

Wrangler NEWS

Think Local. Read Local.

Nov. 21 - Dec. 2, 2015 • Vol. 26, No. 22

C'mon in! There's more inside

Hi, neighbor! We hope you'll like our newly designed Page 1. Not to worry, though: All the same neighborhood-focused news features and photo stories you've been receiving these past 25-plus years are still inside — plus more as we hear what you'd like to see and read about.

If you have ideas to share, email editor@wranglernews.com, call us at 480-966-0845 or drop by our offices in Warner Century Plaza [Warner Road just west of the Price/101 freeway] any time 9-5 Monday-Friday with your ideas. We're always glad to see you.

Here are a few of the stories and photo features you'll find inside this issue . . .

- ✓ A surprise windfall adds \$6 million to the Kyrene School District's coffers — **Page 4**
- ✓ Marcos de Niza's Padres football team moves into Division I semi-finals after defeating Tucson Ironwood Ridge 35-15. Report by Alex Zener plus game photos by Wrangler News staff photographer Ana Ramirez — **Page 18**
- ✓ More than 350 guests at Tempe Community Action Agency's 11th annual First Crush Gala helped raise more than \$70,000 for the organization's vital people-centric programs — **Page 10**
- ✓ Commentary: ASU law major Johnny Coronel says protesters who demanded removal of Mizzou's president may have been justified but went beyond the bounds of our country's First Amendment rights. The Final Word — **Page 31**.



**Marcos vs. Skyline, 7 pm Friday, Nov. 20
@ Mesa Mountain View — Details, Pg. 18**



At Arizona Community Church in Tempe, volunteers Kyle Engelking, Marjorie and Jon Rankin pack the food boxes that will bring needy families a brighter Thanksgiving holiday. — Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

Being in need at holidays holds personal meaning for one of church's longest-tenured staff members

By Don Kirkland

It was the late 1990s, and for 14 long months Karen Goetz spent sleepless nights aplenty. Her husband's employer, a long-reputable northern California company, had gone through some agonizing cutbacks. Suddenly, the family's years of enjoying a carefree lifestyle while raising two sons came to a sudden and

worrisome end.

"In the beginning, it wasn't a big concern," recalls Goetz. "We thought you just put out your resume and you'd have another job."

But the weeks stretched into months, and the pair began to wonder if they were going to lose their home.

That's when friends, neighbors

and relatives stepped in to help, filling the gap until another job — and restored hope for the future — finally materialized.

While the worries of those days still occasionally cross her mind, her more important memory is of a community that so willingly was able to mobilize to help a family in need.

— **FOOD BANK, Page 25**

Mayor's State of the City report Regional collaboration called vital to Tempe's future

By Tracy Doren

Tempe continues to be optimistic about its future, with little standing in the way of the economic juggernaut that promises no letup to the staggering number of new jobs and billion-dollar growth that have taken place since Mayor Mark Mitchell took office.

Mitchell offered this optimistic view at his annual State of the City address, a Tempe Chamber-sponsored update on where the city stands today and where it hopes to be tomorrow. But not everything is perfect—yet,



said Mitchell.

In order to ensure that the momentum endures,

In his annual report to Tempe businesses, Mayor Mark Mitchell said he wants the city to continue to strengthen its ties to other regional planning entities.

— **MAYOR, Page 24**

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Windfall for Kyrene schools comes as '\$6 million surprise'

By Diana Whittle

Study sessions held by the Kyrene School District give Governing Board members a chance to ask questions of staff, learn more about the operations of the district, and maybe—just every once in a while—an opportunity to hear unexpected good news.

This was the case at the board's recent meeting, when the members formally heard why the financial reserves for the district ended up as \$6 million to the positive for the past fiscal year.

Called the "\$6 million surprise" by Ross Robb, board president, the windfall's origin caused some of the members to question why—especially in the light of reports at previous planning sessions—the district's chief financial officer Jeremy Calles had painted a bleaker picture.

It was in the process of closing the books on fiscal 2014-15 that the additional funds were discovered, Calles revealed.

Using several charts to display actual spending versus anticipated costs, Calles said it had been fiscally prudent to plan for the impact of the certain costs, such as the federal mandate known as affordable health care.

"Since this was a new government program that we had to participate in by law, we had no real way to project the effect on the budget," said Calles.

Bottom line: It's not always easy to project the exact expenses or income of a district with 25 schools, says Calles.

"We currently have a reserve of about \$25.5 million, which is an average amount for the Kyrene District. What is unique in the last year is that we benefitted from some other revenue sources that we were not able to predict," said Calles.

The district's actual expenditures were less than revenue streams, which included additional earnings from the fees of Community Education classes, salary savings due to attrition and hiring vacancies, and the profitable sale of an 11-acre property known as Club West.

The parcel was purchased years ago and held in reserve as a lot for a future school site.

It's located near the Ahwatukee Foothills community, across the street from a golf course, on Chandler Boulevard and 11th Avenue.

When it was determined the school was not needed, the property went on the market and sold for \$4.4 million, which is nearly double the initial appraisal.

Board president Robb said that the extra reserve money is a good problem for the board to have and that during his eight years on the board, the budget has always received close scrutiny.

"As a board, we have always wanted to retain special electives for our students, fair compensation for employees and reasonable class sizes. In the upcoming months, we will look at the best ways to allocate the \$6 million."

Several ideas for the money are already on the table, such as restoring recent cuts, adding contract days for teachers, and boosting compensation ranges for those positions found to be paying less than market average.

Last year, the leadership teams from each of the 25 schools in the district assisted in the budget planning by identifying areas to save money.

Upcoming Governing Board meetings will undoubtedly become lively as the discussion continues on how best to allocate the "surprise" funds.

Downtown Chandler to be scene of fun, frivolity through holidays

By Beth Fiorenza

With the holidays approaching, Downtown Chandler has a lot to offer West Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors, whether a quiet dinner with family or a late-night celebration with friends.

Tickets and more information are available at www.downtownchandler.org. Historic Downtown Chandler is located on the east and west side of Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 3 S. Arizona Ave.

Coming events:

Friday, Nov. 20: Downtown Chandler Art/Author Walk 6-10 p.m.,

Saturday, Nov. 21: Downtown Chandler Concert Series. Robert Randolph and the Family Band. Downtown Chandler Stage/Library Plaza, 5-10 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 28: Downtown Chandler Concert Series. Trombone Shorty. Downtown Chandler Stage/Library Plaza, 5-10 p.m.

Small Business Saturday. Bourbon Jacks, Zoolikins, TechShop Chandler, Peixoto Coffee, Sibley's West, Wimpy's Paradise and Murphy's Law Irish Pub

will provide an opportunity to "shop small."

Saturday, Dec. 5: Tumbleweed Tree Lighting & Parade, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 4:30-9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18: Downtown Chandler Art Walk/Holiday Ugly Sweater Walk. Ugly holiday sweaters are the top attraction at the Chandler Art Walk, with more than 50 local artists. Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West and along San Marcos Place and Boston Street. 6-10 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 31: Downtown Chandler Concert Series. New Year's Eve. Band TBA. Downtown Chandler Stage/Library Plaza, 125 E. Commonwealth.

The Downtown Chandler Art Walks and tree lighting are free and open to the public. The Downtown Chandler Concert Series will charge an entry fee (see website for individual concerts; most are \$20 pre-sale/\$30 at door).

Parking is free in Downtown Chandler. Information: dccp@downtownchandler.org or 480-855-3539.

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New head of school lays out his plan to help students gain an entrepreneurial edge



At Summit, new head of school Mark Bistricky has a vision for future

By Joyce Coronel

Summit School of Ahwatukee will have a new leader for the coming school year, and he's fired up about challenging students to learn in innovative ways. Mark Bistricky, who has led private schools in Arizona and California, becomes head of school for Summit, effective June 30.

With an undergraduate degree in history and master's degrees in history and education administration, Bistricky comes to his new role eager to prepare students for the future.

"I think it's critical for schools like Summit

to connect innovation with education and to be forward-looking (and) entrepreneurial," Bistricky said.

"Business and non-profit leaders say they need workers who can think outside the box, who can create, who can apply imagination, who combine facts and figures and source material from different areas in new ways," he said.

What's more, Bistricky notes, the traditional model of education, which consists of digesting information presented and then spitting it back out on standardized tests, isn't going to cut it.

"The problem is that there's a very low level of learning that takes place in that model. They're not being challenged to develop the kind of critical-thinking skills (or) the creative skills, the ability to apply what they've learned," Bistricky said.

"I think that Summit already does a tremendous job of equipping the students with those kinds of 21st century skills, and I hope to be able to continue to develop those kinds of programs at the school."

When asked about the specifics on how innovative learning could best take place, Bistricky gave a description of how students could learn about the desegregation of schools during the 1950s.

In Bistricky's model, rather than hearing a lecture

.....

"I think it's really important for us to be a community school, one that is very connected, and that we're inviting people in. We want to create a learning community in which all want the same thing: for the child to be challenged."

.....

and receiving work sheets that might provide a narrative describing the benchmark case of Brown versus Board of Education, he says students could learn at a deeper level by taking on the roles of make-believe members of the school board and of parents upset about desegregation and its related issues.



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They'd be busy doing research about their character, engaging in dialogue, finding primary sources and sifting through period literature.

There could also be an artistic component where students create a picture or a portrait that symbolizes emotions, feelings or symbols of a particular period in history. They would have an opportunity to stand up in front of the class to make an argument, experiencing how to have the poise to answer questions from other characters in the play.

Bistricky also sees students going beyond classroom walls to learn.

"I think it's really important for us to be a community school, one that is very connected, and that we're inviting people in," Bistricky said. "We want to create a learning community in which all want the same thing: for the child to be challenged."

The pre-K through eighth-grade independent school boasts low student-teacher ratios and an extensive liberal arts curriculum.

"Independent schools can do innovative things with multi-disciplinary, project-based learning, where students are not just learning material but they're actually putting it

into practice in a real world setting," Bistricky said.

So how did he catch this innovation bug?

"I first started teaching and ultimately became an administrator when I was living in San Jose, in Silicon Valley, during the technology boom in the early 2000s. So that experience and seeing the innovation and the creativity and the applied learning that was present with all of the technology companies and start-ups, it was a very exciting time for ideas and putting those ideas into action.

"And so I think that helped to form (who) I've become," Bistricky said.

"I want to be an innovative educational leader who's helping to pioneer new models that will serve our students more effectively in preparing them for a future that doesn't exist and we can't entirely predict."

All this excellence and innovation doesn't come cheap.

However, through a blend of tuition tax credits, corporate scholarships and financial aid opportunities, "It's more accessible than you might think," Bistricky said.

Information: summitschoolaz.org



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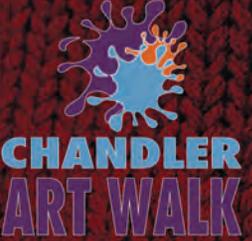
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CHANDLER ART WALK

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Date: Dec. 18th

downtownchandler.org

Environmental update

Recycling takes on new importance as cities work to improve sustainability

In what it sees as an ambitious effort to further Tempe's commitment to sustainability, city planners aim to nearly double the amount of solid waste that can be kept out of landfills every year.

According to a resolution approved by the council, the city will work to divert an overall citywide average of 25 percent of the solid waste it collects so that it can be recycled rather than taken to local landfills.

The current overall diversion average is 14 percent.

Several specific diversion goals were set as part of the effort, including:

- Tripling multi-family residential waste diversion (from 3 percent to 9 percent);

- Increasing single-family residential diversion from 34 percent to 40 percent; and increasing commercial and industrial waste diversion to 25 percent from 5 percent.

Tempe Councilmembers Kolby Granville and Lauren Kuby worked on the issue with city staff for several months as part of a City Council-authorized City Manager's Working Group.

Said Granville:

"I'm excited that Tempe is setting and promoting waste diversion goals. Public goal-setting is the first step. Now we must take action to meet these goals.

"This isn't just a 'nice idea' – it is absolutely necessary for a livable



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future.”

Tempe has a history of exploring sustainable solutions, including programs involving recycling, compost production, water conservation, solar energy and more.

Because fewer trips to the landfill are needed, recycling revenues help to offset landfill fees paid by the city while reducing fuel costs and carbon emissions, according to officials studying the program.

“Recycling is a much more sustainable solution than sending waste to the landfill,” said Tempe Solid Waste Manager Tony Miano.

“These new goals set the stage for cost savings and a cleaner environment, both of which help improve quality of life for Tempe residents.”

The Solid Waste and Recycling team within the city’s Public Works Department will employ several strategies to help reach the new goals, including increasing educational outreach to residents, growing the city’s Green Organics composting program and increasing recycling at city events.

Information: www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash.

Chandler’s program

Chandler also has adopted ways to help offset the cost of solid-waste disposal, according to city public information officer Jim Phipps.

According to Phipps, the city has an ongoing program to help reduce expenses by finding vendors who will purchase recyclable materials.

Last fiscal year, Phipps said, Chandler recycled 22,345 tons of materials, generating \$736,000 in revenue.

Experience gained during the program resulted in a determination that the most important items a family can recycle are household hazardous wastes.

Such throwaways may be leftovers from home improvement projects, car maintenance, hobbies, or even items left behind by a previous owner.

Such discards should not be placed trash or recycling containers, Phipps advises. Additionally, it is just as dangerous to pour these items down sink drains, dump chemicals in the street or in alleyways.

For West Chandler residents,

such non-conforming discards can be taken to the city’s Household Hazardous Waste collection facility operating at the Recycling-Solid Waste Collection Center at 955 E. Queen Creek Road.

The facility provides a safe, convenient way to dispose of household hazardous waste.

The facility opened in 2006, and in the past year, staff diverted nearly 153,000 pounds of paint, oil, pesticides, flammables and other hazardous waste, 72 percent of which was recycled or reused.

Motor oil, brake fluid and antifreeze are sold to a local vendor; cooking oil is donated to make bio-fuel; paint is offered to city community clean-up projects and charities; and rechargeable batteries are recycled.

Fluorescent and CFL tubes are placed in an apparatus that removes mercury vapor and crushes the glass, which reduces containers and disposal costs.

Contents of propane tanks and aerosol cans are emptied onsite, and the empty metal containers are recycled.

Phipps notes that appointments for drop-off at the collection site must be scheduled in advanced by calling 480-782-3510.



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 9A-NOON
Arizona Community Church | 9325 S. Rural Road

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LIMITED # of TEAMS – Possible wait list after January 23

Annual 'First Crush' gala raises \$70,000 for Tempe Community Action Agency programs



More than 350 guests pushed Tempe Community Action Agency over the top at the charitable organization's 11th annual First Crush Gala—much to the delight of those who might have expected it to be another of the “cookie-cutter” events often characteristic of fundraisers.

First Crush 2015 was anything but.

This year, according to event spokeswoman Barb Harris, the event moved to the Four Peaks Tasting Room, here cocktail attire gave way to the newly coined phrase “brewery festive.”

Four Peaks' warehouse space was decked out like a high-end backyard barbeque, with party lights strung overhead, wooden bar tables and low-cushioned lounge-style seating that fostered conversation.

Walls were lined to the ceiling with pallets of beer cans. The music of the incomparable Walt Richardson, a longtime Tempe favorite, completed the party atmosphere.

The ample selection of tasty foods was provided by participating Tempe businesses, including Snooze, M Culinary Creations, D'Electables and Espresso Italiano, with Four Peaks Brewing providing a selection of wines and signature beverages—all designed to pair well with the food offerings.

According to event planners, the event raised \$70,000 to help fund TCAA's social service programs, including a food pantry, homeless shelter, meal delivery to seniors and the disabled, and more.

Chandler development update

New 'Row' project promises a more vibrant downtown

Staff reports

Chandler's burgeoning downtown is about to get another eye-popping addition to its environs:

a project its planners envision as becoming “the heart and soul” of a mixed-use development already approved for the area.

The Row, as it will be known, is scheduled for construction to get underway later this year.

Led by Vintage Partners, a Phoenix-based commercial real estate development and investment company, the project will be undertaken in partnership with the city of Chandler, which sees the project as being a major draw to the city's downtown entertainment district.

Sprawling across four acres on the southwest corner of Arizona Avenue and Chandler Boulevard, the pedestrian-friendly, 60,000-square-foot, two-story project will offer a variety of local and national dining and

retail storefronts.

As what is being forecast as a linchpin of the new entertainment district, planners say the facility will

Dr. A.J. Chandler Park.

Chandler Center for the Arts lies just north across Chandler Boulevard and is within easy pedestrian and

one-of-a-kind entertainment project that will further enhance our already vibrant downtown,” said Mayor Jay Tibshraeny.

“This is a critical site for downtown and we're pleased to see this project begin to become a reality.” The Row was selected by the Chandler City Council following an extensive open-application process to determine the best way to develop the highly desirable site.

Along with Vintage Partners, project partners include former Chandler City Councilman Martin Sepulveda, RSP Architects and Kitchell Development.

The initial phase of the downtown Chandler development will include additional space for restaurants, retail and offices, with the potential to add up to 50 residences, plus additional spaces for a fitness center or yoga studio and a parking garage.



help to stitch together Chandler's downtown dining and culture scenes, creating a seamless transition from the cluster of dining, residential and governmental buildings surrounding

vehicle access.

“With this agreement, the downtown community and Chandler residents, including those on our west side, will be able to enjoy a first-class,

Diversions

with MV Moorhead

What would Turkey Day be without some video faves?

There are countless well-loved Christmas movies, but Thanksgiving movies are a rarity. I'm not a much of a fan of 1995's *Home for the Holidays*, but I often steer people toward *What's Cooking?*, Gurinder Chadha's delightful, too-little-known 2000 multi-cultural Turkey Day comedy.

Fortunately, in case you're looking for something to entertain the family on Thanksgiving afternoon, here are a few worthwhile videos.

Hannah and Her Sisters

Possibly Woody Allen's best film, this 1986 tale of the inter-marital affairs and career and religious

crises of a Manhattan show-business family begins with a Thanksgiving dinner and ends at another one.

Mia Farrow, Michael Caine, Dianne Wiest, Barbara Hershey, Julie Kavner, Max Von Sydow and Allen himself, among many others, are at their best here.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

For many people in the mobile American society, part of the lore of Thanksgiving is simply the struggle of traveling home in time to celebrate it. This challenging odyssey seems to have especially captivated the imagination of the late John Hughes, who had a hand in two films about it.

He wrote and directed this episodic 1987 comedy, in which upper-middle-class executive Steve Martin, trying frantically to get from New York to Chicago in time for dinner with his family, finds himself forced to travel with buffoonish salesman John Candy. The gags are uneven, but the great Candy is lovable as ever, and Martin makes a fine straight man for him.

Dutch

Hughes also wrote the script for this 1991 comedy, directed by Peter Faiman. It's also about a road trip home; Ed O'Neill plays the working-class title character, who is pressed into service driving the snotty private-school son (Ethan Embry) of his new girlfriend (Jobeth Williams) from Georgia home to Chicago for the holiday.

Wacky adventures ensue.

A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

Kids will enjoy this half-hour *Peanuts* special from 1973, and you probably will too.

I especially like Vince Guaraldi's funky song "Little Birdie," which accompanies Snoopy and Woodstock setting up for dinner.

It's a little disturbing, though, to see Woodstock eating turkey at the end of the show...



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Discerning Diner (Revisited) Taking stock of Thanksgiving leftovers

Editor's note: From time to time we're asked to repeat a contribution from one of our favorite writers, this one whose Discerning Diner persona became a signature column during the early days of Wrangler News, then (and still to many) known as Warner Wrangler. This seemed to be a perfect time to dust off one of those columns.

Once previously in this space I promised to weigh in on Thanksgiving leftovers. As I started thinking about the leftover “problem,” it occurred to me how lucky we are to have it at all.

I mean, the last thing the Pilgrims were worried about was all of their leftover stuffing.

I have to admit, I've never had much of a problem with Thanksgiving leftovers.

I'm peculiarly fond of food cold from the fridge, and I can eat cold leftover pie, turkey and cranberry sauce for days on end.

However, my husband's family has a terrific ritual — and recipe — built around leftover turkey, and I thought it was worth sharing.

The dish is Aztec soup. I'm not sure where the recipe came from — presumably it's named in homage to the Mexican *sopa Azteca*, though the two are nothing alike.

In any event, a proper Aztec soup begins with the kind of concentrated, golden turkey stock that can only come from the Thanksgiving turkey.

A word about stocks.

When I make stock I follow the classic procedure to the letter: I skim off impurities, cook the stock at a bare simmer and under no circumstances let it boil.

When my mother-in-law makes stock she dumps as many bones as she can find into a pot of water and brings it to a rolling boil. She turns it down when she remembers.

She leaves the pot on the stove for several consecutive nights and boils it every morning to make it safe for consumption. If worthy table scraps appear in the kitchen, well, they get thrown in, too.

I'm the first to admit that my mother-in-law's stocks are in every way superior to my own, though I can't

bring myself to follow her method.

The point is, stock-making can be a casual thing, no matter what any French chef tells you to the contrary.

Here's the basic idea. When you've carved most of the meat from your holiday turkey, put the carcass in a pot and cover it with filtered water.

(If you're ambitious, roast the bones first: 30 minutes at 400 degrees should turn them brown and crackling.)

Bring the water to a boil, skimming off any foam that collects on the surface. Lower the heat and simmer for at least four hours, longer if you'd like.

The more a stock reduces, the more it congeals when cooled — which is a good thing. (My mother-in-law's stocks turn as firm as Jell-O).

When you've run out of patience with your stock, strain it and save the liquid. There you go.

Now, for the soup. For about four servings (multiply as required), you'll need one large white or yellow onion, chopped.

In a large pot, sauté the onion in two tablespoons of vegetable oil. When it's soft, add two finely chopped garlic cloves and sauté until golden.

While the onion is cooking, peel and seed one small butternut squash. Chop the flesh into one-inch cubes.

Add two quarts of stock to the onion, then add the squash. Bring to a boil, lower the heat and cook at a simmer until the squash begins to soften.

Slice two zucchinis into half-moons. Add to the pot along with two cups of chopped cooked turkey meat.

When the butternut squash is soft, add two cups of frozen corn kernels and a half cup (or to taste) of chopped, roasted green chile.

Cook until heated through. If the soup is too thick, add more stock or water, then salt to taste.

Serve the soup with lime wedges, chopped fresh cilantro and crumbled *queso fresco* or grated Monterey Jack cheese.

Now there's something to be thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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12	Dmitri Matheny's THE SNOWCAT	11am
18	The Texas Tenors	7:30pm
22-31	Zoppé-An Italian Family Circus	Times Vary

January 2016

1-3	Zoppé-An Italian Family Circus	Times Vary
15	Black Violin	7:30pm
17	TIMBER! A Production of Cirque Alfonse!	7pm
23	Deana Martin Honoring Dean Martin & Frank Sinatra.	7:30pm
29	Moscow Festival Ballet presents Don Quixote	7:30pm
30	Fiesta Mexico-Americana with Los Lobos.	7:30pm

February 2016

6	The Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra	7:30pm
12	Tap Factory	7:30pm
14	The Summit The Manhattan Transfer meets Take 6	7pm
20	Frankie Avalon	7:30pm
21	Lee Ann Womack	7pm
27	Steppin' Out LIVE with Ben Vereen & Trio	7:30pm

March 2016

4	The Second City Fully Loaded	7:30pm
5	Vicki Lawrence & Mama: A Two Woman Show.	7:30pm
8-13	Tony n' Tina's Wedding	Times Vary
18	Rita Rudner	7:30pm
25	Flamenco Kings starring Los Vivancos	7:30pm

April 2016

1	The von Trapps	7:30pm
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The holiday season is just around the corner, and Valley Metro reminds riders of upcoming changes to bus and light rail schedules.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26

- Bus and light rail will run on a Sunday schedule
- Customer Service closed

Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 27

- Bus and light rail will run on a Sunday schedule
- Customer Service open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24

- Bus and light rail will run on a Sunday schedule
- Customer Service open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25

- Bus and light rail will run on a Sunday schedule
- Customer Service closed

New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31

- Coors Light Free Rides on all bus, light rail and Dial-a-Ride services begins at 7 p.m. through end of service day
- Light rail will operate on a weekday schedule with extended hours until 2 a.m.
- Bus will operate a regular weekday schedule with certain routes in Tempe operating extended service
- Customer Service open 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1

- Bus and light rail will operate a Sunday schedule
- Customer Service closed

Riders can plan trips with a variety of online tools, including Ridekick, Valley Metro's mobile app, which provides up-to-the-minute arrival times. For more information, visit valleymetro.org.

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21 or too young Sometimes no is the right answer.

Parents and guardians: Over 80% of young people ages 10-18 say their parents are the leading influence on their decision to drink or not drink. **THEY REALLY ARE LISTENING!** Talk with them. The sooner you talk with your children about alcohol, the greater chance you have of influencing their decisions about drinking.

Some simple ideas:

- Lots of little talks are more effective than one "big talk." Big talks can be intimidating. Try everyday opportunities to talk- in the car-dinner or while shopping. Let them know how you feel about alcohol and drugs.
- 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.

Tempe Coalition
to reduce underage drinking and drug use

The Tempe Coalition, a partnership between the City of Tempe and Tempe Community Council. For more information www.tempecoalition.org

First Person 'No cut' a good alternative for Kyrene's non-varsity kids

By Allysa Adams

We've still got a runner on the course, came the shout from the cross country coach. That was all the runners needed to hear. They moved away from congratulatory hugs, their friends eager to talk about the race, and started looking for their teammate.

She was coming around the last turn, running hard and breathing deep, but she wasn't alone. A few teammates ran alongside, helping her stay motivated; others shouted encouragement, clapping until she crossed the finish line. And when she finished exhausted, red-faced and smiling, I quietly wiped the tears from my face.

At each of Kyrene's middle schools, more than 100 6th, 7th and 8th graders hit the trails five days a week this past fall. And it doesn't matter how fast they run or even whether they can run the whole course.

Cross country is a no-cut sport, and it's open to any student willing to get up at the wee hours of the morning.

"Students don't need to come with any particular skill. If you are willing they are open to you," says Kyrene District Athletic Director Gavin Martin. "It does allow the students to participate in a sport and represent their school."

No cut means kids who haven't had the advantage of club sports get to try out a team sport and see if it fits. Over 500 students ran cross country at Kyrene's six middle schools this past season.

My daughter was one of those. She's not a front-of-the-pack athlete. At meets she never pushed herself too hard. In fact, she ran the course with a broad smile, chatting up parents she recognized along the route, clearly not "killing" herself with exertion.

But running is great to help her control her Type 1 diabetes, and we were grateful for the enthusiasm of the coaches who encouraged her.

At Aprende Middle School, a student with autism runs cross country, and a hearing-impaired student runs for Kyrene del Pueblo. Other students who participate may have hidden disabilities, but they know they can count on teammates for encouragement.

These same cross country runners will lace up their running shoes again in the spring for track and field, which is also a no-cut sport.

In the winter they can go out for no-cut wrestling, which is open to both boys and girls.

Largely because of the popularity of no-cut sports, Kyrene schools now offer intramural sports for the smaller team sports like volleyball, tennis and basketball.

"We probably had over 300 girls try out for volleyball for 160 – 180 spots," noted Martin. "Making cuts are the hardest thing for coaches," adding "We don't want to discourage them. We want to keep that fire. So now we can offer them a spot on an intramural team."

The intramurals allow students to learn the fundamentals of a sport or develop more advanced skills. Practices are held in the evenings and the teams play against other Kyrene schools on Saturdays.

And no-cut and intramural doesn't mean the sports aren't competitive.

The intramural volleyball players dive for balls, and show the scars of tough play just like players on the JV and varsity teams. There's an intramural tournament at the end of the season, and the team results echo to an enthusiastic crowd over loudspeakers at school pep rallies.

For those who'd like to see the impact sports have on kids this age, spring track meets are a perfect opportunity. Wait a bit after the pack clears the finish line, and you'll see the best of youth athletics. Striding down the course are the kids who lay it all out there every week for that moment of accomplishment, where everyone is cheering just for them.

Just remember to bring a supply of tissues.

For Rover Elementary teachers, an unexpected bonus



Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell showed up to help celebrate the occasion.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

Rover Elementary School has received unexpected funding for all the teacher project requests that were posted on DonorsChoose.org on the day the announcement was made by the Arizona Organizing Committee and College Football Playoff Foundation.

The statewide award, totaling \$208,856, was earmarked to fulfill instructional needs, including art and classroom supplies, books, graphing calculators and tablets, as well as gardening and lab materials for hands-on learning opportunities.

Rover received \$3,026.

The funding is part of AOC's larger commitment to providing \$1 million in charitable contributions as the host of next year's national championship.

The bulk of the contributions will benefit education in Arizona through College Football Playoffs' Extra Yard for Teachers program and DonorsChoose.org.

"Today, we are able to see firsthand the meaningful impact these events have in our communities," said AOC co-chair Brad Wright.

"This is why we continue to bring national events to Arizona.

"We are honored to be able to support teachers and students statewide, and provide access to much-needed supplies and materials that will lead to new and challenging learning experiences."

Chandler Center for the Arts 20th year for quilts exhibition series

Chandler Center for the Arts is observing the 20th year of its Art Quilts exhibition series, featuring textile artworks that relate to self-growth, regeneration or the taking of a new pathway.

The event runs through Jan. 9.

According to event juror Loraine Sample, this year's theme is Journeys & Life Cycles, featuring artworks that have grown out of transition, lifestyle changes or crisis.

The exhibit represents a new outlook or a new course for artists and their stories.

Sample, an award-winning fiber artist who came to her craft through a lifelong love of sewing, launched her career in the early 1990s when she was introduced to the contemporary art quilt medium while living in Seattle.

The Art Quilts exhibition has grown from a local and regional quilt show to a respected vehicle for contemporary works.

The event, featuring works by participating art quilters, draws entries from around the U.S. and Canada, and allows thousands of visitors each year to experience quilting as an art form.

The display of contemporary art quilts is said to showcase one of the finest collections of textile art on display in the regional Southwest.

The exhibition is produced by Chandler Center for the Arts and is presented by the Chandler Cultural Foundation and the Chandler Arts Commission.

Information: Yvonne Villareal-Torres at 480-782-2695 or yvonne.villareal-torres@chandleraz.gov



There were smiles to go all around as Kyrene Traditional Academy celebrated receipt the news it has been designated a National Blue Ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education.

— Photo courtesy Kyrene School District

Kyrene Traditional Academy among U.S. best

By Diana Whittle

It's official: Kyrene Traditional Academy, Sureño campus, has been designated a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, joining some of the nation's best educational institutions in the K-5 age group.

The West Chandler-based school received the distinction based on its overall academic excellence and its demonstration that all students can achieve at high levels. It is the only school in the East Valley to be selected and one of four in the state to earn the honor.

"As a district, we are very proud of the Kyrene Traditional Academy and the work the principal, Dr. Marianne Lescher, has accomplished with her staff and the KTA community," said Kyrene Superintendent Dr. David K. Schauer.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students either achieve very

high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap.

In 2012, the school adopted a traditional curriculum model. KTA serves 510 K-5 students, many of whom speak languages other than English. Approximately 47 percent of the students are classified as low-income and qualify for free or reduced meals.

KTA principal Lescher and teacher Jeanne Cano traveled to Washington, D.C., Nov. 9-11, to attend the recognition ceremony honoring the 285 public and 50 private schools that received the honor nationwide. In its 33-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has awarded Blue Ribbon status to approximately 8,000 schools in the country.

During a community celebration on Nov. 17 at KTA, attendees were able to see the award plaque, which affirms the diligence of educators, students and their families in creating a safe and welcoming school. An award flag also is displayed outside the

school.

KTA received its designation in the category of Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools—the state's highest performers in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates for each subgroup are at high levels.

Said Lescher:

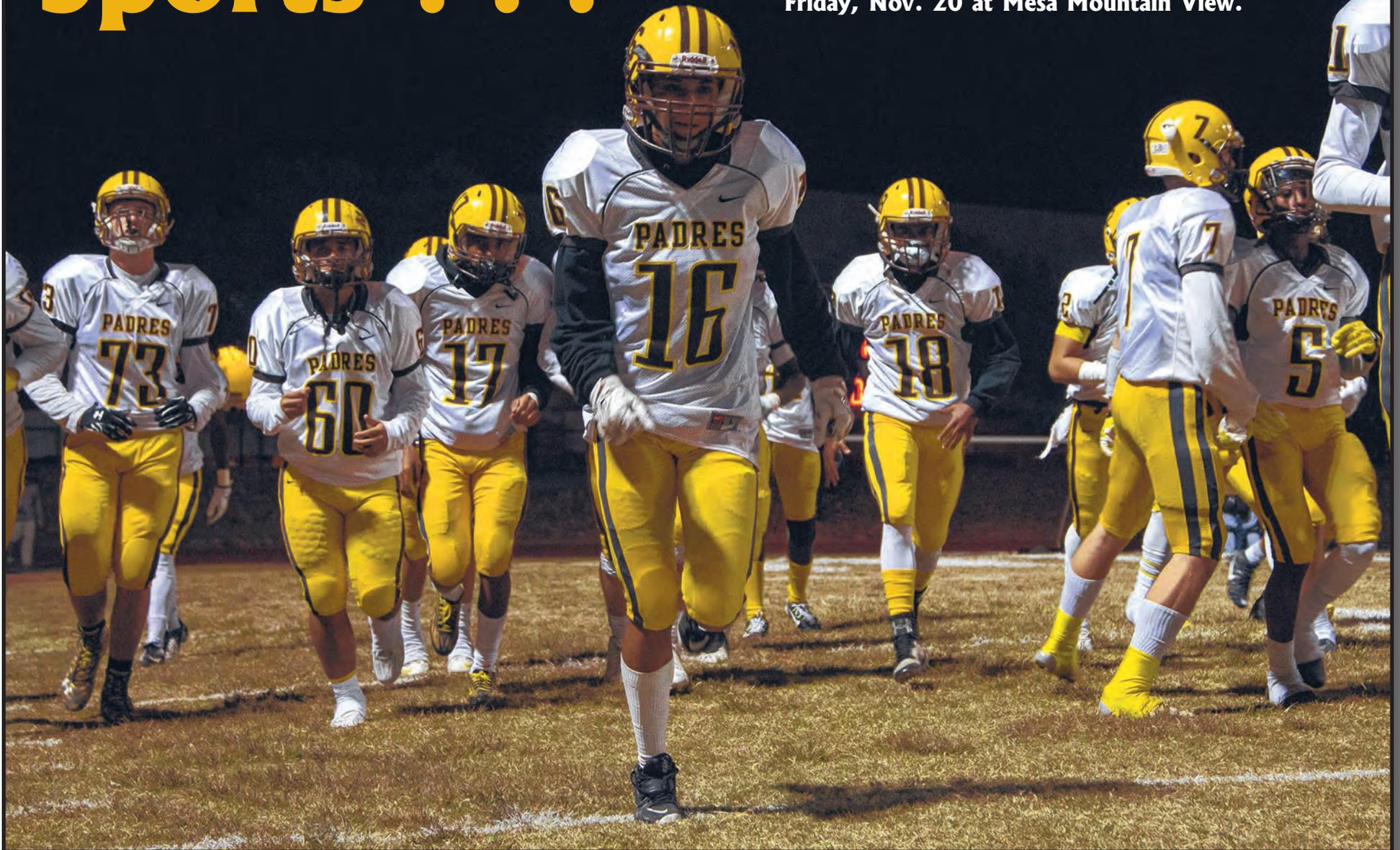
"The KTA staff and I are extremely proud of our efforts in working with all students to meet rigorous standards for success so that all students are meeting and exceeding expectations!"

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models for other schools throughout the nation and their applications are posted on the website for the U.S. Department of Education. On the application, KTA touts its increased performance on standardized test that judge reading and math.

Information: www.nationalblueribbonsschools.com.

Sports . . .

The Padres' win over Tucson's Ironwood Ridge propelled the team into semi-finals vs Skyline Friday, Nov. 20 at Mesa Mountain View.



Marcos de Niza players take to the field after halftime during a playoff game against Ironwood Ridge in Oro Valley on Nov. 13. Padres defeated the Nighthawks 35-15.

— Wrangler News photo by Ana Ramirez For more photos go to www.wranglernews.com

By Alex Zener

Marcos de Niza's Padres stood their ground and defeated a reignited Corona del Sol for the second time in two weeks Nov. 6 to spoil the Aztecs' chances of making it past the first round in the DII state football playoffs.

The Padres 14-7 win over Corona propelled Marcos into the second round, where they easily defeated Tucson's Ironwood Ridge 35-15 on Nov. 13 and were scheduled to play the No. 1-ranked DII team in the state, Skyline, in the semi-finals Nov. 20 at Mt. View High School, a neutral site. Mt. View is at 2700 E. Brown Road, Mesa.

The Padre offense was on fire, outscoring Ironwood Ridge 28-0 before their dominant defense cooled off enough to allow the Nighthawks to get on the board, 28-7, in the third quarter with a touchdown.

The Padres would score another touchdown, making it five altogether, before the Nighthawks were able to put up their only other points, a second

touchdown followed by a two-point conversion in the last minute of the game to finish 35-15.

The leading rusher for the Padres was **Avery Sanders**, with 14 carries for 180 yards. He helped set up quarterbacks **Nazareth Greer**, **Zyayre Moss** and **Erik Bolster** to score one touchdown each, while **Shaun Richards** scored two touchdowns.

Taking what the Nighthawks' defense gave them, the Padres, who usually have a balanced attack, rushed for a total of 344 yards and passed for only 115 yards. **Anthony Trujillo** was the leading receiver with four receptions for a total of 57 yards.

The Padres stingy defense accounted for 30 solo tackles, 22 assists and 51 total tackles.

Jacob Hernandez led the team with nine solo and five assists, or a total of 14 tackles—two of them for a loss of yardage.

James Reynosa caused the Nighthawks to fumble the ball, along with his nine tackles, while **Christian Rodriguez** had six tackles and three

quarterback sacks.

Trysten Griffith and Sanders each had five tackles. Griffith intercepted a pass to stall one of the Nighthawk drives.

The Padres are lucky with three kickers on the team. **Krysten Muir** scored all five of her point-after attempts for five points, while **Matt Gill** averaged over 45 yards in his six kickoffs.

The offense had to rely on **Tanner Blankenship** to punt the ball only twice, but he averaged 42 yards each time.

The Padres moved up in the DII football rankings to No. 3 with their win over No. 4-seeded Ironwood Ridge.

If they are able to defeat the No. 1 ranked Skyline on Nov. 20, the Padres will play the winner of the Westview versus Saguaro game in the championships at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27.

Cross Country Results — Corona's boys team placed fifth out of 19 teams competing in the DI AIA

State Championship Cross Country meet Nov. 7 held at Cave Creek Golf Course.

Leading the team was junior **Slade Summers**, finishing in 11th place with a time of 16:19, followed by junior **Liam Kovatch** crossing the finish line in 20th place and recording at time of 16:36. Both Summers and Kovatch received medals.

Other runners for the Aztecs were sophomore **Graham Eversden** in 29th place; senior **Lucas Ykema** in 33rd; junior **Josh Whitney** in 51st; sophomore **Lincoln Johnson** in 57th; and junior **Tyler Thompson** in 69th.

Corona's girls team placed 10th, with junior **Renee Payne** crossing the finish line first for the team in 34th place, closely followed one second later by senior **Alexis Artiaga** in 35th place. Fellow senior **Mackenzie Harder** was next, trailed by freshman **Mackenzie Burgess**, freshman **Tanaeya Johnson**, sophomore **Riley Wright** and sophomore **Cybell Cozart**.

McClintock's girls team competed at the DII level at the state meet finishing as a team in 32nd place. Sophomore **Megan Carr** was the top runner for the Chargers followed by junior **Fiona Thiele**, sophomore **Adia Carr**, sophomore **Teresa Flores**, junior **Tori Martin** and **Alexandra Mask**.

Both the girls and boys team from Tempe High School competed in the DIII state cross country meet. The girls team placed seventh and the boys team finished in 21st place.

The girls team was led by sophomore **Danyella Miranda** who medaled in 18th place. The next runner was senior **Daisy Lopez** in 41st place, senior **Ruth Linares** in 48th, senior **Alexis Blanc** at 65th, sophomore **Rubi Aguilera** in 85th, sophomore **Symantha Ramos** and senior **Joslyn Murillo**.

The boys team finished in 21st place with the Buffaloes' top two finishers, senior **Jose Garcia**

placing 69th and senior **Tony Tipton** in 87th place. Other runners in order of finish were senior **Chris Morales**; senior **Luis Hernandez**; senior **Jonathon Medina**; sophomore **Omar Bello**; and senior **Augustine Matuz**.



Corona del Sol signers, front row, from left: Katelyn Stys, Karilyn Quon, Hayden Warnock, Casey Betts. Back row, Ryan Novis, Connor McCord, Ryan Farina, Tyrell Henderson, Jakob Patterson.

— Photo by Kris Cartwright for Wrangler News

Corona Athletes Sign Letters of Intent —

Corona had nine athletes signing letters of intent to play college sports on Nov. 13.

Tyrell Henderson, a three-year member of Corona's state championship basketball team, signed his intent to play at Portland State.

"Tyrell has meant a great deal to Corona's basketball program," said head coach **Neil MacDonald**. "Tyrell is an intelligent, versatile, hard-working player who can play and guard multiple positions."

"Besides having a high basketball IQ, because

— SPORTS, Page 23



Corona's boys cross country team took first place at Sectionals and fifth place at the DI state championship meet. Pictured with Sectional trophy are Tyler Thompson, Lincoln Johnston, Liam Kovatch, Slade Summers, Coach Pat Smith, Lucas Ykema, Graham Eversden and Josh Whitney.

— Photo courtesy Scott Summers

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Hot off the line

Tempe-based Tilted Kilt, which sponsors NASCAR driver Korbin Forrester, hosted Forrester and had his car on display prior to the Nov. 13-15 big event at Phoenix International Raceway, which drew an estimated 100,000 fans. The informal meet-and-greet at Tilted Kilt's Warner Road location, which also featured some of the 'Kilt's' signature wait staff, offered a glimpse at Forrester's Xfinity car, wrapped for the occasion to give added eye appeal — if any actually was needed.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

Canals being drained through Dec. 20

Portions of the South, Consolidated, Eastern, Tempe, Western and Highline canals on the south side of the Salt River are being drained for annual maintenance and construction activities now through Dec. 20.

Many of SRP's southside irrigation customers will not receive water from the canals during the dry-up.

The affected areas include Tempe, Chandler, Mesa and south Phoenix.

This 2015 southside dry-up marks the fourth year of a seven-year canal dry-up plan, which will potentially result in increased construction traffic on canal banks as SRP crews work to remove silt, replace concrete lining and repair gates.

SRP crews will be working in the Western Canal (from the junction with the Tempe Canal south of Guadalupe to Baseline, and from 48th Street to 7th Street) and in the Tempe Canal (from the Mesa Country Club to Alma School).

Additionally, large projects are planned in the Consolidated Canal at Brown Road and at Guadalupe Road.

To view a map of the seven-year dry-up plan, which is subject to change, visit http://www.srpnet.com/water/canals/pdfs/csdup7years_public.pdf.

The southside dry-up is taking place from Friday, Nov. 20, through Dec. 20. SRP is responsible for keeping its canal system in operating condition during normal water deliveries.

Canal dry-ups allow SRP as well as other utilities and municipalities to perform construction and maintenance activities in and around the canals.

SRP crews also will use the southside dry-up to examine the canals and underwater structures to look for evidence of invasive adult quagga mussels.

For their safety, Valley residents who use the canal banks for recreational activities should note the increased construction and maintenance activities along the canal banks.

Under no circumstances should residents enter the canals. Posted warning signs should be obeyed.

During this dry-up, weed-eating white amur fish that are used to control aquatic vegetation in the canals will be relocated to other areas of the canal system.

The herding and relocation of the fish will start Saturday morning and will continue for seven or eight days. SRP now utilizes white amurs throughout its 131-mile Valley canal system.

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Don't let a preventable accident ruin your special holiday moments

The holidays are here, and as you gather with friends and family to share good food and good times, also remember to pay attention to the details – some small, some large – that will help keep you and your loved ones safe to enjoy the season.

Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home. Kids love to be involved in holiday



preparations, which is why the Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Department suggests creating a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the

stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried. You should also keep children away from knives and sharp utensils.

Did you know that Thanksgiving is the

leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment? Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it's for a short period of time. If you're simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

Candles and fireplace fires are also popular during the holidays, but please remember to keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, and never leave children (or pets) alone in a room with a lit candle or a fire burning in the fireplace.



The Fire, Health & Medical Department encourages Chandler residents to consider using flameless candles, which look and

smell like real candles. Visit www.nfpa.org/holiday for additional safety tips and precautions people can take during the holidays to avoid potential fire hazards and accidents.

The weekend after Thanksgiving usually involves some serious shopping to take advantage of amazing deals. The City of Chandler, the Chandler Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership encourage residents to support local businesses during Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28. This annual, nationwide event is a day to recognize all of the local, brick-and-mortar businesses that create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods around the country. How can you help? Shop at a local business in Chandler and take a selfie using the hashtag #shopsmall and tag @ChandlerChamber, @ChandlerDCCP or @cityofchandler.

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How are we doing managing the City's operations? Are our priorities and financial decisions in line with your priorities and expectations? We want to know! Please take a few minutes to complete Chandler's online Budget Survey at chandleraz.gov/budget. Results are shared with the Mayor and City Council, City Manager and staff to assist in the formulation of the City's financial plan. Electronic and paper copies of the survey are available through the end of December. Paper copies are available at various City facilities including libraries, community centers and the City Hall lobby. Completed paper surveys can be returned at City facilities or mailed to the City of Chandler, Budget Division - Citizen Surveys, Mail Stop 609, P.O. Box 4008, Chandler, AZ 85244-4008. Electronic and paper versions of the survey are also available in Spanish. For more information, call 480-782-2252.

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 21 Woolstock, Tumbleweed Park, 480-782-2669
- 21 Downtown Concert Series, Downtown Chandler Stage, 480-855-3539
- 26,27 Thanksgiving holiday, City offices closed
- 28 Downtown Concert Series, Downtown Chandler Stage, 480-855-3539
- 27-29 Nutcracker, Ctr for the Arts, 480-782-2680

DECEMBER

- 3,10,17 Farmer's Market, Downtown Chandler, 480-855-3539
- 4-5 Nutcracker, Ctr for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 5 Tumbleweed Tree Lighting & Parade of Lights, 480-782-2669
- 7, 9 City Council meeting, Council Chambers, 480-782-2180
- 10,12,19 Santa's House, Downtown Chandler, 480-782-2669
- 12 Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Holiday Toy Ride, Chandler Fashion Ctr, 480-782-2120
- 12 The Snowcat, Ctr for the Arts, 480-782-2680

- 12,13,19,20 The Spirit of Christmas, Ctr for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 17 Sonoran Sunset Concert Series, Veteran's Oasis Park, 480-782-2895
- 18 Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 480-855-3539
- 18 Texas Tenors Christmas, Ctr for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 22,23,26-31 Zoppé: An Italian Family Circus, Ctr for the Arts, 480-782-2680
- 25 Christmas holiday, City offices closed
- 31 News Year's Eve Concert, Downtown Chandler Stage, 480-855-3539

For event details, visit chandleraz.gov or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 480-782-27355.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny & City Council





Marcos de Niza recovers a fumble during a playoff game against Ironwood Ridge in Oro Valley on Nov. 13. Padres defeated Nighthawks 35-15. For more photos go to www.wranglernews.com. — Wrangler News photo by Ana Ramirez

Sports

From Page 18

he studies and understands the game of basketball extremely well, Tyrell is a good student in the classroom as well, earning a 3.8 GPA.

"He has also emerged as a senior leader on campus, supporting other groups besides our basketball program."

Karilyn Quon signed to swim at St. Francis in Pennsylvania. Quon has been a highly successful swimmer at Corona, qualifying for state swim events all four years. "Karilyn is the definition of 'student-athlete,' plus she has never disappointed in or out of the pool," said coach **Ron Musgrave**.

"I know, from a strategic standpoint, we have an outstanding chance of winning any event she swims because she is such a fierce competitor. On the other hand, she is a very kind young lady who will do great things in the classroom and pool or wherever she applies herself at St. Francis."

Katelyn Stys, a member of Corona's varsity softball team since her freshman year, signed to play softball at Philadelphia University next fall.

"Katelyn is a wonderful teammate who is very unselfish," said coach **Jennifer Ray**. "Although a quiet leader, she is not afraid to speak her mind when she sees fit. She is a very hard worker who accepts challenges on and off the field and one of the first and last ones to leave practice."

Ryan Farina, a two-time state place winning wrestler for Corona, signed a letter of intent to join his older brother **Glen Farina** in the wrestling program at Cal State Poly next fall.

"Ryan, and his entire family, has had a huge impact on Corona's wrestling program on and off the mat," said coach **Jimmy Martinez**.

"He is a hard-working, committed wrestler who the others look up to as a leader in our program."

"He is a self-starter who never complains but just keeps working hard to continually improve. He does not take his past successes for granted in wrestling or in the classroom, where he is a straight 'A' student."

Corona had two baseball players sign letters of intent last Friday.

Ryan Novis, who has played outfielder for the Aztecs' varsity team since his sophomore year, signed to play at St. Mary's. **Connor McCord**, first baseman and pitcher on the varsity team since 2014, signed at Western Oregon.

Casey Betts and **Elizabeth Snoddy** signed letters to compete in gymnastics. Betts signed with Minnesota while Snoddy signed with William and Mary.

Jakob Patterson, a prominent member of the Aztec lacrosse team since his freshman year, signed a letter of intent to play at University of Albany.

Corona Badminton State Championship — **Baylee Watson** and **Vanessa Mora**, unseeded in the AIA Badminton Doubles DI State Championship, defeated Mesa 15-13 and 15-8 in the first round but lost in second round to the No. 2 seed Red Mountain 15-8 and 15-0 late in October.

Colleen Ridge, entering the Badminton Singles DI tournament unseeded, defeated Sunnyslope's Denial 11-0 and 11-3 in the first round and beat Mountain View's Church in the second round 11-0 and 11-1 before falling to No. 1 seeded defending and eventual 2015 state champion Guo from Desert Vista 11-2, 11-2 in the third round.

Corona, seeded No. 11 in the team portion of the state championship, defeated No. 6-seeded Mountain Ridge in the first round 5-2 on Oct. 26 but lost 0-5 in the quarterfinals to the No. 3-seeded Red Mountain.



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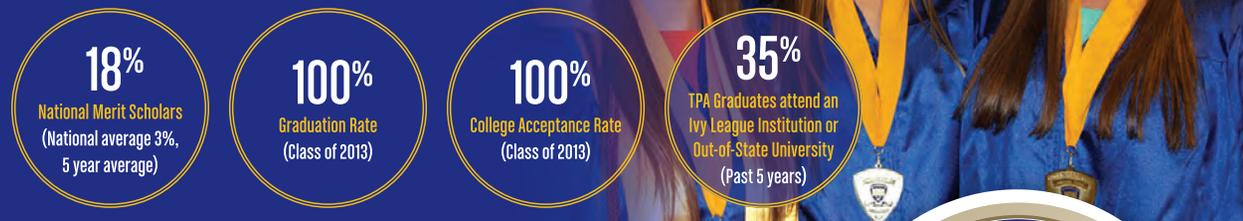
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Mayor

From Page 1

Mitchell said Tempe must not minimize the value of its collaborative efforts with the leadership of other East Valley communities, which have resulted in more effective, more global solutions to solving the problems of growth.

Mitchell said he was pleased with the results of efforts to align the mayors and city councilmembers of nearby cities, as well as with such regional power bases as the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, the Maricopa Association of Governments and Valley Metro, as well as with such statewide players as the Arizona Commerce Authority and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

To emphasize the importance of collaboration, Mitchell said:

"Tempe is at its best when it is a regional player. When people and companies are deciding where to locate, they don't look at Tempe in a vacuum; they look at how the Valley functions together as a whole."

As a result of the city's commitment to regional solutions, Mitchell said Tempe has brought in 16,000 new jobs and \$1 billion-plus in economic investment since he took office.

Sounding a modest warning note, however, Mitchell said the factors that resulted in a sustainable economy a few decades ago may not continue to be so easily sustainable.

"A lesson of the great recession is that an economy that relies too heavily on one sector is too vulnerable," he said. "For example, in a land-locked city we can't rely only on the construction and sale of new buildings and homes. If the bottom line is decided on how much open land we have, Tempe is not going to be the winner."

Mitchell said that Tempe's future lies largely with the innovative spirit and entrepreneurialism that seem to have given the city a leg up in the competition for startups.

So far, he noted, those qualities show no sign of abating, which is good news for a community that holds an enviable record for "our innovative workforce, our creative residents and their big ideas."

If problems lie ahead, Mitchell said, his primary concern would be on the need for more people in Tempe's downtown area.

Although the downtown business occupancy rate is at 65 percent, he offered his hope that number would grow.

"In order for this area to fulfill its potential and become a self-sustaining, vibrant, urban area, and for even more businesses to start (t)here, we need more people downtown. We need more customers."

Mitchell—who described himself as "cheerleader-in-chief" for Tempe—noted that while commercial growth forms an integral foundation for economic stability, its real value is in helping to underwrite the kind of infrastructure its populace wants and expects.

"We need to keep our residents safe; we need to keep our neighborhoods and community clean and beautiful," he said.

"And we need to provide a strong quality of life with great parks and libraries and other community assets."

At the rate Tempe is growing, Mitchell suggested, those should be attainable goals.

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Food Bank

From Page 1

This experience, and her recognition of the dramatic impact it had on her life, has come to be one of the mostly unspoken reasons that Goetz has gained special—and in this case, spiritual—appreciation for the small food-bank program conducted regularly by Arizona Community Church.

There, as a longtime staff member, Goetz oversees the otherwise volunteer workforce that restocks shelves and fills the baskets that are distributed to families throughout the year.

“The church has been doing this for a long, long time,” she says, unfolding the history of the south Tempe institution and how it has quietly maintained a stockpile of emergency provisions for more than 17 years.

While only 30 or so families can be accommodated during any given period, Goetz says it fills a need for local families, especially during the holidays.

There are other, much larger organizations that provide year round for those down on their luck—St. Mary’s Food Bank, Chandler Community Christian Center among them, Goetz notes. But Arizona Community Church fills a special niche of the neediest whose situation has been discovered by church members.

Some are on the brink of homelessness, others are temporarily low on funds as a result of illness or—again, bringing back her own memories—of being out of a job longer

than expected.

“We try to go on referrals from people we know; we say ‘send that family in’ and we’ll give them a Thanksgiving dinner,” says Goetz.

The gesture represents more than an economic blessing, she adds. “There are a lot of people who aren’t accustomed to being in need; they can be embarrassed by the situation and reluctant to go through the standard channels for help.”

As a result of the church’s program that relies largely on referrals from its members, staff and others who have regular contact, Goetz says some who are considered for aid via a non-judgmental “friend” seem more willing to make their situation known and accept temporary intervention.

“If someone we know makes a referral, a lot of times the person they’re telling us about doesn’t mind coming to us. We try to make it so there’s a known connection, and there are no strings attached. We’re just glad to be able to do it,” Goetz says.

As to some of the situations Goetz remembers best, she especially recalls the case of a woman who was caring for seven grandchildren, disenfranchised from their parents because one was in prison, the other unable to provide a home.

“She had all these mouths to feed, and she was a good woman,” Goetz recalls. “We feel bad for her; she’s done the best she can. We try to make sure she gets a turkey, especially at Thanksgiving time.”

Arizona Community Church is at 9325 S. Rural Road, Tempe. Phone: 480-491-2210.



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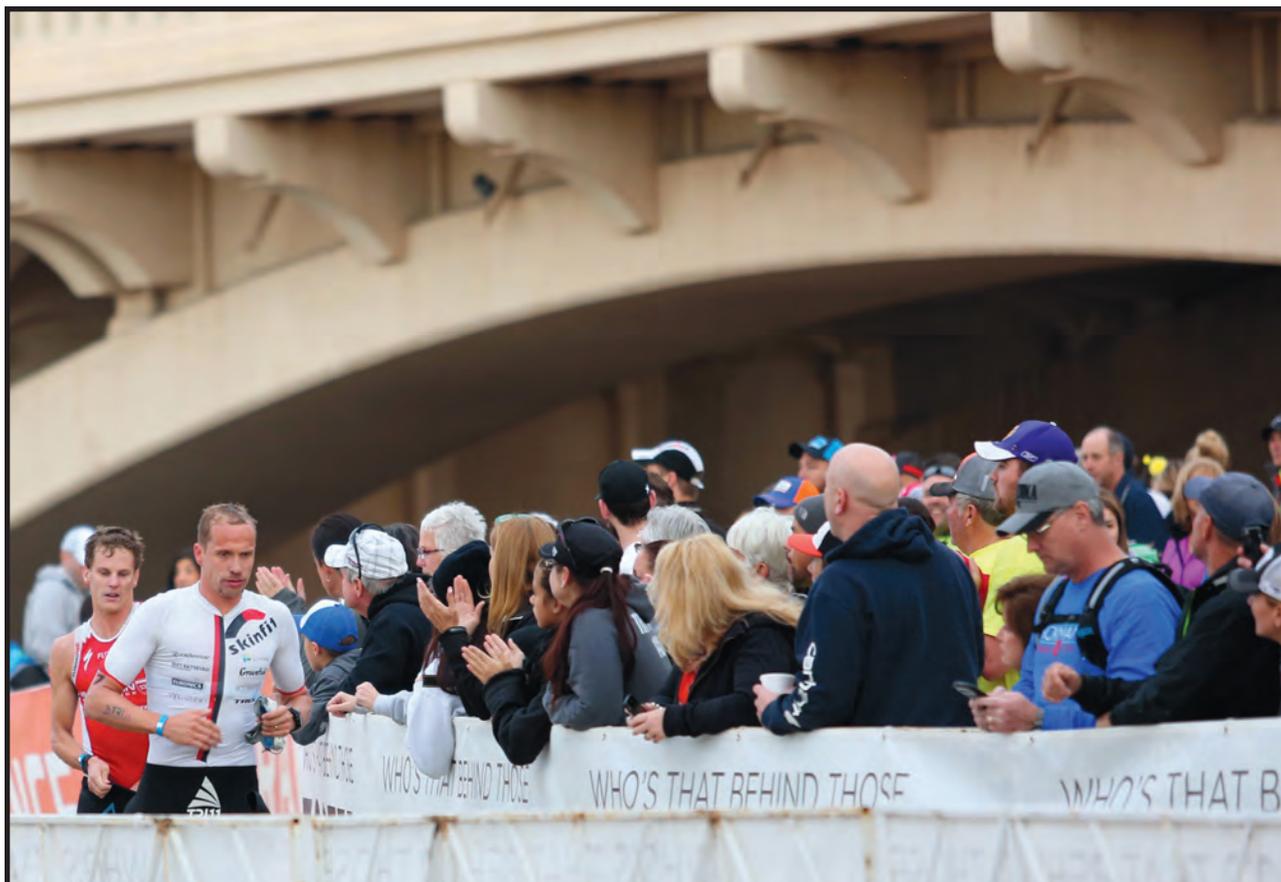
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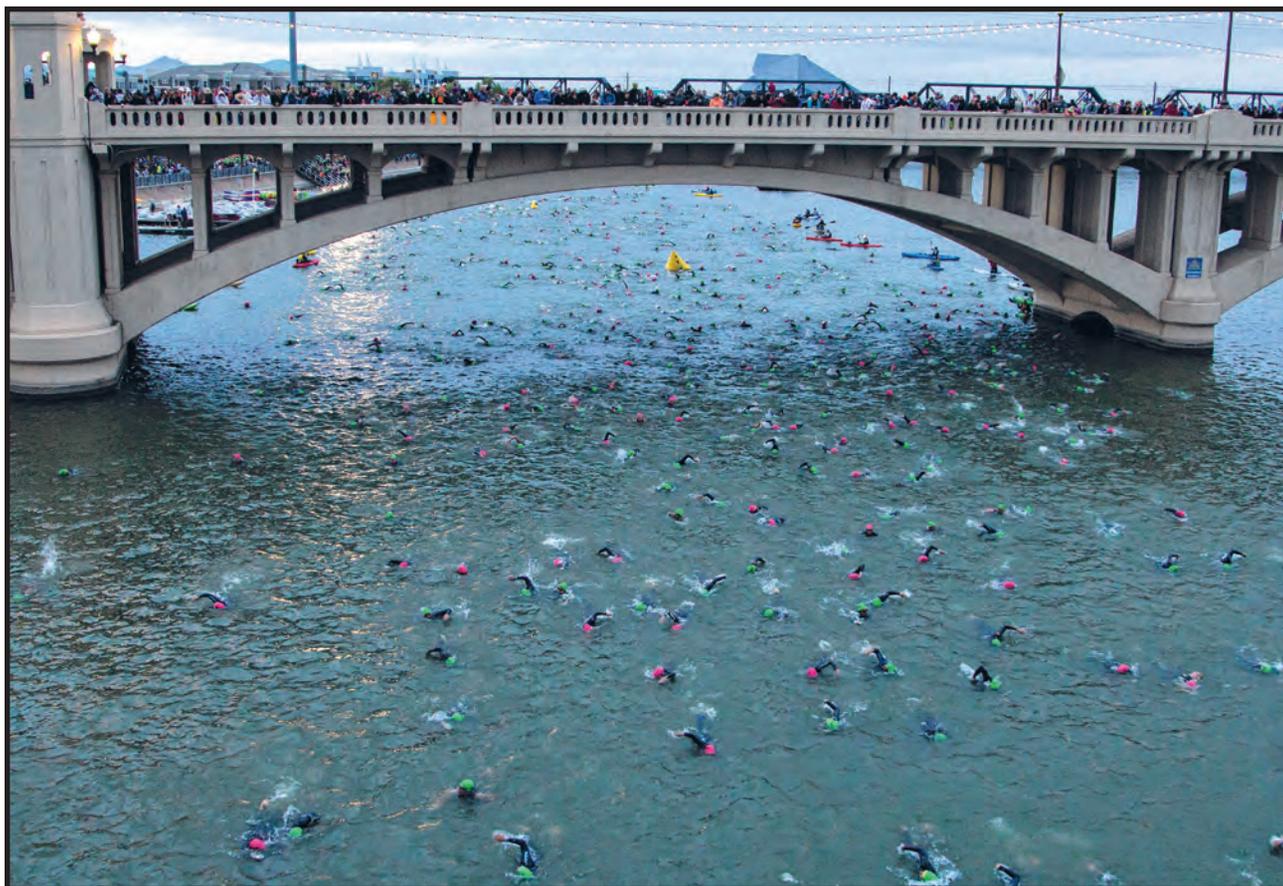



Congratulations to our Ironmen . . . and Iron-Women

Hundreds of hardy athletes participated in the 2015 Ironman Arizona at Tempe Beach Park on Nov. 15. The competitors ranged in age from 18 to 85, all of them willing to endure such physically demanding challenges as swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and running 26.2 miles. The athletes began their day with a single-loop swim in Tempe Town Lake, followed by a flat, triple-loop bike course through the Sonoran desert. The double-loop run course wound around the lake and through Papago Park before an electric finish back at Beach Park. The event offered a total professional prize purse of \$100,000 and 50 coveted age-group qualifying slots to the 2016 Ironman World Championship, due to take place next year in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

For more photos visit www.wranglernews.com.

— Wrangler News photos by Ana Ramirez



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Contributing Writers: Joyce Coronel, Deborah Hilcove, Alex Zener, Kody Acevedo, M.V. Moorhead, Diana Whittle, Johnny Coronel
Photographers: Ana Ramirez, Alex J. Walker

Offices: Wrangler News Building
2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 102, Tempe, AZ 85284-3497
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The Last Word

No place for mob mentality when First Amendment rights are threatened

By Jonathan Coronel

Editor's note: The author, a graduate of Corona del Sol High School, is a sophomore at Arizona State University, where he plans to pursue a career in law.

The asterisk by the First Amendment grows larger and larger every day, a condition made painfully evident by viral videos showing students who lack basic civic knowledge imposing their will on journalists and running roughshod over the most fundamental rights.



The University of Missouri has been shaken by protests the past several weeks over alleged racism on campus. Such incidents as a swastika drawn on a bathroom wall and a drunken student hurling a racial slur at a black student gained national attention when the college's football team threatened to boycott its next game if university president Tim Wolfe refused to resign. In the midst of this intense pressure, Wolfe acquiesced and stepped down Nov. 9.

The merits of what students and football players did to protest a situation they viewed as racism and injustice is beside the point here: They exercised their First Amendment rights and were legally justified in doing so. The real problem is how student protesters at Mizzou characterized themselves as nothing more than fairweather friends of the First Amendment.

This was on full display on the university quad during the week of the protest.

"You need to get out—this is *our* healing space," student journalist Tim Tai was told when he tried to take photos of the protesters. Tai was simply trying to do his job and document the demonstration being staged on the university's public quad, where hundreds had gathered.

Little did Tai know that college students had recently contrived a form of extralegal protection through which they can cordon off a public area and declare it a "safe space," where views that hurt their feelings or make them feel unsafe are not allowed.

Who knew amending the Bill of Rights was so simple?

Almost immediately Tai was confronted by a swarm of students telling him (incorrectly!) that he had no right to be there. Although Tai tried to explain that the First Amendment protects his right to document their protest just as it does their right to protest, the mob-mentality trumped common sense and Tai was pushed away, blocked and his voice drowned out by students who appeared to have skipped eighth grade civics class.

Mark Schierbecker was another journalist who tried to film the protest that day. When he attempted to do so, he was met by journalism and communications professor Melissa Click.

Click immediately called for "muscle" to get Schierbecker away and even grabbed at his camera. Astoundingly, ignorance of the First Amendment pervades even the journalism department at the University of Missouri.

The idea that limits on free speech should be subject to other peoples' feelings or what makes

them uncomfortable is a dangerous one.

Furthermore, students at Missouri should realize how self-defeating their actions are.

The media can be a boon or a bane to movements. Missouri students should recognize that the media have a history of being pivotal in facilitating change in society at large. Imagine how differently the civil rights movement likely would have been had Martin Luther King and other leaders taken on the mentality of Missouri students and shunned journalists trying to document their marches, sit-ins and boycotts.

The whole point of a protest is to gain visibility for whatever issue one is speaking out against, not to create a "safe," media-free space.

Shunning the media from a protest not only defeats the purpose of holding a display in public, it is also illegal.

This past week, students across the nation have joined what has become a viral movement, expressing that they stand with the students at Mizzou.

But anyone who values freedom of speech should condemn the students at Missouri or elsewhere who think it is acceptable to trample on others' First Amendment rights.

Encouraging lawlessness is just as deplorable as engaging in it. Once we start making the right to free speech dependent on other peoples' feelings of safety or discomfort, we forfeit that right.

This is a nation of laws, not feelings, and we should think twice before restricting our most fundamental rights based on the notoriously volatile emotions of college kids.

Wrangler News invites contributions to 'The Last Word' commentary section. Please be aware that we may edit to meet space and other limitations.



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