

Sept. 5 - 18, 2015  
Vol. 26, No.17

# Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read Local.

**AS WE REMEMBER 9/11,**  
a family is still recovering  
from the tragedy that changed  
their lives. Exclusive interview

with Donna and Andrew Bird

By Joyce Coronel, Page 8

## ALSO INSIDE . . .

- Keeping our schools ship-shape, 24/7  
By Diana Whittle, Page 6
- Helmets for pitchers a growing topic  
By Kody Acevedo, Page 4

Cover photo by Joyce Coronel

# DESIGN QUESTIONS?

See this issue's center spread, Pages 14-15, for answers to questions about updating your home or office decor from the design experts at AZ Flooring & Interiors

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## Concern mounts for direct hits to pitchers Area Little League executive joins a growing call for head protection

By Kody Acevedo

**A**s you read this, you'll probably blink at least once. While you were blinking, a 95-mph fastball has traveled 48 feet from the mound to home plate.

That's the kind of speed professional baseball players have to face every time they're at bat. Because of that, they are required to wear a helmet to protect their head.

But what about the pitchers?

A 95-mph fastball flies off the bat at over 100 mph.

So why are they allowed to stand only 60 feet, six inches away from the batter without wearing any sort of protective head gear?

It's a question being faced not only by Major League owners and coaches, but one now being discussed by the coaches and parents of younger players, from Little League to high school.

Since 2013, seven Major League pitchers have been injured by line drives to the head, traveling at, well, eye-blinking speed. The injuries have varied from concussions to fractures, but all have resulted in time on the disabled list.

The latest pitcher to join the club was Yankees starter Bryan Mitchell, who was smacked in the face with a line drive off the bat of Minnesota Twins batter Eduardo Nunez during a game Aug. 17.

Mitchell was sidelined for only a week with a small nasal fracture. The Yankees activated him on Aug. 28, and he pitched an inning and a third against the Atlanta Braves.

Mitchell was lucky.

The situation could have been a lot worse.

He could have wound up like Arizona Diamondbacks' pitcher Evan Marshall, who recently spent two weeks in the hospital after he was



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struck in the head on Aug. 3 while pitching in a game for Triple-A Reno.

Marshall's situation was so bad he had emergency surgery to reduce the swelling in his brain. Reports said his doctors weren't sure if he was going to make it through the first night.

But three weeks later, Marshall walked into the Diamondbacks clubhouse and shook hands with his teammates.

He even tried to convince team doctors that he could make it back before the end of the season.

Realistically, he probably won't be back until 2016.

For the Diamondbacks, it's an all-too familiar situation.

Before Marshall, starter Archie Bradley suffered a blow to the face back on April 28 in another similar incident.

In Bradley's case, he was out almost three weeks, but went on to make four more starts before succumbing to a shoulder injury.

Pitchers risk their lives every time they step on the mound. They are armed with only a glove and, while it does offer some degree of protection, it won't protect them from a line drive to

the head.

The question is: What can the league do to protect its pitchers?

Major League Baseball is still trying to answer that question, but many feel that pitchers should be mandated to wear a protective hat every time they take the mound.

Start with Little League. Chandler American Little League President Jon Ladd said that's the best way to get players adjusted to the new headwear.

"It's going to affect the pitcher's performance until they get used to it," Ladd said. "So there will be some growing pains."

But, Ladd added, he doesn't see any good in the hat that's already been designed. In fact, only one pitcher in MLB, Alex Torres, is wearing a protective hat.

Torres started wearing the hat in 2013 when he was a member of the Tampa Bay Rays.

It started when Torres came in to relieve his teammate of the time, Alex Cobb, who had to be removed from the game after taking a line drive to the head.

Torres told reporters at the time that the image of Cobb

laying on the ground holding his head has stuck with him ever sense.

The padded hat that Torres wears was designed, in part, by former Diamondbacks' pitcher Brandon McCarthy.

But McCarthy, who needed brain surgery after being struck in the head with a line drive in 2012 when he pitched for Arizona, still doesn't wear the hat when he pitches.

He even mentioned on Twitter last year that the hat is "not ready" when asked what he thought about MLB's design for the cap.

Ladd said the hat doesn't protect the face, where most injuries occur.

"The pitcher's face is always turned toward the plate," Ladd said. "It would be great if they could find a solution other than wearing a catcher's style mask."

Ladd makes a good point. Still, some protection is better than no protection.

If the right solution presented itself, Ladd would be all for it. Said Ladd:

"If somebody had a solution to make it safer, we would definitely try it."

## Chandler Little Leaguers head to Taiwan for cultural exchange

**F**ifteen 12-year-old students with the Chandler National Little League will head to Tainan City, Taiwan, in late September as part of a 2-week cultural exchange program.

The first week will include team practices and an exhibition game with the winner of the Tainan Little League Team championship series.

The second week will be used to tour the country's cultural sites and spend time with host families.

The visit is being organized by the city of Chandler, Tainan City, the local Taiwanese community

and coaches from the Chandler National Little League.

The visit is funded by donations from the community and the students' families. In addition, staff from Chandler's Economic Development Department is working with Tainan City to explore possible business opportunities as a part of this international partnership.

Chandler All-Stars youth delegation and their coaches and families, program sponsors, Chandler Councilmember Jack Sellers, city of Chandler Diversity and Economic Development staff.



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# At Kyrene schools, a behind-the-scenes team works to keep campuses safe and functioning 24/7 On-call status never ends for these maintenance 'superheroes'



Jim Flannery undertakes an emergency repair under cover of darkness at Kyrene del Norte Elementary School.

— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

By Diana Whittle

Before the teachers and students arrive at Kyrene del Norte Elementary School, Jim Flannery begins his day as the site-support technician about 6:30 a.m.

Everyday tasks that never change include preparing the campus for the arrival of students —hanging the flags, putting out signs and directives for vehicles, and walking the campus to look for any hazards or trash.

Flannery knows that each day also will bring unexpected tasks—moving furniture in an office, acting as a crossing guard until one is hired, even temporarily serving as a cafeteria monitor during the daily breakfast and lunch meals.

Other duties vary from day-to-day—or from minute-to-minute. With close to 500 students enrolled at Norte and nearly 60 staff members, Flannery says he really doesn't have a typical day.

“My main responsibility is to maintain a safe, clean and comfortable environment—both inside and outside the campus—for students, staff and community members,” said Flannery.

Flannery is the “go-to-guy” for any number of varied requests to keep the school in top condition and the classrooms prepared so that learning can take place.

His role is duplicated at each of the 25 schools in the Kyrene district. At every school, there is a site support

— HEROES, Page 7

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“ Jim is an essential person to everybody at the school, and he treats the school like his own home in the way that he maintains it.”

— Donita Pokatello, school secretary

## Heroes

From Page 6

technician or building manager, as they are called at middle schools—but please don't refer to them as janitors.

“At Norte we have a cleaning crew that comes in at night,” explains Flannery—even though he has been called upon to do cleaning in the case of an accident.

Generally, Flannery is on the move and in a typical day he guesses he walks between 12 to 15 miles around the campus and sometimes gets requests as he goes along. There is also an on-line capability for maintenance requests, and, in the last year he responded to 497 of those.

“I then either take care of the items myself, or coordinate the repair of items I can't take care of with our Facilities Department and its extremely supportive staff,” said Flannery.

He's been with Kyrene for five years—starting first as a part-time bus driver at age 50. It was a job he took feeling he retired too early, after selling a business he owned; but, he wasn't sure he wanted full-time work.

“I was familiar with the district as both of my daughters attended Kyrene schools,” said Flannery, “and I liked the environment.”

Now he's imbedded in the Kyrene district—literally—as he lives with his wife on the campus of Kyrene de las Manitas and assists the school at night with any on-call demands. This arrangement is a separate contract from the one he has with Norte.

Despite the daily demands of his position, Flannery is very satisfied with the work.

“I take pride in the upkeep and cleanliness of the facility itself, and being able to assist behind the scenes with our administrators, teachers and other support staff, to provide a great learning environment for all the students,” said Flannery.

His dedication earns him high praise from Donita Pokatello, who is the school secretary to Norte's principal Tracey Pastor.

“Jim is an essential person to everybody at the school,” said Pokatello, “and he treats the school like his own home in the way that he maintains it.”

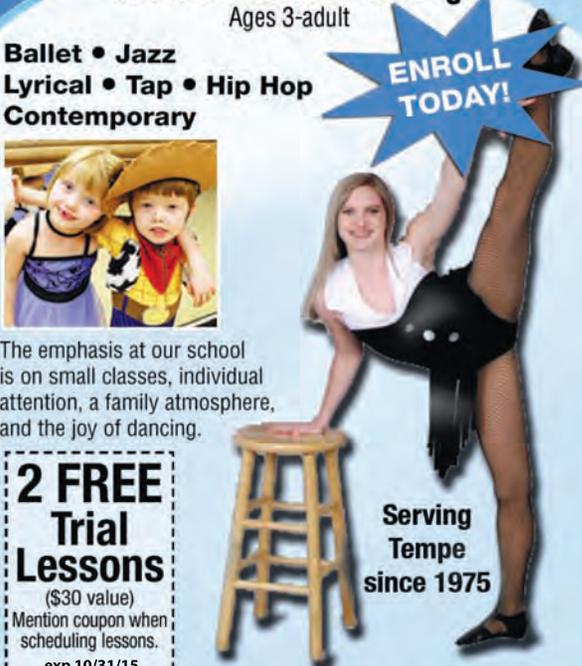
The conversation with Flannery and Pokatello comes to an abrupt end as the fire alarm sounds for a practice drill. Duty calls and Flannery goes on his way to turn off the alarm, help restore order and let classes resume.

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# 9/11 tragedy forever altered the course of family's life

## Now Tempean Andrew Bird devotes his days to replicating the man his father was

Story and photo by Joyce Coronel

**T**empe businessman Andrew Bird remembers the days when his father seemed invincible.

"I always knew he was my hero," Bird said, looking through old family photos. His father, Gary Bird, was among those who perished in the World Trade Center towers in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the 14th anniversary of which is being observed. this month.

In 1995, the family had just moved into South Tempe's Tally Ho Farms neighborhood. Andrew and his father were horseback riding through a nearby park.

"I was, like, 7. I jumped on Danny, our younger thoroughbred. He was on Lil, the mom, and we're riding through the park. Danny gets spooked and she starts galloping through there. I was holding on for dear life," Andrew recalled.

Then, says Andrew:

"I see (my dad) coming up behind me; he's just holding his hat, riding. He grabs the reins, yanks them back and stops, and I looked up at him and there was this glow. He smiled at me and I was, like, 'You are a magical man.'

"Those were the scariest moments of my life. He came out of nowhere and made it stop."

When the 9/11 attacks took place a few years later, Andrew was only 13 years old, and the enormous reality of what transpired was difficult to comprehend. For years, he struggled. Looking back, he can see that, without realizing it, his father had imparted life lessons.

Examining a faded photograph of his father in younger years, he sees a bit of himself.

"Look at this guy. Look at the face. It's not a fake smile. You can tell this guy is genuine, this guy is real. You can tell he has

a good heart."

Like many millennials, Andrew has a tattoo, only this one is stunningly unique. It's an image of his father, one that is hidden under his shirt and stays close to his heart.

"The adult I am, I notice that I'm not who I thought I was. I'm not who I was as a teenager, I'm not who I was as an early

There were some tough times with addiction, but Andrew is past that now and has made a conscious effort to serve others through the recovery community he became involved in four years ago this month. In taking the focus off himself, he's discovered how good it feels to serve others.

"My first 2½ years I spent personally recovering, and then everything that I was given, I gave back. I helped probably 15 or so guys—a couple dozen guys—stay clean," Andrew said.

Giving back was something integral to Gary Bird's life. A man who could rightfully be called "Mr. Tempe," Gary was active in Tempe Jaycees, Tempe Boys and Girls Club and Kiwanis. Early in their marriage, Donna said he came home one night and told her he'd put the Tempe Boys and Girls Club payroll on their credit card.

"The Boys and Girls club might have not existed had Gary not taken that step. He just said, 'This is too important not to do this.' That's how invested he was in some of those organizations,"

Donna said.

To continue that legacy, she's been the benefactor in a scholarship program and other efforts to improve the lives of young people.

As the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks approaches, Donna reflected on how her South Tempe neighbors reached out in ways that still touch her heart. One family offered to care for Gary's horses. Others brought meals or helped get Andrew and his 15-year-old sister to activities.

Her eyes still fill with tears when she recalls the day of her husband's funeral. Someone in the neighborhood had painstakingly tied three white, helium-filled balloons to every mailbox up and down the mile-and-a-half-long street.

"To do something like that," she said—"Beautiful."



Andrew Bird recalls his dad, Gary, as 'a magical man' who became his lifelong hero.

adult. The real me—that I love being, that I'm comfortable being, that I'm proud of being— is a man that's almost identical to who he was," Andrew said.

Donna, Andrew's mother and now retired attorney, sees a striking resemblance in character between her son and the husband she lost. "I try always to put (Andrew) in touch with how much he's like his dad, in what respects. Not in every single respect—no two people are alike—but he has so many of his dad's endearing qualities, that intensity, that charm and a great sense of humor," Donna said.

"Part of me doesn't believe it. But that's part of the reason why I got this thing," Andrew said, recalling and now pointing to the tattoo. "It's a constant reminder of the angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other. "Because I've been both. It's a reminder of who I need to strive to be."

## Plans for Tempe's Lake Country Village up for discussion at Sept. 16 meeting

Over the last several years, there has been significant discussion and interest from area residents regarding plans for the Lake Country Village site, located at 1030 E. Baseline, on the northwest corner of Lakeshore and Baseline.

Lake Country Village was previously a retail shopping center dating back to the mid-1970s.

The redevelopment portion of the parcel covers 18 acres of the 25-acre site and is zoned for commercial with a use permit to allow for a multi-family development as a component.

A meeting was held in February for area residents to share ideas and input about Lake Country Village as well as note any issues and concerns regarding its redevelopment.

Residents will have an opportunity again on Wednesday, Sept. 16, to learn more about the proposal and hear an update on the project's status.

Time to provide further input into the design, including residential and commercial development, traffic and landscape, also will be allotted.

The meeting will be an open house

format with no formal presentation. Attendees can stop by any time between 7 and 8:30 pm.

All residents are welcome.

Tempe officials note the importance of knowing that the city is neither the owner nor the developer of the property.

To whatever extent possible, any future redevelopment should serve as an amenity for the surrounding area.

The mayor and members of the Tempe City Council have been invited to attend, according to Tempe Public Information Manager Nikki Ripley, and it is possible that a quorum of the council may be present.

However, she pointed out, no city business will be conducted and no action will be taken. This is not a meeting of the City Council. Due to pending litigation, no council members will participate.

For questions in advance of the open house, contact Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services, at shauna\_warner@tempe.gov or 480-350-8883.

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# If you ever thought your library isn't relevant any more — well, think again

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, and west Chandler's Sunset branch location is issuing a reminder that, if you don't have a library card, now is the time to get one.

There is no fee associated with getting a library card, according to Brenda Brown, Chandler's director of cultural affairs.

With a card, patrons can open the door to a wide world of information and take advantage of myriad services—some well known, some surprisingly not so much, said Brown.

Here's a partial list of things you can do at the Sunset branch and any of the city's other three public library locations:

Check out books, magazines, CDs and DVDs (and place a hold on popular titles);

Use the library's job center (with trained staff and volunteers to provide assistance);

Use its computers and access free wi-fi;  
Reserve study rooms and meeting areas;  
Attend programming for youth of all ages, including story times for young children and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) workshops for youth;

Participate in adult classes and programs;  
Learn English in a supportive, immersive environment;

Take citizenship workshops;  
Print or photocopy documents (for a nominal fee);

Send a fax anywhere in the U.S., and;  
Get expert advice on your next read, research paper or anything library-related.

The list is long but it represents only some of the activities and services a person can access in

person at the Sunset branch or any of the other three Chandler libraries.

Cardholders also have access to an entire library of resources online 24/7, including:

- E-books and e-magazines
- Music downloads through the Freegal app
- Language-learning programs (learn Spanish, or French, or even Pirate)
- Consumer reports
- Chilton auto repair manuals
- Reference USA list-generation database
- Business databases
- Genealogy databases
- Elementary school-age resources for learning
- Online courses on a variety of subjects
- Legal forms
- And more...

Said Brown:

"Libraries have changed with the times. We are not your grandmother's library.

"Chandler libraries are technologically modern and offer more electronically based services than ever before.

"Our offerings are modern and have evolved to meet our cardholders where they are, whether that is inside one of our library branches, at their home, in their favorite coffee shop, or wherever their mobile lifestyle takes them.

"We also offer free access to expert librarians who are ready to help every step of the way, no matter a person's age or learning level."

To sign up for a library card, stop by the Sunset branch or go online and visit [chandlerlibrary.org](http://chandlerlibrary.org). The Sunset branch library is on the north side of Ray Road, just east of Rural Road.



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# Kinder Kampers

Kinder Kamps are now history for the year at St. John Bosco Catholic School, but the popular summer diversion should be on target again next year. Say school planners, it's a great way for new students to get used to what the upcoming school year will entail, introducing them to the kindergarten classroom and teachers gradually, before the first day of school. In Kinder Kamp, entering tykes learn reading skills and concepts, foundation skills for understanding mathematics, D'Nealian handwriting, number/letter recognition, problem solving/critical thinking. While they're learning, kindergartners also learn social skills, get an intro to Spanish, enjoy story time, participate in arts and crafts and more. To help plan your kids' summertime schedule for next year well in advance, call 480-219-4848.

— Wrangler News photos





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# Always something to G.A.I.N. when Tempe police, neighbors join for annual observance

Tempe once again will join the now 31-year-old nationwide campaign designed to bring neighborhoods—and neighbors—together in an ongoing, collaborative fight against crime.

The program, known as Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods, or G.A.I.N., encourages communities to muster support for neighborhood gatherings one night of the year.

Many states hold their events in August; Texas, Florida and some Arizona cities schedule G.A.I.N. nights during October to bypass one of the hottest months of the year.

The observance focuses on promoting safety and communication, as well as celebrating the successes of crime prevention through community involvement.

Prior to the event, which will be held citywide from 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, neighborhood leaders will be invited to join elected officials, city of Tempe Neighborhood Services staff and police employees at a G.A.I.N. kickoff/planning event.

Said Tempe Assistant Chief John Rush:

“G.A.I.N. is a powerful demonstration of our city’s community-oriented approach to public safety. The

continued success of G.A.I.N. is due to the ongoing commitment and inspired leadership by a variety of people across Tempe.”

Tempe locations of Salt River Project, Paul’s ACE Hardware, Target Headquarters and Sub Factory, are hosting this year’s observance.

According to Tempe PD spokeswoman Molly Enright, Tempe residents last year hosted nearly 100 G.A.I.N. parties, attended by 4,000 residents. Tempe Crime Prevention officers partner each year with single-family-home neighborhoods as well as apartment complexes to host G.A.I.N. events.

Tempe reaches out well in advance to neighborhood leaders by hosting a kickoff/preparation meeting to plan ahead. This year’s planning meeting was held Aug. 26.

At that session, neighborhood leaders learned about the latest crime prevention resources and technology, and received tips on how to connect with neighbors to host a successful G.A.I.N. party, as well as how to encourage neighborhood formation of a Block Watch program.

Information from the initial meeting was designed to be shared during G.A.I.N. events.

It also was designed to be used in programs designed to connect with neighbors throughout the year.

Neighborhood leaders selected at the planning sessions were told how their efforts can be mustered to create an inclusive, well attended, fun and successful G.A.I.N. Night event.

Sponsor-donated raffle prizes, including gate and window locks, are being offered to help encourage attendance, as are opportunities to win vehicle and staff visits from the Fire, Police, and Public Works departments.

Said Chief Rush:

“Getting to know your neighbors is an important step toward preventing crime. Those who know and care about each other are aware of work and travel schedules, and can watch each other’s homes.

“Neighbors who enjoy good relationships are more comfortable reporting crime and suspicious activity to the police, and are more likely to work together to keep a great quality of life in their neighborhood.

Information: [www.tempe.gov/GAIN](http://www.tempe.gov/GAIN) or 480-350-8234.



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- Show you care about your child’s happiness and well being. When children have parents who listen to their feelings and concerns are more likely to say “no” to alcohol. The conversation goes both ways.

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# First Person As ASU resumes, so does annual trek to the iconic 'A'

By Jonathan Coronel

In the blink of an eye, downtown Tempe has made its yearly transition from a relatively sleepy summer college town back to a lively, bustling mini-city as thousands of students return for a new school year at Arizona State.

Walking around ASU's campus that first week, newcomers and upperclassmen alike can't help being slightly overwhelmed by the throngs of people—as well as for the out-of-towners, of course, by the stifling summer heat.

As another school year begins, students have both old traditions as well as new attractions to make their transition back to school smooth and enjoyable.

To start each new school year, freshman students are encouraged to make the short hike up "A Mountain" to whitewash the iconic "A." Students spend about an hour slathering white paint all over the monstrous letter to symbolize their fresh start in college.

Thousands of students each year make the journey up the dusty trail to carry on this popular tradition despite the heat of an afternoon in the Valley desert.

Later in the fall semester, students, alumni and faculty partake in Lantern Walk on the Friday before Homecoming. Participants hike the same terrain again, lanterns in hand, to reach the top, where they are greeted by interesting speakers as well as fireworks.

Although ASU prides itself on its many traditions, students have new attractions to look forward to this year as well.

The No. 15-ranked Sun Devils football team recently released its new "Desert Ice" uniforms from its new sponsor, Adidas, that already have fans fired up and eager for another successful season.



Coronel: Ready, set, go

The flashy uniforms feature a white helmet with the recognizable copper pitchfork and "ASU" emblazoned on the front. The jersey also honors ASU legend Pat Tillman with a "PT42" patch on the front collar.

There is only one thing college students get more excited about than football: food. Pei Wei, a popular Asian-cuisine restaurant, has opened its first ever on-campus site at ASU.

The modified version of the restaurant chain boasts 5-minute wait times and readymade, on-the-go items such as wraps and salads.

As an added bonus the restaurant has created a yearly undergraduate fund of \$1,500 as part of its scholarship program being called "Let Us Pei your Wei through college."

Ah, the wonders of marketing ingenuity.

As another campus year begins in the Valley of the Sun, ASU's myriad traditions and attractions show why it remains such a draw for students from around the country.

*Jonathan Coronel is a graduate of Corona del Sol High School. He is now in his second year as a history major at Arizona State University.*

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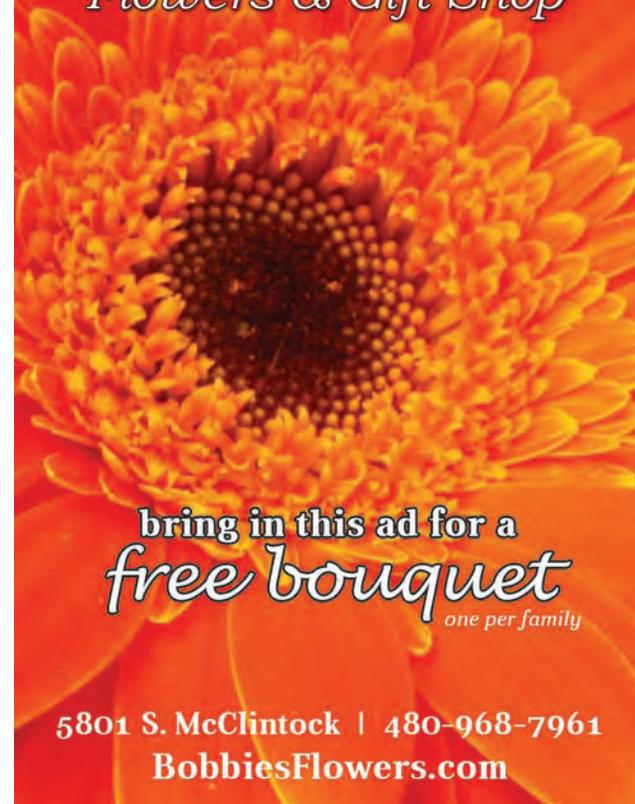
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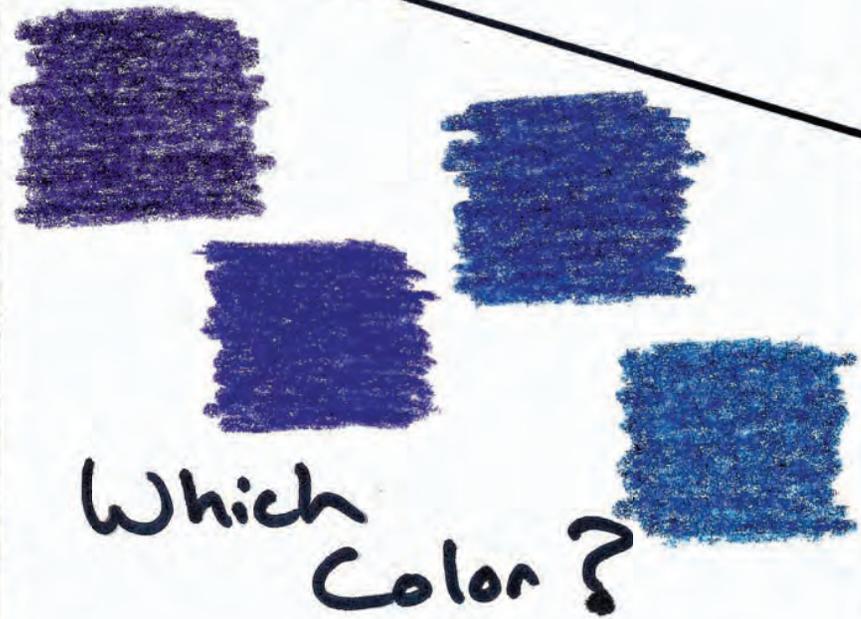
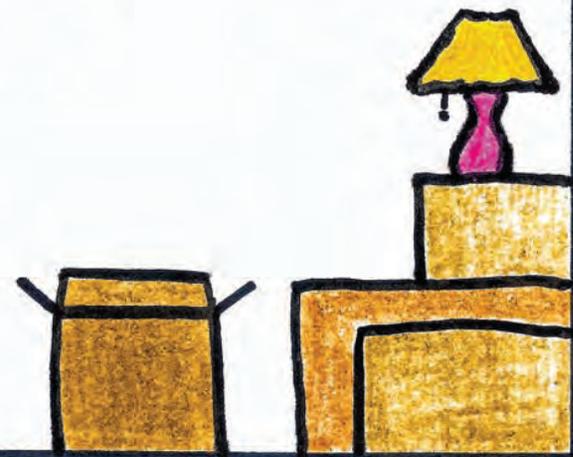
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## Early count in Kyrene schools indicates stability for 2015-16 enrollment tally

By Diana Whittle

It's just the start of the school year, but enrollment figures always interest the Kyrene Governing Board, so officials supplied a report of student enrollment taken on the 10th day of classes, Aug. 14.

The glimpse looks fairly stable, according to Mark Knight, newly named assistant superintendent of Education Services for the Kyrene district—although the figures show a drop by 15 elementary students, bringing the total number in the district to 11,046, which includes kindergarten through fifth grade.

A positive statistic shared by Knight is that class size for all grade levels in the district, K-8, is overwhelming in-line with their targets. Knight noted that if a classroom size does exceed the range, the teacher is supported with an instructional assistant.

Knight reviewed key indicators of enrollment and stressed that his report is an initial snapshot of the year. Another report will be presented after 40 days of classes, which will compare actual enrollment numbers to the target numbers included in the annual plan known as The Blueprint.

While enrollment appears steady for this year and next, it also suggests that the district will need to increase outreach to families to attract younger students in the

near future. Currently, there are nearly 500 more eighth-grade students in the district than there are students beginning kindergarten.

More outreach to out-of-district families is one strategy that the district plans to use, as the number of Kyrene families with very young children has dropped. This trend is according to data gathered each year by Rick Brammer of Applied Economics, a consulting firm that specializes in school population projects and fiscal impact assessment.

Enrollment numbers are critical to budget planning and are closely followed the district's Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Calles.

"Trends in enrollment are important tools for Kyrene staff and our Governing Board," said Calles. "For the past 25 years, the district has worked with Rick to follow trends over time."

Nancy Dudenhoefer, assistant director of marketing communication and public relations, said that she is already focusing on outreach to families with young children.

"This year, in conjunction with our Kids Club managers, we were able to have staff go door-to-door providing information about the quality of our neighborhood schools to parents with young children.

"In addition, every year, we visit all

— ENROLLMENT, Page 20

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Marcos de Niza Padres evened out their opening loss against Mt. Pointe with a subsequent big win over McClintock. RB Shaun Richards (4) sprinted toward a goal.

Ana Ramirez / Wrangler News

## For Marcos, an early season loss is vindicated

# 49-7 win over McClintock reignites Padres' resolve to run the ball

**M**arcos de Niza's Padres varsity football team, which lost its first game of the 2015-16 season 24-12 to Mountain Pointe, took its vengeance on neighboring McClintock High School a week later with a dominating 49-7 win.

Quarterback **Nazareth Greer** completed 14 of 23 pass attempts, the longest for 65 yards to **Anthony Trujillo**, for a touchdown. Trujillo had four catches for 102 yards, including one of the seven touchdowns scored by Marcos.

Fellow seniors **Shaun Richards** caught four passes while **Tanner Blankenship** had three receptions and **Anthony Gonzales** had two.

The Padres' strength against the Chargers, though, was running the ball, where six players rushed for close to 200 yards, scoring four more touchdowns.

**Avery Sanders**, as the leading rusher for the Padres, carried the ball nine times for 55 yards and one touchdown.

**Erik Bolster** scored another of the four rushing touchdowns while Richards crossed the goal line carrying the ball to score the other two.

**Zyayre Moss** was the second leading rusher with 52 yards on six carries and **Trysten Griffith** gained 30 yards for the team carrying the ball just one time.

Two of the seven total touchdowns were scored on punt returns by juniors **Marcus Naisant** and

### Marcus Green.

Maybe the most celebrated player on the team and the second leading scorer was junior kicker **Krysten Muir**. Muir hit all seven of her point-after attempts to score seven of the 49 points, earning the distinction of being the only girl at Marcos to score a point for the team.

Muir, who was named Female Athlete of the Week by Azcentral.com for her performance on the football team, is the daughter of **Jeremy Muir**, the defensive line coach at Marcos.

Muir, though, was not a shoo-in; she had to earn her position with hard work, perseverance and performance by outkicking three other players in order to be in position to kick the point-after.

The Padres, 1-1, were due to play at Tempe High School Sept. 4 against the Buffaloes, who are coming off a 21-13 loss against Buckeye in their first game of the season.

### Corona football wins big

It always feels good to win the first game of the season, especially when your team puts forth a great performance like Corona did in its 35-7 win over Westwood on Aug. 28.

Senior quarterback **Austin Freese**, protected by

Corona's cohesive offensive line, had a great outing, completing 13 of his 16 attempts spread out over six receivers, including his brother **Dylan Freese** who snagged 4 balls out of the air to earn the distinction of leading receiver with 68 yards on four receptions.

The second leading receiver was **Jacob Rose** with 44 yards, followed by **Kaden Carter** with 17.

Corona's strength against the Warriors, though, was more in its running game, in which the Aztecs scored five touchdowns over the course of three quarters.

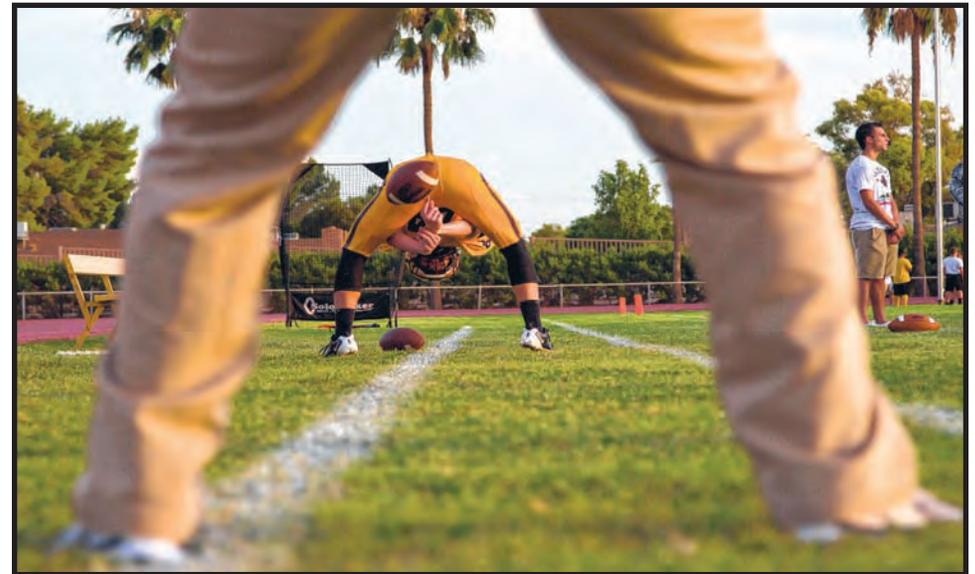
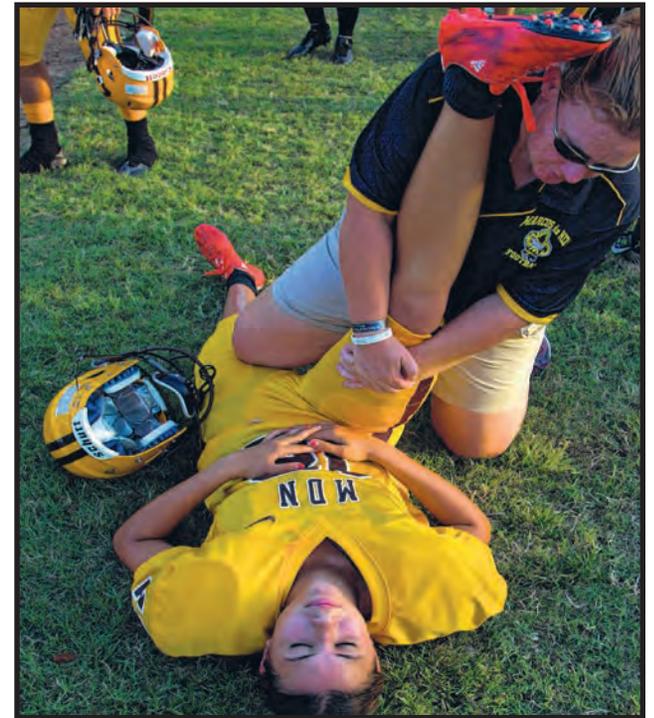
**Cameron Brice** scored the first of his two touchdowns in the second quarter after a scoreless first quarter. With less than 10 minutes to halftime, Brice ran the ball across the goal line from two yards out to earn the first points.

**Austin Delaney** hit the first of this five point-after kicks to make the score 7-0.

The floodgates continued to open a bit more when **Jalen Bryant** scored on a 10-yard run shortly before the half to put the Aztecs up 14-0.

Corona's momentum was stalled temporarily when the Aztecs failed to convert a fourth-and-one on the 9-yard line just before the half.

The momentum shifted in the third quarter when Brice shot up the middle to cross the goal line and



## Sports

From Page 17

Clockwise from upper left:

- Marcos de Niza's Tanner Blankenship (42), Nazareth Greer (10), Trysten Griffith (7) and James Reynosa (30) confer prior to taking the field.

- Marcos Kicker Krysten Muir (12) stretches before the game vs McClintock.

- Marcos center takes a practice flip from a coach's bird's-eye view.

- Marcos de Niza fans enjoyed some do-it-yourself tailgate festivities as they, and their team, warmed up for the ensuing game with McClintock.

Wrangler News photos  
by Ana Ramirez

give the Aztecs a 21-0 lead.

Corona continued to move the ball in the third quarter but was not able to score again until the second play in the fourth quarter when **Mason Carrol** ran in for the Aztecs' fourth touchdown of the game and a 28-0 lead.

The Aztecs would go on to score one more touchdown by Byrant with a little more than six minutes in the game after **Emiliano Yniguez** intercepted a Warrior pass, giving Corona a 35-0 lead.

Corona's solid defense held Westwood scoreless until a little over a minute was left when the Warriors scored a touchdown to finish the game at 35-7.

Defensive stoppers for the Aztecs included **Alex Sheppard** with four solo and two assisted tackles followed by **Jacob Clemens** and **Daunte McEwen** with four solos each. **Cade Kieffer**, **Logan Hatton**, **Jacob Onofrio** and **Brandon Arrington** each had three solos tackles.

McEwen was the only Aztec player to be credited with a sack in the Westwood game. Up next the Aztecs were scheduled to play at home again St. Mary's in a non-conference game Sept. 4. The Knights are 2-0 and have been noted for their vast improvement over last season.

## Corona girls golf

Photo on Page 20

The Aztec girls golf team is returning eight members from last season's team, including the same top five players as last year.

"The order of my top five golfers is the same as last season," said coach **Pat Reed**. "The only difference is that all of them are golfing so much better than last year. I'd say a five-stroke improvement each."

Corona's current top five golfers include **Emma Lower**, **Mikaela Hatfield**, **Taylor Gransen**, **Lexie Baughman** and **Julia Cuendet**.

"The biggest impact on how we finish in the top 10 at the end of the year may be determined by how well Emma plays," said Reed. "She finished No. 2 last season but is averaging 2 under par so far this season. If she can continue to maintain that improvement it would be close to a 20-stroke swing for use at State."

"Mikaela, Taylor, Lexie and Julia have all improved over the summer about five strokes each, as well."

Other members of the team pushing one of the top five positions in order to play in tournaments include **Morghan Caudhill**, **Courtney Conradi**, **Ashley Penn**, **Erika**



There was cheer aplenty as Corona's Aztecs defeated Mesa Westwood 35-7 in the season opener. Plays by Aztec quarterback Austin Freese and a strong defensive line helped propel the team to a rewarding 35-7 win.

Wrangler News/  
Kris Cartwright

**Johnson, Sarah Butler and Elle Potts.**

Reed is predicting the team has the potential to be in the top 10 at state if not at the No. 5 spot.

The team plays next on Sept. 3 before participating in the Antigua Invitational on Sept. 4.

"How we do in the Antigua Tournament could be a determining factor for state," said Reed.

**Marvin Bagley III Moves On**

Marvin has left the building—better yet, Marvin Bagley III has left Corona's Sammy Duane gym. He's moved on.

The star freshman basketball player who helped Corona win its fourth consecutive state championship decided two weeks after school had started at CdS to attend Hillcrest Prep in Phoenix.

Bagley, ranked by ESPN as the top 2018 recruit, grabbed 10 rebounds and scored 19 points on average per game last season.

Bagley's father is to be part of the coaching staff at Hillcrest Prep and his younger brother is also going to be playing basketball at the school.

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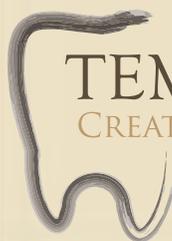
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Corona golf team, from left, top row: Coach Carol Wallace, Morghan Caudhill, Courtney Conradi, Ashley Penn, Mikaela Hatfield, Taylor Gransen, Coach Pat Reed. Bottom: Emma Lower, Julia Cuendet, Erika Johnson, Lexie Baughman, Sarah Butler, Elle Potts. |

— Photo courtesy Lauren Puffer

## Enrollment

From Page 16

local pre-schools with information and work closely with area moms' clubs as well," said Dudenhoefer.

A greater focus on marketing was one reason behind a shift on the district's organizational chart, said Superintendent David Schauer.

"Several significant changes were made, including separating community

education and marketing communications so there is additional effort on outreach to the community."

One example is a new video, which was showcased and will be posted on the district's website.

It features students in a STEM program and shows how Kyrene kids are being prepared for the 21st century workforce.

"We continue to explore new ways, including expanding efforts on social media, to reach parents of children who are not yet in school," said Dudenhoefer.

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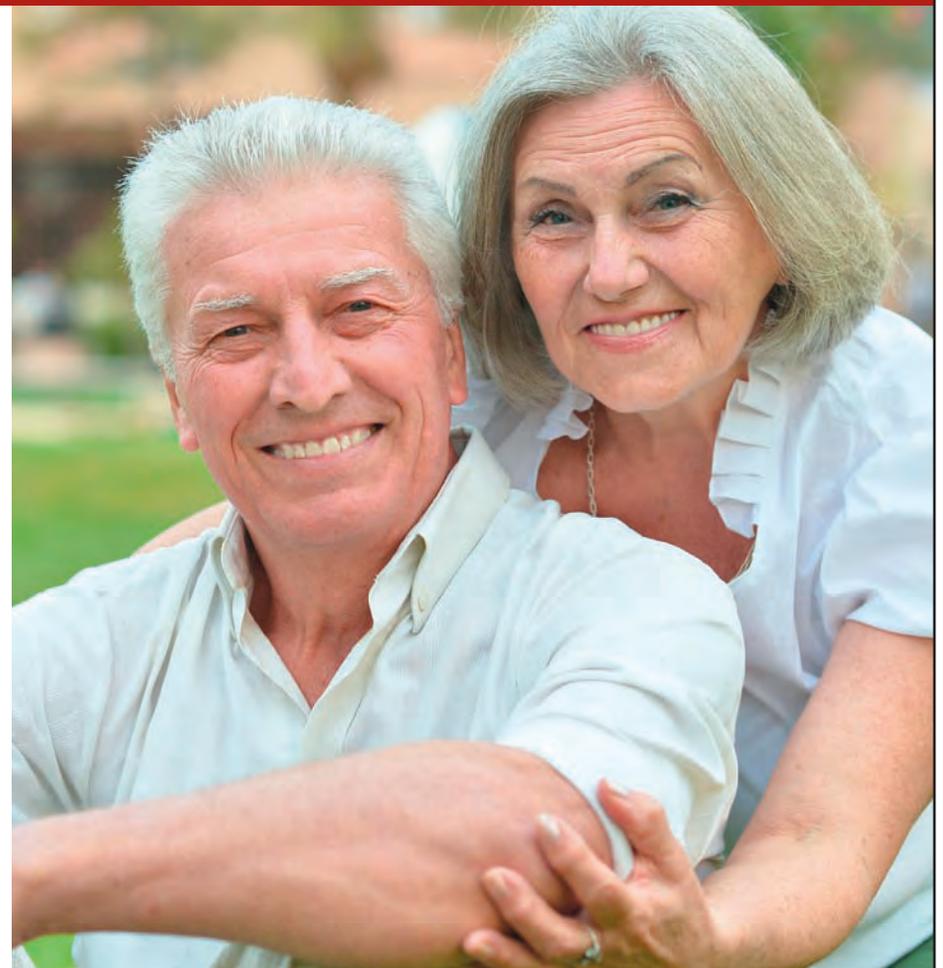
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# **T**he Chandler Chamber is **Connecting Nonprofits, Businesses and Community**

When the Chandler Chamber redesigned their website this summer, they added a local component called Chamber for Good. With 54 nonprofit members of the Chamber, President/CEO Terri Kimble wanted to connect business, community and charities. "We felt there was a disconnect of information between our businesses and nonprofits. We knew there were businesses who wanted to give back and nonprofits who needed donations of items, and volunteers. Chamber for Good helps to make that connection for both parties."

## **Giving and Receiving. . .**

Bringing individuals, organizations and businesses together to achieve great things is a key focus of the Chandler Chamber. Now the Chamber can provide easy access to a system that connects all local charitable organizations and causes with the individuals and businesses and organizations within the community that are eager to support local needs. The Chandler Chamber is making it easy to give local.

Visit [www.ChandlerChamber.com](http://www.ChandlerChamber.com) and click on "Chandler Gives Back." This takes you to the Chandler Chamber "Chamber for Good" custom page. "The Chamber for Good tool allows residents of our community to view local charitable needs posted by local charities sorted into three areas: financial needs, volunteer needs and item needs. All local charities that fit the eligibility guidelines have the ability to create a public profile on the site, then post needs in the three areas as they arise," explains Kimble.

The unique feature about this program is the ability to browse local charitable needs, and make item and volunteer offers. People can go to [www.ChandlerChamber.com](http://www.ChandlerChamber.com), click on "Chandler Gives Back" and enter their email address toward the bottom of the home page. By doing this they will be notified once per week, by email, of the local needs that exist among the charitable organizations and causes that operate within the community.

"We have so many wonderful nonprofits who serve our community. We feel that with this tool, the Chandler Chamber can help them move some mountains," said Kimble.



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*Chandler Chamber Community  
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September 2015

# City of Tempe Page



## Spooktacular good time at Tempe's Halloween Carnival

Tempe's 38th Annual Family Halloween Carnival will be Saturday, Oct. 24, from 5-9 p.m., at the Kiwanis Park soccer fields, located on the northeast corner of Guadalupe Road and All-America Way.

Your family will have a bewitching good time at this free event featuring carnival games, live entertainment, face painting, food booths, train rides, inflatables, a toddler play area and more!

Tickets for attractions can be purchased for 25 cents each. Booths are operated by local civic groups as a fundraiser. Most activities require 3-4 tickets.

Be sure to dress up and participate in the annual Halloween

costume contest for your chance of winning fabulous prizes. The carnival is presented by the Tempe Diablos.

For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/halloween](http://www.tempe.gov/halloween) or call 480-350-5200.



## Safely dispose of expired drugs at Tempe PD 'take back' event planned Saturday, Sept. 26

Tempe Police are partnering again with the Arizona Drug Enforcement Administration and over 50 other law enforcement agencies at sites across the state for an upcoming drug "take back" event.

Community members can anonymously bring unused and expired medications for safe disposal on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Tempe Police South Substation, 8201 S. Hardy Drive. Bring medications in original containers.

They will be placed into boxes provided by DEA and Tempe Police.

Law Enforcement personnel will seal and deliver the disposed medications for proper destruction. We are unable to safely accept glass, syringes, injectables, or sharps of any kind.

Tempe Police and the DEA continue to take action on many fronts to stop prescription drug abuse, addiction, theft and re-sale trafficking.

Many abused prescription drugs are obtained from

the home medicine cabinet.

Flushing medications is a health hazard that adversely impacts our water supply and the environment.

Our goal is to impact accidental poisonings, overdoses and deaths due to the inappropriate use of prescription drugs.

For additional information about the event, contact [molly\\_enright@tempe.gov](mailto:molly_enright@tempe.gov), 480-858-6148, or [charles\\_cobbs@tempe.gov](mailto:charles_cobbs@tempe.gov), 480-350-8691.



## Free family movie series

Join us Friday evenings in October for Movies in the Park, a free family movie series.

Bring your blankets, a picnic dinner and the entire family. Movies begin at dusk (approximately 6 p.m.) on the north soccer fields at Kiwanis Park, at Ash Avenue and Baseline Road.

The lineup features: 101 Dalmations (Oct. 2); Big Hero 6 (Oct. 9); Strange Magic (Oct. 16); and Paddington (Oct. 23).

For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/movies](http://www.tempe.gov/movies) or call 480-350-5200.

## Tempe's Old Settlers connect to reminisce, exchange memories

For more than a century, longtime Tempe residents have gathered for an annual reunion to socialize and share memories.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the Tempe Old Settlers Association will hold its annual celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Tempe High School, 1730 S. Mill Ave. Guests are asked to bring a potluck dish to share.

Old Settlers members must have been born in Tempe or have lived in the city for at least 30 years.

For more information, call Councilmember Joel Navarro at 480-688-9907.

## Bike, walk and play on Sept. 26 Celebrate Tempe's newest multi-use path and playground

Community members are invited to celebrate the opening of Tempe's new El Paso Gas Line Multi-use Path and improved Fiesta Playground at Kiwanis Park Saturday, Sept. 26 at 8 a.m. – where the path and playground meet, 5775 S. All American Way (south of the Kiwanis Park lake and just west of Aguilar Elementary School).

The newly renovated Kiwanis Park Fiesta Playground features new play equipment for varying age groups (tots to teens), including swing sets, slides, play structures with bridges, "spinners" and an 80-foot long zip line.

Improvements also include updated color palettes, lighting, shade structures, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, benches and picnic tables, as well as ADA compliant sidewalks and rubber surfacing. The cost of the improvements is just over \$1 million, funded through the city's capital improvements program.

For more information, contact Amanda Nelson at 480-350-2707 or [amanda\\_nelson@tempe.gov](mailto:amanda_nelson@tempe.gov).

## 46,500 . . . and still growing

Wrangler News is nearing its 25th year of publishing, and it's been a worthwhile and enjoyable journey. Happily, the growth that has accompanied us during that nearly quarter of a century illustrates that news *by* local people *about* local people remains a powerful incentive for those of us who disagree when we hear that 'print doesn't work.' Based on nationally accepted formulas, Wrangler News reaches 46,500 prospective readers every time it's printed — quite a change from the meager 5,000 papers we delivered to homes back in 1991. We're looking forward to continuing our reign as this community's favorite newspaper, and we hope you'll join us in what we think is a deserved celebration.

hope you'll join us in what we think is a deserved celebration.

# ADOPT ME

**B**ear is a very playful and affectionate girl. She would do best in a home with no other cats, as she prefers having all the attention to herself. She loves to play with string and feather toys, but even a shadow on the wall is enough to get her excited and ready to pounce. Bear does play-bite gently and would be best in a home without young children so she doesn't scare them. Bear enjoys perching on cat climbers. Bear is a very beautiful, VERY playful and affectionate cat. She prefers to be an only child because she loves getting all the attention to herself. Bear recently starred in a national commercial which will be airing later this year. She is a total ham and loved the attention of all eyes on her during her starring role. Since she is so playful she would be great in a home that wants to spend a bit of playtime with her daily. She will keep you entertained.



Bear

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For more information visit [www.24petwatch.com](http://www.24petwatch.com) or call 1-866-597-2424

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For more information please contact us at 602-445-PETS(7387) or email us at [adoptions@lostourhome.org](mailto:adoptions@lostourhome.org).

## Local Lunch Club



Whether you are a seasoned networker, a business person looking to expand your network or a stay at home mom that just wants to have lunch and meet new friends, the Local Lunch Club is for you. Our main goal at the Local Lunch Club is to support each other in all aspects of business and in life.

We are here to build relationships and to network, in a low key, fun atmosphere.

### Join one of these upcoming events:

- Nello's Pizza**, 1806 E. Southern Ave, Tempe, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 11am – 1pm
- VaBene**, 4746 E. Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, Thursday, Oct. 16, 11am – 1pm
- AACHI South Indian Kitchen**, 325 W Elliot Rd Ste 101, Tempe, AZ, Thursday, Nov. 12, 11am – 1pm

Information: [www.locallunchclub.com](http://www.locallunchclub.com)



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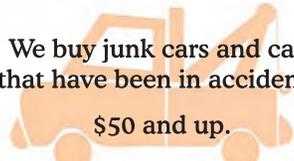
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**Publisher & Advertising Director:** Tracy Doren

**Contributing Writers:** Diana Whittle, Deborah Hilcove, Alex Zener, Kody Acevedo, M.V. Moorhead, Joyce Coronel, Sally Mesarosh  
**Photographer:** Ana Ramirez

**Offices:** Wrangler News Building  
2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 102, Tempe, AZ 85284-3497  
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# Young musicians 'Plugged In' as finalists for Chandler Center concert

By M.V. Moorhead

While the Diamondbacks were battling the Oakland A's a couple of weeks ago, a different sort of battle was going on next door at Alice Cooperstown.

More than a dozen youth-rock bands fought it out for the right to perform in the Rock n' Roll High School "Plugged In" concert at Chandler Center for the Arts on Sept. 12.

One of the competing ensembles—and the event's ultimate winner—was ViceVersa, consisting of six students, five girls and one wise boy, all of whom are seniors at Corona del Sol High School: Jordan Dragon, Nikki Hinshaw, Savannah Johnston, Bailee McCook, Mackenzie Tanquary and Sabastian Molina. They've been playing together about a year, having landed gigs at local venues, a favorite being SoZo Coffeehouse.

"I would say we're kind of pop rock or alternative," says bassist and songwriter Johnston of the group's style. Johnston cites Lorde and British electronic act Shura as her own influences.

"We're considered alternative," echoes McCook.

The Cooperstown show was the second of two auditions—the first was held on Aug. 22 at Hard Rock Café. Like the other acts, ViceVersa played a mini-set of two numbers—one cover and one original. They performed alt-J's "Left Hand Free" as their cover, and a song of their own, "Deep Blue," as their original.

The result was...success.

"We were chosen as one of the top eight bands," says ViceVersa drummer Nikki Hinshaw.

"There was a little technical difficulty," notes Johnston, arising from ViceVersa's ambitiousness.

"We had four mics, and every other band had two or less." Despite this extra challenge for the sound guy at Cooperstown, however, says Johnston, "We got the job done."

Thus, along with groups with names like Ironkill, Vintage Wednesday, Total Disarray, Zero Degrees North, People Who Could Fly, Cosmicosby and JAB, and soloists like Keli Rutledge, Sydney Claire Collins and JAM, ViceVersa will take the stage at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Chandler Center for the Arts. It's a paid gig, and the

winning acts will be digitized by Green River Recording. This could be a good launch-pad for ViceVersa, but the members seem down to earth about the challenges of a long-term music career.

"It's definitely fun right now," admits McCook—"and I think I'd like to do something with it. But I think I'd like to be a teacher." Even Johnston, a creative force behind ViceVersa's original music, is cautious when talking about her future.

"Totally," she says, when asked if she'd like to pursue a career in music. But she goes on to add: "I think that, being realistic, it's not a very stable career." So she hopes to go to UCLA to study engineering, still with an eye possibly to working in the music industry in L.A. or Austin.

Whether ViceVersa ascends to fame and fortune and MTV play and Grammys, the members will still have the Chandler Center show to remember. And even without that, they'll still have their triumph at Cooperstown.

"It was a really cool venue," says Hinshaw, "and we had a lot of support from our fan base, which is mostly Corona students. It was great playing for our friends."



Members of Vice Versa, a band made up of Corona del Sol seniors, wowed the audience — and the judges — with their Aug. 28 performance at Cooperstown. Group includes Bailee McCook, Sabastian Molina, Nikki Hinshaw (on drums), Jordan Dragon (on keyboard), Savannah Johnston, Mackenzie Tanquary. — Photo courtesy Cindy McCook

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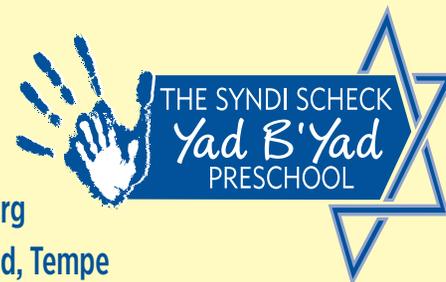
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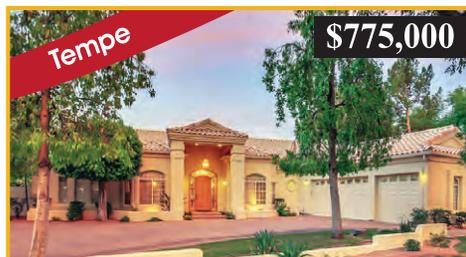
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