



WRANGLER NEWS

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YEA OR NEIGH . . . A CONTROVERSIAL ZONING QUESTION INVOLVING HORSE PATHS IN SOUTH TEMPE WILL GO BEFORE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHETHER A NEW BLOCK WALL CAN STAY OR MUST BE REMOVED. STORY & MORE, PAGES 12-13

Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

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Three of this year's Don Carlos Awards recipients, clockwise from left, Woody Wilson, Nathaniel Thompson, Daniela Chavira. Awards will be presented at 37th annual ceremony on Oct. 14.

Honorees named for Tempe's revered Don Carlos Awards

Editor's note: Five recipients will be recognized with this year's prestigious Don Carlos Awards, paying tribute to the memorable contributions made by these honorees to their community's human-service initiatives. Stories by Lee Shappell and Joyce Coronel describe the work by three of the 2020 award winners. Details about the other two will appear in our next issue.

Woody Wilson

By Lee Shappell

With his typical self-deprecating humor, Woody Wilson, the 37th recipient of the Don Carlos Humanitarian Award presented by Tempe Community Council, mused that at least his selection will not negatively impact attendance at the awards ceremony Oct. 14.

That's because this year it will be presented virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"And I won't have to lose 20 pounds to fit into a suit," Wilson said.

TCC announced the winner of what is regarded as Tempe's most prestigious distinction, sponsored by Salt River Project, in early August.

Don't let Wilson's penchant for poking fun at himself belie his many civic accomplishments. The Don Carlos recognition, named after Tempe founder Charles Trumbull Hayden, known affectionately by Hispanic pioneers at the time as "Don Carlos," honors individuals who have made Tempe a better place to live through impactful and lasting work that addresses human-service needs.

"It's kind of an out-of-body experience," said Wilson, 73. "I'm humbled, for sure. When I got the phone call from (TCC Board Chair) Tammy Reed, it never entered my mind that's what she was calling about. It's an exclusive group. I'm delirious about it.

"Everybody dreams of winning the Don Carlos, but I never thought I'd win it."

Wilson and recipients in four other categories will be honored: TCC Impact

—WOODY, Page 6



Nathaniel Thompson Daniela Chavira

By Joyce Coronel

As thousands of freshmen embark on their college careers at Arizona universities, two of them will stand out as having been named recipients of the Young Humanitarian Scholarship and Award.

The annual distinction is bestowed by

the Tempe Community Council through a grant from the Ramsey Social Justice Foundation.

Nathaniel Thompson, a Corona del Sol grad, and Karla Daniela Salazar Chavira, who graduated from Tempe High, each will receive a one-time gift of \$2,000 to be used for tuition or other expenses in support of their college education.

Cindy Kominska, executive director

—TEENS, Page 6



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Staying indoors cramping your style? Take your art to the park

Artists take note: the city of Tempe's ever-popular Arts in the Parks program is back this fall with physically distanced activities that will bring art and culture into four neighborhood parks.

This year's parks are South Tempe's Harelson, located in Warner Ranch, as well as Selleh, Daley and Hudson.

Neighbors living near each park can select in-person arts activities that fall into these categories:

Painting in the Park; Temporary Art Installation; Music and Theater; and Dance Performance.

Several ideas have been proposed for each. Residents will vote on these ideas to determine the final activity selections.

Ideas range from painting workshops to interactive theater parades to digital



A 2017 Arts in the Park event drew Tempe residents for an afternoon of painting for kids, displays by local artists and live music. — Wrangler News file photo by Kody Acevedo

photo collages and scavenger hunts.

Activities will be staggered, held on

different days, or spaced out to maintain physical distancing guidelines and

help ensure the safety of community members.

Neighborhood residents can make their selections by taking a survey at tempe.gov/ArtsintheParks.

The deadline is Sunday, Sept. 6.

Arts in the Parks is a city-wide program that brings the arts to several communities in Tempe throughout the year in the form of festivals and arts activities.

The program is initiated by residents and reflects the identity and values of the park's community.

Parks are selected based on resident input, geographic diversity, and park renovation schedules. This year's parks were selected for last year, however events were postponed as a result of COVID-19.



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Woody

From Page 3

Award to Tempe Empty Bowls; Volunteer of the Year to Amela Duric; and Young Humanitarian Scholarship and Awards to Tempe High grad Karla Daniela Salazar Chavira and Corona del Sol High grad Nathaniel Thompson.

Wilson, founder and president of Lakeshore Music, a nonprofit that presents an annual jazz-concert series at Tempe Center for the Arts, made wide-ranging impact in Tempe that enriched, improved and advanced the community.

Among his accomplishments:

Appointment to the Tempe Leadership Program; co-founding Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors to assist older adults in the community; activism on the city's Neighborhood Advisory Commission; past president of Tempe Community Council; advisory board member of Tempe Community Foundation; past Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation president and manager of fundraising to save the Rose Eisendrath House; and tirelessly working with former City Council members Pam Goronkin and Barb Carter two years ago to pass Proposition 417, an arts tax that

All these years went by in a flash. But really what it was about was the people . . .

— *Woody Wilson*

permanently extends a one-tenth of 1 percent sales tax to funds arts and cultural programs in the city.

At a time when political ideology sharply divides the country and often hampers efforts to affect positive change, Wilson, a Republican working largely with Democrats in a Democrat-controlled city, reflects how much good can be done when politics is checked at the door.

“Woody Wilson absolutely embodies the humanitarian spirit of the Don Carlos Awards,” awards chair Reed said. “From helping ensure that our seniors can age in place, to promoting arts and culture in our community, to working to preserve Tempe history, Woody is a tireless advocate and consensus builder who always knows how to get things done.”

Wilson calls the rehabilitation of Eisendrath House and survival of Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors his proudest achievements.

“The things I’m involved in are things that I feel passionately about,” Wilson said. “Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors, when we started it years ago, was just to help older people take care of their yards. We would get together on a Saturday morning and go do an older person’s yard and take care of the weeds—things that they couldn’t do anymore.

“And it sort of evolved into a relationship with the city and their code-enforcement program. If older people would get a code violation, we would go help. It was strictly a volunteer effort and we just kept adding more volunteers.”

Demand got so big, Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors needed help. Kate Hanley, then head of

the TCC, helped the group land a grant from the Maricopa Association of Governments to expand the program into more areas that would help senior citizens who were homebound or not able to look after themselves, according to Wilson.

“We became part of agency review at the city that qualified for city grants and we were able to hire somebody to run the program,” Wilson said.

“Then about two years ago, we decided that we needed a bigger partner if it was really going to be effective, and we merged with Tempe Community Action Agency.

“We saw early on that older people who are aging in place really need help. They’re often isolated with no family. They’re having a hard time paying bills. They’re unable to look after themselves. You don’t hear about them much. So many more seniors are served now than before in a way that is more effective and better for the community. This need is only going to get bigger. Tempe is aware that there are a lot more older people who are going to need these services in the years to come. We’re geared up for it in Tempe.”

Historic preservation is another of Wilson’s passions. His project for Class 21 of Tempe Leadership was raising funds for the Eisendrath Project, which was partnering with the Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation, of which Wilson ultimately became president. Then former Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman appointed Wilson to the Rio Salado Foundation, which spearheaded rehabilitation of the property.

The 2018 arts tax creates funding to build, operate and maintain city art centers. It was first approved by voters in 2000 and would have expired Dec. 30 of this year if not extended. Before the pandemic, it was estimated to generate about \$8 million annually. It helps the city expand its arts program to South Tempe, as well as operating and maintaining four historic properties, the history museum and Tempe Center for the Arts.

Wilson said that his work on the arts tax, coupled with his jazz series at TCA and being a principal in Cuba Rhythm and Views, which conducts cultural tours of Cuba each year, make this year’s Don Carlos Award, in his words, “a crossover.”

“For me, it’s a crossover between the arts and the community engagement and human-services part,” he said. “I work in both worlds. As I read it, this year this award is for someone who contributes to the community in a general way with things I created or helped create in other areas, not just on the human-service side.”

Finally, Wilson gives a shout out to the people with whom he worked on various projects.

“All these years went by in a flash,” Wilson said. “But really what it was about was the people—people like Kate Hanley and Gary Roberts (Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors Board) and Hugh Hallman and members of Council.

“There are dozens of people in Tempe who do this job every day and I was always lucky enough to work with the best people. Tempe has been so good to me and allowed me to do the things that I really enjoy doing.”

Now, Wilson said, he will occupy a unique place in Tempe history:

“I’ll have the designation of being the first virtual Don Carlos recipient—and hopefully the last.”

Teens

From Page 3

of Tempe Community Council, noted that the award is generally only given to one graduate each year.

“It is unprecedented we had two candidates this year, but the selection committee felt both Nathaniel and Daniela were both deserving of the award and made it possible to honor both,” Kominska said.

The scholarship and award were created to support young humanitarians who have passion, dedication and commitment to make a change for the better in their community. Those who win the award are service-minded leaders who are deeply committed to public service and to improving the lives of others.

Nathaniel has been volunteering with the special-needs community since he was in third grade through programs like Special Olympics, Best Buddies and Peer Tutoring.

As part of his efforts to serve, Nathaniel built wheelchair-accessible planter boxes on wheels for participants in Tempe’s Life Skills Enrichment Afterschool Program.

The planters are inclusive in many ways, he said, because any individual can participate no matter their ability level.

Thompson was able to donate over \$2,400 worth of adaptive recreational equipment through his fundraising efforts.

The donations include planting supplies, tools, seeds, cooking equipment and utensils, books, puzzles, technology (iPads, tablets and Fire Sticks) and sensory tools and toys used for learning activities that can further support education and adaptive learning within LEAP.

Nathaniel will use his scholarship toward his studies at Arizona State University and plans to continue serving the community while in school by establishing a program that provides ASU students with opportunities to support and better understand the special

needs community. He’s hoping his fellow students will come to see that one person at a time can make a real difference for an underserved community.

“My hope is that this program would connect experienced volunteers with students who are looking to get involved in providing community service and help them to learn more about this amazing group of people,” Nathaniel said. “My dream would be for the program to create a welcoming, encouraging, and comfortable atmosphere for interested potential volunteers that in return would increase the amount of ASU students that support and engage with the community.”

Nathaniel, a Barrett Honors College student, plans to study supply chain management at ASU’s W.P. Carey School of Business.

Daniela, the other Young Humanitarian Scholarship and Award recipient, is a Grand Canyon University student studying mechanical engineering. Like Nathaniel, she plans to continue serving the community.

As an undocumented person, she knows what it is like to have to advocate for herself on a daily basis and that you can’t go down without a fight. She believes this is the biggest reason why she is committed to service, as she grew up doing everything on her own and giving back allows her the right to be there for someone through their struggles.

“Throughout high school, I volunteered any way I could, whether it was by offering my translating services to the families of the incoming freshman or by advocating for in-state tuition for Arizona Dreamers with Aliento,” Daniela said.

Volunteering allowed her to grow as a person, in ways she could have never imagined. “Community service has become a very important part of my life and most importantly who I am,” Daniela said.

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Emergency housing for city's vulnerable earns U.S. honor

By Susie Steckner

On any given night in Tempe, more than 200 people lack shelter. This statistic prompted the Tempe Public Housing Authority and CARE 7, the city's crisis response program, to develop three units of emergency housing.

For the success of this initiative, Tempe is being recognized nationally for two housing programs that provide emergency shelter to vulnerable residents and expand job opportunities to those in need.

The city's Housing Services Department has received awards of merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials as part of an annual competition open to all public housing authorities.

In addition, the department is a finalist for another national award from the Urban Land Institute recognizing innovative approaches to addressing the country's affordable housing crisis.

Said Mayor Corey Woods:

"We are thrilled to be recognized by these ...organizations for our work serving residents in need in Tempe.

"But the real honor is in helping a senior find safe and affordable housing or connecting a single parent with better job opportunities or working with a family to become financially independent.

"These success stories are what drive us to expand and innovate to meet more needs in our



community."

NAHRO honored 88 housing and community development agencies for their forward-thinking solutions to local housing issues that include beautifully designed buildings, resident services, employment and work skills development programs, public-private partnerships and innovative design projects.

The Awards of Merit given to housing services, part of the city's Human Services Department, recognized two important initiatives: the emergency housing program and the workforce development program.

The units serve extremely vulnerable residents who would otherwise remain on the streets while awaiting shelter, safe housing and supportive

services.

To date, the program has served 54 households and 88 percent have successfully transitioned to stable housing and greater self-sufficiency.

Participants in all of Tempe's housing programs have household incomes that fall within the extremely low and very low range of area median income, according to a program spokesperson.

Despite receiving rental assistance, the households struggle to increase self-sufficiency. Through the Tempe Housing Workforce Development program, a partnership with Maricopa County, nearly 170 participants have received workforce-related services.

Housing services, in partnership with community development and economic development, is also a finalist for the 2020 Urban Land Institute's Larson Housing Policy Leadership Award, which recognizes innovative public sector solutions to the nation's affordable housing crisis.

According to ULI, Tempe is notably looking outside the "federal funds" box to create boutique programs that provide a wide range of services and rent subsidies in the community.

The city's Affordable Housing Strategy, meanwhile, is aimed at smart growth and helping ensure that development is more predictable for developers and residents. ULI's Leadership Award winner will be announced in October.

Info: tempe.gov/Housing.



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Intel joins effort to provide \$5m pandemic aid to area schoolkids

Intel's 12,000 Arizona-based employees, many of whom live in West Chandler, are sharing their pride this month as a result of technology initiatives designed to help students navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A combined \$5 million contribution from Intel, CDW-G and the LEGO Foundation will provide personal computers, software, configuration services and digital learning resources, as well as stipends of \$4,000 to each awarded district to address home internet connectivity for students in need.

Additionally, LEGO is donating \$2 million to support STEAM learning at home and in school. Arizona schools will receive a total of 2,450 personal computers and 1,930 LEGO education solutions.

According to Elizabeth Shipley, Intel Arizona director of public affairs, the closure of schools in March exacerbated an existing crisis in education for children across the country, including in Arizona.

In fact, she noted, a nationwide survey of nearly half a million educators, released at the end of July, shows close to 40 percent of U.S. children do not

have reliable internet service or access to functioning personal computers to enable remote learning.

Seven school districts in Arizona, including Chandler Unified, will share in the grant.

Kathy Hoffman, state superintendent of public instruction, said:

"Arizona educators have stepped up in incredible ways to support their students during this time, but it will take a comprehensive community approach to make sure our students can learn and grow this school year, wherever they are..."

Added Shipley:

"Our community is facing challenges unlike any we have seen before. Intel is committed to accelerating access to technology to support Arizona students and support our community."

In addition to this, she said, Intel and the Intel Foundation announced in April a donation of \$1 million to the Arizona Community Foundation to bolster their efforts to support non-profits across the state providing direct assistance to economically vulnerable individuals and families impacted by COVID-19.

Valley Metro taking aggressive measures to help ensure safety

By Joyce Coronel

As deaths from COVID-19 continue their downward trend in Arizona and students return to college, Valley Metro wants riders to know it's doing everything it can to keep customers safe while they travel to and from their destinations.

It's a tall order but one Valley Metro seeks to fulfill.

Susan Tierney, communications manager for the transit company, says regularly scheduled cleaning processes for buses, light rail and public spaces continue, but cleaning and disinfection regimens have been enhanced.

"We are now utilizing fogging on both buses and light rail vehicles," Tierney said.

Fogging is an anti-viral, anti-bacterial vapor misting system that disinfects large spaces, resulting in longer, residual cleanings. Buses are fogged three times each week. On the days when they are not fogged, Tierney said, high-touch areas such

as stanchions, hand and seat rails, are cleaned with an anti-viral solution.

Light rail trains are fogged once a month using a two-step process that last longer, Tierney noted. First, they are fogged with a sanitizing solution and then fogged with a barrier solution that lasts for about a month. High touch areas on light rail vehicles are cleaned with an anti-viral solution each day.

All light rail stations, fare vending machines, handrails, water fountains, call boxes, seats and armrests are disinfected daily with an anti-viral solution. Paratransit vehicles are being cleaned with a broad-spectrum disinfectant nightly. Drivers are also wiping down high-touch areas with disinfectant throughout the day.

In light of all the precautions, are people still afraid to ride?

"Ridership remains constant over the past few months, however, ridership tends to be seasonal, with summer and the hottest times of the year having fewer riders," Tierney said.

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Lightning up the night

When photographer Billy Hardiman sends us spectacular weather shots, which he does quite often, we know they're likely taken from the near-skyscraper elevation of his Tempe Town Lake-facing apartment. This time, though, he trekked downstairs to the shores of nearby Tempe Beach Park to once again capture what his photography-impassioned counterparts might have considered unobtainable. This shot, taken during a recent dark and stormy night, proved that the electronic legerdemon of an entire downtown couldn't compete with Mother Nature. Only a helicopter might have offered a better angle. But stay tuned: that story may be yet to come.



A 20-minute time-lapse composite taken from the base of Tempe Town Lake looking east under unusually heavy dust conditions.

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Reservations open for Tempe fields, courts . . . with guidelines

Reservations are now being accepted for city of Tempe athletic fields and volleyball courts.

New restrictions are in place to help keep participants and spectators safe as the city continues to carefully reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tempe is using county, state and federal recommendations to develop its reopening strategy. The city is also implementing specific protocols established by state sports organizations.

Face coverings must be worn at all times unless the player is actively participating in a game.

There is a maximum of 50 participants per athletic field and 10 participants per volleyball court.

This includes players, referees and coaches. Spectators must maintain 6 feet of distance at all times and



Tempe Sports Complex

— Wrangler News photo

stay off the field or court.

Socializing on the field/court or in the parking lot before or after the activity is not allowed.

Vendors are also not permitted.

Close-contact sports games will not be allowed, though drills and practices can occur as long as safety protocols can be followed.

Residents interested in reserving an athletic field or volleyball court can visit the reservations webpage for links to applications and instructions.

Additionally, Tempe's multi-generational centers and Kiwanis Recreation Center have reopened with physical distancing, cleaning and capacity guidelines.

Remaining closed are Pyle Adult Recreation Center, Edna Vihel Arts Center, Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe City Hall and Tempe History Museum.

Information: tempe.gov/reopening for up-to-date details.



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Block wall spurs uproar as riders mount protest with Tempe

By Joyce Coronel

A palomino raises its head to study the two strangers striding down the bridle path that wends its way past dozens of horse properties. It's a scorching hot afternoon and ponies stand quietly in the shade of an enormous ash tree while a deer and languid llamas cast their gaze on the horizon.

This isn't a ranch town in Montana. It's South Tempe, home to several neighborhoods that boast acre lots and a secluded rural lifestyle that forms an oasis in the midst of an otherwise busy corner of suburbia.

Patti Lines bought her home in Sunburst Farms two years ago. "I did everything I could to be in this neighborhood," Lines said. That included pooling all her resources to pay cash for the home she says is "a piece of crap" she wouldn't have been able to obtain a loan for. It wasn't about the house—it was about the horse.

"This is irrigated property and so I have a green patch for my horse to graze in. I have trails to ride on and I'm close to everything," Lines said. "It's a very peaceful feel here."

Cheryl Rogers owns three horses and has lived in Sunburst Farms since 1982. She said she uses the equestrian trail that passes through the area twice a week.

Recently something cropped up on the bridle path that caught her attention. It wasn't a cluster of wild flowers. An almost seven-foot block wall built by a

resident of Shady Lane Estates now impinges on the equestrian trail. Many Sunburst Farms residents fear the wall could set a precedent that endangers their rural way of life.

Rogers says she attended Tempe City Council meetings back in 1995 when the developer of Shady Lane Estates proposed his project.

"We said, 'It's not a good idea to put non-horse properties surrounded by horse properties because they are not going to like the flies and the dust,'" Lines said.

Dust and traffic are the two concerns cited by a surveyor who dealt with the City of Tempe on behalf of his client, a resident of Shady Lane Estates who wanted to build the block wall. The wall is built just inside the resident's property line but subtracts 10 feet of width from the bridle path that flanks the lot.

Rogers finds the complaints of dust and traffic ironic. "The developer said, 'That's why they moved here, because they want the rural atmosphere. They want to be in this agricultural atmosphere.' But then they put walls around it." She says she's heard residents of Sunburst Farms voice a notion she finds disquieting:

"I've heard a couple neighbors say, 'Yeah, I'd love to block off the bridle path and have that piece of property,'" Rogers recounted.

Tempe City Councilmember Jennifer Adams lives in South Tempe and frequently rides her horse on the trail. After hearing from numerous residents of the area about the newly constructed wall that encroaches on a stretch

of the path, she organized a Zoom meeting between the city's attorney, city staff and worried neighbors. Councilmember Doreen Garlid and representatives of the Buena Vista Ranchos HOA and Calle de Caballos HOA were also in on the meeting as the bridle path continues into their neighborhoods.

"It's really kind of a mess. A lot of these people lived there then and they didn't want this Shady Lanes development in the first place. So they went to the council meetings," Adams said.

"I would never have approved that. You've got big estates in the middle of horse property—that's just not a good fit in my opinion."

Adams said she took residents' concerns to the Tempe City Council and asked for the issue to be placed on the executive-session agenda to "see what we can do to stop further situations like this."

Matt Schmehl, another Sunburst Farms resident, is similarly concerned about the new block wall.

"Even though he's not taking the entire bridle path, what he sets potentially is a dangerous precedent," Schmehl said.

"If we let him take that portion of the easement with no action, then that sets a precedent that could let other homeowners take back their easement with no consequences. And if we start losing portions of our bridle path, that impacts all of our property values and



Bridle trials

Clockwise starting on page 12: The bridle path that winds through South Tempe draws horse lovers and families who call the secluded area home; Rebecca Owens rides the path several times a week, depending on the weather; Christa Zamora, a Sunburst Farms resident, stands across from one of the paths; Jennifer Adams, an area resident and city councilmember, rides alongside other horse aficionados concerned about the new block wall on the path; Matt Schmehl stands near the wall he says sets a precedent that may change the secluded neighborhood's lifestyle and lead to a decline in area property values.

— Photos by
Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News



Wall

From Page 12

the lifestyle that people like in this neighborhood.”

Schmehl provided Wrangler News with a string of emails between Jim Flack, the commercial surveyor hired by the homeowner who had the block wall built, and officials from the City of Tempe, that details the months-long time frame leading up to the building of the wall.

In a December 5, 2019, email to Flack from Kathy Pettigrew, real estate management coordinator for community development and building safety in Tempe, Pettigrew explains that “Shady Lane Estates was carved out of an area where equestrian paths and uses were already in place, causing the City to require the subdivision to be conditioned to continue to be subject to them. The City would have no authority to abandon any portion of that path as it is not a public easement nor right of way, and I have no evidence that the City has any property interest nor authority to regulate the path.”

Months later, in a March 2 email from Deputy Director of Planning for Tempe Ryan Levesque, Flack was told: “You are seeking to abandon an easement, but because the city required the easement at

the time of the zoning action (condition of approval). The reversal of a condition of zoning would require going through the very same process that the condition was placed on the property (an ordinance through a public hearing). I don’t believe there is support for such a request, as staff would be the recommending body.”

In an Aug. 17 email from Larry Heywood of Heywood Management, the company that manages Shady Lanes Estates, to Christa Zamaora, a Sunburst Farms resident, Heywood said the development’s architectural committee did not object to the building of the wall “as long as the owner of lot 7 adhered to any restrictions by the City of Tempe or any other approvals required...if there are easements on a lot, compliance with the requirements of any such easements are the responsibility of the lot owner.”

A plat map, available from the Maricopa County Assessor’s office, shows the property details of the Shady Lanes subdivision and contains clear references to the bridle path easement.

— WALL, Page 18



Following a hurried, labor-intensive effort to reopen a collapsed bridge in downtown Tempe, the first train to venture across took a tentative trial run.

A bridge to history, plus how engineers worked their magic to keep it going

Editor's note: Just as trains occasionally go off the track, newspapers sometimes do, too. Such was the case with the story in our last edition in which Harry Mitchell and Michael Monti shared memories of the iconic Salt River Union Pacific Bridge, which was damaged in a July 29 freight-train derailment. A small derailment in our own offices caused only the first half of that story to get into print. While it has appeared in its entirety at wranglernews.com, we repeat the story here, in its entirety, for our print readers, along with fresh photos by Billy Hardiman capturing the Herculean efforts that got trains back on track and over the bridge quickly.

Story by Lee Shappell
Photography by Billy Hardiman

Smoke from the iconic Salt River Union Pacific Bridge in Tempe on July 29 was considerably heavier than what Harry Mitchell remembers from the steam locomotives that powered trains across it during his youth.

"I remember that bridge because my dad was an engineer for Southern Pacific for 34 years," said Mitchell,

North side of Tempe Town Lake now open Park and lake users have more access as train bridge repairs are completed

All areas on the north side Tempe Town Lake that had been closed due to the July 29 train derailment are now open. Boat Beach, Lakeview Drive and the sidewalk are accessible to park and lake users.

The closures on the south side of the lake will remain in effect so the Union Pacific team can remove debris and repair

rights-of-way that were damaged by the bridge collapse.

Those areas include the Rio Salado Parkway and the Beach Park parking lot off Ash Avenue. Additionally, the park sidewalk from Beach Park to Elmore Pedestrian Bridge will remain closed and pedestrians and bicyclists will not be able to pass through.

Lake users must continue to stay east of the yellow floating boom line at all times.

These areas have been closed since a Union Pacific train derailment near Tempe Beach Park. For more information about that, visit tempe.gov/RailroadBridge.

an iconic figure himself in Tempe history. "I remember crossing that bridge on trains many times because we used to take the train to California and back East."

Michael Monti said he never crossed it, not on a train and certainly not on foot.

"My mom put the fear of death in me in doing something like walking across that bridge," said Monti, whose family also played a significant role in the city's 20th-century history. "Now, I wish I had."

He does recall helping a friend yank his stuck 1968 Oldsmobile out of the sand in the riverbed under the bridge.

"My closest brush with an unruly keg party," Monti said.

Anyone who has lived in Tempe for any time likely has a story about the bridge, built in 1912. While neither Mitchell nor Monti went to the scene after learning of the freight-train derailment on July 29 that caused heavy fire and smoke and destroyed the southern end of the structure, they said news of the tragedy stirs memories.

Union Pacific on Aug. 2 blew up the unstable southernmost 150 feet of the bridge and plans to rebuild it.

The bridge, built the year Arizona became a state,

has stood through floods that destroyed three previous bridges on the site. It weathered massive floods in 1978 and 1980, when it, the Mill Avenue Bridge and Central Avenue Bridge were the only Salt crossings in the Valley that survived.

Mitchell, who turned 80 last month, was a Tempe High civics teacher, City Councilman, Tempe Mayor, state senator and former U.S. Representative in the state's 5th Congressional District. His son, Mark, recently ended an eight-year run as mayor. A large statue of Harry Mitchell stands just off Mill Avenue, next to City Hall and the other buildings comprising the Harry E. Mitchell Municipal Complex.

"When we built Kiwanis Park, that little bridge that crosses near the lake was symbolic of that railroad bridge," Mitchell said. "There's one part we never finished from the master plan for that park. There was a stream that was going to go underneath that bridge into the lake but it never was finished, but it was inspired by the railroad bridge."

Mitchell says Tempe was founded where it is because it is the narrowest point along the river, where Charles Trumbull Hayden operated a ferry in the 1870s that carried passengers and cargo when the water was high. The crossing was so important to the settlement on the south bank that it initially was named Hayden's Ferry. The butte was a landmark that guided travelers to the narrowest point to ford the river when water was low and safe to cross without a boat.

Also, with the butte nearby, there is bedrock, which proved helpful in securing bridges years later.

"That's why you have those five bridges there so close together – the railroad bridge, the two Mill Avenue automobile bridges, the old Ash Avenue Bridge and the light-rail bridge over the Salt – because there's bedrock," Mitchell said.

For nearly six decades, Monti's family owned Monti's La Casa Vieja Restaurant, on Mill on the southern bank of the river. The historic adobe building was built in 1873 and was the home of Hayden and his wife, Sally. Their son, Carl Hayden, was born there in 1877. Carl went on to become one of Arizona's most beloved politicians, serving in the U.S. House for 15 years and then in the U.S. Senate for 42 more. Monti's dad, Leonard, bought the building in 1954. In 1984, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Michael Monti, 53, took over the family restaurant in 1993. It closed in 2014.

The city has restored 11,000 square feet of the Hayden House at Monti's behest. Missing is the memorabilia from the Monti years. It no longer resembles the building that patrons of the restaurant knew. The railroad bridge is easily visible from the building.

"Definitely, that bridge was another fixture of life in downtown Tempe, especially for those of us who grew up around there before Tempe Town Lake," Monti said. "It is easy to forget that the railroad was the equivalent of the airlines and the interstate highway rolled into one. It was the lifeblood of commerce, what the railroad could bring you and where it could take you, before the age of the automobile and the airplane."

The Montis had two large framed photos of an early 1900s Salt River railroad bridge collapse on a wall in the restaurant.



"Those were always fascinating to people and it seemed like an inconceivable disaster," Monti said. "It seemed like something that could happen in the Old West, and now here it has happened again today. If you had anything shipped to you, if you had any supplies coming, if you had any family coming, they probably came over the bridge and you would go down to the train station, which became Depot Cantina. It was a big deal."

During the 1980 flood, Amtrak ran a shuttle train across the railroad bridge from Mesa to Tempe to Phoenix dubbed the "Hattie B" – in honor of then-Gov. Bruce Babbitt's wife.

"All those other bridges, even the freeway bridge, were sinking," Mitchell said. "How in the world do they build a bridge in sand without a bedrock?"

Monti said the traffic bottleneck on Mill over the bridge nearly put his father out of business.

"He was in a terrible mood for months because nobody would want to drive down to the restaurant when the whole area was absolutely strangled with traffic," Monti said. "I have a vivid memory of the promise of the relief of that commuter train over the railroad bridge to ease traffic. That was very welcome to our family."

"They stopped building Mickey Mouse bridges and figured out how to build a bridge that wouldn't wash away when there was actually water in the river. And now we have light rail. The Hattie B was kind of ahead of its time."

As was the 108-year-old iconic Salt River Union Pacific Bridge.



Top: Workers lower a replacement segment into place on the 108-year-old Salt River Union Pacific Bridge over Tempe Town Lake. Above: A derailment on July 29 destroyed the southernmost 150 feet of the span. That segment was blown up on Aug. 2 and quickly cleared so that reconstruction could begin immediately.



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Tempe Chamber Leadership Conference Celebrates 25 Years

Celebrating its 25th year, the 2020 Leadership Conference & Expo will be a live broadcast event on Friday, September 18, 2020 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. This annual event, organized by the Women in Business Council and presented by Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, will provide attendees an opportunity to glean inspiration from female leaders from various industries and learn how they have navigated social movements throughout their career.

The morning will open with a compelling panel of female "trailblazers" in their field who will share their inspiring stories and provide insightful take-aways from their career journey. The morning will also include a powerful one-on-one interview with gymnastic champion, military veteran, and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Leah Brown.

The Tempe Chamber is extremely proud to also host U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Suzanne Clark who will share the initial policy agenda for the U.S. Chamber Equality of Opportunity program and how businesses, small or large, can help close race-based opportunity gaps.

This event will also include a virtual exposition and a two-week online silent auction which helps support the chamber's mission. Sponsorship and registration are available at tempechamber.org or email us at events@tempechamber.org.



Suzanne Clark
President at US Chamber of Commerce

Leah Brown, MD
Orthopaedic Surgeon at Tempe St Luke's Hospital

Jonae Harrison
Equity & Inclusion Manager at City of Tempe



Sylvia Moir
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Lorraine Bergman
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This October, the Tempe Chamber is proud to host it's first six-month Business Academy where participants will receive training in various business disciplines including marketing, human resources and finance. To learn more, visit the Business Academy landing page at tempechamber.org.



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In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tempe has a mask requirement in public places and encourages physical distancing, hand washing and sanitizing surfaces. For information on the city's coronavirus response efforts, visit tempe.gov/reopening, tempe.gov/coronavirus, or call Tempe 311 on weekdays at 480-350-4311.

Mayor Corey Woods establishes, will lead new public safety task force

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods will form and lead a new Public Safety Advisory Board to examine and innovate policing in the city.

Details were being developed in August and are expected to be announced soon.

Following up on his remarks during his July 2 swearing-in ceremony, Woods proposed the idea of a task force to his City Council colleagues at their Aug. 7 retreat.

The advisory group will focus on data, poli-

cies, hiring, use of technologies, training, and how the city engages with people who are black, Indigenous and people of color, and those with mental health challenges.

"Just as there is a robust national discussion on this topic and examinations happening in many cities across our country, so too is it time for Tempe to have collaborative discussions in this vitally important area," Woods said.

Woods' Public Safety Advisory Board



Corey Woods

would be a Mayoral advisory group that identifies and/or creates proactive policies designed to build trust, accountability and dialogue between the community and the

police department.

Its members will be identified by the Mayor and Council.

Woods has said he would like the group to have representation from residents, reform groups, the faith community and Tempe Police representatives.

The initiative is separate but related in ways to the city's new The Right to Breathe initiative, which will employ a holistic, comprehensive approach to how Tempe can proactively bridge

the gap of opportunity for its youth of color and those in vulnerable communities.

The group, which will be comprised of community members and city staff identified by the Mayor and Council, will consider systemic solutions aimed at redressing structures that lead to inequity and discriminatory practices.

This initiative was first approved by the Council in June and more information is at tempe.gov/diversity.

Roadmap to conversations about race

The topics of race and race relations are everywhere today. The City of Tempe, Arizona State University

and Tech Data have come together to create a roadmap to help us have meaningful discussions with each other.

This effort includes a video for you to watch with friends, coworkers and family — Where to Begin: A Roadmap to Understanding and Having Tough Conversations on Race.

This video features Mayor Corey Woods, ASU experts and Tech Data's diversity and inclusion director.

The video is available at tempe.gov/TempeRoadmap, where you will also find links to organizations, documentaries, TED Talks, podcasts, books, interviews and more to help explore this subject.

85283 residents:
Join Jennifer for a virtual chat Oct. 3

Councilmember Jennifer Adams is hosting another of her quarterly conversations with residents of various zip codes across Tempe.

Join her Saturday, Oct. 3, at 1 p.m. for a virtual meetup.

While topics will most interest those in 85283, everyone is welcome to bring their ideas and feedback. The WebEx link to

use to join the conversation is available at tempe.gov/adams.

For questions, contact Council Aide Alex Chin at 480-350-8545 or alex_chin@tempe.gov.

Fall registration is underway

Classes look different this year but we're confident you will find something for everyone in the family this fall.

Check out an array of virtual fitness, arts and

special interest classes. Limited in-person offerings are also available. Visit tempe.gov/play to see them all.

Golf Tempe: Buy One Get One Free

Golf Tempe invites you to take advantage of a Buy One Get One Free special from Sept. 1-30.

Buy one round of golf at Ken McDonald, get a free round at Rolling Hills.

Visit tempe.gov/Golf-Tempe for details.





Overhead view and illustrated diagram of area where wall has caused residents to appeal for help

An aerial photo of the section of land where a new, nearly 7-foot block wall that extends into the bridle path was constructed.

The blue line represents the property line of the Shady Lane Estates resident who had the wall built.

The path is visible just to the left of the blue line on the left side of the photo.

The original wall ran inside the area where the trees stand, but the new structure runs outside the line of trees, just inside the Shady Lane Estate resident's property line.

— Photo courtesy Matt Schmehl

Wall

From Page 13

Wrangler News attempted to obtain comments from the Shady Lane Estates resident who had the block wall constructed but at press time had received no response.

Schmehl wrote to the Tempe city council and mayor Aug. 14 outlining his concerns. In 1995 when the Shady Lane Estates developer sought a variance, an agreement was struck that "Shady Lane would contribute and maintain a portion of horse path on their border. At that time the south Tempe homeowners were encouraged

by city staff to agree to the variances and accept this compromise. It was expressed to the staff at that time that it was important to maintain the rural setting that is unique to South Tempe and we were assured by the city that the requirement to include the additional horse path and the trees within would do that," Schmehl says in his email. "The intent of these requirements was to buffer the existing AG zoned homes from exactly what is now occurring with the addition of the wall in the middle of the horse path."

In an email to Wrangler News, Nikki Ripley, communication and media relations manager for the City of Tempe, said city staff, including the code compliance manager, zoning administrator and city attorney, researched the recorded documents for Shady Lane Estates and determined the bridle path easement is

private. "City staff also visited the site and confirmed the wall under construction does not exceed 7 feet in height. As a result, the city does not have legal enforcement abilities for this private easement and the wall being constructed does not require a city permit," Ripley wrote.

Schmehl disagrees and says so in his email to the mayor and council.

"I believe the city does have authority in this matter. I suggest as one alternative you look to this as a zoning violation. Just as zoning would prohibit running a night club in a residential neighborhood, so should zoning prevent the homeowner from building a wall in an easement dedicated to the south Tempe equestrian community."

"I feel so bad for the residents," Adams said. "It's just not right."

W. Chandler parks included in Sept. 15 virtual meeting on city's proposed strategic master plan

Chandler is moving forward in a longterm process to create a 10-year guide for the city's park system, including locations in West Chandler.

Affected parks in the area include Nozomi, Desert Breeze and Windmills West, among others citywide.

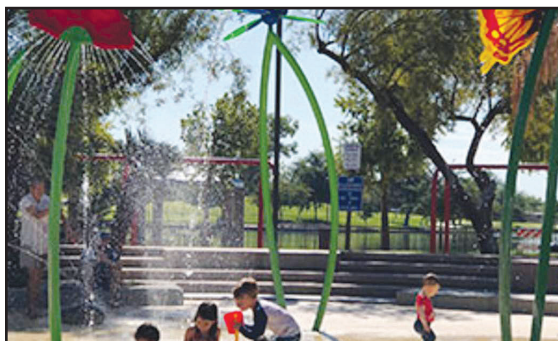
Planning for development of a parks strategic master plan takes the next step on Tuesday, Sept. 15, when residents citywide are being invited to attend a virtual community meeting.

The outcome of the meeting will be based on findings reported earlier from a community needs survey.

The teleconference, which begins at 6 p.m., is open to everyone who lives, works or plays in Chandler.

Participants must pre-register for the Zoom community meeting by visiting planchandlerparks.com and following the instructions.

The session is expected to last no longer than 90



Desert Breeze Park

— Photo visit Chandler.com

minutes.

An earlier public meeting, also a Zoom event, was held on June 23. These events are being held online to limit in-person contact in response to the covid-19 public health emergency while still enabling questions and sug-

gestions to be submitted and responded to in real time.

According to a press release announcing the session, Chandler has a longstanding commitment to developing and maintaining a quality parks system that delivers a variety of safe and well-maintained outdoor recreational amenities and open spaces.

Chandler's existing parks system is comprised of 67 developed parks totaling 1,281 acres.

As the city nears completion of its remaining undeveloped parkland and prioritizes the maintenance and refurbishment of existing facilities, the new master plan will be designed to help position Chandler as a place that provides an exceptional quality of life.

Prior to the teleconference call, participants can visit planchandlerparks.com to learn more about the purpose of the plan, the project timeline including key events, presentations and reports, as well as frequently asked questions and the ways to share ideas and opinions.

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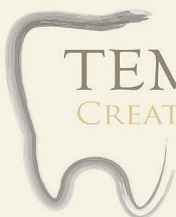
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Corey Woods

Mayor Corey Woods appeared in a video to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Marcos de Niza High School and proclaimed Aug. 14 Celebrate Marcos de Niza Day.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Union High School District

Golden anniversary, rich history for Marcos de Niza H.S.

As a comparative latecomer to Tempe’s high school scene, Marcos de Niza might once have considered itself the youngster in the crowd.

That all changed this year, as the school celebrated its 50th anniversary by showing off a list of impressive achievements over the years, plus a proclamation signed by Tempe Mayor Corey Woods.

Marcos opened its doors in 1971 as the third entrant into the Tempe Union High School District, preceded by Tempe High School in 1909 and McClintock High in 1964.

With a current enrollment of 1,500 students, it primarily serves students in the central Tempe area and the town of Guadalupe.

As part of the observance, held Aug. 14, alumni and friends were encouraged to reach share photos, memories and stories of their days at the school, a selection of which were to be seen on social media sites and other communications throughout the coming year.

Marcos is said to also be partnering with Tempe History Museum to display historical photos and documents from the school and alumni on the museum’s social



Graduation ceremonies at Marcos de Niza High School.

— Billy Hardiman for 2015 Graduation Special Edition of Wrangler News

media platforms.

Principal Sarah Tolar noted that the history, the achievements, the sense of community and the traditions that have been established over the last half century at Marcos are unrivaled. For 50 years, she said, Marcos students, teachers and administration have been committed to excellence in academics, athletics and

extracurricular opportunities.

“We have a very diverse student population,” said Tolar. “Our Marcos community reflects a real-world environment, which is a huge asset for our students during their time with us. We are excited to celebrate this golden anniversary and hear from past students, teachers and community members.

“And we appreciate the city of Tempe joining with us to celebrate this special milestone.”

The anniversary celebration included a specially designated “Marcos de Niza Day,” with virtual events and other opportunities planned throughout the school year, as well as in-person events as soon as safety protocols allow.

Among Marcos’ notable programs and distinctions:

- Home of the Marcos Business Academy, in partnership with the ASU WP Carey School of Business;
- Home of the Marcos Fine Arts Academy, a unique program that integrates visual and performing arts with a college preparatory curriculum;
- Interdisciplinary research internships;
- Award-winning Student Council Program;
- 4-time wrestling state champions; 5-time runners up;
- Bronze-level awarded HOSA Chapter, 17 Bronze-level awarded individual members in 2015;
- Nationally ranked “We the People” team in 2013 and 2014; and
- JROTC Honor Unit with Distinction continuously since 1992.

Sunset branch library among Chandler go-to sites for job-related resources

For West Chandler residents looking for work, considering a career change or needing to develop new job skills, the area's Sunset branch library is a good place to start the search.

While the national unemployment rate has dropped in the last month, the COVID-19 public health crisis continues to affect local businesses and employment rates, according to Chandler officials.

Branches of the Chandler Public Library can provide resources and access to technology for those looking for a job or trying to make themselves more marketable to employers.

Said Librarian Ted Liebler:

"Chandler Library offers online and in-person options to patrons including virtual access to job and career resources along with 45-minute reservations to use computers, Wi-Fi and equipment to fax, copy, scan and print."

Those with a valid Chandler library card or eCard also have free access to digital resources that are accessible at any of the four library locations, or online from home, or on a mobile device.

Resources include Career Transitions, Learning Express Library, lyndaLibrary, ReferenceUSA and the Testing & Education Reference Center.

Users can browse career paths, assess their interests, take online training courses.

There are interactive questionnaires, resume and cover letter writing tips, practice tools for interview skills and more.

There's even a job search tool powered by Indeed.

The library also provides off-site links to assist those in a job search, including a link to PipelineAZ, which collaborates with the city of Chandler's Economic Development Department.

It also assists individuals in finding a job with Arizona employers who are hiring now, as well as helping with employment, education and financial resources to help navigate their careers in this time of uncertainty.

Information: chandlerlibrary.org / research-job-resources. A valid library or eCard is required.



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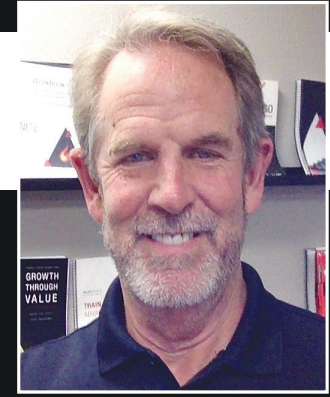


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