



**It's Christmas,
and everywhere
we look
there's
a smile**

.....
**Photographer Billy
Hardiman captures
some of our
neighborhoods'
best holiday
scenes,
Pgs. 16-18**



Beyond prison walls

Church 'Angels' help inmates spread holiday cheer to kids

By Joyce Coronel

For hundreds of children in Tempe with one or both parents in prison, the holidays can be a time when they wonder if their mom or dad still loves them.

The Angel Tree Project has been answering that question with a resounding yes for the last 30 years.

Founded by a former inmate who witnessed the strained relationship between prisoners and

their families, the program reaches beyond prison walls to spread holiday cheer and a reminder that a mother or father's love is enduring.

Kelly Teters helps lead the effort at Arizona Community Church where members of the congregation joined forces to help 100 children in Tempe have a merry Christmas.

It all starts when Angel Tree Project representatives interview inmates who sign up for the program to find out what the children would want as gifts. Each child receives a clothing gift and a

toy or fun item, Teters said. Then, church volunteers call caregivers to verify the kids' Christmas wishes.

"Sometimes the kids want something different," Teters said. "They also get a message from their mom or dad that says 'Merry Christmas' or 'I miss you and love you.'"

Church volunteers fill out tags that get hung on a Christmas tree in time for the Thanksgiving Eve service. That's when churchgoers

Wrapping gifts for Tempe kids with a parent who is incarcerated during the holidays. *Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker*

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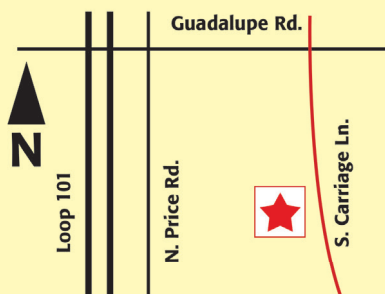
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City's spring election will rely entirely on ballot-by-mail

Three open Tempe City Council seats and three ballot propositions will be decided by voters this coming spring. Voter registration is taking place now.

The primary election is March 13; the general is May 15.

It will be the first Tempe election that will be ballot by mail, which means every registered voter will automatically get a ballot.

Voters can drop off their voted ballots or get replacements at either of the two ballot centers in Tempe or at the Maricopa County Recorder's Office.

Prospective candidates have until Dec. 13 to file their completed paperwork, at which time they will be certified for the ballot, or not, by the City Clerk's Office.

Names and contact information of candidates certified for the ballot will be posted on www.tempe.gov/election.

The primary election is held to nominate or elect candidates, according to the Tempe City Charter, Section 7.01. If there are no more than two candidates for each vacancy, the primary election is eliminated and the general is held on that date.

In the case of the 2018 elections, if there are six or fewer candidates, there will be one election, which would take place March 13.

On Nov. 9, the City Council approved three propositions for the March 13 ballot.

One would amend the Tempe City Charter to declare the city's portion of Papago Park a preserve. Another would amend the charter to require the disclosure of the origins of major contributions used to influence local city elections.

The third would raise a state-imposed spending ceiling for cities enacted in 1980 so the city can spend the revenue it brings in.

The deadline for submitting arguments for or against any of the ballot measures that will be printed in the publicity pamphlet is Dec. 13.

Arguments must be submitted to clerk@tempe.gov. They cannot exceed 300 words including argument title and must include a sworn statement from each sponsoring person. The cost per argument is \$100 to offset a portion of the cost of the pamphlet printing.

Anyone wishing to vote must register by Feb. 12 for the March election and by April 16 for the May election.

Ballots will be mailed Feb. 14 for the March election, April 18 for the May balloting.

Information about the elections—from voter registration to finding the results—can be found at www.tempe.gov/election or by calling 480-350-4311.

Background information about Ballot by Mail is at www.tempe.gov/BallotbyMail.

From our website

Comments on the Childsplay article

Brian Logsdon — “I think this is a good move for both Childsplay and TCA. IMO CP was really overloading the TCA, making it difficult to feature other groups, especially on weekends. Clearly the TCA wants a more diverse set of events, which I agree with. As ASU’s arts programs expand, there is a shortage of venues and dates at ASU which could easily be accommodated by TCA.”

Wrangler Reader — “Tempe Gov. has generously nurtured Childsplay over the years, moving it to sequentially larger venues (at bargain rates), giving it a sweetheart deal on the use of the Harrington School and done the hard work of supporting dramatic arts—often at a loss.

Childsplay was dominating the stages at TCA, preventing other performing groups from using the facilities. It’s time for TCA to step up and start developing its performance season that will draw people in. They

should look at the MIM concerts (busy every night of the week), Mesa Center, the Scottsdale Center and even the Chandler Center to see how it might be done.) ASU can use more off-site performance venues, too.”

Comments on the Chandler Metal Cactus

Lanark — If the Saguaro is endemic to the desert, why would you have to provide a water system to them if real cactus were planted in the medians?

If they needed periodic watering, what about a water trailer once every few months?

How does a landscape contractor association give an award for phony plants? A real landscape should have/could have been installed for the same amount or less.

Do not agree with the ALCA.

From the editor: Let us hear from you! Email editor@wranglernews.com or visit wranglernews.com or our Facebook page. We'll print selected comments as space is available.

West Chandler parks among sites Kids become geocaching ‘Agents’

Desert Breeze, Sunset, Galveston, Windmills West and Nozomi parks in west Chandler have become sites for the continuation of an augmented reality game launched through a collaborative venture between Chandler Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Forest Service.

The game, Agents of Discovery, is designed to encourage residents to get out and play, allowing users to explore local parks through missions and challenges with the use of geo-fencing technology.

The adventures begin by downloading the free game onto a mobile device from the iPhone App Store or Google Play.

The games are aimed at children, ages 5 to 12, with the assistance of their parents.

Users assume the roles of secret “agents” on missions to solve challenges in their local parks by using an app on their smartphone or tablet.

Following trails around each park, players can rescue the stolen robotic “USBees,” who store knowledge of the natural world. The fate of nature rests in their hands.

Once players have completed missions, they can return to headquarters—cleverly disguised as a Chandler recreation center—and claim accolades and a reward.

The first mission and opportunity to use the mobile app occurred during the Mayor’s Day of Play at Tumbleweed Park in October. Along with the Agents of Discovery activity, the event featured interactive booths and games for participants to experience Chandler’s recreation options.

The program’s education technology platform was launched earlier this year in Washington, D.C., at the National Mall and Memorial Parks, as well as in San Francisco at the Maritime National Historical Park.

“Learning is no longer confined to the textbook; children and adults want to learn in ways that are engaging,” said Joe Petrella, Chandler recreation manager.

“In the spirit of playful learning, Agents of Discovery’s adventures are transforming our parks into outdoor classrooms where imaginations can run wild.”

Information: 480-782-2890.

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Tax credit donations spell benefit both for schools and you

By Diana Whittle

The malls are packed with shoppers and stockings are hung by the fire, but local school districts hope residents will add one more item to their holiday to do list: a tax-credit donation. It's a simple way, officials say, to redirect tax dollars to help students and public schools in Tempe and West Chandler.

Donations to any school in the Tempe Elementary, Kyrene or Tempe Union High School districts can be applied against the taxpayer's state income tax through the Arizona tax credit program.

Making a donation creates eligibility for the tax credit—even if the donor is not a parent to a child enrolled in a local school. The amount donated, up to \$200 per person or \$400 for married couples filing jointly, will be the amount of state tax credit that can be claimed.



Donating to a tax-credit-eligible organization will most likely leave the contributor in a tax neutral situation—meaning about the same total amount can be claimed whether using the tax credits or just paying the tax. The upside is that by donating, taxpayers get a say in how the money is spent by choosing which school or program to support.

Contributions can be up to the amount of the donor's expected Arizona tax liability. Contributing more than the total state tax amount allows the credits to be carried forward five years, so not to worry if the donation results in more credits than taxes.

Officials say tax credits give taxpayers a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, while at the same time helping to support extracurricular programs for students, defined as sponsored educational or recreational activities, which require enrolled students to pay a fee in order to participate in them—such as music and arts, athletic uniforms and equipment, field trips, after-school clubs or student leadership programs.

Donations can be made either to a specific school or a program within the district.

Beginning in 2016, the deadline for contributions was extended to April 15. The donation can be applied to the preceding tax year or the current one. Additional information can be found on the Arizona Department of Revenue state tax credit page at www.azdor.gov

Each of the school districts in report significant

community support.

Tempe Elementary Schools, for example, received \$237,545 last year. According to Gabrielle Olson, communications specialist for the district, donated funds were used for after-school enrichment clubs and tutoring, field trips to support classroom curriculum, science excursions, student leadership training and afterschool intramurals and athletics.

“The Tempe schools appreciate the support of parents and the community,” said Olson. “The students in Tempe have increased educational opportunities because of (these) donations.”

Kyrene District Schools collected \$969,087 for the 2016 calendar year.

According to Lauren Clark of Kyrene’s marketing and communication office, “Tax credit donations help students participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, art and music programs, character education and field trips.”

Tempe Union High School District benefited from \$1,142,574 in tax credit donations for 2016.

According to Jennifer Liewer, executive director of community relations for the district, “Programs to benefit from the tax credit donations included athletics/sport, clubs, academic competitions, music and performing arts programs, character education programs and technology clubs.”

Now donating is easier than ever, say officials, because payments can be made online through each of the district’s websites.

Kyrene School District, www.kyrene.org/taxcredit

Tempe School District, www.tempeschools.org/taxcredit

Tempe Union High School District, www.tempeunion.org/taxcredit

In some instances, employers will match their employees’ tax credit donations. If they do, it may double the contributor’s donation.

Contributors should remember to print and save the confirmation page to provide to the family’s tax preparer and/or keep for each payer’s tax records.

Chandler downtown unit to hire new executive as part of building a more ‘dynamic’ destination

Officials of the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership have announced the departure of Executive Director Beth Fiorenza, effective Dec. 29.

Fiorenza took over the job in March 2016 after serving as public relations and special events manager for the previous 16 months.

Prior to that she was chief operating officer at Experience Matters, a service organization for adults over 50.

Previously she was executive director for nine years at Tempe Community Action Agency. She also spent six years as a management assistant at Tempe Community Council.

She holds a master’s degree in public administration from Arizona State University. She received the Executive Director of the Year award from the Organization of Non-profit Executives.

Peter Sciacca, president of the board of DCCP, issued the following

statement:

“On behalf of the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, I am writing to let you know that our DCCP Executive Director, Beth Fiorenza, is no longer with the organization.

The DCCP Board of Directors will be hiring a qualified interim Executive Director while searching for a permanent replacement.

We anticipate the interim Executive Director will begin in early January, and hope to finalize the search process within three months. We will keep you updated as we move through the process.”

He added that the jobs of DCCP staff members Tracy Doren, Tanya Vaz and Tom Marsh remain unchanged.

Asked for details about Fiorenza’s departure, Sciacca said in an email:

“While personnel issues are strictly confidential, the board will take this opportunity to embrace the charge of making our downtown more dynamic, amazing, and attractive.

Part of the charge is finding and hiring the leadership to get us there while keeping us uniquely “**hip & historic**” amidst other vibrant valley downtowns.”



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K-8 Enrollment begins January 8 Kindergarten Roundup

January 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
All Kyrene Elementary Schools



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Baker/entrepreneur learns to survive nightowl regimen with 'less sleep, more yeast'

By Chelsea Flood

Ever wonder what drives people to do "crazy" things like skydive over an active volcano, hike Mt. Everest, run 20 miles on a crisp Sunday morning, or wake up every single day at 1:10 a.m. to bake delicious whole-grain bread?

One could speculate wildly, but the best way to understand that specific mindset is to simply ask.

In this case, let's talk bread with the man who miraculously wakes at a time when most night owls are casually slipping into dreamland.

Who is this man?

He's Ward Walston, co-owner with wife Leslie, of Great Harvest Bread Co. located in Tempe.

He is the dedicated baker behind every beautifully crafted loaf of bread.

As the Walston's quickly approach their decade anniversary of owning the beloved establishment, let's rewind to

the days of less yeast and more sleep.

Walston got his start at DeVry University in Phoenix in the late 70's studying electrical engineering. He then moved farther west to Southern California to work for a military subcontractor for 10 years, where he met the love of his life, Leslie.

Fast forward four years to their wedding in Salmon, Idaho, in 1988.

Two years later and the couple happily accepted the opportunity to own and operate a local hardware store, Coast to Coast.

The hardware-store lifestyle courses through Ward's veins, seeing as his grandfather owned a hardware store in 1943 that was passed on to his father. The Walston family just recently left the industry in 2016 after 74 years.

Two kids and 10 years later the Walston's decided it was time to lay down the tools in search of a new venture. Ward found himself an



Ward Walston calls on his paternalistic nature to help steer the day-to-day function of family-run Great Harvest Bread Co., which is putting in long hours through Christmas to meet what he says is usually the busiest time of the year.

— Wrangler News photo by Chelsea Flood

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Baker

From Page 8

opportunity working for a reputable contractor and friend, Jim Bob, with Ray's Heating.

After nine years being appointed as the "go-to guy" in the business, Ward decided it was time to return back to his true calling as an enthusiastic member of the self-employed world.

Now, cue the appetite to own a business paired with visions of baking warm, delicious bread.

"We both agreed we needed to be self-employed again and we knew it had to be a happy business," Ward says. "So we did our research and found that this location was up for sale from a nice, retired couple who built this place from the ground up.

We didn't just buy a bakery; we bought the Great Harvest name."

The Walston's along with son's George and Floyd, moved to Arizona in July 2008, and by the first of August they were officially the new owners of Great Harvest Bread Co.

They haven't looked back since.

According to Ward, a big part of the Great Harvest culture is to be community oriented.

"We love being able to be apart of community events, local markets, and donating whenever someone is in need. Over the years we have been able to donate to food banks, churches, and many local schools," Ward says. "We have quite a following here. We've watched some of our regular's kids grow up. It's incredible."

Ward adds: "99% of the people that walk through our doors are happy."

So what does a typical day look like for Ward?

Once he rises and walks out his front door, he enjoys a relaxing cruise on his motorcycle and arrives at the bakery by 1:45 a.m.

By 2 a.m. sharp the first bread has begun mixing, and each batch is a five-hour process. A secret ingredient to the success of Ward's morning schedule is his Circle K hot dog ritual at 4:10 a.m. every morning.

The gas station snack readies him for the start of the kneading process at exactly 5 a.m.

"I am a stickler for quality," Ward says. "The bread has to be good every single time and that's the commitment I think is absolutely necessary here. If our goal is to continually offer fresh, hot bread all day long, then that's exactly what we're going to do."

The local establishment currently employs 11, including both of Ward's sons.

"We are definitely unique," Ward says.

"We use all natural ingredients, fresh yeast, and stone ground wheat. No oils, no high-fructose corn syrup, and no conditioners are found anywhere near our bread. The secret is that we use fresh ground wheat berries

and honey. We buy our wheat from Golden Triangle, Montana, which is known for having the best wheat in the country. It helps us stand out from the rest."

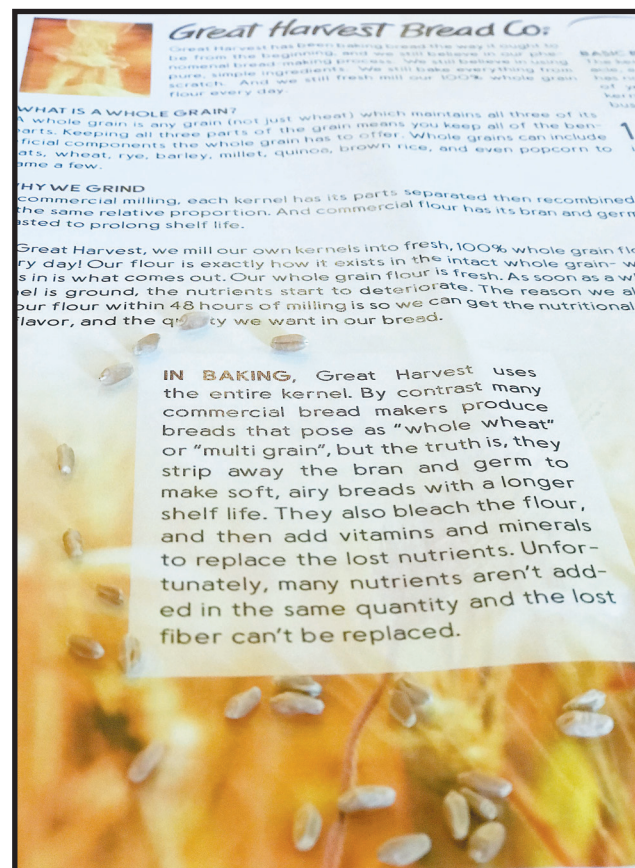
Ward has come to realize over the years that it's the little things that leave the biggest mark.

"You know what gets me? Watching someone try a slice of our bread for the very first time and seeing that light bulb moment slide across their face," Ward says. "I can't help but smile because that's when I know it's all worth it. I want this to be the highlight of people's days, otherwise I'm disappointed."

Despite how rebellious his schedule may appear to some, Ward defends his motivations to continue his daily duty with sound reasoning.

"I believe in what I do and I love the interactions with customers," Ward says. "When people say 'this is the best bread ever' it really motivates me to keep doing what I'm doing. I plan on working here and baking bread for as long as my body will allow me to. As long as I have the opportunity to work side by side with both of my sons and my wife, I will."

Information: 1730 E Warner Rd, Tempe. (480) 777-1141.



Wheat berries used by Great Harvest in the baking process. Unlike many other bakeries, the Tempe shop uses the entire kernel to make truly whole-wheat, multi-grain loaves.

— Wrangler News Photo by Chelsea Flood



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\$1 million donation accelerates plans to enlarge Lost Our Home pet shelter

By Maddie Johnson

It's hard to say if it's the holiday spirit or the love of animals that caused an anonymous donor to donate \$1 million dollars to the Lost Our Home Pet Rescue to purchase the facility they currently occupy in Tempe, but this act of kindness is making waves for the rescue.

LOH Pet Rescue helps pets and their families that may be struggling with home foreclosure, domestic violence cases or any other circumstance that may cause a family to not be able to care for their pets.

"What sets apart our foundation is that we help people and pets both," executive director and founder Jodi Polanski said.

The family that made the million-dollar donation saw the importance of LOH and was a great match for the foundation, but requested to stay anonymous to the public, according to Polanski.

"They love what we do," Polanski said, "and they know owning our own space and having that stability was the most important step to do all those big plans we have going forward."

On top of the million-dollar donation, LOH received a \$250,000 donation from the Rachael Ray Foundation which they will use to ignite the LOH's Home At Last campaign to make improvements to the facility and add a medical room for its pet residents.

Polanski said owning the space they occupied was the most important step to moving forward.

The shelter leased the facility in Tempe in 2013 as a temporary housing unit for rescued pets and was not able to make the necessary improvements for a

fully functioning pet shelter in a leased space.

"When we got the building four years ago we put the minimal in just to get by as a shelter, you don't want to put a lot of expensive renovations in a building you don't own," Polanski said.

The additional \$250,000 will go towards important renovations such as properly ventilated medical treatment rooms for cats and dogs.

The rescue also plans to add renovated space and improved living facilities to brighten the quality of life for its cats and dogs, and to increase the capacity to bring more furry friends to the shelter.

"It's going to look like its own little pet neighborhood," Polanski said.

LOH's next step is to continue expanding partnerships with programs such as domestic violence shelters to help improve the lives of people and their pets that may be suffering through hard times.

Though these large donations help the rescue immensely in kick starting their campaign, Polanski stresses the importance of small donations.

LOH is now offering commemorative bricks and other recognition opportunities for any donations given by businesses or individuals.

"Any donation any size adds up, our support of this shelter from day one has been those \$20 donations," Polanski said.

"It's more about the community coming together and giving little bits and pieces of what they can give and this makes the big plans come together."

Information: 480-602-445-7387 or lostourhome.org.

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A 'Bolt' of warmth, help . . . and love

By Lauren Clark

Motivation and support come in many forms, including a cold nose and a warm heart.

Kyrene de la Esperanza Elementary School welcomed its newest staff member, Bolt, a Labrador/golden retriever mix that will assist handler and principal Dr. Cheryl Greene and resource teacher Janet Moeur in their work with students.

Such relationships have blossomed since 1975, when Canine Companions for Independence began breeding, raising and dedicatedly training assistance dogs in over 40 commands designed to assist people or to motivate and inspire those with special needs.

Bolt can pull toy wagons, push drawers closed and retrieve all kinds of items. He has specific commands that allow him to interact with students in what those who have seen him at work describe as a calm and appropriate way.



Greene, Moeur and other school staff say they're delighted to welcome Bolt to the Esperanza campus. Greene says she's confident that Bolt's abilities and presence on campus will make a positive impact in the educational experiences of Esperanza students.

For more than 40 years, Canine Companions has been enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by training and placing more than 5,000 assistance dogs with program graduates, including more than 140 with military veterans and 1,500 with children.

The estimated cost of a highly trained Canine Companions dog like Bolt, and all follow-up support, is \$50,000, according to Greene.

However, each facility dog is provided at no cost. Canine Companions depends on the support of donors and volunteers to match each facility with an assistance dog like Bolt at no charge.

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Chandler tells all you ever wanted to know about fireworks

As holiday festivities begin their sparkle, Chandler Fire, Health and Medical officials are reminding residents of laws governing the use and sale of fireworks.

While some types of fireworks are legal to sell and purchase at local businesses, the use and misuse of fireworks can lead to injuries for both humans and pets, cause property damage and harm the environment.

Under Arizona law, the sale of permissible consumer fireworks is allowed from December 10 through January 3 and from May 20 through July 6. The use of permissible consumer fireworks is allowed December 24 through January 3 and from June 24 through July 6 on private property, with the permission of the property owner.

Chandler prohibits the use of permissible consumer fireworks on any public property, including city-owned or managed land, buildings and facilities.

This includes public parks, public school facilities, public retention basins, and public roads and streets within Chandler city limits.

If you do decide to purchase and use fireworks in Chandler, it's important to know the different rules for each of the three types: Display, consumer and novelty fireworks.

According to Chandler officials, display fireworks shoot into or through the air and may also detonate. These include the aerial devices that you typically see at large public Independence Day events. They are not legal to sell to consumers, and are not legal to use at any time in Chandler without a special event permit. Similar fireworks, including those that contain a higher percentage of black powder, such as M-80's, firecrackers, Roman candles, bottle rockets, etc., are also illegal.

Consumer fireworks do not go into the air, or explode. Some types of consumer fireworks are now legal in Arizona to sell to people age 16 and older. At retail locations, these fireworks must be marked with either "Consumer Fireworks" or "1.4 G Fireworks" labels, and they include ground-based and spinning sparkling devices. Although the sale of consumer fireworks is legal in Chandler, their use is restricted to private property (with owner permission) within the City limits.

The popular novelty items—snappers, snap caps, glow worms, snakes, party poppers, toy smoke devices and sparklers—are not regulated and can be sold and used anywhere in Chandler. At retail locations these must be labeled as "Novelty Fireworks." It's important to note that even the common "sparkler" burns at a very high temperature and can cause severe burns if mishandled.

Fireworks sales are allowed in certain types of retail locations, including temporary tents or structures. Chandler Fire Prevention Specialists work with these local businesses to ensure that their fireworks are displayed in the proper manner, have appropriate signage, and don't exceed allowable limits.

If Chandler residents see fireworks being sold or used inappropriately, they can report the violations to the non-emergency phone number of the Chandler Police Department at 480-782-4130. The Police Department can issue citations that can include a civil penalty of \$1,000.

Within the city, there are many potential sources of combustion, such as dry brush, palm trees, and wood fences. Once a fire starts it can easily extend into a nearby structure. Local officials are also concerned about fireworks being purchased locally and then used in forest or wildland areas.

Information: chandleraz.gov/fire

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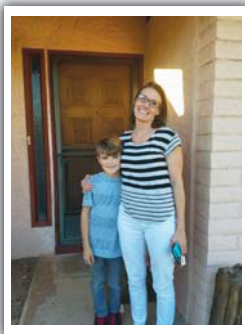
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Our sense of community

Why we believe in it and how we support it

Commentary by Don Kirkland

From our earliest days of publishing Wrangler News—then Warner Wrangler—in the early 1990s, one of our goals was to create a hometown-style newspaper from which our readers could reinforce their sense of community.

We tried our best then, as we do now, to tell stories that provide a way for people to build on their sense of neighborhood, to read about the things that happen in their (and our) city that bind us together rather than keep us apart.

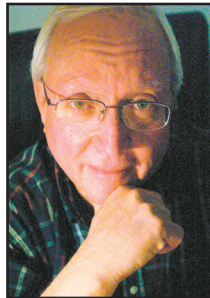
Oh, I'm sure there have been times when, as a newspaper, we could have sensationalized some of the news that came our way or taken a critical stance on decisions that were made by our community's leadership, but we've chosen to opt for what is, in my vernacular at least, "the high ground."

We hope we've accomplished that goal in part, and plan—even in times like these where criticism and divisiveness seem to have reached an unparalleled flash point—to continue to look for opportunities to praise the good works of those around us.

I was particularly reminded of that premise a few days ago when neighbors Bob and Karen hailed me as I was walking by to ask if I'd happened to see one of the couples who live on our street and who are regularly out and about—walking, caring for

their yard, driving a familiar vehicle to the home of a relative who lives nearby.

No, I hadn't. Nor had Bob or Karen. What seemed slightly worrisome was that these are folks who are *always* around. And when they aren't seen for a day or their Christmas lights are off or the house is dark, well, we share a bit of concern: Are they OK?



Adding a bit to the question was the fact that a few unfamiliar people had appeared at the couple's home the morning before, and it was since then—unconnected, as it turned out—that we hadn't seen any sign of life at the usually busy home. Nor did anyone respond to Bob's knock at the door.

Having agreed that maybe paying a visit to another family we knew to be friendly to the couple, or to the home of the nearby relative, might turn up some information, we put that small plan into action.

Results: Zero. So, feeling we'd exhausted every reasonable option, a call to Tempe police for a welfare check produced a helpful officer who set off on a small series of follow-up visits to the same places we'd gone. Again, nothing new.

It wasn't until the next morning that the mystery,

if there ever really was one, was solved. The couple and their relative had gone out of town overnight and were now back at home, garage door open as he worked in the yard, she headed off on her routine walk around the block. And, once again, holiday lights aglow along the roofline.

All of which brought us to the realization that we are a community after all. That even though we don't obsess over the comings and goings of our neighbors, we do seem to maintain at least a subconscious awareness of people's actions. When everything looks normal, no one pays much attention. When something seems off, we notice.

If this is one of the ways in which our sense of community pays off, in which we actually care about the well-being of our neighbors—in which a hometown paper like ours helps to create a sense that, yes, we're all in this together—then the "Warner Wranglers" of our little world serve a purpose that somehow tends to be overlooked, sometimes even by us.

Until, that is, the time comes for people like Bob and Karen to step into action.

So to them, and to you, our readers, we say welcome to the neighborhood.

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LIGHTING UP A (Happy) Holiday

By Billy Hardiman

Decorated homes, top and bottom photos, at 6480 W. Orchid Lane, West Chandler

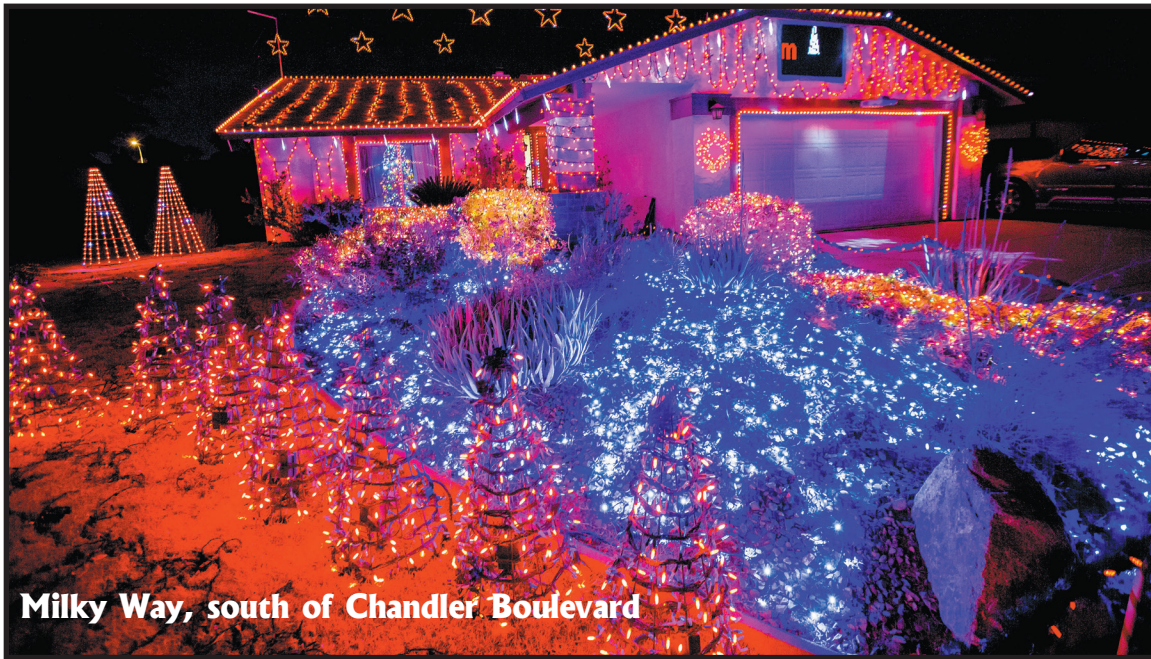


THE NIGHT

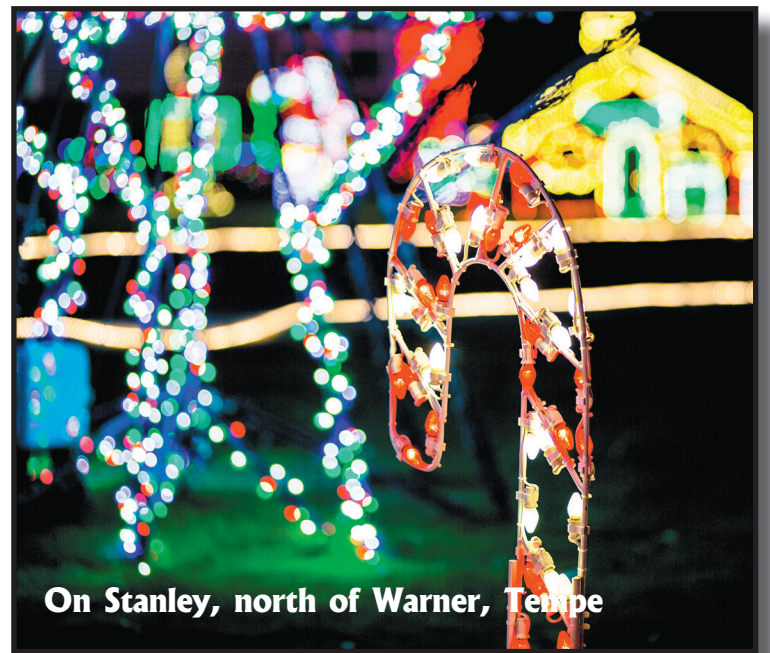
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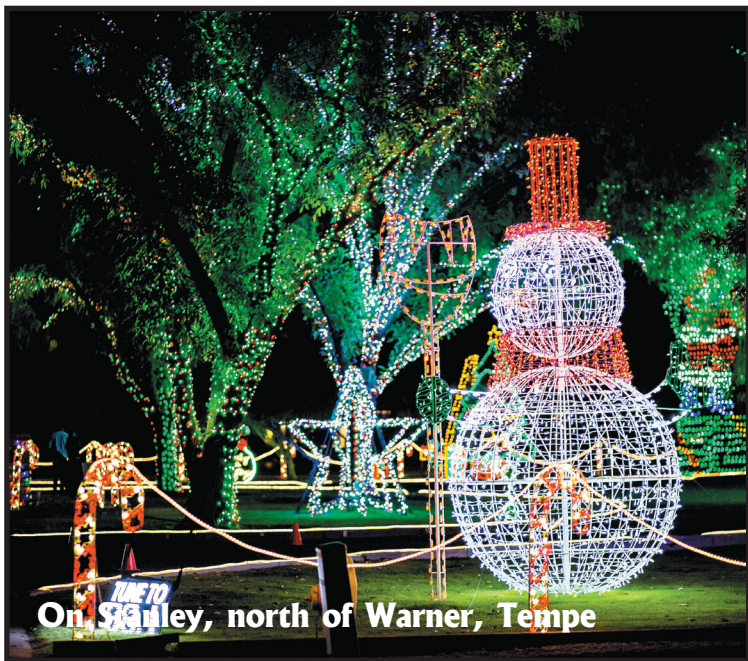




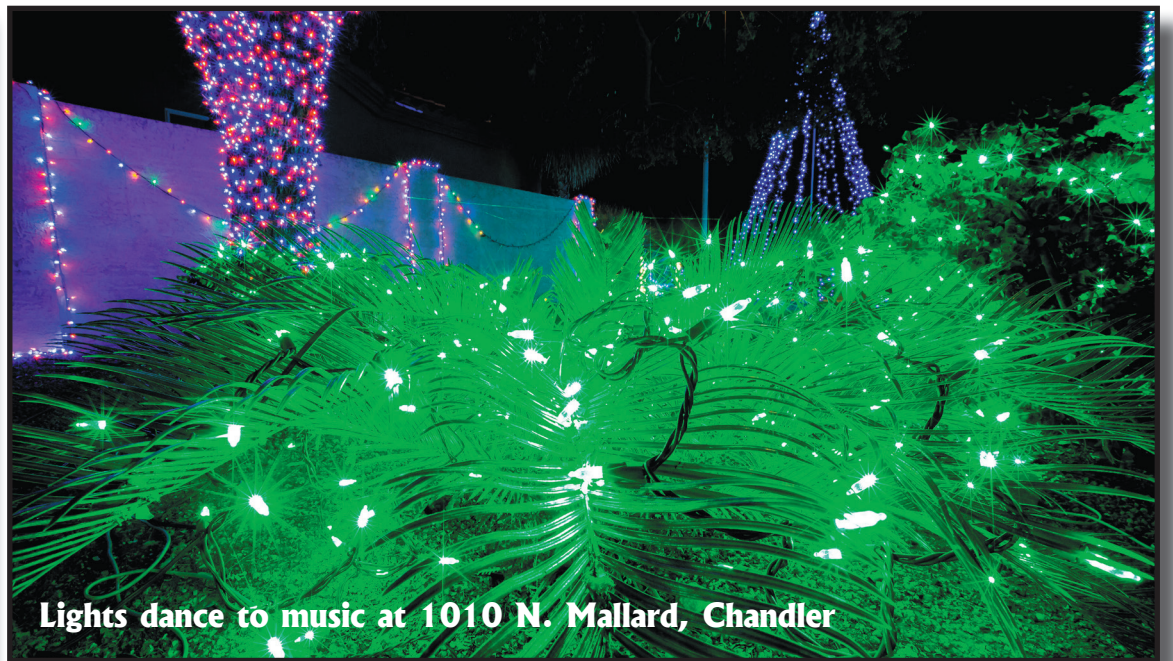
Milky Way, south of Chandler Boulevard



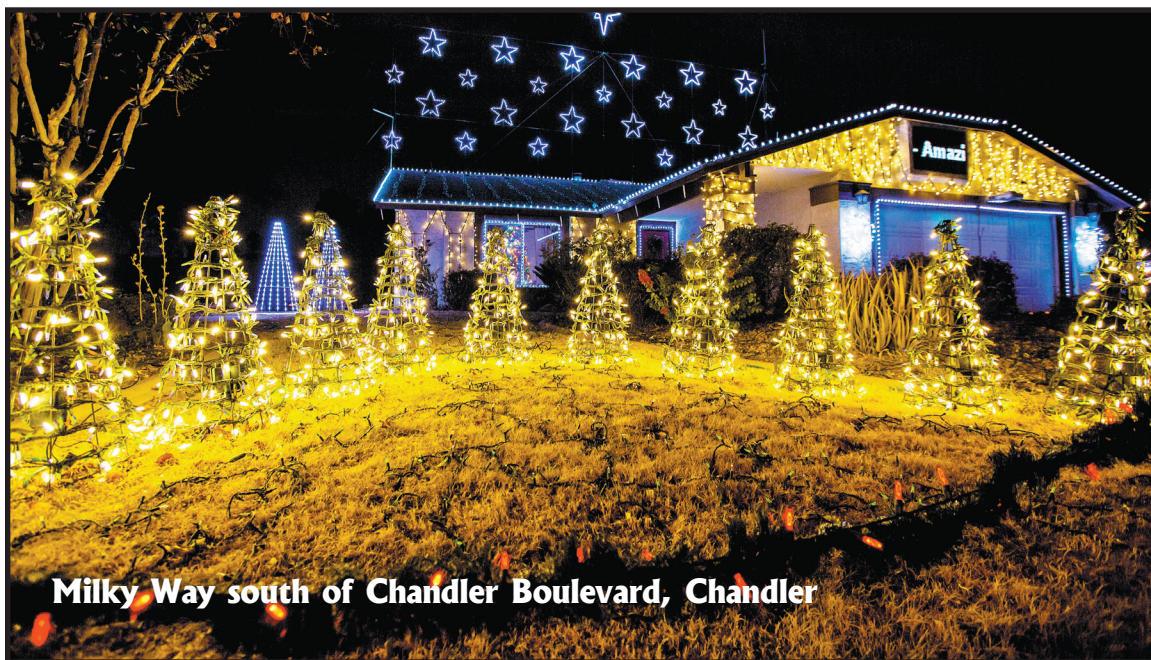
On Stanley, north of Warner, Tempe



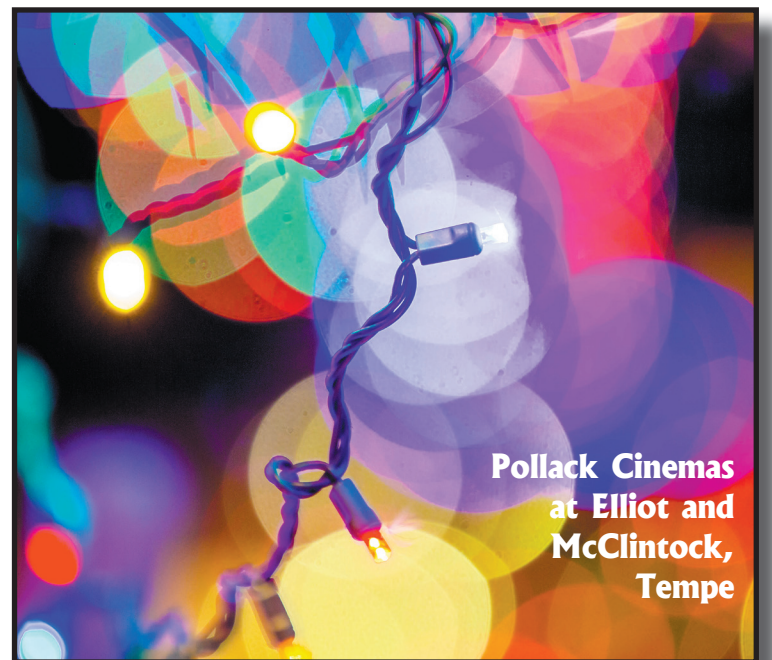
On Stanley, north of Warner, Tempe



Lights dance to music at 1010 N. Mallard, Chandler



Milky Way south of Chandler Boulevard, Chandler



**Pollack Cinemas
at Elliot and
McClintock,
Tempe**



Arizona Community Church members busily wrapped Christmas gifts as part of the Angel Tree Project which provides gifts to the children of the incarcerated. — Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

Angels

From Page 1

pick out a tag and start shopping, many taking advantage of the Black Friday bargains to help give Santa a boost for his buck.

This is the second year that Marilyn Mooneyham and her husband Dennis have volunteered to help with the Angel Tree Project at Arizona Community Church. The couple has eight families this year and two of those have 10 children apiece. In many cases, caregivers are unavailable by phone and so the Mooneyhams visit the family in person to verify those special Christmas wishes.

“It kind of takes my breath away just being able to assist and helping a family celebrate that maybe wouldn’t have been able to,” Marilyn said. “I think for me it’s just recognizing that these people are living with trauma all the time, with a family member in prison. Some of them are mothers.”

Basketballs and footballs are frequent requests, but so are jackets and Lego building blocks, Marilyn said. “I remember one little gal just wanted a special dress.”

Before the hundreds of packages get delivered though, there’s a huge wrapping party at Arizona Community Church where volunteers indulge in Christmas cookies and listen to Christmas tunes as they put together a mountain of packages. Each child receives a Bible, too. Still more volunteers help deliver the gifts.

In addition to the gift requested, church members often add still more. Instead of just the requested new shirt, they might include a pair of pants and pair of shoes as well.

“They go above and beyond what was requested,” Teters said. “It’s so nice to see what God is doing in our church. It’s an eye-opener to see how much love there is.”

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Sports

With Alex Zener

Although the Aztecs have several strong performers in their current wrestling program, it may be challenging for the defending Division I state championship team to repeat in 2018 after losing more than two-thirds of their state medalists to graduation when Division I is predicted to be extremely competitive this season.

“We lost seven state championship-place winners,” said Martinez. “These former seniors earned 137.5 of our 225 total championship points.” Graduating last May were state champions **Vincent Dolce** in the 152-lb. weight class and **Brandon Konecny** in the 160-lb. weight class, along with **Hunter Carmona**, who took third place at state in the 145-lb. weight class.

Additional graduating seniors who earned points toward last season’s state championship team included **Cole Bernstein**, who placed fourth in the 126-lb. weight class; **Nicholas Ruffalo**, fourth in the 144-lb. weight class; **Chris Fill**, fifth in the 182-lb. weight class; and **Jacob Featherman** who placed sixth in the 220-lb. weight class.

The Aztecs had wrestlers qualify for the 2017 Division I state championship tournament in all weight classifications except the 113-lb. category. Who qualifies this year will not be known for sure until after the sectionals.

“This season is going to be different than last year’s championship season,” said head coach **Jimmy Martinez**. “The competition from Sunnyside, Chandler, Mesa Mountain View, Tucson and Basha will be tough but we will still have opportunities if some of our new wrestlers are able to competitively fill the weight classes vacated by the championship team we had last season.”

The Aztecs did return 11 wrestlers with varsity experience from last season’s championship team, including four with state-championship tournament experience that will be counted on this season to provide the backbone of the team points.

“Senior **Jacob Garcia**, who was 23-2 last season, is set to defend his state championship title in the 138-lb. category,” said Martinez. “Jacob earned All-American honors after placing sixth in Greco-Roman wrestling at the Junior Nationals Championship Tournament held in Fargo, No. Dakota, July 15-22.”

Garcia has signed a letter of intent to wrestle at the United State Air Force Academy next fall.

“**Zack Kvavle** and **Bryce Nickel**, who both placed third at state last year, will be serious threats for earning championships this season for themselves,” said Martinez. “Zack and Bryce also wrestled throughout the summer and competed at the Junior Nationals in Fargo with Jacob Garcia.”

“In addition, we have **Jacob Santa Cruz**, who qualified for state the last two years, in the 195-lb. weight class, and is ready to get on the podium,” said Martinez.

The remaining wrestlers who have significant varsity experience that should help them heading into sectionals, according to Martinez, are **Matt**



Corona’s wrestling team went 9-1 to take third place at the Nate Johnson Memorial Invitational held Dec. 1-2 at Red Mountain high school.

— Photo courtesy Jimmy Martinez

Gable, Shane Aguarin, Bradley Buchholz, Armando Arellano, Ryan Chancellor and Roan Kelleher.

“We have a large senior class again this season who know what it’s like to win a championship,” said Martinez. “This is their fourth year in the program. They have a good understanding of what is expected and should be able to provide a good nucleus of work ethic, match experience and desire for success to inspire our younger wrestlers.”

A couple of these younger promising wrestlers include sophomores **Anthony Gonzales** and **Tanner Mendoza**.

“Anthony will be our 106-pound wrestler as we start the year,” said Martinez. “He had a very successful freshman year and should be very competitive this season for us.”

Mendoza was one of the six Aztec wrestlers to go undefeated with 10-0 records and be selected to the All-Tournament team when Corona took third place in the Nate Johnson Memorial Invitational held Dec. 1-2 at Red Mountain High School.

“The team compiled a 9-1 record during the tournament, losing only to eventual champion Yuma,” said Martinez.

The other five undefeated wrestlers who were also selected to the All-Tournament team included Zack Kvavle, Bryce Nickel, Armando Arellano, Roan Kelleher and Jacob Santa Cruz.

Martinez knows that each match is important for the Aztecs to succeed this season.

“The wrestlers need to learn quickly, try new things to add to their skills, and keep improving each week to be successful in February,” said Martinez. “We look forward to seeing the team evolve over the season and to good things happening as we head into sectionals and state.”

The Aztecs should get a chance to gain experience and improve their skills when the team competes in the Moon Valley Invite, Dec. 22-23; in the Peoria Invite, Jan. 5-6; and in the Battle for the Belt Tournament, Jan. 12-13 in Temecula, Calif., in addition to several dual meets this month and next.

The Sectionals are scheduled for Feb. 3 and the Division on State Championship Tournament Feb. 8-9.

Tempe All-City Association Awards

The Tempe All-City Association Fall Sports Awards Banquet was held Dec. 4 at the DoubleTree in Tempe. Corona had 12 athletes honored, McClintock three and Marcos de Niza two.

Brennen Agnew, Katie Carroll and Eileen Li received awards for their skills and achievements as members of Corona’s badminton team.

“Brennen finished the year 24-6 after taking third place overall in the Division I singles state championships,” said coach Darren Ridge. “Brennen, who only started playing badminton last year, is a multi-talented athlete who also plays basketball and softball.”

Carroll and Li were recognized for their doubles play.

“Katie and Eileen made a great doubles team, compiling a 20-2 record but losing in the second round to the eventual doubles state champions from Perry,” said Ridge. “Both played singles for us as well where Katie went 10-4 playing in the No. 3 spot while Eileen was 12-2 in the No. 4 position.”

Sophomore **Tres Walker** was honored for his diving skills while **Benjamin Quon, Reese Latto** and **Dylan Edge** were presented awards for swimming.

“Tres, a former gymnast, placed 10th at the

Division I state meet his first year diving,” said Corona head coach Ron Musgrave. “He won due to his work ethic and devotion to improving his craft. Both our diving coach, Mike Floyd, and myself look forward to working with him again next year.”

Quon received an All-City award all four years that he swam for Corona. He can and does swim a number of different events but dominated the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events this season.

“It was a fantastic senior year for Ben, who set a new Corona school record in the 500 freestyle (4:36.79) and missed setting a school record in the 200 freestyle by .2 seconds. He won the 200 and 500 at the Craig Cummins Invitational and the 100 backstroke at the Brophy Invitational, and placed second in the 200 at state and fourth in the 500,” said Musgrave.

“Ben was a member of the 400-yard freestyle relay team, along with Dylan Edge, Reese Latto and Adam Johnson, who set the school record (4:36.79),” said Musgrave. “He has committed to swim for Xavier University next fall.

“Reese was awarded for his accomplishments swimming the 100 breaststroke,” said Musgrave. “Reese set a personal goal to swim under one minute this year and to be a Tempe All-City awardee. He swam under a minute (59.55) at the state meet placing third and thus accomplished both goals.”

Edge was recognized with an award in both the 100 backstroke and the 200 IM.

“Dylan won third place at state in the backstroke and ninth in the 200 IM,” said Musgrave. “He dominated the 100 backstroke in the All-City Meet winning the event by over five seconds where he also

won the 200 IM.”

“The hard work of Ben, Reese and Dylan in exceeding personal and team goals helped our boys team win the All-City Meet for the first time in years,” said Musgrave. “Reese won the 100 breaststroke and was second in the 200 IM.

Corona’s volleyball team who was awarded the runner-up trophy at the 6A state volleyball tournament had four players given awards.

Brooke Nuneviller was awarded for her skills as an outside hitter. Nuneviller was the kill leader on the team with 593 kills or 5.0 kills a set and the leading digger on the team with 493 digs or 4.2 digs a set. In addition to her offensive and defensive skills, she had 49 aces and close to 50 blocks. Nuneviller has committed to play next fall at the University of Oregon.

Emma West tallied 249 kills and 45 blocks her senior year on Corona’s 41-3 team. She was given the All-City award as an opposite hitter.

Abigail or **Abby Meyer** was given the All-City award for her skill in setting up her hitters to win points. She compiled 1281 assists throughout the season or almost 11 assists a set while also serving more aces, 64, than anyone else on the team. She also dug the ball on average 5.3 times a match.

Alyssa Wissinger, received an award for her skills playing middle blocker. She had 222 kills and 52 total blocks her senior year.

Corona’s leading receiver, junior **Ricky Pearsall**, was given an All-City award for his outstanding play at the wide receiver position. Pearsall was the leading receiver on the team catching 74 passes for a total of 1153 yards or an average of 115.3 yards per game. He

scored 13 of the teams 20 touchdowns and on two-point conversion for a total of 80 points.

On defense, Pearsall, intercepted two passes. McClintock had three swimmers win awards. Senior **Rider Griffin** was honored in the 50-yard freestyle category. He placed 15th in the 100-yard Freestyle at the Division II state meet and was the leadoff swimmer in the Charger’s 200-yard Freestyle relay team along with **Jackson Hartgraves, Maxwell Nielsen** and **Gage Reitzel** which took eighth place.

McClintock’s girls team has two young swimmers who wowed their competition at the Division II state meet earlier this year and who won awards at the All-City banquet: **Sophie Velitchkov** and **Ryan Burke**.

Sophomore Velitchkov was awarded for her skills in swimming the 100 backstroke and the 100 freestyle. She took second place in the backstroke and 13th in the freestyle at the Division II state meet.

Burke, only a freshman, was awarded for the 100 butterfly and the 200 IM. Burke placed in two individual events at the state meet by taking 11th place in the 200-yard IM and 7th in the 100-yard Butterfly.

Velitchkov and Burke also swam on the Chargers 200-yard Medley relay team which finished in 9th place at state with freshman teammates **Candace Farling** and **Kristen Clark**.

Marcos de Niza had four football players received All-City awards: **Eilye-Oshaye Hill, Joren Davis, Mario Gastelum** and **Torren Union**.

— SPORTS, Page 24



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Sports

From Page 23

Hill was awarded for his skills as an offensive lineman. Playing in only six of the 11 games his junior year, Hill tallied two quarterback sacks along with 13 solo tackles and 9 assisted tackles for a total of 15 or 2.5 tackles a game.

Davis, who played in all 11 games his senior year, caught 36 passes for a total of 648 yards and four touchdowns making him the leading wide receiver on the Padres team.

Gastelum was awarded for his defensive skills as a linebacker as a junior. He played in 10 games and was the leading defensive tackler on the team with 73 total tackles where more than half or 38 of them were solo tackles. He also intercepted the ball two times and was given credit for causing two defensive fumbles.

Union, also a junior, was awarded for his play as a defensive back. Playing in only nine of the 11 games, he was credited with 13 solo and 18 total tackles.

Remembering Jimmy Williams: A legacy lives on

By Kody Acevedo

Jimmy Williams has been gone for nearly 20 years. Yet his legacy continues to live deep in the city of Tempe's heart.

A standout athlete who shined both on and off the field, Williams had his life cut short after he suffered a fatal heart attack in 1999 at age 35.

But in that short amount of time, Williams left a lasting impression on those who knew him best and loved him most.

His legacy was honored on Dec. 4 when he was inducted into the Tempe All-City Hall of Fame. He was the first former athlete to earn such an honor.

"There's some people who you remember," said Tim McBurney, the former Tempe High School head football coach. "There's some people who leave an impression. There's some people who will impact your life."

"Jimmy Williams changed (and) inspired all of us in a positive way for the rest of our lives."

Williams was a three-sport athlete where he excelled at football, wrestling and track. But football was his passion. McBurney coached Williams in all three sports.

"As a coach, I was fortunate enough to coach him in all three sports (and) it was a great opportunity for a young coach to be around, not just a great athlete—a great man."

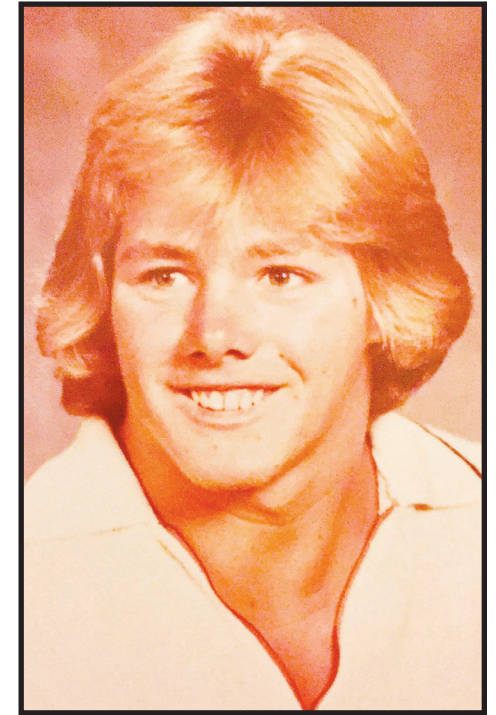
He was a two-way starter, where he played both sides of the ball, and a special-teams starter.

"He never came off the field," McBurney said.

Williams was 1st Team All-State Linebacker in 1980. He was selected to play in the 1981 Arizona High School All-Star Game and won two state championships as a wrestler in 1980 and 1981 as a junior and senior. He also went undefeated during his two championship wrestling seasons.

He graduated from Tempe High in 1981 and received a full-ride football scholarship at Arizona State University, where he played inside linebacker.

At ASU, he was selected the team's defensive captain two years straight and earned the In-State-Player-of-the-



Jimmy Williams

Year award three times.

He was also recognized as an All-PAC-10 Conference honoree in 1982.

Williams was later drafted to play in the Canadian Football League by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

But Tempe was his home. He

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Legacy

From Page 24

returned to the Valley and began coaching at his alma mater, Tempe High, and McClintock High School.

He also settled down with his high school sweetheart, Linda, and had two sons, Lee and Nicholas.

Linda and Lee accepted the award on Williams' behalf.

"He was humble and would sometimes be embarrassed at these events," Linda said. "But he would have the biggest grin on his face."

Williams also served as head football coach at Maricopa High School. He was an assistant coach at Desert Vista High School at the time of his death.

Linda said she had heard whispers that the Tempe All-City Association was planning to honor her late husband, but had no idea the award was his alone until she arrived at the banquet that evening.

"It's happy and it's sad. Just listening to all these wonderful things being said, it's hard," Linda said. "But, in the end, when I step away and I process it, I always do have a warm feeling afterwards. "To be honored all these years later, to have his named be mentioned after all these years, I'm incredibly proud."

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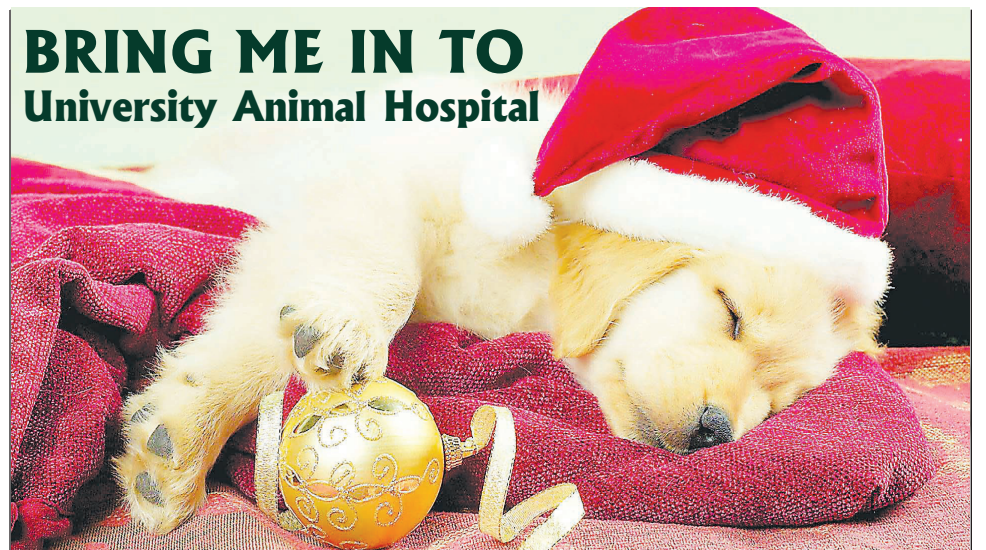
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Diversions . . . with M.V. Moorhead

A few flaws but Hamill emerges as 'Shakespearean'



After a lively space battle at the opening to get us warmed up, the latest from the franchise picks up right where *The Force Awakens* left off.

Scavenger-turned-warrior Rey (Daisy Ridley) has caught up with Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), now a recluse on a windswept island on some distant planet.

She's been sent by his sister Leia (Carrie Fisher) to fetch him back into the struggle between The Resistance and the brutal "First Order."

While she pleads with Luke to get back in the game, Rey is also in psychic touch with Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), Leia and Han Solo's wayward son who is still in the service of the dreadful First Order overlord Snoke (Andy Serkis).

Elsewhere in that galaxy far, far away, the last ragged remnant of the Resistance is trying to elude the First Order's ships, with the help of a desperate plan by former stormtrooper Finn (John Boyega), his new friend Rose (Kelly Marie Tran), hotheaded space ace Poe (Oscar Isaac) and others.

This involves a detour to a Monte-Carlo-like casino planet, and then sneaking aboard the First Order's warship, none of which goes smoothly.

As with *The Force Awakens*, much of the pleasure in *The Last Jedi* comes from the attractively non-generic actors, saddled with cringe-inducing dialogue but at least allowed some welcome freedom to be funny at times.

Through the character of the commoner heroine Rey, the story also takes a mild stab at acknowledging the dynastic bias that has been such a persistent part of the Star Wars series, and the attitudes on class that it would seem to imply.

These movies are more fixated on the inherent importance of bloodlines than a documentary on the Royal Family, and the treatment of the revelations about Rey's lineage would have seemed quaint in the '30s.

But much amusement also comes, as with all Star Wars movies, from the marginal verisimilitud—such casually observed fauna as the elephant-seal/dinosaur-like creatures which provide Luke with sustenance, and the toad-like maintenance workers that keep up his domicile.

The obligatory adorable creatures this time, by the way, are the porgs, beakless, wide-eyed seabirds with nesting-doll-shaped bodies.

I liked all of this, and I thoroughly enjoyed *The Last Jedi*. But as so often with big blockbuster movies it seemed too long to me. Since this is such a perennial cranky complaint from me, I was relieved to hear others saying the same as I left the screening.

It isn't just a question of a tired backside; director Rian Johnson, to whom the script is solely credited, puts together one of those big climatic finales typical of the series, crosscutting between several strands of action and building to a noble act of self-sacrifice, and then...it turns out it's not the end at all. There's

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Tempe Center for the Arts
sponsored by Northern Trust

another whole act still to go, and another big climactic confrontation. And a very good confrontation it is, but by then we've had our emotional release. And also, our backsides are tired.

Despite the Gotterdammerung title, The Last Jedi is not slated to be the last of this Star Wars trilogy.

It was, alas, the final film of Carrie Fisher, who has an imperturbably majestic mien here, and whose absence will be sorely felt in the series.

Even so, the best thing about the movie is Hamill.

As Luke in the original films, he was sweet and likable but callow to the point of insubstantial; it was like Richie Cunningham at the center of a space opera.

In The Last Jedi, with his scraggly hair and graying beard, his raspy voice and haunted, haggard eyes, he has a bearing that can fairly be called Shakespearean.

Ferdinand

Fox Animation and Blue Sky Studios are bravely opening this animated feature for kids the same weekend as The Last Jedi.

Maybe the theory is that they'll get the spillover audiences if the Star Wars flick sells out.

In any case, it's a sweet film. It's an adaptation of Munro Leaf's 1936 children's book, with superb illustrations by Robert Lawson, about the gentle-souled bull in Spain who doesn't want to fight, he just wants to sit under his favorite cork tree and smell the flowers.

Leaf and Lawson's tiny, beautiful classic (sometimes condemned for its hero's nonviolent nature) was already turned into a very faithful, Oscar-winning 8-minute cartoon short by Disney, Ferdinand the Bull, in 1938.

Turning it into a feature is another matter, of course.

The story had to be embellished, and to some extent vulgarized. It's spun out into an escape thriller, as Ferdinand (voiced by John Cena) and his "calming goat" Lupe (Kate McKinnon) try to help the other bulls crash out of their corral, having figured out what will happen to them whether they win or lose in the ring.

It took me a while to warm up to this over-plotting, but happily the movie is willing to go silly. About the time that Ferdinand and his pals were engaging in a dance-off with the uppity German show-horses in the next stable over, I started to crack up. Said bulls are voiced, by the way, by the likes of Anthony Anderson, Bobby Cannavale, David Tennant and, of all people,

Peyton Manning.

By the end, Ferdinand had won me over with its generous heart. Which, I must confess, did not stop me from having a hamburger the following day.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi is rated PG-13; Ferdinand is rated PG. Both play at Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion Center and other multiplexes Valleywide.

Conversations about U.S. Constitution at arts center

Starting in January, Tempe Center for the Arts will host a free Bill of Rights series, Constitutional Conversations, designed to provide guests an opportunity to engage in in-depth conversations about the country's Constitution and its first 10 Amendments.

TCA was selected for the program, according to Kelly Lovell-Taylor, the center's marketing manager, because of how the arts have often been affected by interpretations of the Constitution and resulting changes nationwide.

TCA Producing Artistic Director Ralph Remington will lead the conversations.

The monthly programs will focus on one of the amendments read by the moderator followed by open mic discussion.

Information: www.tempe.gov/tca or follow @tempecenterforthearts on Facebook; @tempearts on Twitter and Instagram.

Becoming a better communicator topic of chamber workshop

A championship ballroom dancer who's also a former Israeli commander will unveil her secrets to overcoming adversity and achieving success as she kicks off a leadership speaker series offered by the Tempe Chamber.

Dr. Karen Jacobson will bring her eclectic blend of talent to the first of a four-part series sponsored by Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, Tempe's tourism office and Cox Business.

In part one of the four-part series, "Together We Grow," Jacobson will show attendees how to become better communicators and unlock their performance in the workplace.

The high-energy program takes place 8-9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26, at MarinaLink by State Farm, 400 E. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe.

Information: 480-967-7891.

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As 2017 draws to a close, I am reminded of why Chambers are so important to our businesses and community.

We started 2017 off with Meet the Elected Officials and the debut of our *How We Stand* booklet depicting legislative agendas and priorities. We enjoyed a record 67 elected officials in attendance and look forward to the 2018 event on January 5th.

Women in Leadership evolved into an educational, mentoring and networking event that helped attendees work on professional development. Look for more interesting topics and speakers including Lin Sue Cooney in February.

The Ostrich Festival, Parade, Fun Run and Festival itself was in March and 2018 will be the 30th Anniversary of the Ostrich Festival so stay tuned for some fun surprises!

In June we honored business and individual excellence in Chandler at the Community Awards held at Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino when radio and TV personality, 'The Mayor,' Dave Pratt met up with Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny. We honored local business, the community and education sectors.

In September we hit the links at the beautiful Whirlwind Golf Club to benefit our scholarships of Chandler Gilbert Community College. Fun was had by all and we heard some pretty tall mulligan stories!

The Annual Chandler 100 took place at Quantum Helicopters in October and recognized the top 100 companies in Chandler. If you missed it, you missed incredible music by Urban Electra and the high-flying talents of 3 Queens Circus aerialists.

The Education Forum was held in November at Chandler Center for Arts. The Chamber rolled out a video program introducing students and job seekers to the, "What's Your Job?" video series.

As you can see, we all were pretty busy joining together to work towards a common goal, the prosperity of our businesses and our community. We cherish your support because without you, none of our success is possible. Together, we are truly better. Thank you for a great year and I look forward to the strides we will make together in 2018!



Terri Kimble
President/CEO
Chandler Chamber of Commerce

Women in Leadership Lunch & Learn



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COO of Dignity
Health Chandler
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Camille Casteel
Superintendent of
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Chandler City
Manager



Terri Kimble
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Don't miss your opportunity to mingle with top legislators and elected officials from Arizona at this informative breakfast event. Jennings Imel from the U.S. Chamber will present an update from Washington and the Chamber's Legislative document, *How We Stand* will be revealed.

Register @ ChandlerChamber.com/calendar



City of Chandler NEWS+ Events

chandleraz.gov/newsroom

Shop Chandler to Support City Services

As always, remember to “Invest Wisely, Shop Chandler” for your holiday gifts, as those tax dollars are critical to maintaining City services. Sales taxes from the money you spend here help support public safety, road improvements, neighborhoods – and our economic development efforts. These revenues also are critical for maintaining a high quality of life enhanced by parks, sports fields, trails, pools and recreation programs.



Trash and Recycling Collection Days Shift for Two Week Holiday Period



There will be no trash or recycling collection on Monday, Dec. 25 or Jan. 1, 2018. Every household must place their can at the curb by 6 a.m. on the day following your regular collection day from Dec. 25 – Jan. 6, 2018.

Trash and recycling collection will occur as usual for the Martin Luther King Jr./Civil Rights holiday on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018. The Recycling-Solid Waste Collection Center is: OPEN: Thursday through Monday CLOSED : Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & City Observed Holidays. City offices will be closed:

- Monday, Dec. 25, for the Christmas holiday.
- Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, for the New Year’s Day holiday.

Public Feedback Impacts Chandler’s Fiscal Priorities

Chandler’s annual budget development process is underway and residents are encouraged to provide their thoughts about the community and its future through a survey at chandleraz.gov/budget. The survey will be available through the end of December. Results are shared with the Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Manager and staff to assist in the formulation of the City’s financial plan. For more information, call 782-2252.

Christmas Tree Disposal and Recycling Options



Let the City of Chandler recycle your Christmas tree after the holidays. Christmas trees that are collected are chipped and reused in park landscaping projects. For safety, please remove tree stands, nails, lights, ornaments and garland before recycling, and do not place trees in bags.

Chandler offers several methods for tree recycling.

- Drop-off boxes are available at multiple locations from Dec. 26, through Jan. 12, 2018.

Visit chandleraz.gov/recycle or call 782-3510 for locations.

- Trees also will be collected separately at the curb on your recycling collection day, from Dec. 26, to Jan. 12, 2018. You do not have to schedule this collection, but trees must be at the edge of your driveway (no more than four feet onto your property) by 6 a.m. on your recycling day. Do not place the tree in the recycling bin, on the sidewalk or street.
- Live potted Christmas trees can be donated for replanting at City parks by dropping them off at the City’s Community Center or can be scheduled for pick up by calling 782-2745.

EVENTS



DECEMBER

- 16 Pictures with Santa at Santa’s House, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 782-2735
- 19 Polar Express: A Magical Evening with Santa Claus, Sunset Library, 782-2800
- 21 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 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
- 28 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539

JANUARY

- 1 New Year’s Day holiday, City offices closed
- 2-7 Zoppé – An Italian Family Circus, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 4 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 8 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 10 PHXEV Angel Investor Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3034
- 11 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 11 “They Risked Their Lives for Others,” Center for the Arts, 897-0588
- 11 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 13 Our Stories: Petroglyphs, Downtown Library, 782-2717

- 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
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr./Civil Rights Day holiday; City offices closed
- 18 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 18 Sonoran Sunset Series: Rockin’ Memories, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2890
- 22 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 25 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 25 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 27 Regional Unity Walk, Tempe Town Lake, 782-2214
- 28 Chandler Symphony, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

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

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny & City Council





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SRP canal dry-up to end in area Dec. 17

Portions of the SRP canals on the south side of the Salt River are undergoing annual maintenance and construction activities.

Many irrigation customers in the affected area are not receiving water from the canals while this work is underway.

The affected areas include Tempe, Chandler, Mesa, Gilbert and south Phoenix.

Dry-ups potentially result in increased

construction traffic on canal banks as SRP crews work to remove silt, replace concrete lining and repair gates.

The current dry-up is taking place through Sunday, Dec. 17.

A second dry-up, for canals located north of the Salt River, is scheduled from Jan. 5 to Feb. 4.

For their safety, area residents who use the canal banks for recreational activities should note the increased construction and maintenance activities along the canal banks.

Under no circumstances should local residents enter the canals. Posted warning signs should be obeyed.

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Tempe Leadership project Planting a garden, outside the box

A typical garden sparks visions of seedlings sprouting in a box alongside colorful flowers. This year, Tempe Leadership's most recent class is partnering with Tempe Center for Habilitation to step outside the box to design and build a unique garden, right outside TCH's Tempe headquarters.

The garden will be designed and built to provide sensory elements including art and musical instruments, a water feature, raised garden beds and will provide an enjoyable outdoor space and activities for TCH residents as well as an area for TCH to hold meetings and community events.

Shana Ellis, a Tempe Leadership alumni and president/CEO of TCH, says she appreciates seeing the community working together to make the garden a reality.

"This is something we've wanted for quite some time now," Ellis says. "It's exciting to see the planning stage starting."

To complete this project, Tempe Leadership will work with local volunteer organizations to provide labor; partner with community businesses to sponsor portions of the garden; and raise money through a charity event and tax credit donations.

The project will begin in January and is

scheduled to be completed by May.

This is Tempe Leadership's 33rd class of engaged members of the Tempe community who were competitively selected to participate in this year-long program.

"We were considering several great projects when the class visited TCH," says Samantha Thompson, a member of Class 33. "Seeing the residents of TCH interact with the staff and environment there made us realize how incredibly special this place is."

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We're taking a holiday

With this, our last issue of 2017, we've scheduled an extra week between editions so we can spend some time with our (we sometimes fear) neglected families. Our offices will remain open Dec. 18-22 but will be closed Dec. 25-29.

This means that we'll need your stories, photos and advertising reservations by Wednesday, Jan. 3, to guarantee we have all of our content lined up in time for the Jan. 13 issue. Please feel free to call 480-966-0845 or email editor@wranglernews.com if you have questions. Thanks for a great year—and Happy Holidays!

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THE FINAL WORD

Tempe's 'non-partisan' governance and your Council vote

By Pam Goronkin

Did you realize that when Tempe signed off on its Charter Government documents in 1964, it declared itself to be a non-partisan, Mayor/Council/City Manager form of government?

In their wisdom, our city's forebears believed that partisan platforms with broad, national implications would not be helpful regarding local issues. And if Tempe's elected officials hired a professional City Manager,

then corruption and cronyism could be better avoided.

Recent elections, however, have not only become more partisan but some candidates, including now some incumbents, have begun behaving like a "ticket" or a "slate," wherein they canvass for newcomer candidates or companion candidates of their same party, distribute new candidates' literature and signs and seek solidarity and endorsement with their same-party colleagues from the current council.

Doesn't sound non-partisan to me. Some might regard it as cronyism.

It's not illegal, but it's also not in the spirit of 'non-partisan' governance. And it won't result in a 'non-partisan' City Council.

I find this troubling. Our city benefits from a broad diversity of views when debating issues of importance to the financial, structural and cultural health of the community. If everyone is holding hands in solidarity even during the election process, will they just be in lock-step as they determine Tempe's fate regarding essential services and new initiatives?



Where does the debate come into play if everyone is already on the same page? Is this healthy for city governance? Smacks of "group-think."

Sure, there were times in the past when either a former mayor or a current sitting councilmember might endorse someone new on the ballot. Often, though, endorsers came from the opposite party...and rarely were such endorsements forthcoming from an incumbent in the current race.

Candidates, by definition, are running in opposition to all other candidates in a non-partisan campaign.

Maybe I wouldn't find this as disturbing if I thought partisan politics were working well at the state and federal level. But, truly, the American public is more divided politically than ever. Why bring this partisan fervor onto Tempe's City Council?

When candidates canvass in your neighborhood, be wary if they're not just campaigning for themselves but are also asking you to support a pal who is a newcomer-candidate.

New voices are important to keep the conversation at City Hall fresh with ideas. But if those new voices feel obligated to an incumbent who helped to get them elected, how do they maintain their independence?

Better they should campaign for—and think for—themselves.

Pam Goronkin is a former member of the Tempe City Council and past president/CEO of Downtown Tempe Community Inc.

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Courtyard Entry, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Granite Island Kitchen, Master Bed with Sitting Room, Entertaining Back Yard with Salt water Pool, BBQ, Cul De Sac Street, on Greenbelt Mid \$400's

MOTHER-IN-LAW SUITE



NO HOA, Block Construction, Split Floor Plan 4 Beds, 3 baths, Granite Kitchen, Corner Lot, Pool, Fire-pit, RV Parking, Great Price \$575,000



KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
EAST VALLEY



Katy Agnew



Patti Agnew

The Agnew Real Estate Team

480.797.2891