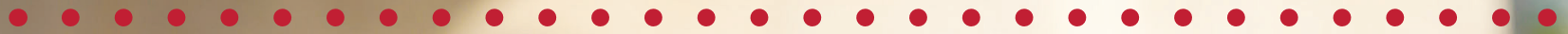


WRANGLER NEWS

J U L Y 1 1 - 2 4 , 2 0 2 0 | V O L 3 0 , N O 1 3



A BRIDGE TO TOMORROW ♦ ♦ ♦ Trapped at home with no place to go, more folks are discovering the joy of an afternoon at Tempe Town Lake. It's not only a getaway from the rigors of confinement but a place where dreams of a better tomorrow can take wing.

— *Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News* . . . More photos Pgs. 14-15

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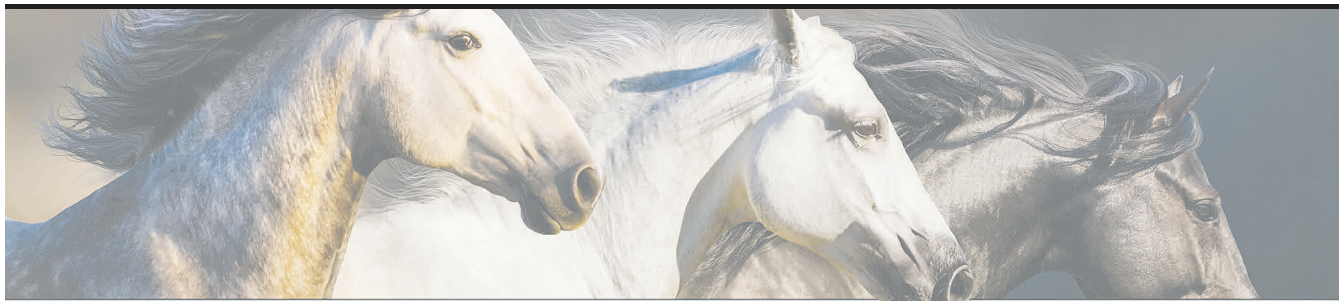


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Rick Van Grouw, a Life Time member, works out twice daily toward his goal of becoming a U.S. Navy SEAL.

— Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

Court upholds gym closures thru July 27

By Joyce Coronel

A July 7 ruling from a Maricopa County Superior Court judge has forced the closure of gyms that had defied Gov. Ducey's June 29 executive order. Ducey's order closed gyms and bars through July 27.

Gerry Lee, owner of MegaFit, said the governor's order was a crushing blow but he obeyed it.

"My business was coming back and we were gaining new clients," Lee

said. "We shut down and cancelled classes. It's definitely a financial impact on me.

"I'm not happy about it."

The small-scale gym offers a combination of Pilates and strength-conditioning courses. In the past, many members attended classes after dropping off children at school in the morning. Since the outbreak of the pandemic and the closure of schools, it's been a rocky road for businesses

like MegaFit. With the executive order shuttering his business yet again, Lee said he's complying but doesn't agree with the governor's move.

"I'm just not sure where the data is that says gyms and fitness centers are one of the major causes of the increase," Lee said.

And while larger gyms like LA Fitness and EoS Fitness have

— GYMS, Page 18

High school board shifts gears on reopening plan

They braved a brutally hot summer afternoon to let Tempe Union High School District's governing board that they were fed up with the district's plan for how school would reopen.

Someone was listening, it seems, because the district has since decided to change its plan. At press time, TUHSD has decided to offer five days a week of

SCHOOLS — Page 10

Tempe nonprofit helps needy children put their best feet forward . . . literally

By Janie Magruder



Volunteers, including a few dressed as super heroes, delivered shoes at CASA Academy. — Photo courtesy Mike Sublette

Michael Sublette hasn't walked a mile in the shoes of a foster child or an underprivileged adolescent. But the Tempe resident did grow up with three brothers and plenty of hand-me-down clothes, and he knows the joy of receiving a new pair of sneakers.

So, when a representative of Dick's Sporting Goods called in January to offer 9,000 free pairs of youth athletic shoes to the nonprofit for which he volunteers, Sublette stepped up to the plate.

"The need is so great," said Sublette of Tempe-based Arizonans for Children (arizonansforchildren.org), which since 2003 has helped abused, abandoned and neglected children in foster care. "When a child gets a new pair of shoes, they're absolutely elated. By the smiles on their faces, you wouldn't know they had

any kind of problem in the world."

There are more than 14,000 foster children in Arizona, according to the state Department of Child Safety. Arizonans for Children has two centers that provide supervised visits between children and their parents, tutoring and mentoring, and special events such as holiday parties and cultural activities.

And shoes. So far, 1,000 pairs have been distributed under the banner Best Foot Forward to more than 31 organizations. These include churches, schools, foster homes, Native American tribes and behavioral centers, among others, that partner with Arizonans for Children.

About 350 pairs were given in June to children in the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in southern Arizona and the Gila River Indian Community south of Phoenix. The

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delivery was handled by Desert Rain Behavioral Health Services, a Tempe provider of therapy, support and essential emergency supplies such as food and cleaning products to people in need.

Precious anecdotes about the shoe drops — the little boy who put on his new pair and refused to take them off and the man who humbly asked if there might be shoes for his wife, too — were reported to Crystal Reidy, Desert Rain’s community affairs specialist.

“He advocated for his wife to make sure all of his family felt cared for,” Reidy said. “Shoes are so essential, especially in Arizona, and when you get a new pair of shoes, you feel like you are ready to move forward.”

Sublette had the shoes, but no large network to help disburse them to rural areas statewide. At a meeting in May with Michael Droll, state commander of the Arizona Rangers, a uniformed law enforcement auxiliary, Sublette pitched Best Foot Forward.

“What a great match,” Droll said, referring to the 500 members in 22 companies across the state who subscribe to the Arizona Rangers’ mission of supporting youth organizations and activities. “These kids just want to be loved and supported and know that people care.”

Dick’s Sporting Goods believes in Arizonans for Children’s mission to alleviate hardships and improve the lives of abused,

fragile and neglected kids, too, said Shelby Allen, the national retailer’s communications and corporate relations specialist.

“As it can be difficult for kids in foster care to receive new shoes and clothes, Dick’s is grateful to be part of the solution,” Allen said.

By August, Sublette hopes thousands of new shoes will be on the feet of children from Bisbee to Kingman and from Yuma to Show Low.

And if Dick’s calls in the future, Best Foot Forward will mobilize again.

“I would love it if this is an ongoing project,” said Reidy, “because I don’t think there’s another program like it in Arizona. And it’s a never-ending battle to keep shoes on kids’ feet.”



Liliana Villasensor, CASA Academy principal, and Mike Sublette of Arizonans for Children, helped distribute shoes. — Photo courtesy Mike Sublette



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WE HEAR YOU . . .

Comment on our story regarding the Valvoline store to be built at McClintock and Warner

If any members of the opposition to the Valvoline were fortunate enough to own such a valuable corner, I'm am sure they would be singing a different tune.

As long as the proposed development is not harming the public, private Property Rights RULE, in our great free society.

I wonder how many of the opposers own Rental Properties?

How would they respond to Gov't RENT Control? Poorly, I'm Sure.

It is the same scenario. "The Taking of Private Property Without Just Compensation" in either case.

Opposers Spew Hypocrisy! It's always the SAME ONES. "Not In My Backyard". Great Luck to the New Business!

—Melinda Roberts

Facebook comments on our story about the physician who survived COVID and whose life was saved by staff at Dignity Health's Mercy Gilbert and St. Joseph's Medical Center

The thoracic head surgeon at St. Joe's saved my mother from being on a feeding tube for the rest of her life. Check out Dr. Bremmer. He's fantastic. —Diane Mason

St. Joe's saved my life because of an auto accident on July of '91. Fantastic hospital and staff! —Ellen Moroney

Refund demand refused

I am a student at ASU who is going into my senior year. I currently live in the dorms as part of my on campus job, and I am required to purchase a meal plan from the school. I went home to Oregon for spring break, and I did not return to ASU due to the pandemic.

However, ASU has refused to refund any of my meal plan even though I was unable to be on campus to use it.

They have stated that I can order items through the on campus grocery store, but have refused to refund any of the money. I am writing to you because I have been trying for the last 2 months

to reach someone who will help me with this issue.

I personally think that it is ridiculous that the school has refused to refund students who were required to buy meal plans in the first place.

I have been redirected to multiple people within the school and am currently unable to get anyone to respond to my phone calls.

I am reaching out to see if there would be any interest in publishing a story about the situation. I am also planning on pursuing legal action through the small claims court if I am unable to get a refund.

For students who are struggling to pay for school and are already forking over thousands to attend ASU, it is preposterous that the school would not refund money that was unable to be used on campus this past spring.

—Adam Klein

Systemic change for Chandler?

In a non-partisan City Council race, we the voters of Chandler can be part of introducing a new continuum of systemic change.

Systemic changes have been lauded and championed recently by politicians, leaders of business organizations and community leaders alike.

But ask yourself, how many of them are endorsing a qualified candidate representing this systemic change?

Citizens of Chandler, there are three seats open for this city council race.

Until the powers that be and the voters choose to support, endorse and vote for candidate representing this systemic change, we are inadvertently perpetuate the status quo and deny the community the right and possibility of new, progressive and innovative ideas that will ultimately strengthen our community and give greater representation to the body of which it represents.

Chandler is, "A Community of Innovation."

Let's innovate our city council!

At this pivotal point in our collective American experience, ask yourself what side of history you will be on?"

—Brian Fox

Fox is manager of O.D. Harris' campaign for Chandler City Council.

Editor's note: Comments for publication are gladly accepted, however we reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space requirements.

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Commentary . . . by Jennifer Adams

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue's top rating could cut fire insurance rates

Did you know that Tempe homeowners and businesses could save money on insurance, thanks to a new national rating that puts Tempe Fire Medical Rescue among the top 1 percent of all fire departments in the United States?



It is true. Tempe is celebrating its upgrade from a Class 2 rating to a Class 1 rating from the Insurance Services Office.

This nationally recognized review of a fire department's capabilities is used by insurers in underwriting and to calculate premiums for fire insurance.

As many of you know, I always strive to find opportunities to save our residents money.

In fact, I visited with my insurance agent and we are able to save \$70 a year because of this ISO 1 rating. Check with your insurance provider to see if this will

positively impact your rates.

I would like to take time to go beyond that very exciting 'headline' and give you some of the backstory of how and why this has been possible.

Hopefully you will feel as proud to be a Tempe resident as I was when I heard this information.

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue's rating reflects on the quality of department operations, emergency dispatch and the water distribution system supplied by Tempe's Municipal Utilities Department.

The Class 1 rating was achieved through improvements in community risk reduction, training, communications and the collaborative work with Tempe's water team and other city departments.

The Water Utilities Division of the Municipal Utilities Department deserves a great deal of praise for their contributions to this effort as it relates to the excellent water service we provide our community.

One key factor that played into our new rating was how Water Utilities completely reformed our process for ensuring that fire hydrants around Tempe are in good working order.

Prior to 2018, the city's system of 9,222 fire hydrants was not in the shape it should have been, as I had discussed with residents during my campaign.

With positive management changes, Water Utilities worked hard to develop a proactive system of inspections, repairs and replacements, including implementing a new mobile technology to track the work. Each hydrant was serviced between January 2018 and June 2019, and the city established new procedures to enable the entire system to be serviced every two years.

Tempe is one of 13 fire departments in Arizona to have the ISO 1 rating, as well as International Fire Accreditation, Emergency Management Accreditation Program certification and ACE accreditation (911/ Communications Center).

It is one of just 96 departments in the country to be both accredited and rated ISO 1.

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue works hard every day to protect life and property, to mitigate risks and to serve our residents with distinction.

For more details about the department, visit tempe.gov/fire and follow them on Facebook (TempeFireMedicalRescue).

As always, I welcome you reaching out to me as well. Contact me by phone at 480-350-8835 or via email at jennifer_adams@tempe.gov. You can also follow me on my City Council Facebook account (JenniferAdamsTempe).

Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council.

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Schools

From Page 3

in-person instruction in addition to an online option.

But before that announcement was made, about 200 parents and students demonstrated on the sidewalk in front of district headquarters June 24 as the governing board met inside.

Wearing masks and carrying homemade posters proclaiming their disenchantment, the protestors stood in the blazing sun.

Their signs summed up how they felt: “High School is Essential,” “1 day? No Way!” Passing motorists honked their horns, waving and cheering.

Among the demonstrators was Lori Bastian, a mom of three sons who will attend Corona del Sol when schools reopen.

Although she’d never considered holding public office, she said the brouhaha over TUHSD’s handling of the school’s reopening convinced her to declare her intent to run for the school board.

Eight candidates are vying for three spots on the board in the November general election.

“This will be a one-time thing. I’m only in it because I feel like we need a parent on the board—there are no parents of current students on the board,” Bastian said.

The big turnout at the rally in front of the district offices, she said, “just goes to show this is a big issue affecting so many families in our community. We need to have more options like the other districts in our area.”

Other parents at the demonstration agreed.

Christine Demarino has one daughter going into her junior year at Corona.

“I think they need to be back at school,” Demarino said. “A lot of them are suffering as far as emotionally. They are missing all their friends and the extra social activities that they have in school.”

Danielle Ulm was at the rally with her son Colby, who is going into his sophomore year at Marcos de Niza. Colby has an Individualized Education Program for special education services.

“We’re very concerned that, going forward, he’s not going to have the tools and the support that he deserves in an online, home setting,” Ulm said.

“And he needs to be in the classroom—it’s part of the socialization. I’m really worried about the kids with IEPs and 504s will be falling behind.”

Chuck Royalty, who also has a son at Marcos, said he feels “abandoned” by the district and that his son’s online education experience last semester was difficult.

“Crash and burn. It was horrible in every way. I can’t see him go through that again,” Royalty said.

“As a parent I can’t see the difference between being in contact with their friends one day a week and being in contact with them five days a week or even four days a week.”

District responds

All of that was before TUHSD’s Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Mendivil, sent an email to parents June 29 regarding the reopening of schools in the district. Prior to

the email, the district’s plan to have in-person instruction just one day a week sparked the protest.

In the June 29 email, Mendivil referred to Gov. Doug Ducey’s orders concerning the criteria districts needed to follow in order to ensure budget stability. “We will continue to acknowledge the governor’s newest guidelines and will make a shift in our planning and program offerings,” the email from Mendivil reads in part.

Ducey’s criteria states that schools “must provide education in-person the same number of days per week that they did last school year.”

According to the email, TUHSD will offer five days a week of in-person instruction, a full-time online option and a virtual learning model third option should schools be ordered to close again.

“We’re very pleased that Tempe Union is offering a five-day, in-person option,” Bastian said.

“We’re sad that they did it only because of the governor’s executive order. The superintendent made it very clear that was the only reason he had made the change, so we’re still concerned that there’s not much transparency or communication between parents and the district.”

Megan Sterling, executive director of community relations for TUHSD, said the district takes parents’ feedback “very seriously,” and has been planning with an eye toward safety.

“We have been planning for a variety of options and Governor Ducey’s latest series of announcements meant that we had to offer in-person instruction in order to

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receive level funding,” Sterling said.

Students will be kept safe, Sterling added, through a variety of measures. Staff and students will be required to wear face masks to comply with city and county regulations. In addition, there will be a reduction in class sizes for in-person instruction and the minimization of large groups.

Other changes to increase safety include revamping classroom layouts to increase social distancing; daily disinfection of classroom touchpoints; twice-daily disinfection of bathroom touchpoints; signs posted in highly visible locations to remind students and staff of everyday protective measures; floor signage to indicate social distancing and directional routes; and regular announcements over the intercom about ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Parents and families will receive regular communication from the district, Sterling said.



Speaking out

Parents and students braved extreme temperatures and showed up in force at TUHSD headquarters to oppose the district’s original reopening plan. The district has since opted to be open for five days a week of in-person classroom instruction.

— Wrangler News photos by Joyce Coronel

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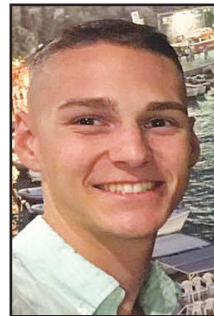
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Commentary . . . by Noah Kutz

In a sea of community news, we cast a line for your thoughts, ideas

Editor's note: As regular readers likely know by now, Noah, our former digital editor/young man about town, is making his



way toward graduation from ASU with a degree in global studies, then a future as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Although we don't see him as frequently as we once did, we remain in touch and are still in possession of some of the columns he wrote while he was here more regularly.

One such column appears below.

I've done a fair amount of fishing in my time—well, actually fishing through the pages of some how-to books more than doing the real thing. One of the most fascinating bites I got in the process related to an ominous angler fish that deceives its prey by hiding, then pouncing and devouring its meal in a single gulp.

Well, dear reader, that morsel of information caused me to think more about the job I do with our little newspaper and how there might be a lesson of sorts that I could share with my bosses and, ultimately, you.

You see, I began to realize that some of us may be innocent and unsuspecting targets in a vast sea


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of news organizations and media outlets, in which big companies and advertisers with huge budgets have become that ominous angler fish, luring and misleading you into the various corners of the internet.

This is not our intent at Wrangler News, where our No. 1 goal is to provide news and information about your community, your schools and churches, your neighbors. The last thing we want to do is widen the great divide between online news and newspaper news, a split that has never been greater.

Major newspapers worldwide have been forced into this age of online distribution in order to gather barely enough ad revenue to stay alive. The endless game of acquiring more views and more clicks on ads, stories and websites revolves almost exclusively on you, the reader.

Although large companies boast of their dedication to your interests, in the end your interests are only fueled by what lies between the creases of your wallet.

The big news purveyors want the advertisers' money and the advertisers want your money. It's that simple.

So what do we do to counteract this?

Our answer is written at the top of each paper we print: "Tempe & West Chandler, the place we call home." Although it is true that without our advertisers we wouldn't be able to produce this little hometown production, we stay alive because of you, the people of Tempe and West Chandler—our home.

You will never find a story in this paper that does not have a correlation to your (our) community. Our goal is to bind together a group of people who care about the various aspects of each other's lives, from the local news to the local businesspeople.

Rather than finding the "juiciest" stories that other news outlets cover in order to generate more views and clicks on their website, we focus on the good things that happen in our

community and how those stories appeal directly to our readers.

Advertisers value this in our paper. We don't simply seek to generate a number of clicks or views on each ad; we have real people with real needs who really care about their town and the local businesses within it.

So how are we different online?

We've grown substantially on this side of the house. You may have seen our advertisers featured recently on our website. In days to come you'll also see that we're utilizing social media more heavily.

In recent months, our data analytics team has seen a spike in the number of unique visitors that come to our website and read our stories. We also send a weekly newsletter via email every Tuesday to show our top stories and full eEdition.

On top of these efforts, we've simply begun to hone in on what we feel is most important for our community as it relates to our online presence.

We seek to find out how each top story relates specifically to our readers, and how they might find our content more useful and satisfying. So with that we ask you to do two things to help us become a better newspaper for our community:

First, if you see something you think would become a nice feature in the paper, tell us about it. We'd love to have you among our contributors, whether as an aspiring writer or simply a source of ideas.

Call, email or stop by our office and tell us what you think is most important for our hometown. Finally, don't fall for tricks from the big fish who claim to care about you.

Ask yourself what "local" means to you and if some of your information outlets may fall into this category.

Beware the predator who lures and misleads its prey, then pounces when we're least expecting it.

At Wrangler News our goal is to be on a seaworthy journey around our community, not pounce on opportunities for sensationalism—hook, line and sinker.

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An afternoon at Tempe FUN Lake

The pandemic may have shut down theaters, gyms and bars, but that doesn't mean there's no fun to be had. A hot summer afternoon drew cabin-fever sufferers to Tempe Town Lake to enjoy a stroll by the water, some kayaking or experiencing a moment of quietude right in the middle of the bustling city. From ospreys to owls and lowly pigeons, fowl are frequent visitors too, also no doubt seeking a bit of respite from the desert heat.

— Photo feature by
Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News



Reflections . . . by M.V. Moorhead

An era ends with the loss of Hugh Downs; we'll definitely miss him

Even though he hailed from Ohio, over the last few decades Hugh Downs had become as much a fixture here in the Valley as Alice Cooper or Muhammed Ali.

A resident of Scottsdale, Downs spent much of his retirement as a spokesman for hospice services and as the presenter for many public service announcements on television, to the point that we here in Arizona may feel his passing this past week, at the age of 99, more keenly than the rest of the country.



M.V. Moorhead

Most people probably think of Downs as a newsman, hosting NBC's Today show during the '60s and ABC's 20/20 for more than 20 years during the '80s and '90s.

But he really was more than a journalist; with his smooth voice and his mild, reassuring but authoritative

manner, he was one of those guys that could be better defined simply as a broadcaster.

Downs' career in television spans, essentially, the medium's entire history, from the '40s on, with a few years in radio even before that.

It includes a little bit of everything, from

newsman to gameshow host to commercial pitchman.

He even did a little acting, from radio shows to a 1960 episode of Riverboat with Darren McGavin to a newscaster in *Oh God, Book II*.

He also played himself in the 2001 romantic comedy *Someone Like You*, and on an episode of the early-'60s sitcom *Car 54, Where Are You?*

He also did a hilarious voice cameo, as a superhero version of himself, on *The Family Guy*.

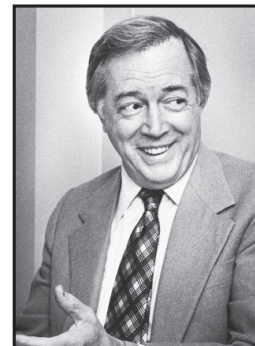
The degree to which Downs' career is interwoven with the iconic history of television is really quite remarkable:

He was the announcer for *Hawkins Falls, Population 6200* (1950-1955) on NBC, one of the true "soap operas" of early TV—it was literally sponsored by Surf detergent.

Also for the Peacock, he was the announcer for the sketch-comedy show *Caesar's Hour* with Sid Caesar and for the celebrated puppet show *Kukla, Fran and Ollie*.

Downs spent a decade as host of the gameshow *Concentration*, starting in 1958, and was a panelist for *To Tell the Truth* on CBS.

Perhaps most notably in that early phase of his career, Downs was announcer and sidekick to Jack Paar, in the Ed McMahon/Steve Higgins/Andy Richter mode, on *The Tonight Show* from 1957 to 1962.



Then from 1962 to 1971, he hosted NBC's *The Today Show*; from 1966 on he was often alongside Barbara Walters Downs.

He would later co-host 20/20 on ABC from 1978 to 1999 with the pioneering Walters.

"Most of all, Hugh is such a good man," Walters was quoted as saying. "And I loved

working with him."

Contrasting the more low-key style of Downs against her own hard-hitting approach, Walters noted that "His questions during interviews were gentler than mine, but he never restricted me from asking what I wanted. In short, he was one of the truest gentlemen I have ever known."

Downs was a presence on PBS as well, hosting *Over Easy* (1977-1983), a show about aging, as well as *Live from Lincoln Center* during the '90s. And he served on the board of UNICEF, and he was a columnist for *Science Digest* and...

Well, it's hard to imagine that we'll see a career of similarly old-school eclecticism again.

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Tempe arts center unveils free summer performance series

Tempe Center for the Arts has announced the launch of *SHFT: AZ art when you want it*, a new weekly summer series of free performances streamed online that extend the experience of music, culture, performance and interactive programming beyond the walls of the arts facility.

Planners note that Tempe has long been recognized as welcoming and supportive of the arts and a home to a vibrant creative community in all its forms.

TCA's new online series is an extension of that promise enabling people to access the live performance experience while continuing to practice social distancing.

"In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19, TCA is thinking outside the box to connect patrons and artists until we can see each other again in person," said Ralph Remington, TCA producing artistic director.

"We know that cultural arts has

the power to support healing and change and we believe it's important to continue to find ways to provide the community access to a diverse variety of live performance experiences at a time when many Americans are consuming more of their entertainment from home."

The SHFT virtual series began July 2, is free and will stream live every Thursday 6-7 p.m. on TCA's Facebook page. Performances will feature Tempe and Arizona artists and range in genre from jazz to funk, dance to acoustic sets. Series artists will reflect the diversity, including Black, indigenous and other artists of color and culture.

Confirmed artists include Tempe legend Walt Richardson; indie DJ Schux Famicom; jazz singer/songwriter Benjamin Cortez; singer/songwriter Brian Chartrand; and funk-jazz DJ Richie. Information: tempecenterforthearts.com/SHFT or follow on Facebook @ [tempecenterforthearts](https://www.facebook.com/tempecenterforthearts).

Kids can play in a world of make-believe at library's 'Fantasyland'

For kids (and their parents!) who are wearing thin with the rigors of home confinement, Tempe Public Library has a solution.

It's called Fantasyland, and you can enter the world of make-believe simply by dropping into the library lobby and picking up the latest weekly theme packet.

The rest is easy:

- Complete the activities and crafts included in the packet. If you email the library a picture of your Card Soldier or Finger Puppet you'll receive a secret

code that will unlock an additional badge and some extra points. Send email to tpl-youthprograms@tempe.gov

- Read a Disney, Star Wars or Marvel book or comic.
 - Watch a favorite Disney, Star Wars or Marvel movie.
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Gyms

From Page 3

locked their doors through the end of the month, two larger clubs in Tempe refused—at least initially.

Tom Hatten, founder and CEO of Mountainside Fitness that operates 18 clubs in the Valley, including one in Tempe, called the governor's order "arbitrary" and until the July 7 ruling said he would not shutter his business. He filed suit.

"If the governor is serious about what is going on, then I say, 'Governor Ducey, close everything. Don't choose. Don't make an arbitrary decision on what you think will look good to the media,'" Hatten said at a press conference.

Natalie Bushaw, senior director of public relations for Life Time, said while the company wasn't formally joining Hatten's lawsuit, "we are in support of it."

The 120,000 square-foot, upscale club in South Tempe boasts an extensive workout area as well as a hair salon, café, rock-climbing wall, basketball court, children's center and an indoor/outdoor pool among other amenities.

"Our hope is to continue serving our members and keeping our team members

working with as little impact as possible," Bushaw said. While initially shutting down its fitness area June 29, the club reopened its fitness area until finally closing it July 3.

The pandemic led to Life Time's first closure March 16. It reopened May 18 but after just six weeks, Ducey issued another executive order aimed at closing gyms. Across Arizona, Life Time employs a staff of 1,500 and has approximately 40,000 members.

Doors remain open at Life Time

A letter to Dr. Cara Christ, director of Arizona Department of Health Services, is posted on the front door of Life Time attesting to the facility's compliance with guidance issued by Arizona's DHS related to business operations during the pandemic. Members are asked to wear masks and there's a temperature check of patrons at the door. Cleaning stations throughout the club provide pre-moistened wipes, a spray cleaner, paper towels and hand sanitizer. Every other machine in the cardio area is disabled, ensuring social distancing while workouts take place. It still wasn't enough to convince Ducey's staff to allow the area to remain open.

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Bushaw said governments should work with industries to develop safety protocols to conduct business.

“We believe that health clubs and gyms can operate more safely than any other business and, because our customers are members, we’re able to ensure everyone understands their role in upholding safety measures,” Bushaw said.

“Plus, contact tracing can be performed, where needed, because every member visit is recorded. Other retailers and places consumers may visit cannot do this, yet they remain unaffected by these revised restrictions.”

Rick Van Grouw is a member at Life Time and says he exercises at the facility twice daily. The former professional body builder is hoping to become a U.S. Navy SEAL and, as such, he’s training as an endurance athlete, putting himself through rigorous workouts aimed at helping him join the elite special operations force. Van Grouw said he considers the service Life Time provides essential. The pools are still open for his training regimen.

“As far as things that are essential and that we need, not only for our physical health, it’s so important for our mental health,” Van Grouw said. “Some people, their therapy is here and it’s more important than people realize when they just shut it down.”

He said he trusts Life Time because “they’ve been doing a great job following protocols, making sure you’ve got a mask on if you’re six feet or not from somebody. That’s a huge reason why I trust this place.”

“I respect Ducey’s decisions to an extent but I think as far as staying healthy, this place is some people’s home



A group of fitness buffs works out at MegaFit in January 2019, prior to the pandemic.

— Wrangler News file photo

for their mind and their bodies.”

Physician weighs in

Not all gym rats concur. Ed Hardiman is a West Chandler resident and internal medicine physician. Prior

to the outbreak of COVID-19, he frequented another Tempe gym three times a week. That facility is now closed in compliance with Ducey’s order. An employee who had served there for three decades was let go,

— GYMS, Page 20





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Gyms

From Page 19

Hardiman said.

“As a physician and seeing the exponential growth in coronavirus patients and seeing how sick they are and watching them die—I had a patient die this morning—including young people critically ill, I really feel we need



Dr. Edward Hardiman

to do whatever we can to slow the spread or eliminate the spread.

“As a society, we have to make hard choices,” Hardiman said.

He expects the pandemic to continue for about a year and says he’s only been to the gym once since March. While acknowledging the devastating economic impact on business owners and those put out of work by the shutdown, he says the virus could potentially kill thousands in Arizona if it isn’t contained. “People have to have a livelihood but on

the other hand, we have to slow the spread as much as possible,” Hardiman said.

“I’ve been practicing 30 years I’ve never seen anything like this where half of our patients have an infectious disease. We haven’t had anything even remotely similar

to this,” Hardiman said.

“What’s happening is, as the hospitals fill up and the system is strained, people will not get good medical care.”

Being around groups of other people increases the risk of people coming down with the virus, Hardiman said, and in spite of the good faith efforts of gym management, it may not be enough.

“If everyone wears masks in the gym, it may cut down on 95 percent of transmission, but, to me, it’s not a risk worth taking because it’s an activity that’s not necessary.”

Lise Kuecker, founder of Studio Grow, a boutique fitness consulting firm, said she questions the suspicion leveled at health clubs. Like Mountainside’s Hatten, she wonders why gyms are being singled out.

“Most health clubs and people in the fitness industry in general, not just boutique fitness studios, have gone above and beyond what the call to action has been,” Kuecker said. “They’ve actually solidified a very safe environment that we’re not seeing in most retail.”

She pointed to creative solutions gyms have come up with, such as modifying ventilation systems. Life Time, for example, says it has increased the outside air circulation and adjusted ventilation rates.

“I think anyone who is providing a safe and secure service right now shouldn’t be shut down. The key is if it’s being safely done,” Kuecker said.

As safety-minded as Hardiman is, he says he thinks managing the COVID-19 crisis could have been carried out better though he wouldn’t want to be in Ducey’s shoes. The economic devastation wreaked by the shutdown is real. The forced closure of restaurants,

theaters, bars and gyms in March may have been premature, he says, before the numbers really surged in Arizona. That, in combination with a quick reopening in May, didn’t help matters. Many have lost their businesses, jobs and even lives.

“If we had a group of experts that sat down and really came up with guidelines and enforced the guidelines, I’m sure that you could come up with scenarios where a gym could stay open,” Hardiman said.

“We are in a pandemic and the hospital system is going to collapse if we don’t get this under control. We are going to lose a lot of lives unnecessarily.”

Tempe police visited Life Time July 1 while it was still open in defiance of the governor’s order. A statement from Det. Natalie Barela to *Wrangler News* declared the department is committed to promoting public health and reducing harm in the community.

“As prescribed in the governor’s executive orders, educational contacts with the opportunity to remedy and gain voluntary compliance are preferred. If the business or individual continues to fail to comply with the governor’s orders or the mayor’s proclamation, then citations may be issued,” Barela’s statement reads.

A July 3 letter to Life Time and Mountainside Fitness from ADHS director Christ states that gyms “pose a serious threat to public health” and should remain closed through July 27. The letter went on to say that non-compliance would result in civil action seeking a temporary restraining order as well as preliminary, injunctive and declaratory relief. At press time, Life Time’s fitness floor remained closed but other amenities were open. Temperature checks and masks are required for entry to the facility.

Mountainside Fitness, which was open through July 6, shut down July 7 after Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Timothy Thomason ruled that Ducey’s executive order “clearly had a rational basis” and the health club’s lawsuit was not likely to be won.

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Briefly . . .

500 new jobs coming to area

CVS Health is planning a 101,000-square-foot office at the Allred Park Place development in West Chandler. A city of Chandler spokeswoman said the company has announced plans to employ approximately 500 workers, including health care advocates, care management nurses, social workers, registered dietitians, behavioral health specialists and medical directors.

Most of the jobs will be new to the region, the company said. CVS Health completed its acquisition of Aetna in 2018.

The new office in Chandler will provide service for the Aetna One Advocate care management program. The project is reported to include approximately \$10 million in new tenant improvements, which was originally built in 2009.

The first group of 130 employees has already been hired, most of whom are working from home due to the coronavirus pandemic.

CVS Health says it will continue to ramp up hiring in the months ahead with the next training class scheduled for Aug. 3.

Drive seeks critically needed water

With temperatures in Tempe and West Chandler are soaring, area homeless and underprivileged face the deadly danger of dehydration with no means to alleviate it.

Mary Contreras State Farm Agency is partnering with Valley of the Sun United Way and Bryant Commercial Realty to address the need.

“We are especially hearing from the homeless shelters, schools, and UMOM of the critical need for pure drinking water for these precious people in our community during the hottest time of the summer months,” Mary Contreras said. “Please join us in this worthy cause and make it a community-wide event.”

Donations of bottled water may be dropped off at Mary Contreras State Farm Agency, 2145 E. Warner Road, Suite 101, Tempe.

2 from area on Valley Metro board

Tempe Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage and Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke have been elected officers of Valley Metro Regional Public

Transportation Authority and Valley Metro Rail Boards of Directors for a term continuing until June 30, 2021.

The boards are tasked with providing transportation leadership to best serve the region and its communities.

Peoria Councilmember Jon Edwards will chair the group.

The was established to provide coordinated, multi-modal transit options to Valley residents. It develops and operates regional bus service and alternative transportation programs for commuters, seniors and people with disabilities.

The board is comprised of elected officials from 19 cities or towns and Maricopa County.

Grants for small businesses

Small, for-profit businesses in West Chandler and other area neighborhoods may qualify for a city of Chandler Economic Development Division reimbursement grant program to assist with costs incurred from purchasing personal protective equipment.

The program, in partnership with the Chandler Industrial Development Authority, has initiated a “Choose Chandler” program. Qualifying Chandler businesses can apply for a grant in amounts between \$100 and \$500. A total of \$200,000 is said to be available for the program.

Here are the qualifying criteria:

- Be a private, for-profit business located within Chandler city limits;
- 100 employees or fewer citywide, including all commonly owned/managed businesses;
- Not affiliated with another business under common ownership/management that has applied for Chandler IDA PPE grant funds;
- Have a start date prior to March 11, 2020, and;
- Be registered with the city’s Business Registration Program.

Applications are now being accepted, and reimbursement opportunities will be available until grant funds are exhausted.

Grant requests will be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis and only one application will be accepted per business.

For details on the application process and its requirements, visit chandleraz.gov/ChooseChandlerGrants.

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Kyrene vol wins early-childhood award

When her story appeared on these pages around this time last year, Sharyn Weinheimer already had been hailed as a champion of volunteer efforts to recognize the value of aiming kids toward education even before they start school.

Now Weinheimer, a veteran volunteer with the group First Things First, has one more accolade recognizing her efforts: She's the recipient of the organization's 2020 First Things First East Maricopa Regional Champion for Young Children. The award is given to local champions who actively offer their time to raise public awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.

Champions are said to spend a significant amount of time volunteering with FTF and building public awareness about the importance of early childhood issues.

Weinheimer, according to a Kyrene School District announcement, says she believes in her cause and promotes it whenever she has an opportunity. "I feel strongly about setting up children

for success by making sure early childhood development and health are the focus," said Weinheimer, who is a National Board Certified Teacher.

"Early literacy is the most important indicator of a child's readiness for school. Early literacy development complements the current academic research, which supports the critical role of early experiences in shaping brain development.

"My mission is to share with families the importance of reading, talking and singing with your child can set them up for a life of success."

Weinheimer, who is a multi-tiered systems-of-support coordinator for the Kyrene district, uses FTF's early literacy information in the district office lobby to engage visitors, who range from school board members to staff to parents.

She also is said to have used FTF's early childhood information during interactive workshops about dialogic reading, where the adult engages the child in the storytelling.

Information: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/find-your-region.

MCC grad a \$10k winner for work to ease student-debt

Students from Mesa Community College have received the top prize in an Up to Us National College Competition for their team's efforts to raise awareness of the national debt in relationship to America's fiscal problems.

MCC is the first community college in the eight-year history of the award to receive the recognition.

The team, led by MCC 2020 graduate Shelby Lynch, developed a multi-faceted campaign focused on raising awareness about the national debt and providing the foundation for a dialogue on building a sustainable economic future for all Americans.

The team engaged with fellow students during the fall 2019 semester through a series of targeted events, awareness surveys, classroom presentations, campus partnerships, engagement with college administrators and the deployment of impactful social media content.

"My teammates and I joined the Up to Us Campus Competition to spark a dialogue on campus about the very real consequences that the national debt could have on our future, and the importance of fiscal sustainability," said Lynch.

"We focused on making the national

debt more relatable to members of our generation by incorporating activities that appeal to our peers – games, interactive tabling activities, nonpartisan political parody and social media sharing."

Judges noted that the team's events included a Halloween-themed "National Debt House of Horrors" that introduced students to "scary" facts about the national debt through collaborations with campus clubs and departments.

The team also hosted a national debt trivia event in partnership with Brian Dille, Ph.D., an MCC political science professor. The team produced and performed a satirical skit of the world in 2032 if the national debt continues to skyrocket, followed by a discussion about the potential consequences for young people.

Lynch and team members Aaron Millett, Mitchell Stewart, Gabriel Castaneda, Landon Kea and Bailee Shupe joined students from teams from across the country in a series of national virtual events in May, where their efforts were recognized.

The team received a \$10,000 cash prize supporting the continuation of its efforts for the next academic year.



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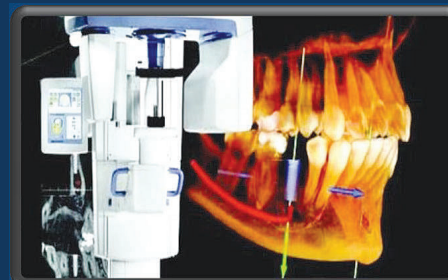
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Let's play . . .

Aprende Middle School hosted Play Day, an opportunity for family fun that included a lineup of free activities, food trucks, arts and crafts plus music performances. The event featured special appearances by the Arizona Balloon Club, Arizona Diamondbacks Street Team, Arizona Coyotes Mobile Tour, Manitas steel drum line, Monte Vista winter singers, Pueblo show choir and guitar ensemble, Kyrene Middle School mariachi band, Paloma Arts Integrated preschool box drummers and local fire and police departments. *The event was staged prior to the current COVID-19 pandemic.*

— Photos by Dee Ann Deaton
for Wrangler News



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Handyman — Handy Man Dan for all your home and yard repairs, call Dan at 480-763-8379. Carpentry, plumbing, painting, electrical. I do it all. Specializing in the Kyrene Corridor. Local Resident with over 20 years' experience. Not a licensed contractor, just a perfectionist. Free Estimates. 9/20

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Carpentry — Carpentry, Concrete, Drywall, Stucco, Roofing, Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, Patios, Additions, Kitchens, Bathrooms. Call Roger 480-215-3373. rchildcustomcarpentry@cox.net. Plans if needed. Lic. Bond. Ins. 8/20

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MCC campus site COVID-19 tests available now thru at least July

Mesa Community College has launched an on-campus COVID-19 testing site, operated by Embry Women's Health, a local testing provider, along with the Arizona National Guard.

Testing stations in the east parking Lot (Lot C) of the college campus at 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa.

The service is expected to last through July, and possibly longer, according to Dawn Zimmer, the college's media relations manager.

Individuals arriving for appointments should enter at Enrollment Way off Southern Ave.

Brad Kendrex, MCC interim executive vice president of administrative services, said he welcomes the newly announced availability of services.

"Our commitment to serving our students and our community remains constant during these times of change.

We are pleased to be able to serve as a COVID-19 testing site for our community and look forward to inviting our neighbors back to our campuses when it is safe to do so," said Kendrex.

MCC campus facilities remain closed, while many services continue to be offered to students remotely.

The test site at MCC represents Embry's third site to open. Initially it will accommodate 800 patients daily, with an expected daily test capacity of 3,000 once fully operational, making it the second largest test site in Arizona.

Those wishing to be tested should visit embrywomenshealth.com/testing-blitz/ to schedule a testing day/time by testing site. The process may be also initiated online at embrywomenshealth.com/covid-19-testing.

One appointment slot may accommodate multiple individuals per vehicle, however each must register in advance on the website.

There is zero cost associated with COVID-19 testing for patients. However, patients with insurance will need to provide their member ID, group number and a copy of their insurance card.

Insurance will cover all costs related to COVID-19 with no out-of-pocket cost to the patient. For any who are uninsured, a federal government program will cover all costs. Uninsured patients must provide a state ID, driver's license or Social Security number.

Commentary: Terri Kimble Chamber exec calls on business leaders to be 'agents of change'

The Chandler Chamber is guided by our mission: To support business and our community by providing vital programs and services that attract and retain business while embracing diversity.

We promote this mission by deepening our long-held commitment to inclusion and by finding new ways to listen, understand and build unity.

With a country divided by fear, anger and frustration, I believe our commitment to diversity and inclusion has never been more important.

Individuals of diverse backgrounds and cultures make Chandler a better place and allow us to serve our diverse business community better.

Discrimination, injustice and violence allow no place for our business community to grow.

Our communities are hurting, and we see it as our job to not only help them heal but to offer hope.

As our nation struggles with equality and inclusion issues, the Chandler Chamber will continue to work with community leaders to identify opportunities that will generate lasting change — now and for years to come.

We are committed to doing our part to provide businesses equal access to high quality services no matter their race, religion, economic or ethnic background.

As a business community, let's be the agents of change and be different together.

Terri Kimble is president/CEO of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, the third largest Chamber in Arizona, advocating for over 1,400 members and 170,000 employees. For more, email info@chandler-chamber.com.

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Kyrene Corridor Market Snapshot

Subdivision	Address	Square Feet	Beds/Baths	Sold Price
Alisanos	7882 S Dateland Dr, Tempe 85284	3,586	5 / 3.5	\$732,500
Duskfire	7930 S Ash Ave, Tempe 85284	2,192	4 / 2.5	\$578,000
Galleria	969 E Drake Dr, Tempe 85283	2,419	4 / 2	\$459,000
Raintree	8133 S Palm Dr, Tempe 85284	3,138	5 / 3	\$605,000
Rhythm	7047 W Stardust Dr, Chandler 85226	1,942	3/3	\$437,000
Warner Ranch	6363 W Dublin Ln, Chandler 85226	2,850	4/3	\$524,000

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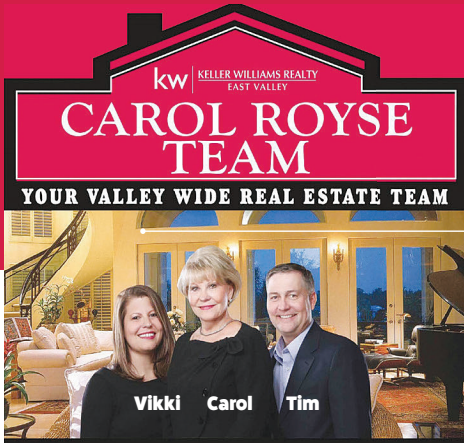


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How to Sell High: Avoid These Mistakes When Selling Your Tempe – Chandler Home

TEMPE - CHANDLER - When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending on how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first thing he or she sees, and many homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range before they're even given a chance of showing.

Your asking price is often your home's "first impression", and if you want to realize the most money you can for your home, it's imperative that you make a good first impression.

This is not as easy as it sounds, and pricing strategy should not be taken lightly. Pricing too high can be as costly to a home seller as pricing too low. Taking a look at what homes in your neighborhood have sold for is only a small part of the process, and on its own is not nearly enough to help you make the best decision. A recently study, which compiles 10 years of industry research by local area expert, Carol Royse of Keller Williams Realty East Valley has resulted in a new special report entitled "Home sellers: How to Get the Price You Want(and Need)". This report will help you understand pricing strategy from three different angles. When taken together, this information will help you price your home to not only sell but sell for the price you want.

Royse has spent over 30 years in the Tempe and Chandler area selling homes Fast and For Top Dollar. Many area residents know her as, "Carol Has the Buyers.Com". Heard on KFYI Radio weekly, Royse shares our local Arizona Real Estate Market with her thousands of listeners.

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Carol Royse, Keller Williams Realty East Valley



\$1,595,000

Mid Century Ranch

Designed by one of the area's leading architects. Center gated courtyard from the entry and secondary bedrooms, stunning great room overlooking the pool and mountain views. Upgraded kitchen with SS appliances, multiple ovens, spacious formal dining room. Over 4900 sq/ft.



\$630,000

Pride of Ownership

Over 5700 sq/ft & soaring 22 ft entry ceilings. Spacious master suite w/wrap around walk-in closet, open concept kitchen with all the upgrades including a butler's pantry & oversized island. Upstairs an additional 5 spacious bedrooms plus 2 open lofts. Huge backyard for creating your own paradise.



\$1,190,000

Basement Home In Gated Community

On a private lush greenbelt lot w/mountain views, private gated courtyard entry, open concept floor plan, beamed ceilings and a disappearing wall of glass to the stunning backyard – pool w/water feature and shell lock patio. Over 5300 sq/ft.



\$590,000

Ray Ranch Estates

Ray and Kyrene, 3700 sq/ft, pool, 4 car garage. Granite kitchen, white plantation shutters, large bonus/game room, den, 4 bedrooms. Kyrene and Corona Del Sol Schools.



\$965,000

Gated Greystone

Featuring updated kitchen with high end appliances, fabulous master bedroom and bath. Hardwood and Italian Marble floors, lush landscape, spacious patio, gazebo with amazing outdoor kitchen, heated pool. Over 4500 sq/ft.



\$525,000

Semi-Custom Home

Over 2800 sq/ft and located in desirable neighborhood. Gated courtyard w/10 ft front door, gourmet kitchen w/ granite, tile backsplash, SS appliances & upgraded staggered cabinets. Plantation shutters T/O, travertine tile and upgraded carpet. Backyard w/stamped concrete, oversized patio, BBQ grill station plus a heated pool. Great for entertaining.



\$685,000

Pheasant Ridge

Quality custom home with RV garage, oversized lot with pool. Parking for 7 cars! 3800 sq/ft recent updates. No HOA!



\$525,000

Desirable Private Interior Lot

Hardwood & travertine flooring, stone fireplace in formal living area, soaring ceilings. Completely remodeled kitchen w/white cabinets, granite counters, SS appliances w/gas stove. Spiral staircase to bedrooms & loft – over 3500 sq/ft. Sparkling pool & grass area. Freshly painted interior & exterior.