



WRANGLER NEWS

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HOME OF THE PADRES

July 20-
August 2,
2024

Vol. 34
No. 784



Det. Amy Pfeifer says she's ready to go back to school as TUHSD classes resume for the 2024-25 term.
Special report Pages 10-13.

— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

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Kate, Dick and Brenna Hallman

— Foreman family photo via Hugh Hallman

A salute—and a sad goodbye—to revered Tempe leader Recalling the all-too-short life of Dick Foreman

For all who knew, worked with and respected community activist Dick Foreman, word of his passing came as disappointing and unwelcome news. In recognition of Dick's wide work on behalf of the Tempe community, Wrangler News is publishing this tribute by some of those who knew him well and wanted to offer memories and condolences to his family and friends. Their contributions follow.

Tribute by former Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman

Richard Lane Foreman peacefully passed away on July 9, 2024, surrounded by his family. Dick was born on February 6, 1954, in Rochester, New York.

When his family relocated to Mesa, they

moved into the RB Motel on East Main Street. Dick enrolled in Mesa High School, where he excelled academically and enjoyed playing basketball as a Jackrabbit, graduating in 1972. The son of an Irish immigrant, Dick reveled in that heritage. An enterprising youngster, Dick

— Please turn to Page 4

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Dick was loyal, kind, caring, and one of the best men I have ever known. Most of all, he was a great friend.

— Jennifer Adams
Vice Mayor, Tempe

started his own successful landscaping business as a teen. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Arizona State University in 1976 Magna Cum Laude and later with a Master of Public Administration. Dick thought carefully about his life's path, considering, as he explained:

“One perspective that haunts me still is the nearly certain fate of those around me who go it alone.”

To guard against such a fate, Dick entered a life in politics, government relations and extensive civic engagement, with a particular passion for and focus on tax policy and public education.

After a stint at the Arizona Corporation Commission, Dick began his work in government relations with the Salt River Project, followed by an extensive career at Southwest Gas.

In his community service, Dick served on the Tempe Union High School governing board for nearly a decade, managed the district's bond elections to continuing success, ran for Tempe City Council, participated in myriad city advisory roles, and supported most of the city's leading charities.

After retiring from Southwest Gas, Dick committed himself to advancing and improving K-12 education programs, helping to develop state education policy with governors and superintendents across Arizona.

Not satisfied with his already significant record of achievement in education, Dick stepped in to guide the Arizona Business and Education Coalition for nearly 10 years, building the organization to an education policy powerhouse.

All of Dick's achievements in government relations and community service were based on his unique ability to maintain civility and bring about compromise among those with disparate views.

A talented writer, Dick contributed editorials and columns to area newspapers, including Wrangler News, for decades; authored a water policy treatise, *Indian Water Rights: a Public Policy and Administrative mess*; and a novel, woven with threads from Arizona history, based on his background in water policy, *A Distant Fire*.

Dick was a devoted husband and father, marrying his high school sweetheart, Elaine Destoop.

Dick and Elaine had two children, Jaime (Shane) Allen, and Chris (Melanie) Foreman. From those offspring, Dick and Elaine received the gift of grandchildren Mariah, Mackenzie, Shea and Brandon, and great grandchildren HaiLeigh and LilLeigh.

As a family they enjoyed the outdoors, spending significant time in Greer at their family cabin.

Sadly, Elaine lost her battle with cancer in their 25th year of marriage. Dick found love again with Kate (Muldoon) Foreman and, together, they enjoyed 23 years of marriage and have a wonderful relationship with daughter Brenna Foreman.

Together they enjoyed their spare time on the Oregon coast near Neahkahnie Mountain, which they hiked on regular occasion.

Dick also is survived by his sister Diane (Bill) Kopp.

In addition to losing Elaine, Dick was preceded in death by his mother Dorothy Lane Foreman Johns, his father Hugh Alexander Foreman, his stepfather Calvin Johns and his brother Robert Foreman.

Thoughts from Tempe Vice Mayor Jennifer Adams

Dick Foreman was a class act! He put his family first and was always honest.

He was president of our HOA in Buena Vista Ranchos and led the community effort to repair our barns that had been in dangerous condition for many, many years.

He was loyal, kind, caring, and one of the best men I have ever known. Most of all he was a great friend.

He will be missed by all who truly knew the magnificent man he was.

Memories from Longtime Associate Nick Bastian

The recent loss of Dick Foreman will be felt near and far. He will be missed, and he will be fondly remembered for the many great things he has done for so many people.

Dick was a guy who was respected in many circles. He was a family man, an advocate, a businessman and a good friend to people from all walks of life.

He had a firm handshake, a warm smile and a personality that could easily fill a room. He never shied away from a conversation, and he would always give you a straight answer. Some of the most fun conversations we had were about working together with people to solve all of the world's problems.

He certainly had the answers!

Driving around our city late at night with Dick as part of his "sign crew" will always be a fond memory. Man, we had fun and some great caffeine-filled conversations.

Dick was always willing to fight the good fight.

He was passionate about our community, our schools, our neighborhoods and, more importantly, about his family. I always enjoyed seeing his face light up when he spoke of his family and friends. He was a man who truly cared for those closest to him, and I'll always remember and respect that.

His family will remain in our thoughts and our prayers. Cheers to my friend for a life well lived.

Warner Road newest target of enforcement

A section of Warner Road between Priest Drive and I-10 is among several roadways under increased law enforcement scrutiny as one of Tempe's recent Safety Corridor target areas.

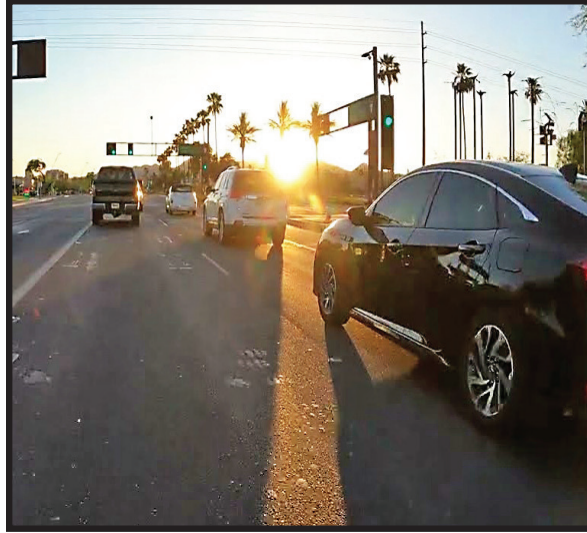
The goal of the program—reducing serious and fatal traffic injuries—is part of Tempe's Vision Zero Action Plan that focuses on more strict policing on targeted thoroughfares.

So far this year, enforcement efforts have been active in four different corridors that change every three months, a modification from previous years in which four active corridors remained in place for the entire year.

In addition to the Warner Road designation, which is due to last through September, other targeted areas are:

- McClintock Drive – Apache Boulevard to Rio Salado Parkway
- 48th Street – Broadway Road to Southern Avenue
- Baseline Road – McClintock Drive to State Route 101

The target areas are selected based on analysis of streets within the city with the highest number of injury collisions, including serious physical injuries or fatalities, according to officials.



Said Lieutenant Michael Hayes:

“Safety corridors are major supports on our roads. They guide drivers towards safer travel by highlighting danger zones and encouraging responsible driving.”

As a strategy for reducing crashes, the targeted routes

are subject to a three-fold approach of enforcement, engineering and education—the so-called “Three E’s” of road safety.

Tempe traffic engineers review each active target area for needed updates, such as outdated signage, faded pavement markings or necessary adjustments to traffic signal timings.

The public sees yellow banners lettered in black reading “Safety Corridor – Strict Enforcement” along the corridors to help remind road users that they are in an area with a high number of injury collisions and that traffic laws are strictly enforced.

Officials note that Vision Zero is a data-driven traffic safety policy that takes what they have determined is “an ethical approach towards achieving safety for all road users.”

Tempe joined the world-wide initiative with a goal of reducing the number of fatal and serious injury crashes to zero.

Information: tempe.gov/VisionZero.

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The first day of school is Wednesday, July 24.

Meet the Teacher Events

Start the new year right! This annual tradition allows families and students to meet new teachers, reconnect with friends and explore their campuses ahead of the first day of school.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Monday, July 22, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Middle school students and 6-8 grade students from Kyrene Traditional Academy

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, July 22, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Elementary school students and K-5 students from Kyrene Traditional Academy, and all grades at Kyrene de las Manitas

Back-to-School Information

For information about family communications, supply lists, school lunches, school start/end times, before/after school activities and more, visit our website.

www.kyrene.org/BacktoSchool or call 480-541-1000



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Check out the Back to School
guide for more information!



Kyrene Schools Superintendent Laura Toenjes

— Wrangler News photo

1st year's successes create cornerstone of more yet to come

By Laura Toenjes

With a new school year about to start, the Kyrene district's superintendent offers an overview of the strategic plan that will form a basis for efforts taking place through 2025.

One year into the Kyrene Strategic Plan 2023-2028: *Thrive! Ready for the Future*, I am proud to share that Kyrene School District is already seeing results, and we intend to use the momentum from the first year to drive our plan for year two.

Stakeholder input was critical in the development of our five-year strategic plan, so I want to provide the community with an update on what we have accomplished so far, and the work ahead in the 2024-25 school year.

The strategic plan is organized around four specific, measurable goals that we aim to achieve by 2028:

- Early Literacy: 85% of students in grades K-3 will meet end-of-year reading benchmarks by 2028.
- Academic Progress: 70% of students passing,

growing, and on-track in state assessments.

- Sense of Belonging: 10% increase in students reporting sense of belonging on the annual Panorama survey.

- Equity: Proportionate student representation in advanced coursework, gifted identification, and discipline.

To achieve these goals, Kyrene has identified three strategic imperatives: Future Ready Schools, Highly Engaged People & Culture, and Optimal Operations & Resources. Within each of these areas are initiatives that will be implemented throughout the five-year plan.

Future ready schools

Our primary focus in year one centered on our Early Literacy initiative. This initiative aims right at the heart of our Early Literacy goal of 85% of K-3 students hitting reading benchmarks. The 85% goal is based on research that shows we can always expect about 15% of a student population to need reading intervention for various reasons. We targeted early grade levels because third grade is the age at which children transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

In year one, Kyrene committed to covering the cost for teachers to earn their Literacy Endorsement by 2028. They earn the endorsement by completing Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS), which provides a deep understanding of the processes and research behind learning to read. We also made an investment in staffing to reduce class sizes in early grade levels. This ensures that any classes above the target range receive additional support, such as instructional assistants.

End-of-year benchmark test results showed, district-wide, Kyrene students grew 2-4% in every K-3 grade level. This is an encouraging early outcome, and we intend to build on those results in year two.

Kyrene will continue to implement and expand the LETRS training this year with all teachers having completed the training within two years of their hire date.

A significant focus in year two will be our Social-Emotional Wellness initiative, which aims to increase the integration of developmentally and culturally appropriate social emotional learning throughout the school day. The foundation for this work was established in year one, with the development and adoption of Kyrene's first-ever Social Emotional Learning and Wellness Policy (Policy 5-412). The policy cements the Governing Board's commitment to providing an academic environment where each student feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and is developing as a well-

rounded learner.

Kyrene's year-two priority will be the implementation of Character Strong, a middle school curriculum that promotes belonging, well-being, and engagement among students. Students will grow their skills in the areas of self-awareness, self-management, relationships, social awareness, and responsible decision-making. These are traits that contribute to academic success and help ensure Kyrene students will thrive in high school, college, career and life.

Highly engaged people & culture

To truly prepare students for the future, we have to be courageous enough to reimagine the one-teacher-one-classroom model. In year one of the strategic plan,

Kyrene began expanding on our pioneer efforts to rethink staffing – not only for the benefit of students but also to help address the nationwide teaching shortage and the changing landscape of education. The Innovative Staffing Models initiative gives schools the opportunity to do things like remove walls and surround students with multiple educators in a single learning space.

This work began even before the development of the new strategic plan, at Kyrene de las Manitas Innovation Academy, where teachers work together in multi-age learning studios, and expanded last year with a middle school model and Kyrene Aprende.

Students at Manitas and Aprende have shared with us that they feel a great sense of belonging with their peers and connection with their teachers.

Aprende is seeing improved ability to address discipline matters, and just one year after taking the team-teaching model full scale, Manitas earned an A rating from the state of Arizona.

The expansion will continue in year two of the strategic plan, with similar teaming models on half a dozen more campuses, each tailored to meet the unique needs of students in the individual school community.

Also in year two, Kyrene will be finalizing our Portrait of a Teacher, which will identify specific competencies, knowledge and skills needed to support high-quality teaching and learning. The Teacher and Leader Portraits initiative will complete a series of portraits that began with the Portrait of a Kyrene Kid, a cornerstone of the strategic plan.

We can only ensure excellence in education with the close partnership of our staff, families and community.

In year one, as part of the High-Leverage Partners initiative, Kyrene conducted a review of



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A Wrangler News special section on who's protecting our TUHSD kids

Safety a prime focus as students return to classes

Stories and photos on Pages 10-13 by Andrew Lwowski

Summer break is nearing its end as teachers, students and faculty are set to return to campus. While some are enjoying their final days of leisure, Tempe PD's Amy Pfeifer is itching to get back to work at Marcos de Niza High School.

Detective Pfeifer is the Padre's school resource officer, but she isn't just an on campus police officer. She's a mother, a role model and friend for students and, most importantly, a beacon of light to those at Marcos.

For her commitment to the Padres, Pfeifer was named 2024 Arizona School Resource Officer of the Year. The award, given to one out of 400 SROs in the state, is earned by displaying "outstanding leadership, empathy, and proactive engagement in fostering positive relationships with students while ensuring the security of educational environments," as stated on the Arizona School Resource Officers Association website.

"The SRO of the year exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and serves as an invaluable partner in promoting a safe and nurturing atmosphere conducive to learning and growth."

To Pfeifer, she is just doing what she loves. She entered the police force as a way to give back to the community, and she says her role as a mother has better helped her foster the soft parental touch that she believes makes an impact on the kids she oversees.

"I was surprised because it's one of those things that I don't even look at as, you know, it's your job," Pfeifer says. "I kind of look at it as this is my heart."

SRO Sergeant Joey Brudnock said Pfeifer's recognition is an unbelievable honor for the department.

"She cares, and everything about her is empathy and compassion," Brudnock said. "She pours her heart and soul in this place [Marcos]. I think the bond that she makes with these kids shows that they care about her deeply; they don't want to do anything [to disappoint her]."

Charles Cobbs, director of the school district's safety program, wanted to echo his excitement for Pfeifer. "It's just an amazing accomplishment for an amazing person—not just an amazing SRO, but an amazing human being," he said.

Those who know Pfeifer say she was meant for the job and Marcos. She embraces the diversity of the Padres community and the determination its students, some of whom face adversity outside of school.

"We have kids that take city buses for an hour or two just to come to school every day," she said. "We have kids that go to school full time and work full time to help support their families."

"Our kids are resilient, our kids are loving, our kids are kind. From a school safety perspective, learning something and having that positive interaction with a police officer (helps), but I feel like I have benefited greatly just from having the opportunity and being blessed to be on this campus."

Pfeifer said she has learned more from the kids than they may realize, having three daughters of her own. Her youngest, Grace, has also raised her awareness. When Pfeifer was 10 weeks pregnant with Grace, she found out the newborn would likely have to deal with Down syndrome, she said. Though it was a challenging time, her husband, along with Sgt. Brudnock and the police department, were incredibly supportive.

Now a fierce advocate for inclusion, she says her role has helped her better communicate and bond with everyone. Pfeifer recalled a recent Marcos graduate, Gabby, who was nonverbal.

However, when Pfeifer stepped in the room, Gabby lit up and would scream and clap, she says. Gabby's parents have even reached out to invite Pfeifer to her summer performances.

Not only does she build impactful relationships with students on campus, but goes above and beyond to serve her community. She has taken students to Walmart for shoes, clothes and necessities and offers her office, located in the Marcos front office, as an inviting room for students to stop by and grab a snack, water or chat about their day.

Her relentless work ethic is driven by her passion for those at Marcos, the community and bettering how police are perceived through trust and genuine relationships.

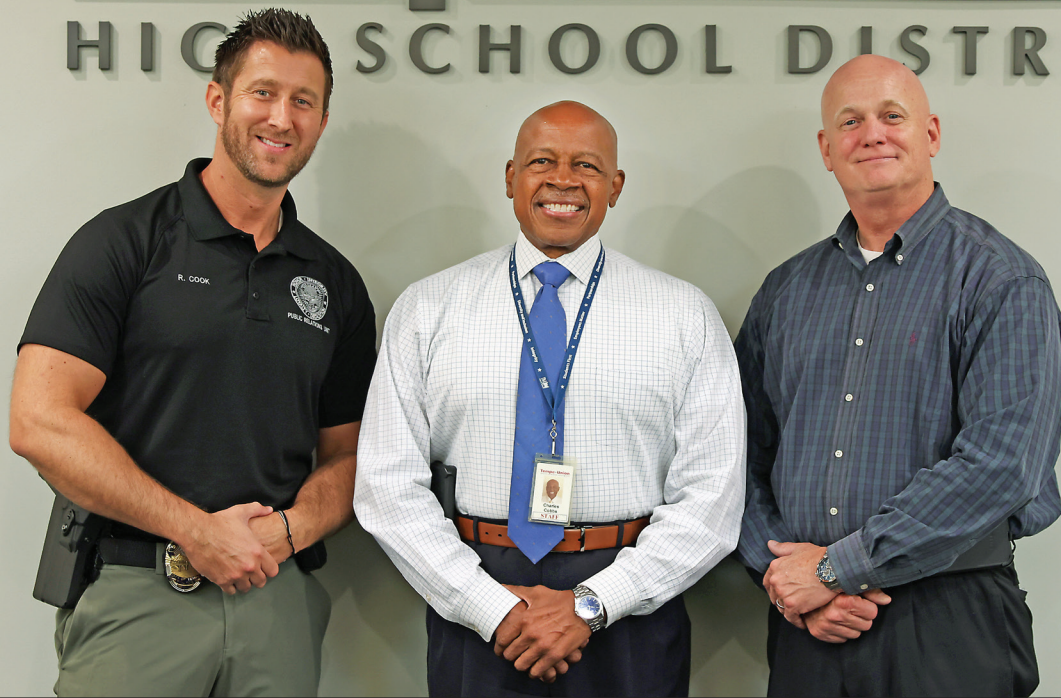
Says Pfeifer: Truly, there is absolutely nowhere else I'd rather be than Marcos." Pfeifer says.





COMMUNITY

Tempe★Union HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Sgt. Ryan Cooks, left, Charles Cobbs, and Sgt. Joey Brudnock provide front-line defense for school safety.

— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

TUHSD security remains a priority in coming year

NOTE: This is an updated version of a school security story that appeared in Wrangler News last August with new insight and added preparations outlined by Charles Cobbs and TUHSD.

Charles Cobbs assumed his role as director of district safety and security for the Tempe Union High School District in 2019, but due to the global pandemic, couldn't fully invest in making improvements until a sense of normalcy resumed.

Since then, Cobbs says he and his staff have added crucial safety measures that he says have already

made a difference. He has implemented training for teachers, staff and faculty, now upwards of 65 to 70 hours before the start to classes, along with action plans for school-related events and continued relationships with local police that include monitoring social media and preventive measures to help combat drug and alcohol abuse.

That is just the beginning for Cobbs, who says he is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure safety for all at high school campuses.

As the start of another school year is looming, Cobbs says there is more in store. The Arizona Terrorism Information Center, under the Department

of Public Safety, carried out threat vulnerability inspections on each TUHSD campus, assessing locks, doors, gates, camera angles and foliage.

TUHSD is also using Corona del Sol and Marcos de Niza high schools to test detectors in student bathrooms, aiming to halt the use of vapes and e-pens on campus. Cobbs added that the system is in its trial phase before being installed in all district schools.

Most notably, Cobbs says, his staff has been working to bring updated cameras on campus, which would aid in a surveillance room described as being like a "Batcave," with Robin manning dozens of screens and controls while Batman confronts

any danger. Having a team of civilian police and IT staff working together, they would feed real-time information to first responders in case of an emergency.

“They can sit there and, as officers are responding, they’re getting the information,” Cobbs said. “By the time (officers) get to campus, they know the description of the suspect, where they are at that time, and possibly the number of injuries. Officers will have that information so they’re going right to the threat and not going in blind.”

Through additional discussion with school resource officers, or SROs, who Cobbs works closely with, schools will have updated lockboxes which will hold a variety of content that first responders would need. “They’ll have card readers; they’ll have maps of the campus. And we’re also going to put a QR code in there that an officer can use to determine layout of the campus on his laptop or phone.”

The district is looking additionally to install bulletproof coating over selected windows.

One intangible element that Cobbs specializes in

is relationships. He says he maintains and encourages talks with local law enforcement, and recommends that SRO’s engage with students.

“The relationship building, I think, is the foundation of creating a safe learning environment for our students and our staff,” he says. “If they’re engaging with students—if they’re building relationships, if they’re making themselves open and available—students are going to come to them.”

School security is better prepared than ever before, according to Cobbs, based on his awareness that every child’s life is priceless, a concept that Cobbs, who is also a grandfather, fully understands. “I think it’s important for staff, students, parents and the wider school community to hear from me that our schools are safe,” Cobbs said.

“Not only are they safe, but I want to assure (parents) that we’re going to continue to work hand in hand with our law enforcement partners to evaluate safety protocols and then make the appropriate changes as necessary.

“And I think that’s important that they hear that.”



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Last Peat in family dynasty eyes spot as history maker

Can the last Peat brother help make history by winning his eighth state championship? Perry boys basketball coach **Sam Duane Jr.** will have the last Peat brother, **Koa Peat**, one more season on his Puma basketball team when the 2024-25 season starts in November.

Duane has an incredible chance to make history by winning eight Arizona state basketball championships with the help of the 6-foot-8 Koa, who is rated as one of the top five 2025 basketball prospects in the nation.

Koa recently won his second gold medal playing internationally for Team USA in the FIBA U17 Men's World Cup.

Duane won four straight D-I state basketball championships at Corona from 2011 to 2015 and currently has won three straight basketball championships at Perry from 2021 to 2024.

Duane has a chance to win four straight championships at Perry if Koa and the rest of the Puma team can remain injury free and live up to expectations.

What has been consistent in all seven championships so far is that Duane has had at least one of the Peat brothers on each championship team.

Koa is the last of seven children born to former NFL player **Tod Peat** and his wife, **Jana Peat**. Six of Koa's older brothers and sisters played sports at Corona.

Koa's oldest brother, **Todd Peat Jr.**, dabbled in basketball at Corona but his main sport was football. He played collegiately at Nebraska, Eastern Arizona and Texas A&M, Commerce.

Andrus Peat, the second Peat brother, played football and basketball in addition to competing in the discus and shot put in track at Corona.

As a 6-foot-6, 270 lb. center, Andrus played a key role in Duane's first state basketball championship during his senior year in 2011-12.

Andrus received over 30 football scholarship offers but chose Stanford, where he was an outstanding offensive tackle before being drafted into the NFL in 2015 by the New Orleans Saints after his junior football season.

Andrus played for the Saints nine years before signing with the Las Vegas Raiders in May of 2024

Cassius Peat, the third Peat brother, played both football and basketball at Corona. He played on Duane's varsity basketball team all four years of his high school

career.

Both Andrus, as a senior, and Cassius, as a freshman, were on Corona's 2011-12 basketball team compiling a 32-1 record for Duane's first D-I state championship win.

Cassius was on all four of Corona's back-to-back state championship basketball teams coached there by Duane from 2011-2015.

Cassius went on to play football at Michigan State, Eastern Arizona, Pima CC, Scottsdale CC and Virginia plus professionally for the Rattlers in arena football before coaching local high school sports.

Koa has two sisters who both played basketball at Corona and collegiately. **Leilani Peat** at Seattle University and University of San Francisco while **Maya Peat** played at University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

Duane had moved on to Perry before the Peats' fourth son, **Keona Peat**, entered high school.

In 2021, Keona was emerging to be another one of the Peats' outstanding multisport athletes at Corona when complications from a broken leg while playing club basketball the summer before his junior year almost took his life and set him back at least a year in recovery.

Keona went in for routine surgery on his broken leg when he suffered an allergic reaction to the medication. He ended up in a medically induced coma for days and was hospitalized for over a month with numerous problems including swelling and nerve damage.

Keona worked hard in rehab to accomplish the two goals he set once he started to recover.

He wanted to be able to play football during his senior season with his Aztec teammates and to get healthy and play well enough to impress college recruiters in order to get college scholarships.

He accomplished both goals. After playing football his senior season at Corona, Keona committed in April 2023 to a football scholarship at Arizona State University, where he redshirted his freshman year.

Currently, Keona, at 6-foot-4, 260 lb., is listed as an active redshirt freshman offensive lineman on ASU's 2024 roster.

Koa, the last Peat brother, is already making history while still in high school. The accolades keep coming in, but the latest history-making event in Koa's life happened on July 7 in Istanbul, when he became the first high school athlete to win multiple FIBA U17 Men's World Cup gold medals in basketball.

In the USA's 129-88 defeat over Italy, Koa made 11 out of 13 shot attempts, in addition to four out of six free throws to score 26 points while pulling down eight rebounds along with four assists and one steal.

In 2022, Koa helped the USA U16 national team win championship gold medals in Malaga, Spain, where he

averaged 9.6 points, 4.3 rebounds and 1.4 assists playing an average of 20 minutes a game.

In this summer's 2024 U17 tournament, he averaged about the same 20 minutes per game but upped his averages to 17.9 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game.

Back in Arizona, Koa was once again named Basketball Player of the Year at the Arizona High School Sports Awards on June 17 after helping the Pumas win their third straight state championship—the last two were Open Division state championships.

He was also named Gatorade Player of the Year for the second straight year.

During the 2023-24 season, Koa averaged 20.5 points, 10.6 rebound, 3.4 assists, 2.2 blocks and one steal a game.

Koa is a class act, according to Duane. He makes any team he plays on better and sets a perfect example of a student athlete to emulate.

What's left of his high school career other than to make history with four straight championship wins for Perry and help his coach make Arizona history by winning eight state basketball championships?

Corona had three athletes and Marcos de Niza had two athletes nominated for Player of the Year awards at the Arizona High School Sports Awards presented by Diamond Kitchen & Bath in partnership with Western States Home Services at Arizona Financial Theatre in June.

Nominees are named at the end of each high school sports season, which culminated in this in-person Arizona High School Sports Awards show where the winners of the Player of the Year award were announced for each sport.

Although neither Corona nor Marcos had an athlete named Player of the Year, they did have players acknowledged for their skills or competitiveness in several sports.

Junior outside hitter **Alyssa Aguayo** was selected as part of the All-Arizona girls volleyball team and, therefore, was one of the 12 players nominated for Girls Volleyball Player of the Year award.

Aguayo, with 51 kills during the 2023-24 season, not only led her team in kills per set but was ranked No. 1 in both the Central Region and the 6A Conference. She is ranked No. 4 in Arizona for the number of kills.

Aguayo was Corona's main offensive threat 2023 but was good at defense, as well. She was second on the team in blocks with 70 and third in digs with 346.

Aguayo has committed to the University of Illinois after she graduates in 2025.

Corona's second nominee was senior **Sean Maguire**

SPORTS NOTEBOOK with Alex Zener



A user's guide to how South Tempe will look in the coming years

General Plan 2050 covers wide range of changes

Starting a number of years ago, planners launched a comprehensive study of how Tempe might look in the future. The city was divided into so-called Character Areas, one of which encompassed the neighborhoods we all recognize as our home community, South Tempe.

As the study evolved, data flowed into what was to become an 80-page document, covering virtually every aspect of the South Tempe community's anticipated growth.

In the article that follows, Wrangler News incorporates what we considered the salient points, along with as many details as space would allow.

Because we all have a vested interest in how this group's studies and recommendations might affect us, we've compressed its report into what we hope will be a readable, worthwhile view of what our home area of tomorrow holds for us all.

If you live, work or volunteer in Southwest Tempe, the city is looking for your input on community planning.

The concept of dividing the city in different character areas was first envisioned in Tempe's General Plan 2040. Tempe Tomorrow-General Plan 2050, ratified by voters in March 2024, continued the idea, and described character areas as even more significant elements for the planning process in Tempe.

"Character areas recognize groups of neighborhoods and geographic areas that contain common design, land use and commercial characteristics distinct from nearby areas.

"Similarities in age of housing, styles of architecture, patterns of development, materials, land use or street patterns, lot size, landscaping, landmarks, and physical forms create some of the recognizable differences between areas.(T)he adopted character area plans provide design and planning principles related to several elements such as walkability, aesthetics, landscape, shade,

design, construction materials and mobility that are tailored to the areas."

The city of Tempe is divided into eight character areas. See map on the facing page showing the location and boundaries of all character areas in Tempe. As of June 2024, the city has already completed character area plans for six of these areas: 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8

Tempe's character area plans are policy level and advisory documents that provide guidance for the design and planning in the designated areas. Each plan document includes a description of the major traits of the area, its brief history, and provides design and development principles and strategies so that new development can be made consistent with the existing aesthetic and visual character. A character area plan reflects the desires and aspirations of the community and promotes Sustainability in the development of the area itself.

However, a character area plan does not prescribe any regulatory requirements.

Character Area 6, known as the Southwest Tempe Character Area, consists of approximately 6.21 square miles of geographical area including three small county islands (see Figure 2) within its boundaries. It is generally bounded by US-60 on the north, I-10 and the eastern boundaries of the Town of Guadalupe on the west, Tempe's southwestern boundaries on the south, and Kyrene canal and generally Kyrene Road alignment, Mill Avenue, Union Pacific Rail lines, and Western Canal on the east.

According to data from the American Community Survey, Southwest Tempe's population in 2023 was estimated as 28,450. Most social indicators for this area are similar to those found citywide in Tempe. However, the median age of the population in the area is 33.6 years compared to 29.5 years citywide in Tempe. The median household income of \$72,769 in Southwest Tempe was almost 14 percent above the citywide median household income of \$64,080 (2020).

Also, the percentage of minority population here is higher (65 percent) compared to the City's total (50 percent). Another important feature of this area is the higher percentage of renter households, which is 70 percent compared to 60 percent renter households city-wide. Southwest Tempe borders the City of Phoenix and Town of Guadalupe to the west, and city of Chandler to the south. During the character area planning process, staff spoke with relevant planners in the three jurisdictions to solicit input that may enhance connectivity, collaboration,

To share comments or suggestions prior to when this proposal goes to the Tempe City Council, call 480.350.8234 or email tempe.gov/CharacterAreas through Monday, July 22. See details on Pg. 19.

and information sharing in the planning process.

The town of Guadalupe to the west of the Character Area is a town with a geographical area of approximately one square mile. It was incorporated as a town in 1975. According to US Census estimates, the town's population in 2022 was 5,287. The city of Tempe provides water, police, and fire services to the town. Although the town is not a part of the Southwest Tempe Character Area, because of its proximity to the area, Section D of this document includes a brief history of the area.

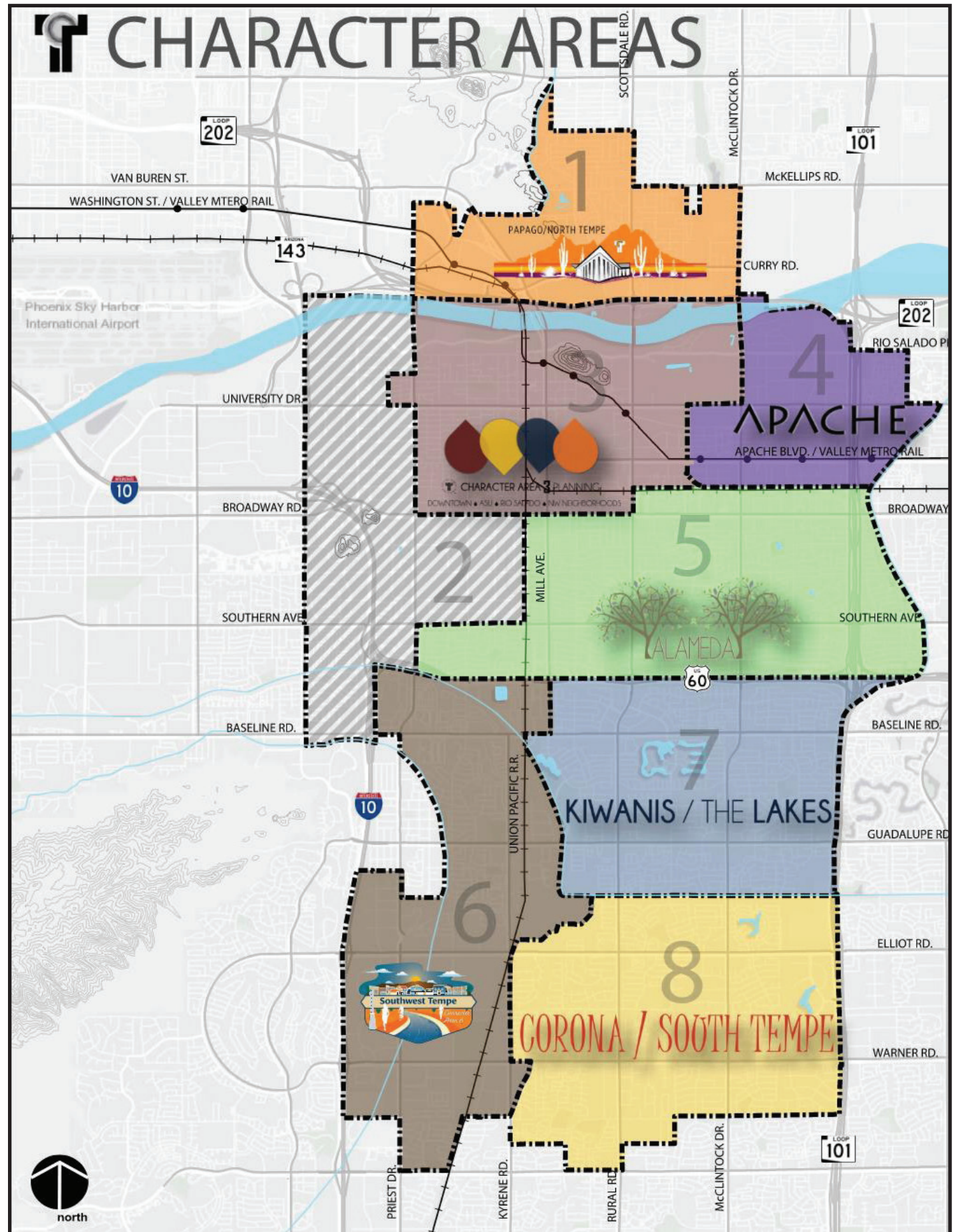
The town has plans to enhance commercial and business opportunities, including the El Mercado de Guadalupe.

The town is also working towards updates of its zoning code and general plan to reflect emerging challenges and opportunities. It is also seeking resources to improve shade trees along Avenida de Yaqui and Guadalupe Road. The town contains bike paths along the Highline Canal, which is the border between the City of Tempe and Town of Guadalupe.

The bike path and pedestrian trail along the canal on the Tempe side will need to be connected to the path network in the town of Guadalupe.

To the west of the Character Area lie Ahwatukee Foothills Village and South Mountain Village of the city of Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the USA. The two villages are seeking to build village cores, promote multi-use paths, and encourage land uses that are compatible with the existing residential and commercial developments.

As a part of planning in the South Mountain Village, Phoenix adopted the Baseline Area Masterplan in 1997 which seeks to "Develop a comprehensive master plan that promotes balanced, high quality development focused on Baseline Road and that recognizes the unique character of the area."



The plan seeks to achieve this objective by creating compatible land uses, multi-use paths, walkable sidewalks, mixed-use developments, and shaded walkways along major streets.

In the adjoining areas to the south, the City of Chandler has several programs that seek to enhance the employment, business environment, and connectivity in the area. Chandler has earmarked its Growth Area 6 (I-10/Loop 202) around Pecos Road, I-10, Kyrene Road, and Ray Road, which aims to promote multi-modal transportation options, infrastructure investment, and establish the area as a hub for an export market for the city. As Chandler is aiming to become a major national hub in hightech, semiconductor manufacturing and technology-related establishments, they would also review the availability of the electricity infrastructure in the area and will work with the Salt River Project (SRP) to upgrade the capacity of electricity grid, and sub-stations in the area. Chandler is also working to create connectivity to the nearby locations, and enhancing the Canal-side pathways.

The Southwest Tempe Character Area Plan takes into account connectivity and the character of the adjoining areas in Guadalupe, Phoenix and Chandler.

The Southwest Tempe Character Area Plan is a design-related policy plan for, and by, the community and its stakeholders. The plan evolved from the numerous consultations with the residents, property owners, businesses, non-profits, and demographic groups in the locality, and stakeholders having interest in the area. Staff worked with these groups for more than nine months to gather stakeholder input and develop the vision, purpose, priority elements, and community preferences that led to the creation of the contents of this plan. The major components of this plan include planning goals and design principles the desire, aspiration and input from the residents and stakeholders described above. Staff reviewed the public input, observed the ground conditions on site, and referred to the previously completed Character Area plans in Tempe, and other relevant Tempe plans to identify the topics for the plan and to develop design principles.

The Southwest Tempe Character Area Plan will help provide guidance for new development or redevelopment proposals in the area to make them consistent and

compatible with the existing character of the natural and built-up environment in the area. The Plan helps to advance good and contextual planning and design, including in the public realm, by providing planning and design principles, and bestpractice examples most relevant to the Character Area. The Plan also advances and supports the goals and objectives included in Tempe's Council Priorities, General Plan, 20-minute city principles, community aspirations, and other relevant planning-related goals adopted by the City.

This Plan is intended to be used as a guiding document by staff while reviewing site plans and designs of proposed new development and redevelopment applications in the plan area. It is also envisioned as an advisory document for developers, architects, planners, and property owners in the area who wish to propose new development or redevelopment applications to the City.

The Plan will also provide direction in planning and design-related matters for the City's planning and investment decisions related to sustainability, infrastructure, landscaping, transportation, and housing in the area

Southwest Tempe Character Area (Character Area 6) consists mainly of multi- and single-family homes, industrial, commercial (including several big boxes), institutional, office, open space, and recreational land uses. Important features of the built and natural environment include the Western canal, South Highline canal, Kyrene Branch canal, and the associated canal-side multi-use paths, arts, and landscape. In addition, there are several other multi-use paths including on the abandoned El Paso gas line easement in the area. In addition, the Salt River Project (SRP) generating station, big box stores, Union Pacific Rail lines, and the large scale sports complexes and open spaces contribute to the visual character of the area. Phoenix's South Mountain provides a backdrop for the urban image of the area. The general appeal of the built-up environment in the Character Area can be considered as that of established and stable neighborhoods that include several large scale multi-family complexes, well-reserved single family areas, neighborhood parks, canal-side paths which attract hikers and visitors, industrial and warehouse establishments, and suburban style office and commercial facilities. This area boasts of having several of the Valley's major regional shopping centers – the Arizona Mills

Mall, the Tempe Autoplex, and the Emerald Center, which contains Arizona's only IKEA store. Southwest Tempe also includes three small county islands, with a total area of around 0.09 square miles that house industrial, commercial, and single family uses.

The area is close to the US 60, I-10, Kiwanis Park, and many other infrastructure and recreational amenities in Tempe. According to the responses to the surveys that staff conducted, many residents and property owners in the area believe that Southwest Tempe remains an attractive place for new investments.

At several public meetings and outreach events, many residents expressed preferences for the preservation of open spaces, enhancing canal-side paths, shaded trails and walkways, and increased multi-family residential and commercial development while preserving the lifestyle for the existing residents. At the same time, the residents also seem to be concerned about the potential negative impacts of increase in home prices and rents that may be brought about by large new development which can impact the affordability of housing in the area. For many residents, the ability to age-inplace is important. Similarly, residents laid out their preference for shade, canalside amenities, passive natural systems of design, mitigating extreme heat and greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting sustainable future for the area.

On the basis of public input and staff observations, some of the salient character-defining elements for Southwest Tempe include the following:

1. The canals, and canal-side multi-use walkways, and art along the Western, Highline Lateral, and Kyrene Branch canals.
2. The iconic and regional commercial attractions, such as the Arizona Mills Mall, Emerald Center, Ikea Store, Agave Center, Tempe Autoplex, Costco, Supima Cotton Center, and other establishments.
3. The older and newer singlefamily homes, multi-family residential complexes, low rise and mid-rise commercial, office, commercial (including several big boxes) and institutional developments, and several areas of commercial, and industrial establishments throughout the Character Area.
4. The presence of recreational facilities, and large open spaces such as the Arizona Cardinals Headquarters, Tempe Sports Complex, and Bendict Sports Complex.
5. The Union Pacific railroad tracks, Salt

River Project (SRP) generating station, and artworks spread across the area.

6. Some large vacant parcels, and two large scale state-owned open spaces/retention areas near the highways.

7. A high proportion (70%) of renter population in the area

Staff kept the public input opportunities open throughout the plan preparation and development process. Interested residents and other stakeholders had an opportunity to provide input on the Plan through the Southwest Tempe Character Area website, and by e-mail, by phone, and through meetings with the staff.

The area residents and stakeholders provided valuable inputs at the many public meetings, public presentations, and via phone conversations and e-mails. The following list reflects some of the major public inputs received by the staff (not in any particular order).

- Preserve open spaces, parks, and multi-use trails
- Maintain and improve the canal-side environment and multi-use paths
- Improve connectivity, transit use (especially the Orbit), and mobility
- Enhance affordable housing, and provide an opportunity to “age in place”
- Promote sustainability in planning, design, and construction
- Plan to mitigate climate change, and extreme heat environments
- Promote water conservation, on-site water harvesting and solar energy use
- Promote green infrastructure, construction, and passive design systems
- Promote high quality design, providing durable and varied materials
- Utilize indigenous, adapted and water conserving plants

- Enhance shade, trees, and tree canopies
- Promote walkability, bike-routes, and transit amenities
- Promote public art, gateway features, and improved public realm design

The Southwest Character Area Plan has been prepared based on these priority elements that the residents and stakeholders have identified and voted for.

Further, the residents and stakeholders have provided several specific suggestions and recommendations on how the area should look like.

The Plan addresses the inputs and includes elements that reflect the majority of the public input and a balanced perspective of what has been heard during the meetings and input sessions.

In addition to the above topics, residents made several specific comments related to the plan development.

Some examples of the comments by the residents are given below.

- Enhance the existing canal-side pathways, and clear them of weeds and graffiti
- Seek any volunteer service for the canal side cleanup activities
- Implement programs to reduce homelessness
- Expand affordable housing opportunities, and options to “age in place”
- Institute crime prevention and safety enhancement programs
- Expand and improve open spaces when possible
- Expand the Tempe circulator program, and improve signage and information sharing
- Install “hawk” signals at important crossing where major trails and bike paths cross vehicular streets.
- Address noise abatement programs along the freeways I-10 and US-60
- Promote passive natural design to reduce heat gain and improve shade



Share your input!

SEE THE DRAFT ROADMAP FOR YOUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE AND PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Over the past several months, you have shared your feedback and we have listened. The draft Southwest Tempe Character Area plan is now ready for your review!

SHARE YOUR INPUT ONLINE

See the draft plan and submit your feedback online through **July 22** at tempe.gov/CharacterAreas. This is one of the final input opportunities available for this planning process.

Please contact **480-350-8234** or characterareas@tempe.gov to request additional information.

COMPARTE SUS COMENTARIOS!

SUROESTE DE TEMPE: VEA EL BORRADOR DE LA HOJA DE RUTA PARA EL FUTURO DE SU COMUNIDAD Y PROPORCIONE SUS COMENTARIOS

En los últimos meses, han compartido sus comentarios y los hemos escuchado. ¡El borrador del plan del Área de Carácter del Suroeste de Tempe ya está listo para su revisión!

COMPARTE TU OPINIÓN EN LÍNEA

Consulte el borrador del plan y envíe sus comentarios en línea hasta el **22 de julio** en tempe.gov/CharacterAreas. Esta es una de las últimas oportunidades de entrada disponibles para este proceso de planificación.

Comuníquese al **480-350-8234** o characterareas@tempe.gov para solicitar información adicional.



tempe.gov/CharacterAreas



Free All-Day Event

“Be a Better Business” Summit

Tuesday, August 13 | 10am-5pm @ASU Chandler Innovation Center
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If you run a company in the East Valley, this educational event is for you. Learn the fundamentals of growing a business in the 21st century, including Amazon sales, setting up payroll, & managing government relations. This free all-day event on Tuesday, August 13 includes a complimentary lunch.

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Session 4
“Organizing Finances”

Session 5
“Selling on Amazon”

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SPORTS

From Page 14

who was one of the 12 boys soccer players nominated for the Boys Soccer Player of the Year award.

Maguire played the striker position on Corona's boys soccer team, where he kicked in 24 goals along with scoring 54 points and accumulating six assists his senior season.

He was the top scorer for the Aztecs in both his junior and senior year, leading to being named the 2023-24 6A Central Region Player of the Year and 6A All-Conference 1st Team.

Michelle Chen was one of the 12 athletes nominated for the Badminton Player of the Year award.

Chen, a senior, entered the 2023 D-I singles state championship tournament as the No. 4 seed ending the season with a 20-4 overall singles record and 11-1 in doubles record.

In the state championship tournament, Chen took third place after winning the consolation match.

In addition, the Aztecs had athletes named to the Honorable Mention list, including senior **Bo Dolinsek** for boys basketball, senior **Deven Kircher** for flag football defense, junior wide receiver **Raiden Vines-Bright** for football offensive, senior outside hitter **Luke Vlcek** for boys volleyball, **Brody Leid** and **Tyler Weihe** for boys golf, **Rehaan Mohammed** for boys tennis, **Alia Shahanna** and **Chloe Daniel** for girls tennis and senior outside hitter **Maggie Beauer** for girls volleyball.

Marcos de Niza's 2023 D-II state championship doubles team of **Naiya Laux** and **Lian Pan** were both nominated for Badminton Player of the Year.

Ranked No. 1, Laux and Pan played their way through the brackets defeating five teams without losing one set to win the D-II doubles state championship.

Laux and Pan were also named the AIA D-II doubles team of the year.

Laux ended the season with a 26-2 overall record including singles and doubles and 14-0 in doubles matches.

Pan did not lose a singles or doubles match the entire season culminating in a 30-0 evenly split record.

Stay cool this summer

Summer months are brutal with the extreme heat. If you're in need of a place to cool off or get some bottled water — we've got you! Find cooling stations and a respite center location, other resources, or how to donate to the city's heat relief efforts. chandleraz.gov/HeatRelief



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COMMENTS

Council vote sets strict standards for youth behavior

By Kevin Hartke

As a resident of our West Chandler community, it's important for you to know that one of our primary responsibilities as members of the Chandler City Council is to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods.

We have heard from people in our own city and others in the Southeast Valley who have witnessed or been victimized by senseless acts of teen violence.

These altercations pose a direct threat to young people, undermining the safety and security that every resident deserves.

We have listened to the community's concerns and are committed to taking a regional leadership role to deter teen violence.

We condemned teen violence via a City Council resolution and held a community listening session that engaged residents, police and behavioral health experts in an intimate dialogue about teen resources and safety solutions.

We unanimously voted to adopt new laws that took effect June 24 aimed at



Mayor Hartke

fostering a safer environment for all residents. These laws prohibit unruly gathering and people under 18 from possessing brass knuckles. Chandler Police have additional tools to disperse unruly gatherings and hold those responsible or in attendance accountable.

People responsible for or attending such a gathering can be cited. Parents and guardians can face violations for actions of their children under 18 years old. Violators can be charged with a class one misdemeanor if any of the following occur:

- Person under 21 possessing or consuming alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Act designated a felony under state law
- Physical altercation that results in injury
- Previous citation for unruly gathering within prior 180 days

Brass/metal knuckles can cause severe injury or death. We have enacted a strict ban on the possession of these products for people under 18 years old. Violations can result in a class one misdemeanor charge.

A class one misdemeanor charge is

the most serious offense that can be prosecuted in municipal court. It can carry fines up to \$2,500 with the possibility of jail time and probation if found guilty.

The decision to implement these laws was not taken lightly. Our goal is to protect teens, young adults and the broader community from harm, not to penalize young people.

By prohibiting unruly gatherings and banning brass knuckles, we aim to:

- Reduce incidents of teen violence: Creating safer gatherings and reducing minor's access to brass/metal weapons.

- Promote responsible behavior: Instilling awareness and accountability among teens, parents and properties involved in gatherings.

- Enhance community well-being: Fostering a safer environment in a strong, connected community where everyone can thrive.

We understand these changes may require an adjustment period, and we are committed to working with residents to ensure a smooth transition. Extensive education and outreach programs are being implemented to inform teens, young adults, parents and school administrators about these laws and the importance of adhering to them. Visit chandleraz.gov/teenviolence for details.

Your awareness, cooperation and support of these laws are crucial as we strive to make Chandler a safe place for everyone. We encourage you to stay informed, get involved in community initiatives, and reach out to us with any concerns or suggestions.

Together, we can tackle the issue of teen violence and build a community where safety and respect are paramount.

—Kevin Hartke is
the mayor of Chandler



DIVERSIONS

FILM FARE

Adorableness weakens 'Moon' lead's resistance

By M.V. Moorhead

Scarlett Johansson plays a Madison Avenue marketing hustler brought to NASA in Florida in the late '60s to help re-sell the Apollo moon mission to the public, and thus to an increasingly reticent and tight-pursed Congress. Soon the astronauts are sporting Omega watches in print ads, and Tang drink mix is being touted as the beverage of space travelers.

Those of us who go back that far may remember this advertising blitz; I certainly consumed unhealthy quantities of Tang around that time—any quantity was probably unhealthy—because of its supposed outer space connections.

But in the lavish period romcom *Fly Me to the Moon*, it's the highly fictitious set-up for the meet-cute between Johansson and Channing Tatum, as a serious-minded NASA launch director.

He falls for her at first sight, then when he learns who she is he's outraged at her interference. And it truly *is* outrageous; she even hires actors to play some of the less charismatic or more camera-shy NASA staffers in TV interviews, Tatum included.



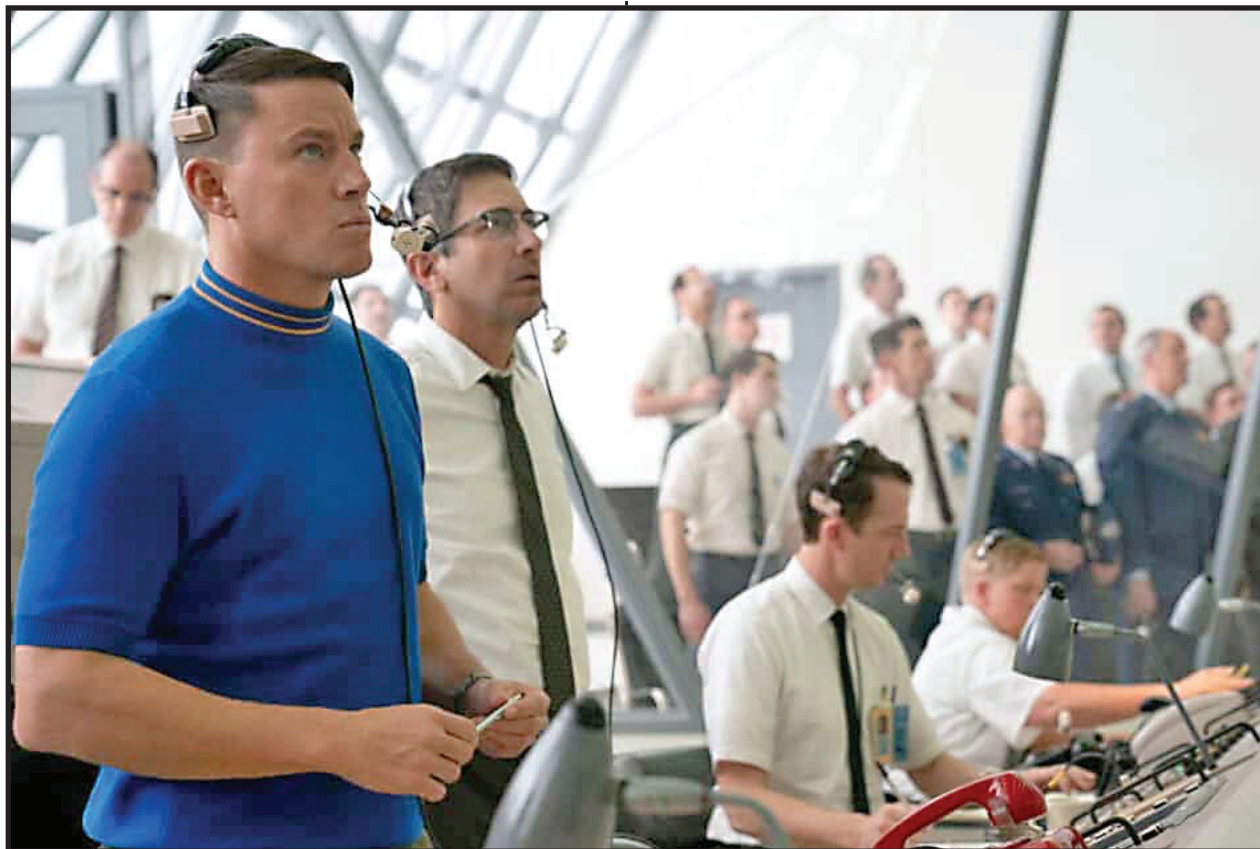
Moorhead

But of course, over time his resistance is worn down by her adorableness.

Johansson is pretty adorable, at that. She wears the chic '60s outfits like she was born for them, and her purse-lipped, mischievous little smirk is winning as always.

Tatum is in his comfort zone here, too; likably bland and dim and stalwart. The stars have a comfortable romantic rapport, and they're well supported by a roster of character players, like Woody Harrelson as the jovial mystery man who hires Johansson, Jim Rash as a prima donna commercial director and Ray Romano as Tatum's loyal sidekick. There's also a gorgeous black cat.

Between the cast, the vintage atmosphere and retro



styles and settings, and a terrific soundtrack, the movie, directed by Greg Berlanti (of *Love, Simon*) from a script by Rose Gilroy, would be ludicrous and fluffy but inoffensive enough, even charming.

But in the middle of this buffoonish burlesque of NASA history, there are attempts to generate genuine drama and poignancy over the earlier tragedy of Apollo 1, in 1967, that strike a sour note.

Worse yet, in the severely overlong second half, the plot goes off the rails. Harrelson's government spook makes Johansson stage, you guessed it, a fake moon landing, as a contingency in case the real one fails. She reluctantly goes along with this, unbeknownst to Tatum, as the real landing is taking place, even though she feels like she's betraying him.

This extended finale is clumsily staged, but that's

not what's offensive about it. The "Fake Moon Landing" narrative is one of the quintessential paranoid American folk legends, likely arising, I've always suspected, among the many people who insisted that the moon landing was a ridiculous folly and would never succeed--arising, like so much else in our toxic national discourse, from the common American inability to admit it when we're wrong. *Fly Me to the Moon* means it all facetiously, of course, but this doesn't strike me as the most auspicious time in our country's history to lend even that much credence to a conspiracy theory.

Fly Me to the Moon is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, AMC Ahwatukee 24 and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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LENNON & NILSSON:
Songs from The Lost Weekend
Rock
AUG 10



KANDACE SPRINGS
Jazz & Soul

SEPT 14



MOMIX
Dance
SEPT 25

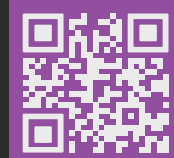


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Youth theatre to raise curtain at W. Chandler site

By M.V. Moorhead

“Everything from Annie to Sweeney Todd to Shrek to Mary Poppins,” says Dave Specht. He’s describing the output of Chandler Youth Theatre over the past decade in which he’s run the company, with his wife Colleen. “We’ve been in our current space for nine years.”

This is changing, however; the 501 (c)3 non-profit company is in the process of relocating to a new space at Alma School and Ray after many years in the couple’s other longtime show business venture, Mic Drop MANIA Comedy Club. This downtown venue “only had a showroom,” notes Specht.

“We need space for dressing rooms, classrooms.”

They found what they needed a little to the west, at Alma School & Ray, in the former playhouse of Stage Door Studio. That youth theatre company’s space became available a few months ago when they went out of business, after four years of classes and shows. The previous space was only about 17,000 square feet, while the former Stage Door venue gives

Chandler Youth Theatre quite a bit more elbow room, at 4,800 square feet.

“Stage Door served hundreds of kids throughout Chandler and pulled a lot from West Chandler, Tempe and Ahwatukee,” says Specht. “We are happy to provide the same services and additional classes, production and workshops as well.” The company’s first show in the new space, *Shrek Jr.: The Musical*, is slated to open in September.

The couple plan to continue the Mic Drop MANIA Comedy Club as well, offering shows, corporate team building events, and classes in both stand-up and improv comedy. Dave Specht also founded and runs the Spectacular Real Estate Team-Good Oak Real Estate.

Dave and Colleen are confident that they are up to the challenge of all of these enterprises. The couple met when they were both doing comedy. He came from small-town Illinois, relocating to the Valley in 2001, like so many of us, for a better climate. She’s a Chandler native. Dave had a business degree with a communications focus from Illinois State University; while Colleen went to ASU.

For years, the two of them ran Mic Drop MANIA—formerly known as ImprovMANIA—in downtown Chandler. They also continued to perform comedy themselves.

“She’s very good,” Specht says proudly of his wife’s comedy chops. “She opened for Bill Maher.” More modestly, of his own comedy and theatrical background, he adds, “I did a show, like, in kindergarten, and later I did classes at Second City in Chicago.”

The couple’s own two children are getting an early start in the family business, acting and working crew on Chandler Youth Theatre’s shows. But Dave Specht sees the differences between Youth Theatre and the grown-up world of stand-up as largely superficial.

“I think it’s all just stacking chairs,” he says. “When we did comedy we’d leave the kids at home. With children’s theatre it’s all about the kids, which is wonderful.”

For more information on Chandler Youth Theatre, go to chandleryouththeatre.org. For more information on Mic Drop MANIA Comedy Club, go to micdropmania.com.



Tempe Election Information

Are you registered to vote?

Arizona will hold a General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 5. This election includes federal, state, county and local offices that are up for election. It also includes a Special Bond Election for Tempe residents who have registered to vote, and Prop 479, a measure that will ask Maricopa County voters to decide whether to extend the existing half-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation for an additional 20 years.

Register to vote or update your current registration by **Oct. 7** by visiting <https://servicearizona.com/VoterRegistration>. Please call the Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511 or visit maricopa.vote with questions regarding your eligibility, voter registration or ballot. Visit [BeBallotReady.Vote](https://www.maricopa.vote) to verify your registration information.



Important voter dates

- Oct. 7** - Voter Registration Deadline
- Oct. 9** - Ballots Mailed and Drop Boxes Available
- Oct. 25** - Last day to request an early ballot
- Oct. 29** - Last Day to Mail Back Your Ballot
- Nov. 5** - Election Day

Tempe Bond Election

Registered Tempe voters will have the opportunity to decide whether to fund public safety and road improvements, quality-of-life enhancements in Tempe neighborhoods and new affordable housing. Voting takes place in conjunction with the Nov. 5 Statewide General Election.

Included in the bond is funding to restore the pavement of every street in Tempe within five years, provide funds for infrastructure projects like water lines, improve neighborhood parks and increase the supply of affordable housing. The estimated average annual tax rate that is required to be calculated by statute for the proposed bond authorization is \$0.87814 per \$100 of net assessed value used for secondary tax purposes.

Get additional information about the bond questions at tempe.gov/election or attend a public meeting. Four meetings are available. All are free and open to everyone.

Sept. 18 - noon virtual meeting and 7 p.m. at Kiwanis Recreation Center

Sept. 23 - 6 p.m. at North Tempe Multigenerational Center

Sept. 24 - 6 p.m. at Tempe Public Library

People can submit arguments “for” or “against” the authorization of one or more of the bond questions, for inclusion in the publicity pamphlet. Arguments must be filed electronically with the City Clerk via email at clerk@tempe.gov by 5 p.m. on Aug. 7. For all submission details and bond election information: call 480-350-8242, email clerk@tempe.gov or visit tempe.gov/election.



Prop 479

Also on the Nov. 5 ballot, Tempe voters may vote on Prop 479, which decides the continuation of an existing, dedicated half-cent sales tax in Maricopa County to fund transportation. This measure determines funding for freeways, buses, light rail, streetcar and improved streets. In Tempe, this sales tax has funded:

- Light rail
- One-third of Tempe’s bus budget
- Street repaving projects
- Broadway Curve corridor improvements

A “yes” vote extends the tax until 2045. A “no” vote will discontinue the tax at the end of 2025. Read more at tempe.gov/Prop479

tempe.gov

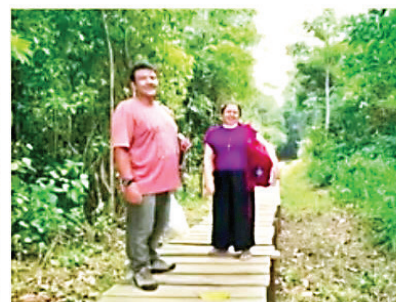
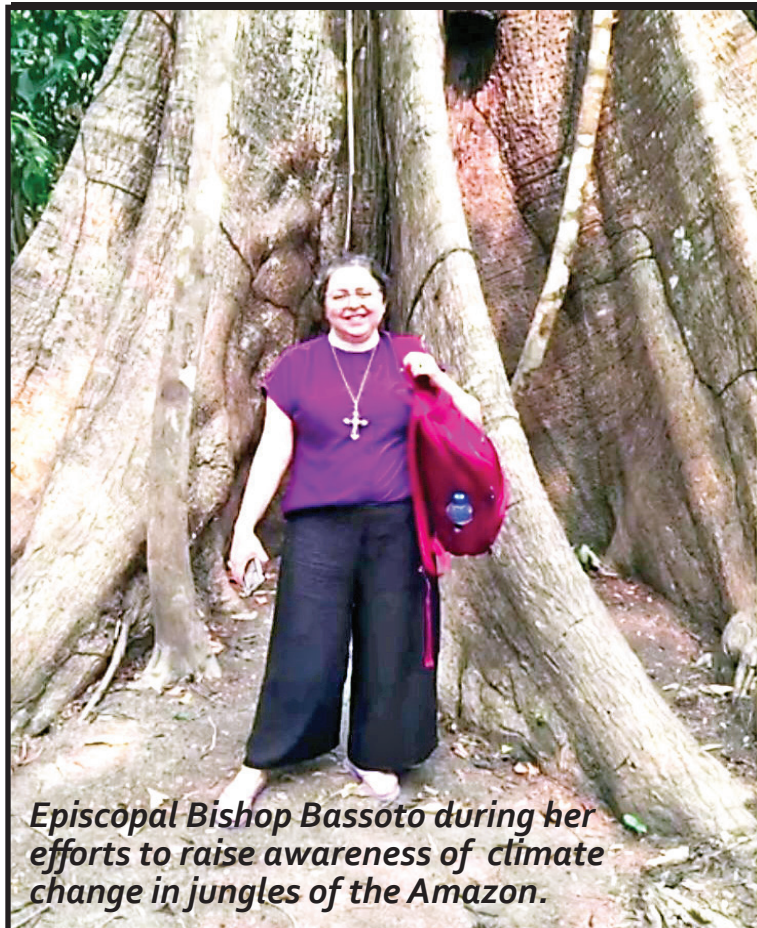
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Episcopal Bishop Bassoto during her efforts to raise awareness of climate change in jungles of the Amazon.

St. James parishioners urged to embrace sustainable practices

By Barbi Walker-Walsh

On a sweltering 114-degree Saturday morning, July 6th, St. James Episcopal Church in Tempe welcomed the Most Reverend Marinez Santos Bassoto, the first female bishop in South America. Bassoto spoke on Christians' call to be good stewards of the climate and planet.

Christians must also protect the Amazon and the Indigenous people living in the sacred rainforest, she said.

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil, Bishop Bassoto's Tempe visit came as her country prepares to host the crucial United Nations Climate Conference in November 2025.

At the St. James event called "Fighting climate injustice is part of the Gospel!" for the Christian Formation Forum, Bishop Bassoto helped the community deepen its knowledge of global environmental issues.

A cornerstone of the Tempe community for over 35 years, St. James is known for its inclusive spirit and progressive values and is a fitting venue for Bishop Bassoto's impassioned address.

With St. James' iconic red sandstone façade as a backdrop, Bishop Bassoto unveiled the harsh realities of the Amazon rainforest. Her diocese, encompassing vast stretches of the Amazon, is witnessing an alarming surge in deforestation, illegal mining, and the displacement of Indigenous communities.

The bishop, a tireless advocate for Indigenous rights and environmental justice, said that illegal mining, unchecked deforestation and the exploitation of natural resources are not merely distant headlines but a harsh reality for the Indigenous people who call the rainforest home.

She recounted stories of displacement, violence, and the erosion of ancient traditions. Her voice echoed the urgency of their struggle.

She warned that the Amazon is not merely a resource to be exploited but a sacred living ecosystem, and its destruction would be a global crisis with far-reaching consequences.

Despite the improvements in the last couple of years, Bassoto said still more work needs to be done.

In a recent peer-reviewed study published in February in the journal *Nature*, the Amazon forest system is facing a critical tipping point due

to unprecedented strain from climate change, deforestation and other factors, including the increased demand for soy.

According to the European Commission's Joint Research Centre's Science for Policy, the Brazilian Amazon deforestation continues due to soy production.


In 2022 and 2023, the growing global demand, favorable prices and improvements in the infrastructure to transport soy to coastal or river areas for exports gave rise to increased soy production areas in the Amazon.

With the city of Belem, within her diocese, set to host the pivotal COP30, Bishop Bassoto appealed to the St. James congregation and world at large to embrace sustainable practices, advocate for policy changes, and stand in solidarity with the Indigenous defenders of the Amazon.

Bishop Bassoto's visit was a reminder that faith and environmental stewardship are inextricably linked. Her words inspired a renewed commitment among attendees to protect both creation and its most vulnerable inhabitants. As the morning sun streamed through the stained glass, it illuminated a path toward a more sustainable and just future, guided by the powerful voice of a woman who refuses to let the Amazon's cries go unheard.

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- 
- Improve roads and work to reduce traffic
 - Advocacy for our neighborhoods
 - Investing in public safety to protect our lives and property

How to Vote

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LOOK FOR YOUR
BALLOT IN THE MAIL
AFTER
July 3

✓
MAIL YOUR
BALLOT BACK
BY
July 23

✓
VOTE IN-PERSON OR
DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT
ON
July 30

Voting questions? Go to www.BeBallotReady.vote

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OD Harris is:



US Army Veteran



Small Business Owner



Founder of a Chandler
Based Nonprofit



Community Advocate

OD Values:

- Faith
- Family
- Community
- Entrepreneurship

**Vote OD Harris for
Chandler City Council on July 30, 2024**

Healthy food that's affordable showcased at Grow Local fair

Locally harvested food that is both fresh and healthy was the focus of a Grow Local Tempe showcase at the city's Envision Center, a one-stop resource hub designed for individuals and families.

At the June edition of the Grow Local initiative, visitors were shown ways to expand access to affordable food through the use of what planners describe as new urban agriculture projects.

The program was designed to help empower Tempe residents to shape the city's food system so that it better supports their food access and education needs. In its planning stages, the concept allowed residents to provide input on what is being described as a community food roadmap.

The roadmap outlines strategies and resources enabling residents to grow, cook and access fresh food within their neighborhoods.

Over 125 residents visited the event, which



Advocates for locally harvested food were on hand for event showcasing their efforts.

offered interactive activities such as:

- Informational booths on community gardens, urban agriculture programs and local food resources;
- Educational sessions on topics like backyard composting and healthy cooking demonstrations; and
- Hands-on activities like seed planting and herb identification.

Visitors got a taste of complimentary refreshments using local ingredients, as well as a free produce market showcasing Maricopa County's agricultural scene.

"The turnout for the 'Grow Local' event was fantastic," said Tempe Councilmember Berdette Hodge.

"The enthusiasm and engagement from the community demonstrate a strong desire for a more robust local food system. "The...feedback we received will be instrumental in shaping the... Tempe roadmap and ensuring it meets the unique needs of our residents."

The newly opened center is at Dorsey Lane and Apache Boulevard.

Information: tempe.gov/GrowLocal.



Wrangler News is delivered every other Saturday throughout the year to home driveways & rack locations in Tempe and Chandler, as well as being posted online.

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Published since 1991 by Newslink LLC

Founder/Publisher: Don Kirkland

Associate Publisher: Andrew Lwowski

Executive Editor: Barbi Walker-Walsh

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Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead

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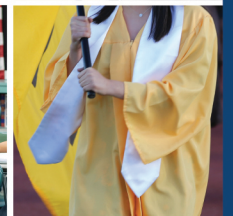
THE PEGGY PAYNE ACADEMY
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17 Career & Technical Education Programs



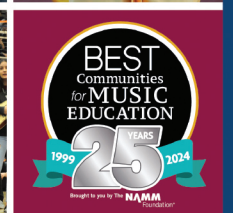
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Class of 2024 \$64 M in Scholarship Awards



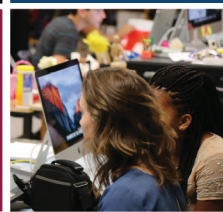
22 - 23 Tempe Union's Overall AZ Dept. Edu. Letter Grade: **A**



6 Comprehensive High Schools

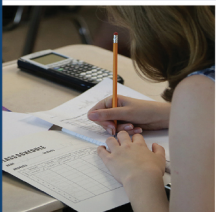


Each school offers a wide variety of clubs, organizations, & extracurricular activities to get involved with on campus.

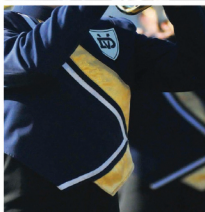


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