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**A $100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE** will be randomly awarded to a reader who has submitted a complete ballot.

GO TO: [www.ChandlerLifestyle.com](http://www.ChandlerLifestyle.com) TODAY TO NOMINATE / VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BUSINESSES!
I don’t know if you feel the same, but lately it feels like there’s been a lot of darkness in the world. It seems like whenever I turn on the TV or scroll through Facebook, it’s grim news. Hurricanes and wildfires and mass shootings and abused dogs. It makes my heart hurt (not to mention it makes me want to turn off the TV and disable Facebook on my phone).

We all know the world and its inhabitants aren’t perfect, but most of us wake up every morning and do the best we can. Day in and day out, we love each other and give to others and try to be good humans.

At least I think so, anyway.

When things start getting too heavy, I try to think about the light—and not just happy, upbeat thoughts but also the things that shine through the darkness.

There is so much light in this issue that I promise you’ll read it cover to cover and put it down with a smile on your face. I have so much goodness to share with you!

Our main feature profiles some amazing and selfless Chandler kids who are doing incredible things to give back to their communities. Their magnanimous gestures are touching the lives of people right here in our city as well as across the globe. They will not only impress you, but warm your heart.

We’re also featuring a local nonprofit that is harnessing the power of the security blankie and sewing them for children all over the world. My girls love their blankies and carry them everywhere. It helps them relax and provides comfort and a sense of familiarity in unsure situations.

We’re also highlighting a new-ish restaurant in Downtown Chandler that’s not only making crazy-delicious sandwiches, but giving back to local charities with every purchase. I call that a win-win.

And with Thanksgiving around the corner, we thought it would be fun to chat with a few local sommeliers and get their picks on the best wines to pair with your feast, as well as the best wines to gift to your holiday host.

Let us take this time to be with our family, friends and loved ones and be thankful for the goodness in the world, and in our lives.

Mindy Haskins, Editor
Katherine Lim Quan, MD  Jill McKenzie, MD
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Don’t Forget to Vote!
'The Vietnam War' Preview Screening and Panel Discussion

On August 30, Chandler Public Library partnered with Arizona PBS to host 260 people at the Valley’s only sneak peek showing of *The Vietnam War*, by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. After the preview, attendees engaged in discussion with a panel of Vietnam veterans.

Patriot Day Assembly

Weinberg Elementary School’s student council organized the Patriot Day Assembly to honor and recognize military and first responders. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction Frank Narducci shared the message while Perry High’s Junior ROTC presented the colors and Perry High’s marching band played the National Anthem.
“A Night for Rescue” Benefit Dinner

The Exodus Road, a nonprofit that helps find and free victims of human trafficking, hosted its first Arizona benefit dinner on Sept. 21 at The Falls Event Center in Gilbert. Proceeds from the event will fund The Exodus Road’s search-and-rescue investigations in the U.S. and South America.

Sunset Dinner at The Ranch
Friday, November 10, 2017
5 - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $40

Enjoy a unique outdoor dining experience at Tumbleweed Ranch, with a five-course steak dinner, catered by Chandler restaurant, Ginger Monkey. Nonalcoholic beverages included. No-host bar with beer and wine.

Quantities are limited! Buy online at PardnersOfTumbleweedRanch.org

Tumbleweed Ranch, 2250 S. McQueen Road (SE Corner of Tumbleweed Park)
SanTan Brewing Oktoberfest

Downtown Chandler transformed into Munich for SanTan Brewing’s 10th Annual Oktoberfest. Everyone enjoyed German food and craft beer while being entertained by crowd favorites such as a brat-eating contest and wiener dog races. Reel Big Fish and Roger Clyne & the Peace-makers rocked out on the main stage.

Shoe Thrill Fifth Anniversary Party

Local Chandler store Shoe Thrill recently celebrated its fifth anniversary with a party featuring great deals and local treats from Peixoto Coffee, Ghett' Yo' Taco, Lisa's Rum Cake and much more!
Behind life’s adventures is a primary care doctor.

As you get older, reliving moments from your youth holds an incomparable joy. The primary care physicians and specialists of Dignity Health Medical Group will work with you so you can experience that feeling even longer. Start a lasting relationship with a doctor at dignityhealth.org/DHMG or call 602.406.3464 (DHMG).

Book your primary care appointment online. To choose a Dignity Health primary care physician and book your next appointment, visit dignityhealth.org/DHMG,

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HELP BRING SMILES TO FAMILIES IN NEED
This holiday season, Chamberlain Orthodontics’s annual Giving Tree will benefit homeless families at House of Refuge. Simply drop by one of their two offices, pick up an ornament from the tree, shop for a present listed on the ornament and bring the unwrapped gift back to the practice. Chamberlain Orthodontics staff and patients strongly believe in creating an environment of giving back, and their work has not gone unnoticed. The Phoenix Business Journal recently honored Chamberlain Orthodontics with its Corporate Philanthropy Award for Small Business Community Impact for all of the positive work they do with local charities. Learn more at SmileStraight.com.

FOSTER CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM AASK’S SNOWFLAKE DRIVE
For the holidays this year, AASK (Aid to Adoption of Special Kids) is conducting a Snowflake Drive to benefit children in foster care. Organizations and individuals are being asked to donate snowflake ornaments and $10 or $25 gift cards for children placed with AASK foster families. Just as every snowflake is unique, every child is unique, and gift cards are used to make children’s holiday wishes come true. This helps build the caring relationship between each child and family. Snowflakes and gift cards will be collected October through December. To participate, visit SnowflakeDrive.org.

ICAN’S DREAMBIG ANNUAL GALA FEATURES CELEBRITY COMEDIAN
ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth will hold its signature fundraising gala on Dec. 1 at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass. This year’s theme is “Havana Nights” and the gala is an extension of what is done every day at ICAN—working to make dreams come true for Chandler’s disadvantaged youth. The goal of dreamBIG is to raise critical dollars so that ICAN continues and expands programs that are so important to the community. The evening will feature a cocktail reception with the BIG raffle, a five-star dinner with live auction and a lively after party. The highlight of the evening will be an appearance by nationally recognized comedian and stuntman Jeff Civillico, straight from his show at Paris Las Vegas. Purchase tickets at ICANaz.org/DreamBig.

SPEC OFFICE BUILDING BREAKS GROUND NEAR AIRPARK
A new development project known as The Stearman has broken ground in the Chandler Airpark area. Located on 4.3 acres at the northeast corner of Ryan Road and Stearman Drive, the project consists of a two-story, 65,000-square-foot, multi-tenant office building, designed to appeal to users desiring a creative and high-tech atmosphere. The Stearman has an estimated delivery date of May 2018. Todd Noel and Ryan Timpani with Colliers International are handling leasing for the project. Cambridge Financial Services is the developer for the project.

CAREER CONNECTORS OFFERS FREE NETWORKING EVENT
Are you in a career transition? Come and discover Career Connectors, a nonprofit organization connecting professionals to high-quality resources and hiring companies. A free networking event will be held on Nov. 21 at the student center at Central Christian Church in Gilbert. The event includes professional career speakers with presentations on relevant job search topics, three to four featured hiring companies, networking, resume help, career coaches, LinkedIn coaches and business portraits. Learn more at CareerConnectors.org.

TUFT & NEEDLE OPENS STORE IN DOWNTOWN GILBERT
Popular mattress company Tuft & Needle opened its third retail location in Arizona at Heritage Marketplace in Gilbert. The grand opening event on Sept. 23 was full of surprises, including complimentary T&N pillows to the first 100 guests. As part of its commitment to community, Tuft & Needle donated 100 percent of in-store sales made that day to Furnishing Dignity, a local nonprofit that collects donated household furnishings for people in need. Funds raised totaled a generous $20,425. And for the cherry on top, Tuft & Needle treated customers to free ice cream from Petersen’s Ice Cream. For more information, visit TN.com.
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CROWNE PLAZA SAN MARCOS RESORT LAUNCHES INDOOR GOLF EXPERIENCE

San Marcos Golf Resort announced the addition of an all-new, state-of-the-art virtual golf simulator—the SIM Marcos. Located adjacent to the lobby, the SIM Marcos is the most advanced and realistic indoor golf experience of its kind in the region. Guests will be able to hone their skills and play on a variety of world-class championship courses any time of the year, regardless of the weather. The simulator features a variety of gameplay modes, including a driving range and demolition games, as well as customizable lighting and realistic gameplay controls. The SIM Marcos is available for $25 per hour and the hotel offers club rentals. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 480.812.0900.

OCOTILLO WOMEN’S LEAGUE ANNOUNCES FALL FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Ocotillo Women’s League, a ladies social club with many group activities, will be holding its Fall Fundraising Silent Auction luncheon on Nov. 13 at Ocotillo Golf Resort. Proceeds will be donated to One Dog Arizona. On Dec. 11, the league will have its 20-year birthday celebration luncheon. If you are interested in attending or joining the group, please contact membership@owlsgroup.org or call Joanne McGinn at 480.656.5400. Learn more at OWLsGroup.org.

CITY OF CHANDLER PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED WITH PRESTIGIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARDS

Two city of Chandler programs were recognized with awards from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Phoenix Chapter at the organization’s annual awards event on Sept. 7. “America in Times of Conflict,” a series of panel discussions, exhibits, movies, lectures and performances exploring our country’s history and culture during wartime, was recognized with a Copper Anvil Award, the highest honor given for outstanding public relations tactics and campaigns. The Seventh Annual Chandler Chuck Wagon Cook-Off was recognized with an Award of Merit, for its excellent execution. Both programs were produced by the city’s Community Services Department, which includes Chandler Center for the Arts; Chandler Museum; Chandler Parks, Recreation and Aquatics; Chandler Public Library and Vision Gallery.

CHANDLER MUSEUM WILL CONTINUE PROGRAMS DURING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING

Construction will begin soon on a new 10,000-square-foot Chandler Museum, which will be located adjacent to the existing
Direct your state taxes to help Arizona’s children in foster care

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Talk with your tax advisor about a gift to AASK or visit TaxCreditForKids.org/Chandler

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Dr. Denise Garcia

November 2017 | Chandler Lifestyle 15
McCullough-Price House on 300 S. Chandler Village Drive. The house has served as the temporary home of the museum in recent years. In preparation for construction, operations at the McCullough-Price House have ceased. While the new museum is built, staff will continue to provide the community with programs, events, exhibits and presentations, as well as field trips to Tumbleweed Ranch, an outdoor learning environment at Tumbleweed Park. Learn more about the museum’s programs at ChandlerMuseum.org or follow ChandlerMuseumAZ on Facebook.

MAYOR’S TEEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Attention all Chandler teens! Chandler residents who currently are enrolled in high school or a similar level home-school program are encouraged to apply for Mayor Jay Tibshraeny’s Teen Leadership Academy. During the five-day program, students will meet with elected officials, managers and staff from most city departments to better understand how Arizona’s fourth largest city is run. The free academy will run from March 12-16, during CUSD’s spring intersession, from approximately 9 a.m. to noon. Students must have transportation to and from City Hall. Apply online by Dec. 8 at ChandlerAZ.gov/Connect.

DESERT SKY DERMATOLOGY WELCOMES TWO NEW DOCTORS

Desert Sky Dermatology is happy to introduce Dr. Rkein and Dr. Wing to their practice. Rkein is a board-certified dermatologist and fellowship-trained Mohs micrographic and reconstructive surgeon. Rkein completed his internship at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix and his dermatology residency at the Henry Ford Medical Center in Michigan. He then went on to complete a year-long fellowship in Mohs surgery, lasers and cosmetic surgery. With his extensive training, he is committed to providing patients with the highest quality dermatologic and surgical care, utilizing the most recent medical advances. Wing is a board-certified dermatologist and fellowship-trained in dermatopathology. Wing completed his residency at the University of Colorado. After residency, he completed a year of fellowship training in dermatopathology at the University of Texas. He has experience treating patients of all ages and skin types with an emphasis in general dermatology and skin cancer surveillance. Meet them at DesertSkyDermatology.com.

HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY RECEIVES $50,000 DONATION FROM MICHAEL POLLACK

Hospice of the Valley, a not-for-profit that cares for people nearing the end of life, announced it received a $50,000 donation from Michael A. Pollack, president and founder of Mesa-based Pollack Investments. Founded 40 years ago, Hospice of the Valley has cared for 18,000 people in central Arizona over the past year. Pollack said the reason to donate this time was simple: He is a huge fan of Hospice of the Valley and has seen first-hand their good work and the special way they take care of patients and families. To learn more or make a donation, visit HOV.org.
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On Aug. 30, Even Stevens opened for business in Downtown Chandler. The craft casual sandwich shop, which is the seventh location in Arizona for the Salt Lake City-based company, is attracting a lot of repeat customers who enjoy Even Stevens’ delicious variety of sandwiches.

From the Pot Roast Dip, featuring turkey pot roast, Swiss cheese, red onion and locally made jalapeno jelly served on a tasty baguette, to the Jackfruit Torta, with jackfruit carnitas, pepitas, guacamole and lots of other ingredients piled up on a sweet bun, customers are finding plenty of things to love on the menu.

But as Joseph Temple, the general manager of the Chandler location notes, Even Stevens does more than feed the hungry patrons who come in looking for a scrumptious sandwich. Thanks to its Eat to Give program, Even Stevens donates the equivalent of one sandwich for every sandwich it sells to local charities.

“We are working with four local nonprofits in Chandler: My Sister’s Place, ICAN, Paz de Cristo and AZCEND,” Temple says, adding that every Even Stevens restaurant throughout Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Colorado strives to find local charities to work with so they can impact the communities where the restaurants are located.

“Rather than fix, box up and deliver a quantity of physical sandwiches every week or month, Even Stevens has come up with an effective and efficient way to donate to the four local nonprofits. At the end of each month, we count up how many sandwiches we have sold and donate 54 cents per sandwich to the nonprofits,” Temple says, adding that the funds for sandwich-making ingredients like bread, meat and cheese are placed into a Sysco food account.

“The nonprofits can then go in and order the food items that they need in bulk, at wholesale costs.”

Within a few days, the sandwich ingredients are delivered to the nonprofits, absolutely free of charge.

Michael McHenry, president of Even Stevens, says a high level of due diligence goes into selecting the charitable partners.

“As we are courting them, we interview the organizations like we would a business partner,” he says.

As part of its dedication to the local community, McHenry says no two Even Stevens look the same.

“We are very localized and want to offer everyone a place where they can come to break bread,” he says, adding that he is thrilled to have an Even Stevens location in Downtown Chandler.

Even though Even Stevens has not been open for that long in Chandler, business is already going very well.

“We could not have asked for a warmer welcome from the community,” Temple says. “Not a day goes by without customers telling us, ‘What you are doing is wonderful, the food is amazing, and I will be back’.”

Even Stevens is located at 11 W. Boston St., Suite 3, Chandler. For more information call 480.305.0137 or visit EvenStevens.com.
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You’ve spent days, maybe even weeks, making sure every dish is ready to shine. But, Thanksgiving dinner prep doesn’t end there. If you’re stumped—or just plain too exhausted—to deliberate over the wine component, our certified sommeliers are here to assist. You’ll notice some versatile wines that can be used for more than one dish, which makes pairing even more of a breeze.

FOOD AND WINE

TURKEY: DRY OR OFF-DRY RIESLING

“Whether you go German, Alsatian, Oregon or Australian, this wine will carry any dish with its verbose acidity and ability to change, depending on region and production methods,” says Austin Shaw, Certified Sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers (CMS) and Supervisor and Floor Sommelier for Kai restaurant at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass. “This limey and tree fruit driven wine, with notes of petrol and slate, provides an extra complexity to any turkey.”

ROASTED FALL VEGETABLES OR GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE: SAUVIGNON BLANC

“I like the tartness of Sauvignon Blanc with green beans,” says Chris Jeffers, sommelier at Cuisine & Wine Bistro in Chandler and Certified Sommelier with CMS. “For a milder example, try one from Sancerre in France.”
SWEET POTATOES OR CANDIED YAMs: SAUVIGNON BLANC

“When I look at these foods to pair with wines I think about what often goes on top— butter. A nice Sauvignon Blanc would pair well by keeping the palate and food fresh,” says Andrew McCreery, owner of d’Vine Gourmet and Certified Sommelier from the Guild of Master Sommeliers. “For a twist, I would try a New Zealand Sauv Blanc.”

MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY: MERLOT

“Going for the smoother red will not fight with the flavors and provide good refreshment versus the thickness of the potatoes,” says McCreery, who also suggests your favorite smooth red blend.

STUFFING/DRESSING: DRY RIESLING OR WHITE WINE

“If you’re doing a sausage stuffing, pick a dry Riesling from Germany. This is a big meal, so keep the sweetness and residual sugar to a minimum,” Jeffers says. “If you’re making a vegetarian stuffing, experiment with an Arizona white wine. Page Springs Cellars makes some great dry whites at a great value.”

PUMPKIN PIE: MADEIRA

For the finale, Shaw likes this wine that hails from Portugal done either in a Bual or Malmsey style. “This oxidized style of wine gives off wonderful aromas of walnut oil, burnt caramel and slight orange peel. Both of these wines will stand up to the equally savory and sweet taste of pumpkin pie.”
THE HOST(ESS) GIFT

If you’re going to be a dinner guest, we asked our somms to weigh in on what you should bring to your Thanksgiving host.

JEFFERS: Make it personal. “Presenting a wine with a story is always great. For example, if you know they’ve traveled to Italy, bring them an Italian wine and mention how you remember that they loved their trip.”

MCCREERY: The Arizona-grown Merkin Vineyards Chupacabra Red, a versatile red blend that carries a $20-ish price tag. “The goal in bringing a wine with you is to make sure it could appeal to the broadest amount of fellow diners and be a nice offering to the hosts.”

SHAW: Belle Glos, a California Pinot Noir, that’s neither too expensive nor cheap. “It is a beautiful looking bottle, which will make a great first impression, and for roughly $50 you will be in good standing with any host who enjoys fantastic wines.”

—*

Cont. on next page.
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Charlotte Gould has a message that she wants to share with the world: Little people can do great things.

The fourth grader at Jacobson Elementary School is a living example of her own words. Charlotte was born with a cleft lip and palate and has undergone two surgeries and numerous procedures.

Two years ago she received a sewing machine. With the help of her grandmothers, the aspiring fashion designer jumped right into making rag dolls called Sweeties. She sells her dolls online, with half of the sales going directly to the Barrow Cleft & Craniofacial Center at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

“Charlotte also gives presentations to families, other children and hospital donors as well as hosts an annual picnic for cleft-affected families to connect,” Nicole Gould says of her daughter.

All of the Sweetie designs are created by Gould, who also handpicks all of the fabrics and pays for all of the supplies herself. She also makes special dolls for worthy causes, like a child battling cancer and a Harvey relief doll that raised $100 to send to Texas.

“The dolls are so fun to make,” Charlotte says, “I hope whoever buys a doll falls in love with it and they become best friends.”

To learn more and purchase a Sweetie, go to [Instagram.com/StitchesByCharlotte](https://www.instagram.com/StitchesByCharlotte).
JAMES MARTELL
BASHA BASEBALL PLAYER CREATES
SPORTS DONATION DRIVE
BY GEORGANN YARA

Basha High School baseball standout James Martell saw it as a well-used glove. But when he gave it to someone else, Martell realized it meant more.

While playing club ball, Martell connected with a younger player. He realized the youth might never have a glove of this quality to call his own. So, Martell gave it to him.

“He had this big smile on his face,” says Martell, 17. “I didn’t think it would be that big of a deal, but I was taken aback about how something I take for granted could mean so much to someone else.”

This was the catalyst for Martell’s sports equipment and apparel donation drive to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley’s Compadre Branch–Chandler. The drive is Martell’s Basha Gives Back senior year project and he anticipates delivering two truckloads worth of donations to the club this fall.

The project has been unofficially endorsed by the Arizona Cardinals, which donated items for the cause, Martell says. Among them: a showcase NFL football signed by wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald that will go to the person giving the most donations.

The centerfielder has verbally committed to play for Central College in Pella, Iowa, next year. But this drive indicates the future of others is on his mind.

“I was blessed to have all the equipment I needed to play,” says Martell, a ballplayer since age 3. “I wanted to give the younger generation of athletes the chance to compete like I did, and maybe develop a love for the game.”

CONTINUED >
Thanks to the Perry High School Student Government, a U.S. Marines platoon stationed in Iraq will be on the receiving end of 175 large shipping boxes stuffed with sunflower seeds, countless flavors of gum, toothbrushes, new shaving razors, lemonade mix and a cornucopia of other daily necessities and goodies.

Students fueled the school-wide drive by filling the boxes with various items that many take for granted, but those serving abroad in battlegrounds find luxurious. Each box also contains a thank you note.

The student government class had been sending care packages to Perry graduates who are in the military. But last year, upon discovering that attendance secretary Margaret Harper’s son was serving in Iraq, they decided to adopt his company.

“Our student government can get caught up in what’s happening at Perry, but this is an opportunity for us to use our leadership in a way that we otherwise wouldn’t,” says Rylee Hanson, 16, junior class president and fundraising committee chair.

Senior and student body president Hannah Bashford, 17, adds, “I feel like it gives us a greater perspective of what’s happening in the world. It helps unify the student body as well.”

Harper’s son returned to personally thank the students and tell them how much the gesture means to him and his fellow soldiers.

“He let us know first-hand the impact they made,” says Lerina Johnson, student government advisor. “They have truly big hearts and it’s a contagious thing.”

Johnson recalls when Harper was first told about the drive last year and shown the several dozen boxes destined for her son.

“There were tears, instantly,” Johnson says of Harper’s emotional reaction. “That’s when you know you’re doing good.”
It all starts with kindness. That’s what Nicole Estevez wants to teach her students. When she saw a Facebook post of preschoolers visiting a senior center last year, an idea sparked. With the help of a parent, they worked with a nearby senior center to create a similar experience for her third graders at Jacobson Elementary School.

Now, in lieu of classroom parties, the students (along with Estevez and classroom parent volunteers) walk across the street to The Gardens at Ocotillo and visit with its residents.

“We go over for special holidays and do a craft, have a snack, play games or put on a play for them,” Estevez says. “The residents seem to enjoy the visits and like having some youngsters to tell their stories to.”

As enjoyable as it is for the residents, it’s also a great learning experience for the kids.

“This is a way for us to learn about compassion and giving back,” Estevez says. “The kids feel like they are doing something good and making a difference in someone’s day.”
Andra Good realized something while watching a video of an orphanage in Africa. The children had clothes on their back and shoes on their feet, but not a single child had a blankie. Good thought about her children, who take their blankies with them everywhere, providing them a sense of comfort and security. She also thought about the stacks of blankies she had sewn that were sitting on her shelves at home. She was inspired.

**NEEDLES AND THREAD**

Good founded Leigh’s Blankies, now a project under the nonprofit organization, Leigh’s Mission. Leigh’s Blankies is a volunteer-driven program that sews soft blankies for children worldwide. The warmth of their efforts is felt by those who are orphaned, in foster care or in need. At first, Good passed out take-home blankie kits with materials to produce five blankets. The sewers worked their magic and returned the finished product for distribution. While these packets are still available, most volunteers go to Cornerstone, a Chandler church, to help.

“Cornerstone has this amazing program called Second Saturday. People can show up on a Saturday morning and they have a list of projects to volunteer for,” says Good.
They were so well received, Good started a sew group at the church a couple of years ago.

“People are better together. We learn from each other,” says Good.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Not all volunteers know how to sew. In fact, Andrea Fortenberry learned when she began volunteering. Four generations of her family now help, including her husband, children, mother and grandmother.

“One of our family values is serving others and we wanted to teach that to our kids at an early age,” Fortenberry says. “Usually as a family we cut the fabric and pack the take-home blankie kits. Both kids understand how the stations work so we sometimes have them as runners, delivering fabric or blankies from one station to the next, picking up trash and taking the recycling out to the bin.”

When Fortenberry’s daughter Lila was turning 7, she decided to have a Leigh’s Blankies birthday party. In lieu of a gift, guests were asked to purchase a $20 blankie for themselves. The funding benefited the program. Good came to the party and taught the girls about who they were supporting and helped sew mini blankies as party favors.

RECEIVING THE BLANKIES

Some of their blankies benefit Project Cure, a program through Cornerstone that sends medical supplies overseas. They also work closely with an orphanage called Huruma Children’s Home in Ngong Hills, Kenya, Africa. The support they offer them has gone well beyond blankies.

Program volunteers were invited by the orphanage to teach sustainable sewing skills. It was such a success that they set up a permanent sewing program. They now have a full-time seamstress to make Huruma’s school uniforms and teach sewing to the students.

Closer to home, they donate blankies to Christian Family Care, an adoption agency. One blankie goes home with the baby and a smaller identical one goes home with the birth mother.

“Our daughters are adopted and all the mementos came home with us,” says Good. “This small blankie can be kept in the birth mother’s purse or at her bedside to help with the grieving process. Placing a child for adoption is a very selfless moment.”

FROM HEALING TO HELPING

Blankies can be a source of security for adults, too. They wrap them in warmth and can help mend a broken heart. While Leigh’s Blankies only gives to children, sewing them can be cathartic. Good had shelves of blankies in her house way before she founded the program. She taught herself to sew while grieving the loss of her best friend, Leigh Ann Tonkinson. Sewing a blankie seemed simple enough.

“It was so hard when Leigh died and I couldn’t imagine anything good happening from it. It’s kind of scary moving forward,” Good says.

Good sewed because she needed help moving forward. After watching the video about the orphanage in Africa and seeing the children with no blankies, she knew her next step in the healing process involved giving.

“I wasn't a seamstress or a traveler,” Good says. “Now we are going to Kenya for my seventh time.”

Leigh’s Blankies are available for purchase at Believe Marketplace, a Cornerstone boutique, on Nov. 3-4. Learn more at LeihgsMission.com.
LET THE RECORD SHOW ...

A Passionate Hobby Becomes Something Big for Local Developer

ARTICLE CHERYL POLLACK | PHOTOGRAPHY BRIDGETTE MARIE
After 50 years of collecting advertising pieces from around the world, Michael Pollack was awarded the Guinness World Records title for the Largest Collection of Advertising Statues in the world with 8,917 pieces.

Pollack started collecting vintage advertising memorabilia at the age of 12. As a young entrepreneur, he would buy electric beer signs at the flea market in San Jose, California, for a few dollars and then spend several hours fixing them up for resale to antique stores for a substantial profit.

At 23, Pollack’s hobby transformed into a significant business venture when he discovered a whole warehouse filled with more than 150 animated, life-size advertising figures made by the Paul Stanley Company from the 1940s and 1950s.

“I couldn’t believe we found the long-lost Paul Stanley collection,” said Pollack.

The simple beginning of collecting pieces from flea markets ultimately became a worldwide search for the missing advertising pieces in his incredible collection. His travels have taken him all over the world, including Asia, Europe and Russia looking for pieces to add to his ever-growing three-dimensional advertising collection, some dating back to the 1800s.

Pieces like the life-size Bosch statue he brought back from Germany. It’s a pre-World War II piece that someone in Germany had the presence of mind to protect during the war by concealing inside a coffin in a basement of an old dilapidated brick building in East Berlin.

Among the favorites are the mechanical Barringer Displays that were never sold but only leased to jewelry stores between 1937 thru 1977.

Almost 40 years after purchasing that warehouse filled with the rare Paul Stanley displays, Pollack’s three-dimensional collection is exhibited in his personal advertising museum, which is secured and always at the perfect temperature for preservation. It is truly a treat for your eyes, as well as your senses, when the light switches are turned on and the room comes to life with the sights and sounds of advertising history.

The collection is not open to the public but being a true philanthropist, Pollack will occasionally host private charitable events and showcase at his Pollack Tempe Cinemas, located on the southeast corner of McClintock and Elliot roads. The collection can also be viewed at PollackAdvertisingMuseum.com.

“I wouldn’t call it a hobby,” said Pollack, “I have always been fascinated with advertising and it’s more like I am the curator of all of this incredible history. My goal when I started collecting was to preserve advertising pieces from around the world for future generations. It never occurred to me that I was going to set a world record someday.”

Although only Pollack knows the true value of his collection, his response to the question is always, “priceless because it’s not for sale.”
A unique experience fits the unique name of this restaurant gem in Chandler. Customers rave about the authentic Asian cuisine served at Singing Pandas Asian Restaurant & Bar, but that's not the only reason they keep coming back. The restaurant offers free nightly entertainment—a fun element for those who want some live music with their Moo Shu Pork.

At the helm is Mike Russell, the restaurant's entertainment director who pulls off impressive impersonations of Elvis and Neil Diamond. He is joined onstage by owner Sherry Chen, a beautiful chanteuse who has a vast amount of experience in both the restaurant business and the entertainment world. She started singing lessons at 7 years old and has sung professionally since she was 18. Her repertoire includes singing in four different languages, in addition to songs from your favorite artists.

“We offer a unique atmosphere that includes the best food, service and fun entertainment you’ll find,” Russell says. “It’s like experiencing a little touch of a Vegas show right here in Chandler.”
PLEASING ENTREES FOR EVERY PALATE

Singing Pandas is a family business with Chen’s brother, Chef Benny, preparing family recipes with a personalized touch. The menu items were tested with diners before opening to ensure the flavors, colors and presentations were just right. Each dish is prepared using precise measurements so you can expect the taste to be the same each time you order it. The large portions and affordable prices make it easy for diners to order their favorite entrees as well as try something new.

The Walnut Prawns has a delicious white sauce, with large prawns and honey-glazed walnuts that make each mouthful as enjoyable as the first. Lightly battered Orange Chicken has just the right flavor of the house’s secret orange-glazed sauce and moist nuggets of chicken. The Mongolian beef is made with tender Angus beef and has a smoky barbecue flavor with a slight sweetness, making it a winning combination. Other favorites are the Salt and Pepper Pork Chops, Kung Pao Chicken, Singapore Rice Noodles and Cantonese Style Pan Fried Noodles. There’s also a selection of vegetarian and gluten-free items. The spice level of each dish is prepared to your liking and all the dishes are low in sodium and contain no MSG.

Enjoy the entertainment while sipping on one of the many colorful cocktails, such as the Blue Hawaii, Cinnamon Toast Crunch Shota, Absolute Mule and Singapore Sling. There’s a wide selection of draft, international and local craft beers, plus an assortment of wines.

This dining and entertainment destination is one your family will enjoy again and again. It’s also a great place to bring your out-of-town holiday visitors, as it’s truly an experience they have never had before.

Singing Pandas is located at 757 E. Chandler Blvd. Reservations for the entertainment shows are highly recommended. Call 480.777.5050 or visit their Facebook page.
With the holidays fast approaching, that can only mean airfares are rising even faster. Sure, you can use Google Flights (or, for the more advanced, the ITA Matrix) to get close to the bottom-dollar rate, but I advocate the method I’ve been using for the past 10 years: Fly for free!

By collecting frequent flyer miles using primarily credit cards, I’ve amassed millions upon millions of miles. They’ve taken me everywhere, from Australia to Japan to back home for Christmas—and all for nearly free.

If you’ve already been collecting points and miles via credit cards or flying, now might be the perfect time to book a free award flight with those miles because of the spiked holiday fares.

Now, I know some are unsure exactly how the process works or have very little experience redeeming miles, so as a special this holiday season I’ll attempt to help as many local residents as I can book holiday flights with their miles for absolutely free, just for referencing this article!

If you don’t have any miles yet, there’s no time like the present to begin earning them. Here are a few tips on how to get started:

- Sign up for a credit card that allows you to transfer your miles to a variety of airline and hotel programs, such as the Chase Sapphire Preferred or Citi Thank You Premier.
- Also, choose a credit card where the spending bonus categories match your lifestyle. For instance, I’m a fan of the Chase Sapphire Reserve because it earns 3x miles on travel and dining. However, your spending habits might lean toward gas, groceries or entertainment purchases. Nowadays, you can find a credit card with a bonus earning-category for nearly anything. Do your research.
- Sign up for more than one credit card. I know that may sound scary to some, but your credit score usually only dips 3-5 points for 90-180 days for every credit card that you apply for, and then your score bounces back. (Assuming you’re using your credit responsibly.)
- Get organized! Use Award Wallet to easily track all your miles and points in one place. Also, sign up for Credit Sesame and/or Credit Karma to monitor your credit score throughout the process. You’ll then be able to corroborate my above claim.
- Follow someone like me on Facebook. I can be found on Facebook at Conway’s Travel Hacks, but Mommy Points and Million Mile Secrets are great, too. We post daily about the best offers and travel deals. You’d be surprised how many free miles and heavily discounted flights you’ll find just by following us.

Enjoy the holidays, and happy travels!

Andrew Conway has redeemed nearly $1 million dollars in free travel all over the globe in the last 10 years. He helps others do the same at ConwayTravels.com.
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NOVEMBER 4
ARIZONA ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE’S WALK TO SAVE ANIMALS
TEMPE BEACH PARK
This annual event brings together people and pups from all over the Valley! You and your dog can shop vendors, win prizes and participate in various activities throughout the morning. The event directly benefits homeless and sick animals. Register online at WalkToSaveAnimals.org.

NOVEMBER 4
URBAN FISHING CLINIC
VETERANS OASIS PARK
Bring the family for a fun-filled morning of fishing, learning and giveaways. This free event allows attendees to fish without a license during the event after registering with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Rods and bait will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. ChandlerAZ.gov

NOVEMBER 4
SIXTH ANNUAL SOUTHWEST TEA
TUMBLEWEED RECREATION CENTER
Spend the morning immersing yourself in music and entertainment while sipping a variety of teas. Jan Whalen will be speaking about her new book, which reflects upon the history and wisdom of the Irish people. The event is open to the public, but reservations are required. ChandlerIrish.org

NOVEMBER 10
CHANDLER GOLF CHALLENGE
BEAR CREEK GOLF COMPLEX
Whether you are a player or an observer, join the Chandler’s Therapeutic Recreation community for the annual Chandler Golf Challenge. The event, which benefits the Chandler Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities Scholarship and Stipend Fund, includes dinner, raffles and more. Register online. ChandlerAZ.gov

NOVEMBER 10
SUNSET DINNER AT THE RANCH
TUMBLEWEED RANCH
Join the Pardners of Tumbleweed Ranch for a date night with a cause. The event benefits the organization’s mission to educate Chandler’s communi-

ty on agricultural history. Tickets for the event cost $40 and include dinner and live entertainment. PardnersofTumbleweedRanch.org

NOVEMBER 10-11
EIGHTH ANNUAL CHANDLER CHUCK WAGON COOK-OFF
TUMBLEWEED RANCH
Bring the whole family for a glimpse into Western history! Chuck wagons from the 1880s will compete to cook up the best meals fit for the trail using slow-cooking, wood-fire methods. Get a taste for the Old West along with live music, vendors, cooking demonstrations, tours and more. Admission is free. Runs Nov. 10 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ChandlerAZ.gov/Chuckwagon

NOVEMBER 12
ARIZONA HARVEST FEST & OPEN AIR MARKET
DR. AJ CHANDLER PARK
Get your holiday shopping done early at this market featuring over 100 merchants offering a huge selection of holiday items, home décor and furnishings, jewelry, clothing, art, home improvements, health and wellness services and products, plus much more! There will also be live entertainment and fun fall games and activities. Admission is free. ArizonaHarvestFest.com

NOVEMBER 16
JOSIAH COPLEY: CREATURE A DAY
VISION GALLERY
For more than two-and-a-half years, Josiah Copley has been drawing and creating artwork inspired by Japanese toys and video games. Bring the whole family to enjoy the work of Copley at the Vision Gallery. There will be a reception with the artist on Nov. 16 from 6 - 8 pm. The exhibit runs from Nov. 9 through Jan. 5. VisionGallery.org

NOVEMBER 17
CHANDLER ART WALK
DR. AJ CHANDLER PARK
The monthly Chandler Art Walks are unique to themselves and include a different theme each time. Enjoy music and local artists selling their work during this community event. DowntownChandler.org

NOVEMBER 18
10TH ANNUAL WOOFSTOCK
TUMBLEWEED PARK
Dog lovers and their very important pooch (VIP) can enjoy a variety of free pet-related vendors and activities. Woofstock celebrates 10 years with a high-fly-CONTINUED >
ing dog show by the acclaimed Purina Pro Plan Performance Team. ChandlerAZ.gov/Woofstock

NOVEMBER 18
SECOND ANNUAL BULLY AWARENESS CHARITY EVENT
MAJERLE’S SPORTS GRILL
Bring the family to learn and support the fight for bully awareness. This event offers live music, entertainment, DJs, raffles, vendors and more. LiveLikeLexi.org

NOVEMBER 18
SIXTH ANNUAL HAMILTON HUSKY BASEBALL GOLF TOURNAMENT
OCOTILLO GOLF RESORT
Support the Hamilton High School Booster Club, a nonprofit that allows student athletes to experience life through sports, at this annual tournament. Start your warmup at 10:45 am. Prizes, raffles and a silent auction will be part of the event. Dinner immediately follows.

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DECEMBER 2
TUMBLEWEED TREE LIGHTING AND PARADE OF LIGHTS
DOWNTOWN CHANDLER
Bring the family and celebrate the holiday season with a parade and tree lighting ceremony. The tree is formed with tumbleweeds collected throughout the year and has been a Chandler tradition since 1957. Join our community for this unique event! Admission is free. ChandlerAZ.gov/TumbleweedTree
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November 2017  |  Chandler Lifestyle  |  41
Growing up as a small-town farm boy in Colwich, Kansas, I was always surrounded by the values of hard work and patriotism. I remember trying to enlist for the infantry in the U.S. Army with some friends as soon as we heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor, only to be denied admittance because I was 16 at the time. I began my military career after finishing high school, starting out as an army private and training at Fort Riley.

We fought in the Philippines against the Japanese where I received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star awards. The Purple Heart came from a situation after we took the Manila Hotel and an artillery barrage hit us. I was hit in the leg with shrapnel and I thought, “This is it. They’re going to send me home.” Instead, they field-dressed my wounds and sent me right back to the front line. The award I’m most proud of is the Bronze Star that was given to me for the Battle of Leyte. During the intense fighting, a sniper bullet struck me but, fortunately, lodged in my ammo clip, only giving me a slight burn. My service in the military holds some of the most memorable moments in my life, and it’s where I met some of my closest friends.

After the war ended in 1945, I attended Wichita State University and graduated with a degree in accounting. Afterward, I worked as an accountant at a wholesale liquor distribution company and eventually moved up to become president. I spent a total of 56 years with the company. Though it was always a dream of mine to have my own burger joint, I never found the chance or the right timing. Raising my five sons and one daughter along with my full-time career kept me pretty busy.

In 2002, my sons Bill and Randy, along with their business partner and friend Scott Redler, got together and opened the restaurant I’ve always wanted. They built the foundation of the restaurant on the family values, insistence on hospitality and high-quality food, and tradition of service with which I was raised. Our menu even features thinly pressed steakburgers, just like the ones my dad used to make on the farm.

I felt humbled when I found out they would name the restaurant after me. We never planned on more than just the one Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers in Wichita, but now there are 274 restaurants across 30 states that feature my name and face! In addition to being involved with Freddy’s, I’ve spoken to over 50 high school and college history classes to share my experience during World War II, and the values of freedom and defending our country.

My wife Norma Jean and I also just celebrated our 70th anniversary this past summer. Being able to come home safely from the war, build a wonderful family and have a growing restaurant chain named after me are all reasons why I consider myself the luckiest man in the world.

Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers is located near the Chandler Fashion Center at 3476 W. Frye Road. Learn more about Freddy and explore the menu at FreddysUSA.com.
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