



Jan 27 - Feb 9, 2018 □ Vol 29, No 2



So. Tempe voters take a stand

South Tempe residents packed the chairs and sidelines for a forum held at Arizona Community Church that featured five of the candidates vying to fill three open slots on the Tempe City Council. From the tiered-water-billing system to a short-term-rental fracas, candidates got a taste of residents' simmering concerns.

— Wrangler News photo
by Kody Acevedo

• More photos on Page 31

Kyrene joins the battle confronting crisis of suicidal, at-risk teens

By Joyce Coronel

After an alarming uptick in teen suicides in the East Valley late last year, Kyrene educators and students were among thousands who took action by attending a conference aimed at prevention.

"Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life Youth Conference," held at Grand Canyon University this month, drew Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely alongside students from Aprende and Pueblo middle schools.

"The psychiatrists were saying that when a child comes in and says he's being bullied, you don't ask what happened or why—just listen," Vesely said. Such an approach tends to validate the reason for the bullying. "To me, that was huge as an educator."

Instead, educators, parents and caring adults need to listen to students, validate their feelings and assure them of support. That's especially important when students are struggling with depression—one of the factors often linked with suicide.

— TEENS, Page 12

Council candidates field questions, list priorities Panel faces residents' frustration

Commentary by Jonathan Coronel

It's become a cliché archetype in American society: the courageous journalist who speaks truth to power and holds elected officials accountable. After observing the Tempe City Council candidate forum held at Arizona Community Church on Jan. 24, however, it's evident that informed private citizens seem to be the real watchdogs of government.

While candidates Jennifer Adams, Sarah Kader, Lauren Kuby, Justin Stewart and Genevieve Vega may have thought they were going to a simple meet-and-greet forum to introduce themselves to Tempe voters, the night was filled with pointed questions by concerned citizens who attended the nearly standing-room-only session.

After the candidates gave a brief overview of their vision for their city, several eager hands shot up to ask questions, mainly concerning bread-and-butter economic issues like water bills and property values. One longtime Tempe resident and ASU grad voiced concerns about the proliferation of neighborhood properties being turned into Airbnbs, whose patrons' sometimes rowdy comings and goings can create tension for local homeowners.

Knowing that politicians can often be long on platitudes and short on specific solutions, this speaker cut right to the chase, asking the panel:

"Other than stating you will *study* the problem, what is your personal feeling about this problem and what will you be *doing* as a Tempe City Council member to...keep our neighborhoods protected?"

For her incisive question the concerned citizen received applause from the entire room as well as empathy from all the candidates, who agreed that this was a problem for neighborhoods that needed to be addressed with city zoning regulations.

All candidates, however, decried the state legislature's recent passage of a law removing citywide Airbnb restrictions, which has left city councils largely hamstrung in addressing this issue.

Another attendee voiced his frustration with Tempe's tiered water system, which increases prices per gallon as a household's consumption of water increases past 6,000 gallons.

"How are we protecting neighborhoods and encouraging businesses to come to south Tempe if, because of your policies, we are going to be

—CANDIDATES, Page 6

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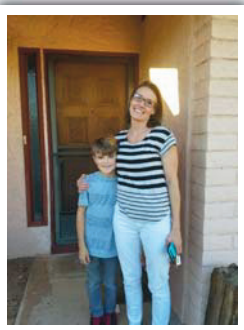
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\$500k grant helps fund Tempe's free pre-school offering

In line with its commitment to support early childhood education, a major Valley grant-making organization has awarded half a million dollars to Tempe's free preschool pilot program, a first-ever effort by the city to improve kindergarten readiness and long-term school success for local children.

It is a significant recognition for Tempe, the only city in Arizona and one of about 10 nationwide, to fund free preschool, say officials.

"We are gratified that such an important local institution as Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust is supporting the children of our community," said Councilmember David Schapira.

The grant supports professional development in quality preschool programming for teachers and instructional assistants involved with the Preschool Resource Expansion initiative, known as Tempe PRE.

This type of training has shown to produce positive academic and social outcomes for children, according to those involved with the program.

"Skilled, highly trained teachers give our children high-quality preschool experiences so they enter kindergarten ready to learn," said Marie Raymond, education and youth development manager for the city's Human Services Department.

This specialized training will help Tempe PRE's goal to achieve high-quality ratings in the statewide Quality Ratings and Improvement System, said a city spokeswoman.

Tempe PRE is a two-year pilot program approved by the Tempe City Council that began in fall 2017. Tempe PRE's 360 students are taught by certified teachers using child-centered curriculum. The program's 20 classrooms are housed in 13 local elementary schools through partnerships with the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene school districts.

According to city officials, one of the objectives of Tempe PRE is to improve kindergarten readiness and long-term school success. High-quality preschool in Tempe is designed to complement the city's Roadmap for Education plan, which aims to ensure that all Tempe children live in stable and nurturing families; are mentally and physically healthy; are ready to succeed in school; live in safe and supportive neighborhoods; and make successful transitions to adulthood.

Information: www.tempe.gov/education.



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Broadmor Elementary School students have a new go-to spot when they feel the need for a friend. The Buddy Bench, located near the playground, offers kids the opportunity to make—or be—a friend, helping build relationships and a positive atmosphere at the Tempe school.

Hey, buddy, will you come over and sit with us?

Photos and story by Gabrielle Olson
Communication Specialist
Tempe Elementary School District

Feeling excluded is often painful, lonely, and confusing for children. At Broadmor Elementary, students and staff have come up with a clever way to promote new friendships and a school culture built on inclusion and kindness.

Known as the Buddy Bench, it's located next to the playground and provides a way for students needing a friend to communicate that need to their peers.

"If you don't have a friend, this is where you go to get one!" explained first-grade student Kingston Guntei.

The Buddy Bench was a project led by last year's student council. With the help of third-grade teacher Lyana Guevara and teacher on special assignment Andrea Wald, the students worked on designing the Buddy Bench, researched ways to fund it, and also took leadership in communicating the purpose of the bench to their peers.

The bench was fully funded by the school last year and implemented in October.

"We have had several instances in which students needed a friend, or simply felt lonely or sad and have had their classmates step up and be there for them," said Guevara.

"We have even had kindergarteners

and first-graders befriended by their older classmates, fourth- or fifth-graders."

"I used the Buddy Bench when it was lunch recess and I sat there for five seconds and then two friends came over and asked me to play," said first-grade student Adrita Hossain.

"It made me feel happy."

When observing the playground in action, many students make a habit to wander to the Buddy Bench "just in case" there might be someone in need. The bench has proven as a great way for Broadmor students to build their community and be leaders for their peers as well.

The Buddy Bench is not the only way Broadmor is working toward creating a more inclusive culture.

The implementation of the Second Step social skills curriculum, Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, and leadership from classroom teachers has been a coordinated effort to positively impact the school's culture.

"I truly believe that the Buddy Bench has made a positive impact for children who need a friend, or want to be included, and helps to ensure every child has a place on the playground," said Broadmor Principal Barry Fritch.

"It makes a difference every day."



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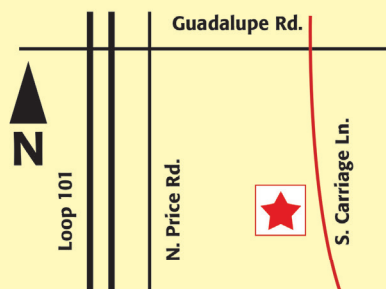
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Candidates

From Page I

spending....who knows how much more money on water, which is less money that we will be able to spend on restaurants and shops?

"While everyone is studying it, we're cutting checks!"

While councilmember and candidate for reelection Lauren Kuby cited the potential shortage of water in the near future as the rationale for the tiered pricing system, Jennifer Adams received a resounding applause from the room for her response, arguing that the tiered system scares away small businesses and decreases property values.

"I completely disagree with the tiered water system...This is beating us with a stick instead of using carrots to get what you want. We have to have more communication; we should have been made aware earlier on so people could have changed their landscapes to xeriscape if they wanted."

Other highlights from the candidates came when one attendee asked how they plan to make Tempe more accessible for senior citizens. Justin Stewart, current chair of the Mitchell Park Neighborhood Association, agreed that this was an important priority for him, while drawing chuckles from the crowd with his humorous uprightness.

"I'll be honest, I just put a skate park — which isn't so much for seniors — in Mitchell Park. But with that being said we have so many seniors in Mitchell Park, I'd like to find out for their next grant what they would like to have there so we can have 16-year-olds skating and 70- and 80-year-olds doing what they want to do in the park."

While attendees also voiced concerns over bike paths, decrepit neighborhood roads and expanding the Orbit bus service, the main issues of the night continued to harken back to basic economic issues.

At the end of the night, it all seemed to boil down to the economy, stupid.

1,000 jobs to open with bank expansion

Newly arrived Bank of the West may hire up to 1,000 people at a new office that will support company operations across the U.S.

"Our new facility in Tempe will be an important addition to our footprint and play a key role in our long-term growth," said Nandita Bakhshi, president and CEO of the San Francisco-based financial-services company, in a statement.

Based on the ability to find workers and other factors, the office potentially could have about 1,000 employees by the end of 2018, according to a company spokesman.

It would be the company's second-largest U.S. office outside those in the San Francisco Bay area and would support a full range of bank operations.

Bank of the West has 18 Arizona branches, primarily outside the Valley.

The site-selection process took about 18 months. As favorable factors, company officials cited Tempe's "vibrant, centrally located community" that includes "a robust pool of talented professionals and favorable business conditions."

City's rental subsidy proves a life-saver



By Diana Whittle

For Tempe resident Jennifer Johnson, life often feels like a juggling act—working multiple jobs, going to school, raising four kids and handling whatever else life throws at her.

It isn't easy keeping all the balls in the air. But over the past five years, the city of Tempe Housing Authority has served as a supportive, financial partner.

As a Housing Choice Voucher holder, Johnson receives help with her rent payment through HUD's Section 8 program, which provides rent subsidies for the city's eligible low-income and, in some cases, even more impoverished very-low-income families.

Johnson also is eligible to participate in another federally funded program known as Family Self-Sufficiency.

The FSS program assists Johnson, along with 38 other local participants, in working toward a more stable financial future and by saving for the purchase of a home of their own.

"I'm a goal-oriented person, and the FSS program always gave me something to strive for," said Johnson, 39, who currently works as a medical assistant.

"It was almost like the city held my hand. And, when things came along that knocked me down, they had my back," she said. "Then, I could keep going."

Johnson's story is a familiar one to the staff in Tempe who administer the housing programs. Val Sarver, a housing-service specialist, says that families come to the program with a wide-range of goals. "For one client," she says, "it may be completing a general equivalency diploma, or GED. For another, it might be polishing interview skills to land a better job."

"For yet another, it might be going back to school to obtain a degree," said Sarver.

Typically, what the FSS families share is the struggle to be financially self-sufficient, as well as the dream of a better future, which can seem out of reach.

That's where the Family Self-Sufficiency program comes in to help. Services are offered only to families who are connected to Housing Choice Vouchers, a voluntary program with myriad support services that can help participants meet short- and long-term goals over five years.

"Any number of obstacles can stand in the way," said Sarver, "from poor credit to the need for job training to a lack of education."

Often, there are no easy answers to these challenges. A client with a criminal history, for instance, may have a difficult time finding a job. To meet employment goals, the client works toward a GED, learns how to create a resume, locates employers

who will hire someone with a felony record, maintains at least a modest closetful of professional outfits for interviews, sets up a checking account and so on.

Tempe's Sarver, thankfully, tries to be there every step of the way.

As families in the program become more self-sufficient and can pay a portion of their rent, funds are deposited into an escrow account. Successful graduates transition off public assistance and leave with a nest egg that will help boost their circumstances.

In the past year, Tempe had three participants meet their goals successfully and graduate.

"When we teach people to be self-sufficient, they're finding a more financially stable career, furthering their education and possibly purchasing homes," Sarver said.

"The FSS program encourages a range of outcomes for participants. Homeownership is one of them, and this year I am working with two individuals who are going through the process of becoming homeowners. The funds that participants build up in their escrow accounts allow them to take these next steps."

For Johnson, the Housing Choice Voucher program was always supposed to be a temporary measure.

Largely on her own since age 14, Johnson was on a path filled with challenging twists and turns through job loss, a car accident, the premature birth of a child, financial woes and other economic and personal woes. Many times, she found herself working multiple jobs to keep the family afloat while attending college classes to further her education.

Johnson pursued Housing Choice Voucher assistance at the suggestion of a neighbor. The decision turned out to be life changing, bringing much-needed stability to the family.

Taking part in the FSS program only improved opportunities. Johnson worked to establish good credit and attended classes that delved into everything from financial literacy to housing options through nonprofit organizations.

In all, Johnson participated in the Housing Choice Voucher and FSS programs for 10 years.

"I wanted to be self-sufficient," she said. "I just wanted to get to a point where I could buy my groceries without a food stamp card and pay my own rent."

Now a successful graduate of the FSS program—with a nice nest egg in the bank—Johnson is still doing a juggling act, but sees a brighter future for herself and her family.

Johnson's heart is in being a mom to her four children, ages 2 to 20, and she admits being thrilled to have a year-old granddaughter.

She is currently an instructor at an allied health college, teaching aspiring medical assistants, and would ultimately like to become a nurse. She also daydreams about traveling, with Greece at the top of her bucket list.

And then there's homeownership. When the lease is up on the family's Tempe rental, Johnson and her fiancé will start house hunting, she says.

The road to Johnson's newfound optimism has been dotted with turns and detours, but throughout the journey she has been driven by a simple mantra.

"You just do what you gotta do," she said. "I learned at an early age that things just don't fall in your lap. You have to work for what you want."

For more information on housing assistance options in Tempe, visit the Housing Services Division at www.tempe.gov/housing or call 480-350-8950.

Advice to kids who want to succeed: 'Rise Up'

Classroom learning, as we've all been told, may be the mainstay of education, but it's only one pathway in the diverse road to becoming a happy, successful adult.

Thereby was born Rise Up, an 8-week pilot program that's being conducted to help 24 selected Kyrene Middle School students discover and co-create through various activities focusing on the main pillars of life: mental, physical and socio-emotional.

Kyrene hopes to see the program spread to multiple schools throughout the district.

"It's done a lot of good at KMS. We've seen how kids' attitudes develop, and the way they're treating each other has improved," said Bonny Dolinsek, a Kyrene spokeswoman.

"We're hoping more schools will participate."

The selected students met before school two days a week for six weeks, partaking in active and written team building activities.

Adam Eslinger, administrator of Rise Up program and KMS academic behavior specialist, says the program yielded valuable insights, particularly in gaining a broader understanding of societal norms.

"The students in the Rise Up group bonded together across friend groups," Eslinger said. "They learned the beginning stages of how to be an effective leader and help improve others around them. They also began to recognize the world around them in deeper ways."

"The students started to recognize individuals who needed a friend and how to make their surroundings a better place."

The goal of the program, according to Eslinger, is to facilitate the growth and maturity of students, encouraging them to step outside their comfort zones and help each other whenever needed.

"The students who participated will take these lessons into the classroom to look outside themselves to see who needs extra support," Eslinger said.

"They learn to work hard and go beyond the surface level, leading them to dig deeper into content. As they step out of school, they will become agents of change looking to improve their community and help make the world a better place."

As a final note of goodbye, the students joined in a celebration on Dec. 1 at the Arizona Grand Resort and Spa. They exchanged stories, dined, participated in team challenges and games, and set the stage for the next phase of their Rise Up journey, which will evolve into a three-part process.

Educators involved in the program weren't the only ones impressed with its outcome.

Vianaye Trujillo, a 7th grade participant, called the Rise Up experience worth the group's involvement.

"During Rise Up, I had a great time. It was awesome getting to play games before school with some cool people. The coaches were nice and made me feel like they cared about us."

"My favorite game we played was dodgeball, and I really enjoyed the lesson about how leaders build others up. This program helped me grow as a person, and even though I had to get up earlier, I am glad I signed up to take it."

The program was conducted in partnership with Mark Farrell, president of Progressive Roofing, and Activlab, a sports and fitness enterprise.

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Feedback . . .

Short-term rentals

Giving opportunity for vacation rental business is a healthy business competition among all others who have the same type of business. Somehow, general statutes of the state have to be reviewed to determine the applicable laws and regulations as it relates to leasing vacation property.

Regulations on vacation rentals...follow a state standard for occupancy, set up a system for permitting and enforcement, and provide renters with a code of conduct that covers issues like noise, trash and parking. (These) are only some (issues) that have to be considered in setting up rules in which it will bring favors to both the vacation rental business and to (those in) the same line of business. — **Ex Castillo**

I believe a robot has written Ex Castillo's note while also turning it into a free ad. Gotta admire someone taking a newspaper article about how badly these rentals are managed by many people and thinking, there's gotta be a way to get more money with this! — **Tempe**

Airbnbs

There are some follow-ups to your short-term-rental story. Legislator Farnsworth, who introduced SB1350, is now introducing two new items, SB1001 and SB1002. These new laws will also cause major problems for neighborhoods and codes. Two of our Tempe council people met last week for discussions. They are part of the city workgroup assigned to deal with the Airbnb issue, arising from the state law SB1350, which is causing problems in our neighborhood and all over Tempe by those seeking to abuse it.

New laws are being introduced which may cause further complications. Ron Tapscott of Tempe Neighborhoods Together wrote: 'There are currently two AZ Legislative bills working their way through the process. AZ SB 1001 and 1002 accompany SB1350 in their destructive potential to our neighborhoods. These two new bills prevent cities from regulating home-based businesses.

The bills allow a residential owner or tenant to use up to 50% of their home for commercial activities (or an adult accessory unit—ADU/garage), allows signage, selling and offering ANY goods, allows extra business traffic, and allows multiple clients on site. These two bills and SB1350 have put our neighborhoods and community in danger by their disruptive potential and compromising our property values. All three should be opposed and resisted. Please join us at the meeting on the 25th to voice your opinions. We need to stand together to deal with these issues. Please see our Neighborhood Association Facebook site for Estate La Colina Neighborhood Association.

— **Jim Corkins**

Trendy cafe seen as boost to So. Tempe

Same old s***. Small overpriced menu with all the buzzwords. Salmon only fish in place (how original). Looks like misfire in long-term. — **Alan**

Tempe Water

It's well known that while there is no current water shortage, water levels are constantly lowering at our reservoirs and we must do a better job of conserving water, so yes the tier system is the right system and those reckless with water use should pay more. — **Anthony Rice**

We welcome your comments. However, we reserve the right to select only those we consider of general interest and to edit submissions for length, clarity and suitability. Views do not necessarily reflect those of Wrangler News.



Judi Combs, CEO of Thunderbird Artist Festivals, spoke with Wrangler News about the fine-arts shows she began in 1981 that are not to be confused with the proliferation of arts-and-crafts bazaars. — Photo courtesy Thunderbird Artists

Quality vs kitsch: Festival planner aims to elevate fine arts

By M.V. Moorhead

If, like me, you spent a day meandering around the Tempe Festival of the Arts' recent pre-holiday extravaganza, the paintings, prints and sculpture no doubt caught your eye.

But the overwhelming—again, to me at least—offerings of hats for dogs, neck pillows, customized road signs, microwave bowl-holders, vinyl LPs cut into images of rock stars, lavender body butter, key lime pie on a stick and all the kettle corn your teeth could take, once again seemed to be the main focus of what once was, actually, a real art show.

Now, don't get me wrong—for me, this is all well and good. I'm there almost every year, and the gimmicks and trinkets (and food) are part of the fun—maybe even most of it. But if, unlike me, you're a serious admirer of art or a serious artist hoping to sell to a similar devotee, the event might start to seem more like a Festival of Kitsch.

That's where Thunderbird Artist Festivals come in. "Ours are strictly fine art shows," says Thunderbird CEO Judi Combs.

"By fine art I mean paintings, etchings, scratchboard, batiks, stone, copper and clay sculpture, bronze, alabaster, mixed media metal.

— FESTIVALS, Page 23

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Teachers, artists among recipients of Tempe arts grants

Tempe has awarded 18 arts grants of up to \$750 each to teachers, artists and arts organizations that are investing in the community through arts and culture programming.

The awards were in two main categories: Vibrant City Grants and School Arts Grants. The goal, say program officials, is to make funding for the arts more accessible and inclusive to community members that do not have the resources or are not eligible to apply for the city's larger arts grants.

Both categories encourage arts programming that is not in traditional art spaces and has an emphasis on serving a specific community.

This year's grant recipients and project locations are:

Art & Journal Writing Day Retreat for Teens & Grief, organized by artist Susanne Whitaker, is for teens to participate in an emotionally safe, one-day workshop to connect with other teens experiencing grief, identifying, and processing their personal stories through art, writing, yoga, and discussion.

Where: Escalante Multi-Generational Center

When: Saturday, Jan. 27 (10-4:30 p.m.)

www.passion4murals.com

OperaTunity is a free public performance of *Hansel and Gretel* by Arizona Opera Company. The opera and classic fairy tale teaches children the value of cooperation, creativity, and wariness toward strangers.

Where: Edna Vihel Center

When: Saturday, Feb. 10 (2-3:30 p.m.)

www.azopera.org

Black Horizons Fest, curated by performer/writer and producer, Leah Marche, is an ongoing cultural celebration of artistry and perspectives of the African

Diaspora. The inaugural event will launch Black History Month 2018 with a spotlight on the arts and a focus on film.

Where: Valley Art Theatre

When: Live Storytelling on February 11, Film screening and panel discussion on February 12, and a workshop for filmmakers on Feb. 14

www.blackhorizonsfest.com

Artists for Change, lead by dancer, public speaker, educator, and creator Niamey Thomas, is an educational and networking event for artists, creatives, and designers to discuss ways of using art for social transformation. The night will include panel discussions & performances.

Where: Tempe History Museum

When: Wednesday, Feb. 28 (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Tides of India is a visual art showcase spiced up with performing arts, creating a ripple Indian culture and artforms in the western world. Dance teachers, students, and visual artist Swarna Sitaraman will collaborate to create a unique presentation adding life to stillness and capturing the moment of movement.

Where: Tempe History Museum

When: Sunday, March 25 (2-4 p.m.)

www.spiceupaz.com

Connecting through Movement, led by movement artists Allyson Yoder and Sydney Jackson, introduces contact improvisation as a bonding activity between a child and a significant adult figure in their life—whether a parent, grandparent, sibling, or mentor.

Where: Escalante Multi-Generational Center

When: March/April

www.ajymovement.com

School Arts Grants are available for arts programming for Tempe's schools. Funds are available to expand and enhance the services already provided by school arts curriculum, programs and clubs. This year

grant funding supported the arts programs in the Tempe Elementary School District, Kyrene School District and Tempe Union High School District and Tempe Preparatory Academy.

Aguilar Elementary School will produce a concert for second grade students. The students will sing, audition for solos, memorize dance parts, and learn speaking parts.

Carminati Elementary School will introduce their students to new genres of music from a jazz quartet and hip-hop workshop through their "Music in Our Community" program.

Compadre Academy art club students will learn about art and social action, and create ceramic bowls that will be donated to the Tempe Empty Bowls event in February.

Fees College Preparatory Middle School will produce the musical *Seussical Jr.* and provide their students with valuable experience in theatre production & will invest in equipment to expand their guitar program.

Kyrene Middle School students will learn how to use percussion instruments such as the marimba, xylophone, vibraphone, timpani, chimes and maracas, instruments that are available to them beyond drums.

Laird School orchestra and band classes will update and expand their music library to give students more variety in and experience in their repertoire.

Marcos de Niza High School will develop a student-run gallery at the school. The gallery will provide students with an opportunity to not only display their artwork but to design, set and publicize student organized shows on a quarterly basis.

Rover Elementary School will expand its musical theater program by purchasing additional wireless audio equipment to make productions easier to hear and provide the student actors with the freedom to move around the stage as they sing or speak.

Play Day

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Volunteers hailed for playing a vital role in community

As we all know, volunteers are Chandler's and Tempe's unsung—and sometimes under-appreciated—heroes, without whom many vital human services wouldn't get done.

Chandler will correct any such omissions again this year with the running of the 2018 Volunteer Recognition program and its accompanying People's Choice Award, the only one in which votes from the community helping to determine the winner.

Voting for People's Choice nominees at chandleraz.gov/volunteer100 will be available until 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Now in its eighth year, the event represents a partnership between the city of Chandler and For Our City Chandler to recognize outstanding volunteers for the time, talents and energy they contributed to the betterment of the community.

Nominations were accepted through last December, with winners to be announced at an awards breakfast from 8-9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at Chandler Center for the Arts.

Nominees and their affiliations include:

Carolyn Arnpriester, Environmental Education Center — Carolyn has been volunteering at the EEC since 2013, and in this short time she has become one of the most reliable and consistent leaders that staff can always count on. This year alone, she has volunteered for more than 50 hours. Her background as a teacher helped refine Carolyn's skillset, making her the perfect candidate to help run the Environmental Explorations field trip opportunities for schools and groups that allow students to explore the adventures of learning science, social studies and other subjects.

Helen Gonzales, About Care — Helen is an energetic volunteer who assists five ladies each week by taking them to their medical appointments, helping with

getting food and other activities.

She has taken these ladies on emergency matters to the hospital and waits all night, if needed, to take them back home.

Helen also helps staff with their Spanish-speaking clients as well as brainstorming to provide better services overall. She is the first to volunteer for a difficult situation or a last-minute request.

Monica Martorano, Chandler Public Library (including West Chandler Sunset Branch) — Monica began volunteering in 2016, right as the Friends of the Library were launching their new online bookstore.

As with most new endeavors, things were hectic; processes needed to be identified and best practices put into place.

Bringing in her intellect and calm, thoughtful approach to problem solving, most likely honed from her years as an air traffic controller, Monica was instrumental in the creation of a streamlined assessment of each and every book donated (hundreds per week).

This "quick scan" became the key that allowed the online store to grow and progress, bringing in an additional \$10,000 in the first year, all going to support

library programs and services.

Fernando Zavala, Sí Se Puede Foundation — For the past three years, Fernando has volunteered with SSPF as a mentor and coach to elementary and junior high school robotics teams.

A junior at Chandler High School, Fernando has provided SSPF with more than 3,500 hours of community service.

As a mentor and coach, he teaches kids how to successfully fabricate land, air and underwater robots. Last year, Fernando coached a high school robotics team that qualified in their region and earned a berth in the state championships. He also facilitated a summer STEM program for Chandler Unified School District's Destination College and helped teach Chandler and Phoenix educators how to build a LEGO robot and an underwater robot.

About For Our City Chandler — *For Our City Chandler* is led by Chandler City Councilmember Kevin Hartke and coordinates service needs for the city and various non-profit organizations, with the resources made available by churches, employers, business groups and others in the Chandler area. Information: forourcitychandler.org.

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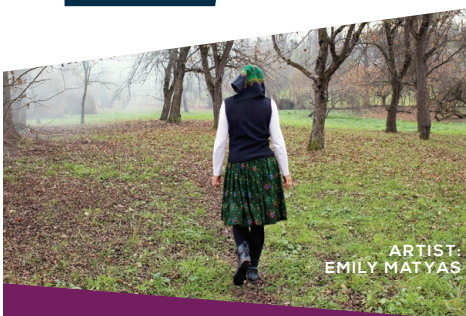
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Kyrene school superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely alongside reknown youth motivational speaker Jeremy Anderson at Kyrene Middle School, where Anderson spoke to eighth graders about how he overcame significant obstacles to become a successful, masters-degreed consultant running his own business.

— Wrangler News photo
by Joyce Coronel



Teens

From Page 1

In 2013, an eighth-grade student from Aprende died by suicide.

The day following the youth conference at GCU, Vesely stood outside Kyrene Middle School to greet Jeremy Anderson, one of the featured speakers at the conference. His presentation was so powerful, Vesely said she wanted more students to hear it.

KMS eighth-graders filed into the gymnasium and took their seats on rows of benches. Unsurprisingly, they chattered, giggled and behaved as most 13-year-olds would in the company of a large gathering of their peers.

Anderson, attired in fashionably ripped jeans and a T-shirt, gripped the mic and began speaking. He paused immediately in his discourse when it became clear some students weren't listening. "I ask for respect and I get respect," he said, waiting briefly before continuing.

From there on out, the students—and faculty—sat in rapt attention as Anderson related an upbringing in which his teenage mother suffered the heartbreak of seeing her son engage in increasingly self-destructive behavior. From failing in school, to fights, drug and alcohol abuse and suspensions, he seemed headed for prison or the cemetery.

"My mom was 15 when she got pregnant with me," Anderson said. "I didn't have a dad. I saw other kids getting picked up by their dads after school. I thought, 'Why isn't my dad here?' You think you're a mistake. You think you're not good enough."

An eighth-grade teacher predicted he'd never make it in high school. In addition to the behavioral issues, he was failing and had ADHD, among other challenges.

"My mom was, like, 'I believe in him.' While they were speaking death to me, my mom was speaking life."

His secondary education proceeded down a rocky road. He was expelled

from his first high school and attended three different schools for ninth grade. It was at his third school where things began to turn around.

"I had a thick folder with all my suspensions and fights but these new educators refused to give up on me," Anderson said. "I started to believe it. 'Maybe I am smart.' I held on to that. I wanted more out of life—I was tired of the drugs, the pain."

"I was tired of seeing my mama cry."

Anderson went on to describe an astonishing journey through high school, college and ultimately graduate school where he earned a master's degree. The author of seven books, he travels the world speaking to students and educators. His overarching message is one of hope combined with humility, sacrifice, gratitude and strong measure of elbow grease.

"Your DNA is not your destiny," he told KMS students. "Your future is going to resemble the choices you make... I want to have a powerful impact on the world and you can too."

Anderson lauded the work of educators who "could earn three times the money" in a different profession and "not have to deal with your attitude."

He encouraged students to recognize that their teachers were there because they cared and he asked them to express their gratitude and a sincere desire to have a better attitude toward school.

Wrangler News spoke with students following Anderson's presentation, which coincidentally took place moments before they were scheduled to begin registering for high school.

Giselo Suchlz said she found the assembly inspiring. "I felt like I will follow his steps," Giselo said. "People have told me the same thing before but his speech was more convincing than others."

Her classmate, Joseph Candelaria, offered a pronouncement that indicated Anderson's words hit home:

"If he can overcome that, I definitely can overcome a lot."



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Briefly . . .

Library hosting series on dementia

Dementia is a word people tend to cringe over, often for fear of the aggressive disease and its spiraling symptoms.

The city of Tempe has its sights on helping people overcome this resistance with the knowledge of power, by hosting a free educational series at the Tempe Public Library on the second Wednesday of each month.

Dementia Friendly Tempe will present this monthly series to raise community awareness of memory loss conditions and help families access available resources.

Classes are free but registration is required. These classes are not appropriate for the person with dementia. Classes will be held at the Tempe Public Library from 1-2:30 p.m.

Information/registration: 602-839-6850 or email BAIFCS@bannerhealth.com.

Kyrene spelling bee winners

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Kyrene School District Spelling Bee held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. All 25 Kyrene schools sent representatives to compete. The top 6 spellers will head to the Maricopa County Regional Bee to compete on February 24, 2018.

Lyndell Tanner (5th grade student at Kyrene del Cielo Elementary) became our District Champion this year. Tanner, along with 2nd place winner, Sade Sepp (5th grade student at Kyrene de las Lomas Elementary) competed for several rounds, but ultimately Tanner correctly spelled "adder" as the championship word.

1st place: Lyndell Tanner (5th grade), Kyrene del Cielo;
2nd place: Sade Sepp (5th grade), Kyrene de las Lomas;
3rd place: Joseph Gunderson-Jones (5th grade), C.I. Waggoner Elementary orange;
4th place: Ben Amtsfield (5th grade), Kyrene de los Cerritos Leadership Academy; 5th place: Landon Plumb (5th grade), Kyrene Monte Vista red; and 6th place: Snigdha Edwin (6th grade), Kyrene Traditional Academy.

Petersen House fundraiser planned March 3

A Saturday, March 3, vintage antique sale at Edna Vihel Arts Center and Tempe History Museum will serve as a fundraiser for the Niels Petersen House Museum.

The landmark home is on the National Register of Historic Places and has received the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation.

The antique sale is being held in conjunction with the Arizona State Questers-Hayden Ferry Chapter. Early-bird entrance from 7-8 a.m. is \$5.

Admission from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. is \$3 per person. Vihel Center is at 3340 S. Rural Road, Tempe. Tempe History Museum is at 809 E. Southern Ave.

Chandler asst. fire chief to attend institute

A national affiliation of fire department executives has brought one of Chandler's own into its ranks. Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Department Assistant Chief Val Gale has been accepted into the Fire Service Executive Development Institute.

The organization, affiliated with the International

Association of Fire Chiefs, offers a year-long leadership development program to provide new and aspiring chiefs with the tools they need to have successful and productive tenures. Gale competed with new fire chiefs and chief officers from across the country to become a member of the 2018 cohort program.

Work underway on Kiwanis splash playground

Work has started on a \$1.7 million splash playground being built near the north soccer field at Tempe's Kiwanis Park. All park amenities, with the exception of the ramadas in the surrounding area, which will be closed, will remain open during construction.

The new area is expected to open sometime this summer.

The Tempe City Council approved design and construction of the playground last year in February. It will become Tempe's only large water park amenity, according to a city spokeswoman.

Other, smaller splash pads are located throughout Tempe, and admission is free to all.

According to a news release, city staff evaluated Tempe's community parks to determine the best location for the splash playground based on the amenities currently available. Criteria for a location included existing parking availability and access to utilities, water and electrical, as well as proximity to existing restrooms and American Disabilities Act-accessibility.

Several residents took part in a public involvement process over the last several months, leading to the final design concept, officials said.

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Rock 'n' Roll Marathon quenches runners' thirst to help Tempe Sister Cities

The Rock n' Roll Marathon isn't just for running and music fanatics. The annual run donates a portion of sales to Tempe Sister Cities to send 40 top students, firefighters, teachers and police officers to such places as Germany, China and India for exchanges. This year the group raised \$9,100 during the three-day event—not a bad reward for handing out roughly 20,000 cans of beer at Tempe Beach Park to the throngs of thirsty, energetic runners.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News



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Sports . . .

Gatorade's Player of Year for a second time around. Gulp!

By Kody Acevedo

Brooke Nuneviller seems to be able to do it all. The 5-foot-11 senior volleyball player at Corona del Sol High School recently wrapped up her final season as a member of the Aztecs team and learned last week that her hard work and dedication didn't go unnoticed.

The Gatorade Company announced Nuneviller as its 2017-18 Gatorade Arizona Volleyball Player of the Year for the second consecutive time.

"Honestly, I did not expect it at all," Nuneviller said. "I woke up (the morning of the announcement) to texts saying 'congratulations' and I was completely in shock."

The award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field. Nuneviller is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced later this month.

Nuneviller tallied 593 kills and 493 digs during the Aztecs 41-3 season, which included a trip to the Conference 6A state championship match. She was also a libero for the 2017 USA Volleyball Girls' Youth National Team which finished eighth at the World Championships.

She finished her high school volleyball career with 1,308 kills and 1,475 digs, while maintaining a weighted 4.50 GPA in the classroom.

Nuneviller credits a dream to attend Stanford as motivation to be academically

driven.

"I've grown up trying to get my grades up and be academic," Nuneviller said.

But a trip to the University of Oregon led her down a different path. She signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship for the Ducks this fall.

"I loved the girls in my class," Nuneviller said. "But one of the biggest things is the head coach, Matt Ulmer."

Oregon named Ulmer head coach in April 2017 after four seasons on the Oregon staff. In his first season as Oregon's head coach, Ulmer guided the Ducks to an 18-12 overall record, 10-10 in Pac-12 play, and the program's seventh straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

During her visit with Ulmer, Nuneviller knew there was an instant connection.

"Something clicked and I just really loved it there," she said. "I think we will have a great coach-player bond."

As part of the award, Nuneviller will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate.

Last season, she donated the grant to the Kroc Corps Community Center in Phoenix.

"But I still haven't decided this year," Nuneviller said.

The grant donation is one of many ways she helps give back to the community. Nuneviller has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and has donated her time with the Special Olympics and as a youth volleyball coach.

It's all part of the gratitude she has for the Corona community that believed in her and gave her so much encouragement in order to be the best player and student she could possibly be.

"Corona Athletics has been extremely supportive throughout my four years in high school," Nuneviller said.

"My coach, Ben Maxfield, has always supported me and he's done everything he can to make me the most successful player possible."



Corona del Sol senior Brooke Nuneviller shows off her winning form at a 2016 competition.

— Kris Cartwright for Wrangler News



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Sports Notebook

WITH ALEX ZENER

Corona del Sol's defending Division I state championship wrestling team spent the second half of the season competing in three tournaments to gain valuable match experience for the upcoming sectionals which ultimately will determine which wrestlers qualify to wrestle in the state tournament Feb. 8-9.

During the holiday break, the Aztecs gained confidence by winning the Moon Valley Invitational, taking first place out of 35 other schools and scoring 514 points.

Winning individual championships were juniors **Zack Kvavle** (120-pound weight classification) and **Bryce Nickel** (138-pound classification).

Other Corona medalists scoring points for the team win included seniors **Ryan Chancellor** (182-pound weight classification) and **Jacob Santa Cruz** (195-pound) taking third place, junior **Roan Kelleher** (160-pound) and sophomore **Tanner Mendoza** (170-pound) placing fourth, senior **Bradley Buchholz** (132-pound) fifth place and seniors **Armando Arellano** (145-pound) and

Santiago Pesquiera (220-pound) taking seventh.

On Jan. 5-6, the Aztecs competed at the 50th annual Peoria Tournament of Champions, where the team finished fifth out of 35 teams from Arizona, California, Nevada and Colorado.

No. 2 seeded Kvavle lost to the No. 1 seed Jesse Ybarra from Sunnyside to place second in the 113-pound weight class.

Nickel, the No. 2 seed, defeated Amado Castellon from Cimarron-Memorial to take third place while Mendoza lost to the No. 2 seed Joe Carey from Basha to take fourth place.

Corona sophomore, **Anthony Gonzalez**, wrestling in the 106-pound weight category, placed sixth after being defeated by the No. 4 ranked Bobby Pinto from Northview.

Buchholz and Kelleher also earned sixth place medals at the Peoria Tournament of Champions.

The Aztecs had 11 wrestlers compete at the 10th Annual Battle for the Belt on Jan. 12-13 at Temecula, Calif.

— NOTEBOOK, Page 20



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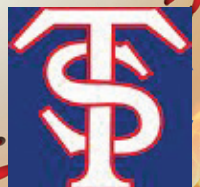
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Notebook

From Page 19

Corona finished 19th out of 77 teams, scoring 55.5 points.

Corona's top finisher was Kvalve, who made it all the way to the semifinals before being defeated by Jason Miranda of Poway, Calif., to take third place, scoring 24 points toward the team score.

Although none of the other 10 Corona wrestlers received a medal, several earned points toward the team total, including 9.5 points earned by Nickel, six by Gonzales, five by Santa Cruz and four each by Buchholz, Arellano, Kelleher and Chancellor.

Michael Orr earned four points for Corona, wrestling in the 126-pound weight category; Mendoza earned two points. **Logan Miley** competed for the Aztecs in the 152-pound weight class.

Other members of Corona's varsity wrestling team include senior **Hayleigh Farrington** (112-pound weight class), sophomore **Matt Gable** (120-pound), senior **Stephano Linares** (135-pound), senior **Brandon Juvera** (160-pound), senior **Jacob Garcia** (166-pound), senior **Aaron Arenas** (187-pound), **Miles Simmons** (198-pounds) and

junior **Kevin Beltran** (212-pounds).

The Corona del Sol wrestling team honored **Dave Vibber** on Jan. 17 at the Aztecs' last home match of the 2017-2018 season. During his 30 years as head wrestling coach, Vibber amassed 403 career wins, including winning the 5A state championship individual and team tournament his last season in 2008-09 by defeating three-time defending state champion Mesa High School.

Vibber's team placed second at the 5A state championship the year before in 2008 after winning the individual championship.

The Aztecs had one more regular season dual against Central and Horizon on Jan. 24 before they were scheduled to compete at the Division I Section IV sectionals Feb. 3 at Chandler High School.

Marcos de Niza Wrestling

The Padres competed at the Moon Valley Invitational held Dec.



Corona's Wrestling team brought home the first place trophy at the Moon Valley Invitational held Dec. 22-23 at Moon Valley High School. Front Row: L-R: Roan Kelleher, Armando Arellano, Bradley Buchholz, Zack Kvalve. Middle Row L-R: Jacob Santa Cruz, Bryce Nickel, Tanner Mendoza, Anthony Gonzales. Top Row L-R: Santiago Pesquera, Ryan Chancellor.

— Photo courtesy Jimmy Martinez

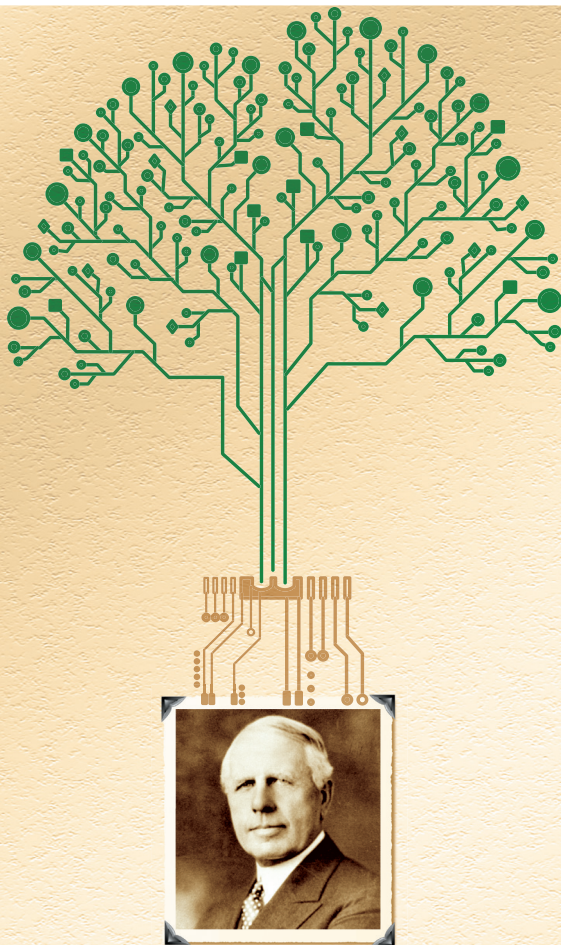
22-23, beating out 33 other teams to take third place for 447 points, with wrestlers placing in seven weight categories including four seniors who won first place medals.

Seniors **Hamza Manassra**, **Trequan Johnson**, **Andrew Torres** and **Alex Torres** were the top four

finishers for Marcos. Manassra took home a first-place medal in the 220-pound weight category by defeating Jonathan Matuzak of Queen Creek in a 7-2 decision.

Johnson also left the gym with a

— NOTEBOOK, Page 22



Dr. A.J. Chandler



**Mayor Jay Tibshraeny
and the Chandler City Council
Invite You to Attend the
Annual State of the City Address**

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018

Chandler City Hall

Council Chambers

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A Light Reception begins at 6 p.m. with Remarks at 6:45 p.m.



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Mayor to deliver annual State of the City address Feb. 13



Mayor Jay Tibshraeny will deliver his annual State of the City address Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the City Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago St. The event will begin with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by a video presentation and the Mayor's comments. It is free, open to the public, and no reservations are required.

"My address will touch on the economy, our economic stability as a community, and the many plans we have for the coming year," Mayor Tibshraeny said. "Plus, I plan to look back at the history of our community and those iconic moments, figures and businesses that have made Chandler the success it is today."

Make voice heard at Budget Connect

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and the City Council are hosting Budget Connect, an online forum where Chandler residents can ask questions and learn about the City's budget and fiscal policies during a special live event that will be held from 6-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22.

Mayor Tibshraeny will moderate the event and join with City staff and councilmembers in answering submitted questions in real time on the City's website and through social media. Details on the forum and other community budget hearings are online at chandleraz.gov/budget.

Chandler Municipal Airport to host Open House

Chandler residents will have a unique opportunity to acquaint themselves with Chandler's Municipal Airport at an event-filled open house to be held from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10.

The airport has been in operation since 1948 and is owned and operated by the City. The terminal is located at 2380 S. Stinson Way. The free open house is a way for residents to familiarize themselves with airport operations, speak with airport officials, visit a variety of informational booths and talk to airport tenants and pilots. Chandler Police and Fire also will be in attendance.

Each year, the Chandler Municipal Airport generates nearly \$110 million in total economic activity. Recreational flying by residents, small



business and corporate aviation, plus flight instruction and tourism have contributed to the airport's growth. With more

than 200,000 operations annually, it is among the nation's busiest general aviation airports. For more information about the airport or open house, visit chandlerairport.com, or call the airport at 782-3540.

Family fun at Science Spectacular Feb 16-17



You're invited to experience a whole new side of science during the two-day Chandler Science Spectacular. The event in Downtown Chandler kicks off at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb.

16, with the Family Flicks Art Walk.

The following day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, enjoy Chandler's Science Saturday. Participate in interactive demonstrations and exhibits.

More info.: visit chandleraz.gov/science.

EVENTS

JANUARY

- 22 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 25 Artist reception, Safwat Saleem Vision Gallery, 782-2695
- 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, CSO Turns 25, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

FEBRUARY

- 1 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 2 Moscow Festival Ballet presents Sleeping Beauty, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 5 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180

- 7 PHXEV Angel Investor Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3034
- 8 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 8 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 8 Community Nights in the Courtyard, Be MINE in the Courtyard, Community Center, 782-2746
- 8 Landscape Workshop, SMART Irrigation Controllers, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3589
- 9-11 Presidents Day NTRP Open, Chandler Tennis Center, 782-2651
- 9 Daddy Daughter Dance, Snedigar Recreation Center, 782-2641
- 10 Chandler Municipal Airport Open House, Chandler Municipal Airport, 782-3540
- 10 STEM Saturday, Microorganisms: The Invisible World, Tumbleweed Ranch, 782-2717
- 10 Chandler Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Center for the Arts, 782-2717
- 10 Black History Celebration, Folley Park, 963-5213

- 10 Daddy Daughter Dance, Community Center, 782-2641
- 10-11 SHE Power Half Marathon & 5K, Downtown, 317-565-9110
- 13 Mayor's State of the City Address, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 15 Sonoran Sunset Series: Platinum Band, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2890
- 15 Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 16 Family Flix Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 16 Bumper Jacksons, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 17 Chandler Science Saturday, Downtown Stage, 782-3038
- 17 Our Stories: The Seeds that Grew Chandler and the East Valley, Sunset Library, 782-2783
- 19 President's Day holiday; City offices closed

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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Notebook

From Page 20

first-place medal after pinning Brock Locnikar of Notre Dame Prep in the 182-pound weight category.

Andrew Torres defeated Stevie Maddox from Tempe High School with a 9-6 decision in the 170-pound weight category to take home the Padres' third first place medal.

Not to be outdone by twin brother Alex Torres, Andrew defeated Manuel Nikolas of Queen Creek in the 160-pound weight category for an additional championship medal for Marcos.

Three other wrestlers placed in the top seven to earn points for the Padres team.

Malik Shuaibe-Jones placed fourth in the 126-pound weight class. **Rafael Cabrera** took home a sixth-place medal in the 132-pound weight class while **Jacob Navarrette** earned a seventh-place medal in the 138-pound weight class for the Padres.

Marcos will be competing in the Division III Section II sectionals Feb. 3 at Florence High School. The Division III state tournament is Feb. 9-10 at the Prescott Valley Event Center in Prescott Valley.

Tempe H.S. Wrestling

The Buffaloes had two wrestlers place in the top seven spots at the Moon Valley Invitational.

Stevie Maddox was the top finisher with a second-place finish in the 170-pound weight category

while **Jaxen Davis** placed sixth in the 106-pound weight classification.

Tempe High School competes in Division II and is in Section IV. The Buffaloes will take part in the sectionals Feb. 3 at Campo Verde High School and in the Division II state tournament Feb. 8-9 at the Prescott Valley Event Center.

Tempe H.S. Boys Soccer

The No. 9 Arizona-ranked and No. 1 Division 4A ranked Buffaloes finished the regular season undefeated, at 12-0, 4-0 (region) and are by far the best soccer team Tempe High School has had in quite some time.

For instance, Tempe defeated Marcos de Niza 15-0 on Jan. 18 which was their eighth shutout of the season.

The Buffaloes defeated Coconino 8-0, Peoria 5-0, Casa Grande 4-0, Coronado 3-0, Apache Junction 5-0, Saguaro 2-0 and Seton Catholic 6-0 before their Marcos 15-0 win.

In 12 regular season matches, the Buffaloes have outscored their opponents 58 to 4. The only teams that have been able to score against Tempe's team are Washington (two points), McClintock (one point) and Cactus Shadows (one point).

The leading goal scorer for Tempe is junior **Rigo Zamudio** who had scored 14 goals or an average of 1.8 goals a game through the first eight matches. He is also credited with 33 points or 4.1 points a game with five assists in the same eight matches.

Senior **Hector Govea** had scored nine goals, 21 points, with three assists in seven matches while sophomore **Jonathan Rodriguez**, through seven matches, was the third leading scorer with seven goals, four assists and 18 points.

Senior **Bravo Johnny** was credited with six goals and 12 points in only four matches but altogether the Buffaloes show 13 players scoring at least one goal in the first eight matches.

Seniors **Manny Cervantes**, **Jonathan Dominguez**, **Andres Hernandez** and **Omar Bello**, along with juniors **Angel Valadez** and **Mariano Leon** and sophomore **Jeo Villalobos**, are credited with at least one goal each on the stat sheet.

Additional players who contribute to the team's success on and off the field include seniors **Ezedine Eze E Kargougou** and **Omar Carranza**, juniors **Amiel Suanez**, **Gilberto Fuentes**, **Manny Torres** and **Jesus Acosta**, plus freshman **Victor Cruz**.

The 2018 4A Boys Soccer Conference Play-In Tournament for the ninth through 24th ranked teams will be Jan. 25.

The top eight ranked 4A teams get an automatic spot in the state tournament with the first round being played at the higher seed on Jan. 31 at 6 p.m.

The Buffaloes should be the No. 1 seed and play at home the first round on Jan. 31 and the quarterfinals scheduled Feb. 3.

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Festivals

From Page 9

Everything that's considered fine art."

And what won't you find at a Thunderbird Artist festival?

"There are no clothing, hobby or bazaar-type things," Combs says firmly. "It's more like when you go into a gallery."

This is partly because, according to Combs, "Artists have been used and abused" by bazaar-style festivals.

"Artists will travel a few states over," she says, "having been told that (a festival) is fine art." But what the other vendors are trying to sell very well may be an often imported and/or manufactured craft that's maybe \$10.

Combs also notes that her shows are juried, with the artists going through a submission process that includes not only photos of the art itself, but of how the art will be displayed.

"The booth shot shows us the presentation," explains Combs. "I'm looking for a very professional presentation. Even though we're outside, we treat this as a gallery."

Lest anyone doubt the personal nature of the business, however, when asked who oversees the jury process, Combs replies:

"Pretty much myself and my daughter."

Thus the featured work over the years has ranged from abstract to figurative, especially contemporary Western and cowboy.

A California native and longtime Zonie, Combs started the Valleywide festival series—the Gilbert edition this year was the same weekend as the Tempe Festival—in 1981, after her tour of duty as a stay-at-home mom.

"When my father passed on, I started taking my mother to classes," she recalls. "I started to paint, and a hobby turned into a business."

Indeed, it turned so thoroughly into a business that the landscape painting that got her started is now mostly a memory.

"I have no time to paint," she admits. "My creativity now is in producing our TV commercials, or helping design our programs."

But this side of the business has recently yielded some results of which Combs is proud. Thunderbird Artists recently won a number of AzTEC Awards (for Arizona Talent in Event Concepts), which are endorsed by the International Festival and Events Association.

"We've taken awards each year," says Combs.

"We've taken a gold for one of our (print) ads, a gold for one of our program covers, and a silver for one of our post cards we send out."

The next Thunderbird Artists show will be the Scottsdale Waterfront event the weekend of Feb. 9-11, followed the next weekend, Feb. 16-18, to another show in Gilbert, which drew considerable praise at its inaugural run.

But if you're looking for a hat for your dog, forget it. Information: thunderbirdartists.com.



Contemporary Western artist Lance Headlee will among exhibitors at the Gilbert Fine Art & Wine Festival, Feb. 16-18. Headlee has a large following, which can be credited to his more than 35 years' experience.



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— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



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Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny swears in the 2018 Chandler Chamber Board Chair, Jane Hanson, with Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center at the Chandler Chamber January Board of Directors Meeting.

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Register @ ChandlerChamber.com/calendar



Women in Leadership Lin Sue Cooney

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018
11:30 am to 12:15 pm networking
12:15 pm to 1:30 lunch/speaker
Soho63
63 E Boston St, Chandler, AZ 85225**

You won't want to miss seven-time Emmy winner, Lin Sue Cooney speak about overcoming obstacles and what it takes to carve a successful career path. She recently changed her path to pursue another passion of hers, people. She is Director of Community Engagement for Hospice of the Valley.

Register @ ChandlerChamber.com/calendar

Register Your Group for the Ostrich Festival Parade

**Ostrich Festival Parade
Saturday, March 3, 2018
Downtown Chandler**



The Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival Parade is now accepting applications for entry into the parade. The Ostrich Festival Parade features floats from around the Valley, dignitaries, pageant winners, classic cars, bands, horses, dance teams and more. Everyone loves a parade! Don't miss your chance to be in one!

To register your group visit, <http://bit.ly/2n2Rwd1>

Diversions • • • with M.V. Moorhead

Time for our wizard of film to share his favorites once again

Time once again for my grandly unimportant January tradition: The Top 10 Movies List.

Here are the 10 that, at the moment, seem like the ones most deserving of recognition:

10. The Big Sick — This gentle, low-key comedy-drama about a health crisis that helps save a cross-cultural relationship left me feeling better, too.

9. The Disaster Artist — James Franco gives the performance of his career so far as Tommy Wiseau in this comedy about the making of *The Room*. This movie seems to work even for people who have never seen Wiseau's bad-movie classic.

8. Colossal — Anne Hathaway gives one of her best performances in Nacho Vigalondo's brilliant expansion of the possibilities of the giant-monster picture.

7. The Lego Batman Movie — It's more coherent than some of the superhero flicks it sends up, and it's certainly far funnier.

6. Loving Vincent — Supposedly the first fully painted animated movie, this exploration of Van Gogh's death is both visually ravishing and also a watchable and touching drama.

5. Trophy — Not everyone will be able to watch this graphic examination of big-game trophy hunting,

but it isn't just sensationalism; there's a real effort to get at the psychology (and politics) underlying this horror.

4. Step — It's almost impossible to watch this documentary about the members of the step team at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women and not feel invested in their futures.

3. The Shape of Water — Just your basic amphibious-man-meets-girl story from Guillermo del Toro. Get out your hankies.

2. Get Out — Jordan Peele's horror melodrama about race as a hijack-able commodity is dazzlingly imaginative yet traditional.

1. The Lovers — Hardly anyone seemed to pay attention to this ingenious comedy about infidelity folded back onto itself, so I think I'll let it top my list. On the other hand, here are 10 other movies that could have found a place the list:

Downsizing; I, Tonya; Menashe; Kong: Skull Island; Wonder Woman; Happy Death Day; Professor Marston and the Wonder Women; Molly's Game; Spider-Man: Homecoming; Lady Bird

And here are some more that didn't seem like complete wastes of time:

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri; Only

the Brave; The Trip to Spain; The Post; Darkest Hour; Churchill; The Greatest Showman; Star Wars: The Last Jedi; Murder on the Orient Express; Logan, Thor: Ragnarok; Dunkirk; War for the Planet of the Apes; The Hero; The Exception; All Eyez on Me; Stronger; It; Ferdinand; Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent; and Wilson.

'Death Cure' yet another in post-apocalyptic yarns of late

Well, that would be an impressive medical breakthrough, wouldn't it? This is the third film in the *Maze Runner* trilogy, based on the young-adult post-apocalyptic sci-fi novels by James Dashner.

This time the pretty-boy hero (Dylan O'Brien) and a few of his more characterful comrades are on a quest to rescue an old pal (Ki Hong Lee) from his days imprisoned in The Glade back in Part One.

— FILM, Page 27



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Students from the Wushu Academy in Chandler have been practicing determinedly for months to prepare for a live performance of *Mulan* Feb. 10.

— Photo courtesy Phoenix Wushu Academy

Area kids don't miss a beat as they rehearse for legendary 'Mulan' roles

By Joyce Coronel

Disney's 1998 animated film "*Mulan*" might be the first and only exposure many Americans ever had to the ancient Chinese legend the movie is based on, but the story of a young girl who secretly becomes a fearless warrior lives on.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, dozens of young people—many of them students from Tempe and Chandler—will present a live production of *Mulan* at the iconic Orpheum Theater in Phoenix.

Betty Yeung, whose three children landed roles in the show, spoke to Wrangler News about the intense commitment families make in order to bring *Mulan* to life at a first-rate venue where tickets start at \$30.

"You don't get to the Orpheum by practicing a couple times a week," Yeung said.

Rehearsals began last August and have ramped up recently to six days a week. That includes eight hours on Sundays. Staged by the Phoenix Wu Shu Academy, a martial arts academy located in Chandler that teaches appreciation of Chinese culture, the production of *Mulan* involves "tons of people," according to Yeung.

Parents are involved making costumes from scratch, styling hair and helping with photography, special effects, lighting, props and stage

direction. And they aren't all Chinese. "We have Iranians, Swiss, Vietnamese and Indo-Chinese," Yeung said.

Both her sons—Noah, 12, and Caleb, 13—portray generals, among other roles. Caleb has a solo scene in the palace. Daughter Elise, 10, is in the entire program and also portrays a young *Mulan*, but Yeung emphasized it's not about only her kids—it's about the plethora of families, many from Chandler, who have dedicated a substantial amount of time to ensuring *Mulan* takes to the stage with perfection. The cast is largely comprised of young people ages 5-21. "The production has helped bring excellence to what they do," Yeung said. "You can't miss a beat in the sparring sessions or you get injured."

She's not kidding. Wushu skills in *Mulan* include weapons forms that involve spears, straight swords, daggers and double broadswords. The spectacle also includes vibrant dance, and the ancient, graceful tai chi as part of the production. The action-packed drama of *Mulan* is portrayed not through dialogue, but through martial arts, Chinese dance, music and backdrops.

This particular incarnation of *Mulan* takes place just days before the Chinese New Year on Feb. 15.

Tickets: phoenix.ticketforce.com/mulan

Two unique programs due at Tempe Center for the Arts

Tempe Center for the Arts continues its flair for innovative programming with two performances in early February.

TCA will host Grammy Award-winning Mariachi Flor de Toluche Saturday, Feb. 3, and the humorous A cappella theatrical experience Voiceplay, Friday, Feb. 9.

The all-female Mariachi Flor de Tolache is known for pushing the boundaries of Mexican music, blending traditional and contemporary musical styles.

Their collaboration with rock supergroup The Arcs, led by The Black Keys front man Dan Auerbach, and an appearance at last year's Coachella Festival, have revolutionized mariachi music.

The group continues to win the hearts of music fans both mainstream and traditional mariachi fans alike through its distinct vision

and enlightened interpretation of traditional mariachi instruments.

The band's diverse ethnicities and musical backgrounds are transcending culture and gender by forging new paths for mariachi music.

Tickets are \$28 & \$38 and available at tca.ticketforce.com/tcapresents

Voiceplay, the Feb. 9 show, offers an array of voices that span five and a half octaves and dance moves that won them a spot on NBC's *The Sing Off*.

From Broadway and Disney to top hits from the past and today, the cast of VoicePlay transforms musical favorites into a mix of vertigo-inducing harmonies laced with inventive and often hilarious on-stage theatrics.

The result: the orchestrated sound of an entire musical production with nothing but the human voice.

Tickets, at \$35 and \$45, available at tca.ticketforce.com/tcapresents

Film

From Page 26

They infiltrate the city stronghold of the sinister corporation known by the anagram WCKD—their marketing department should perhaps have put in a little more time on that branding—where his friend is being held as a possible key to a cure for the disease that is turning the human race into zombielike creatures known as "Cranks."

The first film in the series, 2014's *The Maze Runner*, had the title labyrinth to help generate intrigue and mystery.

In *The Scorch Trials*, from the following year, the boys had escaped their inscrutable prison, and the results were far more routine adventures, with the same overlay of teenage masochism.

This third film is a further step down, alas.

The dialogue is banal and the plot, as with *The Scorch Trials*, is full of elements that recall older, better sci-fi flicks, most notably *The Omega Man*.

The Death Cure is not without strengths, however. Director Wes Ball, who helmed the previous entries, handles the initial big action scenes

excitingly.

There are a number of capable vets in the cast, including Giancarlo Esposito, Barry Pepper, Will Poulter, Rosa Salazar, Aiden Guillen, Patricia Clarkson as the WCKD honcho and Walton Goggins in a small but memorable role as the noseless revolutionary leader of the Cranks.

Thomas Brodie-Sangster, the kid from *Love, Actually*, is once again touching as our hero's loyal friend. With the help of these actors and others, the film remains watchable enough until the torturously drawn-out, Wagnerian, *sturm-und-drang* finale wears out our patience.

This movie is another example of a striking recurrent motif in post-apocalyptic yarns of recent years, however: Walls.

Walls erected by the frightened powerful to hold the feared and dispossessed at bay have shown up in the *Divergent* flicks, last year's *Resident Evil* finale, *War for the Planet of the Apes* and now this film. Clearly walls are on our anxious collective mind these days.

The Death Cure is rated PG-13 and plays at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion Center and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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Chandler's Arts Center, Symphony make for a perfect cultural partnership

By René Lopez

Happy 25th Birthday, Chandler Symphony Orchestra! Since 1993, Chandler has been blessed with the musical sounds of its very own Chandler Symphony Orchestra.

Maestro Jack Herriman founded and has conducted the orchestra since the very beginning.

He had a vision to create opportunities for all ages to enjoy classical music through free concerts. After all these years, the growth of this organization is a true testament of his dedication to the arts and the members of the community.

Chandler Center for the Arts is home to several of the group's performances. In addition to the city of Chandler's partnership, community involvement is very important to the orchestra's success.

Every concert is free; however, a donation at the door always is appreciated. There are several opportunities to be involved, including volunteering at performances,

sponsoring a musician or concert, corporate or individual donations and by advertising in its annual program. All donations are used towards the purchase and rental of music, venues, refreshments for the musicians and minimal administrative needs.

The orchestra is comprised of 90 professionally trained musicians who dedicate countless hours volunteering their time for rehearsals and performances. Several of them have been involved for many years, including a violinist who is 90 years of age and substitutes as a music teacher.

Music really is timeless! Although the musicians are volunteers, quality is very important. Anyone who is interested in becoming a member is required to audition.

Music and art open the doors to diversity and cultural experiences. They are very enjoyable and allow the mind to be creative.

Studies show a direct impact between those exposed to the arts and their developmental growth, both in the classroom and life skills. The Chandler Center for the Arts provides wonderful programs for youth. Programs offered include musical theater camps and workshops. For more information, visit chandlercenter.org.

The 2018 spring concert series begins on Jan. 28 with the "CSO Turns 25" concert, and runs through May 6.

The orchestra will provide audiences an even more

personal experience at each performance.

This year is special because the orchestra is celebrating 25 years of providing quality symphonic and orchestral music to the community.

On Feb. 17, the Gala Silver Anniversary Celebration Dinner will be hosted at the Oakwood Golf Club in Sun Lakes at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$80, which covers the price of dinner and includes an opportunity to be seated with one of the conductors or musicians.

A silent auction fundraiser also will take place, and they already have received some really nice items. For more information and how to be involved, visit, chandersymphony.com.

I encourage everyone to experience and celebrate the Chandler Symphony Orchestra. Hearing music played live can be life changing.

It creates an emotional connection or brings back childhood memories. There are several opportunities to learn and become a part of the arts and culture community.

This year is definitely a time to celebrate music.

Grab your family and friends for a fun afternoon of entertainment! — *René Lopez is a member of the Chandler City Council.*



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Tempe council candidates share ideas, views with So. Tempe residents

Wrangler News photos by Kody Acevedo

— Additional coverage starting on Page 1



Candidates for Tempe City Council appearing at a public forum at Arizona Community Church, from left: Jennifer Adams, Sarah Kader, Lauren Kuby, Justin Adams and Genevieve Vega; below, left, Jennifer Adams exchanges ideas with a voter; below, right, Sarah Kader speaks with an ASU student. Incumbent councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage was unable to attend.



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