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IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN’S ISSUE, I’D LIKE TO SHARE AN EXCERPT OF A SOCIAL MEDIA POST THAT I WROTE FOR MY MOM ON HER BIRTHDAY:

"Happy birthday to my mom! Thank you for always being there for me. For bringing me homemade soup when I’m sick, stepping up to take care of our girls when we’re down for the count, and always making sure that I’m taking care of myself. Thank you for loving my little family as much as you love your own. You are unbelievable, in the best way possible."

While this issue isn’t just about moms, it is a shout-out to every woman out there who’s making a positive impact on someone’s life. Whether that’s caring for others or blazing a professional trail for future generations or inspiring people in some way, this issue is my virtual champagne-glass-in-the-air as I toast to you.

Take a look inside and you’ll see our main feature, the 2018 Women of Chandler. After reading through dozens of well-deserved nominations, we felt these 12 women were stand-out community leaders who best exemplify courage, strength, perseverance and positivity. They’ve each got a great story to share so I hope you’ll take your time to read their profiles and get to know them.

We’re also taking a peek inside Uptown Bridal’s new(ish) shop. The shop moved from Downtown Chandler to West Chandler about a year ago, when they stumbled upon an old farmhouse, bought it and renovated it into something spectacular. You want “wow” factor? Take a look at the photos!

Planning a girls’ trip? Check out our feature on Coronado Island that shows the best places to go in the area. This popular destination is the perfect spot for a weekend getaway out of the heat!

You’ll read about Kate Mathias, a local author and brain tumor survivor who created a nonprofit organization that raises funds for brain tumor research and provides support for those dealing with the diagnosis.

Happy reading!

Mindy Haskins, Editor
ChandlerLifestyle.com

MAY 2018
PUBLISHER
Joyce Selk | joyce.selk@lifestylepubs.com
EDITOR
Mindy Haskins | mindy.haskins@lifestylepubs.com
ACCOUNT MANAGER
Lori Florea | lori.florea@lifestylepubs.com
INTERN
Annemarie O’Donnell
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Kathleen Blair, Michelle Guerrero, Alison Stanton, Georgann Yara
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
David Apeji, Lifestyle Media and Branding

CORPORATE TEAM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Steven Schowengerdt
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Matthew Perry
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Jessica Soetaert
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Dana Rudolph
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Hailey Stepanek
Carli Dilmarco
Melanie Carlisle
Randa Makeen
Michael O’Connell
Annie Chan
Harshith Potu
LAUNCH COORDINATOR
Melanie Carlisle
PUBLISHER SUPPORT
Randa Makeen
EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT
Michael O’Connell
APPLICATION ARCHITECT
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This One's For the Gals

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Happy reading!

Mindy Haskins, Editor
ChandlerLifestyle.com

ON THE COVER The Women of Chandler at Meridiem Kitchen & Lounge
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LIFESTYLE MEDIA AND BRANDING

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival
The 30th Annual Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival returned to Tumbleweed Park and treated families with three days of live entertainment, carnival rides and games, spectacular food, music and, of course, ostriches! PHOTO CREDIT SCOTT CHAFFEE

Community Easter Egg Hunt
Once again, Amy Nelson and Paula Chavez with The Amy Nelson Team at Keller Williams East Valley and Your Loan Gal, Kari Zurn with Academy Mortgage, brought together dozens of families for their third annual Community Easter Egg Hunt and Pictures with the Easter Bunny at Serenity Bend Park in Ocotillo. PHOTO CREDIT OOH LALA PHOTOGRAPHY
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The Inflatable Run was an all-ages family event at Rawhide that featured a 5K inflatable obstacle course plus fun activities, games, shows and attractions in the festival area.

Fun Events at IronOaks

There’s a lot going on in the IronOaks community! Some recent events included the Fly Boys concert and meet-and-greet, a bus trip to Tubac for shopping and wine tasting, spring golf demo day, an Easter celebration and the Jason Morton Tennis Classic.
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To schedule an appointment, please call 602.406.DHMG (3464).
The Great American Barbeque & Beer Festival

The Great American Barbeque & Beer Festival returned to Downtown Chandler with headlining act Rodney Atkins. The fest also featured more than 40 BBQ Pitmasters, a huge selection of beer and spirits, interactive games, local entertainment and more! PHOTO CREDIT TIM FUCHS

Chandler Jazz Festival

Downtown Chandler hit a high note with the return of the Chandler Jazz Festival. The two-day festival treated music lovers to 22 hours of live performances from more than 85 local and national artists. PHOTO CREDIT SHERRIE BUZBY PHOTOGRAPHY
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Dr. Denise Garcia
HAND & STONE MASSAGE CELEBRATES TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In May 2016, Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa opened its doors to the Chandler community. Since then, the locally owned and family-operated business has provided more than 20,000 massages and facials to its customers. The Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa philosophy is simple: Make the soothing wonder of massages and facials affordable and accessible to everyone. This month, check out Member Appreciation Mondays, where members will receive a special service or gift as a thank you for two fantastic years in Chandler. Call 480.665.5600 or visit HandandStoneChandler.com for more information.

CHANDLER AMONG 2018’S BEST MID-SIZED CITIES FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS

RewardExpert has released its ranking of 2018’s Best Mid-sized Cities for Business Meetings—a regional breakdown of the top 30 mid-sized U.S. cities for meetings and conventions that are budget-friendly, and also provide the same level of enjoyment offered by more expensive cities. The travel-rewards website ranked Chandler the third most cost-efficient city in the Mountain West region. Chandler ranks third for its business atmosphere, fourth for its affordability and eighth for the numbers of dining, drinking and shopping venues. The city is also attractive for its climate, with 297 sunny days in a year. Read the report at RewardExpert.com.

FREE COFFEE, HALF-PRICE LATTES FOR MOM AT PRESS COFFEE

Calling all moms! On May 13, come into any Press Coffee location and receive a free drip coffee or a half-priced latte in any size—all to celebrate and honor you on Mother’s Day! It’s Press’s way of saying thank you to moms on their special day. No proof of motherhood required, just identify yourself to the barista when ordering. The offer is good all day. Press Coffee has seven locations in the Valley, including two in Chandler; one in Downtown Ocotillo and another inside the Palette Collective. Visit PressCoffee.com for hours at each café.

FIRSTBANK PUMPS FREE GAS IN ‘GIVE IT FORWARD’ CAMPAIGN

FirstBank employees surprised commuters by pumping $3,000 worth of free gas to unexpected drivers at the Fry’s Fuel Center at 3955 E. Chandler Blvd. as part of Arizona Gives Day on April 3. FirstBank’s goal was to inspire individuals to give back to causes on Arizona Gives Day, an annual...
24-hour online giving movement that supports more than 800 local nonprofits.

CHANDLER JAIL AND BAIL RAISES MONEY TO FIGHT CANCER
The community will come together on May 2 at the Main Station Precinct for a huge fundraising finale for the Chandler Police Department’s Relay for Life team. Special community members will “surrender” and be seen in front of a judge, who will set their bail for offenses like wearing purple shoes on Sunday, not eating enough veggies, dangerous dimples and beating cancer! Friends and family will then raise money to bail them out, with the funds going directly to the American Cancer Society. A special thank you to officer Robin Atwood for spearheading the event.

FREE PIZZA FOR TEACHERS DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
Teachers can visit Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa between May 7-11 during regular business hours (5 to 9 p.m.) and get a voucher for a free pizza, any

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size, no limits on toppings. The vouchers expire on Aug. 31 and can be redeemed immediately or on a future visit. K-12 teachers (including homeschool teachers) must show valid school ID for the dine-in only deal. Learn more at OrganStopPizza.com.

SIX CHANDLER STUDENTS SELECTED TO ATTEND SPACE CAMP
Six students from Chandler—Ted Williams, Brooke Johnson, Yuchen Ai, Devin Berube, Olivia Mulloy and Colyn O’Brien—were among 325 students from 35 countries and 25 U.S. states and territories selected to participate in the Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy (HLCA). The camp is a weeklong program aimed at igniting students’ passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and careers. During HLCA, students engage in team building and problem-solving challenges including astronaut training, model rockets and shuttle missions, all to inspire them to become STEM innovators. Learn more at Leadership.Honeywell.com.

CHANDLER PUBLIC LIBRARY RELEASES NEW MOBILE APP
Chandler Public Library has a new app that lets users quickly tap into library resources anytime, anywhere, from their mobile device. The free app is now available for Android and Apple devices. With this app, much of what the library offers will be at your fingertips, including the ability to search for books, movies and other materials; place and/or check the status of holds; check due dates and renew items; access digital content, including...
e-books, e-audio, digital magazines, music, movies and several electronic databases; stay current with events/programs; and reserve a study room. To get started, download the app by searching for "Chandler Public Library" in the Apple App Store or Google Play app store on a smart device.

**ESCAPE: CHANDLER NOW OPEN**
Chandler’s newest entertainment venue has officially started accepting bookings. ESCAPE: Chandler is a physical adventure game where players are given riddles and puzzles to successfully escape the room with their team within a set time limit. Book a room with your friends and family at EscapeChandler.com.

**WILDFLOWER ADDS TWO NEW RESTAURANT LOCATIONS**
Wildflower announces its expansion with two new locations to the Valley. The first restaurant is located at 75 E. Rivulon Blvd., near Loop 202 and Gilbert Road, while the second store will open in Central Phoenix. These locations will also be the first Wildflowers to serve craft beers, local wines and libations on tap. The nearly 22-year-old Arizona-based business has removed “Bread Company” from its name and, moving forward, will simply go by Wildflower. For more information, visit WildflowerBread.com.

We are always accepting submissions for announcements you’d like to see included in our Around Town section. Submissions are accepted via the Contact Us tab at ChandlerLifestyle.com.
A RESTORED FARMHOUSE
BECOMES A PLACE OF DRESS DREAMS

ARTICLE MINDY HASKINS
PHOTOGRAPHY THE AMBURGEYS
WHEN THE OWNERS OF UPTOWN BRIDAL WERE LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME FOR THEIR SHOP, THEY DIDN’T HAVE TO LOOK FAR.

Located behind the neighborhood where they grew up sat a charming and empty 1920s farmhouse.

“We’d drive by and say, ‘That’s the perfect bridal shop,’ and one day we saw it was for sale,” says Nicole Gould, who co-owns the shop with identical twin sister Tonia Tinker and mom Dianne Everson. “It was serendipitous. This quaint little untouched house in the middle of the city.”

Uptown Bridal made the move from their Downtown Chandler location, where they held shop for the last 10 years, to the historic farmhouse in the 85226.

“We wanted to preserve the charm and make everything that could work, work,” Gould says.

That meant creating a mantle for the existing fireplace. Renovating the kitchen but leaving the original built-in cabinet. Resurfacing the original pine floors.

Brides make a reservation to book the entire space for their squad. It’s a private and customized experience where they can relax, sip champagne and find the perfect wedding dress.

“We could’ve found a space elsewhere, but we love Chandler and wanted to stay here,” Gould says.

Book your session at UptownBrides.com.

CONTINUED >
“WE COULD’VE FOUND A SPACE ELSEWHERE, BUT WE LOVE CHANDLER AND WANTED TO STAY HERE.”

GET THE LOOK

The kitchen at Uptown Bridal honors the historic charm of the building with pops of modern decor.

DECORATING TIPS FROM THE UPTOWN GIRLS

Balance vintage and modern looks. We aim for guests to feel the honored history of the building and be surrounded in the comfort of the modern.

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- BrickIt.com

Cake stand
- $90, AmalfiDecor.com

Printable sign
- $8-12, Etsy.com

Clear chairs
- $50, Amazon.com

Black table
- $190, Pier1.com

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EVERY TIME WE RECEIVED A NOMINATION FOR THE WOMEN OF CHANDLER, IT WAS LIKE OPENING ANOTHER PRESENT AT CHRISTMAS! It’s usually a new discovery and awesome surprise to learn about another woman in our community doing great things.

The theme of this year’s ladies is remarkable. Each has accomplished something—some bigger, some smaller—to make Chandler and its people a better place to live, work and raise a family.

While it takes an incredible amount of time to sort through, read and consider each nominee, we are grateful to those of you who took time to introduce us to someone you felt deserved recognition. Children, husbands, co-workers, neighbors, friends, community leaders and educators all took time to share a story or experience of a woman impacting our local world in some way.

Some ladies were courageous. Some were resourceful during hard times. Some saw a need and found a solution. Some impact individuals; others impact the community as a whole. But the common thread is that they’re all making a difference.

I challenge each of our readers to go out this month and make a difference in our community in honor of these women. Get out of your routine and go out of your way to do something, big or small, and make a difference. It’s a great feeling, I promise!

—Joyce Selk
Through her work as a teacher, guidance counselor and school administrator, Katey McPherson has spent the last 23 years being an advocate for children.

“If you are a parent, educator, mental health professional or an administrator in any school district in our area, and especially the Chandler Unified School District, Katey has had a positive impact on you, your community and your family,” notes those who nominated McPherson, adding that she “works tirelessly to promote the mental health and welfare for our teens, speaking to crowds of concerned parents, children, school administrators and professionals.”

Recently, McPherson has used these various experiences to create forums, town halls and discussion groups, which she has conducted throughout the U.S. and abroad.

McPherson is the co-author of a book for parents that has been receiving local and national attention, titled WTF: Why Teens Fail—What To Fix. The book was inspired in part by her years of interacting with middle school children in crisis.

She is a member of the Gurian Institute and also co-founder of Project Connect 4, a nonprofit organization that offers training for parents, educators, administrators and community agencies in Chandler. The mission of this group is to promote the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, mental health and wellness of children.

McPherson also strives to help others through her work on social media; specifically as an ambassador and referral source on the community Facebook group, Ocotillo Friends. She is also a keynote presenter for the Chandler Police Department Guardian Academy, which helps to promote social media responsibility and internet safety.

“I am dedicated and committed to making Chandler a better, safer, and more connected and inclusive place to live and raise children,” she says.

Referring to McPherson’s self-proclaimed crusade to help improve kids’ lives, online and offline, one nominator states, “Not a tiny crusade. But a most important crusade that will affect society for generations to come.” —AS
Elena Flores-Breese

Elena Flores-Breese's life dramatically changed when she witnessed first-hand the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. She wouldn’t fully realize its impact until years later when post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) began taking over her life.

The Chandler wife and mother of two was waiting for her husband, Jeff Breese, to cross the finish line when two bombs exploded before her eyes. Though she left the finish line that day physically unharmed, the trauma she experienced left an imprint on her heart and mind.

Flores-Breese has dedicated her life to helping other terrorist attack survivors living with PTSD through her blog, Still Blooming Me. She is also a Victims Advisory Council member for Strength to Strength, a global organization that supports victims of terror around the world.

The journey hasn’t been easy. Crippling insomnia, nightmares and anxiety made simple things like eating, sleeping and outings with her family nearly impossible. In 2016, she voluntarily hospitalized herself, which served as a reset button for her and “ignited a fire within me to fight for my life and advocate for my health.”

“I plan to spread my mission of healing with other survivors,” she says. “It gives me peace and, in many ways, makes the pain I’ve been through worthwhile. It inspires me to keep moving forward and search for a cure for PTSD. I’m just getting started.” —GY

Heidi Ross

Highly resourceful. Industrious. Well-rounded. Big hearted. These are just a few of the many positive terms used by those who nominated Heidi Ross.

Whether she is helping a missing pet in her neighborhood find his way back home or working with local children to plan block parties, Ross is well-known as the go-to person in her Fox Crossing neighborhood when it comes to community safety, awareness, education and giving. “She always helps with a smile on her face,” explains one of her nominators.

Thanks to her background in social work, teaching and family caregiving, Ross says she is prepared to help others navigate complex and overwhelming systems like Social Security, Medicare and more.

“Probably the biggest impact I have made in Chandler is networking and collaborating in unusual ways,” Ross says. “Someone recently told me I was the ‘connective tissue’ that helps bridge gaps,” she says. —AS

THE REAL WOMEN OF CHANDLER (CONTINUED)
Chandler Police Officer Amy Pavlue makes a positive impact on the community every day.

Whether she is educating citizens during a traffic stop or closing garage doors in the middle of the night, Pavlue takes care of the members of the community with a great attitude.

“My role as an officer allows me to interact with the community in so many different ways, and each shift is an opportunity to give back to Chandler,” she says.

Her positive attitude has not gone unnoticed. She recently came up with a system for her squad that awards officers who go above and beyond the call of duty. At the end of every month, a teammate is recognized for being an exceptional member of the squad.

“Amy’s input and ingenuity has helped create a positive working atmosphere, which is often times much needed in our line of work,” says Sgt. Hilton Drew, CPD.

Pavlue credits her devotion to leading a healthy lifestyle for her ability to perform to her best abilities at work. She recently ran in the 122nd Boston Marathon, her fifth marathon and first in Boston.

Prior to leaving for Boston, Pavlue organized a fundraiser to benefit the 100 Club of Arizona, a charity whose mission is to support families of fallen or injured first responders. —AS

For many, healthy eating and exercise are a natural part of everyday life. For others, Adrienne Udarbe works to make sure it becomes one.

A registered dietitian, Udarbe founded the nonprofit, Pinnacle Prevention, in 2014 to provide access to healthy food and safe places to stay active. Much of her efforts go into working behind the scenes to help cities and counties understand where health priorities should lie, while tackling root cause issues of poverty, hunger and health disparities.

This often means offering testimony at the state Capitol and holding leadership and volunteer positions at the Arizona Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Among her impactful measures is the Double Up Food Bucks Arizona program, an adapted model doubling the value of nutritional benefits used at farmers markets across Arizona, helping more people bring home healthy fruits and vegetables while supporting local farmers.

In four years, she’s grown Pinnacle from a one-woman startup to a team that collaborates with more than 30 organizations.

A family-friendly office policy means having CIOs—Chief Infant Officers—front and center during meetings and presentations.

Adrienne’s dedication to community and innovation is a rare asset to all of Pinnacle’s endeavors. She is humble, fearless and capable of doing anything she puts her mind to. —GY

CONTINUED >
Kathrine Breeden

What she calls an "obsession" has become a full-time calling that countless pooches and their parents are grateful for.

As the owner of Be Kind to Dogs, Kathrine Breeden has garnered a stellar reputation as one of the few accredited professional canine trainers who uses only force-free methods; never incorporating any act that frightens, intimidates, startles or hurts a dog. This Chandler business owner and resident has also become an advocate for the animal community and friend for organizations needing the assistance of a pro.

In addition to her paid client services, Breeden's pro bono work includes free educational events to rescue groups, veterinarians, groomers, pet sitters and dog walkers.

It's no surprise that the inspiration that steers her current career stems from being an animal lover since childhood. When she left her native England for Dallas in 1999, Breeden even took her horse with her!

Being part of families' experiences with their furry four-legged members offers Breeden a reward of its own.

"My motivation springs from a deep, life-long love for all animals and, especially, dogs. I'm not making a fortune financially, but I am making local pet lives better. Priceless!" she says. —GY

Nan Desmaras

Nan Desmaras may not drive a car, but that doesn't stop her from making a positive impact on the Chandler community with the services she helps provide.

This resourceful senior is not content unless she has a purpose. One day she wondered what to do with all those plastic shopping bags that accumulate around the house and seem to multiply like rabbits.

Desmaras came up with an idea and even trains others to help her. She now leads a group of volunteers from St. Steven's Catholic Church who collect, cut, roll and crochet used plastic shopping bags into mats, tote bags and purses for the homeless. Plastic is waterproof and durable. Perfect!

Desmaras also is part of a group of women who regularly shop and put together vanity kits for homeless students who attend Hamilton High School. The ladies absorb all the costs and present the finished kits with a smile, knowing the good they will do for the kids. —AS
Whether it’s giving families a place to call home, enabling prospective real estate professionals to experience success, or bringing people together to celebrate an event, Angela Fazio has got it covered.

As co-owner and Designated Broker of Revelation Real Estate, the Chandler brokerage she founded in 2005 with husband Chuck, Revelation has amassed a team of more than 750 agents and is one of the top 10 single office, independent brokerage companies in the country.

Revelation has also garnered the reputation of providing top training and resource tools for those wishing to pursue a real estate career through their Chandler Real Estate Training Center.

In an effort to bring together the Chandler community, Fazio built The Forum, a new 21,000 square-foot, LGE-designed and built multi-use facility with a 7000 square-foot outdoor patio that is available to rent for meetings, parties and events with full bar and catering options. The venue also boasts a Bar/Café that is open to the public.

“The culture Angela has developed and implemented at Revelation is one of quality, integrity, education and professionalism, which is unparalleled in the industry,” according to one of her agents. She is passionate about embracing a servant leadership style in the way they run their business.

As the mom of six children, ages 7 through 26, Fazio is fully immersed in everything community.

“I personally love to teach and lead, build the positive mindset of others, work really hard and have fun while doing so,” Fazio says. “Our companies not only work toward helping people make money and be successful right here in Chandler but also to be better individuals, husbands, wives, parents and friends.” —GY

Shelby Pedersen

To understand what drives Shelby Pedersen, you need to go back to her youth, where she first started giving back to her community.

“As a child, I remember attending many community activities with my parents,” Pedersen says, adding that she feels fortunate to have grown up in a household that believed in the power of giving back.

“It was through those many years spent watching my parents volunteer at my school, coach my younger brother’s sports leagues and help with church events that my value for community care was built.”

Pedersen’s desire to help others was made even stronger when she was a teenager, working as a nanny for a young boy who was diagnosed with cancer. She had already formed a bond with the boy prior to his diagnosis, but once she learned what he would be struggling with, she was committed to being involved with him through his journey.

“I have always seen this young man as one of the most important reasons I dedicated my life to helping others, and I am happy to report he has devoted his young life to inspiring others through his service as a cancer survivor,” she says.

Now, as CEO of ICAN, a Chandler nonprofit organization that works with at-risk youth and their families, she is able to fulfill her desire to help others on a daily basis. Every day Pedersen and her staff welcomes more than 200 youth to their facility for after-school programs.

Before becoming ICAN’s CEO in June of last year, Pedersen was the chief development and strategy officer, leading community engagement efforts and strategic planning for the organization—most notably as an integral part of ICAN’s $5.65 million capital campaign between 2009-2012, resulting in a new after-school home for thousands of children in Chandler. —AS
THE REAL WOMEN OF CHANDLER (CONTINUED)

Her son Cody, 2017 National League Rookie of the Year, may have captured the spotlight in last year’s World Series, but with a passion for making a positive impact on others, Jennifer Bellinger has created a stunning impression of her own in community sports and teaching.

As the children's pastor at The Grove church in Chandler, she's been making a difference for the last 12 years and investing in a child's life is her passion.

"Kids need to know they are loved and cared for and that they matter. That they were created to do something amazing and can change the world," Bellinger says.

She has also been a substitute teacher and volunteer at each of the Chandler schools that her children, now 25, 22 and 18, attended.

Along with husband Clay, a former Major League Baseball player, the couple assisted with forming a club level baseball team where boys could develop their skills in an enriched coaching environment. She was also active in the San Tan Youth Soccer Association and Chandler National Little League.

"I balance my life by reminding myself daily of what is important,” writes Bellinger, citing her faith, family, work and community advocacy in order of importance. “Sometimes that naturally intertwines, which is the sweet spot in life.” —GY

Jessica Pierce

Executive Director of Career Connectors Jessica Pierce is living proof that no matter what challenges life throws your way, you can rise above them, succeed and help others in the process.

During the recession in 2007, Pierce was laid off from Intel and then two years later had to close a staffing agency. Calling the economic downturn "a huge turning point in my life," she started a small networking group to help people find jobs at her home church.

The group quickly grew into Career Connectors, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting professionals in career transition to hiring companies and quality resources, serving the Valley-wide community. So far, the organization has helped over 30,000 people find work.

Career Connectors hosts four events each month throughout Arizona. Over the years, hundreds of Chandler residents have received job connections and services from the organization.

"We've helped stay-at-home moms who are transitioning back into the workplace, single parents, men and women who have been laid off, people who have never experienced a job change, and professionals who are thinking about doing something different," Pierce says. —AS

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Angela Harrolle

As CEO/President of the nonprofit 100 Club of Arizona, Angela Harrolle's professional life could not be tied any closer to her personal one.

Harrolle knows all too well what the families supported by 100 Club, which assists survivors of first responders killed or seriously injured in the line of duty, endure. In 2008, her husband Bruce, an Arizona Department of Public Safety officer and paramedic, was tragically killed during a rescue mission. Suddenly Harrolle found herself a widow and single mother with two very young children.

It’s a combination of real-life experience and selfless dedication to others that allows Harrolle to propel herself over obstacles that may have crushed others.

In one of her nominations, it states, “As a leader in the first responder community, she often meets people when they are at the worst point in their lives. Despite that, she always finds a way to connect with them and lighten their load.”

In addition to raising Addie, 14, and Justice, 11, Harrolle serves on the board of directors for the Ocotillo Community Association. She also runs The Fed Realty Group, an Ocotillo residential real estate brokerage that focuses on the residential relocation of government employees.

Harrolle’s collaboration with the DPS resulted in legislation known as Harrolle’s Law, which provides line of duty death surviving family members with lifetime health insurance benefits. Additional legislation was passed to produce license plates for the 100 Club supporting first responders. Last year the 100 Club raised $177,000 for police departments in small communities to purchase essential safety equipment like first aid kits and bulletproof vests.

“I have a real passion for assisting public safety, not only those who are currently serving but also those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice,” Harrolle says. —GY
TRAVEL DESTINATION

GIRLFRIEND WEEKEND
ON CORONADO ISLAND

GOOD TIMES AWAIT

ARTICLE KATHLEEN BLAIR
WHITE SANDY BEACHES, FANTASTIC SHOPPING, GREAT RESTAURANTS AND HISTORICAL CHARM ARE ALL WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED AND ENJOYED ON THE CHARMING RESORT TOWN OF CORONADO ISLAND. Located across the bay from San Diego, its a great weekend escape to a beach town with a carefree lifestyle.

Coronado means the “crowned one,” and the island was first discovered by Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino back in 1602. The island always had the lure of a resort town, and land quickly sold back in the 1800s. The magnificent Hotel Del Coronado, built in 1888, is a must-see for its grandeur.

Orange Avenue shouldn’t be missed with more than 100 shops to explore as you look for those must-have items. Another place to check out is Ferry Landing Marketplace with interesting shops and restaurants.

And, a walk on the sandy beaches, with ocean views and skyline of San Diego is one of the favorite things to do as it was named Best Beach in America in 2012. You may even see a few Navy SEALs running by as they train on the island.

+ STAY
Loews Coronado Bay Resort
4000 Coronado Bay Road, Coronado, CA 92118
619.424.4000 | LoewsHotels.com

The resort is the perfect getaway as it spans more than 15 acres with a wonderful view of the sparkling bay and San Diego skyline. Its all-inclusive with fabulous restaurants, shops, three pools, spa and more.

+ DRINK
Babcock and Story Bar
1500 Orange Ave., Coronado, CA 92118
619.435.6691
HotelDel.com/Restaurant-Coronado/Babcock-Story

An evening of fun can be found at this historical lounge located in the Hotel Del Coronado. Its ambiance sets the stage with live music, sassy cocktails and small plates to graze on.
DESTINATION: CORONADO ISLAND

+ EAT
Brigantine - Seafood & Oyster Bar
1333 Orange Ave., Coronado, CA 92118
619.435.4166 | Brigantine.com

A lively place commonly known as "The Brig" is a favorite among the locals and visitors who are lured in by the large selection of fresh seafood. You’ll enjoy a wonderful meal in this beautiful wood-themed establishment.

+ SHOP
The French Room - Ladies Shoes & Clothing
Coronado Ferry Landing,
1201 First St., Coronado, CA 92118
619.550.7366

A favorite shopping destination among locals and visitors, The French Room carries fabulous shoes and clothing. It’s a sophisticated, inviting shop that you and your girlfriends will get lost in trying on beautiful items and accessories.
Located on the NW corner of Arizona Ave and Chandler Heights Rd in the CVS Pharmacy complex, across the street from the post office.

Carolyn Duregger, DVM
Andrea Stickland, DVM
Gabriela Durig, DVM

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PET OF THE MONTH

MEET CASSIE!

Cassie has been the beloved family member of Diane and Dennis Kottke for the last 11 years! She starts her day with walking 2 miles before breakfast and then visits the pool for a satisfying swim! She also has an internal clock that is very accurate and she knows when it is time for each one of her other daily routines up until the last trip outside before ending her day and never forgets to receive her final night time treat. Cassie also looks forward to her weekly visit at the Animal Medical Center of Chandler to have her scheduled acupuncture/laser treatment that has been so successful in keeping her active and healthy.

PET OF THE MONTH

+ EAT: BEST BREAKFAST

Clayton's Coffee Shop
979 Orange Ave., Coronado, CA 92118
619.435.5425
Facebook.com/ClaytonsCoffeeShop

Nostalgic, straight-out-of-the-'50s charm is waiting for you at this popular retro diner known for the best breakfasts in town. But, don't let that stop you from having lunch, dinner or desserts.

Clayton's Coffee Shop
979 Orange Ave., Coronado, CA 92118
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A SECOND CHANCE

CHANDLER AUTHOR FIGHTS FOR A CURE

ARTICLE MICHELLE GUERRERO | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID APEJI
KATE MATHIAS, A MOTHER OF THREE, WIFE AND AUTHOR MOVED TO CHANDLER FROM IOWA NEARLY EIGHT YEARS AGO. She fell in love with the Arizona sunshine. Her new friends became family. Life was good. But in 2012, her neurologist misdiagnosed her with a stroke. She suffered daily headaches for 16 months, dropped 25 pounds and was so exhausted it was difficult to get out of bed, let alone care for her small children. Fate landed Mathias in the hospital with an injury, where she was assigned a new neurologist who refused to give up until she was correctly diagnosed.

A month later she discovered she had a brain tumor.

“When faced with my own mortality, it would forever change the way I looked at life. I need to make a difference in people’s lives,” says Mathias.

She’s the CEO and founder of Faith, Hope and Love Brain Tumor Foundation. Mathias leads the program with Tatum Boller, also a brain tumor survivor, and partners with Dignity Health East Valley Foundation.

Their mission is to fundraise to find a cure through brain tumor research. They also provide brain tumor patients and their families with support programs such as therapy, bereavement and financial planning. They also offer non-medical expense support, like care packages, plane tickets for family members and items needed while the patient isn’t working.

Before Mathias got sick she published a fiction series, and afterwards she was inspired to write a creative nonfiction book about her brain tumor journey titled Awake, But Still Dreaming. She donates a portion of the proceeds to the National Brain Tumor Society, as well as her foundation.

“Brain tumors are already such a downer, so I told the story using hope and humor,” says Mathias. “I’m fortunate to have hilarious kids who make me laugh every day.”

After surgery she became epileptic, having between 12-19 seizures daily. She couldn’t drive, it was still difficult to care for herself and her husband traveled for work.

“I know every parent is proud of their kids, but our children have had to grow up faster than most. When I got sick, they had to step up and do things to help me that most children wouldn’t have to do at such a young age,” says Mathias. “I’m in awe of their strength and courage they exhibit every day. They are, along with my husband, my rock and the reason I keep fighting.”

She has an annual MRI and will continue to do so for at least the next six years. If her scans remain stable, then she’ll be declared tumor-free.

“Every day that I get to wake up is a celebration and a gift—that’s why it’s called the present,” says Mathias. “I live like I’m dying and don’t take anything for granted. I tell people how I feel about them daily. I’m intentional in my actions and live my bucket list daily. I don’t wait to do the things I’ve always wanted to do.”

Learn more at FaithHopeandLoveBrainTumorFoundation.org.
LIFESTYLE CALENDAR

4
CINEPARK MAY MOVIES SERIES
Tumbleweed Park
Make a picnic, grab a blanket and gather at the park for this free, three-week movie series that will feature Coco, Hotel Transylvania 2 and Despicable Me 3. Movies begin at dusk, roughly 8 p.m. Local vendors will be on-hand for snack purchases, cash only. ChandlerAZ.gov/CinePark

5
STELLA ARTOIS DERBY DAYCLUB
Turf Paradise
The 2018 Stella Artois Derby DayClub is expected to nearly double in attendance for its third year inside the Valley’s only race track. Guests can enjoy air-cooled tents, private betting terminals, all-inclusive VIP tickets, a taco bar, champagne tastings and the ever-popular mint juleps! ThePoloParty.com

5
WATER SAFETY DAY
Hamilton Aquatic Center

6
ASU BIODESIGN INSTITUTE: A SIP OF SCIENCE
The Brickyard Downtown
A new series of events encourages community members to mingle with notable scientists to discuss the trending

CONTINUED >
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issues of the world. The fifth event of the series, Emperor of all Maladies: Why Are We Optimistic About Cancer?, will be presented by researcher and cancer physician Joshua LaBaer. $15 per person. Biodesign.ASU.edu/Sip-of-Science

12

SCOTTSDALE BACON AND BEER CLASSIC
Scottsdale Stadium
This fest takes over Scottsdale Stadium to serve bacon dishes, over 100 craft beers, music, contests, games and some all-new surprises. Admission includes three hours of unlimited bacon dishes, craft beer, music, games and a complimentary tasting glass. BaconandBeerClassic.com

18

CHANDLER ART WALK
Downtown Chandler
Downtown Chandler welcomes over 35 local artists to the historic square every third Friday. Experience a vibrant community tradition right in the heart of the town. Take a stroll while you check out various fine works of art, from handcrafted jewelry and woodwork to paintings, photography and more. DowntownChandler.org/artwalk/

19

SLEEPING BEAUTY
Chandler Center for the Arts
Celebrated dancer Yen-Li Chen and her students from the Yen-Li Chen Ballet School will dazzle the stage with their ballet rendition of Sleeping Beauty. Get your tickets to this unique performance of a Disney classic that the family is sure to enjoy. ChandlerCenter.org

CONTINUED >
Every financial situation is different.
As a trusted advisor, I place my clients into mortgages that make the most economic sense (or fit their situation). And, as a long-time Chandler resident, I’m always close at hand for all of your needs and questions.
Whether purchasing or refinancing, call the Kari Zurn Team to help customize your mortgage today!

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PHOENIX, AZ 85044
480-940-5172
My AC is not working... What Now?

When our warm Valley of the Sun turns hot, AC problems and failures hit all at once. At 90 degrees and climbing, the reaction is instantaneous. Breakdowns occur all over town. So now you need to find an AC company that can fix your problem correctly, at a fair cost, in a timely fashion and with honesty.

There are key things every customer looks for. They want a contractor that is honest and fair, as well as informative. Most people would not know what a Run Capacitor does, or how a Blower Motor operates. You find yourself at the mercy of good and truthful advice, just like taking your car to the auto mechanic. Can you replace your alternator or water pump? Is that really what the mechanical issue is? Are you getting good honest advice and fair pricing?

I always tell customers that anytime they are looking to hire a contractor to seek out a few things. Check BBB ratings. Not only is an A or A+ a must, but look at the number of reviews and responses. A contractor with 5 A+ reviews is not at the same level as one with 500 A+ reviews. Also check reviews like Google and Facebook. Keep in mind, just about no one will have a spotless record and everyone makes a mistake, but how they rectify that is what is key. Read the review responses and see if there was a positive resolve for the customer. It also wise to always check the Arizona Registrar of Contractors to insure that whomever you hire has a valid License. That is your protection as a consumer.

I always remind my staff that we are in the Customer Service business. We just happen to work on air conditioners. The overall goal is to always insure our customers are well taken care. That they are treated with honesty and respect. Keep their homes clean or cleaner than when you arrived. Take the time to educate and explain so they understand what the issue is and what is necessary to fix it. No one enjoys spending money or repairing or replacing their AC unit, but living in the hot desert, air conditioning is mandatory.

Precision Air and Heating was started over 23 years ago with a truck and a phone book. I honestly miss those days. We are one of the last of the true locally and family owned businesses in the Valley. Over the years, we grew our business through repeat and referral customers by making “Your Core Values, our Core Values”. Integrity, Quality and Trust are not words, but a daily mantra with our entire staff. I train all of my technicians year round to insure they can be the best possible at diagnosis and repair. You may like us, but you probably don’t really want us at your home over and over.

About the author: Erik Bryan is the owner of Precision Air & Heating, the #1 ranked AC company in the state. Erik has been an HVAC contractor for more than 25 years serving the Valley. “Make the Precision Decision” and let us help you with any AC needs. Repair, Tune-up, Replace

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Jasmine’s List

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Mom’s List

“I’VE ENJOYED WATCHING JASMINE GROW INTO AN ADVENTUROUS, HARD-WORKING, MOTIVATED YOUNG LADY. I’M PRIVILEGED TO BE HER MOM.”

**Jasmine + Her Mom, Denise**

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