

OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OF CHANDLER EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Chandler Early College High School NEWSPAPER Issue 1

### WHY IS TEXTING AND DRIVING STILL OK IN AZ?

Arizona is one of only three states that do not have laws on the books preventing texting and driving.

COMPLETE STORY ON P. 2



## FEATURED REPORTERS

Nayelli Aguirre-Morales Brady Bauman Eric Bolger Matthew Canales Collin Collins Austin Corum Alicia Curtis Rebecca Gephart Charles Goodmiller **Jillian Hensley** Sabaa Homaid Connor Keith Emilia Paduret Emi Stalin Rachel Amaya Rambo Serenity Spencer

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### SOCIAL MEDIA'S EFFECT ON TEENS

Some love it, some hate it, but experts say all of us may be using it way too much.

FINISH READING ON P. 3

ANDLER-GILBERT

MMUNITY COLLEGE

## NICOTINE AND TEENS

Vape and Juul use among teens shows no sign of waning.

READ MORE ON P. 4



Salt River Tribal Police Officer Clayton Townsend Badge #307 EOW 01~08~2019

IS THIS THE YEAR? Will Arizona Finally Ban Texting and Driving?

#### By Emi Stalin Rachel

Each year, there are over 1.6 million accidents and nearly 390,000 injuries due to people using their cell phones and driving. Texting while driving is particularly dangerous because it distracts you in three major ways: You are not looking at the road, you have taken your hands off the wheel, and your brain is preoccupied with what is on your phone. Sending or reading a text message takes your eyes off the road for about 5 seconds, which is long enough for you to cover a football field while driving at 55 mph.

In January, a Salt River police officer stopped a vehicle on the Loop 101. While standing near that vehicle, the officer was hit by a passing vehicle. The officer, Clayton Townsend, was later pronounced dead at the hospital. He left behind a wife and a 10-month old child. The driver who killed the officer admitted that he was texting while driving. He was subsequently charged with manslaughter, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and endangerment.

Teri King, CEC office administrator, believes accidents such as this one could have easily been prevented.

"The person sending the text can wait," she said. "But a human life can't wait for a text."



Photo Courtesy Defender Network

King believes people text while driving because they feel this need to "stay connected" at all times. She is supportive of a state law against distracted driving, with heavy fines as a consequence for breaking that law. "It's best just to not do it," she said. "It's just not worth the risk. By not texting, you *Continued on p 3*  could literally be saving someone's life." CEC Senior Nayelli Aguirre is also on board with banning texting and driving in Arizona.

"If it's an emergency and you simply must text, you can easily pull over," she said.

Aguirre believes that if the State of Arizona were to enact a law against texting while driving, it would have a lasting positive effect by forcing people to consider that there are consequences for their actions.

"When my mother is driving, she sometimes sees other cars with the driver looking down and texting," she said. "She will literally ask out loud, 'Is it worth texting? Can't it just wait?'"

Only Arizona, Missouri and Montana have no statewide ban on texting while driving. Though the state has a "limited" ban on texting while operating a vehicle, this is a secondary law, meaning an officer can only punish drivers for the offense if they are legally pulled over for another crime.

Senior Jordan Krauskopf was in the car with his sister when they got into an accident. The pair were coming off the 202 when they were tboned by a driver who ran a red light because he was looking down at his phone, instead of keeping his eyes on the road and his hands on the wheel. Six months later, he and his sister were hit again. This time, by yet another driver who was distracted because of texting.

"Is that text really worth risking your life or the lives of others?" he asked.

The Arizona House is once again looking at a bill that would outlaw distracted driving in the Grand Canyon State. Similar bills have failed in the past. Governor Doug Ducey has said he would sign a texting and driving bill, if it makes it to his desk.



Photo Courtesy Defender Network



CLOSE...YET SO FAR AWAY

THE LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP: TEENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

CEC Students Jack Eckert (10) and Marley Crum (12), though just feet apart, play on their phones rather than converse with one another.

Photo by Sabaa Homaid

#### By Sabaa Homaid

Are you spending too much time on your phone? Have you ever wondered what life would have been if social media never existed? Most people agree the world would be much different without *Instagram*. *Snapchat*, *Twitter*, *WhatsApp* and *Facebook*. Yet, many teens have found a way to disconnect with social media. Social media exists as a means to meet new friends and for a good laugh via memes and funny videos. At the end of the day, however, many experts believe these apps do nothing less than tear teens away from the real world.

CEC sophomore Leilani Garcia admits she spends a good portion of her day connected via social media.

"I usually spend 4 hours a day on social media" she said. "It takes up a lot of my time."

The average American teenager spends nearly 9 hours on social media each day. Garcia focuses much of her time on school and other social activities, so she is limited on the amount of time she spends on social media.

Dr. Comilla Sasson of the University of Colorado studies the effects of social media on teenagers. She offers some tips to help pull yourself away from endless hours of screen time:

- **Buy an alarm clock.** Keep phones downstairs or in another room at nighttime. This may help decrease sleep disruptions at night.
- Limit social media use to less than 1-2 hours per day. Teens who were using social media

more often throughout the day were more likely to express depression-type symptoms.

- Limit phone use within 1-2 hours before going to bed at night. This may help you focus on schoolwork, and less on the "drama" which can be created online and through social media.
- Use filtering software if needed. There is software available to monitor time online and general computer activity.

Senior Devyn Jones says that despite the fact that social media can be addictive, the positives outweigh the negatives.

"Social media helps make it easier to reach out to friends and family, no matter where they are in the world," he said.

Jones's preferred app is *FaceTime*, which allows you to talk to someone halfway across the globe. Many teens, however, are simply using *FaceTime* to talk to friends that live nearby, instead of simply going to see that friend in person.

As technology improves and social media changes over time, teens in the future may not have the skills necessary to communicate with others in person. They may also never learn basic social skills.

Senior Yael Tilzer believes social media use has had lasting effects on her personality.

"For me, social media makes me anxious and impatient," she said. "It literally keeps me from being socially active and being part of the real world."

# NICO-TEENS

## TEENAGERS CONTINUE TO USE ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DEVICES

### **DESPITE DANGERS**

#### By Serenity Spencer

Vapes. E-cigarettes. Juuls. These devices were initially created, or so we have been told, to aide legal, adult smokers on their journey to becoming smoke-free. Fast forward to 2019 and teenagers make up the majority users of these devices, even though most teens who use them are not previous tobacco users. The result of this is there is now an epidemic of nicotine addiction in the adolescent community.

"This whole thing took off because teens didn't believe it was dangerous," CEC senior Holly Deem said. "We were told it wasn't as bad as smoking, yet it was still rebellious, so teenagers started doing it in places like the bathroom in order to 'be cool'." In 2017, only 1.5% of high school students were recorded to have been vaping. By 2018, a CDC survey revealed that this number had jumped to 20.8%.

U.S. Surgeon General, Jerome Adams, stressed, "The recent surge in e-cigarette use among youth is great cause for concern. We must take action now to protect the health of our nation's young people."

He has since declared the skyrocketed use of vapes a national crisis.

Because these products are so new, experts say we lack testing and regulations that fully outline

the possible and likely negative health effects of using these devices, especially after years of use.

According to David Thickett, a respiratory specialist at the University of Birmingham, vaping damages the protective tissue in your lungs leaving higher risk for pneumothorax and an infection of the lungs.

"E-cigarette users have been given advice based on relatively little information," he said. "We hope that by disseminating this data as widely as possible the public can at least make an informed choice; the public must be aware that these devices are not harmless."

Experts believe vaping is even more dangerous to the teenage brain, as it is more susceptible to the effects of nicotine, especially in the high doses that these products deliver.

Deem is one of the many students who has chosen not to use one of these devices.

"Even if it wasn't addictive, you are still putting something in your lungs that is not good for you," she said. "Bacteria, germs. Not only is it unhealthy, but it could also be as much or more dangerous than cigarette smoke."

Few ways have been found to help stop stem the use of nicotine, and the measures that have been taken are unproven and may not work for everybody. Counseling has been offered to students effected, but has shown limited success.

Colorado has nicotine addiction hotlines that offer advice on how to quit, and they recently lowered the call age from a minimum of 15 years of age, to 12. Another way officials are hoping to tackle the problem is to form organizations fighting for an increase in regulations, to banning fruity flavors, to nicotine devices being taken off of the shelves completely.



## TARGETING TEENS

Though vape manufacturers claim not to be targeting teenagers, ads such as this one seem very much aimed at them.

# MEET MRS. PAUL!

#### By Connor Keith

Math teacher Shery Paul is a fixture here at CEC and has been enriching the hearts and minds of students for over two decades. Yet, as much as she loves her job as a teacher, she also has a life outside of the classroom. Coyote Droppings caught up with Mrs. Paul in order to find out more about her as a person.

### What made you want to be a teacher?

I wanted to be a working mother and teaching gave the same days off that school age children have. I also like to give back to the community and teaching was a way to do both work and give back.

## What makes CEC special over other schools in the district?

CEC is a small school, so, as a teacher, you can really help students and get to know your each one. I also like that, as a small staff, we work together to solve issues that occur.

## Why are math and science your favorite subjects to teach?

I love solving problems (Puzzles, card games, etc...). I like chemistry because it has so many mathematical problems to solve. When I began teaching, there was only one chemistry teacher per high school, so I began my teaching career teaching math. Here I am, all these years later, still doing what I love. Math rocks!!

## Why have you stayed in the same profession for so many years?

I love what I do, so why do anything else?

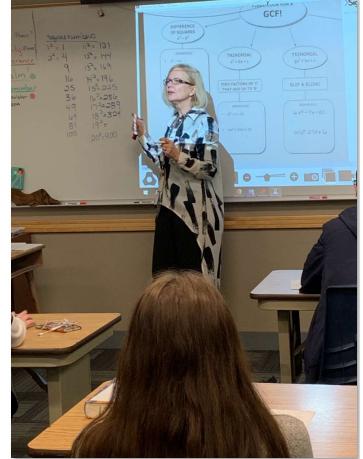


Photo by Connor Keith

## Do you have any interesting stories from your years of teaching?

Every day is a unique experience as a teacher! I am sure I have some crazy stories, but at this time I do not remember any I can talk about.

## What are your hobbies and what do you do in your free time?

I love to watch old movies, play card games, and put together puzzles.



#### By Brady Bauman and Charlie Goodmiller

Though it's already February, it's still technically the "New Year's Resolution" period. So, what better item to review than diet sodas? You know...that awful excuse for a soda that you still drink because you're running out of pants that fit, or because you want to get back into the swimsuit you wore last summer? Well, we're here to help. We judged based on 1.) Aftertaste, 2.) Carbonation, 3.) The burning sensation when you drink it, 4.) Artificial sweetness flavor, and 5.) Overall taste. We gave each measure a score of 1-5, with 1 being terrible, and 5 being the best, then added them all together. Here are five of the most popular diet sodas and their respective scores.





<u>Diet Coke:</u> Burns a bit going down. Lackluster carbonation. Tastes fake and barely sweet at all. Offputting aftertaste. **8/20** 

<u>Diet Pepsi:</u> Burns some, but not as much as the Diet Coke. Decent carbonation. Tastes somewhat like regular Pepsi, just less sweet. No bad aftertaste! 14/20



<u>Diet Dr. Pepper:</u> Has that famous "Dr. Pepper" burn just like the regular one. Carbonation is a lot like the Diet Pepsi, not too bubbly. Perfect amount of sweetness for a diet soda. Minimal aftertaste! **15/20** 



<u>Sprite Zero:</u> Burns just right when you sip it, goes down smooth, even. Carbonation is just right. It's a tad on the undersweet side. Has a really bitter aftertaste that really sets it back, though. **12/20** 



<u>Diet 7-Up</u>: Decent burn, much like the Sprite Zero. Must be a clear soda thing. Carbonation is perfect. A bit underwhelming as far as sweetness goes. The aftertaste, though better than Sprite Zero, is still a bit much. **12/20** 

# AT CEC, **BLENDED** LEARNING IS THE WAY TO BE

## CEC Paving the Way for Schools Across the District



Photo by Nayelli Aguirre-Morales



Photo by Nayelli Aguirre-Morales

#### By Nayelli Aguirre-Morales

The new semester has brought with it some changes here at Chandler Early College. One of the more noticeable of these changes is the lack of seniors walking the halls. A relatively large group of seniors were able to graduate early in December and, in their absence, we've all lost a bit of senioritis.

An even greater change – and this one is also pretty difficult to miss – is the fact that, in some cases, direct instruction has taken a back seat to online classes and independent study. This is as a result of the new COA program for electives, the implementation of Coyote Droppings, which created a need for more intensive journalism classes, and because CEC teachers have had to balance having a number of different subjects in the same classroom at the same time. Sharon Hickson, who teaches History, Government and Economics at CEC, loves blended learning and is optimistic about the rest of the year.

"Love it, the classes are all full of students with positive attitudes, and good work ethics," she said. "Makes my job a lot more pleasant when you get to teach those who are open to learning."

Students appear to be truly engaged in their studies, attending classes, and completing assignments. The classrooms have been abuzz with curious students who have been asking themselves, is this blended learning thing really going to work out? Mrs. Hickson is more than ready to answer this question.

"It becomes boring if students never get to interact with each other when learning new material," she said. "The fact is that learning rarely happens in a bubble; at times you simply need to interact with others in order to truly understand new information. This is why it is important to balance direct instruction and independent learning."

The daily balance between various teaching and learning methods is a reality at CEC, and the students as a whole do not seem to be lacking in motivation, regardless of the teaching approach.



# R. KELLY AND CHRIS BROWN STILL UNDER FIRE— BUT SHOULD THEY BE?

Photo Courtesy USA Today

### Students Weigh In On the Controversy

#### By Amaya Rambo and Alicia Curtis

Musicians Chris Brown and R.Kelly are embroiled in each of their own scandals, facing assault and sexual harassment charges from a number of women. There have been countless claims suggesting that R.Kelly engaged in sexual relations with underage girls on several occasions. He has also been accused of possessing child pornography, but these charges were never pursued.

In 2018, 20-year-old Faith Rogers filed assault charges against the singer, claiming that he got her drunk, assaulted her, and infected her with an STD. The Lifetime Television documentary *Surviving R. Kelly*, touches on a variety of allegations made against Kelly, dating back to the 1990s and his alleged interactions with underage girls, including his marriage to then the 15-year-old musician, Aaliyah.

One of the producers of *Surviving R. Kelly*, Dream Hampton, has gone on record to say, "All of them have stories about being physically abused, being videotaped without consent, and being denied food or bathroom privileges as a punishment. The first time I witnessed a sexual act in the studio was during the recording of one of his songs 'Slow Dance.' He had one of my teenage friends in the booth with him bent over. I will not say who, but I knew she was underage." Chris Brown was charged in 2017 with beating up then-girlfriend, Rihanna. French police recently arrested Brown after a 24year-old woman accused him of rape in a hotel room. *The New York Times* reported that the celebrity was involved in another alleged rape following a complaint filed to U.S. police.

CEC senior Dante Gardner believes both cases should be looked at individually.

"I feel like R. Kelly should be left alone and thrown in jail," he said.

Regarding Chris Brown, Gardner believes he, too, should be held accountable.

"I like his music a lot," he said. "But I don't support his decision outside of his music."

Junior Brandin Simon-Marks shares Gardner's sentiments.

"He makes really good music, but his personal actions are definitely not good," he said. "As for Chris Brown, he has some very inspirational music, so I was glad to see that the allegations were proven false and the charges dropped."

Senior Marquis Burns has been saddened to see R. Kelly's legacy go down in the way that it has, and he feels that Chris Brown has gotten a bad rap.

"R. Kelly for so long was a great inspiration for kids in Chicago," he said. "As far as Chris Brown is concerned, I want to point out that Rihanna hit him first and he acted in self-defense. I think in the end he just went overboard."

# SAYING FAREWELL TO A SOCCER LEGEND



Photo by Sam Greenwood



Photo by Dean Mouhtaropoulos

## Soccer Icon Tim Howard Calls it Quits after 22 Years

#### By Marcos Alvarado

It's the end of an era for the Colorado Rapids soccer team. After this season, perennial all-star Tim Howard will be retiring. As far as fans of the Rapids are concerned, this is like the Grim Reaper showing up at your door with bad news!

"There will be plenty of time for sentiment later," wrote Howard in a Tweet. "For now, I'm going to enjoy every minute. And as I've always done, compete hard and help lead the Rapids with the sole purpose of winning."

Despite his substantial repertoire of skills, his 257 total saves, and 75 appearances in the Rapids, he has been looking forward for that moment of retirement since day one.

"It seemed like the right time," Howard said. "I kind of had my sights on this, and there's other things I want to do." "For a lot of those reasons I wanted to make sure this will be the end. In terms of timing it makes sense to do this now before the start of the season and kind of get that out of the way so it's not a distraction. That's what's most important to me."

Fans and spectators alike support Howard's retirement. Many fans are shedding tears of agony, while tears of joy can be seen in Howard's opponents.

"Tim was a magician and a great man in the pitch," sophomore Jed Gallegos said. "He showed passion in the position that he played, but sometimes you got to do what you got to do."

Sophomore Joel Espinoza is happy to see him go.

"Finally, Mexico will be able to score, and maybe even win!" he said. "All hope is restored!"

# Most Anticipated Movies of 2019

There's no doubt about it: 2019 is going to be a great year for all the moviegoers out there. From heartwarming tales to action-packed adventures, there's sure to be something for everyone in theatres this year.



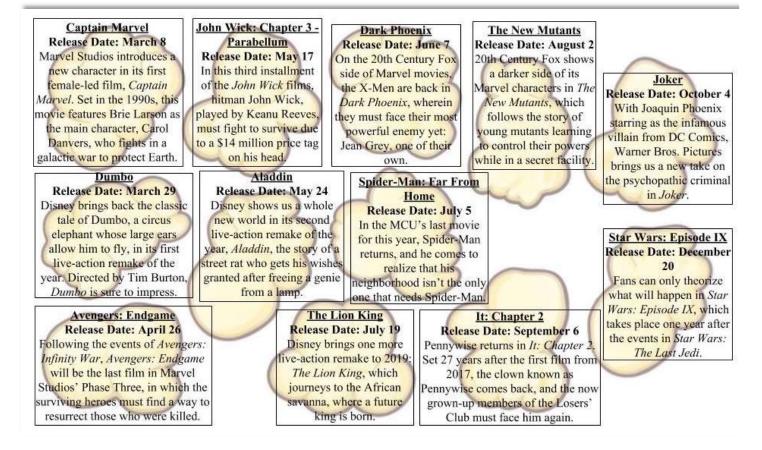




Photo Courtesy of Times Now News



Photo Courtesy of Ain't It Cool News



Photo Courtesy of Entertainment Weekly



### \* = Yuck. \*\* Heh. \*\* It's OK. \*\* The Pretty darn good! \*\* \*\* \*\* = It's a Classic

## Talladega Nights Undisputed Comedy Classic



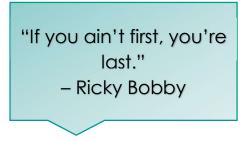


Photo Courtesy Columbia Pictures

### By Jillian Hensley

Race car ace, Ricky Bobby, (played by Will Ferrell in one of his most iconic roles) is at his peak in both his life and career. That is until a new, better and faster (and now even more famous than Bobby!) NASCAR driver, Jean Girard (portrayed by Sacha Baron Cohen), jumps the pond from Formula One racing in France to the NASCAR scene here in America. Bobby is involved in a racing accident, which kicks off a string of unlucky events. He is forced to move back to living in his mother's home when his estranged father, who introduced Bobby to NASCAR as a child, comes back into his life in order to teach his son what it takes to beat his new rival.

*Talladega Nights* is easily one of Ferrell's top fan favorites. The movie's jokes are unique in that they are told using deadpan straight faces and facial expressions, as well as silly word choices, all which make the punchlines even more outrageous.

The situations Ricky Bobby places himself in are laugh-out-loud hilarious. I recommend this movie to anyone looking for a sidesplitting movie to share with a group of friends.



\* = Yuck. \*\* = Meh. \*\* \* = It's OK. \*\* \*\* = Pretty darn good! \*\* \*\* \*\* = It's a Classic

#### By Matthew Canales

Steve Caple Jr. (Director of Creed II), takes the *Rocky* franchise to an even more personal level, focusing on the life of Adonis Creed, son of legendary boxer, Apollo Creed. The film starts off slow by introducing the main characters Adonis and his trainer, none other than the legendary Rocky Balboa. The main antagonists in the film are Ivan Drago (former Soviet fighter who killed Apollo Creed in *Rocky IV*), and his son Victor Drago. The film is mostly a buildup after Victor challenges Adonis to a fight, giving Adonis the chance to avenge his father's death at the hands of Ivan Drago in *Rocky IV*.

The movie kicks off with Adonis building up his wins after losing his first professional bout with fellow boxer Ricky Conlan. As the movie progresses, Adonis battles his way to a championship belt after beating the current champion, Danny Wheeler.

The remainder of the movie is a compilation of Adonis training for his fight against Victor Drago.

Overall, Creed II is a knockout hit that is entertaining the whole way through, while also diving deeper into the personal life of Adonis and his girlfriend Bianca. The movie owes a great deal of its success to Michael B. Jordan, who plays Adonis and portrays him to near perfection.

# Creed II Fights Its Way Into Theaters



Photo Courtesy Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

"Round after round, you learn more about yourself. And when I stepped in that ring, it wasn't all about me." – Adonis Creed



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# The Downside of The Upside

"Think, think, think about what you're trying do to me. It's amazing, right? I sound just like her." – Dell Scott



Photo Courtesy Lantern Entertainment

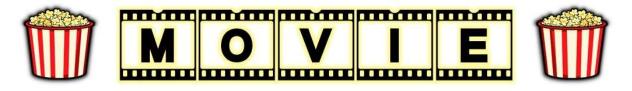
### By Allaria Collins

First things first: The Upside is a remake of a 2011 French film, The Intouchables. And the movies could not be more alike. In fact, the creators of The Upside did little to update their movie, which really compromises the integrity of The Upside as a separate piece of work. Ultimately, the creators of The Upside didn't change much about the film to fit in with the current pop culture.

Both versions are clichéd and synthetic. *The Upside* isn't a serious film about the disabled, nor does it discuss the concept of racial and cultural differences in any meaningful manner. Instead, in its quest to sell tickets, it presents itself as your run-of-the-mill comedic drama. Both films are based on a true story and were rewritten simply to make people laugh.

The casting of Bryan Cranston and Kevin Hart alone is what keeps the movie from sinking. Bryan Cranston rediscovers a troublesome role that he hasn't had the opportunity to play in a long time, which adds a bit of sincerity to the film. Kevin Hart's performance adds a healthy dose of comedic effect, but it also has the tendency to ruin the serious mood that's needed in the film in order to provoke emotions from viewers.

The fact that the movies are so similar is a major downside. Cranston and Hart's acting barely save the film from complete mediocrity. *The Upside* is entertaining enough for a casual watch, but it isn't one of those films that begs to be watched again.



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# Life is Tough on the Streets of Malibu



Photo Courtesy Warner Brothers Entertainment

"What?! Y'all dunnit now! You just opened up a big can of tough love!" – Brad "B-Rad" Gluckman

#### By Austin Corum

Malibu's Most Wanted takes every stereotype you can think of and weaves them together in a hilariously absurd movie. Not only is there an entertaining storyline filled with a dark mix of both humor and comedic violence, but it also leaves the audience with a warm message of "be true to yourself, no matter what."

Malibu's Most Wanted showcases the adventures of wannabe-rapper Brad "B-Rad" Gluckman, who resides in the affluent town of Malibu and is convinced he is a gangster. Not only is B-Rad the son of the governor, Bill Gluckman, but he also finds a way to ruin his father's various political campaigns. His father, Governor Gluckman, grows increasingly frustrated with his son's antics and hires two African-American upcoming actors to act as gangsters and scare B-Rad back into being a little suburbanite who knows little about gang violence.

Looking for an off-color comedy? *Malibu's Most Wanted* fits the bill, and you can find it on Netflix. Sit down and enjoy, yo!