



TEMPE & WEST CHANDLER

# WRANGLER NEWS

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

June 23 - July 6, 2018 □ Vol 29, No 13



## From ASU to seminary and back again

*Alienation during his formative years leads to a songwriting evolution*

By Chase Kamp

Pop music is made for the masses, but it is perfected by the peculiar. Valley songwriter and ASU alum Todd Hoover has spent years finding the right balance of these opposing tendencies, and his latest release as The Invisible Teal is a years-in-the-making collection of accessible esoterica and awkward honesty.

The album is available at The Trunk Space in Phoenix, where Hoover already has premiered the newest of his virtuosic and verbose art pop.

*Debt & Quandaries* can be understood within the monolithic album rock of the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds* or the Flaming Lips' *The Soft Bulletin*, yet is cut with the unflinching vulnerability of Xiu Xiu's

Todd Hoover: Advocating his brand of 'worship music for whatever hard-won good still remains.' - Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

— ALBUM, Page 12

## As July 4th nears . . . A mom explains why patriotism isn't dead

By Joyce Coronel

Most Americans recall exactly what they were doing the moment they heard about the devastating attack on the World Trade Center. Our family's recollections remain likewise vivid.

We were awakened that morning by our neighbor, a World War II combat veteran, pounding on the front door of our home in Warner Ranch. My husband and I staggered toward the noise, peered through the peephole and saw Phil Galante standing there looking quite agitated.

We flung open the door, wondering what the heck was going on.

"We're under attack!" he cried. "Turn on your TV!" And with that, Phil turned and hurried back across the street. Like others, we were shocked when we saw what was unfolding.

At the time, our five sons ranged in age from 2 to 13 years old.

Johnny, a kindergartener at Kyrene de la Mariposa, stunned us with his innocent question that afternoon when we were still glued to the television. He was playing with his brothers, but from time to time, glanced over at the

set. "Can't they stop those planes?" he asked plaintively. At age 6, he didn't understand he was watching continuous replays of that horrifying moment when the plane crashed into the second tower. We turned off the television and explained.

"You're safe," we told him. "That happened far away from us. It's over now and they are going to catch the people who did this."

That small glimpse of the events that took place on Sept. 11, a day of profound infamy, captures only

— PATRIOTISM, Page 22

Monsoons notwithstanding, summer has created a dry spell for our usual flood of content. So now's a good time to share your ideas with us—and give our readers a way to stay informed and entertained during the June drought. Call 480-966-0837 to see how we can help tell your story.

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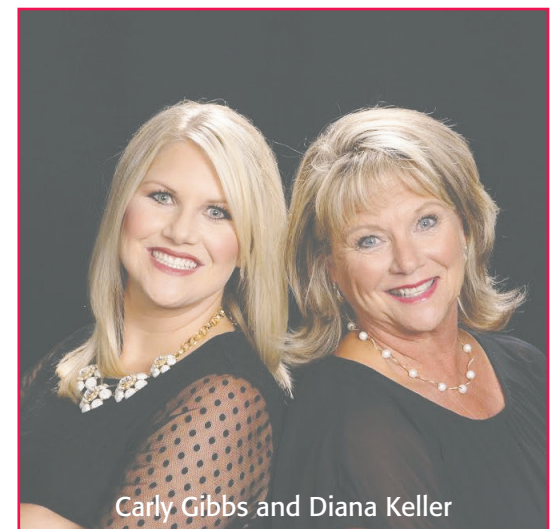
  
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## Reminds mom: 'No one is immune' Parents unite to confront growing cases of teen suicide

By Diana Nelson

It never feels right for a parent to survive their child—particularly one who deliberately chose to die by suicide. Yet, as rates of teen suicide rise in the East Valley, more residents continue to experience this immeasurable loss.

According to the National Association of School Psychologists, youth suicide is a serious health crisis and is second only to unintentional accidents as the leading cause of death among school-age youth. They cite social media and the internet with providing information that kids use to harm themselves.

But it can be prevented, especially since most teens give warning signs of their suicidal thoughts.

With the goal of prevention in mind, a group of four area women banded together to form a new organization, known as "Parents for Suicide Prevention," to tackle this challenging crisis.

It was their conscious effort to collectively re-focus and to keep moving forward through offering education and compassion to the community, after one of the life of one of its members, Lorie Warnock, was forever changed by the suicide of her son Mitch.

He was a popular student at Corona del Sol High School and an accomplished track and field athlete.

Warnock is a long-time English teacher both in middle school and in the Tempe Union High School District. The tragedy, she says, made her realize that "no one is immune to the effects of suicide. Its impact is widespread—it rocked not just me and my husband, who is also an educator, but everyone who knew Mitch."

Through her personal pain, she realized that a choice needed to be made. She could become consumed by the devastating loss of her only child or she could adopt new focus and meaning for her life, so she could fully



return to living.

Three of her community contacts shared her sentiments, including Karrianna Blanchard, Eduarda Schroeder and Suzanne Whitaker.

Those connections helped reinforce Warnock's determination to move forward.

Blanchard is a wife of 23 years and a mother to a 21 year-old-daughter and a 17-year-old son, who both attended schools in the TUHSD. She also is part of the Social and Emotional Wellness Cadre for the Tempe district and she spent years as an early childhood director for an East Valley church.

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“When one of our families at church became survivors of suicide, I began to become more aware of my misconceptions of suicide,” said Blanchard.

“As I began to learn more, I realized that a caring adult can change a child’s world, and we have to work as a community to show one another hope.”

Eduarda Schroeder’s children, Julia, 20, and Ellie, 18, are former students of Lorie Warnock at Aprende.

“I live in Chandler with my husband and two daughters, who both went to Kyrene schools, including Cielo and Aprende, and then to Corona for high school. Lorie was one of Julia’s favorite teachers and I got to know her in that capacity, as well as through track meets at Corona where she supported Mitch and I supported Ellie,” said Schroeder.

“I reached out to her as soon as I heard about Mitch’s passing and offered support in whatever way she needed.”

When Schroeder was ready to become active in the suicide prevention arena, Warnock reached out and invited her to a meeting.

Suzanne Whitaker is an artist who specializes in murals. In fact, she just completed one for Cielo Elementary. She also volunteers her time to help teens heal from emotional trauma.

“I am a parent of two children who attended schools in both Kyrene and TUHSD. I am a grief facilitator at New Song for Grieving Children, working with the teen group on Thursdays,” she said. “Many of our kids are dealing with family members or friends who have died by suicide,” said Whitaker.

Each of these parents brings their own skills and sensitivities to suicide prevention but, as a group, they galvanized into a team called Parents for Suicide Prevention.

“The mission of PSP is to promote social and emotional wellness in our schools as the foundation for academic achievement with an emphasis on suicide prevention and intervention,” said Warnock.

“Awareness and actionable plans are critical when it comes to suicide prevention.”

Warnock’s son was adopted when he was three. Previously he was in foster care, which she believes had a traumatic effect on his brain’s development. As a result, PSP members began educating themselves about the effects of trauma on children and its connection to being more susceptible to suicide.

They shared their research with the newly formed Social and Emotional Wellness Cadre, created within the TUHSD, whose goal is to have staff at every school trained on the effects of

trauma on school-aged children.

“Working with the school district was a huge success, and we’re really grateful that the district stepped up. We learned that relationships matter,” said Warnock.

She added that PSP will continue to work with the SEW Cadre as well as training teachers to be more sensitive to the emotional and behavioral health of students.

“Teachers aren’t counselors or social workers, but we are observers,” Warnock said.

“Over time we get a sense of when a student is faltering, whether in terms of grades, relationship issues with friends at school, changes in mood or behavior. These could be signs that a deeper issue is at play beyond the normal ups and downs that teens experience.”

PSP believes it is essential that teachers are trained in the warning signs of suicide and knowing the school’s protocol when it comes to intervening on behalf of a student.

“In listening to teachers and looking at our district’s plan, it is clear that some faculty and staff members, such as guidance counselors and the school psychologist, have specialized training in emotional issues, while boots-on-the-ground people like teachers do not.

“I have been teaching for 26 years and have never received staff development training on how to respond if I’m worried about the welfare of a student when it comes to suicide,” said Warnock.

She explains that there are protocols when it comes to fire drills, lockdown drills and child abuse. But, in her experience, no specific training focused on behaviors that might lead to suicide, she said.

PSP members discovered that 17 states have mandatory teacher training, while Arizona “encourages” teacher awareness. Given that Arizona’s suicide rate is above the national average, the organization is working to have suicide-prevention training for teachers mandated as part of their annual safety reviews for the care of students.

A bill introduced by Sean Bowie, (known as SB1391) the Mitch Warnock Act, would mandate training at schools. Although it did not get a hearing on its first appearance this spring, Bowie plans to re-introduce the measure in the fall legislature.

In the meantime, PSP will continue to expand its educational efforts beyond just the high-school level to include elementary and middle school students as well.

Information: 480-252-2131 or Mitch legacy on Facebook.



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## Landlords recruited to support Tempe program aimed at homeless vets

By Susie Steckner

The city of Tempe is expanding its housing options for veterans who are experiencing homelessness and wants to partner with landlords who have rental properties across the city.

As part of a pilot program, the city's housing services division plans to place 10 veterans in subsidized housing with case management services that will help them lead independent lives.

The pilot is part of a larger federal program, called HUD-VASH (VA Supportive Housing), aimed at helping veterans overcome the challenges of homelessness.

"The city of Tempe is continually looking for opportunities to broaden the housing assistance available and needed by the community," said LeVon Lamy, housing and revitalization manager for the city's housing services division.

"By taking part in the HUD-VASH program, we are not only expanding our housing efforts but also serving a vital population—military veterans—who have served our country."

An estimated 13 percent of Americans who are homeless have served in the military. The HUD-VASH program is credited with helping tens of



thousands of veterans find housing nationwide.

The program brings together local public housing authorities and two federal agencies, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Through the program, eligible low-income veterans receive a Section 8 rental voucher plus case management and supportive services for veterans.

The city of Tempe will launch the pilot program in July and is seeking landlords with all housing types to participate. Among the benefits for

landlords: Monthly rent is paid directly through the local housing authority, and the program can meet competitive rental rates; landlords set their own security deposit amounts, based on local standards; third-party inspections help maintain quality; and tenants take part in ongoing case management, which provides a safety net for them and lowers default risks.

Equally important, Tempe's housing-services specialists provide direct support to landlords to find solutions together. They also work to find the best housing fit for individuals to boost their success in the program.

"We're able to reasonably accommodate a tenant's needs," said Val Sarver, housing services specialist for Tempe.

Tempe's housing services division provides more than \$10 million in housing assistance to residents in Tempe through a range of programs.

In the past two years, the city has added several new housing initiatives, including the HOME TBRA program to provide subsidized housing to domestic violence victims who are facing or experiencing homelessness and the MMIC BRIDGE program aimed at housing people with serious mental illnesses.

The new HUD-VASH program will initially serve 10 veteran families but could be expanded if additional landlords agree to participate, Lamy said.

Information: 480-350-8953 or email [val\\_sarver@tempe.gov](mailto:val_sarver@tempe.gov) or [theresa\\_james@tempe.gov](mailto:theresa_james@tempe.gov).

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# Hawaii still safe, popular vacation lure, says expert



By Diana Nelson

If you love tropical breezes, wide sandy beaches and unrivaled natural beauty, this might be the year for that long-awaited trip to Hawaii.

News of an active volcano on the Big Island may have deterred some visitors from this scenic destination but, in reality, says travel agent Rand Szajua, it's just that locale—aka Hawaii—that is impacted by the current volcanic eruptions.

Hawaii includes a total of eight islands and the other seven are ready to lay out the welcome mat to travelers, both new and previous ones, according to Szajua, owner of Adobe Travel in West Chandler.

In fact, more travelers rank Oahu or Maui as their favorite islands, according to a ranking compiled by U.S. News and World Report.

"Right now, fewer visitors are going to the state of Hawaii over fears of the volcano, which has created some great prices on destination packages," said Szajua, who says his specialty is helping travelers to experience the trip of their dreams.

Whether your heart desires a luxury cruise, a visit to Europe or a safari in Africa, the staff of Adobe Travel can build a unique itinerary for everyone, says Szajua.

For those who generally go to a travel website to save money, Szajua says that using a travel agent can save lots of time and not cost any fees.

"Lots of people believe that you have to pay a travel agent, but we actually are compensated by the tour or cruise vendors, so you'll pay the same rate as if you had booked the trip online," he said.

What you'll miss out on by going online, Szajua advises, is the individual customer service.

"We work for free for the traveler and can help clients to manage the climate changes or destination problems, such as the flooding in Paris last year.

"For us (at Adobe Travel) it's about the relationship: getting to know you, your likes and dislikes. We will select the best deals and products for you to make sure that you are happy."

Szajua opened his agency earlier this year as an encore career to working years in the information technology business

He said he has always loved to travel and experience other cultures. For the last 25 years, even before the agency opened, he helped friends to plan their vacations.

Both Szajua and his wife, Michele, grew up here. He graduated from Corona del Sol High School; she attended Tempe High.

"Even though I've been able to travel all over the world, I still love Arizona. As a child, I visited nearly every reservation in the state and have great respect for our Native culture along with the natural beauty of the state," said Szajua.

Information: Adobe Travel, 4939 W. Ray Road, Chandler or 480-495-7878. Website: [www.adobetavel.com](http://www.adobetavel.com)

## Hospital names trauma director

Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center has named Dr. Charles Hu as the new leader of its level 1 trauma center.

In his role as medical director of trauma, surgical and critical care, and acute care surgery, Hu will lead the administration and growth of trauma services.

"Working with a trusted trauma team that provides high quality patient care is a great opportunity. In the few years it has been open, Chandler Regional's trauma center has really proved how valuable it is to our community," said Hu.

The hospital's trauma program opened in 2014, becoming the southeast Valley's first with level 1 accreditation.



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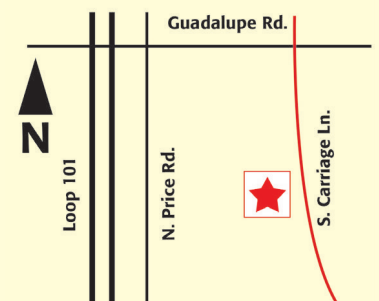
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# Gift shop boasts \$66k for charity

By Jeff Bell

For the past three years, Tempe residents Joanne Crawford and Barbara Hall have been busy doing good.

The residents of Friendship Village Tempe, an area retirement community, run the gift shop, which has turned into quite a thriving operation.

The 153-square-foot space is so popular, say officials, that its staff uses an entire apartment and two storage rooms to accumulate the “back stock” of items they sell—all donated by fellow residents.

Last year alone the effort made \$66,600 in profit, all of which goes to a good cause, the Salvation Army.

Due to the overstock of items its staff receive, the unconventional gift shop also makes regular monetary donations to the Friendship Village Tempe Foundation, which benefits residents and associates, including team member scholarships to provide help for college educations.

“When you think about a gift shop at a retirement community, what you picture isn’t what you’ll see here at Friendship Village,” said executive director Cole Marvin.

“Joanne and Barbara have something pretty special here that you’ve got to see to believe. It illustrates the bonds between residents and staff, and the family here at Friendship Village.”



Joanne Crawford, Barbara Hall manage Friendship Village's gift shop.

# Scavenging for treasure in July

Coming soon, West Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors will get a chance to discover the community’s first-ever #DiscoverChandler Instagram Scavenger Hunt.

“All July long, Chandler celebrates Park and Recreation Month, giving locals a new way to see the city as they discover the best sights and hidden recreation gems,” said Kelle Harrison, event organizer.

“Our Parks and Recreation programs and amenities offer a lifetime of discovery, and this year’s free, family-friendly Instagram hunt is a great way for the community to come together and learn about the many leisure opportunities available in Chandler.”

Armed with smartphones as their tour guide, event participants team up with at least one other player and locate hotspots, unlock challenges and climb the scoreboard. To win, teams must find all of the items listed within seven challenges and upload a photo of each to Instagram.

Hint: Photo creativity earns extra prizes, so amateur and professional shutter enthusiasts can put their camera skills to use. Completion of each challenge unlocks the next clue and sends the players onto another location in downtown Chandler and ultimately to where an X marks the spot of the hidden recreation treasure.

Registration is available through July 13 at [chandleraz.gov/parkandrecmonth](http://chandleraz.gov/parkandrecmonth). The hunt runs from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 21, or until the treasure is found. Registration entitles each team member to a “#DiscoverChandler” T-shirt, selfie stick, sunglasses and free entry into Hamilton Aquatic Center.

The winning team receives a Chandler Parks and Recreation All-Access Family Pass, which includes one annual family membership to Tumbleweed Recreation Center and one annual family swim pass, both good for up to six family members. The treasure also includes an assortment of recreation-related items valued at \$2,500.

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## Escaping the Valley's summer scorchers

### Move to high country becomes Call of the Wild

By Don Kirkland

**A**s summer announced its arrival with a blistering 111 degrees a couple of weeks ago, I recalled the question that came up frequently this time of year after we arrived from the beaches of Southern California almost four decades ago. "Isn't there someplace better than this?"

Sitting around a couple of pushed-together tables at Great Harvest Bakery, no matter what time of year it might have been, the idea of escaping to a cooler clime remained the seasonally guaranteed topic du jour of our little coffee klatch.

That discussion went on pretty much unabated until my friends Mark and Lynda decided to abandon the predictable coziness of their Pecan Grove Estates neighborhood and move to Sedona, where they live today and where their home looks out on a panorama of clear sky and, of course, red rocks.

How could life be any better? In fact, I'm sure we've all imagined relocating to a setting where natural beauty prevails nearly year-round and where talk of triple-digit temperatures is nothing more than a reminder of summer survival in a place that might as well have been called Hades.

So back to my friends Mark and Lynda. They settled in nicely when they arrived in Red Rock country and laid out plans for an idyllic rest-of-their-lives.

Here's how that is supposed to fall into place.

Step 1: Pick a spectacular view-centric home (doesn't that fit almost any house you'd find when it's dropped into such a place of beauty?)

Step 2: Become involved in all manner of extra-curricular activities.

That's the formula Mark and Lynda followed, and it produced four or five years of living-life-to-the-max bliss.

Eventually, however, they stumbled onto an even nicer house—more yard, more open space, more possibilities for entertaining.

And, yes, more little things to deal with that hadn't previously occurred to them.

Actually, some of what happened thereafter involved the natural habitat that had been, or was to become, peripheral to their everyday lives.

For example, the nocturnal critters that ravaged Mark's vegetable garden or the javelinas that prowled the neighborhood, apparently not in search of Caesar salad but of the predators that had invaded

his backyard for just such gourmet dining.

Including the gophers.

"It's maddening," Mark told us. "They push up huge mounds of dirt—two-and-a-half gallon-capacity buckets of dirt—and pile it in your yard."

This means that all the dirt has to be loaded into barrels and hauled somewhere else just to mow the backyard grass.

"It's almost like the movie 'Caddyshack' with Bill Murray," Mark said.

"You have to use everything you have in your quiver—water, smoke bombs, sound devices, traps, chain link fencing—which they actually pushed over, and held it down and proceeded to eat every single vegetable I had. So, after you've done all that, the gophers win anyway."

Even a night spy camera positioned to capture the ingenious rodents' incursions didn't stop them

from devouring practically every vegetable in the garden—tomatoes, green peppers, broccoli, green beans.

Finally, frustrated, Mark conferred with neighbors to see if they had found a solution.

Some had: level the ground, lay down thick plastic and a heavy blanket of gravel. That has kept the marauding critters at bay, says Mark—at least so far.

The complications of life in small-town America don't end there, though. As in other such communities, Mark suggests, there's the matter of shopping or dining out.

"Everything shuts down at 8 o'clock," he says. "You end up having to travel to Flagstaff or Prescott for the simplest of almost everything."

And then there's the matter of Buddy, the couple's 90-pound border collie-mastiff mix. Although Buddy maintains a somewhat disinterested perspective on his owners' travails, he did manage to become one of the combatants in a nose-to-nose confrontation with what Mark described as a large pack rat, which had attached itself to Buddy's face and was biting him on the snout. "We didn't know what to do, or if the thing had rabies," Mark recalled.

So a trip to the town veterinarian was required, followed by an inoculation and some soothing words, so far with no negative outcome other than some short-lived panic and a reminder that life in Pecan Grove Estates may have not been so bad after all.



## Briefly . . .

### Chandler Council candidate interviews

The Chandler City Council will hold a special meeting June 25 to interview candidates for the vacant council seat formerly held by Nora Ellen, who resigned to seek election to the Arizona State Legislature.

A candidate will be appointed to serve on the council through the current term, which expires in January 2021.

Councilmembers reviewed applications of 36 candidates during an executive session June 11 and selected nine candidates for interviews, including:

Dr. William Crawford III, Matt Eberle, Victor Hardy, Aaron Harris Sr., Jill Hudson, Jeremy McClymonds, Diane Ortiz-Parsons, Eshe Pickett and John Repar.

The candidates offer experience as educators, administrators, business professionals, attorneys, engineers and faith leaders. They also serve the community through the city's boards and commissions as well as with business, education and community service organizations.

Said Mayor Jay Tibshraeny:

"I want to thank all of the applicants for their interest in serving the community in this capacity. The Council spent hours reviewing all of the applications, and has narrowed the list of candidates down to these nine individuals. This was a hard process, and we had to make some tough choices. With that said, we have an excellent pool of very engaged residents to choose from and look forward to the interviews on June 25th."

The selected candidate will be sworn in by June 29.

### June 27 hearing for Tempe tax proposal

Tempe Elementary School District will hold a public hearing for a proposed \$800,000 increase in primary property taxes levied for adjacent ways projects.

The hearing will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at the Sanchez Administration Building, 3205 S. Rural Road, Tempe.

Interested citizens are invited to attend.

### Tempe Chamber Business Excellence finalists

Six businesses in the Tempe area—three large, three small—have been named finalists by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce for its upcoming Business Excellence Awards.

The winners, one for each category, will be revealed at the chamber's annual luncheon on Friday, June 29, at the Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Tempe.

The awards are designed to identify and recognize companies whose practices in business and employee development, community involvement and customer service exemplify excellence.

The finalists in the small-business category are Heidi's Events & Catering Inc.; MAC6; and Silverman Law Offices. Nominees in the large-business classification are Waste Management of Arizona; AC Hotel by Marriott Phoenix Tempe/Downtown; and Davis Miles McGuire Gardner PLLC.

Last year's winners were Special Moments Catering in the small business category and Vestar/Tempe Marketplace among the large.

Businesses can be nominated by anyone in the community or by an employee within. Nominees complete an application and a committee reviews those submitted to select three finalists. The committee interviews the finalists to choose a winner.

Tickets for the annual luncheon are available through the Chamber's website.



The chain-link fence surrounding Estrada Park near Warner Road and McClintock Drive was draped in tarp as construction work begins on a new fire station for South Tempe. Select trees, like the one pictured above, are being dug up and boxed for replanting in the park area. For more park construction photos see our Facebook page.

—Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

## School can dig deeper into STEM programs via grant from farm group

Students from Tempe and West Chandler who attend St. John Bosco Catholic School will be among those benefiting from a grant that will be used to enhance STEM programming at the school.

STEM is the educational acronym for science, technology, engineering and math.

Thanks for the grant go to Maricopa County farmer Teri Root, who won an opportunity to direct implementation of a \$2,500 donation from America's Farmers Grow Communities via an endeavor by the Monsanto Fund.

The school has said it will purchase a set of interactive software modules on subjects ranging from chromosomes to the periodic table to gravity, roller coasters and geography.

"We are thrilled with this grant to bolster our STEM program with new, interactive programs to offer our students across all grade levels," said Principal Anita Petitti.

The Grow Communities program's purpose is to make a positive impact in farm communities by partnering with farmers to support the causes that are important to them in their communities.

Each year, farmers enter for a chance to win a \$2,500 donation that they direct to a local nonprofit.

Since the program began in 2010, farmers have directed more than \$26 million in donations to a cross-section of organizations that reflect the make-up and character of rural America, including food banks, emergency response organizations, schools, youth agriculture programs and many others.

"Farmers have directed funds to more than 8,000 community organizations across rural America since Grow Communities began," said Al Mitchell, Monsanto Fund president.

"Farmers are truly committed to this program because they see the difference the donation makes in their community."

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## 'THEY DID NOT DROP OUT'

### Teens overcame odds to earn their high school diplomas

Earning a high school diploma represents a major milestone in any teenager's life, but it is especially noteworthy when a student battles significant odds to graduate.

The Tempe Union High School District this year recognized 25 graduating seniors who earned their diplomas while overcoming the challenges of teen pregnancy and parenting.

Nationally, say experts, 50 to 60 percent of teens who become pregnant drop out of school.

In contrast, only about 9 percent of pregnant and parenting teens leave TUHSD's TeenAge Pregnancy Program, or TAPP.

The program provides students with a system of support and education which includes individual case management, childbirth education, pregnancy and parenting classes, a mentoring program, support groups, transportation and childcare.

In addition to serving as a dropout prevention initiative, TAPP works to decrease teen pregnancy and repeated pregnancy.

TAPP Coordinator Bronwyn Paes said participants in the program beat the odds.

"I am once again amazed at the resiliency, courage and strength of our teen moms and dads," Paes said.

"They did not drop out and were determined to not be a statistic. The motivation to reach their goal of a high school diploma is evidenced through dedication and perseverance."

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# Album

From Page 1

## *Dear God I Hate Myself.*

Hoover makes a feat of managing dizzying arrangements and a cavalcade of genre touchstones, at times housing booming punk beats, ragtime piano and indie rock guitar cacophony. These songs, some of which are nearly a decade in the making, were painstakingly compiled with co-producer Jalipaz Nelson in his Mesa studio.

“If I’m not moved by it, I can’t expect anyone else to be moved by it,” Hoover says.

While attending Arizona State in the early 2000s, Hoover tried to strike out on the local music scene, soon gathering friends to accompany him under The Invisible Teal moniker. But being a member of the flock among a largely secular Valley music scene alienated him, the perceived normativity of his Christian faith setting him apart from artists who craved outsider cachet. He effectively dropped out of the scene for years and attended seminary.

Much has changed in that time. Hoover has a career and a fiancé, and no longer identifies as Christian. Though he is grateful of the support he had, he doesn’t look back too fondly on the meek and subtle music he made years ago as he searched for a welcoming space. “Life is too short to waste on Christian slowcore,” he jokes.

Instead, the new Invisible Teal shoots for the moon. After graduating, Hoover eventually became a school music instructor. That consistent practice has lent his compositional abilities and ambitions a much wider berth: *Debt & Quandaries*’ sweeping dynamic changes and dense vocal harmonies would be chaotic in less-experienced hands.

There is also a newly developed harshness that permeates the record, one that is pointed entirely at himself. The harrowing “Heaven is a Library” is a full-on assault on his old self, his ego and destructive desires. “Being unflinchingly honest is just how I am, and I don’t really know how to be any other way,” he says.

After recording those vocals, Hoover began to emerge on the other side of that despair. “I felt like this demon had been exorcised from me,” he says.

In contrast, the album’s tender, string-laden finale “We Vessels” acts as a simple denouement. “I say my prayers in silence,” Hoover sings over twinkling piano and shuffling drums. “I think nothing but good for people in need.” Unlike the rest of the record, it sounds much like that meek Christian slowcore, an ode to Hoover’s old faith.

“Many people want to end albums with a grandiose finale,” Hoover says. “I wanted to end it with something humble.”

Nothing better defines the character of Todd Hoover’s music: lying at the end of this wild-eyed, scatterbrained and meticulous album, peering across years of silent struggle and doubt, is a soft totem of humility.

Secular or not, it is worship music for whatever hard-won good still remains.

*Chase Kamp is a former East Valley resident and longtime Wrangler News contributor who now lives in Northern California and writes about the Bay Area’s prolific music scene.*



Arizona State University alum and local musician and songwriter Chase Hoover performs a few of his latest tunes as fans gather round to listen to his eclectic beat and peruse his latest CD.

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



# A rebirth of Wiffle Ball Less about winning, more about having fun

By Omar Soussi

Most 13-year-olds spend their summer hanging out with friends, playing video games and trying to accomplish as much (or as little) as possible before they go back to school. For Justin Winn, the summer is filled with the ins and outs and running a Wiffle Ball league in West Chandler.

Justin has been playing the sport for a year and baseball since he was five. After being involved with his school's baseball team, when summer vacation rolled around, Justin and his friends were left not having a sport to pursue. So they turned to Wiffle Ball, not only to stay in shape but have some fun, too.

The Aprende 8th grader said he got inspired to form the league when he saw MLW (Wiffle Ball) on YouTube and other Wiffle groups on Instagram.

He started the American Wiffle League in the summer of 2017, and though the league has only four teams, it has come a long way, recently being acknowledged by the Wiffle Ball Corporation.

"We had our league, and we just asked them, 'Hey, can we be in Wiffle League,'" Justin said. "It took a few months but they said yeah, and we had to just qualify with our website, YouTube, Instagram and stuff."

The league also got to play another Wiffle Ball league from California, the E-Town Blitzball club, when the team came out here to watch spring training with family members.

Wiffle Ball involves a spinoff of baseball that uses a perforated plastic ball. Eight three-quarter-inch, oblong holes take up half of the ball's surface area; the other half is hole-less. The game was invented by the father of a young baseball pitcher to provide relief for pain he was experiencing in his arm.

This is made possible by the ball achieving a bent trajectory without the pitcher needing to put spin on it or throw it at top speed. Each ball comes with instructions explaining how to release it in order to achieve various effects: perforations up for a straight ball, toward the pitcher's thumb for a curve, and toward the outer fingers for a slider.

The roster of these teams is currently made up of people Justin knows, but he says he wants to "get a few more than just his friends so that people know Wiffle Ball and spread it to the community."

With all the extra work, whether it's school or extracurricular, and the pressure it adds, Justin says he won't let that keep him away from the sports he loves. "I'm thinking of doing both," he said. "Playing baseball and continuing Wiffle league."

For Justin, the local league and playing Wiffle Ball is a way for him to be involved in a sport, and knowing that the game is based on scoring keeps it competitive. Basically, however, "there's no stress," Justin said.

"You don't have to worry about anything. At the end of the day, it's more about having fun than winning or losing."



*Justin Winn, an enterprising Kyrene Aprende middle-schooler, came up with a novel way to stay in shape and have fun at the same time.*

*Thus was born the American Wiffle Ball League, based in West Chandler.*

*Players flocked to Tempe Sports Complex on a recent Saturday afternoon to hit balls and boost their Wiffle skills.*

— Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

# Sports

## Aztec seniors' departure leaves a void in both boys, girls track prospects

By Alex Zener

Corona's track and field program is going to miss several seniors on both the boys and girls team that left their mark on the program, including **Adam Knuff, Dylan Waterhouse, Lincoln Johnston, Matt Cerwinske, Wyatt Grubb, Andrew Ferreira** and **Samuel Burris** on the boys team and **Riley Wright, Kelsy Lum, Mia Da Rosa, Josephina Wright, Kristina Phillips, Rylee Carlisle** and **Amber Burrell** from the girls team.

It was almost like **Knuff** could not do enough his senior year when looking back on his accomplishments during the last month of the season.

At the Tempe City Meet, Knuff finished first in the 100 meters and second in the 300-meter hurdles. He ran the last leg of the 4x100, where the team of **Landon McFall, Casey Barmore, Jean Boyd** and Knuff finished second. He topped it all off with a 9th place finish in the long jump.

Knuff then competed at the Arizona Multi's State Championships held at Red Mountain High School on April 28 where he competed in 10 decathlon events to earn 5,661 points and take third place.

Knuff was first in the 100 meters and the 400

meters but placed 14th in the 1500 meters. He did come back in the 110-meter hurdles, taking second place. He then participated in six field events.

Knuff's best event was a third place in the discus, where he set a personal record with a 34.07-meter throw. He went on to place fourth in shot put, fifth in high jump and long jump, 12th in javelin, and 13th in pole vault.



At the AIA Division I Championship meet held May 2 at Mesa Community College, Knuff, competing against athletes from 40 Division I high schools, took second place in the 100 meters and fifth in the 200 meters.

At the end of the season in the Top 10 Rankings, Knuff was listed as No. 2 in the 100 meters based on his second-place finish at the state championships and he was No. 8 in the 300 hurdles. In the 4x100 relay, Knuff is listed as having the 8th best time of the 2018 season.

In the 1600 meters at the Tempe City Meet, Waterhouse crossed the finish line in second place while Cerwinske took eighth. In the 1600 meters open event, Ferreira placed second while Grubb was in fifth position. In the 3200 meters open finals, Cerwinske crossed the finish line in first place while

Ferreira took second. At the state meet, Johnston was 16th in the 3200 meters and 24th in the 1600 meters.

Other significant results at the state championship meet included a sixth-place finish for sophomore **Tyson McLain** in the high jump and a 13th place finish for junior **Joel Wadsworth** in the 800 meters.

Corona's girls team had a number of competitors in 2018 who learned by example how to work hard in practice and compete at their best during competition from several seniors, including **Riley Wright, Kelsy Lum, Mia Da Rosa, Josephina Wright, Kristina Phillips, Rylee Carlisle** and **Amber Burrell**.

**Riley Wright** ran the long-distance races for Corona, taking first place in the 1600 meters while setting a personal record of 5:21.98 at the Tempe City Meet held at Desert Vista April 17. Riley finished in 6th place in the 3200 meters and took 11th place in the 800 meters at that event.

Riley also ran the leadoff leg of the 4x800 relay along with teammates **Mia Da Rosa, Audrey Weidner** and **Mackenzie Burgess**, who came in 2nd at the Tempe City Meet.

At the AIA Division I Championship meet, Riley Wright, competing against runners from 40 Division I schools, placed 24th in the 1600 meters.

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Senior **Josephina Wright** took a different route, choosing to focus her athletic abilities in the pole vault event where she took second at the Tempe City Meet.

Josephina is listed at No. 4 on the Top 10 rankings for 2018 based on her 4th place finish in the pole vault in the 78th Nike Chandler Rotary Elite meet held March 24.

Josephina also ran in the 100 meters where she finished in 15th place behind junior **Meg Horvath**, who finished 5th, and sophomore **Anisa McLain** who finished 9th at the Tempe City Meet.

Senior **Kelsy Lum** made the hurdles her event finishing third in the 300-meter hurdles and fifth in the 100-meter hurdles at the Tempe City Meet.

Lum also ran the third leg of Corona's 4x100 relay with teammates Horvath, McLain and **Haley Johnson** who finished second at the Tempe City Meet.

Competing in two events at the state championships, Lum finished 14th in the 300-meter hurdles and 20th in the 100-meter hurdles. Lum's 4x100 relay team finished 7th at the state meet.

Another long-distance runner is **Mia Da Rosa**, who placed 13th in the 800 meters, and senior **Rylee Carlisle** who is a mid-distance runner and part of the 4x400 relay team with **Taylor Daugherty**, **Isabella Magana** and **Olivia Nesky** who took first place in the open finals at the Tempe City Meet.

**Kristina Phillips** was a distance runner her senior season, finishing in fourth place in the open 3200 meters, race while **Amber Burrell** liked the field events such as shot put and discus.

Also expected to improve significantly in the off season and be very competitive next spring in the new javelin event would be sophomore **Olivia Nesky**, who placed first, while fellow sophomore **Payton Deer** was second at the Tempe City Meet.

#### McClintock Track and Field

McClintock's boys and girls track team had a good season with several of their athletes ending up on the Top 10 list for 2018, including senior **Stacey Boyd**, who is the top athlete in the Division II 100 meters based on his personal record time of 10.62 set at the AIA Division II Championships.

Boyd is also the top athlete in the 200 meters with a personal record time of 21.60 recorded at the state championships. He also has the No. 6 ranking for his 400-meter time of 49.13 set at the 78th Nike Chandler Rotary Elite meet.

McClintock's 4x400 relay team is ranked No. 3 based on their 3:19.98 time set at the AIA Division II Championship on May 2.

The Chargers' 4x100 relay team has the No. 8 ranking with a time of 42.84 set at the state championships and their 4x800 relay team has a No. 9 ranking.

McClintock's **Davieon Center** is ranked No. 9 in the Top 10 2018 rankings for his 48" 11.5 shot put throw at the state championships, while **Tristin King** is ranked No. 5 for his 158' 1 javelin throw he recorded at the state championships.

Highlights from the AIA Division II State Championships for the Chargers include a 15th place finish for senior **John Cleveland** and a 16th place finish for senior **Torren Baker** in the 800 meters. Senior **David Rothwell** placed 25th in the 3200 meters at the state championship meet.

Besides placing sixth in the shot put at the state meet, **Davieon Center** also placed 11th in the discus at the state championships.

McClintock's girls team has freshman **Selema Ortiz** listed at the No. 10 ranking in the 800 meters for her time of 2:20.85 set at the 39th Sun Angel Track Classic.

The 4x800 relay team is ranked at No. 5 while the 4x400 relay team is ranked No. 8.

#### Marcos de Niza Track and Field

Marcos de Niza will miss the athletic abilities of senior **Carlan Naisant** who is ranked No. 1 in javelin for his 204' throw made at the 78th Nike Chandler Rotary Elite meet and a No. 4 ranking for his shot-put throw of 50' 5.25 personal record set at the AIA Division II Championships.

Ranked in the top ten for the Padres also includes a 7th place ranking for **Orion Hunter** in the pole vault. Hunter jumped 13' 3" at the Tempe City Meet to set a new personal record on April 17 and get him a spot in the top 10.

Highlights from the AIA Division II State Championships for the Marcos de Niza include an 11th place finish in the 1600 meters and a 20th finish in the 3200 meters for senior **Joseph Tyreman**.

#### Tempe Track and Field

Tempe's boys and girls track and field team also has some athletes in the Division II Top 10 for 2018.

Senior **Cameron Peters** is ranked at No. 5 in the triple jump for his 44' jump set at the Tempe City Meet on April 17. Peters is also ranked No. 12 for his long jumping abilities.



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## Sports

From Page 15

Senior **Stevie Maddox** is ranked No. 11 for his 40.39 time recorded on April 13 at the 15th Annual Hohokam Invitational. Additional highlights from the AIA Division II State Championship include a 20th place finish for **Emmanuel Gore** in both the 300-meter hurdles and 110-meter hurdles.

Tempe's girls team will miss senior **Danyella Miranda**, who is ranked No. 17 for her 1600-meter race time of 5:24.62 set at the Desert Vista Last Chance Meet on April 25 and is ranked at No. 18 for her personal record time of 11:44.89 set at the AIA Division II Championships on May 2.

Tempe's 4x100 relay team is ranked No. 7. Highlights from the state championships for the Buffaloes include Miranda competing in three long-distance races, where she finished in the top 20 in all three. Miranda finished 15th in both the 3200 meters and the 1600 meters and then came in 15th in the 800 meters.

Junior **Kenya Coburn** competed in several events, including an 11th place finish in the triple jump, a 12th place finish in the long jump and a 13th place finish in the 100-meter hurdles preliminary race.

### Improvements at Kiwanis Park beckon a summer crowd

As part of Tempe's commitment to reinvesting in city parks, Kiwanis Park is receiving some TLC this summer.

A new splash playground is just days from opening, with construction continuing on tennis center renovations and lake-edge improvements. All park amenities including fields, ramadas and Kiwanis Recreation Center will remain open during construction.

**The Cloud at Kiwanis Park – New splash playground** — Open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**New tennis courts** — New, championship-level tennis courts are under construction at Kiwanis Recreation Center.

The project, expected to be completed this fall, includes the installation of 15 post-tension concrete courts, new LED lighting, windscreens and shade canopies.

The tennis complex is closed during construction; all other amenities at the recreation center are open.

**Lake edge improvements** — Construction is underway on renovations to the lake edges at Kiwanis Park. These improvements are designed to help stabilize and restore the lakeshore and prevent further erosion, while also repairing sidewalks and concrete headers around the lake.



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Photos by Everardo Keeme Photography



# City of Chandler NEWS+ Events

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No collection on Wednesday, July 4  
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TUESDAY, July 3	→ No change
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THURSDAY, July 5	→ FRIDAY, July 6
FRIDAY, July 6	→ SATURDAY, July 7

**Recycling-Solid Waste Collection Center**  
 OPEN - Thursday through Monday  
 CLOSED - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & City Observed Holidays



## Operation Back to School donations, volunteers needed



The City's Diversity Office and its community partners are busy preparing for this year's Operation Back to School Chandler. The

annual event brings the community together to provide disadvantaged students with supplies they'll need for the coming school year. The event will be from 6:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 21, at Chandler High School, 350 N. Arizona Ave. Donated school supplies, shoes, socks or underwear from the recommended wish list can be dropped off at several locations through Wednesday, July 11. To view a complete list of donation drop-off locations, needed school supplies, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation online, visit [backtoschoolchandler.org](http://backtoschoolchandler.org).

## 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular



Chandler's Tumbleweed Park will once again host a fantastic Independence Day celebration and fireworks display on Wednesday, July 4. Tumbleweed Park is

on the southwest corner of McQueen and Germann roads. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., with a 20 minute fireworks show starting at 9 p.m. Admission is free and on-site event parking is \$5 per vehicle. For more information, go to [chandleraz.gov/4thofjuly](http://chandleraz.gov/4thofjuly).

## Fireworks: Know the rules!



Chandler Fire Department reminds residents that while some types of fireworks are legal to sell and purchase at local businesses, the use and misuse of fireworks can lead to personal injury, injury to others, harm to pets, property damage and destruction of the environment. Under Arizona law, the use of permissible consumer fireworks is allowed June 24 through July 6. Chandler prohibits the use of permissible consumer fireworks in any public park within City limits. More details at [chandleraz.gov/fire](http://chandleraz.gov/fire).

## Get ready to vote in Aug. 28 Chandler Primary Election



The City of Chandler 2018 Primary Election will be held on Aug. 28 for the purposes of electing a Mayor and three Councilmembers; and for the consideration of Proposition 408 – Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule Option). To review key information about voting in Chandler, including voter registration, early ballot requests, polling places and what to do if you're registered as an Independent, visit [chandleraz.gov/elections](http://chandleraz.gov/elections). #VoteChandler

## EVENTS

### JUNE

- 23 Wagner Dance Arts: Yellow Brick Road, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 25 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 28 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

### JULY

- 4 Chandler's July 4th Fireworks Spectacular, Tumbleweed Park, 782-2735
- 9 City Council Meeting & Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 12 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

- 30 Last day to register to vote for the 2018 Primary Election, 782-2180 [recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/](http://recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/)
- 30 Último día para registrarse para votar en las elecciones primarias de 2018, 782-2180 [recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/](http://recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/)

### AUGUST

- 1 Early voting for Primary Election begins, 782-2180
- 1 La votación temprana para la elección primaria comienza, 782-2180
- 1 Small Business Workshop: Chandler Resources, Downtown Library, 782-2800
- 6 City Council Meeting & Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 8 Small Business Workshop: Business Plan/Marketing, Downtown Library, 782-2800

- 9 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 15 Small Business Workshop: Financing and Staffing, Downtown Library, 782-2800
- 17 Last day to request that an early ballot be mailed for the Primary Election, 782-2180
- 17 Último día para solicitar una boleta electoral temprana para ser enviado para la elección primaria, 782-2180
- 21 Operation Back to School, Chandler High School, 782-4300
- 22 Small Business Workshop: Panel Discussion, Downtown Library, 782-2800

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

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny & City Council



# Diversions

## Draw, doodle, create at Tempe Art Center's June 23rd 'Draw-a-Thon'



With temperatures soaring and non-swimming, extended outdoor play practically impossible, Tempe and West Chandler residents have an opportunity to participate in a Draw-a-thon.

The Draw-a-thon is a free, interactive, one-day celebration of all things drawing for all ages. For anyone who loves to draw, doodle, create and play or just looking for family fun, the "draw-a-thon" has something for everyone.

The event takes place 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Saturday, June 23 at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy.

Teen focused activities will be held

from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and feature a demonstration by the Tempe High School robotics team (including a robot that draws), fashion design and monster drawings.

Participants will learn how to draw characters like Frankenstein, Anime, using light to draw temporary images in the air, architectural drawing techniques and tools and more.

Adult focused activities from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. include artist demos, activities with artists including word art, drawing life forms with a live costumed model, local tattoo artist, live music, community mural and more.

Information: [tempecenterforthearts.com](http://tempecenterforthearts.com)

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**Charles Shaughnessy**  
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**Eloise Kropp**  
Broadway's *On The Town*, *Cats*, *Dames at Sea* as Anytime Annie



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## Classic '42nd Street' coming to Tempe stage

By M.V. Moorhead

Some directors, speaking to an inexperienced young actress just before she goes on in a lead role for the first time, might say something like, "Hey, go out there and have fun, you'll be fine." But director Julian Marsh takes a different approach in his pre-show pep talk to understudy Peggy Sawyer:

*"You've got to go on, and you have to give and give and give. They've got to like you; they've got to. Do you understand? You can't fall down, you can't, because your future's in it, my future and everything all of us have is staked on you."*

*"All right, now I'm through. But you keep your feet on the ground, and your head on those shoulders of yours and go out, and Sawyer, you're going out a youngster, but you've got to come back a star."*

These are the relaxing words that Marsh (Warner Baxter) delivers to Peggy (Ruby Keeler) in the classic 1933 movie musical *42nd Street*.

But they probably feel just as relevant in real life to actress Karylin Veres. The recent ASU grad and Tempe resident is playing the role of Peggy in the Scottsdale Musical Theater Company stage version of *42nd Street* opening Friday, July 6 at Tempe Center for the Arts.

"Rehearsals have been going great," says the Tucson native. "I haven't had a chance to work with Debbie Boone or Charles Shaughnessy yet, but I'm really looking forward to it."

Shaughnessy, a veteran British actor probably best known as the male lead on the long-running sitcom *The Nanny*, plays the director in the SMTC production, so it's from him that Veres

will receive the famous big speech.

"I can't wait," she says.

Debbie Boone, best known for her '70s-era hit "You Light Up My Life," plays the role of Dorothy Brock, played by Bebe Daniels in the film. Another Broadway veteran in the cast is Eloise Kropp, in the role of "Anytime Annie" (Ginger Rogers in the movie). Kropp gets great reviews from her castmate Veres.

The SMTC *42nd Street* marks an exciting leap forward for Veres, a graduate of Tucson's Canyon del Oro High School who chose ASU for college over her hometown's U of A.

"Partially it was the scholarship," admits Veres, of the choice. "I had an award for academics in high school. And then in my time at ASU I got a talent scholarship for my work there."

But the scholarship wasn't the only reason for the choice of ASU. Veres also liked the school's larger and more ambitious theater programs.

"I was really able to try my hand at a little bit of everything," she notes. Roles Veres played at ASU included musical leads like Maria in *West Side Story* and Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, as well as a turn in Shakespeare, as the villainous, scheming Tamora in *Titus Andronicus*.

After wrapping up *42nd Street*, Veres plans to leave the Valley.

"In August, I'm going to move to Chicago to try to further my career," she says. "It's time to move onward and upward. Much as I love Arizona."

*42nd Street* plays from July 6 to 15 at Tempe Center for the Arts. Tickets range from \$38 to \$58. Go to [tempecenterforthearts.com](http://tempecenterforthearts.com) for details and tickets.

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# Patriotism

From Page 1

one of the memories that remain with us today and certainly will forever.

Remember all the American flags? That sense of America united against a common threat? The fervor of patriotism, the deep desire to defend our nation against a force of evil?

Little 6-year-old Johnny and his cousins were only boys then, but there was no question that they took note and were also deeply affected by the war stories that neighbor and combat veteran Phil told through the years. Stories of shivering on cold nights, of dodging bullets amid the deafening roar of gunfire.

In the years that were to follow, one cousin, Michael, became a U.S. Army Ranger and served two tours overseas (I'm not allowed to say where, but trust me, it wasn't a touristy spot.)

Another cousin, Christian, became a U.S. Air Force Academy cadet and is now an Air Force helicopter pilot.

And last month, Johnny, now 22, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Which brings me to today and the occasions when I hear some folks complain that the younger generation "just isn't patriotic."

Sorry, but I must respectfully disagree. Ask any parent of a son or daughter serving in the military; they'll likely tell you of the mixed emotions that flood their hearts.

It's bittersweet. You're indescribably proud of their service to our country, but you're also scared. You don't allow your mind to go into the what-



Author Joyce Coronel's son Jonathan, left, a Marine Corps 2nd lieutenant, and nephew Michael Prendergast, an Army Ranger.

ifs because it's unfathomable. When our nephew Michael deployed overseas—twice—we held our breath. He's finally back on U.S. soil and we are indeed grateful.

Now, in son Johnny, we have a new homegrown hero to thank and pray for—one, in fact, whose byline some readers will remember seeing on the pages of Wrangler News over the past couple of years before he graduated from Arizona State University.

It was thoughts like these that my husband and I shared during the last few months, as Johnny's new life as a Marine each day came closer into focus. Then, a couple of weeks ago, a little white Toyota piled high with uniforms, sturdy boots and rucksacks pulled out of our driveway and headed toward the USMC headquarters in Quantico, Virginia. Tears rolled down my face as I watched the car disappear

down the road. Johnny was on his way.

The car had been gone only a few hours when I came upon a letter from Johnny's platoon commander at the start of last summer's Officer Candidate School session. Addressed to all the candidates, the letter was stern in tone and emphasized the Marine Corps' values: honor, courage, and commitment.

"Do the right thing because it's the right thing to do," the commander wrote. "Your character and conduct as a leader must always be above reproach...a lack of integrity will not be tolerated. You will make mistakes; own them and learn from them." He also called on them to be "servant leaders" who understand it's not about them—it's about the team.

As I read on, I couldn't help but think that every American would benefit from such an exhortation. If each of us would embrace those values, I'd venture to say our families, our communities, our schools and our nation would be in far better shape.

We are blessed to have tens of thousands of men and women who have answered the call and dedicated themselves to defending the freedom we celebrate each year on Independence Day.

So when those firecrackers light up the star-spangled sky this year, think of our military personnel and of those who have paid the ultimate price for our liberty.

Wherever we are and whatever our role, we can all honor their sacrifice by endeavoring to serve others and live the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment.

If that doesn't exemplify a generation filled with the same core of patriotism on which our country was built, I don't know what does.



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## Text-messaging graffiti hotline comes to Chandler

Texting is one of the easiest and most popular methods to communicate.

Now West Chandler residents and their neighbors in other parts of the city may report graffiti and other code violations to the city's Neighborhood Services team by sending a text message.

To report graffiti, send a text to the Graffiti Hotline at 480-782-4322.

Code violations should be reported via text to 480-782-4820.

When sending a message, residents must provide their

name, address, phone number and the address (or crossroads) of the violation they are reporting.

"City staff can't be everywhere," said Neighborhood Services Manager Stephen Erno.

"So it's important for the entire community to be a part of our Graffiti Elimination Team and report graffiti and other violations as they see them in their neighborhoods.

"We have to know about issues before we can take action to fix them," he said. "We're thrilled to launch this service to communicate

with our residents."

There also are other convenient ways to report graffiti or other code violations in Chandler:

- Call the 24-hour Graffiti Hotline at 480-782-4322;
- Call the Code Enforcement Hotline at 480-782-4320;
- Email [blight@chandleraz.gov](mailto:blight@chandleraz.gov);
- Submit a report online at [chandleraz.gov/forms/sr.aspx](http://chandleraz.gov/forms/sr.aspx). Under Option 2, select the "Code Enforcement" category and then choose which violation you want to report;
- Download the free PublicStuff app, click on "New Request," select the appropriate violation and follow the prompts to submit your request.

For more information about the city's anti-graffiti efforts, visit [chandleraz.gov/GET](http://chandleraz.gov/GET).



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## Discount on roll-off rentals



### Moving out, deep cleaning or home remodel?

The City of Tempe offers roll-off services and, during the months of June and July, residents can receive a discount on the rental fee if they mention this ad when ordering.

To request a roll-off, pricing, or more information about our services contact Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311 or [www.tempe.gov/RolloffRentals](http://www.tempe.gov/RolloffRentals).



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