



MAY 4 - 17, 2019 □ VOL 30, NO 9

Public meeting planned May 15 as developer seeks to build on Warner/Rural site

## Proposed development of vacant lot spurs neighbors' reaction

By Noah Kutz & Joyce Coronel

For decades, the northwest corner of Rural and Warner roads in South Tempe has stood vacant. Now, if a developer gains the city's approval, a restaurant, day-care center and coffee shop could take shape on that site.

After news of the plan reached nearby homeowners, a bright red zoning notice popped up on the empty lot where dust, broken glass and scattered weeds reign.

A meeting to discuss the proposal is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at Corona del Sol High School.

Wrangler News spoke several days later with residents of a neighborhood adjacent to the proposed development. Many of the custom homes along 71st Street in the Tally Ho subdivision are horse properties, some valued in excess of \$1 million.

Strolling through the neighborhood, the cry



— LAND, Page 27

Realtor Nick Bastian is among advocates for commercial development at Rural and Warner. — Wrangler News photo by Noah Kutz

## For Cinco de Mayo: Una Fiesta Grandiosa

Cinco de Mayo, the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla. Here in our happily non-hostile cities of Tempe and West Chandler, we'll join our Valley-wide neighbors in the celebration by enjoying a traditional meal, the likes of which can be found at La Casa de Juana, one of our neighborhood's most authentic—

and favorite—*restaurantes especiales*. Awaiting guests on this most notable of Mexican holidays will be a genuine *guitarista*, a smiling staff and a statuesque (need we say) hostess awaiting the arrival of guests.

See Page 14 for details.

Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman



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## Chandler Regional doctor says hospital ER's no longer male-dominated In opioid epidemic, women's natural empathy hailed as previously undiscovered key

By Sammie Ann Wicks

The statistics are staggering: Fatalities nationwide due to opioid overdoses numbered 42,000 in 2016 and 71,568 in 2017, according to a 2018 Centers for Disease Control report. That's between 115 and 196 a day, with estimates suggesting the death rate is likely to rise.

One local addiction specialist who deals with the opioid crisis on a daily basis—she is director of the emergency department at Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center—says the issue has only become more complicated with the entry of international players into the supply side of the American drug market.

“Today we're seeing newer, more dangerous synthetic forms of opioids on the illicit market, such as Fentanyl,” says Dr. Sandra Indermuhle, a prominent expert in the field of addiction. The synthetic became even more hazardous domestically with the current involvement of criminal drug interests in countries outside the U.S.

“Now, these ever-more-dangerous drugs are being manufactured in China, and the Mexican drug cartels are adding them to their products,” Indermuhle says, noting that an analog of Fentanyl, called Carfentanyl, poses extreme dangers to humans in any amount.

“Carfentanyl is intended for use with very large animals, strictly for veterinary purposes,”



Indermuhle warns, “and as such is 100 times more potent than anything we've seen so far.”

With the federal government preparing to spend \$4.6 billion this year to address the problem, the Chandler Regional ER head says the opioid epidemic has changed its approach to the treatment of pain.

“Even though most opioid overdose deaths have been due to their illicit use in combination with other drugs, the growing epidemic has changed the rules about how doctors routinely treat patients with chronic pain,” she says.

“The state has now put limits on the number and quantity of tablets doctors can prescribe. After that,

they must refer the patient to pain management specialists for different treatment modalities.”

The National Institute of Drug Abuse reports the physician prescribing rate decreased annually by 4.9 percent from 2012 to 2016 for high-dose opioids and by 9.3 percent from 2009 to 2016 for lesser dosages.

Indermuhle notes aspects of the brain's chemistry help to fuel the tendency toward addiction for those susceptible to it.

“We know there is a genetic aspect to addiction,” she says, “and for some, all it takes is a life stressor such as divorce, perhaps, or the loss of a job, to activate this genetic predisposition.”

She reports it is the enhanced production of dopamine (a neurohormone released by the hypothalamus) which makes addiction to opioids so possible with overuse.

“Dopamine is involved with the pleasure and reward systems of the brain,” she says, “those ‘feel-good’ responses that the drug gives.”

Indermuhle's other specialty, emergency medicine, she says came naturally to her as an emergency room technician while she was a pre-med and psychology major at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

“Some people are just better able to cope with the fast-paced and emergent situations in the ER,”

— OPIOIDS, Page 10

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# Warner Ranch resident protests flight plan

By Lee Shappell  
Special for Wrangler News

The skies over Warner Ranch have become friendlier the past couple of years, neighborhood resident David Littrell concedes.

“But it could be better,” he said. “The jets are annoying. This is our time to get rid of them, because after this it’s never going to change.”

The Federal Aviation Administration, as Step 2 of a 2017 lawsuit settlement with Phoenix and its central and western historic neighborhoods over flight paths for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, is collecting public comment through May 23 from other areas of the Valley about jet-aircraft noise.

After reviewing comments, the FAA may or may not alter Sky Harbor flight paths.

Step 1 of the settlement two years ago was restoring flight paths to those before 2014, when the FAA made changes without public input in an attempt to streamline departures and arrivals using NextGen satellite-based navigation. Almost immediately, Sky Harbor received thousands of noise complaints and questions from the community, prompting the suit. After the routes were changed back, complaints quickly dropped drastically.

Warner Ranch lies smack-dab below Sky Harbor’s “western flow” path of arriving commercial-jet traffic, which flies roughly along the Elliot Road corridor before banking just beyond Loop 101 and making final approach to the west.

“When you’re in my backyard, it’s quiet,” Littrell said. “You can hear birds. Then you get an airplane, and that’s a problem. It drowns out everything.”

Littrell bought his home near Warner and Kyrene roads in 1990 “because there was very little street noise and there was very little jet noise.”

In the mid-1990s, that changed. “Then, two years ago they changed it and it got better,” Littrell said. “It actually has gotten better. It’s still annoying. Will it make me sell my house now? Probably not.

“My point is: Why can’t they move it to an area where it does not affect as many people? Hopefully they can design it so it’s not like now, where one area gets all the traffic, like this does. Unless a couple-hundred people complain, it’s not going to happen.”

Thus far, Littrell’s voice seems lost in the jet stream. He attended one of three FAA open houses in April and suggested that the west-flow path be moved south of Loop 202. He has attempted to rally neighbors to his cause.

“I did, and they really don’t care,” said Littrell, 68, a retired Tempe automation technician, who now restores collector cars. “I looked at the data of how many people have complained from the 85284 ZIP code, and there’s only three of us. If a couple-hundred people did, you might get a change. Ten people, probably not.

“By the way, I’m not an airplane hater. I actually was going to be aircraft mechanic. I do have a rating. It’s still good, supposedly, in aircraft-airframe mechanics. I did work on helicopter prototypes.”

A Warner Ranch airline captain with more than 30 years of experience said that pilots try to keep power at idle and the altitude at about 6,000 feet over Warner Ranch and similar residential areas on incoming and outgoing flights.

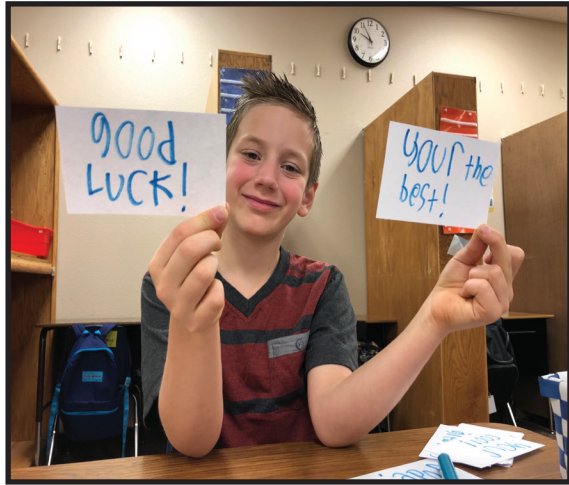
“Most controllers vector us at this altitude or higher and near the freeways (Loop 101) for turns into the Salt River wash, again reducing noise impact,” according to the pilot, speaking anonymously because he is not authorized to comment. “Most planes these days have Stage 3 or better (quieter) noise for engines. The new Leap Engines on both Boeing and Airbus planes are much quieter. Unfortunately, that engine is not being used right now because the 737 Max is grounded.”

Still, Littrell believes, the quality of life could be better.

“You could make it better,” he said. “It does bring down the quality of life when you’re in your backyard. If we’re going to get a change, I think it’s now or never.”

## Spreading smiles, one note at a time

Story and photo by Amy Garza  
Visual Communication Specialist Senior



Paige Pittman, SEALS teacher at Scales Technology Academy, started having one of her students, second-grader Gage Davis, write positive messages on index cards and pass them out around the school.

Messages like: “You’re the best!”, “Have a great day!” and “Don’t forget

to smile!” were among the notes hand delivered to fellow students, teachers, and other staff members.

The SEALS Program in the Tempe Elementary School District helps students with special needs, giving them routines, work systems and work jobs, helping them with verbal and nonverbal communication, and teaching them life skills, social skills and behavior management through sensory input integrated throughout their day.

It began as a “sensory break” for Gage, a sweet, quiet boy with special needs, but Pittman thought, “Why can’t we turn it into a way to distribute positive messages throughout the school?”

Then during state testing month, a stressful time for everyone, Pittman thought it would be a good way to boost students’ and teachers’ morale and give them that little reminder that, “We’ve got this!”

What seemed like a simple idea to help her student turned into a way to help others and bring a smile to their day.



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On hand for the equity event were, from left, Michelle Fahy and Margaret Pratt of the Kyrene Governing Board; Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely; and three of the presenters: Dr. Raquel Salas, Craig Peck and Latrisha Centers. — Photo courtesy Kyrene School District

## Forum Q&A sets a path to addressing racial inequities

By Diana Nelson

Connecting constituencies, solving problems and reaching maximum potential: It's the trademark attribute of a consulting firm that has launched the first stage of its efforts to help the Kyrene School District address racial equity in the classroom.

A forum, hosted by members of the Kyrene superintendent's Community Council, was designed to provide the 75 or so attendees with a chance to better understand what's involved in addressing issues of cultural identity and developing methods to increase sensitivity to bias.

The issues have been a hot button of controversy in recent months, resulting in the recent hiring of Corwin Consulting, the firm chosen to implement training throughout the district.

Teachers, principals, administrators and parents attending the informational session were able to ask questions and offer their own perspectives.

Wade Antonio Colwell, who represented Corwin Consulting, said the firm plans to develop a program over the next year focused on diversity and equity. Colwell, co-founder of Youth Equity Stewardship, whose work aims to creatively engage all generations to transform the traditional educational

environment, will serve as a key liaison to work with the Kyrene district.

Growing up in south Phoenix and working previously in the Tucson School District, Colwell said he hoped to give the audience insight into the so-called "deep equity" framework designed to help school leadership establish the climate, protocols, language and common goals of implementing culturally responsive teaching practices.

According to the Corwin website, the deep equity approach is based on the belief that inequities are symptomatic of institutional biases and norms, which must be directly challenged through what Corwin lists as systemic, ongoing and authentic work.

Another panelist, ASU's Dr. Stephanie Lechuga-Pena, challenged audience members to consider their own identity, ethnicity, race and religion, and then determine how those factors impact their behavior and attitudes toward others.

Easier said than done, perhaps.

Pena, who is Hispanic, said, "There is no real agreement on the definition of cultural diversity or equality. Rather," she said, "it takes an exploration to consider who is most oppressed and who is the most privileged to reach an understanding."

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# Equity

From Page 6

Two other presenters, Dr. Carla Mahnke and Yasmine Andrawis, who serve in the ASU Office of Equity and Inclusion, spoke about bias issues that can detract from equal opportunity in any organization.

“Making split-second decisions about people based on previous experiences with a similar race, religion or ethnicity can lead to making the wrong conclusion about someone,” said Mahnke.

An overall view of the session came from Nicole Mendoza, a third-grade teacher at Kyrene de las Brisas in Chandler:

“It was a great opportunity for me to have conversations with fellow educators and community members about how to make sure all Kyrene students feel safe and seen.”

Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely noted that the event came out of a Community Superintendent Council in partnership with the district. Council members have been working for the past year on goals for a Strategic Plan 2022 as the process relates to diversity, equity, inclusion and cultural awareness. The meeting was an outcome of the council’s desire to dig deeper into ways to solve cultural interactions.

“The CSC wanted to provide an opportunity for the community to participate in the dialogue related to equity and inclusion, and they wanted to host an event in which they would invite speakers to address the topics of equity, implicit bias and cultural identity,” said Vesely.

“From the feedback we received...of the group’s progress, the community is welcoming of additional opportunities to engage in this dialogue with the district.

“It is hoped that as Corwin completes its needs assessment and begins to facilitate the development of an equity framework for Kyrene, that we can continue this dialogue with the community as we work toward the goal of closing the achievement and opportunity gaps for all Kyrene students,” she said.

In addition to staff training, Corwin Consulting will develop methods to monitor and evaluate the district’s responsiveness to the equality goals in several areas, including hiring practices and offering a culturally responsive curriculum.

Vesely said she anticipates that the district will meet with the Corwin team soon to begin to outline the work plan and establish a timeline.

“The Corwin team will engage with staff over the summer and conduct an audit of our curriculum guides, to ensure that opportunities are present to celebrate the diverse cultures of our students. Updates on this work will be provided to the Governing Board and the community as they are available,” said Vesely.



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## From sons to mom, and mom to son: A Mother's Day salute

By Joyce Coronel

With Mother's Day just around the corner, my thoughts turn to years past when little hands gathered bouquets of wildflowers or were pressed into brilliantly colored finger paints to create masterpieces.

Our five sons now range in age from 20 to 30 and are past the homemade gift phase—all except one, that is. USMC Second Lieutenant Johnny Coronel, 23, keeps the tradition alive with stick-figure greeting cards packed with puns and quips and interspersed with heartfelt sentiments of gratitude. Last year, his Mother's Day card featured a drawing of me with five arms, one for each of my roles as wife, mom, cook, writer, and woman-who-prays. I keep this priceless treasure tucked away and re-read it every so often, especially on days like this when I'm missing him. He's at Fort Meade in Maryland now but will soon return to Okinawa, Japan, where he is stationed. Wasn't it just yesterday he was wearing that Superman cape and holding a bedraggled teddy bear?

Sometimes, when I see a young mother struggling at the grocery store check-out or pharmacy, my mind goes back to the "young years," to days that seemed endless with fussy babies, tantrum-throwing toddlers and a house that looked like a tornado had blown through. "Hang in there, Mom," I want to say. "You will get through this!"



"You're not alone."

Of course, it might *seem* like you're all alone, especially during those 3 a.m. feeding sessions, and that's why you need to cultivate community. Look for like-minded moms who share your ideals, values and faith.

Being a stay-at-home mom for 13 years, there were days that I was surrounded by little people but still felt an aching loneliness. It was then that another mom in the neighborhood with children around the same age befriended me. Barb knew just what I was going through and together, we helped each other navigate the vicissitudes of motherhood and still stay sane. We were able to attend a women's group at a local church that had free childcare and afforded us the opportunity to get to know other mommies who understood what we were facing.

This year, my eldest son turns 31 and his wife will soon give birth to their firstborn child. The thought of seeing my daughter-in-law blossom into a loving, careful mother fills me with deep joy. I look forward to the day my grandson presents his mom with a homemade gift for Mother's Day, knowing that she, too, will treasure it forever.

We here at Wrangler News are all about building and growing a stronger community where people care about each other and seek ways to lift burdens. If you see a mom out there who's struggling, offer her support. Tell her she's not alone. Point her in the direction of moms who get it. Together, let's help every mom know that she's a valued member of our community who is shaping the next generation of leaders, journalists, scientists and business owners.

Happy Mother's Day.



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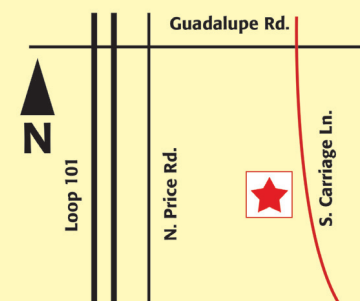
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## Opioids

From Page 3

she declares. "I think I was just hard-wired for it from the beginning. I like excitement, and I run on adrenaline often—it's my energy."

She says an ability to deal successfully in an emergency room scenario depends on repeated exposure to it through training.

"You've seen it before, so when faced with an emergency, you don't put your emotions aside and just forget them—you kind of suspend them and focus intensely on the present circumstance and deal with it—your brain and your training take over."

A leader in a field heretofore dominated by male physicians, Indermuhle says women working in emergency rooms have a unique contribution to make to the scene.

"I believe women's natural empathy will help us to connect with patients at a deeply human level. It's an exciting time to work in this arena."

Indermuhle earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology at Boulder, graduated from the University of Arizona College of Medicine in 2004, and completed a residency in emergency medicine at the University of Indiana School of Medicine in Indianapolis in 2007.

"My husband and I met in the ER," she says, "while he was starting to suffer from burnout there," adding jokingly, "Now, we do great with him taking care of me and our two dogs, while I handle the ER."



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49 apply for city council seat left vacant by departure of Granville; field now narrowed to 3

Forty-nine Tempe residents submitted their names for consideration as the replacement for Kolby Granville on the Tempe City Council.

Those who applied for the position were:

Anne Bilsbarrow, Patrick Troy Brenner, Donald Cassano, Dino B. Castelli, Arlene L. Chin, Wendi Cleckner, Stephen Cook; Michael DiDomenico, Phuong T. Do, Kendra M. Flory, Dick Foreman, James Frazey, John R. Gallagher, Jonathan Gelbart, Daniel Goldberg, Joe Goldblatt, Max D. Gonzales, Jennifer Greene, Michelle Helm, Melanie C. Hobden, Ryan Hughes, T'Shaka Jackson, Sarah Kader, Matthew Klandrud, Melissa Kowalski, James J. Lemmon, Clinton Lepetich, Shereen Lerner,

William Jesse (Bill) Loughrige, Jr., Pasquale Venancio, Guerra Luz, Carrie Martin, Michele Martinez, (Dava) DeeAnne McClenahan, Timothy A. McKinstry, Ian Michael McLane, C. Michael Morrison, Robin A. Nelson, Stanley Nicpon, Jill Osborne, Steven J. Rath, Evan M. Schaefer, Rhonda Steele, Justin Stewart, Erec Templar, Briana Valdivia, Kate Vawter, Matthew Vondras, Curtis Wood and Philip E. Yates.

From the group, three finalists were selected by the members of the Tempe City Council: Don Cassano, Arlene Chin and Shereen Lerner. The three indicated they do not plan to run for one of the three open council seats in 2020.

The council will interview the finalists during a study session on May 2 and the public will be allowed to weigh in on the process. The council is expected to appoint a replacement, who will serve until July 2020, on May 9.



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# Garden project lets kids dig in to healthy eating

By Diana Nelson

**K**ids at Kyrene del Cielo Elementary School in West Chandler are developing healthier eating habits at the same time they're learning how to grow gardens that bring good food onto their plates.

Although the garden is still in its beginning phase, it is hoped that after the veggies are harvested next fall they can be given to students to eat at home or in the school cafeteria.

Eduarda Schroder organizes the volunteers who are creating the Cielo project. A longtime area resident, Schroder holds a master gardener designation and is a member of the Tempe-based group Friends in Gasca Gardens, which consists of other neighborhood gardeners, both novice and expert.

Located at Bonarden and Warner Road, the 5,000-square-foot Gasca enterprise, with 27 plots, is much bigger than the nearby Cielo upstart, but the school's plot is a great introductory opportunity for students to learn more about sustainable gardening,

says Schroder.

"Both of my daughters attended Cielo and although they are now students at ASU, I like to stay involved with the school. This project is a way for me to contribute my knowledge of gardening and to perform community service," said Schroder.

"The goal...is to involve all students in one way or another, but how that will happen is still undecided," said Schroder. "For the near future, I will look after the garden during the summer along with any volunteers that want to come along."

One of the key steps in getting the garden up and running is soil preparation, and that is where another volunteer is playing a key role.

Chandler firefighter and Cielo father Dan Morrow is an enthusiastic volunteer for the school's garden. His son Charlie is a second-grader and is involved with the garden project. Dan also has a daughter who is a kindergartner there.

Both children actively help dad in his garden at home, which is about a third of an acre and includes many vegetables plus 38 fruit trees.

"One of my best memories as a kid growing up in Tempe was working in the garden with my dad," said Morrow. "Not only did I want to re-create that experience with my own kids, but I also want to teach them where food comes from."

His home garden provides ample fruits and vegetables for the family; he also shares with his neighbors.

"As a firefighter, we try to always eat healthy foods at the fire station, and I wanted to pass along

those healthy eating habits to my kids," said Morrow.

He says he hopes to have Cielo's garden beds built by the end of the school year and to plant a crop of flowers and cow peas to build up the nutrients in the soil.

That particular crop will be planted because it fits into the tight 60-day seed-to-harvest window, and works well in a warm climate with scarce water resources. In addition, the crop maximizes the soil's health because it pulls nitrogen out of the air for use in the roots, and its quick growth prevents soil erosion, explained Morrow.

He is also a master gardener and has a side business known as Arizona Seed Savvy, in which he works with individuals to create home gardens to be able to access their own home-grown produce.

While the Cielo garden revamp plans are still in progress, Schroder outlined steps necessary to complete the project long-term.

"I hope to move the fence to create an outdoor classroom and to work with teachers to involve learning in the garden. We could acquire some seating, such as garden benches, and develop partnerships with supportive community organizations like the Desert Botanical Garden or a Tempe community garden."

As homegrown veggies gain in popularity, it seems, so does the neighborhood enthusiasm to help create them.

*See photos on facing page*

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### Familiar turf

Healthier eating habits are sprouting at Cielo as students enjoy the fruits of their labors in the school's garden while they learn about soil improvement and gardening techniques. Vegetables from the plot will be ripe for harvest come fall.

*Photos courtesy  
Kyrene School District*



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# Chandler best in U.S. to achieve one's dreams, Hartke tells chamber

By Joyce Coronel

Autonomous vehicles, rubberized asphalt, housing, the environment and new businesses were among a plethora of issues Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke addressed in a coffee klatsch with business leaders at the Chandler Chamber of Commerce.

The mayor's remarks, given on the 103rd day of his term, began with a listing of top concerns, including technology improvements in Chandler, fiscal responsibility and water conservation.

"With the drought situation going on, it's incumbent on us and every city to look at what we are doing with water," Hartke said, referring to conserving, preserving and being prepared for the future.

Hartke said he has spent his first days in office getting out into the community, logging 200 events and meetings with residents. "I'm interested and very concerned to hear what's important...to our residents and what's going on across our city," Hartke said.

He cited a ranking by SmartAsset, a personal finance company, which named Chandler as the 2019 Best Place to Become Wealthy.

"Of all the places in the United States, this is the place where you can achieve your dreams and have a better prospect of becoming successful and wealthy," Hartke said. The ranking of the 100 largest U.S. cities was based on Chandler's high-wage jobs and five-year earnings growth, plus affordable housing and other metrics. Chandler tied with Plano, Texas, for first place.



Terri Kimble, president and CEO of Chandler Chamber of Commerce, alongside Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke, addressed local business and community concerns in a Q & A session at the chamber.  
— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

Hartke lauded work by the city's economic development team's to attract companies offering well-paying jobs.

Chandler, Hartke said, was also named "one of the most desirable places to live in the entire state of Arizona and in the Valley" due to its reputation as a safe city with "great schools."

Autonomous vehicles have cast a spotlight on Chandler as well, the mayor said. The city hosted a group from Sweden that was interested in studying what Chandler was doing in that regard.

"They posted a video that declared Chandler was the autonomous vehicle capital of the world. We like to say we're doing well locally and nationally but they put a crown on us for the entire world," Hartke said. A representative of Waymo in attendance asked those gathered to go to Waymo.com and sign up to become an early rider.

Attendees at the Chandler Chamber event had

the opportunity to ask questions of the mayor and many in the standing-room-only crowd voiced their concerns.

"Have you heard anything about funding to repair all the multiple holes on the 202? It's really falling apart in Chandler," one woman in noted. Hartke said he drives the roadway himself and has had his share of chipped and cracked windshields. He described the highly touted rubberized asphalt on the Loop 202, known as the Santan Freeway, as a "very desirable surface that absorbs noise and makes it a lot easier to drive" but that has not held up as well as planned.

"We anticipated getting 10 years out of the rubberized asphalt and maybe because of the rains or our other extreme weather, we're not," Hartke said. He pointed to upcoming closures on the freeway for repair work.

According to the Arizona Department of Transportation, portions of the 202 will be closed starting at 10 p.m. Friday, May 10, and continuing until 3 a.m. Monday, May 13. The project will require a full closure to all traffic on the Santan Freeway in both directions between the Price Freeway in Chandler and the Williams Field Road interchange in Gilbert.

On a similar note, a representative of an automobile dealership in West Chandler asked the mayor about "super-backed-up" traffic near Ray Road and the I-10. "We're kind of tucked back there and you can't see it from the freeway," he said.

"Make sure we get your contact info and we'll get back with you about that," Hartke assured the man.

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Members of Tempe Leadership, along with city officials, celebrate opening of Compadre's music room.  
—Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright

## Tempe Leadership: Room for music at Compadre Academy

Of the seven schools in the Tempe Union High School District, Compadre Academy was the only one without a music classroom or program. The Tempe Leadership Class XXXIV decided to help.

Tempe Leadership, in partnership with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Foundation, identifies projects around the city that will better the community.

Class XXXIV members heard numerous project proposals, and ultimately agreed to help create a music room for Compadre students and faculty.

"I'm overwhelmed," said principal Dora Samson. "I had no idea when they started it would go to this level."

Susan Manning, who leads Compadre's Jobs for Arizona Graduates program and teaches student government, worked tirelessly with Tempe Leadership, Compadre administration and other

community partners. Her vision for the room includes expanding classes, offering music therapy several creating a safe, creative space for students to be themselves.

Of Manning, Samson said:

"Compadre really owes her a lot today. To everyone who was part of this, you have changed the lives of students..."

Manning led the ribbon cutting, joined by Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell, TUHSD Superintendent Kevin Mendivil, members of the TUHSD governing board and representatives from the Tempe Diablos and Tempe Leadership organizations.

The newly unveiled room includes bass guitars, ukuleles and amps, as well as a full library of replacement strings, picks and other accessories. The room also features a stage, donated by Tempe Diablos.

Along with the room, Tempe Leadership donated a check topping \$8,000 to the school to keep the room up and running.

Compadre Academy plans on adding a guitar class to the fall 2019 schedule.

To learn more about Tempe Leadership, visit [www.tempeleadership.org](http://www.tempeleadership.org)

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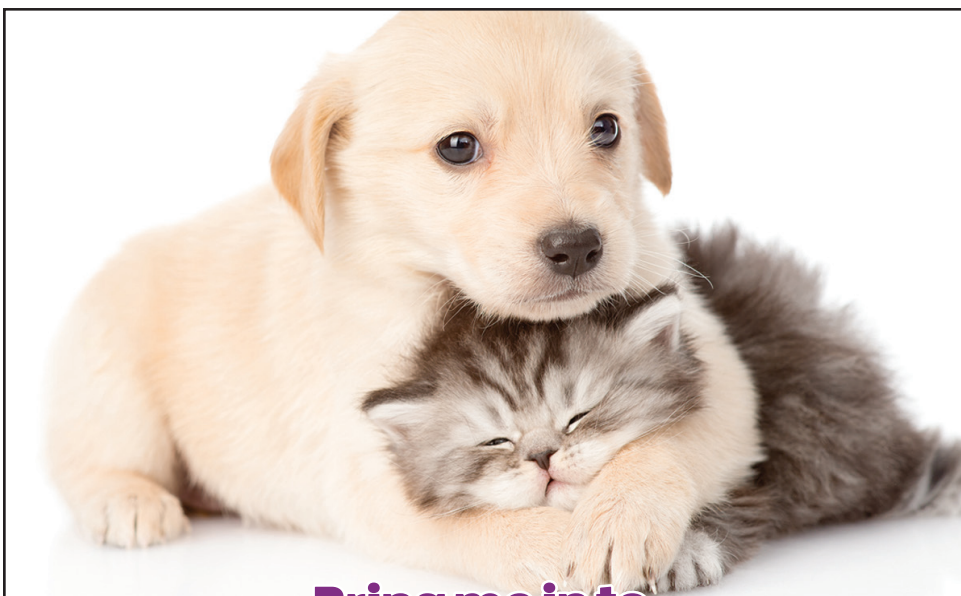
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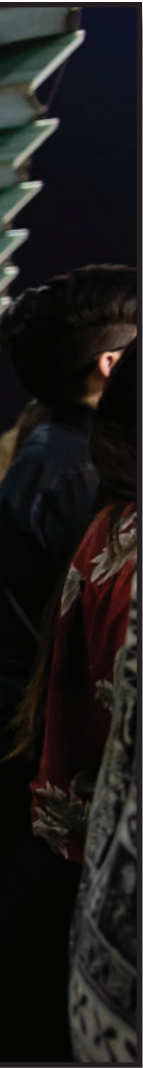
# ... and the beat goes on

Tempe's Music Under the Stars celebration at Diablo Stadium featured performances by the Corona del Sol band and steel drum band; the Marcos de Niza band; The Academy Drum & Bugle Corps and the Arizona Wind Symphony. From drums to trumpets, flutes and more, the student and professional musicians filled the night air with harmony under the direction of their conductor as friends, family and fans looked on.

— *Wrangler News photos*  
by *Billy Hardiman*









'Oh,  
the  
Thinks  
You  
Can  
Think'

What could you do with unlimited imagination? It's a question theater arts students at Horizon Honors Secondary School—including nine from West Chandler and Tempe—are answering when they produce, assist and act in *Seussical*, the classic Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty musical.

Remaining performances in the schedule will be at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 3, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Performances are held in the school's multi-purpose room. Tickets are \$5 for students and children, \$10 for adults. Sixty-one students in grades 7-12 are involved in the presentation.

Actors include Brailey McDaniel as Jojo; Katie Heaton as Mrs. Mayor; Dustin Koma as Gen. Genghis Khan Schmitz and The Hunter; and Abigail van Amerongen as The Whos.

Production-team members include Payton Anglemeyer, makeup coordinator; Rebecca Hamby, front of house manager; Rebecca Ger, music and sound effects; Emily Hoffman, spotlights and greeters; and Millie Williams, stage crew.

In the production, *Cat in the Hat* narrates the fantastical musical with humorous commentary to a young Who named Jojo, who just has really big Thinks.

Though her Thinks often get her in trouble, she won't let others put limits on her. In the *Jungle of Nool*, Horton the Elephant lights up the stage as he finds a speck of dust that houses Whoville and its many Whos. Horton fights to keep the Whos safe and watches over an egg that he was left with by the amazing Mayzie La Bird.

This musical is entertaining and fun for all ages, weaving together many of Dr. Seuss' classic stories with his commentary on what makes life worth living.

The audience gets to go on an adventure through the *Jungle of Nool*, the homes of Whoville and more. It's a story of imagination and friendship that reminds all that growing up doesn't mean imagination and the ability to "think" need to be lost.

Horizon Honors Secondary School serves students in grades 7-12 and is graded "A" by the Arizona Department of Education. It is located in Ahwatukee.

*Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News*



# Sports

with Alex Zener

## Three Corona teams in cliff-hanger mode as state playoffs progress

It will be interesting to see what happens in the state playoff tournaments because, as we go to press, three Corona spring sports teams are in the cross-hairs between winning and moving onward in the state tournament or losing and being eliminated.

Corona's baseball team, as one of the higher seeds last year, went home early after losing in the single elimination first round to Westwood.

This season, also a higher seed at No. 4, they have something to prove, especially to their seniors.

In the first round, April 27, the

Aztecs easily defeated #13 San Luis 7-1 but, they were scheduled to face off against perennial arch-rival Desert Vista on April 30.

Before playing San Luis, the Aztecs, 19-8 overall, had won five of their last six games only losing to Mountain Pointe 4-5 on April 18.



Alex Zener

The game against #12 ranked Desert Vista on April 30, will be at a neutral site, Tempe Diablo Stadium, but will be the third time the teams have

played this season.

The Aztecs, who had just flown back from USA Baseball National High School Invitational held in Cary, North Carolina, lost the first game at Desert Vista, 14-0, on April 9.

Corona defeated Desert Vista in the

team's second matchup, April 13, at the Baseball Day Arizona, 13-3.

Corona, 8-2 in the Central Region, may have the edge on paper if senior **Brian Kalmer**, who has nine home runs to his name this season and a .480 batting average, can knock at least one more out of the park for the Aztecs before heading off to play for ASU.

Then, if junior **Hunter Haas**, who has committed to play at Oregon State, can get hot along with fellow juniors **Cade Verduco** and **Kaiden Frees**, the Aztecs should be alright on offense.

The Aztecs have, on occasion, been very good on defense, especially with a deep experienced pitching staff including seniors **Jack Schobinger** and **Nick Schobinger** and juniors **Bryan Webb** and **David Utagawa**.

Corona had a well-rounded game against the Thunder in their second win, but Desert Vista can never be counted out, especially when they are

— SPORTS, Page 20

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playing against the Aztecs.

To get their chance at redemption and to defeat the Aztecs in the state playoffs on April 30, the No. 12 Thunder defeated No. 5 Chandler in the first round 5-2.

Even though the seniors including **Wyatt Berry, Seth Pagetta, Daniel Sotelo, Aaron Garcia, Matteo Baker** and **Austin Carpenter**, were recognized at the last home game, a 13-3 win against Queen Creek on April 22, they will all do their best to make sure the Aztecs get a win against Desert Vista in this double elimination second round of the 6A state tournament on April 30.

Additional members of Corona's baseball team helping the Aztecs be successful on and off the field include juniors **Ulises Jimenez**,

**Jake Burkhardt** and **Ben Click** and sophomores **Wyatt Bauer** and **Quade Swearingen**.

Corona Softball

Corona, as the No. 10 seed, were scheduled to play No. 7 Sandra Day O'Connor in the single elimination first round of the 6A state softball tournament on April 30 at Sandra Day O'Connor.

The Aztecs were 18-9 overall and 7-3 in the Central Region while the Eagles were 19-6 overall and 8-2 in the Desert Valley Region.

Corona had won six of their last seven games including a 12-6 win over Boulder Creek in the 6A Softball Conference Play-In Tournament, April 12, and seemed to be peaking at the

right time.

This game against Sandra Day O'Connor is a must win game because the first round of the 5A state tournament is single elimination.

The Aztecs will be relying on their hot batters to score some runs in this single elimination game.

Senior **Alexis Massie** played in all 25 regular season games with a batting average of .425, earning 37 hits while scoring 22 runs for herself and 24 RBI's. She leads the team with three home runs.

Fellow senior **Reyna Mori** also played in all 25 games scoring one home run on 22 hits with 11 runs and 17 RBI's

Junior **Summer Duran** had one home run to complicate her .357 batting average with 30 hits scoring 19 runs and 11 RBI's while playing in all 25 games.

Other players who have been solid at the plate include senior **Ally Quintero** who played in all 25 games hitting .360 and had been at bat more than anyone except Massie, a total

of 86 times. During those 86 at bats, she is credited with 31 hits earning 23 bases and 15 RBI's.

Don't count out sophomore **Tristan Jamar** who had a .338 batting average after playing in 24 regular season games scoring 22 runs on 27 hits with 27 RB's. When she did get on base, the Aztecs could count on Jamar to attempt to steal a base since she led her team in stolen bases with nine.

The next closest was four stolen bases by Quintero. Senior **Ariana Marquez-Yniguez** was next in a tie with Massie and Mori for three stolen bases each.

When analyzing Corona's batters, opponents should not forget about sophomore **Taylor Kolling** who hit a home run in one of her 20 regular season games. She had a batting average of .290 and scored nine runs on nine hits with 10 RBI's.

On defense, Corona has two terrific pitchers in junior **Jada Wendling** and freshman **Emmalyn Brinka**. They are both about even in so many

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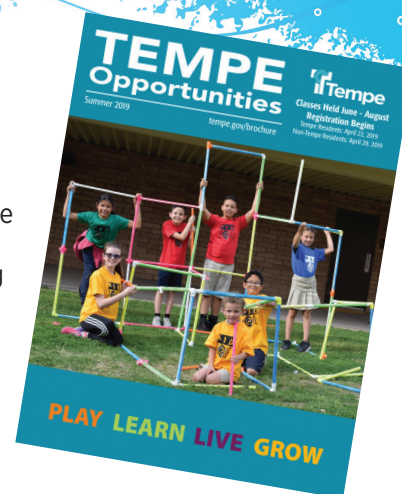
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categories that it may all depend on who is on their game when the Aztecs played against the Eagles on April 30.

Wendling pitched in 73.2 innings during the regular season with 92 hits against her, 59 runs against, 40 earned runs and 55 batter strikeouts.

Brinka pitched in 79 innings with 95 hits against her, 60 runs against, 41 earned runs and 44 batter strikeouts.

Brinka is credited with 10 wins and only three loses with a 3.63 ERA while Wendling is credited with six wins and five loses with a 3.80 ERA.

Corona's infield and outfield players on defense may be the determining factor in who ends up moving on in the 6A state playoffs and who goes home April 30.

Among the players who have played in all 25 regular season games, Mori leads the team in fielding percentage with a .957 rating.

Out of 93 total chances, Mori had to put out a runner, she put out 80 herself, assisted on nine others and had three double doubles.

Massie was next with a .933 fielding

percentage. Altogether, she had 119 chances to put a runner out.

She put out 83 runners herself, assisted on 28 and had two double doubles.

Wendling played in 23 regular season games but was very effective in putting out runners when given the chance. She had a .947 fielding percentage putting out 61 runners on her 76 chances and assisting in 11 putouts.

She also had two double doubles.

The seniors. Including team captains Quintero, Massie and Mori plus Marquez-Yniquez, **Hailey Thompson, Taylor Posadas** and **Bailey Bradley** were honored at Corona's last home game on April 18 when they defeated Mountain Pointe 12-2.

Other members of the team who contributed on and off the field to the Aztecs success this season include juniors **Shelby Williamson, Sierra Fuchs**, team captain Duran and Wendling, sophomores **Arianna Tammaro**, Jamar, Kolling,

**Alex Reeve** and freshman **Bella Cummins, Teagan Neuman** and Brinka,

If Corona defeats the Eagles in the first round, the second round will be against the winner between No. 2 Hamilton and No.15 Desert Ridge on May 2 at the higher seed.

### Corona Beach Volleyball

Corona's beach volleyball team has defeated every team except two this season sporting a 10-2 record. Unfortunately, the only two teams they failed to defeat this season, Perry and Xavier, are the only teams standing in their way to winning the Aztecs first team beach volleyball champion.

The Aztecs seeded No. 3 were scheduled to play No. 2 seeded Perry on April 30 in the semifinals at Casteel High School in Queen Creek.

Corona lost to Perry 1-4 on Feb. 27, the second match of the season and to Xavier 2-3 on Mar. 1.

They have been on an 11-game winning streak since those two back-

to-back losses.

The AIA Beach Volleyball Pairs DI State Championship starts May 7.

Corona's junior **Mady Noble** and senior **Mary Shroll** are the No. 1 seeded team but play a pair from Perry in the first round.

Perry and Xavier both have two sets of pairs in the state tournament while Corona only has the one pair.

Last year was the first year for the pairs competition in the state tournament. Noble won with **Brooke Nuneviller**.

Noble will be defending her state championship with Shroll who was her teammate during the indoor volleyball season at Corona last fall.

Other members of Corona's beach volleyball team include senior **Kaissa Sounart**, juniors **Jade Fujii, Rowan Alper, Rachael Mertes, Sara Vicek, Becca Morse, Madison McNulty, Morgan McNulty** and **Nicole Newlin** plus sophomores **Maddie Mortenson** and **Katie Haas**.



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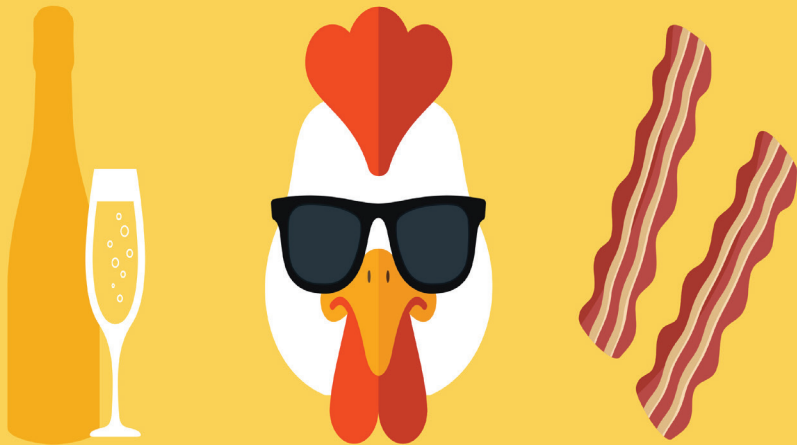
 

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# Diversions

## Original 'Worldbeatniks' could repeat sellout gig

By Lee Shappell

If you listen closely, you hear Jimmy Buffet. And Bob Marley. And even Chicago.

Is it reggae? Latin? Jazz? Pop? L.A.'s original "Worldbeatniks," The Bonedaddys, take a wide stance stylistically that defies pigeonholing, claiming musical influences from Charles Ives to Burl Ives.

The common musical denominator is a soulful, fun, party ambience.

"We play country music," said Mike Tempo, Bonedaddys' founder and percussionist. "But it's from another country."

Fasten your seat belts. The Bonedaddys return to Tempe May 18 for a 7:30 p.m. show presented by Lakeshore Music Inc., at Tempe Center for the Arts.

Together since 1984, with a few moving chairs and one hiatus along the

way, they say their songs are "designed to move butts of all persuasions" as they serve up a wild mix onstage that continues to enhance their reputation as the merry pranksters of the international beat.

When last we heard from them in these parts, the Bonedaddys were playing to a sellout crowd at the Mesa Amphitheatre.

That was 1989.

"They created a cult following in Phoenix after a series of small shows in Tempe and one big blowout concert at the Mesa Amphitheatre," said Woody Wilson, president and executive producer of Tempe-based Lakeshore Music, Inc. "That Mesa show, which I produced, was my first large-venue concert.

"I thought it was time to bring the Bonedaddys back to the Valley for a

— TCA, Page 25

United in Song  
We'll Never Walk Alone

Tempe Community Chorus

Sunday, May 12, 4 pm

Experience the power of community as the 140-member Tempe Community Chorus sings their favorite songs about friendship, harmony and love. Enjoy iconic hits "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," the indie pop hit "Best Day of My Life" and more. Additional tunes by Mill Avenue Singers and other groups. Performing under the direction of Cary Burns.

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Tempe Chamber



# TCA

From Page 23

reunion. Their music has endured for more than 35 years in clubs and festivals throughout southern California, and it's still as fresh and creative as it was in 1989." Tempo acknowledges that the years since have ticked away rapidly.

"The Bonedaddys are gonna be tickled to be back in Tempe," he said from his home in southern California. "It's been way too long since we've played in The Valley of The Sun. We've prepared a set that includes new as well as cherished songs from earlier in our 35-year history.

"Tempe has long been an important part of The Bonedaddys' DNA and we are very excited for the opportunity to return. We certainly intend to rock the house."

With the Bonedaddys, you get rich instrumentation with horns, harmony vocals and whimsical lyrics. They're not afraid to mix in jaw harp, washboard, banjo and harmonica. They'll give you an optimistic view of life in spite of troubles. Or spin a funny redneck anthem, or a hillbilly love song.

After dropping their sixth album, waterslide, in 2007, they came out of hibernation with 2014's Big Thunder and followed a year later with A-Koo-De-A!

Undergroundmine.com wrote that the Bonedaddys produce "sensuality evoking the passionate swagger of Santana in addition to the rhythmic art funk of Gnarl Barkley. No barnyard fiesta could withstand this infectious delight."

"They could be called the hardest working band in ... in ... but in what genre? Rock? World Beat? Fusion? Latin? Blues?" reviewer Darryl Gregory wrote for Indie-Music.com. "All those styles plus a few they made up. The Bonedaddys definitely know how to get a person up and out of their chair dancing."

Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30 available at lakeshoremusic.org, 480-350-2822, or TCA Box Office.



Bonedaddys have proven their appeal during a 35-year history arousing clubs and festivals throughout Southern California. They'll be strutting their musical stuff at Tempe Center for the Arts. See accompanying story for dates, times and ticket availability.

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## Are you monsoon ready?

Steer clear of the storm with help from the City of Tempe. As monsoon season approaches in June, residents are encouraged to prepare for severe weather. Need a checklist?

- Clear debris from roof gutters and downspouts
- Trim trees, especially those close to your house, to help prevent breakage and uprooting
- Pretreat pools with chlorine shock to prevent algae growth
- Keep storm drains and gutters clear of debris. City crews check and clear storm drains to allow rainwater to drain efficiently. Help them by clearing gutters near your property.
- Pack a three-day emergency supply bag, including clothes and medications
- Keep pets indoors when storms are predicted

Join us on Saturday, June 1, from 9-11 a.m., for Operation Sandbag, a monsoon prep event!

Get free sand, bags and information. If you can't make it, the city will have sand and bags available from June 1 through Sept. 30 at:

• **Solid Waste Compost Facility** — 1001 N. Rio Road (access drive north of Rio Salado Parkway and Hardy Drive, near free compost)

• **Benedict Sports Complex** — 490 W. Guadalupe Road (northwest corner of Guadalupe and Kyrene roads, east side of parking lot)

Check out our Monsoon Prep Checklist for more tips on what to do before, during and after a storm to keep your family and property safe and secure.

Visit [tempe.gov/monsoons](http://tempe.gov/monsoons) or call Tempe 311 for more information, at 480-350-4311.



## Volunteers needed for youth literacy program

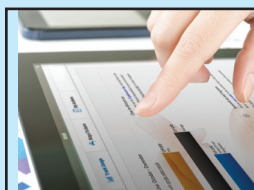
Experience Corps will hold an info session from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on May 14 at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, in lower level Program Room B.

Adults age 50+ can volunteer to tutor young students in reading. Visit [tempe.gov/ExperienceCorps](http://tempe.gov/ExperienceCorps) for more information.

## Online water use portal: are you using it yet?

All Tempe single family residential water customers now have fully automated water meters that track water usage in near real time.

Approved by the City Council in May 2016, the ambitious project has been completed on time and is the first of its kind in the Valley because of the simultaneous rollout of the WaterSmart Online Water Use Portal.



The portal allows users to see their hourly water usage, compare their usage to similar homes in the same zip code, learn how to save water using step-by-step actions and sign up for alerts about high water use and high bills. Tempe customers can get ahead of summer peak water usage by registering today and signing up for alerts.

Stay tuned for future announcements, as the upcoming rollout of the city's new payment processing system will add more features and ways to access WaterSmart.

Visit [tempe.gov/WaterSmart](http://tempe.gov/WaterSmart) today!

## Equal Pay workshops

The City of Tempe is trying to end the wage gap with free pay negotiation workshops to help anyone learn how to get paid for their skills.

The next workshop takes place at 9:30 a.m. on Aug 3 at the Tempe Public Library. Sign up at <https://salary.aauw.org/tempe/>.

On average, women are paid about 20 percent less than men. The wage gap exists in nearly every profession, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2017, median earnings in Arizona's 9th Congressional District, which includes Tempe, were \$48,219 for men compared to \$41,526 for women.

## New museum exhibit showcases unique history of Mill Avenue

Horse-parking was a must-have feature at all the very best 1890s Tempe saloons. There were public parades that celebrated diversity long before Tempe was a city or Arizona a state.

And, of course, there was that one time two wacky Gila monsters got in a fight and trashed a downtown bar. Discover these stories and many more at Tempe History Museum's new feature exhibit, Walking Mill Avenue, opening on May 14.

Tempe's Mill Avenue District has always been a place of change, reinvention and even contention. Yet it remains the heart of our community. In many ways the epicenter of Tempe, the history, people, and places of Mill Avenue weave together in complex layers that show us where Tempe has been and where it might be headed.

The exhibit will explore these layers through images, stories and more. An opening night celebration will take place on Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. Tempe History Museum is located at 809 E. Southern Ave.

Information is at [tempe.gov/museum](http://tempe.gov/museum).

## Tempe Community Salutes

The city will once again give a rousing sendoff and salute to new U.S. military service members through Community Salutes.

The event is happening at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 13, at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 E. Rio Salado Parkway. It's the city's fifth annual recognition ceremony for future military service members and their families.

The public is invited. This year's event features performances by Lois Zozobrado, The Manhattan Dolls and the Arizona Army National Guard Band.

Community Salutes is sponsored in part by Opus Development, Cox Communications, Waste Management and Sender Associates.

## Land

From Page 1

of roosters and peacocks, along with the occasional jackrabbit or slithering garter snake, hearken to the area's rural roots.

The neighborhood was established in the 1960s when much of the surrounding area was farmland.

A letter dated April 29 from Withey Morris PLC, a Phoenix-based law firm, was mailed to residents of the Tally Ho neighborhood, stating that the firm represents Armstrong Development Inc. in a bid to develop the 3.7-acre site at the intersection's northwest corner.

The developer's application to the city is for "a small, boutique neighborhood-style commercial center," the letter reads. "The project includes a 10,000 square foot daycare center and just over 16,000 square feet of retail / restaurant space connected by a series of exterior walkways, patios, shade canopies and an abundance of landscaping."

One Tally Ho resident, who did not wish to be identified, said she prefers to have a smaller and quieter solution to the parcel's vacancy, rather than a bar or coffee shop. A commercial development like that, in her opinion, would cause increased traffic and safety hazards close to her home.

"It would also have to be something very upscale," she says, "The city of Tempe needs to work for the people that live in the city of Tempe, not work for the government of Tempe and what the government of Tempe wants."

Other neighbors on the same street said they favored having an additional restaurant and bar on the corner of Rural and Warner. Tempe Public Market Café, across the street on the northeast corner of the intersection, has become a popular attraction since opening in 2018.

Tempe resident and Realtor Nick Bastian, who helped head-off a smoke shop at McClintock and Warner in recent years, offered his take on the proposed development at Rural and Warner.

"I think the developer does know that there's concern from the community on what happens at that corner and how that corner means a lot to this area," Bastian said, adding that because developers are aware of concern from the neighborhood, they wouldn't propose a project that would produce a backlash from the South Tempe community.

"There will be about four different buildings over there with parking in the middle and nice quality development," Bastian said. "It's not

going to be a high rise, and it's not going to be super high-density."

Bastian maintains the idea of adding more residential properties to the lot is simply an unrealistic suggestion and that the benefit for the community of having breakfast, coffee and daycare buildings would become a strong argument when up for review with Tempe's zoning board.

Kris Baxter-Ging, a public information officer for Tempe, confirmed via email that the city is aware of the proposed project at the intersection.

"The City of Tempe Community Development Department has received a preliminary submittal for this project and is reviewing it. The project will be scheduled to come before the Development Review Commission after a formal application has been received. Staff will be in attendance at the May 15 public meeting."

Jennifer Eggert of Orion Investment Real Estate acknowledged the proposed development of the parcel. "At the moment, we can confirm there will be a daycare user and at least one restaurant and we will be targeting other high-end service users (hair salon, yoga, waxing, etc.) for the remaining space, along with coffee and potentially one other restaurant but we cannot disclose names at this time," she wrote in an email to Wrangler News.

The April 29 letter to residents from Withey Morris came as no surprise to Bill Fautsch, who owns some of the acreage that could be developed. Fautsch said he's spoken to his neighbors and many favor his plan.

He also referred to a law that he said was passed by the Arizona Legislature and signed by the governor that allows neighborhood associations to change their covenants, conditions and restrictions with 51 percent approval of the homeowners. Previously, he said, unanimous support was needed.

As to a petition Fautsch circulated seeking support for his planned project, he said he met with considerable success. "I started collecting the signatures and I more than exceeded my goal," he said. "It's going to be really cool—it's going to be beautiful."

Not everyone agrees, however.

One couple, who have lived in Tally Ho Farms for 20 years, are adamantly opposed to the project but likewise did not want to be identified. They say several of their neighbors feel the same way and don't want commercial development of the site.

"There can be no commercial development for any of the lots in this



Bill Fautsch, who owns a portion of the land and favors commercial development of the site, shows a rendering of the proposed center that will include daycare and a restaurant.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

subdivision," the man said.

"We've been fighting this battle for 15 years in this neighborhood. The [new] law can't override the covenants. It takes a vote of the property owners to override the covenants."

When told of Fautsch's assertion that he has more than exceeded his goal of getting 51 percent of neighbors on board with the plan for commercial development, the man expressed doubt.

"That's news to me," he said. His wife agreed.

"If he did that, wouldn't he have had to at least ask everyone?" she said.

"Fautsch and his partners bought that property thinking they could develop it without an understanding of the restrictive covenants," the man said. "And it's no secret. They're written into every deed for every property in this subdivision."

The couple recalled previous attempts to place a commercial development on the vacant land. Those attempts included a memory-care facility and a pharmacy, both foiled and both supported by Fautsch.

The unidentified man alleges that Fautsch approaches parties he thinks might be interested in developing the parcel of land, secures a preliminary agreement and then approaches neighbors and tells them he's got a

"done deal."

Once the lawyers for the potential developer get involved, "they do the due diligence, they look at the covenants and they're like 'What the hell? We can't do that.'"

The unidentified couple said the neighborhood hired a law firm previously to fight Fautsch's attempts to develop the vacant lot.

"We're not interested in changing the covenants," the woman said.

"I'm not afraid of him (Fautsch)," the man said. "I just don't want to deal with his nonsense."

Community meeting

will be held at 6 p.m.

Wednesday,

May 15, at Corona

del Sol High School,

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Editor: Joyce Coronel

Published since 1991 by Newlink LLC

Don Kirkland, Founder & Publisher

Photography: Billy Hardiman

Community Outreach: Noah Kutz

Contributors: Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead, Diana Nelson, Noah Kutz, Sammie Ann Wicks, Nicholas Johnsen

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Wrangler News is printed by Tempe-based Signature Offset on partially recycled newsprint with ink made from 98 percent soy content

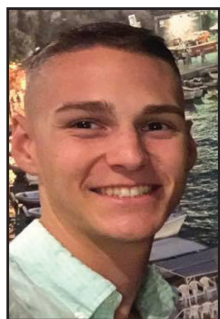
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## Noah Kutz: Commentary

# Print vs online: the challenge of delivering our promise to be truly local

I've done a fair amount of fishing in my time—well, actually fishing through the pages of some how-to books more than doing the real thing. One of the most fascinating bites I got in the process related to an ominous angler fish that deceives its prey by hiding, then pouncing and devouring its meal in a single gulp.

Well, dear reader, that morsel of information caused me to think more about the job I do with our little newspaper and how there might be a lesson of sorts that I could share with my bosses and, ultimately, you.



You see, I began to realize that some of us may be innocent and unsuspecting targets in a vast sea of news organizations and media outlets, in which big companies and advertisers with huge budgets have become that ominous angler fish, luring and misleading you into the various corners of the internet.

This is not our intent at Wrangler News, where our number one goal is to provide news and information about your community, your schools and churches, your neighbors. The last thing we want to do is widen the great divide between online news and newspaper news, a split that has never been greater.

Major newspapers worldwide have been forced into this age of online distribution in order to gather barely enough ad revenue to stay alive. The endless game of acquiring more views and more clicks on ads, stories and websites revolves almost exclusively on you, the reader.

Although large companies boast of their dedication to your interests, in the end your interests are only fueled by what lies between the creases of your wallet.

The big news purveyors want the advertisers' money and the advertisers want your money. It's that simple.

So what do we do to counteract this?

Our answer is written on the front page of each paper we print: "Tempe & West Chandler, the place we call home." Although it is true that without our advertisers we wouldn't be able to produce this little hometown production, we stay alive because of you, the people of Tempe and West Chandler—our home.

You will never find a story in this paper that does not have a correlation to our (your) community. Our goal is to bind together a group of people who care about the various aspects of each other's lives, from the local news to the local businesspeople.

Rather than finding the "juiciest" stories that other news outlets cover in order to generate more views and clicks on their website, we focus on the good things that happen in our community and how those stories appeal directly to our readers.

Advertisers value this in our paper. We don't simply seek to generate a number of clicks or views on each ad; we have real people with real needs who really care about their town and the local businesses within it.

So how are we different online?

We've grown substantially on this side of the house. You may have seen our advertisers featured recently on our website. In days to come you'll also see that we're utilizing social media more heavily.

In recent months, our data analytics team has seen a spike in the number of unique visitors that come to our website and read our stories. We also send a weekly newsletter via email every Tuesday to show our top stories and full eEdition.

On top of these efforts, we've simply begun to hone in on what we feel is most important for our community as it relates to our online presence.

We seek to find out how each top story relates specifically to our readers, and how they might find our

content more useful and satisfying. So with that we ask you to do two things to help us become a better newspaper for our community:

First, if you see something you think would become a nice feature in the paper, tell us about it. We'd love to have you among our contributors, whether as an aspiring writer or simply a source of ideas.

Call, email or stop by our office and tell us what you think is most important for our hometown. Finally, don't fall for tricks from the big fish who claim to care about you. Ask yourself what "local" means to you and if some of your information outlets may fall into this category.

Beware the predator who lures and misleads its prey, then pounces when we're least expecting it. At Wrangler News our goal is to be on a seaworthy journey around our community, not pounce on opportunities for sensationalism hook, line and sinker.

*Noah Kutz has worked with us on a parttime basis while he is a French and global studies major at ASU. When he graduates in 2022, he will become a Marine Corps 2nd lieutenant. Until then, we value his contributions, his enthusiasm and his work ethic—just as we know the Marine Corps will when he reaches that goal.*

## Deborah Arteaga: Commentary

### Rebuilding, one life at a time

No one ever dreams of growing up to be poor, homeless or living on the streets. When visions of a secure and flourishing existence shatter, a Tempe agency is there to help pick up the pieces and rebuild, one person's life at a time.

Tempe Community Action Agency was established in the 1960s at the height of the War on Poverty. Like other community action agencies across the nation, it remains committed to its founding principles to address the root effects of poverty and, ultimately, improve the self-reliance of people in our area.

This work is not easy and demand is always shifting. With a poverty rate of 22 percent, a rise in homelessness throughout Tempe, and growing demand for emergency food and housing relief, TCAA seeks to offer the right mix of assistance and encouragement to lessen dependency and promote self-sufficiency.

The only way to address growing demand with limited resources is to look within, improve our efficiency and enhance our crisis-focused services with programs that are preventive in nature.

As more and more seniors are requesting emergency help to avoid eviction and are entering our homeless

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shelter program, we decided to increase our array of in-home support and financial resources for vulnerable seniors.

To accomplish this, TCAA recently merged with the local nonprofit Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors to better serve the aging adult population in Tempe. TNHN offered a range of in-home support for seniors who were struggling to live independently and age in place.

With the integration of TNHN's in-home services, TCAA now offers seniors assistance with light home/yard maintenance, technology help, pet care, social/wellness visits and transportation. We supplement these services with case management offered by a team of social workers. By delivering more services in the homes of seniors in need, we're able to identify

and intervene before a crisis situation erupts.

In addition to expanding its senior independence services, TCAA is opening Tempe's only Financial Opportunity Center. Developed in partnership with Local Initiative Support Corp., and with support from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and State Farm, the center helps low-to moderate-income individuals develop

effective money habits and strengthen their financial status.

With one in five Tempe residents experiencing poverty, the need for workforce development resources to help individuals find meaningful employment and financial stability remains critical. TCAA helps individuals and families find and maintain well-paying jobs, strengthen finances, improve housing security and build assets.

The new center's goal is to help families thrive rather than simply survive through a crisis period and reduce the likelihood of recurring financial difficulties.

With the launch of the financial opportunity initiative, we can respond quickly when an individual or family is prepared to improve their financial status and become a more productive citizen.

The center offers three types of services that are effective in improving economic independence when bundled together:

- Income support, such as food stamps, utility assistance, affordable health insurance, food boxes and transportation assistance.
- Employment assistance like resume and job search development.
- Financial coaching/budgeting skills, credit counseling and homebuyer education.

Information: [tempeaction.org](http://tempeaction.org).

*Deborah Arteaga is executive director of Tempe Community Action Agency.*



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