



WRANGLER NEWS

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Devastating explosion: Four men injured in blast that rocked West Chandler strip mall will survive. **Page 3**



Bistro beckons: New So. Tempe restaurant at McClintock and Warner set to open Sept. 9. **Page 3**



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'IT WAS LIKE A BOMB WENT OFF'

All 4 men burned in explosion that blew roof off expected to survive

By Lee Shappell
wranglernews.com Digital Editor

Joyce Coronel
Wrangler News Editor



Karen Goetz was going about her work as office manager at Arizona Community Church on the morning of Aug. 26. Suddenly, a thundering boom

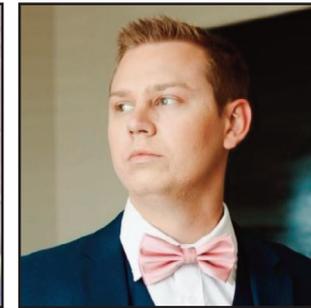
startled and shook her.

"It was like a bomb went off or something," she said.

"We thought maybe it was a natural-gas explosion somewhere because it was like an atmospheric thing, where it changed the air pressure. It was strange. We all ran outside to see what it was because it felt like it was fairly close."

It was. A half-mile south, an explosion had blown the roof off of Platinum Printing in a strip center at the northeastern corner of Ray and Rural roads. Two young men were critically burned in the blast, two others were seriously burned. It will be a long road, but all four are

— EXPLOSION, Page 20



Above: Andrew and Dillon Ryan, owners of Platinum Printing. Left: Glenn Jordan, owner of All American Eyeglass Repair, and Parker Milldebrandt, a friend of the Ryan brothers

Photos courtesy victims' GoFundMe pages

A new look for our horsey origins . . . despite warnings to never do it

Rethinking advice from the days of yore

By Don Kirkland

Many of the business and production rules we operated under as novice reporters and editors in L.A. in the 1960s have long since been broken in the pursuit of adjusting to the habits of an unendingly fickle big-city readership.

Those dictates, or at least a significant number of them, have stayed with me these many years, occasionally standing in the way of us adopting new ideas that I've thought might enhance our own newspaper's visual appeal and enjoyment of readership.

Of all those early-learned rules, I should point out, the one that stuck with me longest was the one involving change:

Simply said: Don't.

— LOGO, Page 27

Bistro/bar coming to Warner/McClintock

Area finally getting hoped-for dining at busy intersection

Lee Shappell
wranglernews.com

Were you distraught and crestfallen when ground was broken this summer on an oil-change business at the southeastern corner of Warner Road and McClintock Drive?

If you were among the hundreds who campaigned to Tempe City Council the past few years for a dining/night spot at the intersection, take heart.

Freely Taproom and Kitchen plans to bring family-style plates and a full bar that features two-dozen tap beers to 1730 E. Warner Road, Suite 11, on the northwestern corner of Warner and McClintock, across the street from the oil-change pit.

The 2,500-square-foot bar and kitchen, along with a large, east-facing, pet-friendly patio for the coming autumn evenings, now is slated to open Sept. 9, a delay from its initial projected Aug. 15 opening, according to a countdown timer on its website.

It is the type of gathering spot that neighbors have said for years they desire in the area.

Paul Gillingwater of O.H.S.O.

Brewery & Distilling fame, and who grew up on a vineyard in California, is behind the venture.

A casual vibe that invites neighbors to come and hang out will be reflected in Freely's industrial-style décor and wood tones.

By fall, Gillingwater plans to introduce a "boozy brunch." Farther down the line, he hopes to open a bottle shop stocked with at least 80 brands of bottled and canned beer as well as about 60 brands of fine wines that can be purchased for takeout.

Across the intersection, work is under way at Take 5 Oil Change, 8805 S. McClintock

— BISTRO, Page 5

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Study shows autonomous vehicles as preferred mode among seniors, disabled

Staff Reports

Despite recent reports of accidents involving autonomous vehicles, East Valley seniors and disabled riders seem to prefer them over taxis or ride-share alternatives.

A report released by the Federal Transit Administration is said to show favoritism toward the emerging role of AV transportation in their day-to-day travels.

For the disabled and senior population who may lack consistent mobility options, there is significant evidence that AVs provide a safe, convenient travel solution, according to a study. Participants were also engaged in more activities outside of the home and believe they would be comfortable riding alone, without an autonomous vehicle specialist.

"It is exciting to see how well autonomous vehicles were accepted as a viable travel solution for seniors and persons with disabilities," said Valley Metro RPTA Board member and Valley Metro Rail Chair Francisco Heredia.

"It is always beneficial to provide additional passenger options to our citizens. With a growing demand for affordable transportation, we are on the brink of a new era," he said.

As part of an effort to develop innovative ways for transit to complement new modes and technologies, Valley Metro collaborated with Waymo and Arizona State University to understand how autonomous vehicles can be used for the Valley Metro Ride-Choice program.

RideChoice provides critical transportation to seniors and passengers with disabilities using taxis and rideshare providers.

"Through our autonomous vehicle technology, Waymo offers a safe and easy way for people to get where they need to go," said Nicole Gavel, Waymo's head of business devel-

opment and strategic partnerships. "The insights gained through this first-of-its-kind partnership support developing a product and service that holds the promise of enabling mobility for all, offering a new kind of freedom for individuals to go where they want, when they want," she said.

The six-month study, which began in 2019, focused on how autonomous vehicles can enhance customer experience, meet accessibility needs and help improve affordability and safety to a key rider demographic. The study was funded by the FTA to understand where autonomous vehicles can fit within a program of transportation services provided for Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit-certified people with disabilities and seniors age 65 and over.

The vehicles operated in an area of approximately 100 square miles.

ASU researchers conducted surveys and focus groups while also analyzing trip data to gain an understanding of how AVs affect rider perceptions. They are said to have discovered that AV riders showed strong satisfaction in regards to comfort, wait time, travel time and ease of requesting a ride.

Looking ahead, there is interest in further exploration of how transit services might facilitate and support point-to-point mobility. In addition, local elected officials who participated in roundtable sessions about the program felt there was a need to expand the trial use of AVs for mobility-challenged residents.

The opportunity to ride with Waymo was available in the East Valley (Tempe, Chandler, and Mesa) service area between September 2019 and March 2020.

The final report was written in association with ASU's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

Bistro

From Page 3

Drive at Warner Road, which neighbors fought against unsuccessfully.

The new bistro might appease neighbors who hoped that the gold liquid flowing on the southeastern corner of the intersection would not be a selection of motor oil but instead a fine wine. The oil-change shop did not pair nicely with their angst. After years of full-bodied opposition, on June 28 Diversified Partners and owner Walt Brown began work on Take 5 Oil Change on the lot.

Neighbors thought they had won when Tempe City Council on Nov. 7, 2019 had denied Brown's appeal of a Sept. 24, 2019, city Development Review Commission's denial of his use permit and development plan review.

After the council's slap-down, Brown filed a notice of claim against the city for \$2.1 million plus legal fees, followed by a lawsuit in Maricopa County Superior

Court. A negotiated settlement in May 2020 granted Brown and Diversified a use permit and development plan review that allows the oil-change shop on the property, which is zoned for such a use.

Brown claimed that his proposal met every city requirement, yet the City Council had rejected it unanimously, due largely to the scope and passion of neighbors' opposition. Of 772 respondents to a Development Review Commission representing 11 south Tempe neighborhoods in the 85283 and 85284 ZIP codes, 96.9 percent opposed the plan.

In denying Brown's appeal, City Council members had said they were moved by the overwhelming opposition of the neighborhood, before they reversed course and agreed to settle Brown's subsequent lawsuit.

Now, Brown will have his oil-change business and neighbors will have their night-life hangout with a large patio at the same intersection.

More information: freelytaproom.com.



Freely Taproom & Kitchen, initially named Fremont, plans to open a family-style restaurant and a full bar that features two-dozen tap beers in a 2,500-square-foot facility with 6,000-square-foot, pet-friendly patio at 1730 E. Warner Road, Suite 11, on Sept. 9. — Wrangler News photo by Lee Shappell



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I love Tempe too!

Interested in chess? German? How about health careers?

There's a club for that.

By Janie Magruder

Students wanting to join a group, meet new people, contribute to their community and learn valuable life skills at the same time have found the right place at Corona del Sol High School.

The Tempe school has nearly 50 clubs — from Aztec Gamer's Club and Red Kettle to Orchestra and Sports Medicine — whose members, after a COVID-19 year of meeting virtually or not gathering at all, are excited about being together.

"Corona del Sol has really tried to give every student the opportunity to be part of a group," said Robin Palmer, a Career and Technical Education teacher and advisor for DECA. "Club offerings have doubled in size in the six years I've been teaching

here. Some kids have unique interests, and if they can find a teacher, coach or someone in the school office to host, they can form a club."

Becoming more environmentally aware, digging deeper into finance or film or being hands-on with robotics or cooking — there's a club for each at CdS. Among the largest are band and National Honor Society, the oldest may be Student Council, and the Black Student Union is one of the newest, said Monique Brandau, assistant principal over activities.

"We're very excited about the Black Student Union, which is open to all students and is growing since it was formed last year," Brandau said.

Palmer, a Tempe Union High School District teacher for almost 20 years, just started her sixth year at CdS, and has been an advisor for DECA — formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America — for 25 years. At last year's state DECA competition, Palmer received the 2020 Distinguished Service Award.

Her DECA involvement dovetails nicely with her teaching, primarily of skills that transfer to the workplace such as business management and law and sports and entertainment marketing.

DECA often draws students interested in careers such as marketing, hospitality, entrepreneurship and finance. It gives them chances to apply their

classroom learning to projects at state and, hopefully, national competitions.

They also receive extra skills in decision making, networking, follow-through and collaboration, Palmer said.

"I love the opportunities it provides for students to stretch themselves a little more as high school kids," she said. "I also love that DECA helps emphasize that, when you are successful, you give back to others."

For example, DECA students in 2019-2020 collected more than 3,300 pairs of shoes. Most were sent to South America, primarily to women starting micro-businesses, where the shoes were resold to their customers, Palmer said.

Last year, despite the pandemic, DECA students created a community service project for Cloud Covered Streets. The nonprofit helps people dealing with homelessness or instability through a mobile unit that has free showers, laundry services, new clothing, hygiene supplies and other services.

Allie Pequeno and Evan Swarup, now juniors, built both fundraising and volunteer components into their project.

A restaurant night raised \$120 for Cloud

— CLUBS, Page 30

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September provides a reminder of more than 9/11 tragedy

National Suicide Month stirs mom's memories of her son's sad slide to death

By Sally Mesarosh

For Lori Warnock, the reality of suicide came in 2016 when her son Mitchell, a student at Corona del Sol High School, died during his senior year. She continues to be reminded of the tragedy to this day, but particularly so during September, which is observed around the U.S. as National Suicide Month.

Suicide is never an easy topic. In 2019, approximately 47,500 Americans died by their own hand, making suicide the 10th leading cause of death in United States, according to The Jason Foundation, a nationally recognized organization dedicated to young adult suicide awareness and prevention.

Even more worrisome is that suicide and suicide attempts among the nation's young people (ages 10-24) are on the rise. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among school-age youth.

Suicide knows no boundaries, has no rules, limits or guidelines. No matter one's gender,

income or profession, suicide might one day affect someone you know.

Warnock remembers well the days of Mitchell's slide into the moments that took his life. Describing him as gregarious, compassionate and nonjudgmental, she adds: "He was a fun-loving kid. He placed second in the nation for pole vaulting. He looked forward to college and wanted to be an engineer."

But Mitchell had risk factors that predisposed him to suicide, including a family history of mental illness and suicide. The Warnock family fostered him as a young child and adopted him at age 5. A teacher at Mountain Pointe High School, Warnock knew her son would need continued support and resources.

"I was very proactive," Warnock said.

"As a teacher, I recognized he was at risk and created safety nets. He had them in middle school, but as he moved into more independence in high school, there were no safety nets."

Mitchell began to spiral down and, with less

support in place, he died by suicide during his senior year.

After his death, his mother was determined to raise awareness and save young lives. She became instrumental in the creation and passing of Arizona Senate Bill 1468, known as The Mitch Warnock Act.

SB 1468 requires school districts, charter schools, and Arizona teacher-training programs to include suicide awareness and prevention training and directs the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Administration to make suicide awareness and prevention training available.

"I'm so pleased to see such a huge shift with much improvement in schools now," Warnock said. "There was an epidemic of suicide at that time. I'm grateful our superintendent and governing board have interwoven safety nets throughout the district."

School resources — Ron Denne Jr., Tempe Union High School District's coordinator of social emotional wellness, said teaching staff are trained to recognize risk factors and warning signs for

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suicide.

“We are also doing more to make sure our students know the resources that are available to them at school and in the community such as the Teen Lifeline crisis number that is on the back of every student ID,” Denne said.

“We share social emotional wellness information and resources on our social media channels so that parents and students have the opportunity to get the information that way.”

Denne said the number of students needing intervention at TUHSD has increased during the pandemic. Johns Hopkins Medicine reports the possible risk factors for suicide during pandemics include isolation, fear, marginalization, psychological disorders, economic fallout, and increased domestic abuse.

Denne said he tells parents to become aware of the suicide risk factors and warning signs.

Such factors include previous suicide attempts, self-injury, family history and situational crises. Warning signs may occur as threats, notes, plans, preoccupation with death and changes in behavior and/or appearance.

“Please take any statements your child makes about suicide seriously and help them get to the interventions needed,” Denne said.

Warnock advises parents to be an advocate for their child, physically and emotionally.

“Don’t hesitate to let others know,” she said. “The more caring people who know a student is struggling, the more they can become allies and show them they are not alone.”

Other resources — Visit TUHSD Social and Emotional Wellness page here at tempeunion.org/Page/2718.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 across the U.S at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

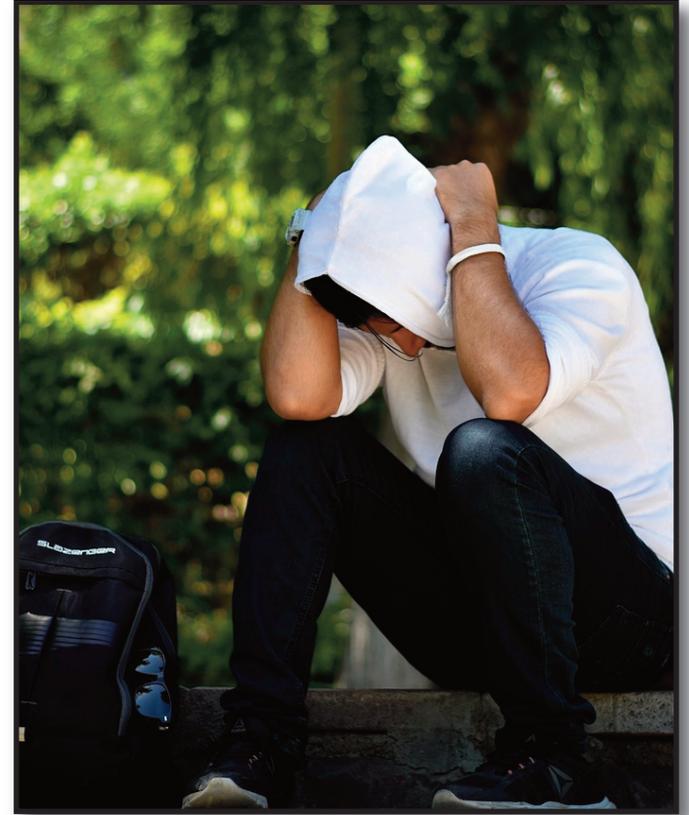
Crisis Text Line is also available 24/7 at 741741 to text with a trained crisis counselor.

Maricopa Crisis Line: 602-222-9444 or 800-631-1314.

Teen Lifeline: 602-248-TEEN (8336) or 800-248-TEEN (8336).

EMPACT/ La Frontera Suicide Prevention Center: 480-784-1500.

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According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2019 suicide was the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34. Stock image



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DIVERSIONS

Rise to concertmaster status called inevitable by those who watched his talent grow

By M.V. Moorhead

“It’s one of those roles where you’re a leader, but also a colleague.” This is how Tempe-based violinist Julian Nguyen describes his new gig, that of concertmaster of MusicaNova Orchestra, the Valley ensemble dedicated to “new music, unjustly neglected pieces, and fresh interpretations of the classics.”

Nguyen’s tenure at the post is scheduled to begin on Sunday, Sept. 19, at the Musical Instrument Museum Theater, with “Baroque to the Future,” a program of Biber, Telemann and Rameau designed to show how cutting edge baroque could be.

It’s the next big step in a career that seems, when you hear of Nguyen’s background, almost

inevitable. Born in L.A. and raised in Texas, Nguyen came from musical parents; his father was a violinist who played professionally for a few years before settling into an IT career, and his mom sang and played saxophone.

“So I was like, where’s mine?” Nguyen says. He started learning the violin when he was 3 or 4 years old. “My mom tells the story that I begged for lessons, then when I finally had my first lesson and had to hold still, I screamed and cried and threw a tantrum.

“My mom had to take the lesson so she could teach me at home.”

Eventually, the training must have become less irksome, as Nguyen took to the instrument and went on to attend Rice University in Houston for undergrad studies in music. He eventually came to Tempe, where he received his Master’s in Music from ASU in 2019, with a specialization in violin performance.

The chance to perform before live audiences is welcome to Nguyen.

“I gave my last recital (at ASU) to an empty hall and the camera broadcasting it to Zoom,” he wistfully recalls (this performance at ASU’s Katzin Hall, and others by Nguyen, can be seen and heard on YouTube). He joined MusicaNova in 2019, and this year has been promoted to concertmaster.

It’s not Nguyen’s first rodeo in the posi-

—Continued on facing page



Tempe-based violinist Julian Nguyen began learning the violin when he was preschool age and earned a master’s degree in music from ASU in 2019. — Photo courtesy Laura Schairer

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tion. “In high school I was concertmaster of my orchestra,” he notes, “and also in my orchestra at ASU, in my graduate program.”

So, just what is a concertmaster?

“Concertmaster is the person who sits in the first chair of the first row of the violin section,” explains Nguyen.

“It’s my job to lead the violin section, and there are a lot of technical elements, micro-adjustments in performance, that I’m in charge of.”

Outside of performance, concertmaster also serves as the liaison between the conductor and his fellow musicians.

To say that Nguyen is excited at the prospect of getting started in this new role would be an understatement.

“I am so stoked; you have no idea how good it feels,” he says.

“One of the reasons I’ve stuck with music so long is that I just love sharing beautiful art with people, and seeing the effect it has on them.”

MusicaNova’s “Baroque to the Future” is scheduled for 2:30 and 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19, at the Musical Instrument Museum Theater, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd. in Phoenix.

Tickets range from \$32 to \$37. Go to musicanovaaz.org for details.

Film Fare . . .

Trouble lurks for PAW Patrol, again



By M.V. Moorhead

Created by Keith Chapman of *Bob the Builder* fame, the Canadian TV cartoon *PAW Patrol* has been around for almost a decade.

It’s a boy-and-his-dog story, or rather, a boy-and-his-half-dozen-dogs story.

The boy, Ryder, leads his pack of six puppies, who, like the *Peanuts* kids, never seem to age, and each of whom specializes in some branch of public safety.

Chase, a German Shepherd, does police work; Marshall, a Dalmatian, fights fires. Zuma, a lab, handles water rescues. Schnauzer Rocky runs a recycling truck and manages the team’s environmental concerns, while

Rubble the bulldog does construction. The only female member of the initial team, cockapoo Skye, flies the rescue helicopter.

They dash around the town of Adventure Bay in souped-up, high-tech emergency vehicles, deploying gadgetry, and generally making themselves useful—and merchandisable.

In the inevitable screen version, *PAW Patrol: The Movie*, the gang moves from bucolic Adventure Bay to sprawling nearby metropolis of Adventure City, in anticipation of trouble now that their villainous nemesis Humdinger has managed to get himself elected mayor.

Humdinger is a vain, boastful, self-promoting buffoon who’s more than willing to endanger the city if it helps his image.

Trouble, it hardly needs be said, ensues.

In the course of the story, which involves Humdinger’s attempts to manipulate the weather so that it doesn’t interfere with his public events, we learn that Chase was an abandoned pup in the streets, and he still suffers PTSD symptoms when he’s in the city. The team also gets an assist from an aspiring new member—another female—a dachshund named Liberty.

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SPORTS

Aztec badminton prospects looking good



Corona's badminton team is poised to have one of its better seasons with 11 returning and 12 new players competing for six varsity and six JV top spots designated to play competitively every week. Team includes, 1st Row: Rebecca Thomas, Payton Escarcega, Amarie Garza, Marilyn Li, Julia Tran, Mariam Mehnaz, Aaliya Usman; 2nd Row: Angelina Zhang, Megan Kirchhardt, Adithi Muruganandam, Surahya Hashim, Chloe Kuhl, Allie Pequeno; 3rd Row: Jen Tran, Karthik Raman, Michelle Chen, Jessica McDonald, Melena Burnside, Kayla McDonald, Abby Rugg, Riteesha Asam, Eva Ricci, Mayson Milanovich, Saraiah Ervin, Ksenia Urena Andreyeva. — Photo courtesy Herb Stokes

With 11 returning players from last season's team and an additional 12 players who came out for the team this season, Corona's badminton head coach, **Katie Pick**, is enthusiastic about the team's potential for success in 2021.

"Although it is early, I feel like this season looks very promising because all the girls from last season returned and we have double the number of players this year than we did last year, so that in itself is very exciting," said Pick.

The 11 returning players from last season's JV and varsity team include junior **Merilyn Li**, senior **Megan Kirchhardt**, senior **Kayla McDonald**, junior **Abby Rugg**, junior **Angelina Zhang**, senior **Adithi**

Muruganandam, junior **Jen Tran**, junior **Mayson Milanovich**, junior **Allie Pequeno**, sophomore **Michelle Chen** and junior **Payton Escarcega**.

Of the new players, sophomore **Amarie Garza** and freshman **Jessica McDonald** have already played matches as part of the JV team.

"It is great to have extra players, especially since all the girls demonstrate a lot of promise as they give their best and practice hard to improve their skills on a daily basis," said Pick. "Plus, they really vibe well together and have built a rapport in such a short amount of time."

Badminton is similar to high school team tennis in that each team, JV or varsity, has six players who



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compete each week against teams from other schools in both singles and doubles.

The 12 out of 23 players on the team who get to compete each week— six for varsity and six for JV—can change weekly because they have the opportunity to ladder on a weekly basis and try to move up from the exhibition team up to the varsity team, Pick noted.

Currently, nine of the returning players from last year's team are starters, including Li, Kirchhardt and McDonald.

"Merilyn Li was our No. 1 singles player last year; she competed at the 2020 Division I State Singles Tournament," said Pick.

"Megan Kirchhardt and Kayla McDonald qualified for and played in the 2020 Division I State Doubles Tournament and still show a lot of promise to continue their run in the state tournament at the end of this season," said Pick. "Both set good examples for the younger players and are our team leaders."

Corona easily won its first match of the season on Aug. 24 against Alhambra, 9-0.

The varsity players from the No. 1 to No. 6 singles flights in order, starting with Li, followed by Kirchhardt, McDonald, Rugg, Zhang and Muruganandam, beat their opponents in two games.

The three doubles teams of Li and Kirchhardt at No. 1, Rugg and McDonald at No. 2 and Zhang and Muruganandam at No. 3, easily won in two games each as well.

"It's good to have Angelina Zhang's talent back in the program," said Pick. "She played as a freshman but missed last season."

Another player who missed last season is Allie Pequeno, according to Pick. "She is currently playing with the JV team but continues to show drive to move up to the varsity team."

"Chloe Kuhl, a transfer student from Chaparral, is another promising player," said Pick. "She challenges the girls and is talented."

Last weekend, Aug. 27-28, the Aztec varsity team played in the Flying Feather's Badminton Tournament at Highland High School, where they took second place.

"Last year we did not play well enough to even qualify for the team bracket in this same tournament,"

said Pick. "This year the players were determined to do better. I am so very proud of them and the hard work they have put in this season. They fought until the very last game."

The Aztecs were scheduled to play Aug. 31 at Chaparral and at home against Sunnyslope on Sept. 2. Up next they play at Basha on Sept. 7 and at Mesa Mountain View on Sept. 9. Then they play at home against Hamilton on Sept. 14 before playing at Sandra Day O'Connor on Sept. 16.

Corona Girls Golf

Corona's girls golf team has high hopes for a good season after returning five golfers from last season's team that finished among the Top-10 in the Division I State Team Championship Tournament.

Three of those five played in the state tournament including senior captain **Ashlyn Carpenter**, senior **Karissa Flores** and sophomore **Bella Mantini**.

Both Carpenter and Flores have been on the varsity team since they were freshman and Mantini is a rising star after playing well last season as a freshman, according to second year head coach **Albert Ettinger**.

"These three state tournament participants from last season, Ashlyn, Bella and Kariss, will lead the team filling in the first three match spots or positions," said Ettinger. "Then the remaining two match spots will be filled by both veteran and new golfers on the team, depending on competition during the practice rounds," said Ettinger.

The other two returning players are senior **Maddie Hummon** and junior **Elley Newman**.

"I am fortunate to have five returning players who bring a wealth of experience and leadership to the team, something that every coach looks for in their players," said Ettinger.

Either new to the team or coming back after missing last season due to COVID-19 are junior **Lauren Braun**, junior **Madelyn Mitchell**, sophomore **Deven Kircher**, sophomore **Emily Hirsch** and three freshmen: **Mia Ruiz**, **Riley Atchley** and **Sidney Braun**.

"Lauren played her freshman year but sat out last season," said Ettinger.

— SPORTS, Page 30

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We hear you . . .

Editor:

DONT DO THIS TEMPE. We dont take teams away from another city, who have invested millions in taxpayer dollars in a facility for the team.

I have no idea how much in Tempe tax dollars the team is asking us to

commit. But, my guess is that it's in the tens of millions, if not much more.

Let me guess, they have economic impact studies that show that they will bring billions to Tempe.

My guess is that they will list many "indirect benefits", which are of

questionable value. That and probably, a promise to pay Tempe back in many many years.

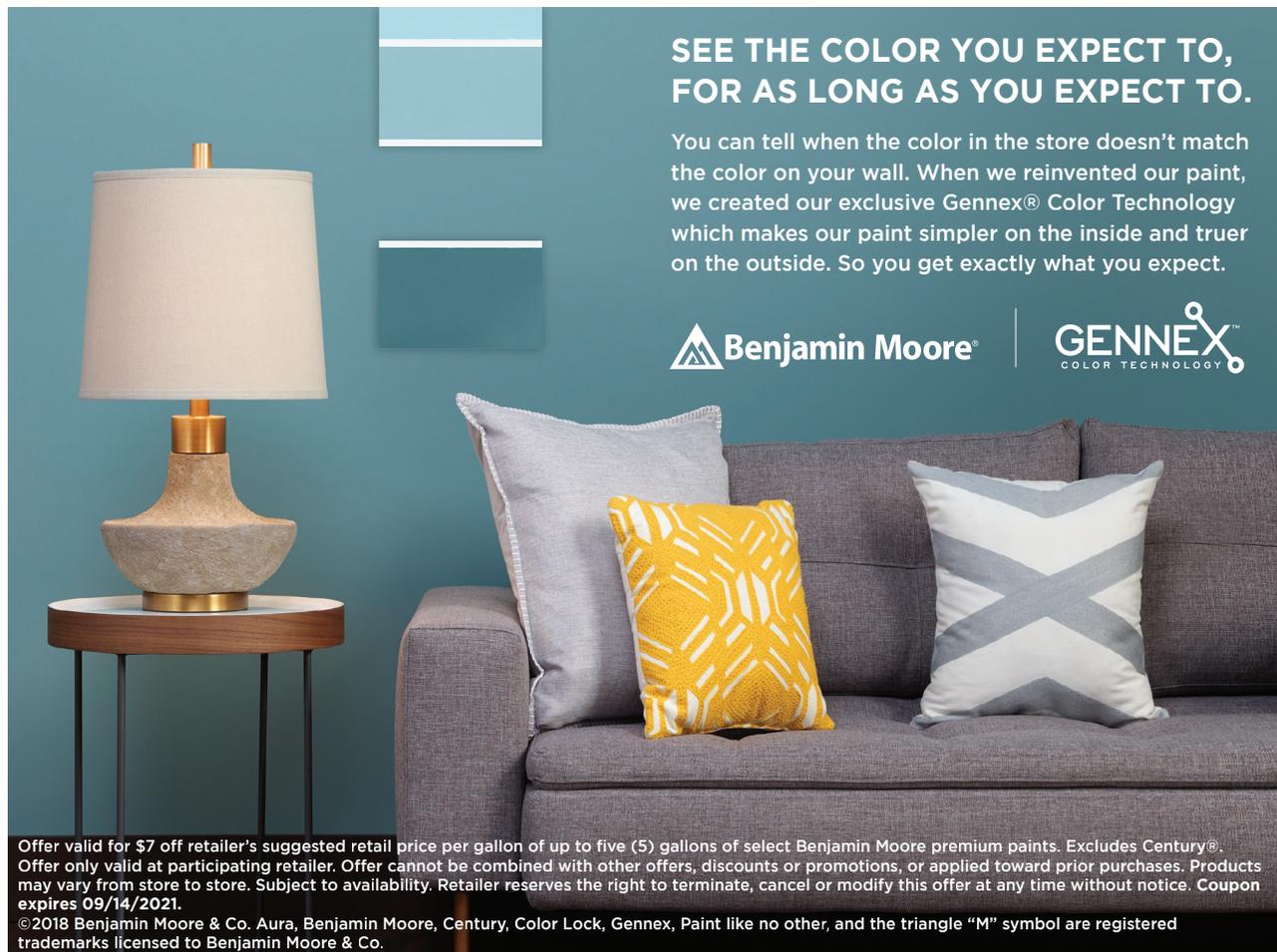
For those who want to remind me that Glendale "stole" the Cardinals, remember that they were using Sun Devil Stadium, a facility owned and operated by Arizona

State University.

I ask our members of the Tempe City Council to be very cautious.

Dont let your ego or the pressure from billionaire owners or rabid fans affect your decision.

— Ron Pies, Tempe



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Tempe 9/11 Healing Field Sept 10th - 13th

20th Anniversary



20 years after 9/11, we asked for reflections on that fateful day . . . here are thoughts from the people who shared with us

Compiled by
Joyce Coronel

Editor's note: Wrangler News asked community leaders from Tempe and Chandler for their reflections regarding the upcoming anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that took the lives of 2,996 people. Here was our question:

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, what message do you have for your fellow Americans?

“This somber occasion is an opportunity to ensure we never forget the nearly 3,000 Americans who perished and how this horrible event forever joined our nation in solidarity. My college roommate, Julie Geis, was one of the bright lights who was extinguished that day. Every year, I look for her commemorative flag at Tempe’s Healing Field event and feel connected to her again. Everyone is invited Sept. 10-12 to Tempe Beach Park to pay respects and remember those unforgettable feelings of tragedy and unity.”

— **Jennifer Adams, Tempe City Councilmember**

I am certain that you will never forget where you were on this terrible day, now known as the 9/11 terror attacks on the United States. As for me, I was in Queens, New



York, getting ready for my flight back to Arizona. One thing I vividly recall, the unity that sprang from this disaster. To my fellow Americans, never forget that moment where we were all

Americans, helping each other through this time of need. United we will always stand stronger.

— **Christine Ellis, Chandler City Councilmember**

I’d like to invite the members of our community to join myself and the rest of the Exchange Club of Tempe at the Healing Field where members of our community join us in placing flags in the ground to help remember each life lost that day. The Healing Field will stand at Tempe Beach Park from 9/10 - 9/12. Information and volunteer opportunities can be found at TempeHealingField.org. We will never forget.



— **Nick Bastian, chairman of the Healing Field committee and Tempe businessman**

In one week, we will remember our fellow Americans who were killed on September 11th, 2001, in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon or the field in Pennsylvania. Their lives mattered. Together, let’s pay our respects at the Tempe Healing Field on this 20th anniversary.

— **Doug Royse, Tempe businessman**



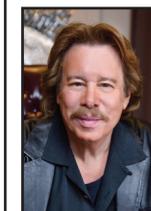
Dates that live in our minds are often a reflection of the significance that they hold for us, whether it’s a wedding, birth of a child, or painful loss of a loved one. The anniversary of September 11, 2001 is a time for remembrance and reflection, honoring the heroes, victims, and loved ones.

I think it’s important to honor the memories of all of those who lost their lives by also remembering the resilience and strength of communities that came together to grieve, to work, to offer support and condolences side by side putting all differences between them out of their minds.

To honor this day let’s reflect on what was accomplished when cities,

communities, and neighborhoods worked as one to bring our country back together after the heartbreak that will forever live in our hearts and minds.

Although time will continue to dull the sharp pain of the tragic events that transpired on 9/11 the victims will never be forgotten as long as we keep them in our hearts and prayers.



We must remain diligent in our efforts to protect the greatest country in the world “The United States of America”.

— **Michael Pollack, real estate and shopping center developer**

America, since its inception, has stood a beacon of freedom and liberty to the entire world. Regardless of attacks foreign or domestic, America continues to stand tall as the freest, most prosperous, and most generous nation to ever exist. The terrorists on 9/11 tried

to bring America to its knees, when all they truly did was galvanize a nation together. But the very thing the terrorists tried to do (divide our nation) is happening internally



as our country is being split from within. A radically godless and Marxist’s ideology has swept through our schools and universities leading the younger generation to now “hate” that for which America has always stood. Worse yet, our country has all but abandoned our belief in God. May 9/11 be a reminder, that freedom isn’t free... liberty must be cherished...and blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Psalm 33:12).

— **Bill Meiter, Lead Pastor, Arizona Community Church**

Although it is somber, my children and I are peaceful and filled with joy at the years we had with Gary and the manner in which we have survived and bonded as the successor family. My two children will be with me on the 11th this year. We will be in San Diego for the weekend and are currently planning something perfectly appropriate to remember dad and figure out how to move forward joyfully.



— **Donna Killoughey, whose husband Gary perished in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001**

Twenty years after the day so many of us remember as so devastating and terrifying to the U.S.—and more importantly, to us and our loved ones—of course we haven't forgotten, given we were around to experience it as it unfolded. It would be downright unjust to forget at all. It is likely that most of us remember that day as saddening, fearful, angering, or worrisome. And yet there is so much more to glean from that fateful collective experience that many of us, still yet to this day, fail to recognize: how incredibly blessed we are to have experienced that together.



We sometimes fail to recognize that, through the terrible lens of the events themselves and perhaps those we choose to blame, we as a nation were given a beautiful opportunity to respond with grace, humility, and fellowship, ultimately placing us all in a position to heal, to learn, and to grow collectively as a nation. Painful experiences such as September 11th prove to be, more often than not, the firm foundation upon which we become stronger, bolder, and wiser, as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

Having lost my father in these attacks, I feel deeply linked with this collective

pain, and a duty to do whatever I can to help our nation heal. This year, as a man who has taken full advantage of the opportunity granted to him to heal from this traumatizing experience, I challenge anyone reading this to adopt this perspective of that fateful day. I challenge you to do whatever is necessary to extract the beautiful, the graceful, the benevolently meaningful, from that day. And I challenge you to deeply reflect on how that elusive perspective can most certainly be applied in our society and in our individual lives today — to see the parallels as far as collective pain and struggle, economic and political divisiveness, societal and international crises, as well as the countless other points of contention that plague our country today. Ask yourself: has this divisiveness benefitted us at all in the past, in the context of September 11th? In what world can those divides between us benefit us as a nation with what we struggle with in 2021? How can I, as a citizen and steward of this country, ensure that our nation— myself, my loved ones, and my fellows—can learn how to experience the world through this perspective of grace, humility, and fellowship, and again be a living example of collective healing and cooperation?

I believe I speak for many of us today when I say that we feel lost, confused, and a bit fearful of what the future holds. Yet I still deeply believe in the power that we as a nation exhibited on September 11, 2001. I deeply believe that, with that power on our side, we can transform these feelings of confusion and fear into deeply meaningful and mutually beneficial action towards creating the ideal America once more. We can use the pain and struggle that we all felt on that day — and more importantly, what we learned and how strong we became— to overcome the divisive issues which plague our nation, and become yet much stronger and united.

— **Andrew Bird, whose father Gary Bird perished in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001**

20th Anniversary of 9/11

September 11th
Healing Field Memorial

Tempe Beach Park, Sept. 10-12

The 20th annual Tempe Healing Field tribute will be held at Tempe Beach Park Sept. 10 – Sept. 12.

A live broadcast will be available on the Healing Field Memorial Facebook page. The reading of the names of the victims begins at 5:46 a.m., the time that the first plane hit on 9/11/2001.

Event Times

Freedom Concert: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10

Healing Field Tribute: 5:30 a.m. Saturday, September 11 with reading of victims' names beginning at 5:46 a.m. The public is welcome to join in reading the names.

Candlelight Vigil: 7 p.m. Saturday, September 11, includes ceremony, speakers, candlelight vigil.

Tunnel to Towers 5k Run/Walk: 7:30 a.m. Sunday, September 12, at Tempe Beach Park.

More info: tempehealingfield.org



Arizona Coast Guard Auxiliary Band will perform during the Healing Field Freedom Concert Friday, Sept. 10; the Healing Field will have 3,000 American flags on display in honor of the 9/11 victims. — Photo courtesy Tempe Exchange Club



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OF SEPTEMBER 11**

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who make the ultimate sacrifice,
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Michael A. Pollack

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'Still in shock': Cielo teacher is 1 in 20 U.S. winners

By Andrew Lwowoski

On a recent Tuesday morning, Megan Dunkelberger was surprised when her school's principal told her she was going to be recognized that day for something only 20 educators across the entire country had achieved.

A kindergarten teacher at Kyrene del Cielo Elementary, Dunkelberger won the merit-based #ThankATeacher contest established by Staples Office Supplies, receiving \$2,000 for herself and \$5,000 in Staples gift cards for Cielo.

Cielo Principal Tammy Thaete gathered the school's kindergarten classes and faculty outside to surprise Dunkelberger with news of the achievement, which Dunkelberger said she had no idea was coming. In fact, she said, she thought someone from the district office was visiting—until she saw her husband and younger daughter present.

"I'm still just in shock," Dunkelberger said, adding she doesn't know what she will use her earnings on. "No, no idea. I will probably spend on stuff for the classroom, for the kids."

The nomination came from Erin O'Grady, a

parent from last year's class who submitted a letter to the Staples' #ThankATeacher contest after seeing how Dunkelberger handled the drastic change of teaching that occurred through a pandemic, going above and beyond. O'Grady said she got to know Dunkelberger as a result of being in her house—virtually, that is—almost every school day.

In acknowledging the award, Dunkelberger said it was a result of the fact that she "reimagined how teaching could be on a computer, and we did it" after being tasked with having to adapt to a new style of learning online.

What separated Dunkelberger from the rest, the award nomination indicated, was when O'Grady came down with pneumonia last year, Dunkelberger was there.

"Megan emailed, saying if you need anything let me know, I'll drop it off at your door," O'Grady said. She added that she is "grateful everyone could recognize Mrs. Dunkelberger for the great teacher that she is."

It was noted in the nomination process that, during what all recognized as a challenging year, Dunkelberger took time to meet with her class

members and their families, in person and outside, while they went through the process of incubating and hatching chicks as part of the class science unit.

"What we're doing matters, and I'm so, so grateful for it," Dunkelberger said when asked what the acknowledgement of her achievement means to her. She added that she is "grateful and appreciative" that parents are noticing her work.

"That's what we want, so parents know we're doing a good job."



From left: kindergarten teacher Megan Dunkelberger; James O'Grady, Joseph O'Grady and Julia O'Grady, the children of Erin O'Grady who nominated Dunkelberger for the award. — Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowoski

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Explosion

From Page 3



expected to make a full recovery, according to their physician.

Brothers Dillon and Andrew Ryan, co-owners of Platinum Printing, and Parker Milldebrandt, a lifelong friend of the Ryans who works at the shop, are among the victims. All three were in the shop at the time of the explosion.

The fourth victim is Glenn Jordan, who owns All-American Eyeglass Repair, a couple of suites west of the print shop in the strip center. It is not clear if he was in the print shop at the time of the blast.

While expected to make full recoveries, the four face heavy medical bills during a lengthy process to get there.

Andrew Ryan and his wife, Christy, have a son, 12, and daughter, 8. Dillon and his wife, Casi, have a son, 4, and daughter, 3 months. The print shop was their sole source of income.

Milldebrandt, 29, was placed in a medically induced coma and still was heavily sedated for pain management Sunday night, according to an update on his GoFundMe page. His first operation will be early this week, according to the update. He and his wife, Sierra, are expecting their first child, a daughter, this week.

Jordan and his wife, Cindy, have a daughter.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which joined Chandler police in the investigation, ruled Aug. 31 that an unintentional natural gas leak caused the blast. CPD said there was no criminal

act. The leak was discovered under the parking lot the day of the explosion.

Goetz said that staff felt the blast at the church, 9325 S. Rural Road, a block north of Corona del Sol High School at Knox Road.

"I was coming up the hallway and I heard this loud thing, like somebody was at the door, but it was like the door was exploding or something. When I looked, there was nobody at the door," Goetz said. "It sounded like the door moved on its own and then shut again. Then, (a coworker) came from the building across the way and ... she said, 'Did something funny happen a few minutes ago?' I said, 'Yeah.'

"It definitely moved all the doors that were unlocked. We walked outside but couldn't see anything that looked like it was on fire or anything like that. ... We still didn't see anything but there were tons of fire trucks going by. ... I was really, really glad it wasn't the library or the preschool. There's a lot of stuff in that shopping center."

Corona del Sol, just a few blocks north of the strip center, was not impacted, according to Megan Sterling, executive director of community relations for the Tempe Union High School District. She said that the blast was close enough that it was felt on campus but that there was not a disruption to the school day or the need to evacuate.

Corona principal Nathan Kleve, however, sent an advisory to families saying that the TUHSD safety team had reviewed information and continued to monitor the situation.

The situation was elevated to a second-alarm hazardous-materials response that brought 50 pieces of emergency apparatus and more than 100 firefighters to the scene, according to Chandler Fire Battalion Chief Keith Welch. Units from Chandler, Mesa, Tempe and Phoenix fire departments responded, as did crews from Southwest Gas.

An aerial view in the aftermath shows buckled walls and a debris-filled crater inside Platinum Printing, 4940 W. Ray Road, Suite 1. Still images pulled from a video shot by Matt Lee, who was in line at a nearby coffee shop at the moment of the explosion, show debris rising about 80 feet into the air. Rubble and broken glass were sent as far as 100 yards across the parking lot.



Welch said that first responders found a natural-gas leak under the strip-center parking lot.

Gary McKay, owner of McKay's True Value, 4939 W. Ray Road, directly across the street from the explosion, needed a few moments to figure it out for himself.

He said the noise

reminded him of the time a vehicle drove through his front door.

"There was a boom that shook the building," McKay said. "It was almost like when that car ran into the building, but even worse. It sounded like something landed on our roof, and so I immediately ran up here to the front. Then I ran and looked out the back door and there was nothing. I was standing outside and a customer was coming up to the store and said something happened across the street and that he saw the debris flying in the air. And then that's when we found out that the building had exploded."

A woman who works at a fabric store across the street from the blast, who did not want to be identified, said that she felt the impact of the explosion reverberate in her chest.

"A lot of dust fell from the ceiling and our door blew open. The building and the windows shook," the woman said.

Chandler Sunset Library, next door to the print shop, suffered damage inside from the force of the explosion, according to Welch.

The library remains closed until further notice, city officials said.

The public may continue to access library services, including the catalog, downloadable ebooks, and other resources 24/7 online at chandlerlibrary.org. Library patrons may return checked out items to any of the library's three branches.

Maxwell Preschool Academy, at the opposite end of the center, was evacuated. None of the children were injured.

In all, approximately 15 businesses and 25 homes in the neighborhood were evacuated as a precaution, according to Welch. Power also was turned off in the area for about a half hour. Traffic on Ray and Rural near the scene was closed for several hours, until early evening on Aug. 26.

The director of Valleywise Health's Arizona Burn Center said that the four victims, all young males, suffered second-degree burns over 16 to 30 percent of their bodies.

Two have undergone surgery and initially were in the intensive-care unit. Dr. Kevin Foster, director of the burn center, said that all are expected to survive and make a fully recovery, although it will be "a prolonged process."

Foster said the injuries resemble flash burns that often are associated with exploding gas.



Explosion

From Page 20

“Something exploded. There was a big flash,” Foster said.

“I’m not an expert on explosions but I’ve seen some photographs of the building. It’s not a building anymore. It’s just a hole in the ground. And the fact that anybody walked away from that is amazing to me.

“The injuries certainly are consistent with a flash, with something that exploded and burned very quickly and was very, very hot for a short period of time, some type of volatile flash, not like a flame.”

Chandler firefighters got the call at about 9:30 a.m. Aug. 26 and upon arrival found the print shop’s roof gone and fire in the structure, according to Welch.

Welch said there were no other injuries and no extension of fire to other suites in the strip center, however, structural instability was found in walls of three suites west of the print shop, which is in the extreme eastern end of the center.

While the walls still stand, they belie the seriousness of the damage.

Aerial views reveal nothing but a debris-filled crater where the print shop was.

“The inside of the building is completely destroyed, and if you get closer to the building, the walls have been pushed out,” Welch said.

“So it was a significant explosion.”

Explosion victims update

Hallie Donohue, sister of the Ryan brothers and organizer of their GoFundMe page, said that Dillon Ryan underwent surgery Monday and he will undergo another on Thursday for skin grafts on his arms.

Donohue wrote that Andrew Ryan then went into surgery after his brother came out, and that doctors believe that Andrew will not need skin grafts.

Sierra Milldebrandt, wife of Parker Milldebrandt, relayed on his GoFundMe page that he had surgery Monday, that another is expected late in the week and that doctors are hoping to remove Parker’s breathing tube this week.

There was no update on Jordan’s condition on his GoFundMe page.

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For Chandler's Mayor Hartke, it's people, pastor & politics

A Wrangler News exclusive interview by Lee Shappell / Part 2

In Part 1 of our exclusive interview with Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke, we took a look at Hartke the person. Today, in the concluding Part 2, we look at Hartke the politician.

Question: The city plans to spend almost \$240,000 on signage for the West Chandler Employment Corridor, which is about 7 square miles, has more than 630 businesses that employ more than 29,000 and is home to more than 23,000. But there is a down side: I've heard some of our readers in West Chandler, who are separated from downtown by Loop 101 and Loop 202, say they feel disconnected from the city. Did the freeways create that division?

Answer: That's a good question. I know when the 101 came through it did separate people from where their schools were. It did create a barrier. West Chandler is an interesting part of our city. Sometimes it's hard to tell whether you are in Tempe or you are in Chandler.

But West Chandler is very special to us in terms of business development, particularly industrial near Ray Road and Interstate 10. Right now, we're expanding at the 10 and 202 on the northeast corner. There's a lot of jobs up there, a lot of industrial jobs that are unique. And you've got Stellar Airpark in West Chandler, which is a jewel. How many communities in the world actually have a neighborhood where you can taxi your airplane into your garage, or fly daily to California and back to work? Our Desert Oasis Park is beautiful out there. Chandler Fashion Center in West Chandler definitely is one of our jewels. It's top tier and I'm excited to see Scheels (sporting goods) moving in there and others coming in to see how it reinvents itself.

Q: Your neighbor, Tempe, feels more like a city than a suburb because it has built up since it can no longer build out. Is that where Chandler is headed?

A: A: I think we're going to see more midrise. We are landlocked. We can't grow anywhere out. We have some pockets of undeveloped land, but even then we're probably 92 percent developed. Of that other 8 percent, probably half of that is entitled land, meaning it's gone through planning

"When I look in the mirror I don't see a guy who has to serve in political office. People have asked me, 'What are you going to do past Chandler?' I don't have a plan at this point. I have to believe that I can move a dial. I'm not sure that in a highly charged, partisan environment that I'm your best guy."

—Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke

and zoning, where they've submitted a project but they just haven't done it yet.

The traditional sense of what a suburb is people live there and then they go work in the central city. Tempe is not that and Chandler is not that. We have a strong work force, about 1.12 jobs per household. My predecessors in this office recognized the strength of having a strong economic engine. Rogers Corp., our first semiconductor company, has been with us for over 50 years. We have Intel now. For the long-term viability of a city, you need more than residences and houses because once you get through impact fees and long-term tax structure you're always going to need to raise taxes. The tax base of businesses and retail is just better than homes and apartments. My predecessors have handed me a true gift in terms of a well-run city with an economic engine.

Q: And that economic engine is the Price Corridor, especially with what Intel plans to do, investing \$20 billion to build two more chip plants?

A: Yeah, \$20 billion. I was privileged to be on the team talking with them. We relied heavily on the fact that we've built a great relationship, great customer service. If something goes wrong with a city, for example not getting water or anything else, it really puts them into a pickle. They've helped a lot with our schools. They have been involved in

our boards and commissions. They volunteer at events. They're great community partners.

Q: How can Chandler become more proactive in mass transportation?

A: In Chandler, we have turned light rail down because of the disruptions of putting it in and the high costs. We've focused our attention more on getting people to light rail. The way technology is advancing, there now are vehicles that are able to communicate with traffic lights and other traffic systems. This emerging technology can move people with existing infrastructure. I can put a number of vehicles, that in essence can serve as a light rail, going straight up Arizona Avenue that can communicate with lights, without ripping up a single piece of asphalt. The technology is there. It's more people catching up with technology than with technology offering new services.

Q: Is there enough water to keep this place habitable?

A: With our population boom, certainly people use less water than agriculture does, so as cities expand and take over what were fields, you have a net gain. Our Ground Water Act was genius and insightful and still guides us today. We recently went into Level 1 drought conditions with Lake Mead. The immediate impact isn't going to hurt us as cities, but certainly we need to respond to the fact that even though it's not going to diminish our supply, future rounds will. Every drop of water that goes down the drain in Chandler gets recycled at least once.

We've done an excellent job of securing water with our agreements with Salt River Project, Roosevelt Water District and the Gila River Indian Community to the south. We've done a good job of writing code. It's not enough to just recycle water, it's how we live our first-time water use because getting water is expensive and recycling water is expensive. It's our future.

Q: The country has changed in the past year, with calls for social justice, racial justice and police departments under scrutiny for excessive use of force. Chandler increased its budget for police this fiscal year and approved hiring 12 new officers. It's

a city that backs its police, yet there have been some incidents of impropriety with Chandler PD and some people argue there needs to be reform, oversight and review. How do you feel about all of that?

A: I think our police did very well through the past year of protests. They worked with most of the groups to understand their goals. At the same time, they made protesters aware that they're not there to cause damage and neither are they there to get hurt while exercising their freedom of speech.

I've responded to over 500 emails from people who have said defund the police or do police reforms. We've actually done a lot in the past and we're well aligned with what President Obama's task force came out with. We've gone farther and beyond.

There is adequate oversight. Phoenix is just now putting into place a Citizen Review Board. Back when I was on the Chandler Human Relations Commission 27 years ago that was a recommendation that we had that was put into place. Long before other cities have looked at this we established that kind of accountability to make sure that our citizens are safe and our police also know that we've got their back.

A lot of "defunding" just means reorienting services, who does what and how you do it. We certainly are looking at more mental-health services. Maybe an officer is not the best first response in all situations. We've hired and are hiring more homeless navigators that can address people's concerns on the street.

But who gets the phone call when someone is concerned about someone who is homeless? It's the police. There's ways of doing traditional policing that doesn't always require an officer.

Q: Some of Chandler's neighboring cities have enacted ordinances to specifically protect the interests of the LGBTQ community. Chandler City Council made the decision not to do that just yet. Where do you stand on that?

A: No court case of a discrimination ordinance in Arizona has ever survived. There has not been a single case that has been challenged in court that has survived. So I don't think that an ordinance is the best tool in the tool box. So let's look at this and look at best practices across the nation and see how we can best address peoples' fears and concerns.

I believe that we need to make sure we have a climate in our community that stops bullying and discrimination at all levels. I will do whatever I can do for anyone, however they identify themselves, to make sure they're not being discriminated against in our city.



From left: Chandler City Councilmember René Lopez, Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke, and Chandler City Councilmember Christine Ellis at a West Chandler groundbreaking. — Photo courtesy city of Chandler

By percentage, we are the most diverse city in the Valley. Intel and others have scoured the world for talent. We have close to 11 percent Asian population, in the 20s of Hispanic, about 6 percent African American and many others. We hired a consultant at the recommendation of our Human Relations Commission. A year ago, I tasked them to look at diversity and inclusion in Chandler as a response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

We did a survey that had more response than any of our city budgets ever did, well over 600. Most responses had to do with communication. We did change our office name from Community Involvement to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and we doubled the budget.

I'm interested in doing a broad-based look at Chandler to see what are the diversity, inclusion and equity needs beyond what some are calling for, which is an ordinance.

We had a resolution ready to go and we decided that we didn't want to send a false message that we aren't looking at more comprehensive things. I believe there is broader work that can be done to keep people safe, keep people included and celebrated in our community.

Q: How old are you now?

A: Older than the hills. I'm 65.

Q: What's ahead for you?

A: I've taken out paperwork to run for re-election. I would like to serve as Chandler's mayor one more time if my community would have me. When I look in the mirror, I don't see a guy who has to serve in political office. People have asked me, "What are you going to do past Chandler?" I don't have a plan at this point. I have

to believe that I can move a dial. I'm not sure that in a highly charged, partisan environment that I'm your best guy. I like being able to find the best solutions in the best places regardless of whether they come from a "D" side or "R" side. I'm much more interested in collaboration, in getting things done. I wish more people saw it as I do. I'm a conservative Republican, but I just think we really need to look at government down the road, and not just have a knee-jerk reaction, which is government today at the state and federal levels.

Q: Where do you see this place in 10 years?

A: In 10 years, more midrise. Our transportation system is going to be more high tech. Multi-modal transportation is important in the future. I see Chandler continuing to be a place that will offer an array of jobs. If you can provide work for people, it gives them the opportunity to succeed. I love a relationship with our schools. I'm the first guy in my family to go to college. None of my brothers did. And now all of my kids have. I want Chandler to be a place where people can thrive, where people can change the trajectory of their family histories to prosperity.

Q: In this day and age, we have so much discord and lack of civil discourse. I see that in the community but I don't see it at City Hall. How do you manage?

A: I realize I'm one of seven votes even though I'm the mayor. I want to work with these people, my council, on issues beyond this. It's important that we can be passionate and argue as vehemently or as strongly as we wish, but at the end of the day, whether it's to go out for a drink or a handshake, be able to move on because we'll always have issues that we'll need each other on.

Face of Tempe City Council to change next year with at least 2 new members

Staff reports

The face of Tempe City Council will be changing next July with recent announcements by Robin Arredondo-Savage and Lauren Kuby that they will be leaving the panel.

A third sitting councilmember, Jennifer Adams, faces reelection.

So far, Arlene Chin, who was appointed to a vacated Tempe City Council seat from May 2019 to July 2020, has announced that she will run, as has former Arizona Cardinals backup quarterback John Skelton.

For the 2022 City Council election cycle, the Primary Election for the three seats is March 8. The General Election, if necessary, is May 17.

Arredondo-Savage, a three-term councilmember, announced that she will not seek re-election when her term is up next year.

Kuby, elected to on a sustainability platform in 2014 and re-elected in 2018, announced that she plans to leave the council to run for Arizona Corporation Commission, the state's regulatory panel of utilities, among other things.

That guarantees at least two new faces on council. Pending Adams' outcome in the primary election, it could be three.

"Over the past few months, many of my neighbors, colleagues, community members, and friends have asked me if I am running for re-election in the upcoming election," Arredondo-Savage said in her announcement. "I would like to make an official announcement that I will not be seeking re-election to the Tempe City Council."

Arredondo-Savage was raised in Tempe, graduated from Arizona State University and is a U.S. Army veteran. She led Tempe to become the first Veteran Supportive City in Arizona, developing Valor on 8th, the veterans' family housing project in Arizona, and establishing the Tempe Veterans Commission.

She is former Chair of the National League of Cities' Human Development Committee and a member of the NLC Board of Directors. She is a board member of the Hispanic Elected Local



Jennifer Adams



Robin Arredondo-Savage



Lauren Kuby



Arlene Chin



John Skelton

Officials an NLC Constituency Group. She serves on the Board of Directors of Valley Metro, PHX East Valley Partnership and Tempe Coalition, which promotes community education and awareness to reduce substance abuse among youth.

Arredondo-Savage, a Republican in a Democrat-heavy City Hall, is best known for building regional partnerships and collaborating on initiatives, among them leading the city's efforts to eliminate red-tape for businesses to expand and grow, and raise the standards to provide all-inclusive opportunities for those with disabilities to enjoy community parks, recreation activities and gain employment with the city.

She has been proactive in the city's education and economic-development policies and worked to connect STEAM programs with youth, business and community through Geeks' Night Out in partnership with the AZ Scitech Festival and created College Connect, a partnership with Tempe Schools, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University and Maricopa Community Colleges.

Arredondo-Savage formed an aerospace industry coalition to attract and retain a valuable economic driver for the state. She collaborated on the development of the Regional Opioid Action Committee and was active in opioid-prevention education in Tempe high schools, the opioid data dashboard and the Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act.

"The work of an elected official is never truly done,"

Arredondo-Savage said in her Twitter statement. "While I am not seeking re-election, I will continue being a supporter and advocate for our incredible city. My ties are and always will be to Tempe."

"While I am not sure exactly what the future holds, I know that it will be here. Our city is one of the most unique ones around – it truly is a cradle-to-career place to live."

"I love this city and serving as a Councilmember for the last 12 years has truly been the honor of my life."

Kuby, a 34-year resident of Tempe, is a long-time community leader who advocates for worker protections, equity and climate-change action.

"Arizona has the potential to be the leader in the nation when it comes to clean energy, but we're paying more for basic utilities while using less sustainable energy sources than neighboring states," Kuby said.

"We need a clear plan towards an affordable and equitable energy future, and I plan to deliver that for Arizona."

Kuby said she is running as a Clean Elections candidate for Corporation Commission.

As manager of community outreach for Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, as well as her work managing ASU's Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family, Kuby champions sustainable solutions and healthy communities, bringing together the ASU community, local businesses, nonprofits and neighborhood organizations to address the "Three E's:" economy, equity and environment.

As a Tempe City Council member, Kuby led the city's efforts for social, economic and environmental justice, including: equal pay, earned sick days, affordable housing, climate action planning, urban forestry, animal welfare, government transparency and campaign-finance reform.

She spearheaded a dark-money disclosure amendment to the city's charter that received 91 percent support from the voters.

Kuby earned a bachelor's degree in Early American History from the University of Chicago and a master's in Public History and Certificate in Scholarly Editing from ASU.

She resides in central Tempe with her husband, Mike, a professor at ASU's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning.

Chin says that with a full, four-year term, she'll bring diversity, a fresh perspective and a lifetime of community leadership to Tempe City Council.

Skelton, a political newcomer, takes his pitch to the grassroots.

"I want to ensure Tempe is a great place for everyone," Skelton said.

"Whether it's helping small businesses, protecting the quality of life in our neighborhoods, or tackling housing affordability, I'm running to be your voice on the City Council."



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20th Annual Sun Devil Luncheon

Celebrating its 20th year, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, was proud to host the Sun Devil Kickoff Luncheon on Thursday, August 26th at the San Tan Ford Club at ASU stadium. With nearly 400 in attendance, it was a celebration of the start of the 2021 season. The luncheon included hearing from Anne Gill, Tempe Chamber CEO, Dr. Christine Wilkinson of ASU Alumni, ASU Athletics Director Ray Anderson and Coach Herme Edwards, Emcee Tim Healy gave his insights into the upcoming year, interviewed the starting players and Coach Edwards.

Special thank you to our partners San Tan Ford, ASU, Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, SOL Flower, SRP, UDA, Canpony by Hilton, Chasse, DriveTime, NovaCoast, Business Radio X, NOVA Pain, Fiesta Bowl, the Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Desert Financial Credit Union..



Tempe Leadership - Class XXXVII

Tempe Leadership has been cultivating local leaders since 1985. This year 14 individuals were chosen through a competitive application and interview process carried out by a selection committee made up of Tempe Leadership Advisory Council members and program alumni. The new class will attend bi-weekly program days, design and complete a class project to benefit the local community and grow as individual leaders during the nine-month program.

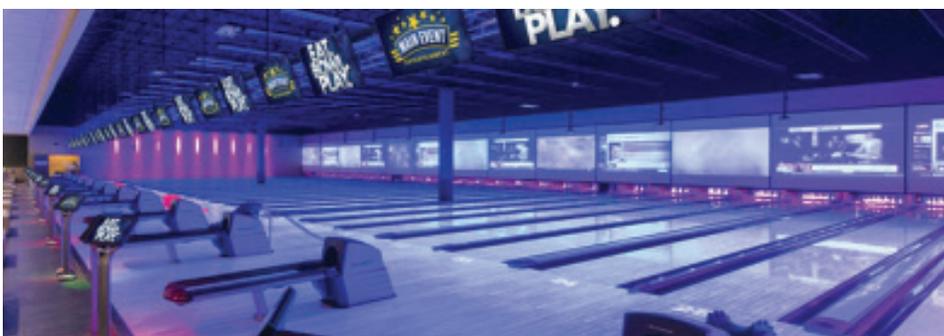
Class XXXVII members:

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 David Burckhard, Tempe YMCA
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 John Hopper, Future for Kids
 Eric Iwerson, City of Tempe
 Karyn Lathan, Constable - Tempe
 Bob Mancini, Tempe St. Luke's
 Madison Ottinger, Puffco
 Alison Stine, Stine Wealth Management
 Steven Tokos, ASU
 Kate Weed, Tapas Marketing



Tempe Leadership is supporting our community by developing a diverse group of leaders each year. Through this program, participants engage in leadership development activities, community service, learn about city operations, and enjoy hands on experiences. There are over 750 Tempe Leadership alumni, making a difference in their community.

- Cecilia Ashe, COO Landings Credit Union



September 15, 2021

Stars & Strikes Bowling Fundraiser

A portion of proceeds will benefit the Tempe Chamber's Military Affairs Committee.

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Paw

From Page 11

Look, I'm certainly not suggesting that there's an earthly reason for you to go see this thing if you don't have a five-year-old fanatic who demands it. I saw it at a regular commercial showing, not a screening, and I'll admit I felt a little weird sitting there by myself on a Sunday evening.

But if you do end up going, you might be surprised at how relatively painless it is to sit through.

The animation is deft and speedy, and there are flickers of mild wit here and there throughout the dialogue, including a good-natured self-deprecating joke about how the team finances its palatial headquarters and equipment.

The cast includes the same sort of generic-sounding kid voices heard on the show as the puppies. But a few celebrities lend their pipes as well, including Jimmy Kimmel, Tyler Perry; even Kim Kardashian. Marsai Martin from the TV show *Black-ish* vigorously voices the dachshund Liberty.

It should be noted that in the ongoing war between cats and dogs, *PAW Patrol: The Movie* plants its flag firmly on the side of the dogs, not only because of the canine character of its heroes, but because the villainous Humdinger is attended by an entourage of noxious cats. It's a little surprising that the Feline Anti-Defamation League hasn't complained yet.

Paw Patrol: The Movie is rated G and plays at Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20 and Chandler Crossroads and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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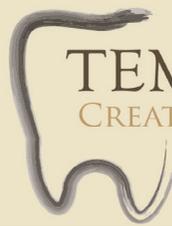
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These stories & more inside:

June 19 - July 6, 2021 • Volume 21, Number 12

WET, WILD & COOL

With 100 degrees scorching on the desert floor today, are you thinking this would be a good time for something that's a good time for something? Well, it's a good time for something that's a good time for something. Let's all about it in a special photo gallery featuring the people who are making the difference on Page 10-11.

Logo

From Page 3

Which brings us to the matter of the exquisitely drawn artwork we have displayed on our cover for the past several years. It's one of several logos, starting with our first issue in 1991, that, by design, recognized the number of horse-owner properties in close proximity to Warner Road and their connection to the area we serve. It was those origins, in fact, from which was born the Warner Wrangler as many remember it (and still call it), today.

It also is the design feature of our Wrangler News car that you likely have seen galloping around town, eliciting friendly waves and serving as a conversation starter with people who appreciate their little hometown paper and what it does to reinforce the sense of community we've worked hard to

achieve throughout our three decades of publishing.

So when discussion came up of updating our logo design, that old rule of the '60s came back to haunt me. However, with Noah, Lee and Joyce pointing out several weeks ago that we want to be sure our page design keeps pace, graphically and content-wise, with the changing times, I relented.

So we put designer Keira Campbell to work.

That's the story behind the new logo design you've no doubt already noticed on our cover and elsewhere in the paper.

Several months ago, as mentioned earlier, the three of us talked about ways to ensure that we remain relevant going forward; that our look and feel keep pace with the community around us.

Not only did we discuss the visual part of what we produce, but our stories and how they support the goal of being a positive source of news and in-

formation about our community and the people who live, work, attend school and/or worship here.

Our new logo, we think, achieves all that we hoped it would.

It modernizes our look without sacrificing the premise of a community held together by founding values.

It's the logo design you'll see in the immediate future, and one that will be incorporated into our growing online media presence when it's unveiled there as well.

We've enjoyed exploring options to modernize our look and feel, and think it's been a worthwhile process—the new logo included.

We hope you like it as much as we do.

And that the publishing wise people whose guidance I've done my best to follow these many years won't frown down on me for breaking that No. 1 rule. We like to think it was for a good cause.

Tempe-based tech college aims students toward a galactic future

At the University of Advancing Technology, the sky's the limit. Well, at least a small leap into the universe beyond.

The Tempe-based college's general education science department is offering a variety of earth-, environment- and astronomy-related courses, beginning with Astronomy 101 The Night Sky.

The class, with two entry levels, provides an

introduction to the field for the non-science major.

Topics include the scientific method, the stars, telescopes, the night sky and constellations, as well as the moon system.

The course ends with looking at the size and scale of the universe. For the advanced student, AST-301 looks at the formation of the solar system and the planetary geology of the worlds around us.

In both astronomy programs, students can experience hands-on activities and participate in course lectures.

Students also get an opportunity to visit and study local astronomical and geological attractions, which this year included Meteor Crater to evaluate the world's most preserved impact crater.

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This place is a must. The flavorful salsa, the delicious margaritas, the extraordinary and well-priced food will definitely keep you coming back.

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Sports

From Page 13

“Madelyn and Deven are both on the basketball team at Corona but have developed an interest in the game of golf during the off-season and are excited to be part of the Aztec team.”

“Mia, Riley and Sidney share a passion for golf and are thrilled to be part of the Lady Aztec golf family,” said Ettinger.

Corona’s girls golf team is in the Central Region, or Section, of Division I, where the Aztecs are scheduled to play eight small one- or two-school rounds and then five invitational or tournament rounds in the regular season.

The Aztecs were scheduled to play two Freedom matches to start the season. The first one was Aug. 23 on their home golf course, Ken McDonald, against Desert Ridge and Mesquite and the second was at home against Hamilton and Highland on Aug. 30. Then they were scheduled to play their first Central Section match on Sept. 1 at the Ahwatukee Country Club against Mountain Pointe.

On Sept. 9, Corona will play in the first tournament of the season, the Aguila Open at the Aguila Golf Course located at 35th Ave and Baseline in Laveen Village.



Corona's girls golf team returned three golfers who qualified and played in the state tournament last season, plus nine other golfers who should help the Aztecs once again be in the top 10 Division I teams at the end of the season. Team includes: Back row: Elley Newman, Ashlyn Carpenter, Bella Mantini, Maddie Hummon, Karissa Flores, Madelyn Mitchell; Front row: Mia Ruiz, Riley Atchley, Emily Hirsch, Deven Kircher; Not pictured: Lauren Braun, Sydney Braun.

— Photo courtesy Albert Ettinger

Clubs

From Page 6

Covered Streets, and students were recruited to volunteer at the organization’s trailer.

Swarup said he saw firsthand that homeless individuals are people who deserve respect and attention, contrary to some viewpoints in society.

“It was a breaking-stereotypes moment for me,” Swarup said. “Most of them are in a rough spot, and we all have rough spots. It’s just that theirs are a little more rough.”

Pequeno, who joined DECA because of its reputation at CdS for helping build business, communication and leadership skills, agreed.

“Being involved taught

me that homeless people usually are those who made a couple of wrong decisions,” she said. “But they are good people and they want their lives back.”

Palmer said the homeless clients also taught the students a few lessons, giving advice about college and avoiding mistakes they’d made, such as marrying before you graduate.

“It was great to see that these adults felt so comfortable with these two teenagers that they wanted to help them as well,” she said.

This year, the pair is planning to expand their work with Cloud Covered Streets to include other CdS clubs.

To learn more about clubs at the school, visit tempeunion.org/coronadelisol and click on activities.

Software eases hospital ER visits

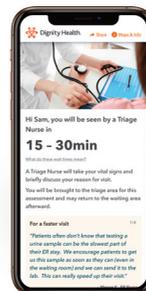
By Joyce Coronel
wranglernews.com

With Arizona’s sharp spike in COVID numbers—not to mention all the other reasons people seek emergency health care—an innovative new tool is making a trip to the ER a little easier.

Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center unveiled ERAdvisor from Vital Software to provide patients with real-time, mobile updates about their wait times and next steps.

Jessica Allen, clinical director of Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center’s emergency department, said the new tool has been well-received.

“This software really helps the patient navigate through their ER journey and helps them take control of their ER visit,” Allen said. “It sends them updates and they’re kept up-to-date throughout their ER visit.”



And for those at home anxiously awaiting news about their loved one’s condition, ERAdvisor can help alleviate their concerns. Currently, Chandler Regional is allowing one visitor into the ER with adult patients who do not present with COVID-like symptoms.

“The patient shares their visit with loved ones of their choosing and then their friends and family are able to go on the journey with them and stay informed while their loved one is in health care,” Allen said.

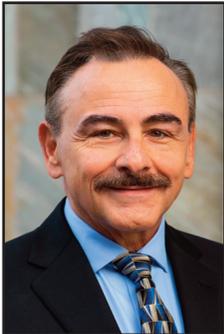
ERAdvisor provides patients with the latest information on wait times, next steps, progress on labs and imaging, information about care teams, and is tailored for each patient’s journey and language. With the push of a button, patients can then securely share the information.

“Patients very much appreciate receiving that information and the text alerts,” Allen said.

“We navigate many different things with cell phones and really this is just one more layer of exceptional care that we provide to our patients, keeping them informed this way.”

Vote 'Yes' for a brighter future . . . Commentary by Matt Orlando

Previously, I expressed how important schools and education in general benefit our city in regards to attracting businesses, having a great economy, a better quality of life and a much brighter future for all of us.



Matt Orlando

A yes vote for a school override election will benefit our community.

Both the Kyrene School District and the Chandler Unified School District are conducting an override election on November 2, 2021.

Like you, I have questions as to what is an override election and what a successful election means to our community.

What is a Budget Override? — An override election allows voters in the school districts to approve additional funding for operational expenses that the state does not cover. School districts by state law are allowed to increase their Maintenance and Operations (M&O) budgets each year by up to 15% of the revenue control limit imposed by the state legislature.

About half of the districts in Arizona (representing 70-80% of the students) presently have budget overrides in place.

What is M&O? — M&O funding are used exclusively for providing salaries to retain and attract highly qualified teachers and staff, support reduced class size, continue instruction and provide a well-rounded education in the areas of technology, STEM, physical education, athletics, fine arts such as music, art, drama, foreign language and other electives, and promote a safe and healthy school environment.

How does Arizona fund schools? — Arizona provides specific dollar funding for its schools based on the number of students and the miles that students are transported.

If parents and school districts require additional programs or expenses above the state allocation, the schools are authorized to ask voters for additional support, i.e. an override election.

Why is the override necessary? — The override is necessary for schools to continue to meet the needs of our current students and provide them with an excellent education.

How often are override elections? — Normally, an override election is held every four years.

If not renewed by the voters, the funding will decrease and so will the programs to support our students.

Will I see a tax increase? — No, both districts are maintaining their existing tax rate.

Important Election Dates

• **October 4th:** Voter registration deadline. To ensure your voter registration is up to date visit www.azsos.gov/elections.

• **October 6th:** Ballots will be mailed to you.

• **October 22nd:** Last day to request an early ballot.

• **October 26th:** Last day to mail in ballot. You can drop it in any mailbox or call the below contact numbers for drop off information.

• **November 2nd:** Election Day! CUSD office will be open to drop off ballots.

Where can I get additional information? — "Keep Kyrene Strong" Facebook or 480-541-1000 and www.yesforchandlerstudents.com or 480-812-7660.

Finally, we should all be proud that both Kyrene and CUSD are consistently rated top school districts for both academics and financial excellence in Arizona.

For a brighter future, I urge you to *support* the override election.

Matt Orlando is a member of the Chandler City Council

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It has been my honor and privilege to be the Chairman of this event the last 3 years. It is a truly touching memorial, and it gives me chills every year when I hear the stories from those who were there. I hope you can make it out.

For more details see TempeHealingField.org

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|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
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| Warner Ranch | John & Linda | 2,800 sqft | \$ 600,000 to \$ 750,000 |
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| Tempe | Jim & Erica | Gated community 3,200+ | \$700,000 to \$800,000 |
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