

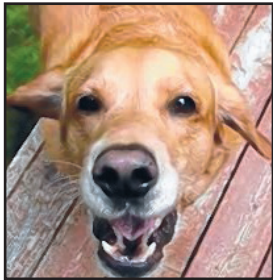
# Wrangler NEWS

'The Valley's Best Community Newspaper'

May 21 - June 4, 2016 • Volume 27, No.10

## OK to take a bite out of crime, but not out of your mail carrier, please

**W**hen your neighborhood mail carrier tells you he doesn't buy the story that your cocker spaniel, whose bared fangs are inches from his ankle, never bites, don't argue. Push Bowser back into his doghouse and count yourself lucky that a lawsuit won't be staring at you along with next week's stack of junk mail.



Arizona ranks No. 12 across the nation for the number of dog-related claims reported in the state in 2015. A State Farm report indicates there were 90 Arizona claims related

to dog injuries reported to the company's agents in 2015, with claims costs of approximately \$5.7 million — an increase of seven claims from 2014, with an increase in cost that year of approximately \$3.4 million. As the costs for this type of loss mounts, several insurance carriers have limited the breeds they will cover or have

— DOG BITES, Page 26

## Photo enforcement is back

**T**hree West Chandler intersections are among five locations where red light and excessive-speed camera tests are underway.

Passing motorists may see a flash of light but can breathe a sigh of relief — at least for now: The cameras are going through a calibration and setup process through May 22.

Beginning May 23, however, speed demons and red-light runners will receive warnings in their mailbox.

The mailings will inform recipients that photo radar cameras at the designated intersections captured them in a speed or red light violation. Motorists take note: On June 20, the warnings will cease and citations will be issued for both speeding and red light violations.

The West Chandler locations include Chandler Boulevard and Kyrene; McClintock Drive and Ray Road; and Chandler Boulevard and Dobson.



Corona del Sol High School, in a Wrangler News photo from last year, celebrated graduation for its Class of 2015. Names of the Class of 2016's graduates at 3 Tempe high schools can be found on Pages 16-17



Eduardo Chavez, who only 18 months ago converted a one-time Tempe pizza joint into a thriving Mexican-cuisine destination, has done it again by remodeling Mesa's long-favored Top Shelf for a second location. Page 25

Inside



Mary Wall's Tempe studio gives aspiring professionals, as well as those merely conscious of tap dancing's health benefits, a chance to improve their skills and enjoy added mobility, age notwithstanding. This year's observance of National Tap Dance Days is coming up Wednesday, May 25.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

## DANCING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

Tapping into a craze revitalized from the days of early America

By Joyce Coronel

**D**ance studio owner Mary Wall started developing her talent at the gawky age of 5, hoping to one day join the famed Rockettes in New York City. What she didn't know was that the renowned precision performers have a height requirement: Every one must be at least 5 feet 6 inches tall.

Small problem: During adolescence, Wall topped out at 5 foot 3.

"A dance teacher told my parents, 'She's not going to be a Rockette. They won't even audition her,'" Wall recalls.

Her dream of a future in dance didn't end there though. She went on to college to major in theater arts, putting her dance moves to work in musicals.

Later, she spent years teaching dance at Mesa Community College and at Marilyn Bostic's Ballet Centre in south Tempe, as well as at other area colleges and venues.

All the while, said Wall, she dreamed of having her own studio. Two years ago, that dream became a reality when Wall to Wall Dance Center opened in Tempe.

"I love it. I can do what I want to do," Wall told Wrangler News.

That means tapping her way to success, one class at a time. Some of the smaller classes have just three or four students; others boast 10 or 12. The studio is geared toward adults and offers lessons Monday through Friday.

"We take some teenagers, but I tell them up front, 'You've got to behave like an adult,'" Wall said. Many of her students are retirees, but the average age is 50-something. Her most senior student is 89, she said.

"It's a lot more fun than walking on a treadmill," Wall said of the physical benefits. "You

— DANCING, Page 26

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## Drive away stress by vanpooling to work, says one who knows

The climbing temperatures that Tempe and West Chandler residents have come to expect this time of year do more than bring out the swimsuits and sunscreen.

They exact a toll on the tires, paint, upholstery and air conditioning units in vehicles.

For those with a significant commute to work, that toll can really add up. Valley Metro offers a way drivers can protect their vehicles and save both time and money.

With nearly 400 vanpools in operation, commuters are saving some 4.2 million drive-alone miles each month.

Marc Campbell, who lives in Chandler but works 20 miles away in Tempe, said he enjoys the benefits of the vanpool.

"With the increasing congestion here and throughout the area, I just enjoy not having the stress levels of driving in a single-occupant vehicle all the time," Campbell said.

"It's a much nicer ride. You get the opportunity to meet and talk with people and develop camaraderie and

friendships you might not otherwise have."

Vanpools are available for groups of six to 15 people. One person volunteers to drive and passengers pay a monthly fare for gas, maintenance and insurance.

"I like the fact that I can reduce the wear and tear on my own vehicle; I can keep costs down and I'm also benefiting the environment," Campbell said.

"We're a pretty active van—there's a lot of conversation.

"There are times that folks withdraw into their own world and look at their phones and things like that, but for the most part we talk a lot, we laugh.

"We actually have a good time and I think that's probably why I enjoy it as well."

Valley Metro's Share the Ride program has 42,000 active users on the online free ride-matching system, where employees can connect with existing vanpool groups or start new ones.

Information: ShareTheRide.com



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# New Chandler chief exec sees fiscal strength, planning as pathway to opportunity

By Diana Whittle

Chandler's new city manager, Marsha Reed, doesn't need to wear rose-colored glasses to see that a positive future continues its ascent on the horizon.

In little more than 20 years, the once semi-rural community has been transformed into a magnet for sophisticated, high-tech industries and good-paying jobs that, in part, have attracted nearly 250,000 residents.

For Reed, Chandler is an emerging force in the Valley's economic, cultural and social evolution—a transition she



Marsha Reed

sees as not only a challenge but an opportunity.

Chandler officials confirmed Reed's appointment as the new city manager only a few weeks ago, succeeding Rich Dlugas, who retired in June.

She's been in the city's executive suite since April 2013, when she was hired as assistant city manager and, in short order, stepped up to become acting city manager while the search was underway.

During her trial period as Chandler's chief administrative officer, with responsibility for all city departments, Reed developed strong relationships with staff as well as the city's elected officials.

"My experience before being

appointed city manager allowed me to work with the mayor, council members and nearly every department, so I have knowledge about all aspects of the city organization," said Reed.

"I believe the opportunity to establish those relationships is a huge benefit in this position."

She appreciates the solid groundwork laid out before her, as Chandler is one of Arizona's first master-planned communities.

In that plan is a focus on investing in high-quality infrastructure, building livable neighborhoods, and creating distinct employment corridors with a balance of diverse industries.

Reed says her goals are to maintain a safe, livable community and, as the city approaches build-out, to make wise decisions with the remaining parcels of developable land.

"Fortunately, the mayor and council members have a shared vision for Chandler and that is significant advantage for me—along with the fact that we don't have council districts. This means that there's no animosity or competitiveness for allocations, so all the elected officials can give their full attention to working together to serve the good of the whole community," explained Reed.

"Also, our city staff is great; they work extremely well with each other and our residents to deliver high-quality services and to resolve issues," said Reed.

Currently, a large priority is to rebuild the leadership team due to retirements and promotions.

"Chandler had the benefit of several long-time employees who were experts in their fields. With their departure, we are preparing employees and recruiting talent to take on leadership roles in the city. We look for people who embrace values that have made Chandler successful."

Another enviable position for city leadership is the opportunity to guide a municipality that is fiscally sound.

"We are in great fiscal shape with an AAA bond rating, which brings stability to Chandler, attracts companies with quality jobs and enables businesses to grow.

"It also may allow the council to actually lower the property tax rate

— CHANDLER, Page 6

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## Chandler

From Page 5

this year by two cents, which is a rare government occurrence," said Reed.

According to statistics from Chandler, the city provides residents great value in the total costs of their municipal services. Only Gilbert is slightly lower when compared to other Valley cities for water, property and sales tax.

Chandler is in another unique financial position as it relates to upcoming fiscal obligations for the fiscally challenged Public Safety Personnel Retirement System.

Each city is expected to contribute a specific percentage to its employees' pensions, but there is a special assessment looming due to the financial constraints of this fund.

"Chandler is currently the only city I have heard of that actually has a plan to pay its portion," explained Reed.

A Texas native, Reed shares some attributes with the city—she possessed great personal foresight when she chose her college major as engineering, determining she could use her skills in math to always make a living.

She earned a degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech University and held engineering and transportation-planning positions at the Texas Department of Transportation for 10 years in the Lubbock District.

Then, she accepted a position at the city of Lubbock, where she remained for 20 years, eventually serving as chief operating officer. It was during her tenure there that her supervisor identified her as a having leadership potential.

Reed's personal tenacity led her to earn a second degree from Texas Tech—a master's degree in Public Administration in 2000.

Additional professional credentials include being a licensed professional engineer in Arizona and Texas and being a current member of the Arizona City Managers Association and the Maricopa Association of Governments Management Committee.

Throughout her rise to positions with greater responsibility—and indeed no less a time commitment—Reed also managed to balance her career with a successful home life.

She is married to Brad Reed, a project manager for Maricopa County. They have four children, three grown and out of college, one in junior high.

She has one grandchild and another on the way. Also counted among family members: two Boston terriers.

Reed says that living in Chandler for the past three years has given her access to the many activities she enjoys in her leisure time, including the community's parks, restaurants, entertainment and other amenities.

"Chandler offers a great quality of life. I especially like the combination of recreation and mild climate. I also like being close to a number of hiking and destinations, which allows our family to enjoy the outdoors."

# Legoland food court both tasty and local

It was 2007, nearly 10 years since Ward Walston had started awakening virtually every morning to confront another day, another construction site, another excruciating battle with the aches and pains that had grown progressively worse as the months and years wore on.

It was time, he told his wife Leslie, to find a new line of work to support the family of four, now including two young sons needing a dad who was physically healthy, not increasingly immobilized by a compromised body.

So the pair talked about a new career for Ward and the possibility of moving from their home in the confines of tiny Salmon, Idaho, to a place with more job diversity, more potential, more opportunity to build their own version of the American Dream.

That's when the notion of opening a small, family-owned business became a topic of discussion, among many others, and the search was underway.

A friend had applied for a Great Harvest Bakery franchise in Idaho and had found the venture both successful and rewarding, so the Walstons figured a call to Great Harvest's corporate offices in Dillon, Montana, population 4,100, would be in order.

The negotiations that followed led to the couple's opening a Great Harvest satellite bakery in the upscale Countryside Specialty Shops complex on the northwest corner of Warner Road and McClintock Drive in Tempe.

Now, eight years into their enterprise, the Walstons have developed a cadre of customers who believe in, and go out of their way to support, the idea of healthy, fresh, affordable (did we mention delicious?) bread, rolls and pastries. Other franchises have come and gone, but none with the same quality products, friendly staff and family roots on which the Walstons have managed to build an enthusiastic and loyal following.

So it was no surprise when a couple of marketing department officials who

oversee Legoland—the showcase for a 21st Century remake of the wooden toys that originated in Denmark in 1932—asked the Walstons to stock their newest Arizona Mills location with a steady supply of home-baked sandwiches and snacks, all freshly made, all freshly delivered.

Still in the opening weeks of the west Tempe shopping-center location,

the Walstons are providing an assortment of Cobb, turkey and swiss, grilled cheese and other sandwiches, plus assorted snacks. Each order, broken down more or less equally between child and adult varieties, amounts to about 250 sandwiches, which the Walstons' son George dutifully delivers around 9 a.m. in specially packed coolers to ensure predictable quality.

Once delivered, the meals are packed into special Lego lunchboxes and placed in refrigerated cases to await the arrival of the hordes

of hungry customers.

While the added business hasn't yet necessitated an increase in the bakery's staffing, it has provided yet one more reason for the senior Walston to make sure he's on the job every day except Sunday by 2 a.m.

Again, though, the business' growth seems to have progressed just fine, thank you, the big Legoland order simply providing, you might say, frosting on the cake.

"Our customers, many of them winter visitors who are familiar with Great Harvest bakeries in other parts of the country, come from as far as Apache Junction, Sun City and Tucson because we're the only Great Harvest store in Arizona," says Walston.

Except, of course, until the bustling Lego wonderland opened its doors at Arizona Mills.

Great Harvest Bakery is at 1730 E. Warner Road, Tempe. Open Monday through Saturday. 480-777-1141.



Ward, Leslie Walston at Legoland

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# National concept's move to Tempe sparks new interest in music



Hands-on instruction is key to the school-based curriculum that sets Hovland conservatory apart.

— Wrangler News photo by Alex J. Walker

By Joyce Coronel

**W**ith all the understandable emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, learning, there's an important facet of education that some worry might be getting overlooked: music.

Happily, that's not the case at Hovland Conservatory. A family-owned musical pursuit that spans four states has just opened its 12th location, this time in Tempe near U.S. 60 and Rural Road. Hovland, a non-profit organization that originated in 1989 in Minnesota, first came to Arizona 10 years ago. Mary Hovland founded the group, and her sons Peter and Andrew now help run the business.

Mary earned a degree in music and taught piano in a private school. After several years, she took a leap of faith and launched Hovland Conservatory.

"I saw there was a need for more structure and more curriculum-based lessons and how lessons are normally just sort of random," Mary said. "We have a set curriculum which is unlike anybody else."

Normally, if a parent wants a child to receive piano lessons, there's a whole process of finding and interviewing teachers. Each teacher then decides what they're going to do. Hovland operates differently.

"We have like 200 third graders," Mary said. "Every third grader is doing the same lesson this week, just like they are doing the same lesson in school." With some 1,200 students spread throughout Hovland's 12 locations, it's an organized way to keep students moving forward and learning music.

They've had their share of success stories through the years.

One former Hovland student won the talent portion of the Miss Teen America pageant. Others have gone on to become music teachers themselves.

"I have a student who's a medical doctor who told me when I went to her graduation, 'I don't think I could have been a medical doctor if it wasn't for my musical education.' I said, 'That's a big statement, but I'll take it.'"

Mary said she thinks music lessons help spark learning,



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particularly when they begin early in life.

"When you start them in kindergarten, it's almost phenomenal how much smarter they become," Mary said. "They are interacting with a teacher, answering questions and they're moving from learning in a spontaneous way to learning in an organized way."

And while "everybody loves music," she said, not very many people know how to read it fluently. That's why Hovland strives to reach out to more children to instill the discipline and joy of music. The results are encouraging.

"The kids who have ADHD, autistic kids, kids who have trouble at school, those are the ones that we can help," Mary said.

"Music really helps them in a way that I don't know anything else can. We have a lot of kids who come with motor skill problems. We can work with them, so those are huge success stories to me."

Peter said one way Hovland is encouraging students to try music lessons is through its Budding Musician scholarship program.

"They can try two lessons for free without any obligation to continue," Peter said. "Not a lot of families are doing music lessons. So our push as a non-profit is to get kids exposed to trying a piano lesson with the hope they'll continue on."

The one-on-one lessons are taught by one of Hovland's 40 teachers who guide students through a grade-based curriculum. For those students who don't begin in kindergarten, there are also classes geared toward various levels of learning.

Information: [hovlandconservatory.org](http://hovlandconservatory.org) or 602-412-3936.

## WEB, 'Where everyone belongs'

By Diana Whittle

**T**he growing nationwide program adopted at Kyrene middle schools says it all: We're a place "Where Everyone Belongs."

WEB, the acronym by which it's known in schools across the country, is built on the belief that older students can help younger ones succeed in the transition from elementary to middle school.

It's a way for selected eighth graders to act as mentors to incoming sixth-grade students.

The new mentors connect with their assigned sixth grader for the entire year to help build a strong positive relationship and to help the new kids overcome any adjustment issues to attendance in middle school.

The Kyrene Foundation provided an annual \$5,000 Principal's Grant, which was given to Jocelyn Sims, principal at Centennial Middle School. Sims chose to use the grant

as seed money for teachers to be trained on how to start and implement WEB.

In the 2015-16 school year the WEB peer mentoring, transition and orientation program was introduced at Centennial.

When classes began, incoming sixth graders spent the first day with their eighth-grade mentors. They maintained their relationship with these mentors throughout the school year through informal interactions as well as formal activities.

Due to the positive reactions of students, teachers and parents, the Kyrene Foundation then applied for a Tempe Diablos grant to take the program to the other five Kyrene middle schools.

With continued support from the foundation, the Tempe Diablos have pledged \$39,000 for the upcoming school year along with district funds to support expanding WEB to all middle schools in the district by the 2017-2018 school year, according to Nancy Dudenhoefer,

assistant manager of Community Relations for the Kyrene District.

"In the fall, the WEB program will be launched at Kyrene, Aprende and Aikemel A-al middle schools for 2016-17," said Dudenhoefer.

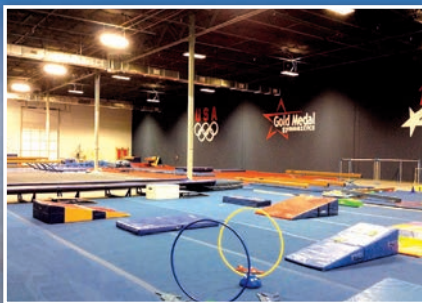
"And, in the last year of the three-year rollout out, it will be introduced at Pueblo and Altadena."

At Kyrene Middle School, the program's facilitator is Nicole Woley, a sixth-grade math teacher, who was trained to be a WEB facilitator, along with Sarah Sottile, KMS dean of students.

"Academic studies show if students have a positive experience their first year in middle school, their chances for success increase dramatically," said Sottile.

"WEB provides the structure for sixth graders to receive support and guidance from eighth graders who have been through the challenges that

— WEB, Page 25



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# No cause for alarm here, but Zika worries could grow

**O**n the heels of the first Zika virus-related death in the U.S., growing concern about the Summer Olympic Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro this August and a newly announced \$1.1 billion commitment to combat the disease, a Tempe physician offered his thoughts on how the virus is transmitted and what the risks could be for local residents.

Rio has approximately 26,000 suspected cases of the virus, but it's also 6,000 miles away from Tempe and West Chandler—in other words, a day's journey by jet.

Dr. Zaheer A. Shaw, a primary care physician in Tempe, said that, nevertheless, generally speaking, the Zika virus is not an "imminent concern" for his patients.

Still, he said, "I would be very concerned about a patient of mine who is traveling into an area where this virus is endemic. I would also be concerned about a female patient who is the sexual partner of someone who is traveling into these endemic areas."

Typically, the infection is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito, but it can also be sexually transmitted from person-to-person.

"Anyone who has been infected with the virus and their sexual partners should practice various forms of safer sex, especially by using condoms correctly and consistently," Dr. Shah noted.

"The sexual partner of a pregnant woman who is either living in or returning from an area where the Zika virus is endemic should practice safer sex by wearing condoms or abstaining from sexual activity



throughout the pregnancy."

Symptoms of the Zika virus include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache.

These symptoms can be quite mild the last only for a few days up to one week.

Physicians are often able to make a diagnosis of the Zika viral infection based on the patient's signs and symptoms as well the recent travel history to an area where the virus is spreading.

There's also a laboratory test available that can confirm the presence of virus RNA in the blood or other body fluids such as urine or saliva.

One of the major concerns that has been raised is the risk to the unborn child.

The CDC has recently published a comprehensive report that has causally connected the Zika virus with microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects in

children born to a woman who was infected with the virus during the pregnancy.

"The CDC has also continued its recommendation that pregnant women should avoid traveling to areas where the Zika virus is known to be active," Dr. Shah said.

"I want to be clear: that this does not mean that every baby born to a pregnant woman who has been infected with Zika virus will have severe brain defects or microcephaly, but just that there is a increased risk of such in that scenario."

The other concern with the Zika virus is that it can lead to serious neurological complications such as like Guillain-Barre syndrome.

"There have also been several cases of documented serious neurological complications in infected Americans. Fortunately, so far Arizona seems to have dodged such tragedies," Dr. Shah said.

Although Tempe and West Chandler are not known as having rampant mosquito activity, the type of mosquito that transmits the Zika virus has been in Maricopa County for years.

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, so far there is no evidence of the virus being transmitted by mosquitoes in the state. Nevertheless, residents are urged to be vigilant about mosquito control by eliminating standing water and maintaining pools and ponds on their property. Details are available by calling Maricopa County Vector Control at 602-506-6616.

— By Joyce Coronel

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# Sports

By Alex Zener

## Corona's Nero calls Nenaber a great choice to succeed him in A.D. job

**C**ory Nenaber will most likely be Corona's new athletic director, awaiting approval by the Tempe Union High School District governing board, after long-time athletic director **Dan Nero** announced his retirement to be effective at the end of the school year.

Nenaber had just started coaching spring football practice when he accepted the offer to take over and succeed Nero, who has been at the school for 31 years, 20 of which were spent in the front office as assistant



Cory Nenaber

— Wrangler News photo

principal of athletics.

"I spent my first 11 years as a math teacher and football, track and basketball coach," said Nero.

When asked why he decided to retire, Nero cited personal reasons, especially family.

"Our youngest son, Luke, is graduating and the time just seemed right," said Nero. "I plan on spending time with my wife Meg and our family, including our grandkids Max and Lily."

Nero believes Nenaber is a great choice to replace him as athletic director.

"Coach Nenaber is an Aztec grad who 'bleeds orange,' and really cares about kids," said Nero. "He knows what it takes to make Corona among the best in the state."

Needless to say, Nenaber is thrilled to get the chance.

"I am very excited to become the new Athletic Director at Corona," said

Nenaber.

"I always thought about moving into this position someday, I just didn't realize it would happen so quickly."

"I think this is a great opportunity for me to be able to impact all student athletes in a positive way and provide direction for the Athletic Department in the future."

Nenaber, who returned to his alma mater two years ago to revitalize Corona's football program, was starting to make headway as evidenced by the Aztecs making it into the DII state football playoffs last fall.

Nenaber's first undertaking as athletic director, with Nero's help, was going to be helping to find his own replacement on the football field. (For how that process unfolded, see related story on Page 13).

**Corona Girls Sand Volleyball** — Corona was one of the 18 schools to participate in DI girls sand volleyball in its inaugural season as an Arizona high school sport this spring. Seven schools participated in DII.

Corona was also the only school from the Tempe Union High School district to field a team.

Sand volleyball at the high school level is quite different from the indoor game.

In sand volleyball, it's two players versus two opposing players on the other side of the net for each of five matches.

It's similar to high school badminton or tennis in that when competing against another school, the team that wins three or more of the five matches wins the overall match.

"For instance, at Corona, we had 18 girls on the roster but only five pairs and one alternative pair suited up for a match," said Coach **Ben Maxfield**. "The girls played challenge matches to earn their way onto the team for the upcoming match."

Corona had a rough start to the season, losing three out of their first four matches, with players new to the sport playing against some more experienced teams, but started to catch on midway through the season, according to Maxfield.

Part of the problem is that most of the girls only had experience playing indoors.

"In sand volleyball you have to develop all your skills—you need to be able to pass, set, hit, play defense, serve, etc.," said Maxfield. "In indoor volleyball, it is way more position-specific, thus you might find some players who can't pass very well but they don't have to do it indoors."

The Aztecs improved and finished the season strong.

"The girls worked hard to learn this new sport and we ended up winning five of our last six matches," said Maxfield. "This experience will make them even better indoor players this fall."

Some of the best players initially were outside hitters who usually have to play all the way around indoors and have to be able to pass, block, hit and serve.

"Our best blockers and attackers were our outside hitters from indoor," said Maxfield. "**Erica Ronda, Brooke Nuneviller, Desi Rodriguez, Brooke O'Meara, Allie Wade, Emily Stellburg and Kelly Warren** were all quite good offensively and at blocking."

"Our best defensive digging players on the team were **Lexi Vlcek**, Brooke Nuneviller, Erica Ronda and Brooke O'Meara," said Maxfield. "As far as serving, **Jill Cota** had a wicked, awesome serve and Erica had a tough jump serve."

All in all, Coach Maxfield feels pretty good about how the Aztecs first season turned out.

"We improved tremendously from the beginning to the end of the season, finishing fifth at the state tournament," said Maxfield. "We look forward to continuing to build a strong sand program that consistently competes for state championships."

**Corona Baseball** — The last thing the Aztecs expected, after being ranked No. 4 both in the state and in Division I with a 21-6 record and a bye in the first round of the 2016 AIA State

Baseball Championships, was to be ousted in their first game of the post season at home against No. 14 ranked Chaparral on May 3.

Chaparral survived the first round, defeating No. 19 Sunnyslope by one point, 6-5, on April 30.

In the second and last round before the tournament became double elimination, Chaparral hung on to pull out a win by one point, 12-11, against Corona but in a much higher scoring game than the Firebird first round win.

The Aztecs went up 4-2 in the first inning, but the Firebirds stormed back to tie the game 4-4 in the second inning.

The Aztecs went up again by 2 at 6-4 in the third inning but could not hold on to the lead when the Firebirds scored eight runs to Corona's two in the fifth inning.

The Aztecs fought back, scoring two runs in the sixth and one in the seventh inning but ran out of innings before they could get enough runs to catch the Firebirds.


It was an exciting game that was the end to a great season for the Aztecs and an especially poignant one for the seven seniors on the team who were honored at the team's last home game April 25.

"Overall, this is one of the greatest collection of seniors I have ever coached," said head coach **Dave Webb**. "These seven seniors are not just great baseball players; they are truly phenomenal human beings. I could not be more proud of them."

Three of these seniors, **Ryan Novis, Connor McCord and Price Barrett**, were the leading batters on the team, hitting .468, .400 and .357 respectively over the season.

Ryan Novis scored 44 runs and 33 RBI's and hit three homeruns his senior season. He was second to junior **Chase Hamilton** in stolen bases with 13 while Hamilton had 16.

— SPORTS, Page 12



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# Sports

From Page 11

“Ryan, pound for pound, is the best hitter in the state,” said Webb. “He’s a kid that plays unbelievably hard. He has a really bright future.”

Connor McCord was not only a leading batter for the Aztecs scoring 19 runs on 32 hits with 28 RBI’s and five homeruns, he led the team in putouts with 134 putouts on 151 chances.

To top that off, McCord started as pitcher seven times pitching over 40 innings and was credited with 35 strikeouts and five wins.

“Connor, a varsity player for three years, is a great team leader on the field and in the dugout,” said Webb. “We will miss his outstanding hitting and pitching, especially during clutch situations.”

Price Barrett was third on the team in hitting percentage where he earned 15 runs on 16 hits playing in 21 games.

“Price made some mid-season adjustments at the plate and his hitting really took off,” said Webb. “We will miss his hustle and big heart.”

**Austin Treese**, one of Corona’s 10 pitchers, made six appearances with two starts and a 4.58 ERA for the season.

“Austin is one of the greatest team players I have ever been around,” said Webb. “He is one of the most selfless human beings that you could find.”

**Liam Stills** played in all 27 games hitting .351 scoring 27 runs.

“Liam will be heading off to West Point after graduating this month and rightfully so,” said Webb.

“I feel safer as an American citizen know that soldiers like Liam are serving us.”

Cuellar played in 18 games hitting .300 while scoring 13 runs while Minder played in 25 games scoring 11 runs.

“**Josh Cuellar** is a scrappy little player who really came into his own to help us his senior season,” said Webb. “He’s a great kid to be around and his attitude is infectious.”

“**David Minder** battled through adversity this season but came up big for our team many times,” said Webb.

Corona should return 15 players next season from this year’s very successful team including junior catcher **Gehrig Sanchez** who was credited with 122 putouts on 125 chances and junior pitcher **Gordon Bracy** and freshman pitcher **Daniel Sotelo**.

Bracy started as pitcher eight times pitching in 38 innings where he was credited with six wins and only two loses and an ERA of 4.24. Sotelo also started eight times and is credited with seven wins.

Several juniors, including **Jacob Goodwin**, Hamilton, Sanchez, **Jacob Clemens** and sophomore **Matt Novis**, gained valuable playing experience by each playing in over 20 of the 28 games this season which should bode well experience wise for next season.

**Tempe Baseball** — The Buffaloes finished the season 18-16-1 after honoring their nine seniors at the last home game. These nine seniors made up almost two-thirds of the team this season and will be sorely missed.

**Ezra Johnson, Joey Matus, Rui Fusato, Silas Sprout, Zach Mitchell, Brock Williams,**

**Phillip Valencia, Joeseeph Dixon and Charlie Cano** are the nine seniors who participated on and off the field for Tempe.

Fusato led the seniors in batting percentage at .338 followed by Johnson at .327, Mitchell at .296, Cano at .281 and Valencia at .245.

Mitchell, Cano and Matus, three of the eight pitchers on the roster played significant roles on the team with Mitchell pitching over 50 innings followed by Cano at over 33 innings and Matus over 14.

Williams, who played catcher all 25 games, caught and put out over 20 opposing players trying to steal base.

**Marcos de Niza Girls Basketball Coach Larry Holmes, Jr.**, was recommended to the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board as the new head girls basketball coach at Marcos de Niza, succeeding Jermaine Whitaker, the previous head coach, who became recently was named assistant principal for athletics at McClintock High School. Holmes, who was expected to be approved at the Governing Board meeting May 18, has worked in Tempe Union high schools since 2010, during which time he has been not only a substitute teacher but also coaches several sports at two schools.

Holmes, with a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education and Sports Management from Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina, was hired in 2010 as the Marcos freshman/JV girls basketball coach and the JV/varsity boys tennis coach at Mountain Pointe High School where he is the current badminton coach.

Holmes plans to continue coaching at Mountain Pointe in the fall and spring and coach girls basketball during the winter at Marcos.

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## Mettlach to get nod as Aztecs' interim head varsity football coach

Corona del Sol High School will be recommending to the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board to hire an interim head varsity football coach for the 2016-2017 school year.

Richard Mettlach has been chosen to take the helm for one year due to the promotion of Cory Nenaber to assistant principal of athletics.

Coach Mettlach has served as the defensive coordinator at Corona

under Coach Nenaber for the last two years; he also coached with Coach Nenaber in Maricopa for three years.

Mettlach has coached football for 36 years in multiple states including Texas, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Michigan, where he was a head coach for 23 years.

In a statement from Corona's administration, Coach Mettlach's selection generated high praise.

"We believe Coach Mettlach is a great fit for our program during this time of transition.

"The position will be reopened at the conclusion of the 2016 football season."

## Rule vs exchange students walking draws ire

Two exchange students were denied the right to participate in May 19 graduation activities with fellow seniors at Marcos de Niza High School, according to a petition being circulated through auspices of an online organization known as iPetitions.com.

An Italian exchange student was said to have been told she could not walk, even though her parents were reportedly en route from the home country.

As of press time on May 18, 758 signatures had been obtained with a

goal of 1,000, according to an iPetitions spokeswoman.

Jill Hanks, executive director of community relations for the Tempe Union High School District, noted that the policy being questioned is in place district-wide.

"Exchange students are told during their application process that they will not be able to walk with other graduates during end-of-the-year ceremonies," said Hanks.

"These students sign a statement that they understand the district policy, and acknowledge that they accept it."



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# CONGRADulations!

## Grad's inspiration paves road to West Point future

By Kody Acevedo

It's a crazy world we live in nowadays. With so much unrest in many different parts of the globe, there are a number of ways people can respond to it.

But there probably aren't many people who look at the issues we face like Liam Stills. Stills, who graduated from Corona del Sol High School on May 19, said the turmoil overseas and in the US inspires him to change to world.

He's on the right path to do just that. Stills decided in high school he wanted a career in the military. He worked hard too, becoming a well-rounded student who played four years of baseball, served on the student council and was involved in National Honor Society, among other clubs.

His efforts landed him on one of the most prestigious starting platforms the military offers: an appointment to the Class of 2020 at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering and continues today as one of our nation's premier leader-development institutions, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country.

"It was a pleasant surprise," Stills said upon learning of his acceptance into West Point. "I was almost a little bit overwhelmed. It was a little emotional because there was so much hard work that I had to put into it and it finally paid off."

It was a journey that began about midway through high school when, according to his father Tom, Stills' brought home information packets from the Air Force. It was at that moment that the family realized this was the path their son was about to embark on, even forgoing an opportunity to play college baseball for a career in the military.

"This is a path that he's chosen and it's a path that we all understand," Tom said. "As parents, we're proud for what he's done and his accomplishments, but we are just proud as Americans more than anything."

Like most parents, the Stills are supportive of whatever their son decides to do in life. Despite the uncertainty of America's military actions in the future, the Stills know there's no holding their son

back. It's obvious that the idea of their son going to West Point is still settling in on their minds.

"This is what he wants to do. We aren't going to tell him no. It's a whole different level than sending your kid to college, I can tell you that," Tom said.

It's a level that requires a rigorous application process that Stills battled for most of the year leading up to this point. On top of the number of essays and recommendations he had to gather, the most challenging part for Stills was receiving a nomination from either Senator Jeff Flake, John McCain or Congresswomen Kyrsten Sinema who represents Arizona's 9th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

After going through a separate application process and another round of the waiting game, Stills finally received a nomination from Sinema, almost guaranteeing his spot at West Point.

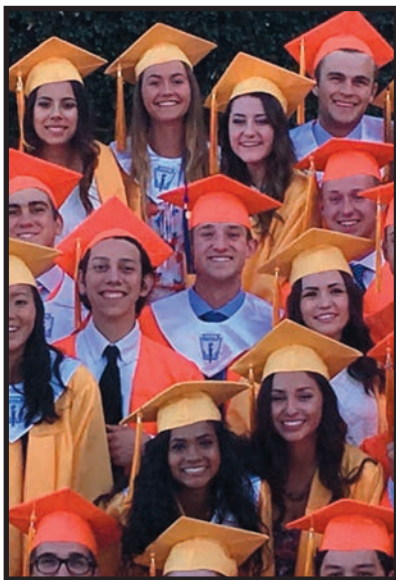
"I was relieved for sure," Stills said. "That was the main thing I was worried about because that's one of the hardest things to get and you need a nomination to get an appointment, so when I got that I knew I had a very real chance of getting into the academy after that."

Just days after his high school graduation, Stills' path is pretty well carved out. He's hoping to leave West Point not only with the military experience he craves, but with a degree in either business management or economics as well.

"I'm both excited and nervous," Stills said. "It's going to be hard, but it's going to be good for me."

Stills also hopes that those his age looking for a possible future career will consider one in the armed services.

"I think it's a great opportunity and it can set you



Liam Stills, center, West Point-bound

Tempe's high schools have once again sent their best and finest on to the next step toward the future—a time when these outstanding young people, the Class of 2016, will go forward into a new and challenging world.

We at Wrangler News have worked with and personally know many of these students — teens who have contributed not only to us but to their community, their friends and families and, not to be overlooked, to a future that we're sure will be better because of them.

Based on what we read in and see in today's media, some of us occasionally ask where our world is headed. If we answer that question by looking at the young people who are celebrating their high school graduation this year—students who have made their way through three years at one of our Tempe Union High School District campuses — we can feel confident that this world of ours indeed will be a better place. To them we say congratulations, go forth, make your mark. And, as what we think is important parting advice, *Carpe Diem*.

— The Editors

up for life," Stills said. "I want to make the world a better place and protect my country." And that's what it means to be an American.



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Erin Nicole Ebright  
Jaiden Danae Edwards  
Colten Egge  
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Anna Eischen  
Jayde Sophia Ellenby  
Jacob Clyde Ellerbeck  
Charli Channel Elordi  
Katie Enoch  
Jasmin Anahi Espana  
Anika Nicole Espinoza-Torres  
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Jordan Fabritz  
Matthew Gerald Fallon  
Kaitlyn Reina Fantechi  
Anthony James Farina  
Marc Joseph Farina  
Ryan T Farina  
Shadi Ahmad Farmawi  
Brianna Farrell  
Zachary A Fenner  
Mary Fergus  
Arianna Mae Ferrara  
Giovanna Francesca Ficara  
Nicole Lynn Fickett  
Taylor Miranda Filan  
Arymus Findler  
Chandler Henry-Orefeo  
Fiorenza  
Mia Esperanza Flores-Peralta  
Joel Nicholas Fonseca  
Roger Renee Foster  
Zachary Dillon Frampton  
Erin Elizabeth Franz  
Austin Freese  
Dylan Chase Freese  
Emily Jayne Frerichs  
Madeleine Marie Frias  
Shannon Teresa Fritz  
Corey Joseph Gallagher  
Amariza E Garcia  
Brenden Garcia  
Mateo Aaron Garcia  
Michael Bradley Gerdes  
Justin Gilmore  
Tyler Giordano  
Devin E Godson  
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Jake Gonzalez  
Tanya Gonzalez  
Smita Gopalakrishnan  
Nicholas Gravano  
Sydney Aryn Gregson  
Franklin Joel Grimes Jr  
Elijah Israel Grisby  
Taylor Grow  
Antonio Eugene Guarino  
David Daniel Guedea  
David Christopher Guerrero  
Yasmin Gumel  
Sienna Gutierrez  
Elizabeth Hager-Agre  
Dylan Hanley  
Matthew Hanscom  
Mackenzie Taylor Harder  
Chance Harless  
Jonathan Alexander Haro  
Anika Marie Hatch  
Logan Dale Hatton  
Kari Jane Haws  
Allison Taylor Hayes  
Kyla Renee Hayes  
Melissa Emily Hayhurst  
John Howard Hecker  
Kemar Henderson  
Tyrell Henderson  
Maribel Hernandez  
Sabrina Lorraine Hernandez  
Ana Paula Hernandez-Garcia  
Christian Felipe Herrera  
Gomez  
Alexa Herriman  
Shelby Higgins  
Lauren Ann Hightower  
Autumn M Hill  
Elizabeth Garza Hill  
Nicole Taylor Hinshaw  
Jarrod Hise  
Zoey Hodges  
Noah Holiday

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Mattison P Holly  
Kylie M Homes  
Sydney F Honyouti  
Sean Ryan Hourihan  
Samantha Ranae Howard  
Sheneatric DeShay Howell  
Adam Lee Huang  
Miranda Huffman  
Parrish Rhiannon Hughes  
Isabella Eve Hulsizer  
Javien Hunter  
Katie Thao Huynh  
Michael Raafat Ibrahim  
Eniola Korede Idowu  
Megi Ilia  
Colin Michael Irving  
Ryan Iskandar  
Jared Jackson  
Ethan Daniel James  
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Downen  
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Haley Grace Johnson  
Jake Raymond Johnson  
Madeline Rose Johnson  
Samuel Powers Johnson  
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Cade Lawrence Kieffer  
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Jennifer Le  
Tyler LeDuc  
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Nadia Lee  
Sarah Rae Lesniak  
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Elizabeth Morgan Letter  
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Paelynn Rae Lewis  
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Sana Lodhi  
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jaya  
Austin A Long  
Azalea E Lopez  
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Colton Matthew Merdich  
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Alec Francois Michael  
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Michael Mossotti  
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Asia Faye Nation  
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Cassandra Kay Nelson  
Luke A Nero  
Anna Noel Neville  
Loryn Elizabeth Newman  
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Norsworthy  
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Akash Patel  
Reena K Patel  
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Cullen Patterson  
Jakob Airon Patterson  
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Vicente Perez

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Connor B Poulin  
Robert Powell  
Maria V Predtechenskaya  
Torrin Prince  
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Carson Leigh Pyatt  
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Karilyn Anne Quon  
Narmen Radai  
Erin Nicole Radeztsky  
Afsinur Rahman  
Victoria Ives Raimondi  
Julio Diego Ramirez  
Makayla Marie Ramsey  
Chloe Olivia Rapp  
Erin Michelle Rawls  
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Jakob Edmund Recktenwald  
Quinton Redmond  
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Destiny Rodriguez  
Gabriel Rodriguez  
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Giselle Rojas Chavez  
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Kylie Marjorie Rose  
Hunter Timoteo Routt  
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Harmony Eve Scheidt  
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Maxwell Makoto Schmeackle  
Bryce Austin Schmitgal  
Madeline Scholtens  
Daniel Christopher Schrimpf  
Julia Alexandra Schroeder  
Nicole Deanna Schultz  
Rachel Anne Seacat  
Jonathan Clifford Seegar  
Sedona Leigh Seigal  
Konnor Sekol  
Terressa Elodie Selfridge  
Karl Warren Senseman  
Jonathan Serdan  
Samuel Sesma  
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Olivia Rose Sheppard  
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Badr Soussi  
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Tanner Stees  
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Liam Thomas Stills  
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Spencer Allen Stoddard  
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Madison Stratton  
Corey R Stys  
Katelyn Margaret Stys  
Sree Manasvini Subbaraman  
Danielle Alayne Sullivan  
Saul Suppappola  
Amy Marie Surrency  
Kevin L Suy  
Nathan Tam  
Alex Peter Tamborski  
Mackenzie Logan Tanquary  
Jahny Deniece Taylor  
Justin Taylor  
Darya Tehranchi  
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Anthony Trang  
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Lauren Mary Ulrich  
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Ashisha Vijay  
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Eric Villarreal  
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Tina Vo  
Trung Vo  
Kennedy Paige Voigt  
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Jacob Warren Wagner  
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Dylan Alexander Walters  
Julianna Marie Walters  
Laura Wang  
Hayden Warnock  
Fowsia Mowleed Warsame  
Baylee Jean Watson  
Megan Michelle Watson  
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Melanie Ann Weite  
Sierra Orion Destiny Welsh  
Simon Werkhoven  
Drake Schmidt Westhoff  
Dahlia Anne Westrack  
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Melody Tein Yeh  
Lucas Colin Ykema  
Wade Michael Young  
Teresa Yu  
Rachel Zagarella  
Sarah Ellene Zeiner  
Andrew H Zhou



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Hafsa Ahmed Abdurahman  
Ibrahim O. Ahmed  
Rafaal Mohammed Alawi  
Nathaniel Miller Allen  
Mickaela Elizabeth Allred-Castillo  
Sumaya Gabriella Alviljar  
Jadon Michael Anderson  
Benjamin Joseph Andorfer  
Abraham Alvarez Andrade  
Anthony James Andrade  
Isaac Josph Anguis  
Brittany S Arbutnot  
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Dionicio Arenas IV  
Christobal Arenas Jr  
Abel Arizmendi  
Jacqueline Arroyo  
Jesse Monte Arroyo  
Michaela Aske  
Angel Luis Avila  
Ruben Ayala  
Hebah Mohamednur Bahta  
Victoria Marie Balwinski  
Julian Santos Garcia Bauerle  
Daamaan Christopher Beard  
Chloe Anique-Marie Beaver  
Nicole Shello Begay  
Morgan Lynn Betonti  
Sabrina Ashleigh Birch  
Tanner Lane Blankenship  
Brooke Elizabeth Blazek  
Dyvine Dolores Bolivar  
Erik Michael Bolster  
Dominic Berlage Bonelli  
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Owen Graham Bridge  
Jabri Rhaman Britton  
Trevon C. Britton  
William Preston Bruce  
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Randie Alyssa Bustillos  
Gerardo Alejandro Cabezas Jr.  
Jacob Alexander Campbell  
Ricardo F. Campos  
Maya Elise Canada  
Ryan Capeloto  
Nicholas D Capriotti  
Aiden Sienna Carrillo  
Karina Carrillo Escareno  
Clarissa Ignacia Casillas  
Andrew Lee Castro  
Cristian Humberto Castro  
Joanna Ashley Castro  
Irene Cervantes  
Michael Cervantes  
Briana Moriah Chacon  
Anthony Jose-Fernandez Charley  
Fidel Alonso Chavez  
Maurice O'Shea Cheadle  
Catherine Lynn Cheney  
Stephen Christy  
Matthew Martin Cichutteck  
Priscilla Eveline Clark  
Nathan Julius Patrick Coady  
Curtis Anthony Cole Jr.  
Hannah Camille Collins  
Alayna Velma Lee Comer  
Andrea Connolly  
Valorie Conti-Seger  
Claudia Estefany Navarrette  
Contreras  
Jada Larinique Cook  
Cheyenne Morning Rain Cooley  
Fecelia Alexis Star Cordova  
Matthew Craig Cornforth  
Trystan Ryan Corona  
Sean Michael Corrigan  
Antony Nikai-Edi Cruz  
Dylan Michael Daley  
Emberleigh L. Dandie  
Elijah Anthony Davis-Jackson  
Alexsandra Jude De La Garza  
Nayeli Delao  
Devany Annebeth Dellis  
Tyler James Dennis  
Lillian Michanne De'Reche  
Jennifer Alexa Diaz

Darion Jamar Dunbar  
Sarah Renae Duncleek  
Chase Robert Elerick  
Jose De Jesus Escarcega  
Alex Escareno  
Lupita Jessica Escobedo  
Angelique Marilena Esquer  
Briana Angela Estrella  
Makayla Jade Evans  
Michael Austin Fahey  
Mia Kolia-Talalupe Fanene  
Gage Jordan Farmer  
Chase A. Fedak  
Chloe Fenicchia  
Chase Ashton Fernandez  
Frances Marie Flores  
Rodrigo A. Flores  
David Frank Flores Jr  
Mario Nicolas Flores Jr  
Javier Alejandro Flores-Acosta  
Tara Noelle Fulghum  
Jacob James Gable  
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Ariel A. Gallegos  
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Anamarie Isabel Gamboa  
Gabriela Nicole Garcia  
Ramon Garcia  
Keyly Anneth Garcia-Rojas  
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Kaitlin Jae Gibson  
Tai Lawrence Gibson  
Abel Gonzales  
Anthony Jeremiah Gonzales  
Emily Maria Gonzales  
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Teonna Marie Gonzales  
Jorge Maurilio Gonzalez  
Andrew Reed Gorman  
Leonardo Gracia  
Madeline Joy Green  
Noah Christopher Greszler  
Trysten Jacob Griffith  
Fernando A. Guardado Alvarado  
Brandon Gurrrola  
Kylie Jeannae Hall  
Liamor Elizabeth Haro Ortega  
Bridget Lauren Hazell  
Elijah Joseph Heiden  
Kyra Nicole Hermanson  
Albert Anthony Hernandez  
Anthony Ray Hernandez  
Antonio Hernandez  
Cereelia Lucia Hernandez  
Domoniquic Nicole Hernandez  
Gerardo Manuel Hernandez  
Stacie Leigh Hernandez  
Destiny Catherine Hernandez  
Jacob Timothy Hernandez  
Jose Andres Hernandez Mendez  
Sara Elizabeth Higginbotham  
Reina Isabel Hinojosa  
Erika Marie Hochhaus  
Gabrielle Marie Holgin  
Christian Anthony Holguin  
Jacob Jeremy Hudson  
April Lynn Hutchins  
Ahmed Isse  
Mitchell Vernon Jacobson  
Geomescia La Toyce Jefferson  
Jarod Mitchell Jenkins  
Gloria Urbalejo Jimenez  
Joy Georgette Dunghit Jimenez  
Christian Johnson  
Robert Harvey Johnson  
Samuel Lee Johnson  
Hannah Christine Jones  
Araya Ann Jordan  
Adrian Roberto Juarez  
Kayli D. Kanoon  
Andrew Jordan Karel  
Ryan Patrick Kazubowski  
Khiry Dejhoun Keith  
Kaland D. Kelly  
Aurei Sansieraye King-Hill  
James Calub Klob  
Marissa Caylie Kyman  
Evangelyn Faith Landfear  
Carlee Jane Larson  
Nyah R Larson  
Lexie Shaye Law  
Katherine Aimee Lien  
Carter Tyler Lindsay  
Nazhony Bae Lingruen-Thain  
Cami J Lintz  
Christian Adrian Lom  
Alejandro Lopez

Vianna Rose Lopez  
Anthony Lopez  
Luis Ramon Lopez  
Cristal Lopez Ocampo  
Jude D. Lugo  
Kolby Ervan Ryan Lund  
Alejandro Noel Luquen  
Jesus Mario Macazani  
Desiree Amada Macias  
Julliana C. Macias  
Christopher Scott Mackey  
Jessica Marie Mada  
Christian Arman Madril  
Thomas T. Maher  
Ashlyn Paige Mahnke-Oldham  
Abdellatif Mohammed Manassra  
Sadera Ann Mangino  
Dorsey Manning  
Ta'Tiara Capree Manning  
Anna Katrina Marble  
Christian Joseph Marquez  
Shawn R Martin  
Alejandra Petra Martinez  
Alfred Isaiiah Martinez  
Dominic Nathaniel Martinez  
Kelsey Lynn Martinez  
Jocelyn Amelia Martinez  
José Guadalupe Valencia  
Martinez  
Alan I. Martinez Rosas  
Arianna Lissette Matus  
Andriana Olivia Mavis  
Ryan S McMenimen  
Cerinity C'leste Mendoza  
Ezekiel Arceo Mendoza  
Laurisa Gabrielle Mendoza  
Dominic Frank Meza  
Tatum Nicole Michaelis  
Jenannette Leann Millar  
Nikolli Marcus Millar  
Terrill Jacori Miller  
Patricia Miranda  
Liam Alexander Mitsis  
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Modesta Mireya Molina  
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Sarahi Montaña  
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Timothy Andrué Montoya  
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Judith Jailee Morales  
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Javier Lorenzo Peralta  
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Debanhi Elise Pettypool  
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Tanner Chauncey Phipps  
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Jenniaeh Requiael Portee  
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Christopher Joseph Revetta  
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Steven G Reyes  
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Danielle Christine Saenz  
Cheyenne Bobbi Sioux Sammon  
Ariana Rae Sanchez  
Destiny Celeste Sanchez  
Evany Abrianna Sanchez  
Francis Isabel Sanchez  
Eduard Moises Sanchez Ortega  
Avery McHale Sanders  
Aminah Sarwary  
Momenah Sarwary  
Elias William Schira  
Spencer Anthony Schor  
Justin Matthew Schuster  
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Chase Alexander Severance  
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Marisa Lynn Smith  
Michael Ray Smith  
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Sydney Madison Stras  
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Danesha D Thompson  
Josiah Brian Edward Thompson  
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Nathaniel Floyd Thornton III  
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Seth Riley Tsosie  
Michelle Davy Ty  
Alexander Edward Underwood  
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Joe Guillermo Valenzuela  
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Matthew Jonathan Venegas  
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Kinzie Viktoria Verkerk  
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Maleia Wood  
Jared James Woods  
Hannah Joy Wynne  
Hayley Rose Wynne  
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Emily Andrews  
Jennifer Aquino  
Kevin Artus  
Reese Barba  
Jesus Barrera  
Nicole Begay  
Cristian Beltran  
Asim Bilal  
Esam Bilal  
Zachary Black  
Zion Boone  
Owen Bridge  
Preshous Brown  
Brandon Bunch  
Daisy Calles  
Corey Carey  
Jose Carlos Montelongo  
Jesus Carrillo  
Alfredo Ceballos-Alcaraz  
Jose Cervantes  
Treyondra Coho  
Keane Cooper  
Juan Carlos Cruz-Loyola  
Maday Delatrinidad  
Gianni Delgado  
Hailey Dennis  
Thalia Elliot Salas  
Austyn Erwin  
Chase Fedak  
Aaliyah Flint  
Juan Flores  
Jadyn French  
Bobby Gideon  
Abel Gonzales  
Amar Graham  
Macy Gross  
Hussein Hajibarre  
Cereelia Hernandez  
Madison Holder  
David Horn  
Ana Howard  
Avery Hutchinson  
Jaime Imbody  
Jalen Jackson  
Ryan Kazubowski  
Paige Knutson  
Sol Krumrey  
Brandon Labadie  
Gabriel Laguna  
KrystopherLane  
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Cesar Magana  
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Jadayja Martin  
Javier Martinez  
Francisco Martinez Arrelanes  
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Jasmine Moreno  
Akilah Muhammad  
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Zachary Nova  
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Deidra Olivas  
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Patrick Perez  
Kamal Perkins  
Elysscia Peterson  
Ashley Pierson  
Austin Powers  
Maya Purnell  
Adrian Quezada  
Jonathan Quijano  
Melissa Rabago  
Troy Randall  
Ivannah Reveles  
Hailey Rodriguez  
Jazmin Romero  
Joshua Ronald  
Victoria Sanchez  
Matthew Scadden  
Ciara Shoptaw  
Julianna Taddei  
Jaleasa Tetter  
Destiny Tista  
Drew Turner  
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Qualandro Yazzie

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# Diversions

With M.V. Moorhead

## Angry Birds: Tweeting a poor message to young audiences?

The Angry Birds franchise began in 2009 as a video game, the object of which was to launch roly-poly little birds from a slingshot at little green pigs. The pigs have stolen their eggs, you see. The game led to more than a dozen spin-off games, and merchandising ranging from toys to clothes to TV cartoons, and now, inevitably, to this animated feature.

Our hero, voiced by Jason Sudeikis, is Red, the scowling, cardinal-like bird you've been seeing on kids' hats and t-shirts the last few years, if you've been paying attention. He lives on an island inhabited by oddly flightless avians—it's the entire Universe, as far as they know. Most of these birds aren't inordinately angry, so an outburst, early on, lands Red in court, and he's sent to an anger management class, where he meets other...well, you know.

Then huge ships arrive filled with green pigs. The guileless birds are taken in by their friendly overtures, except for Red, who's suspicious of them. He turns out to be right, of course. The pigs steal the island's eggs, and it's up to Red and his anger management classmates to rouse the ire of the populace, and lead them to the land of the pigs to try to rescue them from the Pig King's kettle.

The high-ticket voice cast, which includes the likes of Josh Gad, Danny McBride, Bill Hader, Maya Rudolph, Peter Dinklage and even Sean Penn—amusingly cast as the Angriest of the Birds—more or less ensures that there will be a few laughs. There's some ingenious visual shtick, too. But overall *The Angry Birds Movie* is tiring—too many of the gags and situations seem artificially extended, as if the filmmakers knew they didn't have much story to work with, and were trying to pad for time.

More than this, there's the whole matter of the theme of anger. Anger is funny. Most comedy is based on some degree of anger. Anger also resonates with children, who feel it intensely but in most cases impotently.

But there's anger and then there's anger. There's legitimate, mature outrage at, say, rudeness or injustice, and then there's the anger that can arise from annoyance at other people's cheerfulness, or from changes in our world with which we're uncomfortable, or simply from daily inconveniences.

We're all subject to this second sort, of course, and it's always a good source of comedy. But it shouldn't be mistaken for wisdom, and I fear that's how *The Angry Birds Movie* wants us to see it. I certainly don't think the film is intentionally reactionary, but I'm also unconvinced that a celebration of anger—resolving itself in war on foreigners—is what our society is most in need of just now. We have plenty of angry birdbrains already.

*The Angry Birds Movie* is rated PG and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace 16, Arizona Mills 25, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.



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# Advice for keeping electricity usage in check during Valley's summer months Some ways you've thought of, plus some you likely haven't

By Joyce Coronel

As temperatures continue to climb and Tempe and West Chandler residents gear up for summer fun, there's one thing most are not looking forward to: a dramatic spike in their electric bill.

Kathleen Mascareñas, media relations specialist with Salt River Project, offered pointers on how to keep the summer electric bills from gobbling up the family budget.

"The number one energy consumer in your home is your air conditioning unit," Mascareñas told Wrangler News. Reducing the use of the unit is one surefire way to lower energy consumption, she said.

"We recommend that you set your thermostat between 78 to 80 degrees when you're home, and when you're away from your home, you set the thermostat at about 85 degrees."

With every degree set above 80, consumers can save about 2 to 3 percent on cooling costs. An easy way to achieve that is through a programmable thermostat, Mascareñas said.

"You can set it and forget it."

There are also some low-tech solutions to reducing energy consumption: keeping the blinds, shutters and curtains closed during the hottest part of the day.

Windows can account for nearly 50 percent of the heat that enters a home. SRP also offers rebates to homeowners who install shade screens on their windows.

For those interested in green solutions, Mascareñas said planting shade trees can help keep costs down. SRP offers two free shade trees to



homeowners who take a class and learn how to properly plant them. Once fully grown, the trees can reduce a homeowner's electric bill by up to \$50 per year.

When it comes to the kitchen, old standby tricks like the use of a slow cooker can really add up to savings.

"Anything you can do to not heat up your home. We all know that when oven or stove is going, you can feel the warmth inside the home. So we do recommend grilling outdoors or preparing meals that do not require the range or the stove," Mascareñas said.

She also pointed to ceiling fans and the need to reverse the blades during the spring and summer months. "A lot of people forget to rotate them. You also want to make sure you turn the fans off when you leave the room because ceiling fans don't actually cool the room—they just cool the body while you're in that room."

Then there are what SRP refers to as the "top 10 bad energy wasting habits" that drive bills higher.

Like standing in front of the refrigerator with the door open, pondering the contents.

"I would say, be aware of what you want, go in and get it and get out. Don't linger there," Mascareñas said.

Using old-fashioned incandescent bulbs and falling asleep with the television on are two other ways energy is wasted.

The other no-no is leaving appliances plugged in when they are not being used.

"We call those energy vampires," Mascareñas noted. That includes the cell phone that's already fully charged but still plugged in and those entertainment devices.

"Leaving all the X-Boxes and Gameboys plugged in all the time also adds up in that bill for you."

SRP offers a number of discounts and rebates as well as more energy saving tips at [savewithsrp.com](http://savewithsrp.com).



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# Tempe sets public session to discuss proposed fire station

Tempe's Fire Medical Rescue Chief Greg Ruiz will lead a community discussion about a new Fire Medical Rescue station on Tuesday, May 24, from 6 to 7:30

p.m. at Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural Road.

The proposed location for the new station, to be known as Station 7, is the southwest corner of Estrada Park, near the intersection of McClintock Drive and Warner Road.

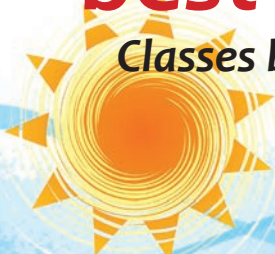
Ruiz will give a presentation about the location selection process and talk with local residents about the station's location, design, and service area.

City staff will have display maps and other information for the public's review.

For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/station7](http://www.tempe.gov/station7) or call the Fire Medical Rescue Department administration office at 480-858-7200.

## Make this your best summer ever!

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The summer Tempe Opportunities brochure features hundreds of programs for every interest, age and ability, including health and fitness, art, dance, special interest, sports, aquatics, boating and summer camp offerings. You can view the brochure online or pick one up at a City of Tempe facility.



[www.Tempe.gov/Brochure](http://www.Tempe.gov/Brochure)

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## Join dedication of new Veterans Memorial

Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, will be extra special this year as the community comes together at 8 a.m. to dedicate the first phase of Chandler's Field of Honor Veterans Memorial located on the northeast corner of Chandler Heights and Lindsay roads. Area veterans and residents are encouraged to attend.

The memorial has been years in the making as donations have been sought to fund the design and construction of the project. Workshops were held with veterans to develop the concept of the memorial with the goal of providing a space for remembrance and reflection. Construction of the initial phase was funded in large part by a \$500,000 donation from the Gila River Indian Community, in addition to \$173,000 in private donations and some City funds.



Jay Tibshraeny said. "It is a place where individuals, families and groups of various sizes can express their love and appreciation for our veterans."

The completed first phase includes a family plaza overlook that replicates the Arizona State Flag and features low walls with inscriptions recognizing six core values significant to veterans and their families: Freedom, Reflection, Recognition, Sacrifice, Family and Memories. A donor recognition area and parking lot also are included.

"This permanent memorial honors the dedication and love of country shown by all those patriots from the Southeast Valley who have served in the armed forces," Mayor

As additional funds are available, remaining phases will include the construction of rows of pillars that replicate the U.S. Flag in an open field.

The dedication ceremony will include remarks by Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, music by the Chandler Fire, Health & Medical Department Pipes & Drums Corps, Posting of Colors by the Gila River Pee Posh Veterans Association and Pledge of Allegiance by retired Lt. Colonel David Althoff, a Chandler resident and pilot who served in Korea, Japan and Vietnam, earning 76 medals and decorations. The invocation will be led by local pastor and Air Force veteran Dr. Michael D. Sproul.

The memorial is part of the 113-acre Veterans Oasis Park that includes a stocked urban fishing lake surrounded by walking trails, picnic areas and play areas for kids. The park also features an Environmental Education Center (EEC) that has classrooms, a nature discovery room, exhibit areas and a nature store.

## Watch and Learn

An interesting variety of informational videos have been produced by the City to educate residents on a number of topics, including Chandler's Municipal Airport, drowning prevention, passport services, Acts of Kindness program, stormwater pollution prevention, graffiti abatement, recycling tips and more.

Did you know, for example, that Chandler's airport has an annual economic impact of nearly \$109 million in the community and is responsible for helping create 795 jobs? Or that the City Clerk's Office offers passport services and last fiscal year set a record in the number of passports processed, 13,930.

To view Chandler's YouTube Channel, visit [youtube.com/cityofchandler](http://youtube.com/cityofchandler).



## Operation Back to School



The City of Chandler Diversity Office, along with For Our City-Chandler and a volunteer committee, is gearing up for another Operation Back

to School event on Saturday, July 23, at Chandler High School. Its mission is to ensure Chandler students are ready with the supplies they need for the first day of school. More than 3,000 families and students attended last year and more are expected

to attend this coming year. It takes a village to make this happen and the City needs help from the business community and residents.

There are several ways to get involved, including:

- Corporate sponsorships that range from \$500 to \$20,000;
- Making an online financial contribution (100 percent of monetary donations are used to purchase supplies for students);
- Donating school supplies, shoes, socks or underwear from a recommended wish list;
- Volunteering to assist with inventory and backpack stuffing prior to the event or the day-of-event assistance.

Visit [backtoschoolchandler.org](http://backtoschoolchandler.org) for more information.

## EVENTS

### MAY

- 21 Trashion Fashion Show, Chandler Fashion Center, 782-3525
- 21 Our Stories Speaker Series - Frank Lloyd Wright and a New Vision for Chandler, Downtown Library, 782-2751
- 23 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 25 TEDxChandlerPublicLibrary: Creating the Experience, 782-2800
- 26 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 30 Memorial Day – City Offices Closed

### JUNE

- 30 Field of Honor Veterans Memorial Dedication, Veterans Oasis Park, 782-2751

- 1 Summer Reading Program Kickoff, 782-2800
- 6 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 9 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 17 Downtown Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West, 855-3539
- 20 Future Leaders Fair, Downtown Chandler Community Center, 782-2746
- 20 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 23 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

### JULY

- 4 Independence Day – City Offices Closed
- 4 July 4th Fireworks Spectacular, Tumbleweed Park, 782-2735
- 15 Downtown Chandler Art Walk, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West, 855-3539
- 23 Operation Back to School Chandler, 782-2214
- 25 City Council Study Session, Council Chambers, 782-2180
- 28 City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 782-2180

For event details, visit [chandleraz.gov](http://chandleraz.gov) or call the Chandler Special Events Hotline at 782-2735.

# Briefly...

## Trash turns to treasure at West Chandler fashion show

Next time you're ready to take your trash or recyclables to the curb, keep in mind that those discarded items just might be the stuff of the latest fashion trend.

Chandler's 2nd Annual Trashion Fashion Show that features materials most people throw away takes place May 21.

Two dozen contestants will sashay down the runway set up at Chandler Fashion Center sporting garments made from at least 75 percent recyclable or throwaway materials.

The free fashion show is organized by Chandler's Solid Waste Services Division in conjunction with the City of Chandler and Chandler Fashion Center.

## Temple Emanuel features rock anthems

The Fab Four probably never envisioned their platinum rock anthems embraced at Shabbat services, but that's exactly what will take place June 3 at Tempe Emanuel in Tempe.

Cantorial Soloist Emily Kaye and Rabbis Dean Shapiro and Jason Bonder will lead the Shabba-Tones and the Temple Emanuel choir through the Fab Four's greatest hits – Hebrew-style.

Prospective Shabbat rockers are encouraged to wear their favorite hip outfits and accessories from the 1960s to the event. Nosh begins at 6 p.m. and the curtain goes up for the service at 6:30 p.m.

Temple Emanuel of Tempe serves Reform Jewish families in the area.

Information: emanueloftempe.org

## New hotel opening at Tempe Town Lake

The first hotel to be located on the area's ever popular Tempe Town Lake opens this month and it's also the first location for the AC Hotel brand in the western United States.

The six-story building, Marriott International's AC Hotel Phoenix Tempe/Downtown, features a rooftop pool with views of Tempe and Arizona State University's Sun Devil Stadium.

The hotel's fitness center boasts floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook "A" Mountain and there's also a central work area with complimentary

computers and wireless printers.

The 159 rooms in the new hotel feature hardwood floors and local art adorns the walls.

Information: ac-hotels.com

## Compadre Academy recognizes graduates

Tempe Union High Schools' Compadre Academy has recognized 19 graduating seniors who managed to earn their diplomas while navigating the challenges of teen pregnancy and parenting. TUHSD's Teen Age Pregnancy Program, or TAPP, boasts a higher than national graduation rate.

About 50-60 percent of teens who get pregnant wind up dropping out of school whereas just 9 percent of pregnant and parenting teens leave TAPP.

## Diablos recognition spurs science teacher to inspire

Last year, Gililland Elementary seventh-grade science teacher Scott Nasser won a Tempe Diablos' Excellence in Education Award for Inspiration.

But that didn't slow down the quest for any of his award-winning qualities: He continues to find ways to inspire and, as a predictable outcome, represent excellence.

The Diablos, along with Tempe Diablos Charities Inc., annually recognize excellence and celebrate the work of educators and staff members who exemplify the extraordinary, creative and inspirational quality of education.

So notable is their repete that the awards have been called the Academy Awards for education.

"Giving back to the members of our education community is at the heart of what being a Diablo is all about," said Mark Burnside, chairman of the Diablos Excellence in Education Committee.

"We volunteer our time to raise funds for the sole purpose of helping to better the lives of the people of Tempe."

And, noted Burnside, it is important to the Diablos to send a strong message of support to the men and women dedicating their time to inspiring kids each day.

Inspiration Awards focus on an individual who inspires and motivates through the giving of time, talent and skills that support student learning.

The award's first step:

Identifying an individual who goes beyond the required duties to impact student learning; a person whom others strive to emulate and who brings value to all those around him or her each day.

Nasser was nominated last year for the 2015 award by a group of his students.

When he won in May 2015, Nasser took home a plaque and \$1,000 to spend however he pleased.

Nasser could have bought something nice for himself or paid some bills, but he said he felt it was important to teach that same concept to students who were members of the Gililland Middle School National Junior Honor Society (which he sponsors) by using the award money on a community service project.



Thus, the group spent Saturdays fixing up a neighborhood yard near the school, with Nasser purchasing gravel and plants and working with the honor society students and a few other teachers.

Asked to define why he decided to use the award money this way, Nasser replied:

"It was never really an option to me. I have never been comfortable being recognized for my work, let alone winning a Diablos Excellence in Education recognition that came with a monetary award.

"I needed to find a way to spend it in a manner that would be inspiring to others."

— Amy Garza



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The May Women in Business Luncheon looked at The State of Female Entrepreneurship with keynote speaker Kristin Slice of Empowered-Lab Communications



Firebird Housing celebrated their Chamber membership recently with a ribbon cutting event

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### Get tickets now for the 2016 Chandler Chamber Community Awards, "Chamber Tonight"



Tickets for this annual event are available at [chandlerchamber.com](http://chandlerchamber.com). Enjoy dinner, awards and a live talk show while celebrating Chandler's exceptional individuals and businesses

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**May 25**

#### Ask an Expert—QuickBooks

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**June 2nd**

#### The 29th Annual Chandler Chamber Community Awards

Each year, the Chandler Chamber honors local businesses and individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community through its Annual Community Awards. The Chandler Chamber Community Foundation awards scholarships to Chandler/Gilbert Community College.

**June 8th**

#### Chandler City Council Candidate Forum

Thursday - June 8th at 6pm. Doors Open at 5:30pm.



It was a full house for April's Economic Update luncheon that was held at SoHo63



Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny answered Chamber member questions relating to business at Coffee with the Mayor



The Annual Explore Downtown Chandler Evening Mixer sent attendees on a scavenger hunt through area businesses ending up at the historic Crowne Plaza San Marcos



# Popular Mexican restaurant expands to second location

By Daniel Ochoa

Two years ago, Eduardo Chavez dreamed of offering the same kind of authentic Mexican food that has been a lifelong mainstay of his cultural heritage. And thus was born La Casa de Juana, a brightly decorated tribute to the cuisine—and the history—of Chavez's native country, home of our south-of-the-border gastronomic inspiration.

Fast forward to 2016: Chavez's Tempe location, settled into the busy Pollack Cinemas center, has flourished and, within the last month, has expanded into southwest Mesa.

Specializing in authentic Mexican platters with, as Chavez describes it, a "motherly" touch, La Casa de Juana seems to have found a perfect home. Patrons can enjoy the restaurant's salsa, which is prepared from scratch, and indulge in a Mexican Fiesta Platter that offers a combination of tacos, enchiladas, tamales, tostadas, etc.

"When people stop by we want to create an atmosphere so that they feel at home," Chavez said. "The meaning of our name is home, and that's what we try to offer here."

In addition, the restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner options such as huevos con enchiladas, steak ranchero and shrimp ceviche tostadas.

There are also vegetarian plates to choose from, such as veggie tacos, Mexican veggie sopas and veggie tostadas.

"Our recipes come from dedication, time and the love that comes with making a dish, and that to me is authentic," he said. "We strive for all our dishes to have a sense of being prepared in a Mexican home."

The décor of the restaurant consists of vibrant and colorful furniture, painting and sculptures that capture the essence Mexican culture.

Expanding La Casa de Juana was always in back of Chavez's mind, but he was focused on doing it the right way, he said.

That meant never losing sight of the restaurant's fundamental commitment of providing each patron with Mexican cuisine and a friendly, family atmosphere.

"We want to keep our identity as a small business



Mexican-restaurant entrepreneur Eduardo Chavez now has two Valley locations, built on the remarkable 18-month success story of his original site at Pollack Cinemas Center in Tempe. — Wrangler News photo

and continue to grow. We don't ever want to lose our identity or the way we prepare all of our food because that's what our customers expect from us."

Chavez said he was a bit leery about expanding into Mesa, considering the city has experienced a bit of an economic downturn in recent years.

However, he's confident Mesa will garner positive economic acceleration within the coming years.

"I like to think about the possibilities of the good that's to come for La Casa de Juana being in Mesa," he said. "I think in the past Mesa has been an excellent place for restaurants to flourish. I

see potential here for us."

Construction in the area is currently being completed in front of the store and elsewhere along Southern Avenue. The fact that business has been affected (considering the restaurant opened in mid-April) has been somewhat disappointing, but Chavez isn't complaining. He was told it wouldn't be completed until July.

Nor did road construction, barricades, prohibited turns and general disarray seem to bother the crowd on a recent Friday, when virtually every table in the place was filled.

Chavez said the past two years have been a success not only due

La Casa de Juana's food, but by the restaurant's loyal customer base.

"When you are doing things with dedication, people are going to sense that and they appreciate it," he said.

"That's what we have strived for at the Tempe location, and will continue to do in Mesa."

La Casa de Juana's new location is located at 1976 W. Southern Ave., in Mesa. The Tempe location is in the Pollack Tempe Cinema Center, southeast corner of Elliot Road and McClintock Avenue.

Information: [www.juanashouse.com](http://www.juanashouse.com) or 480-820-0837.

## WEB

From Page 9

middle school poses and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming."

When KMS resumes classes in the fall, each Wednesday, both the eighth-grade mentors and sixth graders will attend a class together, which will be considered an exploratory credit.

The sixth graders will experience at least eight positive contacts with WEB leaders during the first six weeks of school, which should contribute

to overall school safety as well as help to create a sense of connection.

The KMS classes will include structured activities and lessons, according to Woley, who recently led the seventh graders selected as mentors in their first round of training—where they sprawled across the gym floor to complete an activity.

Working quietly and in randomly chosen groups, the diverse group of seventh graders in the training session appeared to be focused on the task at hand. Since they had to apply become mentors, the kids already demonstrated a strong desire to assist their fellow students.

WEB also will act as an anti-bullying program for KMS by providing it with a cadre of student leaders who look for bullying behavior and help stop it.

WEB gives older students permission to be aware of and report any negative behavior they see, creating a safer school for everybody.

But, the biggest benefit for students, who become involved in WEB, is learning that people at school care about them and their success says Dudenhoefer.

"The district sees great value in this initiative and appreciates the grant donations to implement it in all our middle schools."

# My name is Sunday

I am a special cat  
looking for a special home



Hello everyone, my name is Sunday! I'm a beautiful kitty (I get told so all the time) with a passion for human attention! I'm as sweet as can be and love to be pet. I get along great with everyone, cats, kids, you name it! It'd be really hard not to fall in love with me if you came in to meet me... I'd be willing to bet on that!

*If you have any questions about Sunday, feel free to call Lost Our Home Pet Rescue at (602) 445-7387. All of our cats are spayed/neutered, tested for FELV/FIV, current on vaccinations, and micro-chipped. We are open 11:00-6:00 Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and 10:00-4:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. Visit us soon!*

Published by Wrangler News as a public service with Lost Our Home Pet Foundation 2323 S. Hardy Drive, Tempe

## Dancing

From Page 1

are getting wonderful physical activity and you're having a good time with it, too."

Liisa Walimaa has been taking tap dancing lessons from Wall for three years. "Tap is fantastic. It is something anyone can do," Walimaa said. "It's just plain fun."

Walimaa said she dances other styles too, but those all require partners. "Tap is a great way for me to be able to dance without a partner—to tap into that creativity on my own," she added.

Wall oversees two performance groups that convene at the studio. One is for students over 50, another is an evening group for working people who can't meet during the day. They recently performed at Mesa Community College to raise money for their dance scholarship fund and shortly afterward participated in a charity event to support a group that's going to Peru this summer to build a school.

The performance groups have tapped their way into the hearts of nursing home residents with performances there, too, and once auditioned for the hit television series, America's Got Talent.

"I also get a lot of theater people who are preparing," Wall said. "They've got a

show coming up that they know they're going to have to tap for their audition, so they'll come in and maybe do a drop-in class just to get their dance skills up to speed."

Classes span 55 minutes, and Wall offers options when it comes to paying for all those thrills on the dance floor. You can sign up for the entire course during the first couple weeks—a cheaper option—or wait and see how you like it and pay by the class. Tap shoes are a must and can be purchased at local dance shops.

Wall's also got a small collection of shoes she's acquired through the years from students who often pick them up at area thrift stores.

But what if you happen to be one of those unfortunate souls who has never danced in your life?

"We are the place for you," Wall declared. "I offer what are called Never Too Late classes. These are classes for people with no previous experience whatsoever and I take things at a nice easy pace. I thoroughly explain things."

For all you late-bloomers out there, here's your chance. The 11-week program introduces all the basic steps.

"Never Too Late really gets people started and gives them that nice introduction so they're ready to take real classes," Wall said.

Information: w2wdance.com

## Dog bites

From Page 1

removed this aspect of liability coverage altogether as an exclusion.

State Farm recently released its annual dog-injury statistics to help keep the problem at the forefront for dog owners and as a reminder to the non-dog-owning public to stay alert.

According to State Farm figures, the amount paid for dog bite claims in Arizona and the average cost for those claims is dependent on many factors.

Studies show that dog-related injuries (keep in mind that not all claims are for actual dog bites but involve mishaps resulting from broken bones, as when a dog jumps on you and you fall down) may also include injuries while running from a dog and other types of unanticipated incidents.

There may be higher expenses due to lawsuits as well. It has nothing to do with pit bulls because State Farm doesn't track the breed of dog involved in bites or injuries but it may be that people in Arizona are having more severe injuries because of interactions with dogs.

Mary Contreras of Contreras State Farm Agency advises that you check your policy to confirm if your homeowners or renters insurance covers dog-related claims.

Another aspect of the issue is that

in 2015, 86 postal carriers were bitten by dogs. When a dog bites a postal worker, the homeowner insurance company still pays for that bite...and more.

An article in The Insurance Journal noted that the average cost of a dog-bite claim in 2015 was a staggering \$37,214.

The Insurance Journal went on to explain that Arizona's dog bite statute holds that a dog owner is strictly liable for any injury or property damage caused by the dog, even if done without provocation.

A postal carrier who is bitten by a dog has the injury initially paid through worker's comp but, depending on the severity of the attack, the Postal Service may seek reimbursement for the postal carriers' medical expenses through the homeowner insurance company.

In addition, the insurance company also pays for any time the postal carrier missed work and the salary for the back-up postal carrier to work the mail route.

### By the numbers:

Total dog injuries to USPS letter carriers in Arizona (2014) – 64; Total dog injuries to USPS letter carriers in Arizona (2015) – 86; Increase in dog injuries to USPS letter carriers in Arizona (2014 to 2015) – 22 bites or 34.38 percent.

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# Discerning Diner

## Summer has arrived, time for potato salad's welcome return

*Editor's note: As mentioned in previous issues, we frequently hear from readers who miss the musings of our longtime—and now, unfortunately, former—Discerning Diner, who several years ago moved on to loftier goals. Since then, however, especially as certain seasonal occasions arise, we happily reprint the columns that were so eagerly anticipated and now have become so universally missed.*

Summer weekends are upon us, and to most of us that means two things: pools and potato salad. The pools are obvious. As for potato salad, well, one way or another, my outdoor dining adventures always have included it, whether I'm out on a picnic or at home by the grill.

It's a summertime tradition, and not one I'm inclined to give up.

Now, potato salad is something that people feel strongly about. I'm pretty sure you have a favorite picnic potato salad recipe, and I'm not going to tell you how to make it.

Instead, I'm going to talk about a different kind of potato salad: the warm kind. It's not a replacement for the cold, creamy stuff you pack on picnics, but pretty scrumptious nonetheless.

My interest in warm potato salads is primarily due to my husband, who, among his many quirks, professes to hate cold potatoes in any form.

Without conceding his point—I love cold potato salad—I will say that, yeah, the starchy texture of potatoes is typically better hot.

Warm potato salads are also convenient if you forget to make the cold stuff ahead (and that's the real reason I make them so often).

Warm or cold, the best choice for salad is red-skinned new potatoes, which hold up well to boiling. Baking potatoes, like Russets, will tend to mush and fall apart.

For my warm potato salad, I borrow a tip from Cook's Illustrated, which recommends slicing the potatoes before cooking them. Not only will the pretty red skins adhere all the better, you'll cut down on cooking time and avoid having to handle the proverbial hot potato.

So: For a family of four hungry potato-salad eaters, thoroughly scrub two pounds of small new potatoes and slice into rounds about 1/4-inch thick.

Put the potatoes in a pot, cover them with plenty of cold water, add one tablespoon of salt, and bring the whole thing to a boil over high heat. Reduce to a brisk simmer and cook the potatoes until tender but not soft, five or 10 minutes.

You can probably tell that the potatoes are done just by poking at them. But if you'd like to bite into a slice, spear it with a fork and run it under cold water first, to avoid burning your mouth. (Not that I've ever done that before.)

When the potatoes are done, drain them well. Carefully transfer the slices directly to a serving bowl.

So much for the potatoes. Now for the dressing, vinaigrette, which you make while the potatoes are cooking.

Here's the basic formula: one to three teaspoons of Dijon mustard (depending on how mustardy you like it) whisked with two tablespoons of red or white wine vinegar and five tablespoons of best-quality olive oil. A fine rendering of the mustard, by the way, can be purchased in 8-ounce quantities from that provider of all-things delicious, Great Harvest Bakery, for approximately \$7.50. Call the bakery at 480-777-1141.

Some freshly ground black pepper and 1/4 teaspoon salt is a good idea, too.

When the potatoes are just barely cool enough to handle, drizzle the vinaigrette over them and, with clean hands, toss gently to combine. Salt the potatoes to taste.

If you're adding extras, toss them in at the same time. Fresh herbs are always in order: chopped fresh parsley, chives, tarragon and/or thyme.

So are alliums, i.e., the onion family. Add finely chopped shallots, sliced scallions or even sliced green garlic (if you can find it) directly to the salad.

Or, finely chop 1/4 of a red onion and soak it in two tablespoons of wine vinegar, mixed with 1/4 teaspoon sugar, for 10 minutes. Substitute this mixture for the vinegar in your dressing.

And if you're feeling adventurous, try mixing in some chopped, oil-cured black olives and oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes. Garnish with slices of freshly hard-boiled egg.

It's not your mother's potato salad but then, it's not supposed to be.

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**Brittany Chatterson**

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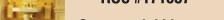
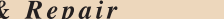
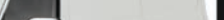
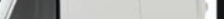
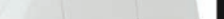
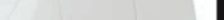
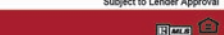
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4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bats, upgraded kitchen with granite and staggered cabinets, s/s appliances, walk-in pantry and island. Wood look tile flooring and neutral carpet throughout and large family room with entertainment center. Huge master suite with walk-in closet. Separate living/dining room combo and large upstairs loft. Professional landscaping front and back. Great community center with heated pool and spa as well as complete work out facilities. Catch and release lake and more!

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