

Wrangler NEWS



Dec. 17, 2016 - Jan. 6, 2017 • Volume 27, No. 24



Dr. Evan Ware, director of University Animal Hospital, warns against puppy scams that tug on the heartstrings of animal lovers and increase during the holidays. Pg. 7.



Kids with parents behind bars received some Christmas joy, courtesy of the Angel Tree Project that parishioners at St. James Episcopal Church sponsored. Pg. 12



It was all smiles when officers of the Tempe and ASU police departments held a day of holiday fun that included a trip to Walmart for area disadvantaged kids. Pg. 8.

What's Inside



FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD Santa had his hands full at Christmas Island, the celebration sponsored annually by the Tempe Lakes community. These tykes seemed less than delighted—at least momentarily—by their encounter with the Jolly Old Elf.

— Christine Baldanza for *Wrangler News*

Historic Mill Avenue again the 'place to be'

Four Peaks-sponsored fireworks show to brighten New Year's sky

Downtown Tempe—specifically, Historic Mill Avenue—is where celebrations unfold virtually year round. That's no different on New Year's Eve.

Celebrants this year will find a vibrant street, closed to traffic, with restaurants and nightlife venues adding something special to their offerings.

No cover fee will be needed to access the street, say Mill Avenue planners, although there may be charges set by some of the participating venues.

The addition of food trucks and portable toilets will help ensure that visitors can find food and relief stations

while welcoming in the new year.

Highlighting this year's gala will be a fireworks display sponsored by Four Peaks—one of Tempe's biggest success stories, as we know—lighting up the sky at midnight.

The show will be launched from near Tempe Beach Park and visible from Mill Avenue and Downtown Tempe.

No formal street programming is planned and the entertainment venues will be geared toward those 21-plus.

However, notes Downtown Tempe exec Kate Borders, a family dinner in one of the area's popular venues, can be a great way to enjoy the year's end.

Happy New Year! And Bon Appetit!

New section tells the stories of our places of worship

First Person

By Joyce Coronel

I've been a religion writer for the better part of my career. That explains why, when I began writing for *Wrangler News* back in January 2015, I was naturally drawn to telling stories of faith.

You may have seen some of those articles that portrayed local congregations feeding the homeless,

caring for orphans and celebrating their rich heritage.

We've had stories about pastors, moms' groups, vacation bible schools and more.

When I started out in journalism, newspapers usually had what were known as religion sections. That morphed into spirituality sections. Then, gradually, even those faded away. And yet, the congregations

— WORSHIP, Page 11

Home-grown business: The heart of our community

Commentary

By Don Kirkland

For those of us who believe that supporting our community's small businesses—the ones, that is, that have worked hard to earn our trust over the years—we worry a bit when we see so many corporate entities establishing a presence in our Tempe/West Chandler neighborhoods.

We don't overlook the fact that expanding is how big companies ultimately increase profits for their owners and stockholders

and, in many cases, bring new services to town and create more jobs. It's a fundamental premise of the American dream.



Our concern, however, relates to the number of small local businesses that face the ongoing challenge of staying viable in an economy that confronts their owners with constantly increasing costs, including product pricing, marketing and, not be overlooked, Arizona's new minimum-wage mandates.

There are no easy answers to these and the other complex issues our small-business owners face in the coming months.

However, we feel that part of our responsibility—as small-business owners ourselves and as enthusiastic supporters of the businesses that rely on us—is to remind our readers how important it is, whenever possible, to support the homegrown entrepreneurs who are established here and who need your—our—backing to keep their doors open.

It should come as no surprise

— KIRKLAND, Page 23

Hip Phoenix eatery to open in Tempe

The vacant property that once housed a Circle K at the northeast corner of Rural and Warner will soon have a new tenant.

That's because Aaron Chamberlin, owner of two trendy central Phoenix restaurants, plans to transform the 3,200-square-foot space into an upscale restaurant. Construction is slated to begin in late January with completion due by mid-summer.

Chamberlin's two other restaurants, Phoenix Public Market Café and St. Francis, have proved popular destinations for diners seeking a hip, urban setting while they munch on healthful cuisine such as burrata fig salad or what the restaurant is famous for: wood-fired dishes, such as pork chile verde pot and Moroccan meatballs. Menus indicate gluten-free, dairy-free and vegetarian items. There's even organic ice cream for a

— UPSCALE, Page 8

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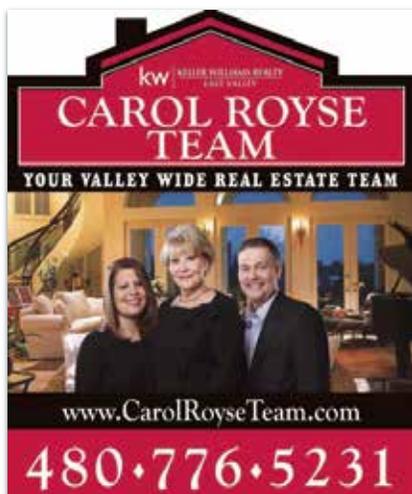
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New Year, New You?

Ideas for getting, and staying, in shape

From Dominic at BR Fitness

By M.V. Moorhead

Getting in shape—it's probably the most commonplace of New Year's resolutions. As a result, it's also a recurring angle for newspaper stories at the end of the year.

The trouble, according to Dominic Balistriere, is that "The retention rate on New Year's resolutions is about five percent."

Balistriere would be in a position to have seen this low rate of follow-through. A longtime veteran of the fitness industry, he's now the owner and operator of the new franchise of Body Renew Fitness which opened recently in Tempe. He offers the upcoming crop New Year's resolvers advice on how to be part of the five percent who stay with the program.

"My biggest piece of advice is, don't set out any lofty goals for yourself," says Balistriere. "People start out by saying, I'm going to lose 30, 40 pounds. You should be setting small, incremental goals. One of two things happens. Either they don't see any results after a few weeks so they give up, or they get bored because they're doing the same thing every time."

Balistriere also notes that "The talk shows and the infomercials make it look so easy. But 30 pounds, that's a real achievement."

He's not kidding. I myself have dropped more than 30 pounds since October before last, when my doctor rather firmly told me I had to. And as Balistriere suggests, I did it with no grand objective—just a minor adjustment (probably too minor) to my daily diet, and 20 minutes or so light (probably too light) exercise, four or five times a week. And I found even these measures daunting.

According to Balistriere, BR Fitness can make the process easier. "We're not franchised, we just license the brand, so we're able to do things our way," says Balistriere of the BR name, which has locations scattered through Alaska, Idaho, California and Virginia. Tempe is the first Arizona location.

"We're a full service gym," says

From Kayla at PrimaCare

By Joyce Coronel

While you're throwing back a glass or two of eggnog and serving up a slice of Aunt Judy's fruit cake—it really is your favorite dessert, isn't it?—you might want to keep in mind that in addition to the holiday season, it's also flu season.

Plenty of colds are passed around this time of year, too, but there are things you can do to ward off the dreaded illnesses. Sorting out whether you've got the flu or just a cold is key.

If you've got a fever greater than 100 degrees, a headache, muscle aches, chills, extreme fatigue, sore throat, cough and (sometimes) a runny nose, you might have the flu. Thousands of people die from the bug each year. Pregnant women, young children, residents of nursing homes and those who are over age 65 are at greater risk of catching it.

Kayla Shelley, a physician's assistant at Tempe-based PrimaCare, offered some tips on how to stay healthy, not just over the holidays, but all year long.

"Visit your doctor for proper immunizations against the flu," Shelley said. While you're at it, make sure you're up-to-date on all your vaccines. A Dec. 10 email to parents of Corona del Sol students notified them that a case of whooping cough had been recently discovered on campus.

If it's more than just a minor cold you're experiencing, it's best to seek your healthcare provider's assistance to determine the nature of the illness and the best course of treatment. Seek immediate treatment, Shelley advises, if you think it might be the flu because antivirals for the bug work within a 48-hour window of viral onset.

Shelley offered further advice on how to reduce the spread of illness: Avoid close contact with sick people; stay home when you're sick or for at least 24 hours after a fever breaks; cover your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze; and wash

— GYM, Page 9

— FLU, Page 9

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Diversions . . . with M.V. Moorhead

Rogue One: 'Star Wars' in retrograde

In the advertising, it's referred to as *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, but on the screen it's simply called *Rogue One*. That's the first of many things I liked about this movie—it's not Episode Anything or Chapter Anything.

This truly seems to have been conceived as a stand-alone tale, and not as a new branch of the franchise.

It doesn't open with the familiar John Williams fanfare, or with a crawl of exposition. We get an occasional subtitle explaining what planet we're on, but that's it. The atmosphere is tense and hectic and dark and, despite quite a lot of effective comedy, rather fatalistic.

Having said that, this movie nonetheless felt far more authentically like a "real" *Star Wars* movie to me than *Phantom Menace* and the other "official" opening trilogy films.

Like *The Force Awakens* last year, *Rogue One* is a strikingly retro work—by necessity, as it is set just before the events of original George Lucas *Star Wars* movie, made in 1977.

So the lovingly re-created sets and costumes have a flaky, delightfully dated look to them. They feel as self-consciously "70s" as bell bottoms or lava lamps.

If I had to speculate, I'd guess that the script grew out of dissatisfaction with a perceived implausibility in the first *Star Wars* flick: the idea that the whole Death Star could be blown to smithereens by two wimpy torpedoes from Luke Skywalker.

The heroine here, a hard-fighting young delinquent named Jyn (Felicity Jones), is pressed into service by the Rebellion to contact her surrogate father (Forest Whitaker) in hopes of gaining intelligence on that colossal, planet-shattering weapon of mass destruction.

She's thrown together on this mission with Cassian (Diego Luna), a Rebel agent of uncertain motivation, and K-2SO, a snide, kvetching robot voiced by Alan Tudyk. Along the way, this trio picks up a variety of scruffy misfits allies, and after many twists and turns the story comes to a head in a massive Rebel raid on an Imperial base.

Director Gareth Edwards, of 2010's imaginative low-budgeter *Monsters*, handles the epic action sequences rousingly, and there's no shortage of visual wonder to the movie.

The Death Star and the huge Imperial ships hanging in the skies have a chilling, oppressive awe to them; conversely, there's a sprightly wit to the sight of swarms of Rebel ships springing out of hyperspace like popcorn kernels popping.

But the general visual vocabulary of *Rogue One* owes as much to classic WWII movies as to sci-fi.

"There's fighting on the beaches," somebody says at one point. Inevitably, some of the dialogue echoes with contemporary political resonance, and no matter what your ideology, you're likely to cast "your" side as the Rebels and the other side as the Empire.

In any case, the line "Rebellions are built on hope" figures prominently in this film, and hope is something that many of us are sorely in need of right now.

Rogue One is rated PG-13, and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, Harkins Arizona Mills and many other multiplexes Valleywide.

Circus brings family fun to Chandler Arts Center

The Zoppé Italian Family Circus takes family entertainment to new heights this year, performing matinée and evening shows from Dec. 27 through Jan. 8 under the intimate, one-ring tent in Chandler.

The Zoppé Circus brings an all new show for its eighth year to Chandler. The fresh new show will host an impressive lineup of performers featuring La Tarumba Equestrians who fuse circus with theatre, music and the equestrian arts.

Additionally, fifth-generation circus performer Denisse Santos from Mexico brings an exciting flying trapeze show to the tent, while ringmaster Raoul Gomiero from Italy pulls the audience into the emotions of the show for an exciting new ride. Liam Halstead will also wow the audience with his amazing juggling feats.

"The show changes every year," said Giovanni Zoppé, the sixth-generation circus performer who plays Nino the clown. "So no worries if you saw last year's presentation."

The Circus is a Zoppé family tradition, having emerged 174 years ago to become one of the legendary circuses in all of Europe.

Zoppé revived the Zoppé Family Circus in America eight years ago and has since been building its reputation with audiences and critics as an enchanting exhibition of traditional European circus.

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Thousands due again at charitable 'house with all the lights'

By Monique Sutila

Nearly everyone who lives in South Tempe near the Warner/Rural/McClintock neighborhoods knows about "the house with the all the lights" during this time of year.

Actually, people numbering in the thousands come from all over to view the beautifully decorated home on Stanley Place, lit from top to bottom—every branch, twig and bush twinkling with led brightness. It is a spectacular site that Shawn Benson, his wife Ann and their four children have been displaying every night from Thanksgiving through New Year for the past 13 years.

It all began in 1999 when the Bensons decided to move into their South Tempe home, not for the grandeur of the home itself but for the eye-appealing, mature trees that decorated the front.

The yard was the perfect setup for Benson's vision of spreading Christmas cheer, using hundreds of thousands of lights along with his imagination to create a festival of glimmering illuminations for all to see.

As the years progressed, so has the show of decorations and the people coming to view them, numbering in the hundreds on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Even the planes flying overhead on their way to Sky Harbor International Airport bank their planes for curious passengers to observe the festive glow from above.

The warmth of the bonfires is shared with neighbors and anyone who would like to stop for a chat and some hot chocolate. Santa Claus is present on Fridays and Saturdays in December for photo ops with his elves, and Benson insists the holidays wouldn't be the same without sharing with those in need.

The Bensons encourage giving back, inviting anyone



Spectacularly lighted Benson residence at 8355 S. Stanley Place, Tempe.

who is able to donate what they can. Large receptacles are used to receive canned food items, which are given to St. Mary's Food Bank, and monetary donations are distributed to Phoenix Children's Hospital and to various charities sponsored by the Benson Charities. Last year, nearly \$5,000 was raised and donated to East Valley Boys and Girls Club.

This year, Benson and his family are incorporating computer animation into their display. The center of the yard will be highlighted with their newest decoration: a big, spectacularly lit, custom designed star. All of the animated scenery is custom made by a company headquartered in Boston, which allows for the unique, one-of-a-kind design adorning the property. In addition, each tree is orchestrated, via computerized controls, with lights set to six different Christmas melodies.

Weekends will include two bonfires instead of one, inviting more people to join in the festivities, and Ann is planning a visit from American Idol Bermuda to treat guests to holiday music. Past years have included the

Corona del Sol High School band and this year will be no different, as they entertain onlookers with their singing and compositions.

For those interested in logistics, although Benson has never counted the number of lights hanging outside his home, he claims there are well over 700,000. Each tree, along with everything else, is connected with 20-amp circuits routed underground, which allows for proper electrical distribution.

A separate 200-amp electrical panel was installed especially for the holiday lights. The price tag to run this spectacular display? With the efficiency of LED lighting, a mere \$50-\$60 in additional cost. In keeping with technology, plans this spring include tearing up and revamping all the front yard wiring with CAT 5 computer connections to each tree, and everything hard wired into the upgraded computer system.

Currently, music and animations connect via Wi-Fi and a big antenna. Due to their rigorous use and exposure, all equipment and lights are commercial grade, which Benson notes is well worth the costs in exchange for the time it would take in maintenance and upkeep.

Troubleshooting lights is common, especially after the monsoon season, and many hours are spent ensuring that everything will work according to plan. When problems do arise, Benson says the fix is simple—replace the fuse, fix it or run a new line.

All the holiday decorations are conveniently stored in a shed located on the property, with the exception of leaving lights on the trees above 20 feet not just for convenience but to help with setup, which begins in October for a Thanksgiving start time.

Somewhat of a perfectionist, Benson describes himself as the artist and takes pride in doing the work himself, with help from a lift, his sister and daughter, a recent graduate

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Now that their children are older, Benson and wife Ann concentrate more on giving back through their charity, Benson Charities, which contributes to Phoenix Children's Hospital, Banner Children's Hospital and, especially, East Valley Boys and Girls Club.

The kids are important and four years ago, the Bensons were recognized by the city of Tempe, receiving its highest award for contributing back to the community.

For those interested in participating, food can be placed in the receptacles and contributions can be made to Benson Charities.

Asked why he and his family do this, Benson says his motivation is simple:

"We are trying to do our part to bring joy and cheer for the holidays" and enjoy when people stop to chat and ask questions that never get old.

The home is at 8535 S. Stanley Place, off Warner Road just east of Rural Road.

Area vet reinforces sick-puppy alert

If a puppy is on your family's wish list for potential holiday gifts, be on the lookout for scams that typically appear this time of year, says Tempe veterinarian Dr. Evan Ware.

Ware joins Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich in alerting Tempe and West Chandler residents, along with their



Dr. Evan Ware

statewide neighbors, that consumer complaints increase during the holidays from people who purchased sick puppies or fell victim to internet scams.

In at least one case, they noted, consumers claimed the puppy advertised looked different than the pet received or it quickly became ill.

Dr. Ware, director of Tempe's long-respected University Animal Hospital, recommended following Brnovich's suggestions, but added a couple thoughts of his own:

"Never get a dog that is under 6 weeks of age and confirm it has been examined and received at least 1 vaccination administered by a licensed veterinarian.

Brnovich also had some advice:

"Con-artists prey on your emotions by posting a picture of a cute puppy for sale on the internet," said Brnovich.

"Arizonans are tricked into paying hundreds of dollars for a new puppy that doesn't get delivered and they're left empty-handed right before the holidays."

Here are some tips to avoid being victimized:

- Don't buy a puppy or do business with someone you haven't met in person. If you try to arrange meetings to see the puppy, and the person makes excuses, it could be a red flag.

- Before you choose a puppy, visit the breeder at the breeder's operation, no matter what.

- Ask questions and ensure the breeder has the name of his or her veterinarian on the paperwork for the puppy. Consider contacting the vet independently to verify the information.

- Be extremely cautious about purchasing a pet sight unseen over the internet.

- Do your research. Ask for detailed information about the person selling the pet. What is the person's full name, phone number and physical address? Do complaints or the word "scam" pop up when you research them online?

- Consider adoption from an animal shelter. Pets are vaccinated and checked for medical conditions by a veterinarian.

If you believe you have been the victim of consumer fraud, you can file a consumer complaint by contacting the Attorney General's Office in Phoenix at 602-542-5763.

Bilingual consumer protection staff members are available to assist.

Consumers can also file complaints online by visiting the Attorney General's website at <https://www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer>.

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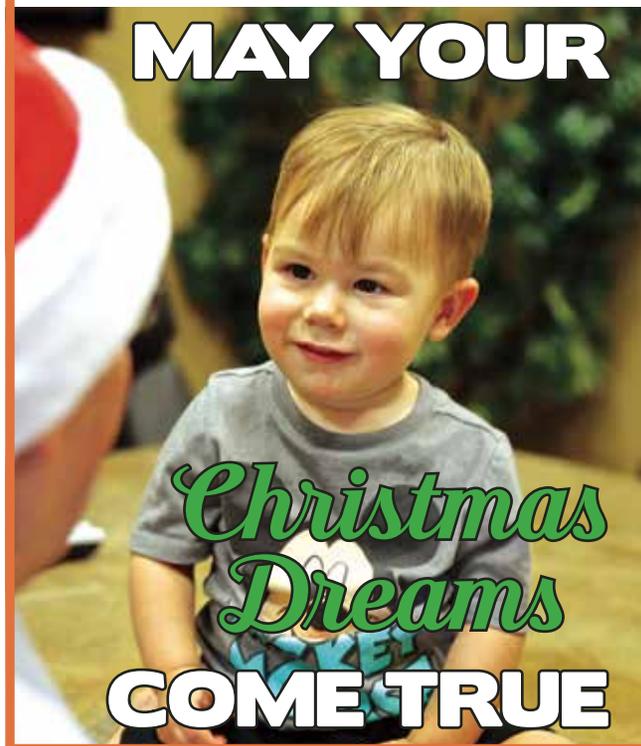


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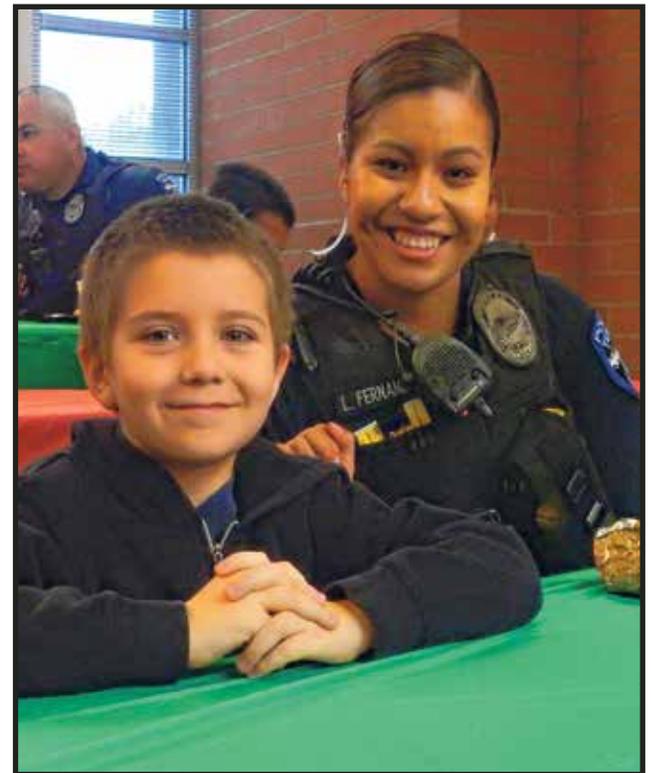
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Kops 'N Kids

Dozens of kids enjoyed a warm breakfast along with holiday cheer and plenty of smiles with officers of the Tempe and ASU police departments. Face-painting, crafts and interacting with the K9 unit were all part of the fun. Officers also escorted families to a nearby Walmart where each child was given a \$150 gift card to satisfy their holiday wishes.

— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup

Upscale

From Page 1

dessert with earthy origins.

Chamberlin's brother, David, specializes in real estate and handles the business side of the ventures. The pair is planning for Tempe Public Market Café to open later this summer.

Though guests will encounter many of the same food items that have helped make St. Francis and Phoenix Public Market Café favorites in the central downtown area, Aaron says the Tempe restaurant will specialize in pizzas yet be similar by offering fresh market cuisine prepared with many ingredients sourced from farmers markets in the Valley.

With this restaurant's arrival, the Warner Road corridor is becoming home to a number of family-owned enterprises. Oink Café, another mom-and-pop shop with locations in Phoenix and Tucson, plans to open in the space that formerly housed Marcello's, which closed several months ago.

Nick Bastian, a local Realtor, said he feels the addition of Tempe Public Marketplace Café bodes well for the area. "I think it's awesome. It's just a great addition to our neighborhood," Bastian said. Bastian said architectural renderings of the future Tempe restaurant show a large covered patio with seating and a fireplace that will be key features. The restaurant, to be built on the spot occupied by a onetime Circle K store, is expected to bring new life to the property, which at one time was considered for a scuba dive center and training pool. The prospective buyers said they backed off, however, due to the anticipated costs.

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Gym

From Page 4

Balistreri, a Wisconsin native, who gained experience in the fitness industry in Naples, Florida, and Las Vegas before settling in the Valley.

“With most gyms, you pay 30 bucks a month to have access to the equipment. And you can do that with us, too.

“If you want to just come in and use the treadmill or lift some weights on your own, you can do that. But we know everybody’s name. If you want to come in and talk to somebody about nutrition for half an hour, you can do that.

“And we offer personal training, and the Les Mills Group Exercise Classes, Kickboxing and Bodypump.”

This sort of personal, and personalized, approach is the best recipe for success, says Balistreri.

“If you spend an hour a day, every other day, in the gym, you’ll see substantial results, if you apply a little exercise science to it.”

And presumably this approach can work no matter what time of year you make the resolution.

Body Renew Fitness is located at 975 E. Elliot Road, Tempe. For details call 480-838-9077 or go to brfitness Tempe.com.

Flu

From Page 4

your hands frequently.

It’s also important to clean and disinfect surfaces at home, school and work and practice good health habits like getting plenty of sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking plenty of water, reducing stress and exercising regularly.

Does Mom’s chicken soup really have any healthful benefits?

“If chicken soup makes you feel better, by all means, go for it,” Shelley said. “It’s important to avoid overuse of antibiotics during cold season.

“Most upper respiratory infections are viral if they last less than 10 days. Recent overuse of antibiotics is leading to resistance and ineffectiveness of medications.” Fifty percent of antibiotic use is unnecessary, she said.

Shelley works alongside Dr. Zaheer Shah, M.D., providing primary care to patients as well as weight-loss services, women’s healthcare, men’s health services, opiate addiction treatment and pain management.

PrimaCare faces Price Road in the medical complex on the southeast corner of Price and Baseline Road, Tempe.

Information: primacareaz.com or 480-646-8123.



Left to Right: Bob, Janice, Jayne, Kathy, Jeff

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-Bob R. from Tempe

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Our Neighbors, Our Faith



Parishioners at St. James' and St. Andrew's churches opened their hearts to foster children, veterans, struggling families, children of the incarcerated and other needy individuals with an outpouring of support through their Angel Tree and Giving Tree projects.

— Photos by Joyce Coronel (above), Alex J. Walker (below)

Getting into the Christmas spirit

Churches bring holiday cheer to area's needy

St. James the Apostle Episcopal Church's 'Angel Tree' project delivers Christmas hope, love

Christmas is a time when families gather to celebrate and share the warmth of holiday cheer, but for thousands of Arizona children someone important is missing from all the fun. That's because a father or mother sits in prison.

Whether it's the family's first Christmas apart or just the latest in a long succession of heartaches, this year some of these children have reason to smile. And it's all thanks to parishioners at St. James the Apostle Episcopal Church.

The Tempe church's Angel Tree giving project



got parishioners into the seasonal spirit by asking them to collect food items, clothing and toys for the children of 10 families of the incarcerated the parish was sponsoring. Prisoners request gift items they believe their children would want to

— CHRISTMAS, Page 12



Worship

From Page 1

remain. What about their stories?

About the only time you read about churches these days is when a controversy arises or tragedy strikes. Other coverage tends to be lackluster, and you get the feeling the reporter's heart just isn't in it.

Wrangler News hopes to be changing all that.

The issue that you hold in your hands unveils "Our Faith, Our Neighbors," a new monthly special section. We realize that churches typically a source of good in their communities, and stories about their people, programs, ministries and milestones can be interesting.

One volunteer at a church in our area admitted to me that her church is "dying." They've been going through a transition period and it hasn't been easy. They're not alone.

A Pew Research study from 2012 revealed that, for the first time ever, one in five adults in the U.S. have no religious affiliation at all. These so-called "nones" are growing fast. Among those under 30, that percentage rises to 33 percent.

Churches can no longer afford to take a "wait and see" approach, hoping prospective members will wander in off the streets. They have to go out in search of the lost sheep—otherwise they face the very real prospect of closure. (If you want proof, you could visit a Mexican food restaurant

in central Phoenix that was once a vibrant church. Order your margarita near the front of the historic stone structure where the preacher used to stand.)

A few months ago, I interviewed a woman who had been away from church for many years. One afternoon, as she sat at home alone, she wondered:

Why do I feel so empty inside? After some soul-searching, she decided it might be a good idea to return to church.

When she did, she heard an announcement that volunteers were needed to visit prisoners.

With a brother and nephew behind bars, she figured it was something she could do. "After all, it could just as easily have been me in jail. I used to do drugs," she told me with tears in her eyes. These days, she's active in her church and visits a women's prison weekly.

Her life is focused on serving others and in the process, she's found meaning and purpose and yes, even happiness.

So what about your church? Is it doing something positive in the community, building hope, encouraging people and sharing mercy?

Check out the our new section to learn more about congregations and pastors who are doing just that, then drop us a line and let us know what your church is up to and if it might like to help sponsor these pages.

We look forward to hearing from you! Email us via editor @wranglernews.com.



Christmas

From Page 11

receive. The effort is part of Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship, a national organization that assists the children of prisoners and their families.

There are currently 2.7 million children in the U.S. who have a parent behind bars.

Eileen Flock, St. James' youth minister and the person responsible for organizing the project, said it's ultimately about sharing God's love. Whether the gifts consist of sports equipment or items such as earrings or nail polish for the girls, sponsored kids receive something their parents yearn to give them during the holidays: a tangible sign of their love. For youth group members, it makes for a great perspective.

"I think they enjoy it because they actually get to see it firsthand and see the project from start to finish. They get to see some of the kids and interact with them," Flock said.

Pastor Susan Wilmot of St. James agreed.

"It's absolutely vital. They feel so good about helping the families," Wilmot said.

"Here at St. James, it's certainly one of our goals to focus on ministries for children and families, and outreach generally. We really feel that it's the most important part of being church in this tough world."

At a time when many are fixated on what they'll be receiving, children at St. James are learning about the happy feeling they get by giving.

"The joy is in the giving," Wilmot said. "Many of the families do it because they want their children to see how important it is to give."

A special celebration for Angel Tree families was held Dec. 11 after the 10:30 service.

Youth group members and the sponsored children enjoyed games, coloring pages, Bible stories and good, old-fashioned fun together.

"Our kids say to them, 'You're my friend—I saw you last year!' Some of these families we get over and over and again.

"Our youth group gets to see that these are kids just like them," Flock said.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church embraces foster kids, struggling families

Earlier this month, the Christmas trees inside St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church glittered with red, green, white and gold stars that offered more than just a festive atmosphere.

They called the faithful to purchase gifts for foster children, struggling families, veterans, women in crisis pregnancies and children rescued from the nightmare of abuse and human trafficking.

The color of the tag was the key to how much a gift might cost: Green meant \$30 or less; white, \$40 or less; gold was for more costly items.

The day *Wrangler News* visited, all the stars on the trees had been removed by parishioners moved to compassion.

Over in Hennessy Hall, a brand-new recliner stood amid the mountain of wrapped presents destined for several area social service agencies, missions and needy families. It's the 11th year the parish has amassed a sizeable collection of gifts, all to be given away.

Volunteers gathered one recent Saturday to sort through the hundreds of items and deliver them to local families and agencies. Every family sponsored by the Giving Tree

receives two gifts for each child under 18 as well as a family gift, a bag of personal toiletries for the entire family, a laundry basket filled with laundry supplies and a gift card to a grocery or discount department store.

As part of the Giving Tree project, St. Andrew hosts a Christmas party each year for local foster families, with Santa and Mrs. Claus on hand to share the joy.

The 56 families that attended this year were treated to a meal plus face painting, music and the chance to create Christmas tree ornaments.

Christy Hendrix, director of caring ministries for the parish, said a photographer took and printed photos of some of the children (not all are permitted to be photographed) with jolly old St. Nick.

Volunteers and donors alike are moved by the experience of participating in the party and Giving Tree project, Hendrix said.

"It's such a good feeling to give to other people and families and children, especially the foster children who have been pulled out of their original homes," Hendrix said.

"They have to leave behind some of the things that were near and dear to them."

Among the guests at last year's celebration were two tiny newborn baby girls wrapped in pink blankets, she said.



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1st Baptist Church invites community to take a 'Walk through Bethlehem'



An elaborate backyard display of shepherds, angels and, of course, a manger scene, are some of the highlights of Pastor Roger Ball's 'Walk through Bethlehem' that brings home the Christmas message.

Pastor Roger Ball of First Baptist Church of Tempe is like many folks this time of year who relish the joy of Christmas and enjoy displaying it with elaborate lights and decorations.

In Pastor Ball's case though, you might say that joy is rather infectious: each year more than 45,000 people pass through the gate that leads to his backyard for a chance to "Walk through Bethlehem."

No, not the actual town located in the West Bank, some 5,000 miles from Tempe. This one's a lot closer to home and you won't be needing your passport or luggage.

The house, located at 618 W. Natal Circle, Mesa, stands at the end of a street on which most of the houses are festooned with intricate, colorful light displays. Snowmen, angels—even the Grinch—are among those you'll feast your eyes on if you're lucky enough to find a parking spot on an adjacent street.

At Pastor Ball's house, the gate stands open and as visitors enter, they see dozens of painted, wooden figures illuminated by tasteful lighting: shepherds, 100 sheep, angels, and of course, Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus in a manger. A recording on a loudspeaker tells the biblical Christmas story and speaks of the love God has for each person, and in particular, his presence among those who faced death in the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The elaborate "Walk through Bethlehem" project began in 2002,

when the nation was still reeling.

"Most people don't go to church," Pastor Ball said. "So we believe that this is a great way, a gentle way—a gracious way—to remind them what Christmas is all about."

There are no Bibles or tracts being passed out, no proselytizing, just the warmth of flames that blaze in a fire pit in the driveway where church members and staff sit laughing and sharing stories. The night *Wrangler News* visited, even Santa was in on the fun, sitting by the fire and getting a few laughs from children who happened by.

"We're not interested in beating people or bullying people," Pastor Ball said. "We just want a gracious presentation of the love of Christ. We think that the outreach to tell the story does that, so we've been doing it every year. It's well-received."

The project doesn't exactly go up in a flash. It takes 300 volunteers to set it up and dismantle it each year. When it began, there was a year's worth of planning involved and 150 volunteers. From drawing the scenes, construction of a cross and figures, artistic painting, electrical lighting and an asphalt path to a block wall extension and pool fence, plenty of sweat equity went into the effort.

Walk through Bethlehem is open each year, from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and is managed entirely by volunteers from First Baptist Church of Tempe.

— Joyce Coronel

Arizona Community Church helps seniors 'In-Joy' the holiday season

Story by Joyce Coronel
Photos by Mark Crudup

When Ollie the Trolley pulled up to Arizona Community Church last week, his passengers, 30 members of the In-Joy seniors group, were ready for action.

Barbara Schaper, who organized the outing, said the trolley driver followed a pre-planned route to take the seniors on a guided, three-hour tour past some of the homes in the area with elaborate Christmas light displays.

At a few points along the way, they got out to stretch their legs and take a closer look.

"We started out on Stanley Place which was phenomenal. That's right near the church," Schaper said. "We ended up at the [Mormon] temple in Mesa, which is just Wow."



Wes and Martha Pierce, founders of In-Joy back in 1998, said the ACC group meets weekly but that regular outings like the Trolley trip are part of the blend of fellowship, prayer and fun In-Joy has come to be known for.

Then there are the adventures a bit further from Tempe.

"We might be old but we have a lot of fun," Schaper said.

"We've done a South American cruise, a New England cruise and we just got back from Branson, Missouri."

A swing through Nashville and Memphis is planned for the spring. Trips closer to home involve outings to the Chandler Center for the Arts and local theaters and museums.

The regular Tuesday morning meetings are a big part of In-Joy's appeal, Martha said.

The program begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 11:45 a.m.

There's a set program with singing or a speaker, then prayer time and lunch.

The group takes a break during the summer months and won't be meeting during the last three weeks of December as members are busy with Christmas.

"Most of the people that attend are from our church but there's some from other churches.

Some people don't have a church," Martha said of In-Joy's meetings and trips.



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at our area's churches

Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural Road, Tempe, 480-491-2210
Saturday, Dec. 24: 3, 4:30 and 6 p.m. Candlelight Services
Sunday, Dec. 25: 10 a.m. service

First Baptist Church of Tempe, 4525 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe, 480-839-0926
Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve and candle-lighting service at 4, 6, and 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 25: Worship service at 11 a.m.

Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church, 1565 E. Warner Road, Tempe, 480-820-9944
Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:30 p.m.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 3450 W. Ray Road, Chandler, 480-899-1990
Saturday, Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (Children's liturgy), 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., Midnight Mass with prelude beginning at 11:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 25: 9 and 11 a.m. Masses

St. James the Apostle Episcopal Church, 975 E. Warner Road, Tempe, 480-345-3232
Saturday, Dec. 24: 6 p.m. Family Candlelight Service with Communion; 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion
Sunday, Dec. 25: 11 a.m. Traditional Christmas Service with Communion

Mission del Sol's Dec. 17 concert heralds in the Christmas season

Mission del Sol will be ringing in the Christmas season with a concert Saturday, Dec. 17, featuring Aletheia, a string quartet, as well as the church's chorale and bell ensemble.

Susan Hernandez, a church volunteer who's involved with the New Connections program, said the concert is a way to bring the community together for an evening of celebration, music and friendship.

Mission del Sol has undergone a change in leadership in recent years, something that can be a challenge to any church, she said. The concert, Hernandez said, is one way of bringing people in and reigniting energy.

"One of the biggest things we're trying to do is reach out to the community," Hernandez said. "Maybe we'll touch some people that don't have a faith community and they'll come to us. "Or maybe we can just reach out to our neighbors and enjoy time together

through the holidays because we're all like-minded and trying to celebrate this time of year. That would be our biggest reason why we're having the concert."

Mission del Sol staff reached out to the more than 20 churches in the vicinity to extend invitations to the Christmas concert, asking pastors to encourage their flock to attend.

They've also publicized the event of Facebook and local media.

Aletheia, the local string quartet on deck for the 90-minute evening of holiday entertainment, was formed in 2013 and takes its name from the Greek spirit of truth and wisdom.

The group performs at weddings, galas and other special events and has shared its gifts with the Tempe History Museum and Marcos de Niza High School.

Members of the quartet are teachers in public schools and private lesson studios who believe in the importance of music education.



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TEMPE Christmas Concert at Mission del Sol

Fry's hopes new online shopping strategy will 'Click' with busy, tech-savvy customers

Staff reports

If you shop at the Fry's Marketplace on Ray Road in Tempe, you may have noticed that six parking spots on the west side of the lot near one of the store's entrances were recently marked off for something called "Click List."

The spaces, designated with fresh white paint and a large sign, are part of the grocery chain's expansion into the online shopping trend.

Jo Ellen Lynn, director of public relations for Fry's Food stores in Arizona, said the service will be available at 21 Arizona stores starting now, with a total of 30 stores by the end of the month.

"It's a service our customers want and it's convenient. We've always prided ourselves on having the products and freshness and now we've got this customer service as well," Lynn said.

Click List is already available at the Tempe store at Rural and Southern. Kasey Anderson, manager of the Fry's located at Rural and Ray roads, said Click List will be available at her store Jan. 5. "We are still looking to hire additional employees



for it," Anderson said.

Customers go to FrysFood.com/clicklist and log into or create their digital account.

You'll also see images of sale items with their original and discount prices. For example, Diet Dr Pepper showed up as \$4.99 for a 12 pack, but this week, you can get it for \$4.

Fry's Click List has 40,000 items available for ordering, including fresh meat and produce. Once you create your shopping list, you schedule a pick-up date and time and pay for the order with a credit or debit card.

Same-day service is available.

Once you drive to the store, you pull into one of the Click List parking slots and call the number posted on the signs. A Fry's employee comes out and loads the groceries into your vehicle.

Shoppers also find that they aren't tempted to engage in impulse buying. With time to sit and think about their list and add to it when they remember items, they don't go shopping for milk and come home...without milk (be honest: how many times have you done that?)

Fry's charges \$4.95 for the service but the fee is waived for the first three orders. Each store participating in Click List has added about a dozen employees to do the shopping and carry out groceries.

But how do you know you're not getting apples with spots on them? Employees undergo special training and "they are taught to pick as they pick for their own families," Lynn said.

"You can even put notes like I like my bananas a little green. If you like steaks but you like them cut thinner or thicker, you can indicate that and they'll have them cut for you."

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Sports

Aztec wrestlers (front row:) Justin Sorenson, Armando Arellano, Cam Upshur, Zack Kvavle, Dylan Conner (holding trophy), Cole Bernstein, Coach Martinez; (middle row:) Coach Carmona, Mr. Johnson, Stephano Linares (white shirt), Bryce Nickel, Hunter Carmona, Diego Fill (orange jacket), Jacob Garcia (white shirt). Back row: Coach T (orange hat) Gabe Gulbransen, Tanner Cain, Nick Ruffalo, Vinny Dolce, Brandon Konecny, Jacob Santa Cruz, Matt Gable, Nic Harrell, Coach Clare. — Photo courtesy Coach Jim Martinez

14 returning wrestlers at Corona; Marcos' Coach Moro honored

By Alex Zener

The Aztecs are poised to have a great season, bolstered by the return of 14 wrestlers, four who placed at state last year and three more who qualified for state last season, as well as the addition of five transfer wrestlers with loads of experience,

"We have a strong team returning this year led by senior state winners **Hunter Carmona**, 3rd place; and **Nick Ruffalo**, 5th place; junior **Cam Upshur**, 5th place; and sophomore **Zack Kvavla**, 6th place," said Coach **Jim Martinez**. "We also return senior state qualifiers **Diego Fill** and **Cole Bernstein** and junior **Jacob Santa Cruz**."

In addition to these wrestlers who helped Corona finished sixth at state last year, the Aztecs return three more with varsity wrestling experience.

"We have depth and experience from the top to the bottom of the lineup with juniors **Armando Arellano** and **Ryan Chancellor** as well as senior **Michael Santa Cruz** returning this season," said Martinez. "Last year's varsity experience has prepared them to step in and contribute to our already strong competitive team."

The Aztecs are currently 18-0, including going 9-0 to win the Nate Johnson Invitational at Red Mountain High School Dec. 3.

"**Zack Kvavle**, competing in the-106-pound weight class, and **Dylan Conner** were both undefeated and selected to the All-Tournament team," said Martinez.

The Aztecs most recently defeated Mountain Ridge, 58-13, and Chandler, 52-24, on Dec. 7 at a dual meet held at Corona.

Corona should be even stronger later this month when several Seton Catholic wrestlers, who transferred to Corona last spring when their program was cancelled, can compete for Corona.

"The addition of five wrestlers from Seton who transferred to Corona but had to sit out the beginning of the season due to the AIA transfer rules, should make

our already strong team more competitive when the state tournament rolls around in Feb.," said Martinez. "They include two-time state champion **Brandon Konecny**; state champion **Vincent Dolce**; fourth place finisher **Jacob Garcia**; fifth place finisher **Bryce Nickel**; and **Mauricio Vega**."

Corona was scheduled to wrestle against Tucson and Basha in a dual meet Dec. 16 at Basha before competing at the Moon Valley Wrestling Invitational Dec. 16-17.

Several members of the team are scheduled to wrestle in The Clash in Rochester, Minn., Dec. 30-31.

The Aztecs will start 2017 competing in the Peoria Invitational Jan. 6-7 and then will have a dual meet against Mountain Pointe and Red Mountain on Jan. 11, just before wrestling some of the best teams in the state at the Flowing Wells Invitational Jan. 13-14.

Marcos' Coach Moro to receive top honors



Earl Putman Coach of the Year Award.

The National Football Foundation's Valley chapter will pay tribute to this year's 1A-6A State Championship Coaches, also recognizing several of Arizona's top senior players with Legends Namesake Awards.

Paul Moro of Marcos de Niza High School, who has emerged as the alltime winningest high school coach, with 332 victories, will receive the organization's

Tempe All City Awards

The Tempe All City Fall Sports Banquet was held Dec. 5 at the Phoenix Sheraton

In addition to Corona's Girls Volleyball State Championship team being honored several athletes from Corona, Marcos de Niza, McClintock and Tempe high schools were given awards.



All City awards ceremony included, from left, Schools Supt. Dr. Kenneth Baca; Marcus Naisant; Anthony Gomez-Nicastro; and Marcos de Niza Coach Paul Moro.

— Wrangler News photo by Mark Crudup

Corona Awardees included **Emma Lower** for girls golf, **Lauren Forte**, **Brooke Nuneviller** and **Emma West** for girls volleyball and **Riya Kalra** for Badminton. **Cameron Brice**, **Jacob Clemens** and **Kaden Riforgiate** were given awards for football while **Jacob Stewart** and **Benjamin Quon** were recognized for swimming.

Lower was instrumental in Corona's fifth place finish at the 2016 Division I Girls State Championship when she took eighth place in the state tournament. Lower, who was the No. 1 player on Corona's team the last two years, has signed a Letter of Intent to play golf at the University of

Hawaii-Manoa.

The 6-foot-4 Corona middle blocker Forte, a four-year varsity player, finished her senior season with 272 kills hitting 40% with 20 solo and 103 total blocks. She will be playing volleyball at California Berkeley this fall.

Nuneviller, in her junior year, is already a very skilled outside hitter who amassed 261 kills, 315 digs, 50 aces and 35 blocks in 99 sets while, West, another outstanding junior player as Corona's opposite ended her junior season with 258 kills, 67 blocks and 43 digs.

Brice, the Aztecs leading rusher who ran for 981 yards or close to 100 yards a game, received an award for his offensive football skills.

Clemens was recognized for his defensive football prowess with 62 solo and 108 total tackles or almost 11 tackles per game plus two interceptions as was Riforgiate for his 51 solo and 88 total blocks plus four sacks and one interception.

Sophie Velitchkov and **Jacob Hoo** from McClintock were given awards for swimming. Hoo took second place in the DII one meter diving competition with a final score of 454.30 and Velitchkov was awarded for the 50 freestyle event.

Tyrese Green was recognized for his offensive skills as running back and **Quintin Matthews** for his defensive silks as defensive back from the Charger's football team.

Marcos de Niza had three athletes receive awards for their play on the No. 6 ranked DII football team: **Marcus Naisant**, **Nazareth Greer** and, **Anthony Gomez-Nicastro**.

Naisant compiled 52 receptions for 971 yards and 10 receiving touchdowns for the Padres. He also rushed for two touchdowns. Greer, the starting quarterback for the past three years, completed 221 passes his senior season for a total of 3530 yards, an average of 294 yards per game, scoring 24 touchdowns.

Gomez-Nicastro was recognized for his linebacker defensive skill set. He played in all 12 games his senior

season amassing 79 solo and 113 total tackles or over nine tackles a game.

My-King Johnson from Tempe High School was given an award for his defensive football skills his senior season. Johnson, who played in all 10 games for the Buffaloes was credited with an amazing 21.5 quarterback sacks, 51 solo and 89 total tackles.

As of Dec. 6, it was reported by gridironarizona.com that Johnson had offers from Arizona, Arizona State, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Arizona, Oregon, Texas A&M, UCLA, UNLV and Utah State but has not yet committed.

Corona Girls Basketball

Corona basketball history will experience a "Re-Peat," of sorts, this season with two Peat siblings playing on the same team at the same time. Instead of Andrus and Cassius on the boys basketball team, the girls basketball team has the sister duo of senior Leilani Peat and freshman Maya Peat lighting up the scoreboard for the Aztecs.

Leilani Peat, the leading scorer for the Aztecs last season at over 12 points a game, also averaged eight rebounds, almost three assists, more than two steals and close to two blocks a game. She is still leading the team in points scored this season but has increased her assist average to close to four a game.

Making her presence known on the court is 6-foot-3 freshman **Maya Peat**, who is averaging close to 10 points and six rebounds a game.

Corona started the season playing in the Marcos de Niza Tournament Nov.22-25, winning their first three games: Marcos de Niza 63-27; Cibola 58-33; and Coronado 73-28 before losing to Mesa and Mountain Pointe.

"Leilani Peat was named to the All-Tournament team after scoring 46 points with 30 rebounds, 22 assists and seven blocks over the five games," said Coach **Andrew**

Strom.

Including Leilani Peat, Strom has an experienced team, having returned seven players, four who either started or played significant minutes in all 29 games last season: **Kiara El Amin**, **Hope Frazier**, **Angelica Lopez**, **Aarushi Sangwan**, **Nicole Whitaker** and **Ellyse Olson**.

Since the Marcos tournament, the Aztecs have won four out of their last six games, including a 65-36 win over Mountain View and a 63-41 win over Boulder Creek.

"We played well against Mountain View," said Strom. "Leilani had a double double with 14 points and 10 assists while Maya had 12 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore newcomer **Justys Irish Holmes** scored 11 point while Hope Frazier and Angelica Lopez had nine points each. "It was a tough loss to North 52-48 on Dec. 1 but I was proud of the way the team bounced back against Copper Canyon the following night to win by 14 points, 43-29."

"Senior El Amin played a great game scoring a team-high 12 points against Copper Canyon," said Strom.

"We have different girls stepping up every game," said Strom. "Although Leilani had 17 points, Justys Irish Holmes scored 13, Hope Frazier 12 and Maya Peat 11 in our win over Boulder Creek Dec. 6."

Freshman **Taylor Davis** has stepped it up on the court as well averaging close to six points a game with a high of 13 points in the Aztecs 55-46 loss to Mountain Point Nov. 29.

Junior **Ashley Chau** and sophomore **Brennen Agnew** have both seen time on the court and are expected to contribute to the team's success off the bench as the season progresses.

Corona had two games scheduled before: Dec. 13 at Basha and Dec. 16 at home against Highland. The Aztecs first game in 2017 will be at home against Desert Ridge Jan. 6 followed by a game at Gilbert Jan. 10 and one at Mountain Pointe Jan. 13.

Roots & Boots Featuring Pam Tillis, Sammy Kershaw and Collin Raye
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Future for Kids tax-credit opportunity

Tempe-based Future for Kids has issued a reminder that it's time again to make tax-credit decisions, and the organization hopes Wrangler News readers will include FFK among the recipients they consider this year.

Joint tax filers can claim up to \$800; single filers up to \$400. Tax credit contributions to FFK, along with other designated gifts, go 100 percent to the organization. In addition, Future for Kids will receive a 25 percent matching grant, up to \$3,750 collectively per organization. Additional bonus grants ranging from \$3,500 (first place) to \$500 (seventh place) will be awarded to the charity partners who raise the most donations through this year's challenge. Donations may be made online at www.ec70phx.com/catalog/say-donation.

Information: 480-947-8131.

60-day review open for Kyrene study materials

The Kyrene Governing Board has approved a 60-day review of English Language Arts educational resources for grades 6 through 8. The public review runs now until March 14, so that teachers and the community can review materials under consideration for adoption for the 2017-18 school year and beyond.

The materials under review are "Harcourt Collections" and "Pearson My Perspectives." Hard copies of the materials will be on display in each Kyrene middle school and at the district 8700 S.

Kyrene Road, Tempe.

Material reviews Monday through Friday can be done at the district office 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with no appointment necessary; however, due to the location of the materials at schools, appointments should be made with the front office. School addresses and phone numbers are available at Kyrene.org.

After March 14, staff and community comments will be compiled and reviewed by the resource review committee, which is comprised of teachers from each of the 25 Kyrene schools, representing K-8 grade levels. The committee will make a recommendation to the Governing Board in the spring regarding resource adoption.

Public safety memorial at Tempe Beach Park

Tempe firefighters and police officers who have died in the line of duty now have a permanent place in the hearts, minds and memories of the residents they served.

The departed heroes, including three canine officers, were honored at dedication ceremonies earlier this month at Tempe Beach Park, where a Public Safety Memorial now stands.

The monument not only serves as a tribute to the fallen heroes but provides a place where families, friends and the community can come together to honor them.

The Tempe Police Department has lost five officers since 1919; Tempe Fire, Medical Rescue has lost one firefighter. "Our police and firefighters truly help hold our community together," said Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell.

"They keep our community at peace. They keep

our children safe, our traffic moving and so much more."

Added Mitchell:

"In order to do this, these fearless defenders put their lives on the line every day. The safety memorial is a way we can honor those who gave their all to keeping us safe."

"This memorial is a reminder of the commitment our public service members make each day to protect and to serve us," said Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Fire Chief Greg Ruiz.

"It will forever be a reminder of the sacrifices made in the past and the sacrifices we hope will never be made again in the future."

Go Fund Me account for Aprende student

Aprende Middle School Principal Renee Kory and Assistant Principal Tammy Thaete, along with school staff, have launched a Go Fund Me campaign for Hozhoonii Suer, a student who was recently diagnosed with childhood leukemia.

The group also is working with the Kyrene Family Resource Center to raise funds.

Contributions can be made at www.gofundme.com/6g-battling-leukemia

Western film trio at Tempe arts center Feb. 1-3

Tickets are on sale for a Western Pop Film Festival, coming to Tempe Center for the Arts, Feb. 1-3. Three films will be featured: *The Searchers*, *Unforgiven* and *Django Unchained*. Tickets are \$5.

Art Center staff say a discussion will follow each film. Go to tempe.gov and click on Art Center link.



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Celebration of Unity and Multicultural Festival honor Chandler's heritage and diversity

Each January, the City of Chandler holds a series of events – the Celebration of Unity – to honor the spirit, ideals, life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the civil rights movement.



The signature event is the annual Chandler Multicultural Festival that highlights the diversity of our community through cultural music, dance, art and more. Now in its 22nd year, the 2017 Multicultural Festival is free and will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Chandler Fashion Center Mall, 3111 W. Chandler Blvd. Stop by for two stages of entertainment and performances by our youth Creative Expression Competition winners. Other Celebration of Unity events include:

- **Life in a Jar: The Play**
Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.
Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. The play tells the courageous story of Irene Sendler, a Polish Catholic woman who saved Jewish children's lives during the Holocaust.
- **Drumline Live**
Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, at 8 p.m.
Chandler Center for the Art, 250 N. Arizona Ave. This show-stopping attraction created by the team behind the hit movie "Drumline" brings the Historically Black College and University marching band tradition to the theatrical stage. With riveting rhythms and bold beats, this versatile group of musicians and dancers delivers explosive energy and athleticism to the marching band experience. For tickets visit chandlercenter.org.

If you would like more information on any of these events, please call 782-2214 or visit chandleraz.gov/unity.

Christmas Tree Recycling Dec. 26 - Jan. 13



The City of Chandler collects Christmas trees and chips them into mulch, which is used in park landscaping projects. The trees can be collected from your home or they can be dropped off at several locations throughout the City between Dec. 26 and Jan. 13. A map of drop-off sites is online at chandleraz.gov/recycle or call 782-3510 for details.

For curbside Christmas tree collection, place your tree at the edge of your property (no more than 4 ft. behind the sidewalk) by 6 a.m. on your recycle day between Dec. 26 and Jan. 13. Do not place the tree in your recycling or trash can, in the street, on the sidewalk or in a trash bag. And remember to remove the tree stand and any nails, ornaments, lights and garland.

Live potted Christmas trees can be donated for replanting at City parks by dropping them off at the City's Community Center or schedule a pickup by calling 782-2745.

Weigh in on Chandler's financial policies through budget survey, public meetings

Chandler's budget is a collaborative effort between the City Council, City Manager and City Staff, and the Citizens of Chandler. The budget incorporates multiple funds for specific uses. Many of the services provided to Chandler residents are financed through the General Fund. This fund will be a primary focus of the budget meetings and

is used to support many of the services residents rely upon most, including police and fire services, libraries, maintenance of city streets, parks and other infrastructure. The majority of General Fund revenues come from local City sales tax and state-shared revenues, with smaller amounts from fees, fines and charges for services. The City of Chandler

encourages citizen input in its annual budget process; feedback that is taken into consideration when formulating the City's financial plan. To participate in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Citizen Budget Survey (available through Dec. 31) and to view the public meeting schedule, visit chandleraz.gov/budget.

EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 17 Santa's House, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 782-2665
- 22 Holiday Bazaar Downtown Chandler Farmers Market, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539
- 22 Family Flicks featuring "Elf," Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 855-3539

Trash & recycling collection unchanged by Christmas holiday and will occur as scheduled.

- 27 Snow Day, Environmental Education Center, 782-2890

- 27-31 Zoppé, An Italian Family Circus, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

JANUARY

Trash & recycling collection unchanged by New Year's holiday and will occur as scheduled.

- 2-8 Zoppé, An Italian Family Circus, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

- 7 Art of the Internment Camp: Culture Behind Barbed Wire, Sunset Library, 782-2800

- 12 City Council Meeting & New Council Installation, Council Chambers, 782-2180

- 12 Life in a Jar – The Play, Center for the Arts, 782-2214

- 13 Teen Talent Competition, Chandler Center for the Arts, 782-2746

- 13-15 Chandler International Film Festival, SoHo 63, 398-0662

- 14 America in Times of Conflict: Remembering the Korean War, Downtown Library, 782-2800

- 14 Multicultural Festival, Chandler Fashion Center, 782-2214

- 15 Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

- 19 Sonoran Sunset Series featuring Battle of the Bands Winner, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2889

- 21 Celebration Plaza Inductions, Tumbleweed Park, 782-2717

- 21 Nozomi Park History Kiosk Dedication, Nozomi Park, 782-2717

- 22 The King: The Music of Elvis, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

- 23 America in Times of Conflict: Film + Forum: The Day the Earth Stood Still, Senior Center, 782-2800

- 23 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180

- 26 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

- 27 Star Party, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2889

- 27 Roots & Boots, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

- 28 Drumline Live, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

- 29 Chandler Symphony Orchestra, Center for the Arts, 782-2680

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

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Ring in the holidays — Fred Christman of Arizona Mortgage Specialists and Kris Cartwright of United Mortgage Group are among area Realtors ringing the Salvation Army bell again this year.

TO OUR READERS

This issue wraps up our 2016 publication schedule, however we will be in the office M-F Dec. 19-23, so be sure to call or email us with ad changes and/or article and photo content to make sure we have them in time for our first issue of January. **We will be on vacation for a week starting Monday, Dec. 26.**

In the meantime, we offer you and your loved ones our wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

And of course our sincere thanks for your 25-plus years of support.

Kirkland

From Page 1

to our longtime readers that we've tried hard to bring recognition to the businesses with which we have an ongoing relationship.

One of those is Great Harvest Bakery, where you'll frequently find us at lunchtime or for a breakfast roll and coffee before we head into our office down the street.

Recognizing that a considerable amount of competition has sprung up in our area, and continues to do so, we know that the owners who have put their enthusiasm, know-how and energy into operating Great Harvest for the past seven years realize the importance of establishing relationships with their customers and the surrounding community.

Many of the bakery's repeat visitors, of course, already know about the wholesome, straight-from-the-farm ingredients that go into Great Harvest's lovingly produced breads, rolls, sandwiches and other edibles. And they know that it's a family-built, family-run enterprise, which we believe brings something special to this community.

There are many other small businesses whose contributions to our community we likewise support, and we encourage you to do the same.

Despite Tempe's seemingly unstoppable trajectory toward the future, we'd like to think that the same kinds of locally committed businesses that are here today will be here tomorrow, as well—for us, for our families and for those who follow us into a vibrant marketplace of the future that keeps pace with the times but retains its same "mom and pop" spirit of enterprise.

Last word . . . Tempe City Council seeking options to restore configuration on McClintock Drive, keep bike lanes

By Mark Mitchell, Randy Keating and Robin Arredondo-Savage

As a forward-looking city, Tempe strives to provide a high quality of life for all of its residents. Since the Tempe in Motion program was launched over 20 years ago, our aspiration has been to become a multi-modal city which offers Tempeans a variety of ways to get to and from the places that make up their daily lives.

The desired outcome is self-evident. The more people walking, taking public transportation or riding bikes reduces the number of cars on the street, easing traffic congestion and pollution.

Bicycle lanes are important to the development of every city. Tempe has over 150 miles of bike lanes, criss-crossing from ASU all the way south to the Tempe Lakes.

This has earned Tempe numerous awards and recognitions as one of the most bike-friendly cities in the country.

We are proud of the bicycle infrastructure that has strongly contributed to making Tempe the best place in the Valley to live, work and raise a family.

The presence of bike lanes is a necessity because statistics clearly show that riding in a bike lane is safer than is riding on the sidewalk. Bikes and cars can, and should, share the road.

The removal of a traffic lane on McClintock Road has been the source of much debate over the past year. Data from the City shows on average the bike lanes have about a dozen daily users.

The challenge we face is how to provide safe spaces for those traveling on bicycles while balancing the 25,000-30,000 automobiles that move north and south on McClintock each and every day. Many

residents have questioned the need for the newer McClintock lanes considering the presence of existing bike lane options on College, Country Club and Lakeshore.

Lack of ridership isn't the only concern. Many residents have voiced concerns about traffic delays, the safety of students near and around school zones, increased pollution generated from congestion and the challenge of being able to comfortably enter and exit surrounding neighborhoods and businesses along McClintock.

The goal of multi-modal infrastructure is to make it easier to get around, yet travel times on McClintock have increased. This is particularly evident heading south in the evening during rush hour. For example, data collected in October showed it took about 65% longer to travel from University to Baseline southbound during the afternoon rush hour as compared to February 2014.

The current conditions on McClintock Drive aren't ideal for motorists or bicyclists.

We understand your frustration, and hope to do something about it. We believe the key is to address the concerns of neighbors who travel McClintock Drive by car, while accommodating bike safety needs.

That is why we've directed staff to propose options that will restore the street to its original configuration and maintain a bike lane.

There will be upcoming opportunities for public input, and you have our commitment that Council will examine every option carefully. Please share your thoughts on this issue by emailing CouncilCommunicator@Tempe.gov

Mark Mitchell is mayor of Tempe. Robin Arredondo-Savage is vice mayor and Randy Keating is a councilmember.

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