

Wrangler NEWS

'The Valley's Best Community Newspaper'

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When times get hard, keep praying for love.

Dallas memorial 7/9/16

— Anonymous



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Local families fear the worst for their starving loved ones

Editor's note: The names of the three expatriates have been changed due to security concerns for relatives still living in their Venezuelan homeland.

By Joyce Coronel



As the crisis in Venezuela continues to escalate, three people who fled their economically crumbling nation and have taken refuge in Tempe and West Chandler have expressed their fears over rapidly deteriorating and increasingly dangerous conditions.

Javier Cortez and Marina Gomez, siblings, with their friend Teresa Rodriguez, left Venezuela before political and social catastrophe struck, but remain in frequent contact with their loved ones who still live there, many of them in Judibana, the small town where the three immigrants grew up.

"Judibana used to be a paradise," Gomez said.

— CRISIS, Page 23

New faces

School starts Monday, Aug. 1, and the new faces won't belong only to kids starting kindergarten or arriving from other communities or neighborhoods.

Dr. Jan Vesely takes over as new superintendent of the Kyrene School District, with a helping hand from Laura Toenjes, who becomes assistant superintendent.

Both have deep educational roots in Arizona. In the Tempe Elementary School District, new staff, new programs and new opportunities will be in store.

And, in our local high schools, some new principals also will be taking over on Aug. 1.

You'll find more on the Kyrene changes on Pages 17-18 & 23 of this issue. Look for high school staffing updates in our next (Aug. 6) edition.

Transgender bathrooms not the only diversity issue facing schools

By Don Kirkland
Commentary

When I was in high school in L.A. in the mid-1950s, the popular TV show "Leave It To Beaver" pretty much characterized our lives as teenagers.

Ward, June, Wally and The Beav, along with their real-world counterparts, comprised most of the families we knew and, in the latter example, hung out with.

Oh, sure, there were some kids we considered

unhip (read Eddie Haskell and Lumpy), but I don't recall that we spent much time thinking

about them or giving them a hard time because of their heritage, their appearance or how they fit (or didn't) into what we thought normalcy should look like.

That was how things were more than 50 years ago, if you do the math.

Today's environment is so markedly different for teens and their parents that one might

— DIVERSITY, Page 10



Venezuelans protest dwindling availability of food, other necessities.

— Photo courtesy Venezuela 24 News

What to do if you see something suspicious Ex-officer advises when to 'say something' and to whom

Orlando. Istanbul. San Bernadino. Paris. As terror attacks become more commonplace, the oft-repeated catchphrase "See something, say something" has Tempe and West Chandler residents wondering: What exactly does it mean?

Don Black, a former El Paso, Texas, police sergeant, was born and raised in Chandler but spent 30 years living and working in Texas. He returned to West Chandler with his family two years ago after retiring from the police department and sat down with *Wrangler News* to discuss the "See something, say something" national campaign.



Tempe police encourage, and welcome, citizen contact.

Black framed the discussion by recalling the terror attacks of 9/11 and the heightened state of alert across the country

as police agencies hunkered down.

"A lot of us were posted at crucial sites throughout the city. We all had the same concerns—things like water treatment plants, anything that would be a value to the well-being of the community," Black said.

On 9/11, citizens reported that they had observed someone tampering with the city's water-treatment facility. The Federal Bureau of Investigation contacted the El Paso police department.

"The locks were cut," Black said of

— REPORT, Page 8



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Downtown Chandler salutes businesses, hails police, fire for keeping area safe

A family coffee-growing legacy dating back to 1920 has been named Business of the Year by the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership. The honor, announced at the organization's annual breakfast, honored Peixoto Coffee for its role in helping to make Historic Downtown Chandler a more inviting, more vibrant, more unique destination.

Sponsored by APS and the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort, the award recognized, in addition to Peixoto Coffee, these honorees:

- Volunteer of the Year* — Paul Last;
- Advocate of the Year* — Jason Black, TechShop Chandler; and
- Lifetime Achievement* — Eric Faulhaber, Vision Gallery.

Beth Fiorenza, DCCP's executive director, noted that as Chandler's downtown advances its qualities as a destination, growth continues at a rapid pace.

"The DCCP has many to thank for creating a vibrant downtown," said Fiorenza. "Julia Peixoto Peters and Jeff Peters have embraced the Downtown community in a way that we just can't describe—it's like they have been here forever. In their time here, Peixoto has been a major contributor to the success

of Downtown Chandler."

The breakfast also included an announcement that DCCP is coordinating a summer food drive in July for Chandler Christian Community Center and has earmarked drop-off locations.

DCCP's thanks also went to the Chandler Police and Fire departments for keeping people in the community safe, adding that people can now text the police non-emergency number (480-782-4130) for any suspicious activity. Her organization has adopted the "If you see something, say something" campaign, Fiorenza noted.

Ed Hines, DCCP's board president, emphasized the importance of being alert because "a safe environment is the utmost importance to all of us that spend time and work in the Downtown and we encourage the patrons of the Downtown to always keep their eyes and ears open to keep the community safe."

DCCP's mission is to mobilize leadership and resources to advance the development of downtown Chandler as a regional destination for shopping, dining, living, culture, and the arts. Information: Downtownchandler.org.

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Ralph Remington, new deputy director of arts and culture for Tempe, has big plans for building the theater program and giving the city a whole new arts scene. — Tempe Center for the Arts for Wrangler News

Actor's Equity veteran takes a bow at Tempe Arts Center

By M.V. Moorhead



“You know how they say Arizona’s a dry heat?” asks Ralph Remington. “Well, Minnesota is a ‘dry cold.’ It isn’t like in New York and Philly, where it blows in, and it’s rainy and it goes to your bones.”

I’m prepared to take Remington’s word for the relative tolerability of the winters in Minnesota, the region he thinks of as home, compared to the winters in the northeast.

But it must be admitted, at least, that the new Artistic Director of Tempe Center for the Arts speaks from experience:

He’s lived and worked in all of those places and more, and he brings his impressive resume to his new position.

Or, rather, to his new positions: Remington is also Deputy Director of Arts and Culture for the city of Tempe. Thus his duties will also include overseeing the Tempe History Museum and the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts, as well as the town’s public art projects.

“I’m grounded in theatre and political activism,” says the Philadelphia native and Howard University graduate, having had a long career as an actor, director, playwright and theatre administrator.

But his experience has also prepared him for the broad scope of his responsibilities in Tempe, whether aesthetic, civic or political: “I was a city councilman in Minneapolis, and was involved in some public art projects there.”

Remington was also the founder of the Pillsbury House Theatre in Minneapolis, at which, he notes, “We had visual arts programs, painting and pottery, and a dance program as well.” He has served as an Assistant Executive Director of Actors’ Equity Association, a director of outreach programs for the prestigious Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., and the Director of Theatre and Musical Theatre for the National Endowment for the Arts.

So, what does Remington plan to do with this track record in service of the Tempe Center for the Arts?

“What we need to do is build out the theatre program,” he says. “So far the TCA has largely been a rental space. It’s been going really well; we turn people away because the space is in such demand.”

Remington, however, wants to give Tempe her own arts scene. He looks forward to involving TCA in “new play development, by the newest, brightest playwrights in America, and choreographers, and musical groups. You want to have [these productions] overlap, so that it’s not just one after the other, but the dance companies get exposed to the plays.”

— ARTS, Page 15

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Chandler budget overview: Fiscal strength, low-cost services

By Jay Tibshraeny
Commentary

Chandler's strong economic foundation is the product of careful financial planning that spans several decades, resulting from policies that have been strictly adhered to by council members and city staff who residents have entrusted with their tax dollars.



It's one of the reasons that this year's budget theme is "Fiscal Strength and Low-Cost Services."

I am proud to report that this plan contains a proposal for a slight decrease to the city property tax rate and no increases in the city sales tax rate. However, as in years past, we remain guarded in our forecast.

At the same time, I am optimistic about the direction toward which the city continues to move.

The 2016-17 budget, adopted by the Council on June 9, shows a slight increase from the prior year, and we again are able to fund new parks and amenities, develop infrastructure,

deliver quality services and maintain our roads and utility systems.

We continue to be among the lowest of all Valley cities for resident costs.

We celebrated many successes over the past year, including the dedication of the Downtown Stage, our Veterans Memorial and Citrus Vista Park, while rededicating Folley Park after significant upgrades.

We continue to construct and widen roads in south Chandler, aggressively maintain and improve others, while undertaking some significant new utility projects vital to our future growth.

We continue to focus on neighborhoods and celebrate residents.

My Listening Tour continues and seems to grow in popularity with each stop. In April we announced our third annual Neighborhood Excellence award winners, and my Teen Leadership Academy graduated a second strong class in March.

We welcomed many new businesses to Chandler, including the FedEx Distribution Center near the airport, as well as the Ride Now, Porsche and Earnhardt Cadillac dealership at our Auto Mall.

We also welcomed the Google Autonomous Car project in Chandler, joining just three other cities across the nation for the testing of the next wave of driverless car technology.

Thanks to our management team and budget staff for their dedicated work to prepare a prudent, sensible plan. This financial roadmap is the product of a long and transparent process—and many hours of work on the part of our city staff, the City Council, and the residents of Chandler.

Through public meetings, surveys and our popular Budget Connect online forum, we have developed a sustainable fiscal blueprint that this community can take great pride in—all reasons why we have been able to maintain AAA bond ratings from all three rating agencies.

Thanks also to my fellow city councilmembers. They remain, as do I, committed to an unparalleled quality of life for our city and residents.

We live in a tremendous community — one that exemplifies this year's theme to its core.

We truly are a city of "Fiscal Strength and Low-Cost Services."

— Jay Tibshraeny is mayor of Chandler

New programming unveiled by Grace Christian Academy

A Tempe Christian school that's been educating students according to biblical principles for 40 years throws open its doors Wednesday, Aug. 3 with new programming and a growing student body.

Kelvin Inouye, administrator at Grace Christian Academy, said 190 students are enrolled so far but there's still room for more.

"We're excited to offer an alternative to public and charter schools in Tempe," Inouye said. "We offer a well-rounded program with strong academics."

Students also have an opportunity to participate in chapel each week as well as service projects, sports, music and drama. Information: gracechristian.academy, 480-966-5022.

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Arts Center's youth advisory council opens a pathway to successful, productive futures

Art Works: It's a call to action by the Washington, D.C.-based National Endowment for the Arts, which uses the simple, two-word proclamation to describe an ongoing arts enrichment campaign that has grown to nationwide stature.

Its purpose, say organizers, is to fund, promote and strengthen the creative capacity of communities by providing diverse opportunities for arts participation.

The message hasn't been lost on Chandler's arts visionaries.

A group organized by Chandler Center for the Arts once again will be offering the city's Youth Advisory Council program to teens who not only have an interest in the arts but who see the value of developing leadership skills as they get closer to adulthood.

West Chandler teen Nick Iwanski was quick to endorse the program, saying it opened multiple doors to what he sees as an exciting, productive future. His opinion: "I loved it."

Applications are being accepted for the 2016-2017 session of the council, during which teens will focus on arts appreciation, community service and leadership skills designed to encourage them to become well-rounded community leaders as well as advocates for the arts.

The council's program, which is free to participants Valleywide, requires members to be 13-18 years old and attending a public, private, parochial, charter or home school.

Throughout the program, teens serve for a year as members of a Chandler Center for the Arts advisory council. They engage in experiential 3-hour sessions from September through February that are designed to provide hands-on, real-world leadership situations of a performing arts center.

Teens complete the program having gained increased knowledge of career opportunities, financial responsibility, leadership skills, small- and large-group dynamics and public relations and marketing.

The Youth Advisory Council program is free to participants. Teens are expected to miss no more than three sessions during their term as members. A certificate of completion is awarded each teen at the conclusion of the program year, and the class list will be prominently displayed in the lobby.

Applications are accepted now through early September. Interviews are conducted on Sept. 14, and a maximum of 15 teens are selected.

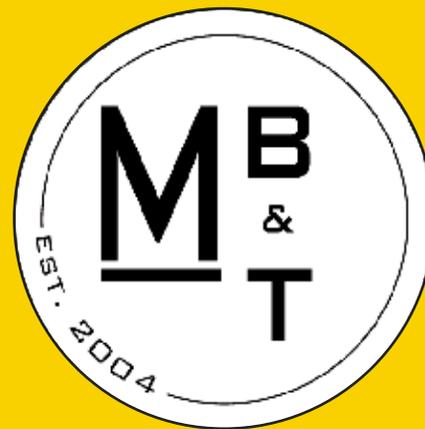
The program starts in September and concludes in March.

Information and program application: www.chandlercenter.org/connecting-kidz/youth-advisory-council/youth-advisory-council-program

Exchange Club plans a 9/11 fundraiser

Tempe's landmark Bogey's Sports Bar and Grill, 6463 S. Rural Road, will offer an evening of entertainment to banish the summer doldrums Saturday, July 30, with a casino night to raise money for the annual Healing Field 9/11 Memorial held every Sept. 11 at Tempe Beach Park. The event is presented by The Exchange Club of Tempe.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door, and include a buffet dinner, two drink tickets, free casino games with prizes, silent auction and more. Information: <http://bit.ly/28L5f17>.



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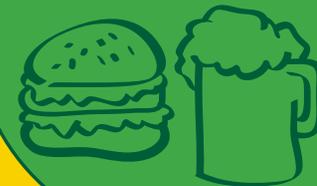


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Report

From Page 1

the incident. "That's an example of why people should call." Alerting law enforcement of suspicious activity should not be thought of as a nuisance or overreaction, Black said.

"People think, 'It's probably just kids messing around,' but as public safety employees, that's our job. You're not going to be bothering the police by picking up the telephone and saying something just doesn't seem right. That's what the police get paid to do," Black said.

So what kinds of things should arouse suspicion?

If you're out in a public area, especially large gatherings, Black said, be on the lookout for unattended items such as a suitcase, backpack, briefcase or box—anything that might contain potentially hazardous material.

"If you see something out of place in a public area that has the potential to be dangerous, (the

— Continued on the facing page



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authorities) want you to call so they can at least check it out," Black said. "The best case scenario is we get there, we check it out, and it's safe."

As a field supervisor for 11 years in a community close to the border with Mexico, he said he was frequently dispatched on such calls.

"Many times we responded because of a package that was left on the international bridge," Black said.

"Most of the time, it was nothing, but you know, is there a price for human life?"

You've got people out there on duty being paid to perform a certain job by the taxpayers who expect you to protect them."

It only takes one package, one person to wreak destruction. Law enforcement relies on citizens to keep their eyes and ears open.

That was a point hammered home by Molly Enright, a community relations officer with the Tempe Police Department.

"Community partnerships are incredibly important because the number of officers we have simply cannot be everywhere all the time," Enright said. In a city of 165,000 where the population roughly doubles each day as people arrive for work, school or other business, calls alerting police

to suspicious behavior are extremely helpful, she said.

"I can't tell you the number of times that residents have called and said, 'We don't want to bother the police, but we saw this person in the alley' or 'We heard something' or 'My neighbor told me something,' and as it turns out that has led to a significant piece of intelligence that helped us, whether it was drug trafficking, a domestic violence situation or planning for a terrorist event," Enright said.

Though she said she is not aware of any thwarted terrorist attacks, she said, "We get information on a daily basis from residents that helps prevent crime that otherwise would have likely occurred."

"Prompt and detailed reporting of suspicious activities can help prevent violent crimes or terrorist attacks.

"If you see suspicious activity, please report it to your local law enforcement department," the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website states.

Information: dhs.gov

Tempe police non-emergency number: 480-350-8311

Chandler police non-emergency number: 480-782-4130

— Joyce Coronel



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Diversity

From Page 1

think we're living in another century—Oops: We are.

Which leads me also to realize that although we've made huge strides in technology, medicine and other scientific endeavors, our advances toward better understanding the ranges of human diversity seem not only less noteworthy but in many cases worse.

I regularly walk my dog for a couple of miles every morning and use the time to catch up on the news, thanks to my little pocket radio that stays tuned to NPR. And, being a news junkie, I subscribe to two papers: *The Arizona Republic* and *The New York Times*.

I can't help but take note of the abundance of coverage involving the transgender-bathroom hullabaloo, now expanded to include the entire transgender phenomenon, which has drawn interest from many sides: those who fear their children will be exposed to an unnatural (and, if it were proven, understandably undesired) likelihood of cross-gender hanky-panky, along with those who see this new transition simply as a controversy that has been over-discussed, over-analyzed and seemingly way overblown.

So all of these somewhat random thoughts prompted me to call Jill Hanks, the Tempe Union High School District's public-information officer, to learn just what exactly is happening in the world of transgenderism in the hallways (and, not to lose sight of the origins of this discussion, bathrooms) at Corona del Sol, Marcos de Niza, McClintock and Tempe high schools.

Jill's measured, and I felt thoughtful, response was that high schools in the Tempe Union domain are not working on the transgender question exclusively but on the many-faceted tentacles of diversity in their entirety.

Beyond that bit of conversation, she felt that the district's superintendent, Dr. Kenneth Baca, would be the most articulate spokesman for what's being done in our local high schools; what if any resources may be coming into play; and what realistic hopes are being brought into focus for the long-range future.

She was right.

My request obviously wasn't the first time Dr. Baca has been asked about this issue nor the first time he's given it deep and, in my view, productive thought.

In a few words, Dr. Baca expresses the notion that today's generation of teens looks at the world entirely differently than did his (and, once again, mine in 1950s-era L.A.). Nor does the transgender evolution represent a stand-alone discussion but rather has become part of a broader examination by our educational leadership exploring the entire scope of diversity-related challenges.

"We continue to address the diversity around us to help ensure that all of our students feel safe and understood and included," Baca told me.

"We want to make it clear that it's OK to be different. We're all human; we may look different, we may act different but we share our commonality in many ways."

Editor's note: Tempe Union High Schools have announced they expect to have a newly filled Director of Diversity hired in time for the start of the 2016-17 school year.



Kyrene School District Back-to-School News

The first day of school is Monday, August 1, 2016

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHTS IN JULY

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Middle School Meet the Teacher and Curriculum Night: Thursday, July 28 (times vary by grade levels; check school websites)

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Sports

By Alex Zener

Corona wrestlers hone their skills



Wrestlers, like most high school athletes, use their summer vacation from school to sharpen their skills against the best competition they can find to further their specific athletic development in preparation for the high school season.

Most Corona wrestlers have such a strong desire to be one of the athletes standing on the state championship podium that they spend their off season further developing their techniques.

“Our wrestlers have not let the spring and summer pass without doing the things they know will keep them in the fight for state wrestling titles next season,” said head coach **Jim Martinez**. “Several of our wrestlers have been competing in tournaments within Arizona and outside the state to



Corona has seven wrestlers competing at the ASICS National Championships in Fargo, N.D., July 16-23. Front row, from left: Cam Upshur, Cole Bernstein, Jacob Garcia Back: Vincent Dolce, Hunter Carmona, Nick Ruffalo, Brandon Konecny.

— Photo courtesy Jim Martinez

— SPORTS, Page 12



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Sports

From Page 11

gain additional match experience.”

Four Corona wrestlers placed in their weight class at the Arizona State Greco-Roman tournament held earlier this summer. **Zach Kvavle**, entering only his second year of high school this fall, took home the first place trophy.

Kvavle, with a 32-14 record his freshman year and a 6th place at the state tournament in the 106-pound weight class, is working to make it onto the state championship podium.

Hunter Carmona took second place. Carmona, who finished third at the state tournament last spring, will get his last chance at the championship trophy this winter when he tries to improve on his impressive 42-11 record as a junior.

Cam Upshur, with a third place at the Greco-Roman tournament, will be entering his junior year this fall. He is striving to improve on his 37-11 record and fifth place finish at state as a sophomore in the 113-pound category.

Jacob Santa Cruz was fifth at the Greco-Roman tournament.

At the Arizona State Freestyle tournament held at Highland High School, Kvavle again took first place while Upshur and Carmona both finished in third place.

Kvavle continued gaining match experience as he traveled with the Arizona Dual Junior Freestyle/Greco-Roman team during June and July where he compiled an 11-1 record.

Kvavle competed at the Western Regional Championships held June 28 in Pocatello, Idaho, where he placed fifth in Greco-Roman, second in Folkstyle and second in Freestyle, according to Martinez.

Four wrestlers with plenty of match experience are expected to join the Aztec wrestling program this fall after transferring from Seton Catholic. “We

are happy to have join our team, after satisfying the AIA half-season transfer rule, seniors **Brandon Konecny** and **Vincent Dolce**, junior **Jacob Garcia** and sophomore **Bryce Nickel**,” said Martinez.

In addition to being a two-time DII state champion, Konecny competed for Arizona at the Junior Nationals Duals in Tulsa, Okla., where he competed in both Freestyle and Greco Roman tournaments.

Konecny, who is committed to wrestle for the Air Force Academy when he graduated, was named to the All-Tournament team in Tulsa in the 145-pound weight class.

The three other transfers bring some valuable skills and excellent match experience with them as well.

Dolce is a state champion, Garcia was fourth at state and Nickel placed fifth at state.

Although Corona students will be picking up their books next week, six members of the wrestling team have unfinished business to take care of before classes start.

Kvavle, Upshur, **Cole Bernstein**, Dolce and Garcia are preparing to compete at the ASICS National Championships in Fargo, ND, July 16-23.

McClintock's Groves competes at Western Regional finals

Marco Groves, the Chargers DII two-time state champion, also traveled with the Arizona Dual Junior Freestyle/Greco-Roman team where he competed at 145 pounds while in Pocatello, Idaho, June 28, at the Western Regional Championships.

Groves, who won his first state championship as a freshman in 2015 with a 47-4 record, was amazing as a sophomore when he won his second straight championship compiling a 62-0 record.

Groves, competing at the junior level in the 145-pound weight class, finished second at the Western Regionals. He is no doubt expected to do well at the

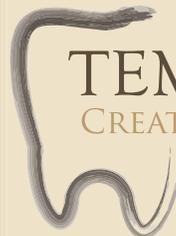
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ASICS National Championships in Fargo next week.

Tempe All-City Awards — Tempe's All-City Award members held their spring sports banquet recently where athletes from the Tempe Union High Schools received recognition for their achievement in baseball, softball, track and field and boys volleyball.

Marcos de Niza Awardees — Two Padres received awards for baseball at the banquet. **Conner Woods**, who also pitched for the team, received the award for the catcher position. Woods was second on the team in batting average at .436 with 17 runs on 34 hits with 23 RBI's and two home runs.

Nicholas Leach was recognized for his play at middle infield but contributes in all aspects of the game for Marcos. As just a sophomore, he led the team in batting average at .63 while at bat 95 times with 29 runs on 44 hits.

Sara Duncklee and **Taylor Delgado** were recognized for softball. Senior Duncklee for first base and Delgado, just a freshman, for the shortstop position.

McClintock Awardees — **Gavin Emerson** was honored for his volleyball skills while **Mario Munoz** and **Daniel Gorman** for baseball.

Tempe High Awardees — The Buffaloes had two softball players

receive All-City awards. **Dienna White** was recognized for her skills at catcher and **Desiree Muniz** for her outfield play.

Corona Awardees — Baseball awards went to **Daniel Sotelo**, for pitcher, **Connor McCord** for first base, and **Ryan Novis** for outfielder.

Sotelo, a freshman on the varsity team, started in eight games and is credited with winning seven games with a 1.32 ERA.

McCord, a senior, played in all 27 games and had a big role in the Aztecs success. Besides playing first base, he also started seven times as pitcher and is credited with winning five games. He had a .400 batting average and was second on the team to Novis in RBI's at 28.

Novis also played in all 27 games his senior season batting .468 with 33 runs on 44 hits and led the team in RBI's at 33. He ended up with a .964 fielding percentage putting out players 50 of his 55 total chances.

Corona had two players recognized for softball: **Allyssia Sanchez** for her play at third base and **Olivia Miller** at outfield. Sanchez played in all 31 games earning 14 runs on 26 hits with 22 RBI's. Miller, only a sophomore,

led the team in batting average at .491 earning 34 runs on 57 hits with three home runs.

The Aztecs had three girls and two boys recognized for track and field at the awards banquet.

Jaclyn Martin was honored for the 400 meter run, **Renee Payne** for the 800 meter and **Alexis Artiaga** for the 3200 meter.

Martin took third place at the state meet in the 400 meters and was a member of the 4x400 relay team, along with Payne, that took third place at the state meet.

Payne took third place in the 800 meters at state and was part of two relays teams. Besides the 4x400, she ran in the 4x800 relay race that took fourth place.

Artiaga, besides taking 12th place at state in the 3200 meters, also ran the first leg of the fourth place 4x800 relay team.

Freshman **Logan Cromeens** and senior **Zach Frampton** were recognized for their doubles tennis play and **Antonio Guarino** and **Ryan Iskandar** for volleyball.

Cromeens and Frampton, with an excellent regular season record, entered the DI state double tennis tournament as the No. 4 seed and advanced into the semifinals before being eliminated.

Guarino, the Aztecs libero, was known for his ability to dig balls. His stats put him way out front of the team in digs with 355 digs over the season or close to four digs a set.

Iskandar was one of those all-around players who was the leading hitter on the team with 312 kills, the leading server with 42 aces, the second leading blocker with a total of 39 blocks and second in digs with 269. Because he played opposite hitter, he had the responsibility to set the ball at times earning him 106 assists.

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Former Aztec pal wowed by co-player's meteoric rise Could a D-backs spot await N.Y. Mets draft pick?

By Kody Acevedo
Photos for Wrangler News by Nicole Vasquez

Nick Marciano was always a little envious of Colby Woodmansee. Not because he wanted to be like him, but because he knew he was simply the best baseball player his age.

"This guy was the real deal," Marciano said. "I always would hate to admit it because he was the competition."

The two grew up together. They attended the same elementary and middle schools and played on the Ahwatukee Little League All-Stars together before going their separate ways for high school, with Marciano going to Corona del Sol and Woodmansee going to Desert Vista.

Marciano, now a senior at Arizona State University, played baseball at Corona four years before hanging up the spikes to attend college.

Woodmansee stayed his course. He committed to play baseball at ASU after high school and earned himself the starting shortstop position his freshman year.

Three years later, Woodmansee was selected by the New York Mets as the 160th overall pick in the 2016 MLB draft, and Marciano is right there cheering him on.

"I'm super excited for him. Just from his time at Ahwatukee Little League to now, I think it's cool to have a hometown guy there," Marciano said.

Woodmansee was born and raised in the Valley. He was a captain of the baseball team at Desert Vista, where he earned four varsity letters and

numerous awards for his performances on the field.

At ASU, he was the starting shortstop during his three years on the team, becoming the everyday shortstop his sophomore year. But as Marciano tells it, Woodmansee was known for having a big bat.

"He almost hit a grand slam off of us at Chase Field my senior year," Marciano recalls. "He was bigger than everybody else and basically better than everyone else, too."

That reputation stayed with him during his days in the maroon and gold. This past season, Woodmansee hit .265 with 15 doubles, 8 home runs and 44 RBIs with a .438 slugging percentage.

"He was always nonchalant about it," Marciano said. "He always kind of knew he was one of the better players on the team, but he wasn't super cocky."

Brian Malone, who played with Woodmansee at Desert Vista, agreed.

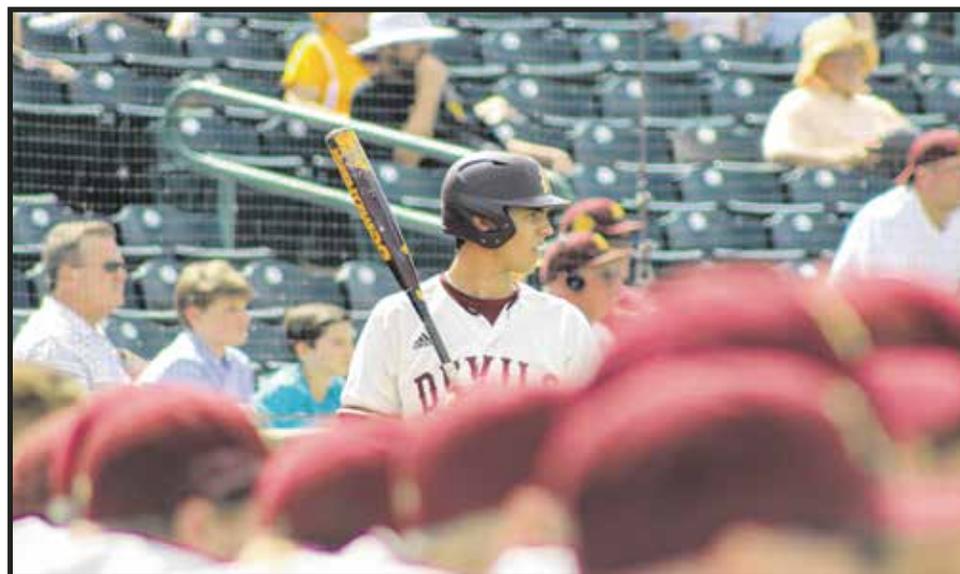
"He was a really quiet teammate who let his playing do most of the talking," Malone said.

That he did. During his senior year in 2013, Woodmansee put up a .369 batting average with eight home runs and 39 RBIs.

Those numbers paralleled his time at ASU. Woodmansee became one of the most important bats in the Sun Devils' lineup, delivered during clutch moments. Many remember his walk-off home run during the first game at Phoenix Municipal Stadium in 2015.

"That's why I think he's different than a lot of shortstops, particularly

— Continued on the facing page



Cory Woodmansee, who once played baseball for Arizona State University, was drafted by the New York Mets.

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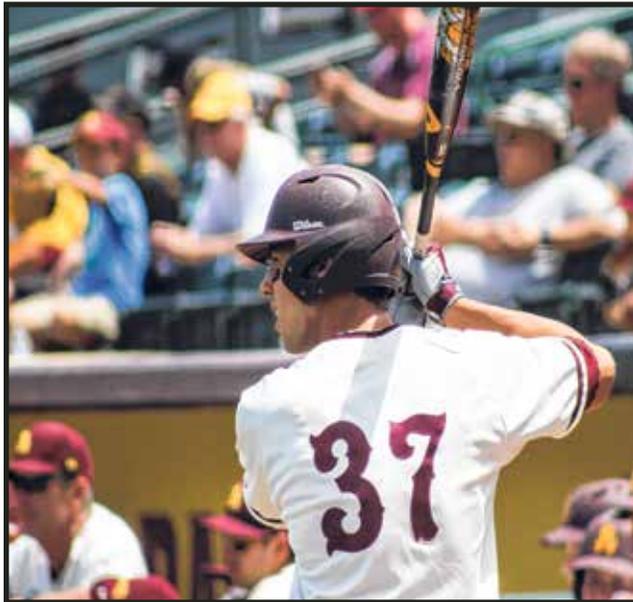
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in college where it's more of a defensive position," Arizona State coach Tracy Smith told Baseball America. "He can do that, but he can also beat you with a home run."

Marciano said he was never sure if Woodmansee was ASU-bound during their high school days, but he credits the Sun Devil baseball program for making him into the player he is today.

"Like every other high school-to-college player, they realize this is the real deal and they have to work really hard at it. I feel like that's when he became the player he is now, because ASU whipped him into shape," Marciano said.

The Mets must have agreed. Woodmansee is currently in Brooklyn, N.Y., beginning his Minor League career as a member of the Brooklyn Cyclones.

While Marciano is proud of where his friend is today, he would like to one day see Woodmansee return to the desert.

"Hopefully he'll make his way to the D-backs."

Arts

From Page 5

In support of this, says Remington, "I want to organize a crack team of corporate fundraisers to go out and get sponsorships. And I want to hire a new managing director, like a GM, but also a facilities director. I'll focus on the whole, but I'd like to be more on the artistic side."

So when will we in the public begin to see these changes?

"It'll start effecting the schedule in, probably, January to March of 2017," estimates Remington. "I'll also direct a show that will be a TCA show, but it'll be site-specific."

Meaning?

"It'll probably be in a school; something about violence in schools. I want to do shows in schools, under bridges, in people's living rooms. So it won't be 'the theatre is the mountain, and you come to the mountain.' The mountain will come to the community."

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Kyrene Superintendent Jan Vesely relaxes alongside students taking in story time at Waggoner Elementary's library, where Summer Academy is in full swing.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

By Diana Whittle

Officially, Dr. Jan Vesely didn't start her job as the Kyrene School District's new superintendent—but that was only on paper. For weeks prior, she kept busy balancing her time by getting to know the Kyrene district and completing her obligations to her former job in Tucson's Sunnyside district.

If the pace feels hectic, Vesely doesn't let it show. During a recent trip to Waggoner Elementary in Tempe, she cheerfully took in a whirlwind tour of a cooking class during the Summer Academy, and then joined youngsters, by sitting cross-legged with them on the floor, during story hour.

This came after a meeting with the Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell in the morning and a stop to be photographed for *Wrangler News* soon after.

She says she wouldn't have it any other way. In the weeks since the Kyrene Governing Board approved her hire in April, Vesely has initiated 77 meetings to introduce herself to parents, teachers, principals, community leaders—anyone and everyone with the time to meet.

This clearly is an administrator who wants to connect with all those involved in the district.

"I already have a positive sense of the

community," said Vesely, "and I am so impressed with the residents' commitment to education and to service at the schools."

"Throughout the year, I hope to stay connected with district employees and our Kyrene community by conducting 'Let's Talk' tours at every school," said Vesely. "I also look forward to being contacted with ideas about improvements.

"I plan to provide regular updates, through newsletters, social media, automated phone and text messages, as well as by participating in school and community meetings."

Although she grew up in Tucson and spent most of her career there, she says she already feels acclimated to the Valley due to the warm welcome she received.

"Being a district superintendent is the goal I've worked toward for my entire career," said Vesely, "and as superintendent I want to help every student in the Kyrene district become successful.

"This past spring and summer, I was fortunate to spend several days getting to know the district with school visits, attending Governing Board meetings and developing specific goals during a retreat to enhance our excellence and guide our efforts in the years ahead."

The start date of the school year is Aug. 1, and there will 100 new teachers to meet and orient. Vesely says she knows their importance and that a teacher can change the course of a student's life, because that's what happened to her.

"No one else in my family had gone on to college, but one of my high school teachers told me that I must become a teacher. It made a strong impact on me that one of my teacher's saw my potential and it led to a life-changing decision on my part.

"I worked hard to get to college and then on to obtain advanced degrees. I learned that the best personal investment to obtain is 'intellectual capital' because then you can go where ever you want to in your life and career."

Vesely's bachelor's degree in education was earned from Northern Arizona University. She also received both her masters and doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership there.

Her career spans more than 35 years in a variety of educational settings—as a teacher, principal, principal supervisor, executive director, education business leader, chief education officer, assistant and deputy superintendent.

Most recently, as deputy superintendent for

— VESELY, Page 23

Another new face: 'Loving to teach'

By Diana Whittle

When Laura Toenjes talks about the value of education, her enthusiasm is evident. It's also obvious in her conversation that the new assistant superintendent for the Kyrene district loves to teach as much as to learn.

So, it's a bit surprising when she admits that teaching was not her first career choice—she started working at a library and had aspirations to attend law school. Then, sometime later, when she was given a chance to teach fourth graders in the Gilbert School District, she believes she found her true calling.



Jaime Soto, principal of Norte Elementary School, enjoys a laugh with new Kyrene Assistant Superintendent Laura Toenjes.

— Alex J. Walker/Wrangler News

"I fell in love with being in the classroom and by being surrounded by the kids," said Toenjes. "I truly believe in the power of education and how it can change the life of every child."

The discovery led her to pursue a variety of educational positions, both in teaching and leadership, including most recently in Tucson at the Sunnyside Unified School District, where she served as Director of School Improvement under Dr. Jan Vesely,

now Kyrene's new superintendent.

It was the chance to work with Dr. Vesely and to return to the Valley that inspired her to apply for the assistant superintendent position at Kyrene.

"I grew up in Gilbert, so working in Tempe was a chance to come home for me," said Toenjes, who earned her bachelor's degree at University of Arizona. She holds two masters

— NEW, Page 23

Tempe Elementary schools ready for Aug. 1 start

Tempe Elementary School District's first day of school is Monday, Aug. 1, with a Meet the Teacher night planned for Thursday, July 28.

Parents can visit their child's teacher, take a peek inside the classrooms and learn what's in store for the upcoming year, all designed to help ensure a successful first day at school.

Meet the Teacher nights will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Tempe Elementary district's elementary schools and Ward Traditional Academy; from 4 to 5:30 at Laird School; and from 2 to 6 p.m. at Connolly, Gililand and Fees College Preparatory middle schools.

An introductory meeting will be at Tempe Academy of International Studies (to pick up schedules and meet the teacher).

The district's kindergarten program accepts children who turn 5 between September and December, however it is important to note that children are required to be screened at two separate sessions: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, July 18, and noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19.

Screenings will take place at the Tempe Elementary Professional Learning Center, 2020 E. Carson Drive, Tempe.

Starting on Wednesday, July 20 and continuing through Friday, Aug. 5, all screenings will be done at each school.

For more information on back to school preparations, visit www.tempeschools.org/backtoschool.

Answering the Top 10 questions about Kyrene kindergarten

Why is Kyrene school a good choice for my child's Kindergarten? — Kyrene is one of the premier districts in Arizona. We hire highly qualified teachers who strive to create engaging and innovative learning environments for every student. Our parents are involved and are encouraged to be an active part of their child's learning experience. Our "Kyrene Teaches with Technology" program has been honored by the National School Board Association. It provides students with access to age-appropriate computer devices that are used to enhance their learning. There are 19 elementary schools in Kyrene—5 in Tempe, 5 in Chandler, 9 in Phoenix.

At what age can my child enter Kindergarten? — We recommend your child be age 5 by September 1 of the current school year. However, early entrance exceptions can be made for children born between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31. If you think your child may be eligible for an early entrance exception, you may attend one of our Kindergarten Early Admissions Information meetings to determine if they qualify. Call 480-541-1000 if you have any questions.

When can I see my child's classroom and meet their teacher? — All elementary schools will hold a "Meet the Teacher" night on Wednesday, July 27, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Information on before- and after-school programs, how to set up a lunch account, and bus schedules will be available at that time.

Is there a fee for Kindergarten? — While state funding for free, all-day Kindergarten was eliminated, Kyrene and its Governing Board decided to continue providing all-day Kindergarten to its community at no cost.

Is there bus transportation? Will my child be with older students or is there separate transportation for Kindergartners? — Bus service is available for any student within each school's boundary, provided they live more than 1 mile from the school. There is no separate bus service for Kindergartners; they ride with Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Middle school students, those in 6-8th grades ride on other buses.

How long is the school day? — Elementary schools start at 7:45 a.m. and end at 2:35 p.m. Wednesdays are "early release" days, with students dismissed at 12:35 p.m.

Will my child get to take a nap? — There are no "naps" in Kindergarten, however most classrooms have a rest period.

How long is the lunch period? Will there be someone available to help with opening containers or juice boxes? — The lunch/recess period is 40 minutes long (check with your school for specific lunch times). During the first few weeks of school, additional staff is available to spend time with Kindergarten classes to ensure they understand and manage the lunchtime routine. After that time, there are staff who work lunch duty who can assist if available. It is best to pack easy to open containers/beverages or work with your child on those skills before starting Kindergarten.

When will I find out more about what my child will be learning? — Parents receive some information at "Meet the Teacher Night" on July 27.—A more detailed overview of the year's learning objectives is provided during "Curriculum Night," which is scheduled about a month after school starts.

What can I do to help my child be ready for Kindergarten? — Your child is required by law to be up-to-date on their immunizations. Kyrene offers immunization clinics in conjunction with Chandler Regional Medical Center. Vaccines are given to children six weeks to 18 years of age. Parent must accompany their children to these clinics and provide previous immunization history. Vaccines will be FREE to children with NO insurance, children with AHCCCS and Kids Care Insurance, children with private insurance that does not cover vaccines and Native American children. Children with private medical insurance that covers vaccines will NOT be eligible for the free vaccines at these clinics. Go to our website at Immunization Clinics for more information. Bring your child to "Meet the Teacher," so they can become acquainted with their teacher as well as their classroom. They may even get to see their desk and where they will sit. Begin a few weeks prior to the start of school, transitioning to a school schedule at home, adopting a regular bedtime and wake up routine. We suggest you familiarize your child with their bus stop and before school begins, or walking their route to school. You can check bus routes and stops at www.kyrene.org/busroutes. You can also check the Back to School page on Kyrene's website to see general supply lists. Then, make sure your child is well rested, has a good breakfast and has a backpack ready with all needed school supplies ready for that first morning of Kindergarten.

— Compiled for Wrangler News by Nancy Dudenhoefler



Police body-worn cameras will help promote public trust, enhance safety



A message from Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan:

“Over the past two years, Chandler police have been evaluating body-worn cameras in various field operations sections throughout the department, including patrol, traffic and bikes.

Body-worn camera technology has demonstrated its promise for collecting compelling evidence,



enhancing transparency, promoting public trust and enhancing safety. This month, the department completed the full implementation of body-worn cameras for 200 officers and supervisors assigned to patrol. The Chandler

Police Department is committed to ensuring Chandler remains a safe community, where people want to live and work by providing the most highly equipped, best trained and committed officers who demonstrate the highest standards of performance and best practices in policing.”

Back to School Safety Reminders



As students return to school later this month, motorists may experience heavy traffic around schools in the morning and afternoon hours, and should be prepared for encounters with school buses picking up and dropping off children at designated bus stops.

Pedestrian traffic will be on the increase as well, with children either walking or bicycling to and from school.

Elementary and junior high schools have school zones, along with pick-up and drop-off locations for parents. The pick-up and drop-off locations at these schools are designed with the safety of children in mind. Please obey the instructions for these ingress and egress locales. Some intersections near schools may be monitored by crossing guards.

Remember, the speed limit in school zones is 15 miles per hour, and passing in school zones is prohibited.

For more safety tips and information, visit chandlerpd.com.



Save money and our water resources with smart controllers

Water leaks around the home can waste thousands of gallons each month and can amount to quite a sum of money on your monthly water bill. Fortunately, the City's Water Conservation Office offers FREE home water audits that can help determine the source of leaks or high water usage.

Last year, 272 families saved 15.7 million gallons of water when their pre-audit 2014 usage was compared to their post-audit 2015 usage. That's a lot of water! In addition, 29 non-residential audits tracked from 2014 showed savings of more than 1 million gallons.



One way residents are saving water is by installing “smart” irrigation

controllers that use local weather conditions to apply the proper amount of water. Smart controllers can help save up to 30 percent on landscape watering.

To find out more about Chandler's Water Audit Program and ways you can save water and money, visit chandleraz.gov/water or call 782-3583.

By working together, we can conserve one of our most important resources – our water.



Mosquito control in and around your home

Everyone has a role in controlling mosquitoes. Here is what you can and should do:

- Eliminate standing water on your property.
- Keep swimming pools, spas and fountains clean and operational.
- Empty any buckets, wheelbarrows, pet dishes, wading pools, birdbaths, plant pots or drip trays at least twice a week.

- Keep good screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Avoid mosquito bites by using an insect repellent containing DEET.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors.
- Use a local pest control company for regular mosquito spraying and treatment.
- Visit FightTheBiteMaricopa.org to report mosquito activity and green pools.
- Call the Maricopa County Mosquito Hotline at 602-506-0700 for additional information.

EVENTS

JULY

- 25 City Council Meeting & Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 28 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 29 On the House Free Summer Concert: Jarabe Mexicano, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

AUGUST

- 01 Voter Registration Deadline for the Primary Election on Aug. 30 La fecha límite de Registro Electoral para la Elección Primaria: Agosto 30
- 05 On the House Free Summer Concert: Music of Motown, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 08 City Council Meeting & Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 11 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

- 14 On the House Free Summer Concert: U.S. Navy Band Cruisers, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 19 On the House Free Summer Concert: Tres Guitarras, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 26 On the House Free Summer Concert: Cisco & The Racecars, Center for the Arts, 782-2680
- 30 Primary Election: Statewide and City Council Races and General Plan, 782-2180
El 30 de agosto 2016: Elección Primaria

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

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Donor — My name is Nurun and I am suffering from Kidney failure and I am currently on dialysis. If you are interested, please consider donating a kidney to save me. Blood groups A and O will match, and the donor has to be disease-free. Please contact Banner Good Samaritan Transplant Center at 602-839-0210 or 602-839-0203 or my husband Omar at 480-699-2819. Your thoughts and kindness are appreciated. 06/16

Employment

Employment — KYRENE IS NOW HIRING. SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED. FULL TIME – 30 Hrs. /per Wk. GREAT BENEFITS. Starting Salary \$13.88 - \$17.39. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GO TO: Kyrene.org 7/16

Employment — Progressive financial services firm is seeking entrepreneur minded individuals to take advantage of our business platform to grow their own business in the financial services industry. Demand is growing steadily for financial services representatives. Part-time opportunities available. Call Loyd Rhyne 602-284-7617 1/17

Employment — Daycare assistant needed. Looking for loving person that is willing to teach children. Located near Kyrene and Warner. Call Ana to interview 480-496-5964 07/16

Employment — Future for KIDS: Youth Program Coordinator, 12-15 per week [ranging from 2:00 pm-7:00 pm] Program Start/End Dates: August 2016- April 2017 Salary: \$12 per hour , Description: Youth Program Coordinator will implement the Future for KIDS "Discover Your Future" after-school enrichment program. The position involves working closely with youth in grades 3-6, FFK staff, volunteers, and community

organizations. The ideal candidate is enthusiastic, has a passion for working with kids and volunteers, and a personal interest in fitness, nutrition, and sports. This position requires excellent leadership and communication skills. Apply: www.futureforkids.org Or contact: Anna Quagliata at 480-947-8131 Email Resume & Cover Letter to: anna@futureforkids.org

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Crisis

From Page 1

“Now it’s a disaster.”

Basic necessities like food, medicine, water and electricity are scarce or non-existent, all three former Venezuelans said.

The oil-rich nation—a founding member of OPEC—has descended into chaos, with 750 percent inflation, food riots and the second-highest murder rate in the world.

Cortez, who last visited his birthplace two years ago, was stunned by the country’s pervasive violence.

“By the time it starts getting to be dusk, you need to be home because you don’t know if somebody’s going to kill you,” Gomez said. “People are getting assaulted for their phones or their shoes. They don’t wear wedding rings or jewelry or nice clothes in public.”

Even in their cars, the specter of violence doesn’t diminish, he said.

“In your car, you keep the windows up, because the minute you stop at an intersection, they point a gun to your head,” Gomez said.

Rodriguez said she sends over-the-counter medications such as allergy pills to her relatives.

“Medications that are so common here for things like high blood pressure are just non-existent there. Antibiotics, anything—you can’t find them,” Rodriguez said.

Her sister’s physician writes new prescriptions, switching medications, but “they can’t find anything. Everything is just gone.”

Cortez and Gomez say their youngest sister, a diabetic, was recently hospitalized. “If you get sick, you are in pretty bad shape,” Cortez said. “You go to the hospital and have to bring your own sheets, pillows, cleaning supplies—even hypodermic needles—because you can’t find them there.”

“Our other brothers and sisters had to bring her food, because all they had at the hospital every day was a little spaghetti,” Gomez said.

“People are dying.”

Unable also to obtain even the basics for personal hygiene, there’s a growing sense of despair among people who once lived upper-middle-class lives.

“My sister’s friend doesn’t have water to take a shower so she stopped going to work. People are very demoralized,” Rodriguez said.

“There’s no deodorant, no shampoo, no toothpaste.”

You might find an item one day, but two days later the price is four or five times higher, she added. Hyperinflation means people must carry backpacks or large bags filled with cash, even for minor purchases, all the while hoping they aren’t robbed.

On those rare occasions when one can find something basic like detergent, there’s often no electricity. And even if you manage to have both detergent and electricity,

Rodriguez said, often there is no water. Something as simple as doing the laundry has become literally impossible.

Venezuelans now spend most of their time standing in line, waiting to buy whatever might be available.

“It’s like two or three days in line. Then you get in and there’s not anything left,” Rodriguez said.

“And they get mugged by people in the line—it’s very dangerous.”

Perhaps most heartrending of all, Rodriguez spoke of a relative who had only two cans of formula for her baby but learned of another family whose baby had nothing at all.

“She decided to give this family a can of formula because she felt terrible—the baby is dying,” Rodriguez said.

“A few days later, the grandfather of the baby came home with a carton of 48 eggs because he said, ‘We have to save our baby.’ Eggs are like gold there.”

Cortez said that if he were still living in Venezuela, he’d most likely be languishing in prison.

“I would be one of those arrested for fighting the government, fighting the injustice,” he said, eyes flashing.

The New York Times recently reported that there are about 100 political prisoners and some 2,000 people who are the focus of politically driven prosecution in Venezuela. Cortez’ adopted sister, who once worked for the opposition party during the Hugo Chavez regime, was

granted asylum in the U.S. several ago. Chavez, who died in 2013 after 15 years in power, was replaced by Nicolas Maduro, who is also a socialist.

Cortez said he blames Venezuela’s socialist government for ruining the country and shutting down opposition. A referendum to recall the president garnered more than a million signatures, but the Maduro regime claims thousands of them were fraudulent. Meanwhile, state workers who signed the referendum have been fired from their jobs.

Venezuela’s border with Colombia had been closed for a year, but was briefly opened recently to allow 35,000 Venezuelans to cross in search of food and medicine. “If Americans want to do something, they need to write their congressman and their senators so they can put the pressure on because it is an injustice, what’s happening in Venezuela,” Cortez said.

A U.S. citizen who traveled to Venezuela last month was arrested and is being held in custody on what some say are trumped-up charges of terrorism and espionage.

The U.S. State Department has issued a travel advisory for the country, warning of violent crime, unrest and government crackdown.

Said the advisory, in part:

“The U.S. Embassy makes it a priority to request access to U.S. citizens, but U.S. citizens cannot assume a consular officer will visit them within 24-72 hours of arrest.”

Vesely

From Page 17

the Sunnyside Unified School District, Vesely was responsible for the coordination, development, alignment and improvement of the curriculum and instructional programs.

She also supervised principals and school achievement. Under her direction, schools utilized a problem-solving approach and strategy-development process to diagnose and respond to

performance and organizational issues. She also developed the district’s five-year strategic plan.

During her tenure in Tucson, Vesely was recognized as a school turnaround principal and honored by the Center for the Future of Arizona for guiding “Beat the Odds” achievement for a high performing school.

Also in Tucson, she also supported facilitation the district’s Leadership Academy to prepare talented educators for school leadership roles including principal, assistant principal and instructional coaches.

But it’s her new role as Kyrene superintendent that gives her an opportunity to grab the brass ring and lead the district so that “kids can build their brains for the future.”

Vesely will present her goals for her first 90 days in the position to the Kyrene Governing Board at an upcoming meeting.

“My focus during the next three months will be to understand how we can align the resources in Kyrene to ensure that all students are college- and career-ready and that achievement gaps are closed,” concludes Vesely.

Toenjes

From Page 18

degrees—one from Northern Arizona University in elementary education and a second in the administration and supervision of curriculum and instruction from University of Phoenix.

Her educational credentials should be useful in her new role in Kyrene, as she is responsible for supporting school operations such as student achievement, staff evaluations, district curriculum and parental involvement, along with overseeing data analysis to follow trends in instruction, professional training and community partnerships.

“In my new role, I look forward to becoming more familiar with the schools, their principals, the teachers,

staff, students and the community,” said Toenjes.

“I believe as a leader I should foster a district-wide work environment that is student-focused and results-oriented, placing high priority on student learning and performance.”

She says she is impressed by the diverse educational choices offered to families at both the elementary and middle-school levels.

“In Kyrene, we have K-5 schools that offer dual language, leadership, traditional styles of education, and still maintain specials including library, art, music, PE — Kyrene kids really receive a ‘whole child’ education,” said Toenjes.

“As students move through grades six to eight, we add elective choices so that during these key formative years we give children the opportunity to explore their interests and to discover their passion.”

Toenjes says schools today are operating under a newer model than in previous generations by engaging students in their schoolwork.

“The days of ‘sit and listen’ are being replaced by our students being involved in their own learning and working collaboratively to solve problems.

“When we, as instructional leaders, offer them these kinds of self-directed opportunities—it’s amazing to see what they do,” said Toenjes.

As for her professional satisfaction, she says she has a passion for serving and for feeling that her contributions have made a difference, so she’s enthused to be back in the East Valley.

“I am glad to be part of the Kyrene family. I’ve always been aware of Kyrene’s reputation for excellence and look forward to contributing to the journey.”

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