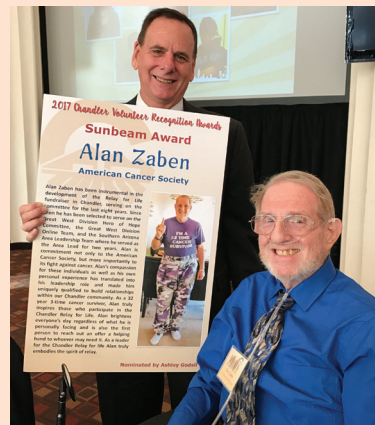


City of Chandler NEWS+Events

chandleraz.gov/newsroom

Nominate Chandler volunteers

Volunteering is about giving, contributing and helping other individuals and the community at large. It is working with others to make a meaningful contribution to a better community. The City of Chandler and countless Chandler-based organizations rely on volunteers to



help with a variety of needs – cleaning up parks, serving or delivering food to the needy, processing donations and much more. Volunteers deliver out of the goodness of their hearts and not for a paycheck. They can't be taken for granted and recognizing them is important.

The City of Chandler, the Chandler Non-Profit Coalition and the faith-based and nonprofit group For Our City are accepting applications for the 2018 Volunteer Recognition Awards. Applications are online at chandleraz.gov/volunteer100, and are due by Friday, Dec. 8. Eight award categories are available, so get your nominations ready to submit.

The selected recipients will be honored during a recognition breakfast in February 2018. For more information about the awards or the nomination process, call 480-782-2214.

Emergency preparation is key

Preparedness plays a huge role in community safety and prevention. During emergency situations, public safety officials are deployed to handle the most critical incidents. That's why individuals must be prepared to care for your loved ones and surrounding neighbors.

The Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Department is offering a free training course in December for Chandler residents who want to learn how to take care of themselves, their family, neighborhood and the community during an emergency or disaster. Basic CERT training will be held on Saturday, Dec.

2 and Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days. The classes will be conducted at the Chandler Fire Training Center, 3550 S. Dobson Road.

The Basic CERT course teaches participants about the types of hazards that might affect Chandler, and examines the roles and responsibilities of various organizations within the community, such as police and fire departments, other government agencies, public utilities and nonprofits. Constructing family emergency kits for home and vehicles also is a critical part of community preparedness.

The training is free, but space is limited. To register, call 480-782-2120 or email ChandlerFire@chandleraz.gov.

Enter Nature Photo Contest



Chandler area residents are invited to focus their lenses on nature and then enter their photographs in the City's annual Nature Photo Contest organized by Chandler's Recreation Division. In its seventh year, the contest has resulted in some magnificent images captured from around the community. Entries are being accepted now through Feb. 28, 2018, in two categories: What You See Is What You Get (no alterations) and Digitally Enhanced (artistic alterations encouraged). Ribbons will be awarded in two age groups; 13 and under and 14 and over. Photo entries must come from a Chandler park, program or event and can be submitted digitally online at chandleraz.gov/naturephotocontest, or in person at the Environmental Education Center, 4050 E. Chandler Heights Road. For more information, call 480-782-2890.

Take the City's budget survey



It's that time again! The City of Chandler is starting its budget process and encourages residents to provide their thoughts about the community and its future. Chandler residents may complete the online survey at chandleraz.gov/budget. The survey will be available through the end of December.

Survey results are shared with the Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Manager and staff to assist in the formulation of the City's financial plan. Paper copies, in either English or Spanish, may be picked up at various City facilities, including libraries, community centers and the City Hall lobby. Paper copies also may be downloaded from the web site. Completed paper surveys should be returned to City facilities or mailed to the City of Chandler, Budget Division - Citizen Surveys, Mail Stop 609, P.O. Box 4008, Chandler, AZ 85244-4008. For more information, call 480-782-2252.

EVENTS



NOVEMBER

- 23-24 Thanksgiving Day holiday, City offices closed
- 25 Small Business Saturday - Shop Chandler!
- 24-26 Nutcracker, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 30 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539

DECEMBER

- 2 Tumbleweed Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights, Downtown Chandler, 782-2669
- 3, 14, 21 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 4 City Council Study Session/Regular meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 6 PHXEV Angel Investor Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3034
- 7 City Council meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 7,8 Polar Express, Tumbleweed Recreation Center, 782-2908
- 7, 9, 16 Pictures with Santa at Santa's House, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 782-2735
- 9 Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Holiday Toy Drive, Chandler Fashion Center, 782-2120
- 15 Downtown Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539

JANUARY

- 21 Sonoran Sunset Series: The Real Thing Band includes Holiday Songs, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2890
- 21 Downtown Chandler Family Flix featuring "Elf", Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 25 Christmas Day holiday, City offices closed
- 27 Snow Day, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2890
- 10 PHXEV Angel Investor Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3034
- 13 Chandler Multicultural Festival and Chandler International Film Festival, Downtown Stage, 782-2214
- 14 One: Candlelight Vigil for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Downtown Stage, 782-2214
- 18 Sonoran Sunset Series: Rockin' Memories, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2890

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

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Pesky tumbleweed now Chandler's holiday centerpiece

By M.V. Moorhead

In the movies, the tumbleweed is an icon of the American West. There's some irony in this—indeed, some currently topical irony—since botanists believe the tumbleweed is an invasive species, from Russia (the plant is sometimes referred to as the Russian Thistle).

But on the silver screen, or on TV, or on the cover of a pulp paperback, the tumbleweed is as immediately evocative of Western atmosphere as the saguaro, the rattlesnake or the Gila monster. And, like all of the above, the tumbleweed can be a nuisance in reality.

But in Chandler, around this time of year, the tumbleweed is a cheery harbinger of holiday spirit.

Not many annual traditions here in the Valley go back uninterrupted to 1957. But downtown Chandler's Tumbleweed Tree debuted that year, and its latest edition is under construction now, in Dr. A.J. Chandler Park.

This centerpiece of the city's holiday decorations consists of hundreds and hundreds of the dried out, seed-scattering desert plants, collected from area vacant lots, sprayed with flame retardant and then with white paint, dusted with glitter and finally sculpted into a 35-foot-tall Christmas-tree shape along a wire frame.

The festive result will be unveiled in its full glory at a lighting ceremony on the evening of Dec. 2. It will then remain on display until well after the New Year.

In charge of this daunting task is Chandler's Park Maintenance Supervisor Mike Quihuis.

"I've been with the city 28 years," he says, "and probably 20 of those years, I've done it." Quihuis oversees more than 45 Chandler parks but admits, "This is probably my biggest job of the year."

The process starts with his crews collecting the tumbleweeds. "We usually look in south Chandler," Quihuis explains.

"There's a lot of empty fields out there, due to be developed. If they aren't city property, we ask permission. And we clean up the lot, so people generally don't mind."

Once the weeds have been collected and made properly fire-safe, painted and glitzed-up, the crews set about arranging them on the wire frame into the conical shape of a *tannenbaum*.

It's strung with some 1,200 lights and, of course,



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How did this start?

According the city of Chandler's website, a city resident named Earle Barnum remembered seeing a similar decoration in his native Elkhart, Ind., constructed out of pine branches, and came up with the idea of a Southwestern variation using tumbleweeds.

Over the ensuing decades, the tree has grown, so to speak, into the town's signature holiday custom.

Quihuis says he uses the construction method he was taught by his predecessor. "It usually stays

the same," he says. The only variation: "We've done it in different colors, but only on request. Last year the city officials wanted it silver." The lighting of the tree is slated for about 8 p.m. on that Dec. 2 opening night, and will be the high point of Chandler's official kickoff to the holidays.

It will follow musical performances starting at 4:30 p.m. by Limelight Performing Arts, Learning Foundation and Performing Arts—Warner Campus, The Dance Loft and Arizona Dance Studio, and a parade at 7.

There is no charge to attend; go to chandleraz.gov for details.



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Time to brighten our desert holidays

Compiled by Chelsea Flood

Embrace the holidays desert-style with these upcoming Tempe events:

Catch snowflakes at the first snowfall of winter at Tempe Marketplace. Get in the spirit of the holiday season with a free professional ice skating performance, the lighting of a 60-foot tree and the first, magical snowfall of the season on Wednesday, Nov. 22 from 6-8 p.m. There's free ice skating Nov. 24-26 and snow falls every night at 7 and 8 p.m.

Information: 2000 E. Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe
tempemarketplace.com/events/special-events/

Experience a Tempe Christmas tradition by visiting the Petersen House Museum this holiday season. Celebrating turn-of-the-century style with a Danish flair in honor of Niels Petersen, this beautiful Queen Anne Victorian house will be festively decorated for the season. Enjoy refreshments and activities on the grounds, and learn about the history through free house tours.

Information: Saturdays and Sundays: Dec. 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1414 W. Southern Ave, Tempe

Visit the historic Hackett House Gift Shop during the Tempe Festival of the Arts to see beautiful decorations and gifts from around the world from Dec. 1-2, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Proceeds from the Holiday Boutique benefit Tempe Sister Cities.

Information: 95 W. Fourth St., Tempe or
hacketthouse.org/events/

Sample teas in Victorian cups and nibble on homemade biscuits and scones in the lovely Hackett House, one of Tempe's oldest historic buildings, on Saturday Dec. 9 from 1-3 p.m. Need treats for a holiday gathering? Take some home with you. Tickets are on sale for \$35 and registration is required.

Information: 95 W. Fourth St., Tempe.
hacketthouse.org/events/

The annual Fantasy of Lights boat parade celebrates the start of the holiday season on Dec. 9 from 4-9 p.m. The festival also includes a fireworks display while Santa makes his big debut. Take free selfies with the jolly ol' elf after the finale. Bring your camera to capture the festive entertainment.

Information: Tempe Beach Park, Rio Salado Parkway at Mill Avenue or downtowntempe.com/events/boat-parade

Join Temple Emanuel and the Yad B'Yad Children's Center for a free, lively Pre-Hanukkah Story and Song Time at Changing Hands Bookstore, Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m..

Hear stories, sing songs, and spin the dreidel.

Nov. 18 brings music, fun to Tempe's Estrada Park

With triple digits mercifully over for 2017, outdoor-entertainment opportunities abound for residents of Tempe and West Chandler.

A free event featuring a top local band and multimedia art demonstrations takes place Saturday, Nov. 18 at Estrada Park, 1801 E. Palomino Drive.

The Estate La Colina Neighborhood Association is hosting the event at the neighborhood park that sits on the west side of McClintock Drive, just north of Warner Road.

Sponsored by the city of Tempe, the music and art festival begins at 1 p.m. with the Café Stringz trio composed of fiddle, guitar and bass along with some vocals.

The Mill Avenue Singers, a division of Tempe Community Chorus, performs at 2:15 p.m. The Chandler Children's Choir ensemble takes the stage at 3 p.m. followed by The Sugar Thieves at 4 p.m.

For the kids, there's a free craft activity near the playground equipment where they'll make art from recyclables.

The fitness-minded—or those who'd like to give exercise a whirl—can check out yoga, Pound exercise, Tai Chi and Jazzercise on the basketball court.

Between the music, art and exercise, organizers are betting that attendees will work up an appetite. Great Harvest Bread, Word of Mouth Grill and AZ PopCycle will be there along with food trucks, including one that features Italian ice cream.

Organizers recommend a picnic blanket or low-backed chair and will also be collecting warm clothing, blankets and usable items to be donated to a non-profit that assists the homeless.

To volunteer: mckell11@gmail.com or text 480-223-7217.

Information: Facebook page for EstateLaColinaNeighborhoodAssociation

Information: or 480-730-0205

Snap free photos with Santa and get merry with holiday-themed music, dancing, games and prizes at the Santa Soiree at Tempe Marketplace on **Saturday, Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. -1 p.m.**

Information: 2000 E. Rio Salado Pkwy. tempemarketplace.com/events/special-events/
Free photos with Santa: Bring Your Own Camera and get free photos with Santa at Pollack Tempe Cinemas, Saturday, Dec. 16. Information: 480-345-6461 or pollacktempecinemas.com

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Angel Lopez and his folkloric-dancing daughter Anai took part in the Mary Contreras State Farm Agency's Pumpkin Patch festival.

The annual celebration features the colorful Mexican dance, face-painting and games for kids and a windshield-repair clinic.

— Wrangler News photo



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Teens

From Page 1

"Our hearts are grieving," Kleve wrote. "We know this event will have a profound effect on everyone who knew this young man but we also know that every student on the Corona campus will be touched in some way by this news."

Kleve's letter went on to say that counselors would be working with students following the tragic news. "A student death by suicide also increases exponentially the chances of another suicide," the letter read.

The heartbreaking news of the student death came less than 48 hours after a well-attended town-hall meeting sponsored by the Tempe Union High School District addressed suicide awareness and prevention.

A spate of suicides in the East Valley has ended the lives of 10 young people since the start of this school year.

Natalia Chimbo-Andrade of Community Bridges, a behavioral health agency, is trained in suicide

prevention and education and spoke at the town hall. Although awareness of suicide has grown recently, she said, the numbers of young people ending their lives is increasing.

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, there were 47 suicides among children in Arizona in 2015, accounting for six percent of all child deaths.

This was a 26 percent increase from 2014 and an 81 percent increase since 2009. Chimbo-Andrade said that during 2016, the youngest person reported to have died by suicide was a 9-year-old child.

Such heartrending statistics beg the question, why—why would a young person who has tasted so little of life die by suicide?

"I get that question a lot," Chimbo-Andrade said. "Everyone wants to know."

The answer isn't so clear. Multiple factors are usually involved, she said. Those include factors like depression, whether diagnosed or not; personal history; environment; stressors; bullying; past trauma; substance abuse and more.

Another point to consider is that the teenage brain is not fully



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developed. In other words, teenagers can act impulsively. Combine that impulsivity with the multiplicity of factors listed above and you have a recipe for disaster.

"They feel like they don't matter," Chimbo-Andrade said. "Or they are not getting the support that is needed. Then their thinking becomes really limited where they feel like the only choice they have is death."

That is why, she added, it's so crucial for the community at large to recognize the warning signs.

"We can't chalk it up as normal teenage behavior if we feel like something is wrong with our teens," Chimbo-Andrade said.

Asking, "Are you having thoughts of suicide?" is a tough question to ask, but it can save a life.

"As a parent and as a loved one we are horrified because we don't want them to say yes," Chimbo-Andrade said. "But it's a good thing that they said yes because that is the first step to getting help. They are not in denial. It's not a secret anymore."

Basically, if someone asks, it shows that they care and are not afraid to talk about it.

When she goes out to train people in the community about suicide prevention, she tells them to ask directly: Is suicide on the table? "We're scared thinking about it but the importance of asking directly could save a life," Chimbo-Andrade said. "There could be silence, and within the silence there's an answer. They might be afraid to say yes because they don't want to hurt someone."

"It might be very hard for a teen to say yes to a parent but it might be easier to yes to a teacher or a mentor or a counselor."

What's the best thing to say to your teenager when a letter comes home telling of a classmate's suicide?

"If it was my child and I got that letter—I'm a mother myself," she said, choking back tears. "I'm also a suicide survivor and I lost a family member to suicide."

"I would hug my daughter and tell her, 'I love you. You're important. You matter. And I'm here if you just want to talk.'"

"They need to know they are loved constantly, whether you think they are listening or not," said Joe Dodds, the high school youth director at Arizona Community Church. The house of worship stands across the street from Corona's campus and Dodd spoke with some of the students about the suicide the day after it happened.

"Many times kids wrap their identity in sports or academics," Dodd said. "As soon as that's taken away or rocked, they question their existence. They need to know their existence is bigger than what they do."

"Tell them you love them."

Teen LifeLine: 602-248-8336 or suicidepreventionlifeline.org



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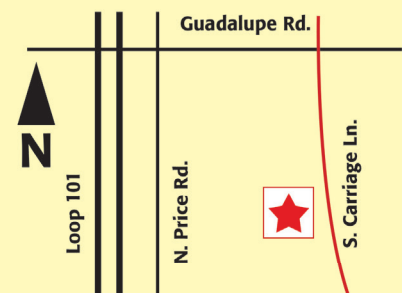
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Sports

With Alex Zener

Xavier rally sinks Aztecs' 6A championship hopes

It felt like almost every ball was dropping on Xavier's side of the net and Corona was on its way to repeat as 6A State Champion, after winning the first set 25-23 and leading by five points mid-way through the second set.

That was until Xavier rallied from behind to take the second set 26-24.

Winning that second set seemed to give Xavier's volleyball team the boost of confidence they needed to get the momentum back on their side.

The Aztecs could not recover, however, and Xavier won the next two sets, 25-17, 25-17, to win their first state championship trophy since 2013.

Corona took home the 6A State Championship Runner-Up honors.

The Aztecs should be proud of their 41-3 season. They should also be proud that Corona made it into the state championship finals for the 10th time since the school was opened 40 years ago.



First Row: Becca Morse, Lexi Vlcek, Allie Wade, Kacie McCain, Baylee Leavitt; Back Row: Isis Mitchell, Kaiessa Sounart, Sadie McRae, Nicole Newlin, Krystal Blair, Emma West, Abby Meyer, Alyssa Wissinger, Brooke Nuneviller, Madelyn Noble.

— SPORTS, Page 19

— Photos courtesy Kris Cartwright, Smugmug.com

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Sports

From Page 16

The Aztecs came very close to being bounced out of the playoffs in the semifinals. They survived to play in the finals with an amazing come-from-behind victory in the semifinals over Mountain Pointe, taking the final three sets (25-21, 25-16, 15-2) after losing the first two (23-25, 26-28).

The physical and mental energy expended in that semifinal win two days before the finals had to have been taxing on the Corona players once they lost the second set to Xavier in the finals.

Senior **Brooke Nuneviller** took the team on her back in that semifinal match against Mountain Pointe, leading the Aztecs with an amazing 33 kills or 6.6 kills a set hitting .403. Plus, Nuneviller also had 20 digs and four block assists—three of them with sophomore **Sadie McRae**.

Sophomore **Madelyn Noble** had 12 kills and three service aces, senior **Emma West** had eight kills and senior **Alyssa Wissinger** contributed five kills.

Setter **Abby Meyer** had 51 assists or 10.2 assists per set while sophomore libero **Becca Morse**, playing against her sister, Anna Morse from Mountain Pointe, had 25 digs.

Although it will be hard to replace seniors Nuneviller, Meyer, West, Wissinger, **Allie Wade**,



— SPORTS, Page 20

Brooke Nuneviller led with 33 kills in volleyball semifinals over Mountain Pointe.



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Sports

From Page 19

Isis Mitchell, Lexie Vicek and Baylee Leavitt in 2018, the Aztecs have some young players, such as Noble, McRae, Morse, **Kaissa Sounart**, Kacie McCain, **Celestial Miller**, **Nicole Newlin** and **Krystal Blair** who gained a lot of playing experience this season.

Marcos de Niza Volleyball

The Marcos de Niza volleyball team entered the 4A State Championship Volleyball Tournament as the No. 10 seed after going 7-1 in the Desert Sky section.

The Padres defeated No. 7 Greenway, 3-2, on Oct 31 to advance to the quarterfinals against No. 2 Cactus on Nov. 2. Marcos lost to Cactus 3-1 in that quarterfinal.

Several players standout now that the season is over for their offensive and defensive skills recorded on the stat sheets.

Junior **Elyse Olson** led the Padres in kills with 190 kills, averaging over two kills a set while freshman **Hailey White** was next with 162 kills in only 74 sets or an average of 2.2 kills a set.

Junior **Katie Johnson** had 150 kills while junior **Jenifer Lauer** not only won points with her 122 kills but had a killer service game which helped her lead her team in service aces with 60.

Freshman **Olivia Craig** was next with 44 aces while Johnson had 43 service aces.

The team was able to earn over 130 points during the season when the front row players blocked their opponents attack. Leading the Padres in blocks was White with an impressive 36 solo blocks and 43 total blocks.

Olson was next with 31 solo and 41 total blocks while Johnson had 18 total blocks, Lauer and senior **Melahni Washington** had 16 total blocks each and senior **Alohna Taylor** had 14 total blocks.

Lauer and Olivia Craig shared setting the ball with each recording over 300 assists or close to 3.5 assists per set while setting up attacks to earn points.

Playing libero, senior **Justice Craig** led the Padres in digs with close to 500 digs or an average of 5.3 digs a set or 15.3 digs a match and was one of the main players to receive serves with over 400 receptions.

Junior **Katie Denham** was second on the team in both digs and serve receptions with 331 digs and 384 receptions while senior **Sophia Ashmead** was next with 340 serve receptions.

Additional team members contributing to the Padres success on and off the court this season include seniors **Daisy Salazar** who had 33 digs in 19 sets and **Yahselah Thompson**.

Marcos de Niza Football

The Padres, the only Tempe high school team to qualify to play in the football playoffs, lost in the first round of the 2017 AIA Football 4A State Championship playoffs Nov. 3 to Cactus Shadows High School, 34-7.

Marcos de Niza finished the season ranked No. 12 in the 4A division with a 5-6 record.

Senior quarterback **Marcos Moreno** finished



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Sports

From Page 20

the season averaging close to 150 yards passing per game to a number of receivers, including leading receiver **Joren Davis**, who averaged over 50 yards per game, followed by juniors **Anthony Steinpreis** and **Arthur Morgan**.

Other receivers included seniors **Keandre Greer** and **Alex Torres**, juniors **Torren Union**, **Brandon Anderson** and **Mario Gastelum** and sophomore **Yakeen Baylis**.

Baylis was the leading rusher on the team, averaging close to 100 yards a game, while Marino was the second leading rusher on the team with over 40 yards a game.

Gastelum, who contributed to the Padres' success on both sides of the ball, was the leading tackler, registering over eight tackles a game. The next closest was senior **Joe Chavez**, with over seven tackles per game.

Additional senior players who were honored at the Padres last home game included **Trequan Johnson**, **JB Rider**, **Alex Torres**, **Luis Sanchez**, **Andrew Torres**, **Hamza Manassra**, **Taire James**, **Hunter Musgrave**, **Jesus Ramirez** and **Emilio Ortiz**.

Corona Badminton

Corona's badminton team, who finished the regular season ranked No. 5 in Division I, defeated No. 12 Central, 5-1, in the first round of the 2017 AIA Badminton Division I State Championship playoffs held Oct. 23.

In the quarterfinals, the Aztecs were defeated by Xavier, 5-1.

In the individual portion of the state playoffs, Corona had one player qualify in the singles tournament and two sets of doubles players in the doubles tournament.

Brennan Agnew entered the singles tournament, Oct. 20, ranked No. 6. In the first round, she defeated a player from Highland High School, 11-3, 5-11, 11-6 and a Red Mountain player, 11-4 and 11-6, in the second round before meeting her first ranked opponent in the quarterfinals.

Agnew went on to defeat No. 3 ranked Gabrielle Nakada from Desert Vista, 13-12, 11-0, before facing off against No. 7 ranked Julia Mumme from Perry in the semifinals.

Agnew ultimately lost to Mumme, but it took three sets. Mumme went on to play against her teammate Jillian Lagasca in the finals while Agnew defeated No. 5 ranked Abby Mann from Red Mountain the Consolation Final.

Representing Corona in the Doubles State Championship were No. 6 ranked **Katie Carroll** and **Eileen Li** and unranked **Kristie Hale** and **Cameron Adams**.

Hale and Adams lost to a No. 4 ranked doubles team from Skyline 15-11, 15-5, in the first-round while Carroll and Li defeated an unranked team from Skyline 15-9, 15-4.

Carroll and Li, as the No. 6 ranked team, had an unexpected match in the second round when they faced off against an unranked doubles team from

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Sports

From Page 21

Perry, Megan Crow and Kylie Goldberg.

Crow and Goldberg, not only defeated Carroll and Li, 15-7, 15-7, in the second round but went on to defeat their own Perry teammates, No. 1 ranked Pierson and Read, in the finals to win the doubles championship.

Corona Boys Golf

Corona's boys golf team qualified for state this year where they finished 10th out of 15 Division I schools who participated in the state golf tournament held at Omni Tucson National Golf Course Oct. 30-31.

Zachary Erskine bounced back the second day to shoot a 72 after finishing with 80 the first day of the tournament. Erskine finished the tournament as the top Aztec golfer with a total of 153. He finished 35th out of 97 golfers.

Davis Cottrell finished tied for 47th, four strokes back from Erskine with a total of 157.

Caden Truelick finished 57th, **Cooper Odenkirk** finished 64th and **Cohlton Kieffer** finished 77th.

Corona Girls Golf

Hannah McGraw was the top golfer for Corona at the Division I State Golf Tournament held at Tucson National Golf Course Oct. 30-31.

McGraw who had trouble the first day of the tournament, shooting only 85, rallied on the second day to shoot 78 for a total of 163 or 19 over par to take 28th place out of 92 Division I golfers.

Teammate **Lexie Baughman** had a pretty good round the first day shooting 82 but had problems the next day finishing the round with 96 and the overall tournament in 45th position.

Erika Johanson was the last Corona golfer to play both days. She took 72nd place.

Caroline Formisano, **Elle Potts** and **Sarah Butler** did not play both days. Corona finished in 11th place out of 15 Division I schools who qualified golfers for the state playoffs.



Eight from Corona recognized at latest collegiate-sport signings

Article & photo by Kody Acevedo

Eight students at Corona del Sol High School have signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports next year. They are:

Paige Sorensen - gymnastics - Lindenwood University

Mikaeli Davidson - softball - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Jessica Lynch - softball - University of Utah

Jacob Garcia - wrestling - US Air Force Academy

Brooke Nuneviller - volleyball - University of Oregon

Ben Quon - swim - Xavier University

Emma West - volleyball - Montano State

Alyssa Wissinger - volleyball - Boise State

Moving the ceremony from the gymnasium to the auditorium this semester, Athletic Director Cory Nenaber said he looks forward to this opportunity—one of what he calls his favorite days—every year, each time highlighting those who deserve this kind of earned recognition.

“They’re all really great students, great student-athletes. So, getting to recognize them in a ceremony like this is really one of the more fun things we get to do here.”

Senior Ben Quon, who signed to swim at Xavier, was one of

the team's captains and explored several colleges during the fall.

“I’m pretty excited,” Quon said. “I’m going to miss the Corona swim team though.”

Head coach Ron Musgrave told Wrangler News in August that Ben has had “the ability to qualify for the state swim meet in any and every event he has chosen to enter” during his time in high school.

Quon will now take his talents to Ohio.

“I love Xavier, the team, the campus,” Quon said.

“The academic support for athletes is beyond anything I visited at other school. I’m glad I found Xavier.”

Senior Jessica Lynch, who signed to play softball at Utah, had a number of accomplishments this year, including a perfect game against Trevor Browne High School in the playoffs last May.

Wrestler Jacob Garcia helped lead the Aztecs to their first Division I title in seven years and won an individual championship in February.

Noted Nenaber:

The signing occasion provides an opportunity to recognize each year's students who continue the school's rich tradition of student-athlete excellence.

“This is why we do it,” he said—to see kids succeed.”

Indoor soccer now has a new venue—outdoors

By Kody Acevedo

Soccer is appearing in all shapes and sizes around the community these days. Literally. The newest adaptation: arena soccer, but with a twist.

The folks at Joga Arena Soccer call it “indoor style soccer, outdoors.”

“We grew up playing soccer here,” said Dan Van Vleet, co-founder of the Joga concept. “There’s no centrally located indoor soccer arena around here, so rather than starting an indoor facility, (our design) is more portable and unique.”

Joga's one-of-a-kind pop-up arena allows Van Vleet and the club's founder, Josh von Allworden, to bring indoor-style soccer to any corner of the community large enough to host their arena. Designed by von Allworden's father, a structural engineer, the portable arena cost about \$5,000. When fully erect, it is 106 feet long by 70 feet wide, standing 8 feet tall on the ends and four feet tall on the sides.

The materials to build the arena arrived about six months ago and the final design was completed in October.

It takes the small staff at Joga, a Portuguese word for “play,” about 3½ hours to put together and erect before every use. “It was tough getting this ready in the summer heat,” von Allworden said. “The summertime was a lot of learning what not to do.”

Van Vleet and von Allworden have been involved with soccer in Tempe for quite some time. The two were teammates at Corona del Sol High School and won a state championship with the Aztecs in 2010.

“(Their time at Corona) was the best sporting experience I’ve had to date,” Van Vleet said.

Van Vleet and von Allworden were both recruited to play at Oregon State the following year.

But they returned to the Valley a few years later.

Van Vleet stayed involved in the sport, picking up a coaching job at Corona; von Allworden continued his education at Arizona State University, getting a degree in Technological Entrepreneurship and Management.

Yet, the two friends never gave up on their dreams of running their own business someday.

This year, they decided to act on it.

“We always talked about this in college and (Josh) is always coming up with random ideas,” Van Vleet said. “Finally we were, like, why not start working on this? Let’s go for it.”

While the basic concepts of soccer exist in Joga's arena, the rules are a bit different than a conventional game.

Their concept lasts only 10 minutes with no breaks. Each team only has four players on the field at once and no goalkeepers. The goals themselves are smaller, too, making it tougher to score, but also allowing the players to get more touches during the game.

“There’s no time where you can relax,” von Allworden said.

Van Vleet and von Allworden added that the growing interest in soccer helped them make their final decision to start this adventure.

“It’s been mostly positive so far,” Van Vleet said. “There were a couple people stopping and watching

us play.”

The arena has been put up only twice since it was completed. Those first two test runs were held at Waggoner Park in Tempe on weekends.

While the response from the community has been positive, the city of Tempe recently informed the group they can no longer play at Waggoner and must reserve a space elsewhere, especially if they want to host tournaments in the future, Van Vleet said.

“We want to involve the community and let them know what we’re doing,” Van Vleet said. “Anything you can do to help improve the following of soccer in the community is a good thing.”

Their first official event is “The Black Friday Tournament” from noon to Nov. 24 at Tempe Sports Complex, Hardy just north of Warner.

“We’re focusing right now on adult leagues,” Van Vleet said. “But we will definitely expand to kids and teenagers down the road.”

Anyone interested in signing up can go to www.jogaarenasoccer.com.



Holiday shopping arrives early at Dayspring boutique

Getting an early start on seasonal shopping is the timely suggestion from Dayspring Preschool & Kindergarten, which hosts its 33rd annual Holiday Boutique from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, and 9 to 4 on Saturday, Nov. 18.

The indoor/outdoor event has become a much anticipated local occasion, bringing together 70-plus craft, jewelry and food vendors, including Sassy’s Café,

according to spokeswoman Kris Kroeger. Entertainment throughout the weekend is provided by local elementary schools and other small groups.

The annual fundraiser benefits the school and helps pay for needs outside the operating budget, including financial aid, playground equipment, professional development for teachers, books for the library and more, said Kroeger.

Daily setup generally begins around 7:30 a.m., though the event doesn’t officially open until 9.

The school is on the campus of Dayspring United Methodist Church, 1365 E. Elliot Road, Tempe.

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Ostrich Festival to celebrates 3 decades of fun, food, activities for entire family

Chandler Chamber officials have announced the organization's annual Ostrich Festival will celebrate 30 years March 9-11 at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler.

The event, which drew over 87,000 attendees in 2017 and is organized by the chamber and Steve LeVine Entertainment & Public Relations, is known as one of the premier festivals in the Southwest.

The event features live ostrich races and ostrich-themed activities, national and regional entertainment, carnival midway, spectacular food, upscale arts and crafts and other offerings.

"We are so proud to be celebrating 30 years of the Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival," said Terri Kimble, the chamber's president and CEO.

In honor of the festival's 30th anniversary, the chamber is unveiling a new logo designed to commemorate 30 years of bringing the community together for days filled with family-friendly fun and quality entertainment.

The festivities will kick off the weekend prior to the three-day festival with the annual Mayor's 5K and Fun Run, Ostrich Festival parade and Public Safety Day on Saturday, March 3.

Information: OstrichFestival.com.

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Corona band member joins elite unit

American Family Insurance agent Rick Utter, right, joins in presentation of Dream Champion award to Corona student Sophia Crisler and her parents.



Corona del Sol student Sophia Crisler has been selected as a 2018 U.S. Army All-American, joining an elite group of marching band members who will perform during halftime at the 2018 U.S. Army All-American Bowl presented by American Family Insurance.

The honor was announced during a celebratory event at the school.

"Being a successful band member not only requires great skill, but a commitment to teamwork," said Elizabeth F. Wilson, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for marketing.

"To be an Army All-American requires students to excel musically

and academically, but most importantly, as young people of character," Wilson said.

Telisa Yancy, chief marketing officer for American Family Insurance, added:

"As the official champion of Dreams, American Family is honored to salute these student athletes as they work hard to pursue their dreams with the encouragement of family, coaches, friends, and the their communities."

The news announcing Crisler's selection came from Rick Utter, longtime South Tempe representative of American Family Insurance.



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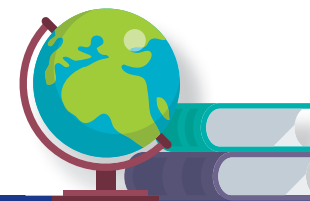
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In a pickle over pickleball? Help is on the way

In a pickle about pickleball? Not to worry. Tempe City Council approved an outdoor, lighted pickleball facility, final destination of which is all that remains to be decided.

After completing their due diligence and engineering research, city staff recommended to the Tempe parks board that the facility be located at Tempe Sports Complex on Hardy Drive just north of Warner Road, next to the Arizona Cardinals training center.

As of now, the preferred location is the complex's south end, with funding approved and only a final go-ahead remaining to meet the summer 2018 scheduled opening.

Although in recent years the name pickleball may have hit a sour note among real sportsmen, statistics show that it has become one of the country's fastest-growing leisure-time pursuits. It burst onto the local scene five or so years ago at the Tempe Lakes community, where HOA manager Christine Baldanza says the number

of members-only devotees continues to increase, despite the availability of only a small playing area.

"It has grown from a handful of enthusiasts to sometimes as many as 40 people—and they're all diehard pickleballers," said Baldanza.

Invented in Washington in the mid-1960s, the game combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, with contests played mostly as doubles and set on a court about two-thirds the size of what tennis players use.

With a net that's a bit lower than the one used for tennis, the game employs a plastic ball about the size of a baseball with holes and a paddle that's twice as big as its ping-pong counterpart.

The game, say enthusiasts, provides a great workout in a fun social environment—playable by all age levels and having exploded in popularity with the baby boomer

crowd over the past decade.

When construction starts on Tempe Sports Complex courts, the city of Tempe will continue to provide a few indoor gymnasium courts where pickleball wannabees can play and learn the game.

Indoor play is offered at Kiwanis Park on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 10 a.m. In North Tempe, indoor play is available at Escalante Park on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center, play is offered on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

At all locations, beginners are welcome. Instruction for pickleball newbies is available at Escalante Park and the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center. Additional information can be found at www.pecospickleball.org.

ASU also offers a class on the game and will soon be adding pickleball intramural competition.

Locally, Tempe's USAPA pickleball ambassador, Dutch Vander Laan, can be reached at 480-225-4370 or by email at vlaan@cox.net.



Second-graders get Googly eyed over campus maps

Visitors at Fuller Elementary School certainly won't have trouble finding their way around campus thanks to Jessica Foster's second-grade class.

These second-graders created their own hand-drawn campus maps using Google Maps technology and spatial recognition of their school.

After completing the project, the students had the idea of placing them at the front office for visitors to use after checking in.

"Parents and visitors are picking them up constantly," said Fuller Office Manager Sheila Olivas.

"They love it and think it's a great way to guide them around our school!"

Second-grader Tonantzi Vidales was the student who had the idea of placing the maps in the front office.

Her idea was to not only help parents and visitors get around campus, but to also encourage new kids to come to Fuller Elementary.

"I love Fuller and I thought it would be great for kids who want to go to my school to use when walking around," said Vidales.

Foster's classroom is centered around the

principle of authentic learning.

This style of learning encourages students to create tangible and meaningful projects to be shared with our world. Through Project Based Learning activities such as their map project, students authentically learn how to generate creative ideas, collaborate, share and grow their unique strengths, and discover real world applications.

Student teacher Nichole Lynch has been working with Foster's classroom all year. It was Lynch's idea to encourage students to create the map of their own school campus.

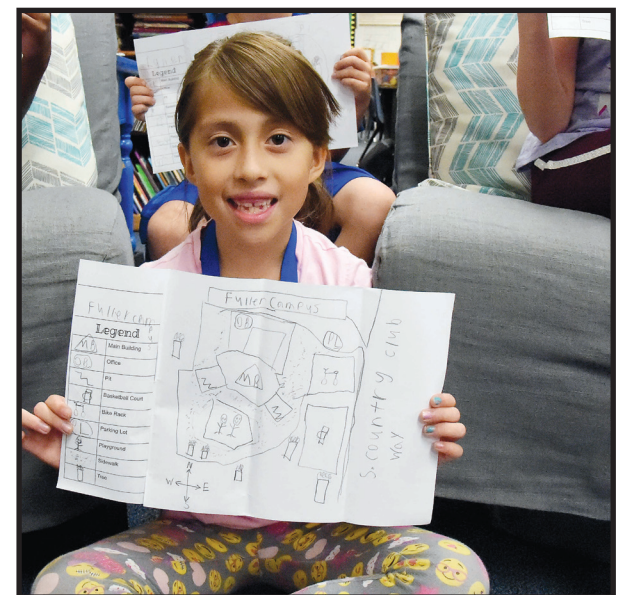
"With authentic learning, it's important to make our projects meaningful and have a purpose," explained Lynch.

"We figured the most familiar place for our students to create a map would be for the Fuller campus. Once we determined the project, students put forth their own creative ideas in designing their maps."

After being used frequently during the school's recent parent teacher conferences, the maps are all stacked and ready to be used for the next round of visitors to Fuller Elementary.

"This was a great project because our students not only learned a real world skill, but they can feel proud that they are making a difference in our school," said Foster.

*By Gabrielle Olson, Communication Specialist,
Tempe Elementary School District*



Diversions...No classic this, but great cast lends vibrancy to 'The Star'

By M.V. Moorhead

The hero of this animated comedy is a donkey named Bo. Bo and his friend Dave the Dove and a sheep named Ruth and others band together and have wacky adventures in their effort to warn the Virgin Mary, who's on the road to Bethlehem with Joseph, that the agents of Herod the Great are out to get them.

Funny versions of The Nativity go back in the Western tradition at least as far as *The Second Shepherd's Play* in the 1500s. I also remember a surprisingly satirical holiday TV special called *The Night the Animals Talked* back in the early '70s that focused on the creatures around the manger, including Mary and Joseph's goodhearted donkey.

Even so, you may not always believe what you're seeing in this Sony Animation release—the standard cute talking animal template, complete with an underdog (underdonkey?) hero who longs to see the wider world, played out against this sort of pious tableau. It's easy to imagine neither the secular nor the devout being altogether comfortable with it.

This movie's camp reaches its highest level, perhaps, not with the critters but with its depiction of The Annunciation. The green-eyed, freckled Mary (voiced by Gina Rodriguez, star of TV's *Jane the Virgin*), who talks like a Disney Channel heroine, receives word from the Angel that she's to be the Messiah's mother with less emotion than a contemporary American teenager might show at the news that she'd won tickets to a Niall Horan concert. "Thank you," she says mildly, and then, to herself

"Do I say thank you?"

The most peculiar thing about this peculiar movie is that it works, or at least it worked for me. The high-ticket voice actors, led by Stephen Yuen as Bo, Aidy Bryant as Ruth and Keegan-Michael Key as the endearing Dave, create warm characterizations. I'm not kidding when I say high-ticket, by the way: other beasts are voiced by Tyler Perry, Tracy Morgan, Kelly Clarkson, Anthony Anderson, Kris Kristofferson, Ving Rhames, Gabriel Iglesias, Patricia Heaton, Kristin Chenoweth and—gasp!—Oprah herself, as a camel. Even Christopher Plummer lends his sinister purr to old Herod.

The Star is no classic, but this cast makes it vibrant, and the story is about going to trouble for others, putting their needs ahead of your own. It's a kitschy, sometimes borderline embarrassing movie, and a more genuinely sweet one than I've seen in a while.

Still in theaters

Murder on the Orient Express—Sidney Lumet's tautly made 1974 version of Agatha Christie's 1934 novel, with Albert Finney as Belgian master detective Hercule Poirot, is a favorite of mine, and I admit I saw no pressing need to remake it. But remade it has been, in a manner sufficiently different from the original that it can be enjoyed on its own terms.

The new version is directed by Kenneth Branagh, who also assumes the role of Poirot. As before, a

shady character gets bumped off in a sleeping car of the famed luxury line, which used to run all the way from Istanbul to Paris. The train is derailed by an avalanche somewhere in Croatia, and Poirot, who had been hoping for a quiet holiday, is pressed into service to identify the guilty party from among the shifty types aboard before the trip is back on track.

The cast ranges from Johnny Depp to Judi Dench, Josh Gad to Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe to Derek Jacobi, Daisy Ridley to Leslie Odom, Jr. to Michelle Pfeiffer, among others, and they let it rip. Offsetting this is Branagh's impressively reserved, melancholy turn as Poirot.

As director, Branagh works in his characteristically flamboyant style, sweeping from one melodramatic flourish to the next, even adding in some fights and gunplay. This won't be to the taste of every Christie aficionado, but I enjoyed it. I also enjoyed screenwriter Michael Green's distaste for the casual racism that Christie, to judge from her books, would have regarded as a given.

But the real stars, perhaps, of this *Orient Express* are, first, Branagh's mesmerizing mustache, and second, the lushness of the production—cinematography by Haris Zambarloukos, costumes by Alexandra Byrne, music by Patrick Doyle.

The movie may leave you in the mood for a leisurely holiday by train.

The Star is rated PG; *Murder on the Orient Express* is rated PG-13. Both play at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion Center and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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The Tempe All-City Fall Sports Award Banquet will be held Monday, Dec. 4, at the Doubletree Hotel in Tempe. The banquet will begin with a social hour and entertainment at 5:45 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards presentation at 6:15 p.m.

Briefly . . .

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Chamber names new aide

Longtime Tempe resident and Arizona native Karen Mayer has been named business development director by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.



Mayer will be responsible for the organization's membership sector, overseeing its business-support services and developing corporate partnerships. An experienced business-development professional with a strategic approach to her work, Mayer is a previous business owner, chamber board member and chamber Ambassador.

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THE FINAL WORD

By Kris Cartwright

Editor's note: The monthly online newsletter sent at this time last year by longtime Tempe and West Chandler Realtor Kris Cartwright contains some special thoughts that we felt would be worth sharing once again with our readers. Her words reflect many of the same ideas we have about ways to show gratitude during the holiday season.

We've all got people we're thankful for and Thanksgiving is the perfect holiday to show them how we feel about them. Here are some ways you can show your gratitude!

- **Friendsgiving** – When you're far from home, apart from family, or stuck on campus for the holiday, get together with your friends and have a feast. Millennials are doing this just because, and it's a great thing because practicing gratitude and togetherness is always awesome.
- **Giving** – When you want to show someone you're grateful for them, it's always a good idea to put something together (made out of love or store-bought) and give it to them. Whether or

not you think it will be expected, it's guaranteed that receiving an unanticipated gift is a great surprise that is well appreciated.

- **Writing letters** – This old-fashioned, classic way of communication is still widely cherished. A handwritten letter can brighten up anyone's day. Regardless of whether you include your feelings of gratitude in your letter, your recipient will know that you took the time to write and send a special letter to him or her—and that's saying more than enough.

• **Volunteering for a cause** – What better way to show your gratitude for your community than to give back in service? As community builders, we have a part in making our neighborhoods a better place for all. Doing whatever we can to help in our community can make all the difference. Soon, you'll be grateful for having served rather than being served.

• **Sharing** – What's something that makes you happy? We've all heard the catch phrase, 'Sharing is caring.' Well, it really is. What if this Thanksgiving you used your talents and gifts to make a difference? Sharing your passions with those you're grateful for also can bring joy to them.

• **Spending quality time together** – This one's a given. Sometimes the best way to show someone you're thankful for them is to simply spend time with them. We're all busy, and fitting hangout time into our schedules can be hard, but it's worth it. It doesn't matter what you do, but whatever it is you choose to do, be all there. Be present and thankful for the time you get together.

• **Calming the storm** – This one's a bit more complex. Perhaps you know someone

who's important to you who is going through a particularly hard time – be a little part of the calm to their current storm of life. You get to choose what it is that you do because you know your person best. Take advantage of the things you know within each of your relationships; you could be the only one who knows the hardship someone may be going through.

Do it as a token of your gratefulness to him or her.

• **Setting a tradition** – When you're thankful for someone, setting traditions are fun and easy to do. Based on your friendship and the things you enjoy, set a tradition that exudes the greatness of your relationship.

Even when you haven't seen each other in a long time, there will always be the one time a year that you come together to celebrate your tradition; You'll be reminded of why you're so thankful for each other and why your friendship is worth fighting for.

• **Opposite day** – This one's for all the mother and father figures in our lives. What better way to show that you're thankful for your parents, grandparents, or whoever, than to switch roles for a day? If your mom is a great cook and has nurtured you throughout life with her soul-fulfilling food, make a meal for her and serve her as she has always done for you.

If your dad has always been great at making sure you have fun on the weekends, clear his weekend schedule and take him out to do something fun and memorable. We owe it to our loved ones.

• **Giving a speech** – The traditional, heart-felt speech at Thanksgiving is the most classic gesture of thankfulness. A couple words of affection and gratitude for your loved ones is all it takes to fill a room with tears. Whatever you say, may it be with a glad and grateful heart.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!



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