

Community

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Tempe El fields five spelling contestants

BY TRIBUNE NEWS STAFF

Five Tempe Elementary School District students are advancing to the Maricopa County Regional Spelling Bee.

Adam Silverman, a fifth grader from Fuller Elementary, was crowned champion after correctly spelling “concierge” and “cadre.”

Georgia Germer, fifth grader from Rover Elementary, won second place, with three students tying for third place: Bryson Jackson-Stallings, fourth grader from Shamley Elementary; Dani Plata, fifth grader from Meyer Montessori; and Emma Elson, sixth grader from Ward Traditional Academy.

Adam said he studied hard for the competition, going over a six-page word list many times.

“I’m very excited to go to regional, but I’m more excited to try to go to national,” he said. “I hope I can make it.”

The competition has been co-sponsored for many years by Valley Bloom, which also provides new clothing for thousands of East Valley children each year.

The regional competition is Feb. 21 at the Kyrene District Office, and state finals are March 21 at Madison Center for the Arts in Phoenix. The Scripps National Spelling Bee is May 27-29 in Washington, D.C.

Among the contestants the Tempe Elementary spellers will be facing are three from Kyrene School District, including the brother of Kyrene girl who went to the national bee.

Josh Garcia, a 7th grade student at Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School, is the brother of Isabelle Garcia, who won the Kyrene bee the past two years in a row and went on to compete in the national bee.

Ismail Aslam, 8th grader from Akimel A-al, and Laura Hoyt, 7th grader from Al-tadeña, tied as district runners-up.

A total of 25 Kyrene students competed in the district bee after winning their individual school spelling bees. ■



Five Tempe students won the Tempe Elementary District spelling bee and will proceed to the regional competition. From left, they are Emma Elson, Dani Plata, Adam Silverman, Bryson Jackson-Stallings and Georgia Germer. (Courtesy of Tempe Elementary)

‘Baroque to the Future’ coming to TCA

BY TRIBUNE NEWS STAFF

A playful and powerful string concert that reimagines Baroque music for today is headed for Tempe Center for the Arts.

“Baroque to the Future” is at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7 at TCA, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Tickets start at \$32 at tempecenterfortharts.com.

The concert features guest soloist Peter Eom, a Valley native and graduate of Gilbert Highland High, on cello. An internationally recognized artist, Eom is known for pushing classical music beyond traditional concert formats.

A former U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, Eom has appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, and MusicaNova Orchestra.

The concert is presented by MusicaNova Orchestra, known for championing unusual and rarely performed works.

The dynamic concert transforms Baroque era inspiration into bold contemporary sound by pairing overlooked gems with inventive modern works, revealing

how composers across centuries have drawn on Baroque forms to create something new.

“‘Baroque to the Future’ captures MusicaNova’s belief that the most exciting discoveries often come from music that audiences have not yet encountered,” said Warren Cohen, founder and music director of MusicaNova Orchestra.

“By reexamining the past through contemporary voices, we invite listeners to hear classical music in fresh and unexpected ways.”

Each piece reflects a dialogue between past and present, honoring tradition while pushing musical boundaries.

Eom is acclaimed for his versatility as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer.

He is especially known for championing contemporary repertoire alongside classical works, bringing technical brilliance and expressive depth to performances of challenging modern music.

The MusicaNova Orchestra is a professional ensemble that features new music, unjustly neglected pieces and fresh inter-



Peter Eom, a graduate of Gilbert Highland High, and accomplished cello artist, headlines “Baroque to the Future” by the MusicaNova Orchestra. (MusicaNova Orchestra)

pretations of the classics. It engages and educates through musical partnerships with diverse communities, artists and students.

This project is partially funded by a Tempe Community Arts Grant, the Molly Blank Fund and the Arizona Commission on the Arts. ■

Tempe planner joins area law firm

BY TRIBUNE NEWS STAFF

Rose Law Group has hired Ty Templeton as a planner and project manager within its Land Development Solutions Group.

Templeton had been with the City of Tempe Community Development Department, reviewing development applications, preparing staff reports, and presenting projects at public hearings.

“His public-sector background provides clients with practical insight into how municipalities interpret zoning codes, apply design standards, and evaluate development proposals,” Rose Law said.

“His work helps bridge the gap between applicants and local governments, reducing delays and uncertainty for developers.”

Templeton holds undergraduate degrees in urban planning and sustainability from Arizona State University and is currently pursuing a master’s in real estate development from the University of Arizona, reflecting his commitment to thoughtful growth that balances development objectives with community goals. ■