



# CRISIS READINESS

## A+ or C-? Are our schools prepared for the worst?

By Kody Acevedo

Photo illustration by Billy Hardiman

IT HAPPENED AGAIN.

WHEN THE GUNFIRE CEASED IN PARKLAND, FLORIDA, A SMALL COMMUNITY NORTH OF FORT LAUDERDALE, 17 PEOPLE WERE DEAD. FAMILIES WERE SHATTERED. STUDENTS WERE ROBBED OF THEIR INNOCENCE AND SENSE OF SECURITY.

It didn't take long for the debates about gun control and school safety regulations to begin.

Which raises yet another question: how ready are our schools for an attack of this magnitude?

School officials in Tempe say they are. Led by John Meza, a former Mesa police chief, the Tempe Union High School District's Safety Department is said to be constantly evaluating its safety measures and procedures.

— PREPAREDNESS, Page 22



Marcos de Niza H.S.  
Security Officer John Felton



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## Pollack's generosity to shine once again

When one of the area's oldest and most respected philanthropies decided to launch plans for this year's spring fundraiser, it wanted to ensure not only a sure-to-delight theme but a couple of the Valley's best-known personalities to add a bit of extra star-power to the event.

That's how East Valley developer/entrepreneur Michael A. Pollack, plus Emmy Award-winning journalist Krystle Henderson, were invited to oversee the Assistance League of the East Valley's Mardi Gras Night's festivities, coming to Oakwood Country Club at Iron Oaks on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The event, with registration starting at 5:30 p.m. and the ballroom opening at 6, will feature top entertainment, a bag, beads, gaming chips, a free drink and what planners say will be a memorable roast beef and turkey buffet dinner. Reservations are

—MARDI GRAS, Page 9



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# 'Second Step' seen as first step to kids' social, emotional growth

By Diana Whittle



**A**nother school site with a mass shooting, more bullying, a rise in teen suicide rates—along with increased drug addiction: all global social crises that youth witness and must heal from emotionally.

The stress impacts all generations, but particularly youngsters with limited life experience and even less time to develop personal resiliency and problem-solving skills. It's difficult to cope, while at the same time comprehending the unbelievable tragedies happening to their peers.

Along with their students, Kyrene teachers and administrators feel the impact and seek to strengthen the system of caring created at school, according to Dr. Jan Vesely, the district's superintendent.

"The district is committed to a comprehensive approach to learning, where students reach their full potential in school and in life. This includes social and emotional support and, while no one is born with coping skills, they can be learned," said Vesely.

## Reconfiguration adds positions at district schools

In the past school year, Vesely re-configured the district's administrative staff to allow for more positions at the school level. This includes adding school counselors and a psychologist, Kelly Kimbrell, and increasing referrals for mental health services in the community.

Teachers also will benefit from in-house training to recognize warning signs in distressed students and how to assist them in receiving help.

Vesely used a recent staff presentation to the Governing Board to outline a new component of the district's strategic

plan, which integrates into overall goals and objectives the development of social and emotional learning, or SEL.

SEL is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

Dr. Sandra Laine, Kyrene's director of exceptional student services, explained that SEL programming is based on understanding that the best learning emerges in the context of supportive relationships, which make learning challenging, engaging and meaningful.

## Multi-year intervention seen as vital

These social and emotional skills are critical to being a good student, citizen and worker. Research shows that many risky behaviors—drug use, violence, bullying and dropping out of school, among them—can be prevented or reduced when multi-year, integrated efforts are used to develop students' social and emotional skills.

Laine says this can be accomplished through effective classroom instruction, student engagement in positive activities in and out of the classroom, and broad parent and community involvement in program planning, implementation and evaluation.

Staff introduced a new pilot program called "Second Step," which addresses social-emotional topics such as values, friendships and peer conflict at the middle school level. Currently, the program is being piloted at Aprende Middle School, with successful results, according to Renee Kory, the school's principal.

"The response to the program is better than we expected," said Kory. "The kids are excited by Second Step, which allows for discussion and developing interpersonal

skills."

Eventually SEL will become part of the curriculum for all students, according to Laine.

"The goal is for a social emotional program to be implemented in all middle schools by the 2018-19 school year. A program for elementary-aged students also would be implemented over two to three years, between 2019 to 2021."

Other efforts include directly involving middle-school students in a program to learn tangible skills to help with the prevention of drug abuse, bullying and suicide.

A delegation of students attended a "Stand Up, Speak Up, Save a Life" conference at Grand Canyon University, where they were empowered to spread the word that it is okay to speak up and tell a trusted adult about another student, whom they know is in crisis.

## Vesely outlines strategies to affect change

While emotional challenges may re-occur throughout a child's life, Kyrene is focused on providing information to students and their parents, so they learn skills to adapt, to change and to cope with stress, according to Vesely.

"As superintendent, I am committed to working closely with our school leaders, parents and the Kyrene community to ensure that our most precious resource, our children, are fully supported—academically, socially and emotionally, to be the best they can be."

The district website includes counseling resources available to Kyrene families to assist with emotional and behavioral challenges. It also includes links to educational resources, lists of local social-service agencies and information on special needs students.

The information can be found under the listing for the Exceptional Student Services Department at [www.kyrene.org](http://www.kyrene.org)

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Students from Arredondo, like these second-graders, found congratulatory notes on the front doors of their homes if they met their winter testing goals. Staff visited 210 homes.

— Photo by Justin Aungst, Tempe Elementary School District

## Knock, knock, who's there? A surprise visit from teacher

By Justin Aungst

Arredondo Elementary School Principal Alison Bruening-Hamati happened to see a news clip of Basha High School teachers delivering congratulatory notes to the homes of their students who had passed their Advanced Placement tests.

Impressed with the idea and looking for a way to let their Arredondo students know that the school was proud of them, Bruening-Hamati brought it up at a teacher meeting, and before long the idea was rolling into a plan.

In a similar fashion to Basha High, Arredondo took note of all its students who had met or exceeded their winter testing goals and created small posters that staff members would hang up on the doors of the students' homes as a surprise.

The posters read "A Roadrunner at this home met their winter testing goals! We are proud of you!" and was accompanied by a picture of the school mascot, Rocky the Roadrunner.

The majority of Arredondo students were able to make their testing goals, which meant more work for the staff, but they didn't mind. In total, the Arredondo staff reached 210 homes all across the Valley.

"We have great programs like Positive Behavior Intervention

Supports that recognize good behavior, so any time we're able to find a creative way to reward students for their academic results I'm thrilled," said Bruening-Hamati.

"The kids work so hard in and out of the classroom, so giving them a little recognition is the least we can do. They really deserve it."

As one might expect, a great deal of excitement and surprise came from the recipients when they first saw their sign.

"I was actually really confused at first; I thought maybe Rocky the Roadrunner delivered it," said second-grade student Ayesha Amirah, before looking over to Bruening-Hamati and asking, "Did he?"

Itzel Torres Soto, another second grader, received her congratulatory note after meeting her math and language goals.

"At first my little brother thought it was for him, but I told him next year he'll be able to get one, too," said Itzel, whose younger brother is currently a preschooler at Arredondo.

"I worked really hard for this so it was nice to have the note and be able to show my parents and family."

*Justin Aungst is a Community Affairs and Marketing intern with the Tempe Elementary district.*



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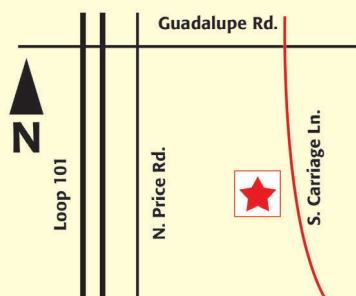
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Yellow bikes, part of Tempe's bike-share program, are popping up all over town. Equipped with a GPS tracking system, the bikes offer a way to get around for only \$1 an hour.

— Wrangler News photo by Chelsea Flood

## Bike-sharing grows as innovative approach to [almost] free wheeling

By Kody Acevedo

If you've spotted unattended yellow bikes parked in arbitrary spots around town, don't fret—they do indeed serve a purpose.

The dockless two-wheelers are part of a new variety of bike-share programs that debuted this past December.

Dockless bikes lock themselves and do not require a rack or station. Users, though, are encouraged to avoid blocking public rights of way or parking bicycles on residential properties, at bus stops or in alleyways.

Tempe's official bike share vendor is GRID, operated by CycleHop.

Launched last May, this docked system provides another alternative to residents and visitors for getting around the city with ease.

Since the project's startup, users have taken over 20,000 rides on the 300 bicycles located in Tempe.

In December, dockless bikes began operating in Tempe without any formal agreement with the city.

Ofo, the yellow bike provider, is a station-free bike sharing company that

began operating in Tempe about three weeks ago.

"The...innovation and the nice effect of this bike, aside from being a good bike, is it can kind of be everywhere," said Paul Vidal, general manager of Ofo in Phoenix. "You're never that far from one, and you don't have to go a mile or two out of your way to look for a dock."

Ofo works similar to Uber or Lyft. A smart phone app is required to unlock and pay for the bike.

Ofo bikes cost \$1 per hour to ride.

"Tempe is a community that really makes sense for the bikes," Vidal said. "The weather makes sense, the user profile makes sense."

But with a couple thousand Ofo riders a day in Tempe, Vidal said there will always be a handful of complaints.

Because the bikes are dockless, in order to secure the bike properly, the back tire automatically locks in place.

"A lot of users...they take liberties with the bikes and put them in places they shouldn't be," Vidal said. "That's the nature of a lot of the complaints we see."

Vidal insists that these occurrences



are rare.

"But that doesn't excuse them at all," Vidal said.

In Tempe and Scottsdale, Vidal said he has a combined staff of 20 whose full-time job is to "rebalance" the bikes. Each bike is GPS-tracked and monitored based on how often someone rides it.

"What that means is finding where the bad bikes are, or shouldn't be, via the GPS network we use with these bikes, collecting them and putting them in places that can serve people," Vidal said.

The city is currently looking into the legalities of the bike rental companies' use of public rights of way as well as city property, said TaiAnna Yee, a public information officer for the city of Tempe.

"Moving forward, Tempe is working with other cities (Phoenix, Mesa and Scottsdale) to create a regional solution to address dockless bikes," Yee said. "The city is doing its best to create regulations for these companies to follow. We are in the process of re-examining our city ordinances so that we may recommend modifications to our City Council to allow for a more orderly system."

Vidal said if there is a bike that needs to be moved promptly, the best way to contact Ofo is via e-mail at support@ofobike.com. Bikes will be moved within 24-hours.

"We're excited and committed to working with the city," Vidal said. "We're not good stewards of our community if we don't take care of business that doesn't work."

*For questions or feedback regarding dockless bikes, contact the companies directly. Spin: (orange bikes) 888-262-5189; LimeBike: (green with yellow) 888-546-3345; Ofo: (yellow bikes) 844-289-9747.*

*For information about Tempe's bike sharing program, visit [tempe.gov/BikeShare](http://tempe.gov/BikeShare).*

## Some tasty prizes for best Taste of Kyrene ticket sales

Kyrene-area families are being reminded that they can win a family adventure package to Anaheim or San Diego, as well as other worthwhile prizes, by purchasing tickets to the Kyrene Foundation's annual opportunity drawing.

Winners can be rewarded with a 4-day/3-night deluxe hotel stay in either Anaheim or San Diego with single day tickets for 2 adults and 2 kids to Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood or SeaWorld San Diego and Legoland California, courtesy of Get Away Today. The package is valued at \$1,000. Airfare is not included.

Tickets are \$10 each, \$5 of which goes to a Kyrene school of the buyer's choice and the remainder to the Kyrene Foundation in support of its mission to serve and provide resources for children and their families in the Kyrene community.

Prizes are also available to the Kyrene schools and individual or groups that sell the most tickets, with the top three selling the most tickets overall earning prizes in the form of \$100, \$75 and \$50 gift cards.

Award-winning author and illustrator Kevin Sylvester will visit the winning school and offer a full day of presentation (up to four separate sessions) with students. He also will leave behind original sketches that can be used for reference when they do their own doodles. Value: \$1,800.

Tickets can be purchased online at [TasteofKyrene.org](http://TasteofKyrene.org). Tickets can be purchased through Monday, Feb. 26; drawing will be held Friday, March 2 at the 8th annual Taste of Kyrene Auction and Reception.

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Editorial . . . By Joyce Coronel

# What we can and can't do to verify our readers' opinions

Here at Wrangler News we're constantly on the lookout for stories that reflect the communities of Tempe and West Chandler. Comments on our website in recent weeks have lauded our coverage of intensely local concerns, such as the proliferation of short-term rentals, controversies over smoke shops and artificial turf, planned changes to Estrada Park, the need for a new fire station and a recent forum for Tempe City Council candidates.

We regularly receive requests to publish commentaries from those who live and work in our area, and we welcome those submissions. We'd like to think that all of us who live, work and thrive here in our corner of the world can have a say regarding issues that matter.

When candidates for Tempe City Council faced off at a forum held at Arizona Community Church (see the front-page story in our Jan. 27 edition), one of the biggest concerns voiced by members of a standing-room-only audience had to do with a spike in water rates.

Some of those with questions had read our Jan. 13 issue that featured a commentary by Mary Lou Taylor, a longtime Tempe resident who once served on the Tempe Union High School board. In her commentary, Taylor decried what she said was a tripling in water bills for some Tempe residents who own larger properties.

She also raised questions about the quality of Tempe's water and an incident in which she alleges Tempe fire officials had to tap into three hydrants before connecting with a water supply to fight a fire.

A South Tempe resident later complained that we had not fact-checked Taylor's commentary prior to publishing it. This resident was offered an opportunity to submit a rebuttal to the Taylor commentary but elected not to do so.

We can only hope that others who may have disagreed with Taylor's piece, or with anything else labeled "commentary," whether by an outside contributor or us, would step up and submit their written viewpoint for publication, in agreement or not.

This, we feel, is a reasonable policy for the times when something that appears in our pages contains details that readers may disagree with.

It is, in fact, the way most small publications work. Additionally, because of the reality that there are only two of us who put Wrangler News together every other week, fact-verifying every contributed opinion piece simply wouldn't be feasible.

To do so would effectively preclude us, we feel, from offering a forum for community viewpoints,



which is exactly the opposite of the role we see ourselves playing in this community.

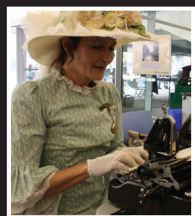
Finally, we'd like to be clear that opinion pieces published in our pages are, by their very nature, a reflection of the writer's opinion, not necessarily ours.

With all of that said, if you'd like to contribute a commentary—or respond to an existing one—please feel free to contact us at [editor@wranglernews.com](mailto:editor@wranglernews.com).

We ask that you keep submissions to 500 words or less. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, length and suitability, and of course to question content that even the least informed among all of us would recognize as contrary to commonly held knowledge.

We look forward to hearing from you about the issues that matter to you, our friends, neighbors and loyal followers during the 30 years we've been here to serve you.

*Please also note that a response to Taylor's Jan. 13 commentary from Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell and Councilmember Randy Keating appears on Page 26. As with Taylor's submission, it was not fact-checked prior to publication.*



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Michael Pollack accepts Assistance League of the East Valley's Operation School Bell Award for his monetary and in-kind contributions to the organization's community outreach.

## Mardi Gras

From Page 1

\$75.

For Pollack, it will be another addition to an impressive history of the contributions—both monetary and in kind totalling more than \$200,000—that he has made over the years to the Assistance League's community-wide support of Operation School Bell and others in need.

For his efforts, Pollack received the league's coveted Operation School Bell Award in 2016 as one highlight of the opening of the organization's revitalized thrift shop, which replaced a previous location it had operated for 14 years.

It is from that thrift shop enterprise, as well as from grants, that the league primarily generates its funding.

In 2016, after months of planning, the organization moved its thrift shop to a larger facility on Alma School Road north of Warner Road, with Pollack as landlord and the group's benefactor.

Pollack renovated the building, costs for which were valued at \$100,000, according to an Assistance League spokeswoman.

This included the amount of lost rent for one building, free use of space

for temporary storage of furnishings, architectural services, demolition, three full-page ads in a local newspaper and more.

He also encouraged the subcontractors to come up with favorable nonprofit bids.

According to a statement from the Assistance League, Pollack also is well aware that publicizing the organization's brand is critical for it to achieve its goals of serving more children. Thus, he underwrote the expenses of a public relations firm to help the chapter create a media plan.

When league officers expressed their thanks for his generosity, Pollack emphasized his appreciation for the organization's efforts.

"I'm glad to be able to do what I can do, so that you can do what you do so admirably for our community," he said.

"Helping an organization like East Valley Assistance League that helps so many people in need is a true honor for me and I feel blessed that I am able to help."

*Information about Mardi Gras prizes, registration and other details are available online at [assistanceleague.org/east-valley/mardi-gras-nite-fundraiser](http://assistanceleague.org/east-valley/mardi-gras-nite-fundraiser) or by calling 480-580-5319.*

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# Sports . . .

## Corona, Marcos, Tempe HS send qualifiers to state

**C**orona, Marcos de Niza and Tempe High School all had wrestlers who qualified and competed Feb. 8-11 in state championship wrestling tournaments.

The Aztecs, who had qualified 11 wrestlers for the Division I state tournament after taking second place in the Sectionals on Feb. 3, came in fourth out of 33 teams who participated at the DI state tournament Feb. 8-9 held in Prescott Valley.

Corona earned 108 points finishing fourth behind Sunnyside, with 193 points, Cibola with 164 points and Chandler with 124.5 points after five Aztec wrestlers received medals.

Junior **Bryce Nickel**, who was the Section IV champion, continued winning in the 138-pound weight class in the state tournament where he went undefeated and ultimately was named the state champion.

Nickel made it into the finals after defeating Nathaniel Ritter of Hamilton in a 3:06 fall in the first round, earning a 7-3 decision over Matt Ford from Horizon in the second round and then defeating in overtime Aaron Rodrigues of Sunnyside 6-5 in the semifinals.

In the finals, Nickel defeated Tanner Waite of Highland in an 8-4 decision to be the 2018 state champion ending the 2017-18 season winning 44 matches and only losing three.

Junior **Zack Kvavle** and senior **Jacob Garcia**, both Section IV champions, made it as far as the state championship finals before finishing in second place in their respective weight classes.

Kvavle, with an overall 44-4 record for the season in the 113-pound weight class, defeated by fall his opponents in the first three rounds before he faced Jesse Ybarra from Sunnyside in the



Corona's wrestling team took fourth place at the Division I state championship wrestling tournament when five of the team's 11 wrestlers medaled. Group included, from left, Jacob Garcia, Bryce Nickel, Zack Kvavle, Jacob Santa Cruz, Armando Arellano.

— Photo courtesy Jimmy Martinez

finals. Ybarra was awarded a SV or sudden victory in overtime to win the championship finals.

Garcia, wrestling in the 152-pound weight class, defeated three opponents either by fall or decision before losing in the finals to Aaron Gandara of

Cibola. He ended his senior season with an 8-1 record.

**Armando Arellano**, wrestling in the 145-pound category, finished his senior season with a 35-10 record after taking second in the sectionals and placing fourth at the state



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championships while fellow senior **Jacob Santa Cruz**, who went 37-12 his last high school season, placed third in the sectionals and sixth at the state tournament in the 195-pound weight class.

Corona's other wrestlers at the state tournament included **Tanner Mendoza** who qualified by taking first in the sectionals and subsequently wrestled in the state tournament in the 170-pound weight class finishing his sophomore year with a 34-9 record.

**Santiago Pesquiera**, wrestling in the 220-pound weight class, placed second in the sectionals but did not make it into the medal rounds at state. He finished his senior season with an overall 28-13 record.

Sophomore **Anthony Gonzales**, a third-place finisher at the sectionals in the 106-pound weight category, lost in the first round but defeated his next two opponents before being bumped out of the double-elimination tournament.

Junior **Roan Kelleher**, another Aztec wrestler who qualified for state based on his third-place finish in the sectionals, fought his way back after losing in the first round in the 160-pound weight class to win his next match before falling out of the competition in a decision in his third round.

Junior **Michael Orr** and senior **Bradley Buchholz**, both placing fourth in the sectionals, wrestled for the Aztecs at state. Orr finished the season 7-7 in the 126-pound weight class and Buchholz went 22-13 in the 126-pound category.

## Marcos de Niza Wrestling

Marcos de Niza took fifth place out of 43 Division III schools with 108.5 points in a highly contested

state tournament. Yuma was first with 170, Walden Grove second with 169.5, Show Low third with 168 and Safford was fourth with 154 points.

The Padres had 10 wrestlers qualify for the state tournament. Out of those 10 wrestlers, two won state championships, one took home a second-place medal, one a fourth place medal and one a fifth-place medal.

Two seniors, **Alex Torres** and **Hamza Manassra**, were crowned champions at the Division III State Championship Wrestling Tournament held in Prescott Valley Feb 9-10.

Alex Torres, wrestling in the 160-pound weight class, finished his season undefeated at 59-0 after wrestling his way through the brackets to defeat Robert White of Safford in a 12-9 decision in the finals.

Manassra finished his season with a 51-6 record in the 220-pound weight category by defeating Isiah Jacobs of Combs in the finals with a 3-0 decision.

**Andrew Torres** lost only one match his senior season amassing a 57-1 record. Unfortunately, that match was in the 170-pound weight class finals when he was defeated in overtime by Jackson Allen from Show Low. Andrew Torres was named the runner-up and took home a second-place medal.

In the 120-pound weight category, junior **Malik Shuaibe-Jones** received a fourth-place medal after defeating his opponents in the first two rounds before losing in the third round and was bumped into the loser side of the draw in the double-elimination tournament. He defeated his fourth opponent to wrestle for third place. Shuaibe-Jones was defeated by Conner Schweigert from Show Low to place

fourth.

The last Padre wrestler to finish in the medals was senior **Trequan Johnson** who took fifth place in the 182-pound weight class. Johnson, who finished the season with a 46-9 record, defeated his first two opponents before losing in the third round. He ended up placing fifth.

The five other wrestlers who qualified for state from Marcos de Niza included senior **Jose Figueroa** who finished the season 11-16 in the 152-pound weight class, junior **Rafael Cabrera** with a 35-22 record in the 126-pound weight class, sophomore **Jacob Navarrette**, 32-18 in the 132-pound weight class, sophomore **Zach Martinez**, 19-19 in the 113-pound weight category and freshman **Gavin Gonzales** with a 11-7 record in the 106-pound weight category.

## Tempe High School Wrestling

The Buffaloes had three wrestlers qualify for and wrestle at the Division II state wrestling tournament. They were led by senior **Stevie Maddox** wrestling in the 170-pound weight category.

Maddox finished his senior year with a 54-4 record after placing third at the state championships. He defeated Jeremiah Volva from Apollo in the first round and then Caleb Calaway from Cienega in the second round before being bumped into the losers side of the brackets after losing in the third round.

Maddox fought his way through the losers bracket first defeating Lewis Everett from Mesquite in a 7-1 decision and then Adriane Kadekein from

— SPORTS, Page 16

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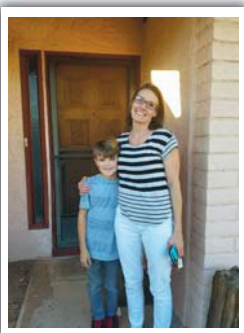
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## ASU, Compadre alliance using new model to prepare students for future



Students at ASU Prep, located on Tempe Union's Compadre campus in South Tempe, are learning in a flexible model that allows for a personalized educational experience.

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

By 2020, experts say, an estimated 65 percent of jobs in the United States will require a college degree and some form of post-secondary education.

Thus, say the visionaries behind ASU Preparatory Academy, their approach to learning is gaining momentum at a critical time in the trajectory of education.

And, as the ASU Prep initiative has become fully energized on the Compadre campus in Tempe, students are learning how to become prepared for college and workforce success.

Under this dual strategic approach, ASU Prep has adopted a deliberately "disruptive" blended-learning approach, say planners. This approach was envisioned last fall when the ASU/Tempe Union collaboration began.

Rather than utilizing the familiar "factory-based" model of classroom instruction in which students are grouped to learn the same topics at the same time—a model that experts say struggles to prepare students for the demands of life and jobs in the 21st Century—faculty advisers give students access to an individualized pace and plan of study with the guidance of a teacher who is a content expert.

Students collaborate with peers and instructors, both in person at the school and online each day so that learning is not accomplished in isolation.

This flexible model, they say, gives students the ability to pursue personal interests while learning in an integrated educational continuum.

The model as described is said to be superior to the century-old, factory-based design and other classroom learning models. It combines the face-to-face component with online familiarity that presents content, interactive practice, projects and assessments in a dual format.

Blended learning offers a customized and personalized experience that addresses each student's distinct learning needs, interests, goals and backgrounds, and provides a variety of learning experiences and instructional approaches.

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For example, students may access online lessons relating to different science topics and then design and carry out an investigation in a science lab with their peers, leveraging the flexibility of online learning and the practical benefit of hands-on inquiry.

This student-centered approach fosters a sense of autonomy and promotes student ownership over the direction and progress of their learning.

Ninth grade scholar Ameenah Evans says he chose ASU Prep Tempe because “it would be a good opportunity to build my own path.” The ability to take ownership and to explore the curriculum as it relates to student interests naturally increases engagement and fosters a lifelong love of learning.”

With the new concept having moved into full operational status, educators at ASU Prep say they have found that a blended learning environment affords students a greater awareness of their strengths and growth areas, inspiring them to set and achieve their goals—and then to create new ones.

Students may master all of the content from a course before the end of the year and begin working on a new course or an applied project that they develop. Further, blended learning provides for deeper learning experiences using state-of-the-art digital tools in a meaningful and intentional way while allowing students to explore interests and passions as they navigate their learning program.

Students who are in the same course and classroom can learn about different topics that are of interest to them. For example, within a math class, some students may be learning about how to calculate conditional probability while others are using the same conditional logic for computer coding.

Teachers facilitate unifying discussions and experiences that allow students to accelerate at their pace while learning with and from each other. The ASU Prep Tempe site is a 1:1 program, meaning each student is issued a laptop for use at both home and school to conduct academic activities.

Students have opportunities daily to develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills by working collaboratively to identify solutions to local and global community issues and to communicate regularly with their peers, instructors and mentors—all essential skills, say advisers, that 21st Century employers seek.

The smaller class sizes at ASU Prep Tempe allow teachers to provide focused and personalized attention to those needing additional assistance and to offer extension activities for students ready to take their learning to the next level.

Students receive an individualized learning plan and meet with a faculty adviser regularly to set academic and personal goals, evaluate progress and celebrate successes.

The students seem to agree.

Says ASU Prep 10th grader Jose Martinez:

“Since I started here, my grades have improved since last year. All the teachers are really helpful, and you always have one-on-one time with them. They help you move toward success and understand the content better.”

The school offers monthly open houses for interested parents and students to learn more about its approach to learning. Sessions are scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month at the Compadre campus, 500 E. Guadalupe Road.

Information: 480-752-3560 or asuprep.asu.edu/schools/tempe.

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# Briefly . . .

## Going with the 'Flo'

Flo's is still doing "the Twist" 20 years later. First opened by Flo Chan and her husband Dustin Wallace in 1997, the restaurant has since blossomed into a three-location operation.

The popular dining spot's 20th anniversary celebration kicked off with new menu additions including sweet and spicy coconut flavored duck; macadamia pineapple shrimp and sweet and sour pork with fuji apples and candy ginger, among others.

"We've long called our approach "traditional with a twist," said Chan, a Hong Kong native who is owner and manager of Flo's. "While we adhere closely to traditional techniques, we aren't afraid to introduce outside elements and influences.

"We're so grateful for all the support we've received from the community over the past 20 years. We wanted to do something special to show our appreciation, so we've concocted some sensational new dishes that we believe patrons will truly enjoy."

For more information visit [www.madebyflo.com](http://www.madebyflo.com).

## Chandler Chamber awards

Nominations for the Chandler Chamber of Commerce's Annual Community Awards are being accepted until March 30 for recognition to occur Friday, June 1, at Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino. Included are:

Diversity Award, James R. Snedigar Public Safety Award, Community Cup, Chamber Cup, Educator of the Year, Education Support Staff of the Year, Education Administrator of the Year, Micro Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Medium Business of the Year, Business of the Year and Business Diversity Award.

Details: [info@chandlerchamber.org](mailto:info@chandlerchamber.org)

## Birds of a feather are back

Here at Wrangler News, we're going to stick our necks out and ask readers not to bury their heads in the sand when this year's Ostrich Festival kicks into action on Saturday, March 3. Oh, and while we're at it, we hope you'll forgive us for taking this event under our wing so far ahead of schedule and being such early birds with our reminder.

So, moving on, the upcoming (and, as always, eagerly anticipated) Ostrich Festival kickoff weekend—featuring the Mayor's 5K Fun Run, Public Safety Fair, Chandler Classic Car Show and Ostrich Festival parade—will feature as grand marshals Chandler High School Head Football Coach and Regional Coach of Year Shaun Aguano; Fox 10 News personality Marcy Jones; and Arizona Diamondbacks mascot Baxter.

The day of events will begin with the annual fun and youth runs in downtown Chandler. The youth 1.5-mile run will start at 7:30 a.m., the mayor's at 8:15.

At 10 a.m., the parade will make its way down Arizona Avenue beginning at Ray Road and ending at Chicago Street, featuring about 100 entries, including floats, dignitaries, pageant winners, horses, dance

teams and a new Ostrich Festival mascot.

A public safety fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chandler Police Department, featuring police and fire displays, a K-9 unit, tactical robot, S.W.A.T. team, rappelling and fire rescue demos, as well as free child-fingerprinting, face painting and McGruff the crime dog.

For an added treat, the 15th annual Chandler Classic Car Show, featuring classic cars and hot rods, will take place at the same time and location.

Information and registration: [OstrichFestival.com](http://OstrichFestival.com).

## Hayden's Ferry comes to life

Tempe's unique history will come to life at the 3rd annual Hayden's Ferry Days March 2-4.

Friday, March 2, 6 p.m. – Founders Dinner – Hackett House, 95 W. 4th St.

Kick off Hayden's Ferry Days at Hackett House with dinner prepared in early frontier style in Dutch Ovens.

Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – The Festival – Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Celebrate Tempe's history at Hayden's Ferry Days from March 2-4 – This free festival features interactive displays, interesting booths, demonstrators and Western re-enactors. There will be a Vintage & Antique market and a spot where community members can get their antiques appraised (fees apply).

Sunday, March 4 – Historic Tour Day – Free tours to explore historic houses in Tempe, including the Petersen House, Elias-Rodriguez House, Hackett House and Eisendrath House.

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## Sports

From Page 11

Liberty in fall to secure third place.

Also wrestling from Tempe was sophomore **Jaxen David** who finished the season a 40-15 record in the 106-pound weight category and junior **Maximum Pearce**. Pearce won 29 and lost 21 matches while wrestling in the 120-pound weight class.

## State Basketball Results

### Corona Basketball

Corona del Sol, ranked No. 22 in the 6A division at the end of the regular season with an 8-10 regular season record, had to play at No. 11 ranked Sandra Day O'Connor on Feb. 9 in the Conference Play-In Tournament to make it in to the state tournament.

The Aztecs defeated Sandra Day O'Connor by just one point, 42-41, to move into the playoffs.

Corona, as the No. 16 seed, played No. 1 Brophy Prep in Feb. 13 in the first round of 6A state basketball single-elimination tournament where they lost to the No. 1 seed 57-37.

### Tempe Basketball

Tempe High School, ranked No. 15 after the regular season, defeated No. 18 Prescott 66-52 in the 4A Conference Play-In Tournament on Feb. 9 to move into the 4A state basketball playoffs as the No. 12 seeded team.

The Buffaloes played No. 5 seeded Cactus Shadows in the first round on Feb. 14 where they were defeated 65-60 and therefore out of the tournament.

### Marcos Basketball

Marcos de Niza, ranked No. 24 after the regular season, had a chance to get into the 4A state basketball tournament by defeating No. 9 ranked Dysart on Feb. 9 in the 4A Conference Play-In Tournament. Unfortunately, they lost 60-55 and did not get into the playoffs this season.

Marcos de Niza will lose six players to graduation this spring: **Sunny Ozuna, Chris Terell, Orion Bryant, Charles Newton, Janathon Bolds and Jalen Porter**.

Bolds, who played in all 27 games, was the leading scoring for the Padres

averaging 10.3 points per game. He scored 278 total points making 67% of his shots plus he was the leading rebounder on the team with 173 rebounds, 12 assists, 31 steals and 12 blocked shots.

Bryant also played in all 27 games scoring 187 points with 104 rebounds, 42 assists, 62 steals and 8 blocks while Terell played in 26 games scoring 120 points, 59 rebounds, 39 assists, 23 steals and 15 blocks. Terell hit 24 treys or 28% from the 3-point line.

Ozuna played in 25 games scoring 88 points, making 17 treys, snagging 30 rebounds with 31 assists and 20 steals.

Porter played in 19 games scoring 118 points averaging 6.2 points a game hitting 35% of his shots from the three-point line. He ended the season with 25 rebounds, 27 assists and 24 steals.

Newton played in 18 games where he pulled down 23 rebounds with five assists, seven steals and two blocks.

### McClintock Basketball

McClintock had an automatic bid into the 5A state championship basketball tournament after finishing the regular season with a 13-5 record and a No. 8 ranking.

The Chargers played No. 9 Apollo in the first round of the 5A state tournament playoffs on Feb. 13 where they unfortunately lost 59-51 and were eliminated from the tournament.

## Corona Boys Soccer

It took the No. 1 seed Brophy Prep two overtimes to defeat the No. 12 seeded Aztecs in the semi-finals of the 6A State Championship Soccer Tournament held Feb. 7 at Camp Verde High School.

Corona led 1-0 at halftime but the Broncos came back to tie the game at 1-1 with a goal in the second half forcing overtime.

Both teams played great defense in the first overtime, but the Broncos managed to score two goals in the second overtime period to pull out the 3-1 win.

It was a heartbreaker for the Aztecs who had to fight their way out of the 6A Play-In Tournament after they were ranked No. 13 after compiling a 6-4-2 record in the regular season.



# Tempe High school athletes tackle a new challenge: Helping kids learn to read

By Jonathan Coronel

Reading is the foundation of any well-rounded education. For some fortunate kids, reading is a joy they embrace at school each day. For others their daily reading assignments are formidable adversaries between them and success in the classroom.

Luckily for some elementary school students in Tempe, they now have some tough friends of their own to help them tackle the challenge head on.

Enter the Buff Buddies of Tempe High School's varsity football team.

When Brian Walker, himself a product of nearby McClintock high, first arrived as head coach at Tempe High in 2009, he made a point to go to local elementary and middle schools to further familiarize himself with the community. It was curing these mini-excursions that the seed of Buff Buddies was planted.

"I witnessed a young man having some difficulties with his behavior. I said a few things to him and a few days later I received a phone call from the middle school thanking me for helping this young man correct some of his behaviors. This was actually the beginning of the mentoring aspect we have implemented," Walker explains.

Seeing the need for strong mentors for local youths with unmet needs, Walker and his assistant coach, Brandon Russell—who is also a guidance counselor—formulated what would become a winning play for their school's athletes as well as the community.

With the approval from the administration of Tempe High and local schools like Gilliland and Arredondo elementary, Walker and Russell began identifying football



players who were excelling in the classroom as well as on the field. Once selected, these players began attending local schools to read to and mentor younger kids.

While reading is a big part of the program, it's clear that Walker's players also serve a crucial role helping kids overcome behavioral issues as well.

"Not all, but a significant amount of academic struggles in the classroom can often be linked to behavior issues," said Walker.

"Sometimes interrupting or being a disturbance in class gets the student out of an academic area in which they are struggling. We want to target kids who need an extra nudge with their academics and sometimes with their behavior," he said.

Talking to the players, it's clear that the benefits of the Buff Buddies program go both ways, according to junior quarterback Nathan Clayton. "It was an honor to be recognized as someone who was well suited due to having good grades, and it always feels good to lend a helping hand."

For junior wide receiver Jaelen Jefferson, the effort he puts into mentoring struggling elementary students is the same work ethic he brings to the football field.

"I put in my all each week, seeing each kid progress to success."

Jackson not only excels as a student athlete, but his own struggles as a youngster in elementary school make him an ideal role model for kids on a similar path.

"Back in elementary school, I battled with behavior and anger issues. At the time, I didn't realize the magnitude of how your attitude and character affects your overall education. This is why being a Buff Buddies mentor is important to me; seeing these kids is like seeing a reflection of my younger self."

To coach Walker, the program represents a win-win for the community, as well as does his daily goal of developing his players into servant leaders.

"The 'me first' mentality saturates our lives, so the fact that they are willing to serve others speaks volumes of them as a young person."



Members of Tempe High's football team who excel both on the field and in the classroom tutor and mentor students at Arredondo and other schools in the Tempe Elementary School District.

— Photo courtesy Brian Walker



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Suzy Arredondo's service dog Irish attends school with her and accompanies her throughout the community. The golden retriever can sense when Suzy is about to have a seizure. See story on facing page

Photos for  
Wrangler News  
by Billy Hardiman





# Irish proves more than man's best friend

*He's also 11-year-old's lifeline to being seizure-safe*

By Kody Acevedo

Irish, a six-year-old golden retriever, is man's best friend in more ways than one.

For 11-year-old Suzy, he's her connection to the world.

Suzy is non-verbal. She has epilepsy and autism. Irish is her service dog and through a language of his own, speaks for her.

"For me, it's my journey to help her out," said Suzy's mother Jaime Arredondo. "As parents, it's what can we give her to help her succeed?"

Suzy didn't have many friends growing up. It's tough for little kids to understand Suzy's situation. Then Irish came along.

"We fundraised for about 10 months to get (Irish)," Arredondo said. "Then we had to do dog training and we had to pass a test as a family."

Then, everyday tasks started to become a little bit easier, including school. Irish was the first service dog admitted to Tempe Elementary Schools.

"He goes to school with her every day," Arredondo said. "Kids want to sit by her now, because she has a



dog."

Suzy has even learned to socialize with her classmates at Broadmor Elementary because of Irish. They have to ask for her permission before they can pet Irish.

"It gives her an identity and she can have friends," Arredondo said. "People can relate to her and talk to her. It's really been a blessing."

Not only is Irish a social icebreaker, he's on constant alert for Suzy's medical concerns. Irish is now trained to detect when Suzy is about to have a seizure.

"What Irish learned is her scent," Arredondo said.

Once, after experiencing a seizure, Arredondo put the shirt Suzy wore during the episode in the freezer. The next day, the dog trainer came out and taught Irish to be on alert for that specific scent from the shirt. "When you are about to have a seizure, you give off a certain scent. So, he knows when something is about to happen. He goes over to us and will nod and walk over to her too," she said.

According to servicedogcentral.org, 15 percent of dogs are naturally able to predict seizures before they occur.

On average, a service dog can predict a seizure 10-20 minutes before the seizure occurs. It gives the

person with the seizure disorder an opportunity to move to a safe place, take medication, call for help, or notify friends or family.

"Dogs are amazing," Arredondo said.

Not only does Irish do much to help Suzy and her family, he also helps the community understand Suzy's condition.

"If you just look at Suzy you might think she's fine," Arredondo said. "She doesn't have the Down syndrome features or the typical features that make you think she's disabled. So, with the dog, people don't ask questions or look at her funny."

Irish has been with the family for the last three years. He was bred at Arizona Golden's.

Arredondo said they start training their furry students at an early age and know about 10 commands by the time they are 12 weeks old to 18 weeks old.

But at the end of the day, he is a typical dog for Suzy and her little brother, Bo, 7.

"Sometimes he gets in the garbage or eats our food," Arredondo said.

"We can take off his vest and he likes to play."

"He's just like a regular dog."



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## Robin Arredondo-Savage for Tempe City Council



"As a 4th generation Tempean, it has been an honor to serve as Vice Mayor and work with so many fantastic people and organizations that have truly made a difference in our community. These collaborative efforts brought Tempe many great programs such as College Connect, Youth Workforce Development, the Aerospace Round Table, Workforce Housing, inclusion of those with disabilities, and a comprehensive Veterans Initiative. I ask for your vote on or before March 13th so we can continue working together to make Tempe the best place to live, work, learn and play."

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Arredondo-Savage  
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**Vote for Robin Arredondo-Savage  
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Authorized by Robin Arredondo-Savage

## Preparedness

From Page 1

"I believe that school safety is an everyday process," Meza said.

"Safety begins with the planning and preparing—ensuring we react appropriately and take the proper action."

The process starts at prevention ground zero, comprised of a cadre of rank-and-file staff members charged with protecting each campus against threat.

"Our school security (people) test their equipment and do safety inspections at least once a month. Then I go out to the schools and conduct more of a thorough site inspection. So it's a continual thing."

Meza said the district recently updated its emergency management plans, but current procedures will likely be updated again before the start of the next school year.

The district's emergency procedures aren't adjusted in a knee-jerk reaction to incidents like Parkland, Meza emphasized.

"I'm prior law enforcement, so I really look at it from the aspect of looking for improvement every day," Meza said. "Yes, these types of incidents raise our concern, make us look harder at things."

Ernie Ontiveros, assistant director of transportation and school safety for the Tempe Elementary School District, echoes Meza's views.

"Tempe Elementary...is constantly evaluating and reevaluating emergency response procedures," Ontiveros said. "After each drill or event, an after-action review is conducted by the staff involved. This is an opportunity to evaluate what works and find areas that can be improved."

Drills are a major tool used by Tempe Elementary and TUHSD to train teachers and students about emergency procedures.

"Students are given instruction on proper lockdown procedures and participate in drills throughout the school year," Ontiveros said. "Students are also taught to report suspicious activity and stranger-danger to an adult immediately."

Tempe Elementary teachers also play a vital role in helping keep kids safe.

"Teacher training includes a discussion on the importance of being aware of your surroundings and reporting suspicious activity. If a teacher or any other staff see an armed person, or any other threat appears on campus, they are able to initiate the appropriate response to that threat, like a lockdown," Ontiveros said.

Meza, who was once in charge of a large neighboring community's police force, views the school district as a small community where everyone's participation in safety is necessary.

"We need cooperation from our parents, cooperation from our students, cooperation from our staff," Meza said.

"We also have an incredible relationship with Tempe PD and Phoenix PD. The ability for those agencies to take threats seriously and investigate them thoroughly—I think that's a huge advantage."

Meza said he also stresses constant training of his security guards and teachers to be on alert as well.

"We conduct regular training with our security guards to expect the unexpected," Meza said. "And we encourage them to be engaged with students because if you build a rapport (with them) they will tell you things that they hear and have the ability to



# Preparedness

From Page 22

prevent things from happening.”

While training his own staff is what Meza knows best, one area that needs improvement, he says, is ensuring the same kind of preparedness for teachers. “I will say that if there is an area that we can continue to improve on it’s to get more training for our teachers,” Meza said. “I think they are so bombarded with the educator training that they don’t get enough of the situational awareness, active shooter-specific training.”

“One of the things we are going to look at is how do we get more training to our teachers along with our security staff.”

For now, teachers continue to participate in drills: monthly evacuation exercises and lockdown drills twice a year. Each classroom is equipped with emergency procedures and instructions for teachers.

The key to student safety begins with a well thought-out plan. While the events in Florida are truly horrifying and saddening, it’s another lesson for all school safety officials, and Tempe schools are taking notes.

## Adult volunteers needed to tutor elementary students in developing reading skills

Related story on Page 16

Each year, more than 500 Tempe children wait to be paired with an adult volunteer from the city of Tempe’s Experience Corps to help them become more skilled and confident readers.

Now, the search for qualified volunteers is on again, specifically those willing to work with children from kindergarten through third grade.

Adults ages 50 and older who would like to tutor young students and are willing to commit to a full school year can learn more about the program by attending an Experience Corps information session. Volunteers do not need special skills—just a willingness to share their experience, time and patience. Fingerprinting and a background check are also required.

Information sessions will be held at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28; Tuesday, March 20; Thursday, April 12; Thursday, April 24; and Tuesday, May 15.

Volunteers receive comprehensive training, support services and orientation prior to being paired with a child. Volunteers will work in 10 Tempe Elementary district schools, providing one-on-one early literacy tutoring to young students.

Information: [tempe.gov/ExperienceCorps](http://tempe.gov/ExperienceCorps) or Rebecca Bond, 480-858-2464 or [Rebecca\\_Bond@tempe.gov](mailto:Rebecca_Bond@tempe.gov).

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For over a decade, Genevieve has been a champion of progressive values, serving in various leadership positions in her community and volunteering for causes related to school funding, voting rights, and human services. Genevieve is in her second board term on the Tempe Community Council, where she has co-chaired the Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards Dinner, raising tens of thousands of dollars for Tempeans in need. Genevieve also is on the Phoenix Suns Charities 88 Board of Directors.

- Tempe small business owner
- Understands Tempe working families
- Fighting for Tempe's underserved populations
- Advocate for local businesses
- Committed to building a better Tempe



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# VOTE FOR LAUREN KUBY

## Tempe City Council

As a Tempe Council member, Lauren has led efforts for equal pay, environmental protection, earned sick days, government transparency, and campaign-finance reform. She champions cities as hubs of innovation in Arizona and defends local democracy at every turn.



- Putting Tempe first
- Champion for equal pay
- Fights for Tempe's working families
- Focused on sustainability and innovation

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# Setting the record straight on water issues in Tempe

*The following is a response to a commentary by Mary Lou Taylor that appeared in the Wrangler News edition of Jan. 13.*

**By Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell and Councilmember Randy Keating**

Everyone has the right to express their opinions. But recently, there was a column printed in this publication that contained misleading, inaccurate and alarming information about our water in Tempe.

We feel compelled to set the record straight because nothing is more important than providing safe, reliable water. The Tempe City Council and our staff take all water matters—quality, scarcity, reliability and cost—very seriously each and every day.

Tempe provides water service to about 43,000 residential and business accounts serving a population over 180,000 residents, and those who work and visit Tempe. We continue to study water rates because these rates, fees and charges are used to recover the cost of providing this service, including any repairs or improvements to the infrastructure. We don't set these rates arbitrarily. The rates are based on usage by various customer classifications. The more water that goes through our system, the greater the cost to the city. For the facts about how your water rates are formulated, visit [www.tempe.gov/waterrates](http://www.tempe.gov/waterrates).

Delivering safe drinking water to our residents and complying with all drinking water regulations is priority one, which is one reason why we invested in building our new water lab as part of the South Water Treatment Plant and why we have had an asset management program in place for years.

Our responsibility for water quality safety and compliance requires us to collect over 2,000 drinking water samples annually. Since enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974, Tempe has only had one health-based violation of this standard, which was a violation of the standard for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in May 2017. This continual testing allows us to monitor water quality throughout the city, which is how we found out we were out of compliance. For one quarterly reporting period of an annual-running-average sampling series at one of our compliance locations, the maximum TTHMs of 80 parts per billion (ppb) was exceeded (85 ppb). Steps were promptly taken to address the concern and to confirm improvement through follow-up sampling.

It is important to note that the federal Safe Water standards for TTHM

are intended to protect consumers from chronic, cumulative exposure to contaminants, and are based on the potential health effects of drinking two liters of water per day for 70 years.

When we found out about the violation, we notified all city drinking water customers with the potential concerns and when we were back in compliance. To suggest that residents were not informed of the current safety of their drinking water is to disregard all of the information that we put out to the public via our monthly utility bill, social media, email, our website and our local news outlets.

While we don't take the violation lightly, to use this incident to alarm our residents is not appropriate.

Residents continue to receive safe drinking water and if there is a future issue with our water quality, we will be transparent and inform the public. It's our job.

Further, the claim that Tempe Fire and Medical Rescue was unable to secure a water supply from a fire hydrant at a recent house fire, is also untrue. Firefighters were able to hook up to a fire hydrant nearest the house without issue.

In fact, there were a total of three hand lines deployed on the fire.

While hydrant issues do occur from time to time, the City of Tempe has an extensive fire hydrant system, with over 9,200 hydrants within our 42 square miles. These hydrants are routinely checked by a cross-departmental team of city employees.

In last year's budget, the Council approved the formation of two dedicated personnel for proactive maintenance of our fire hydrants, and that work is ongoing.

While there is always room for improvement, we're proud to own a vital community utility that is responsive and values safety and quality above all. We would hope that in the future, we can have a civilized discussion about the issues that are happening in the City of Tempe.

If you ever hear a rumor about the city and wonder if it's accurate, we encourage you to reach out to us. We will always provide you the facts, no matter what they are. We appreciate you giving us a chance to set the record straight.

*Editor's note: The above commentary from Mayor Mitchell and Councilmember Keating was posted on our Wrangler News website after it was received on Feb. 9. On Feb. 12, Angie Taylor emailed the following message to editor@wranglernews.com: "Mary Lou Taylor stands by her editorial commentary and adds she is "grateful these issues are now getting the attention they demand."*



## Diversions . . . with M.V. Moorhead

# Marvel-ous!

**D**reamed up by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, Black Panther was the first black superhero of any significance, debuting in *Fantastic Four* in 1966, and gradually taking over the pages of Marvel's *Jungle Action* in the '70s. He made his movie debut in 2016's *Captain America: Civil War*, played, as he is here, by Chadwick Boseman.

The roll that Marvel movies have been on continues, and maybe reaches a high point, with this extravagant, stirring saga. The title character is T'Challa, a royal in Wakanda, a tiny, isolated African nation. He's a rare (maybe singular?) specimen of both the Superman-Captain Marvel type of superhero, in that he has pseudo-scientifically and/or mystically bestowed superhuman powers, and the Doc Savage-Batman-James Bond school, in that he's a rich kid with unlimited technological resources and official sanction.

Wakanda, you see, has a secret: to the outside world it looks like a bucolic third-world backwater, but the big mountains in its center are a projection masking a futuristic, technocratic civilization far in advance of the rest of the world. It's powered by the deposits of an element called "vibranium" on which the country sits and which, along with training and traditional rituals, are also what give our hero his abilities.

The Wakandas keep their real nature secret to keep the vibranium from falling into the wrong hands, and to protect themselves and others from the corruption of interfering in other people's affairs. They're like Switzerland, or *Star Trek's* Federation with its annoying "Prime Directive."



Near the beginning of the film, we see a Wakandan airship cruise into the skyline of this utopia. At the screening, I was sitting next to an African-American friend who leaned over and whispered in my ear "Thanks for the help during slavery." I must admit that, in all my readings of the comic, this potential for resentment of the Wakandans by other people of African descent, and by disadvantaged people in general, had simply never occurred to me. But it turns out to be the center of the movie's conflict.

The story here involves two villains. Klaue, a tatted-up South African weapons peddler with a vibranium-powered mechanical arm and a grudge against T'Challa, is played by Andy Serkis, grinning with jolly murderousness. But in the course of the story he's overtaken as antagonist by Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan), a veteran of the U.S. military with an even deeper and more complicated grudge against our hero.

Director Ryan Coogler, who co-wrote the script with Joe Robert Cole, nails nearly every element in *Black Panther*. The narrative unfolds conventionally, but with a precision and a steady pace that makes it feel mythic. The movie is unhurried, yet I can't remember a boring moment, and the strength of the emotional payoff in the final minutes may sneak up on you. The costumes, sets and cinematography have a lush visual whimsicality—an affectionate hint of an old-Hollywood idea of Africa—that borders on the tongue-in-cheek but avoids kitsch.

Better than any of this, however, is the cast. Boseman plays iconic figures—Jackie Robinson, James Brown, Thurgood Marshall—so often that it's easy to miss that he plays them as human beings. His princely bearing as T'Challa is used, often and wisely, to comic effect. He's a frequent straight man to the ridiculously glamorous women in the cast: Lupita Nyong'o as his spy love interest, Letitia Wright as his tech-genius little sister—equivalent to Q

— DIVERSIONS, Page 31



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# Feedback

## In support of Arredondo-Savage

I support Robin Arredondo-Savage for Tempe City Council. I have had the honor of knowing Robin since her days on the Tempe Union High School Governing Board, more than a decade ago. It's there, I began to appreciate her honesty in addressing questions and concerns as well as her ability to unify stakeholders for a common goal.

Since then, she has used these strong leadership skills during her two terms on the city council. She bridges gaps and puts people over partisanship. She understands the importance of considering different perspectives as well as the impact on our tax dollars when finding pragmatic solutions. Furthermore, she understands her role as a city council member and stays focused on these responsibilities.

Robin has remained true to her roots in education. Being raised in a family of educational professionals she has a deep understanding of the changing needs of students. With higher education becoming more and more of a necessity, she created and expanded the COLLEGE CONNECT Program. This much-needed program hosts workshops and trainings for high school students to navigate through the college application process.

Robin loves Tempe and she wants only the best for this city. Please join me in voting for Robin Arredondo-Savage so she can continue to be our voice on the Tempe City Council!

—Sandy Lowe, 30-year resident of Tempe, public school advocate, serving 2nd term on TUHSD governing board

## In support of Adams

Leadership matters!

People are busy, I understand, but it is truly imperative that citizens learn who the candidates are for Tempe City Council. When elected they will affect your household budget and city standard of living.

There is one candidate that stands out, in my opinion, Jennifer Adams. Why? Because after meeting Jennifer Adams multiple times, my assessment is that Jennifer is smart, confident, qualified, experienced, a listener, and she cares about the future of our city, Tempe.

At no other time, have I been so worried about Tempe's future. Jennifer Adams understands that Tempe must develop a long term vision of what it is to become. She understands that Tempe is made of diverse neighborhoods, each with its own character and charm. Ms. Adams wants to empower these neighborhood residents to choose their own destiny, rather than have a destiny chosen for them.

Jennifer Adams also is a supporter of small business and has received recognition from the business community through endorsement by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. She has a sincere appreciation for fiscal responsibility in establishing and meeting budgets.

Ms Adams also recognizes that Tempe, like many cities, is faced with aging infrastructure that has gone too long without repairs. Jennifer's budgetary experience and former employment with the city makes her uniquely qualified to create a map forward to improving roads, water, sewers, trash, green areas, and parks so that residents can once again enjoy living in Tempe.

Jennifer Adams possesses those leadership skills that can strategically move Tempe towards a promising future. I hope you join me in voting Jennifer Adams for Tempe City Council.

—Linda Wegener

## Skills, knowledge key to Adams' candidacy

There's been a lot going on in the City Council campaign. But I know my neighbor and friend Jennifer Adams well, and I want to share with you why she gets my vote, and why you should vote for her too.

Jennifer is a fabulous neighbor, helping the kids with their horses, sweetly grooming and tending to her own horses, volunteering for neighborhood events and activities, and actively participating in our book club. She is a decent person, a caring

person who demonstrates her devotion to her spouse, her kitties, her golf mates and her community routinely. But she is way beyond an ordinary, everyday gal.

She has skills and knowledge from her many years working for the city that would enable her to immediately make a difference. As a trained therapist, counselor and advocate, she understands how to manage group dynamics as well as collegial relationships, valuable for establishing herself. She knows every building in the City, understands our infrastructure needs, is versed in the General Plan, Master Plans for transportation, arts and culture, and city Character Areas. She knows the right questions to ask and where the resources are for answers. Understanding and managing the city's budget comes readily to her, as she's been managing a large budget in the city for years and is familiar with how the master budget is developed and monitored. And her upbringing taught her the values of community service, family business acumen, and devotion to the people in her life.

Jennifer Adams seeks the opportunity to advocate for and give voice to Tempe's residents in her post-employment life. Her agenda is only what best serves Tempe and its citizens.

Casting a vote for Jennifer Adams is casting a vote for transparency, accountability, integrity, talent and experience. I know her well and personally. I urge you to join me in getting Jennifer Adams elected to Tempe City Council.

—Katy Holditch

## 'Dark money' objections

As a Tempe voter, it is very disturbing to me that an incumbent and her hand-picked crony are now benefitting from a "dark money" campaign via Wrangler News full-page ads. Examination of both ads reveals they are paid for by "Revitalizing Arizona/Residents for Accountability," which according to Tempe City Clerk's office is registered as a "standing committee (independent expenditure group) that files its campaign reports with Arizona Secretary of State, NOT the City of Tempe. Such groups also have different contribution and spending regulations than those for candidate campaigns. And you and I, as voters in Tempe, have no visibility to their donors! Further, the law prohibits such independent expenditure groups from any contact or coordination with the campaigns of the candidates themselves, so why are they buying ads in Wrangler News? Because they want Kuby/Vega to get your vote! How hypocritical, given that Kuby recently boasted at a public forum that she was in full support of, even helped write, a proposed Charter amendment that would greatly restrict "dark money" spending in Tempe elections. She also strongly defended the council-approved tiered water rates that disproportionately penalize large lot owners in south Tempe. Find someone else to vote for is my advice, and throw this reprobate off the Council. #votingforadams

—Alexander Miller

## 'A leader who gets stuff done'

I know Councilmember Lauren Kuby from her work with the Tempe Community Council advocating for vulnerable populations and working families. Additionally, I have worked with Councilmember Kuby while serving on the City of Tempe's Human Relations Commission, my work with Challenge Day in all seven Tempe Union School District high schools, and Tempe Youth Leadership.

Lauren has lived in Tempe nearly 30 years and has spent her entire life building community; in fact she leads community outreach for the School of Sustainability and has mentored hundreds of students in crafting sustainable solutions at the neighborhood level. Because of Lauren's sustainability initiatives, I now monitor my water usage at my south Tempe home and I'm seeing measurable reductions in my water use.

Now in her first term on the Tempe City Council, she's not content to sit back and run a passive mail campaign to ask for your vote. Instead, she is out in the neighborhoods, talking to residents about what they love about Tempe and what needs work. Because she knows homelessness is a crisis in our city, she personally took part in last month's Point-in-Time Homeless Street Count. She walks the talk.

Lauren has put her ideas into action; working tirelessly on:

- An Urban Forestry Master Plan that aims to double the shade and make the city more walkable

- Lowering the contribution limits in city elections from over \$6,000 to \$500
- Passing a referendum to force the disclosure of dark money contributions in elections
- An Equal Pay program that has become a national model
- A free Pre-K initiative to improve education and help

Tempe's working families

Simply put, Councilmember Lauren Kuby is a leader who gets stuff done. She is a Tempe Treasure. We need to keep Kuby on the Tempe City Council.

—Jay Scherotter

## Doesn't want 'dark money' in city elections

Outrageous. She claims to be fully supportive of Proposition 403, a measure that would Amend Tempe's City Charter to ban "dark money" expenditures in City of Tempe elections. Why then is a dark money committee, Revitalize Arizona/ Residents for Accountability, paying for full-page ads in a small, local neighborhood publication (Wrangler News) supporting incumbent candidate Lauren Kuby in the current Tempe City Council Race. These organizations are represented by The Torres Firm, a Tempe-based consultancy doing "messaging" including press releases, brochures, etc. Also, ads in Wrangler News apparently.

A quick Google search will explain that Revitalize Arizona is "A union-backed independent expenditure committee supporting Democrat's in Arizona's state elections." One statutory regulation is that such independent expenditure committees can have no connection with, contact with or coordination with the campaigns of individual candidates. I guess Kuby will respond that she "knows nothing about these ads and didn't authorize them." There. I'll just say it for her. This fully exposes Kuby's partisan background and also paints her hand-picked "ticket mate" with the same broad brush. They are partisan Democrats, very active for years in Legislative District 26, and using the platform of Tempe City Council to advance Democratic Party state and national goals. Sure, everyone involved in local politics must be registered a Republican, Democrat, or an independent, right? But when candidates are deeply involved with... and being supported by... partisans precinct, legislative or state political activist, or "union-backed independent expenditures" committees that's a different level of partisanship. And probably not in Tempe's best interests.

Local candidates in city council elections are limited to how much money they can collect from donors and PAC's (political action committees, often unions). They're even limited as to how much PAC money they can raise and spend in a local election. But Independent Expenditure Committees? They can collect and spend, from sources you and I cannot discern, as much as they wish. And they file summarized financial reports, with no donor attribution, with the Secretary of State. That's the very definition of dark money influencing election outcomes. I don't like it in my State and Federal elections. I certainly don't want it in my city's elections.

By the way, you can visit the azcleanelections.gov website to get a glimpse into how Revitalize Arizona supported (or opposed) other candidates. Including \$240,000 favoring then-candidate for Governor, Doug Ducey, and \$12,000 opposing Republican Frank Schmuck. Yep, it's what they do. And they don't have to reveal their donors to Tempe voters or even file their financial reports with the City. That's how Independent Expenditure campaigns work. In the dark. With lots of money. To persuade you to support their partisan agenda. In a non-partisan election. Outrageous.

—Peggy McClain

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We welcome your comments and opinions via email to [editor@wranglernews.com](mailto:editor@wranglernews.com) or on our Facebook page. Commentary may be edited for length, clarity or suitability. Opinions expressed are those of the contributor.



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### Ask an Expert

**“Open with Power and Close the Sale!”**

**Bridgett McGowen**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018**  
Noon to 1pm  
Chandler Chamber  
25 S Arizona Pl, #201  
Chandler, AZ 85225

Your sales presentations are about to get more exciting ... and more effective! Bridgett McGowen is a published author and a professional speaker. In this interactive session, learn how to start and end your presentations in ways that set you apart from the competition. You will know why the conventional ways of starting your presentations may be derailing your efforts and what to do instead.

**Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com/calendar](http://ChandlerChamber.com/calendar)**



### Ostrich Festival March 9-11, 2018 Tumbleweed Park

**Friday: 2 pm to Midnight**  
**Saturday: 10 am to Midnight**  
**Sunday: 10a m to 11 pm**

The 30th Annual Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival returns! This year's event is set to be bigger and better than ever as we look back and celebrate 30 years of bringing the community together for one of Arizona's most beloved events of the year.

#### Musical guests include:

**March 9th: Kool and the Gang**  
**March 10th: John Michael Montgomery**  
**March 11th: The Beach Boys**

#### Meet & Greets include:

**March 10th: Trolls Poppy and Branch**  
**March 10th & 11th: Paw Patrol**

### Ostrich Festival Kickoff Weekend

**Saturday, March 3, 2018**  
**Youth Run (1.5 miles) begins at 7:30 am**  
**Mayor's 5K Fun Run begins at 8:15 am**  
**Ostrich Festival Parade starts at 10 am**  
**Public Safety Day and Classic Car Show from 10 am to 2 pm**



Kick off the 30th Anniversary of the Ostrich Festival in Downtown Chandler on March 3. Events include the Mayor's 5k Fun Run, Ostrich Festival Parade, Public Safety Fair, and Chandler Classic Car Show. It's a great way to celebrate the Ostrich Festival in downtown Chandler with special events for the entire family. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and prepare to enjoy the fabulous weather and entertainment.

**For more information visit [OSTRICHFESTIVAL.COM](http://OSTRICHFESTIVAL.COM)**

### Women in Leadership

**“Giving to Grow Your Success”**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2018**  
**11:45 am - Check-in and Complimentary Headshots**  
**12:15 - Lunch**  
**Soho63**  
**63 E Boston St,**  
**Chandler, AZ 85225**



Join Deanna Cobbs from Toyota Financial Services for an interactive and informative professional development session. Gain take-a-ways you can put in motion immediately to pave your career path. Women in Leadership meets on a monthly basis to meet the needs and enhance the development of women on their professional journey.

**Register @ [ChandlerChamber.com/calendar](http://ChandlerChamber.com/calendar)**





# City of Chandler NEWS+Events

[chandleraz.gov/newsroom](http://chandleraz.gov/newsroom)



## Mayor's HOA Mini Summit

Chandler residents living in a homeowner's association (HOA) community are encouraged to attend Mayor Jay Tibshraeny's HOA Mini Summit on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

The Summit starts at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Tumbleweed Recreation Center, Cotton Room, 745 E. Germann Road.

Beth Mulcahy, Esq., with The Mulcahy Law Firm, P.C., will provide an overview of a recent decision made by the Arizona Court of Appeals that affects the ability for HOAs to validly assess and collect monetary penalties. A question-and-answer session will be held after the presentation.

## Chandler's VITA Program offers free tax preparation.

Tax season has arrived! The City's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is ready to help Chandler residents. Individuals and households who generally made \$54,000 or less in total income last year are eligible for free income tax preparation and electronic filing through early April.

- The following five tax preparation sites in Chandler are now open for walk-in sessions:
- First Credit Union, 25 S. Arizona Place, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays; 4-8 p.m. Wednesdays
  - The Chandler CARE Center, 777 E. Galveston St., noon to 4 p.m. Fridays; 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays
  - AZCEND, 345 S. California St., noon to 6 p.m. Tuesdays
  - Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, 2145 W. Elliot Road, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays
  - Sun Lakes Sheriff's Posse, 9531 E. Riggs Road, Sun Lakes, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. By

appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 480-895-9270, ext. 111 or 113.

All sites will prepare basic tax forms on a first come, first served basis. Interpreters also are available to assist Spanish-speaking residents. When visiting a VITA site for free tax preparation, all filers must bring several items with them, including valid photo identification, Social Security cards, proof of income and more. For a complete list of what to bring to your session or to see if the site is closed during certain holidays, visit [chandleraz.gov/VITA](http://chandleraz.gov/VITA).

## Council meetings live on YouTube

Did you know you can now watch City Council study sessions and meetings live on the City's YouTube channel? If you aren't able to make it down to the Council Chambers, you can watch the meetings live from anywhere. Be sure to subscribe at [YouTube.com/cityofchandler](http://YouTube.com/cityofchandler). It's a great way to stay informed of what's happening within your city government.

## U.S. Passport fees increasing April 2

Chandler's Passport Office is located in Chandler City Hall and is a convenient place for the public to apply for their passports. Starting Monday, April 2, the U.S. government will increase the passport fee from \$25 to \$35. The \$10 fee increase only applies to U.S. passport applicants using the DS-11 form, such as first-time applicants over 16, children under 16, and applicants who re-apply after reporting their previous passport lost or stolen.

The fee increase does not apply to adults eligible to renew their passport by mail using the DS-82 form. Renewal customers must mail their application and supporting documentation to the Department of State and are not eligible to apply at Chandler's Passport Office as our office cannot accept renewals applications.

City staff encourages the public in need of a passport to visit Chandler City Hall as soon as possible to avoid the fee increase and additional wait time. The Passport Office will be extremely busy on Friday, March 30, which is a few days before the increase. **If applying on this day, expect a few hours wait.**

For additional information on passports or the application process, visit [chandleraz.gov/passports](http://chandleraz.gov/passports).



## EVENTS



### FEBRUARY

- 24 Preschool Expo, Community Center, 782-2446
- 24 Music of the Knights, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 24 Arizona Railway Day, Arizona Railway Museum, 821-1108
- 24 FRANK Talks: The Impact of "Fake News" in the Real World, Sunset Library, 782-2800
- 27 Mayor's HOA Mini-Summit, Tumbleweed Recreation Center, 782-4320
- 27 Waterwise Gardening Landscape Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3589



### MARCH

- 3 Mayor's Ostrich Festival 5K Fun Run and Parade, Downtown Chandler, 588-8497
- 3 Chandler Public Safety Fair and Car Show, Chandler Main Police Station, 588-8497
- 3 Our Stories: Casa Grande Ruins and Tonto National Monument, Basha Library, 782-2800
- 5 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 6 Pruning & Maintaining Your Landscape Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3589
- 7 PHX East Valley Angel Investor Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3034
- 8 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

- 9-11 30th Annual Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival, Tumbleweed Park, 588-8497
- 13 Composting 101 Landscape Workshop, ASU Chandler Innovation Center, 782-3034
- 14 27th Annual Senior Expo, Community Center, 782-2720
- 15 Sonoran Sunset Series featuring The Knockabouts, Environmental Education Center, 782-2890
- 19 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 22 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 27 HOA Academy: Top Legal Issues for 2018, Downtown Library, 782-4354
- 28 FRANK Talks: Securing the Borders & Stopping Terrorism, Downtown Library, 782-2800
- 29 HOA Academy: Community Association 101, City Hall or Online WebEX, 782-4354
- 31 Family Easter Celebration, Snedigar Sportsplex, 782-2669

For event details, visit [chandleraz.gov](http://chandleraz.gov) or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 782-2735.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny & City Council

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## Diversions

From Page 27

in the Bond flicks—Angela Basset as his mom, and Danai Gurira as the leader of Wakanda's corps of shaven-headed warrior women.

Jordan, on the other hand, brings a touch of the tragic to his performance without milking it. Other cast members, like Forest Whittaker, Daniel Kaluuya, Winston Duke and Martin Freeman as a CIA man, bring warmth and individuality to what are, essentially, stock characters.

This movie perpetuates the *Star Wars*/*Lion King* idea of royal bloodlines and birthrights being central to society. And it shares the same limitation as most superhero stories: Boiling its conflict down to a climactic fistfight. But within the context of these obligatory elements, this *Black Panther* is about as good as big-budget blockbuster moviemaking can be.

## A worthy production for teens, but definitely 'Knot' recommended for the younger set

Even though it's set in a fifth grade classroom, *Gidion's Knot* is decidedly not for fifth graders, or even 6th graders. The relevance of this production, however, particularly at times like these, can't be minimized.

Says director Tracy Liz Miller of the two-character drama by Johnna Adams, opening March 9 at Tempe Center for the Arts: "Teens. They should come."

Otherwise, according to a pre-announcement, the show is "Not recommended for children under 13. Parental Discretion Advised."

For audiences 13 and older, however, "It'll be very topical," Miller promises. "It's a very intense 75 minutes."

The play, a Stray Cats Theatre production in association with TCA, concerns a meeting between a mother and a teacher in which both characters struggle to arrive at an understanding of a violent incident involving the mother's son, *Gidion*.

Tension builds as the two women talk and the story's twists are gradually revealed. Recent headlines, both local and national, raise questions about whether schools are the safe places we want them to be, may make those 75 minutes all the more intense.

"It's not going to make anyone comfortable," says Miller of the play. "Nobody's going to come out and say, 'Well, that solved that problem.' I think half of the audience might come out feeling one way; the other half might feel the opposite."

The cast of *Gidion's Knot* consists of Stray Cats veteran Shari Watts as Corynn and Alison Campbell, making her Stray Cats debut, as Heather. So, with a play written by a woman—featuring an all-female cast and directed by a woman—the show also highlights another of Miller's

passions: her co-founder role with Brenda Jean Foley and Liz Reeves Fidler of The Bridge Initiative.

This non-profit, according to its website, is "...works to identify and empower female artists in the Southwest region, with the aim of gender parity." The group also seeks to create connections between the academic and the professional theatrical world.

"When I moved here," recalls Miller, "I took a look around, and what struck me was the very stark gender disparity in the arts, across all disciplines."

The Bridge Initiative (bridgeinit.weebly.com) seeks to address this disparity, through a variety of activities, including readings of plays, workshops, full productions and symposia.

"When we have 51 percent of the population identifying as female," says Miller, "that ought to be reflected in the arts."

Miller is doing her part with her own career. Here in the Valley she directed *Much Ado About Nothing* for Southwest Shakespeare Festival; she also teaches at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Elsewhere around the country, she has directed or acted at theater companies from New York City to Vermont to Tennessee to Alabama.

She's hoping, she says, to work next on the Tucson-based mounting of a project by playwright Elaine Romero. But first, says Miller of *Gidion's Knot*, "I will mount this incredible play opening in Tempe in early March."

*Gidion's Knot* opens Friday, March 9, at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, and runs through March 24. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students. Go to [straycattheatre.org](http://straycattheatre.org) or call 480-350-2822 for details.

— M.V. Moorhead

## Knock about with rowdy Celtic Knockabouts

The Knockabouts band from Flagstaff will bring their rowdy energy and unique blend of traditional Celtic music, authentic pub tunes and smooth harmonies to Chandler's Veterans Oasis Park from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, March 15.

The free Sonoran Sunset Series lakeside concert will capture the spirit and soul of the Celtic lands just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring blankets, folding chairs and food while enjoying music alongside the park's beautiful five-acre lake.

Made up of seasoned musicians with a combined 120 years of professional music making, the Knockabouts appeal to all ages. The group has gained international recognition by sharing the stage with such artists as Gaelic Storm, Old Blind Dogs, Munnely and Slide Ireland. Veterans Oasis Park is at 4050 E. Chandler Heights Road. In case of inclement weather, the performances will be held indoors at the park's Environmental Education Center.

Information: [chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis](http://chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis).

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A Play by Johnna Adams

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### WILLIAMSBURG SALSA ORCHESTRA

MAR 30

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APR 13-14

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**Technical Writer** — The ideal candidate is a Journeyman Electrician or from Data Centers Operations. Proficiency with Word and Excel a must. Must be able to assemble scripts for verifying various electro-mechanical devices. Topic matter comes from drawings, submittals and specifications. Salary commensurate with experience and abilities. 40-hr/wk in north Phoenix. Send resume/cover to [employment@genelco-inc.com](mailto:employment@genelco-inc.com). No callers or walk-ins accepted.

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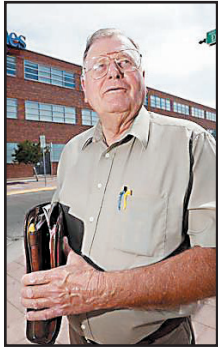
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# Tempe Chamber announces partnership to develop new website, blog

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce has unveiled a new website and client relationship management platform that officials say will add an innovative next step in the chamber's 110-year history.

The chamber announced it will partner with EventBank, a cloud-based software company that specializes in software development, event management, mobile apps, digital marketing and user experience design.

Every year, EventBank selects the chambers with the strongest desire to serve their member communities better.

The Tempe Chamber was awarded a scholarship for a 2-year contract using its membership and event management platform.

In addition, the chamber is also collaborating with EventBank in a redesign and launch of a new website.

"We are thrilled to be the first chamber in Arizona to have this level of technology and software available

for our members," said Anne Gill, Tempe Chamber president and CEO.

"EventBank has a cutting-edge platform and we believe our members will greatly benefit from an expanded online presence and leading mobile technology."

The redesigned website has been streamlined in order to offer members and the public greater access and ease to navigate chamber resources and programs while using the new management platform.

A refreshed blog will feature the latest news, stories and announcements.

"We are excited to support the Tempe Chamber of Commerce with our technology," said Eric Schmidt, CEO of EventBank.

"I am sure this solution will allow the chamber to maximize its potential and transform the way they engage with their community. We look forward to working hand in hand with the Tempe Chamber team to continue bringing benefits to their members."



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**Editor:** Joyce Coronel  
**Photography:** Alex J. Walker, Billy Hardiman  
**Advertising Consultant:** Ron Walters  
**Contributors:** Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead  
Diana Whittle, Chelsea Flood, Kody Acevedo

**Offices:** 2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 102  
Tempe, AZ 85284-3497

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Wrangler News is printed on partially recycled newsprint  
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