

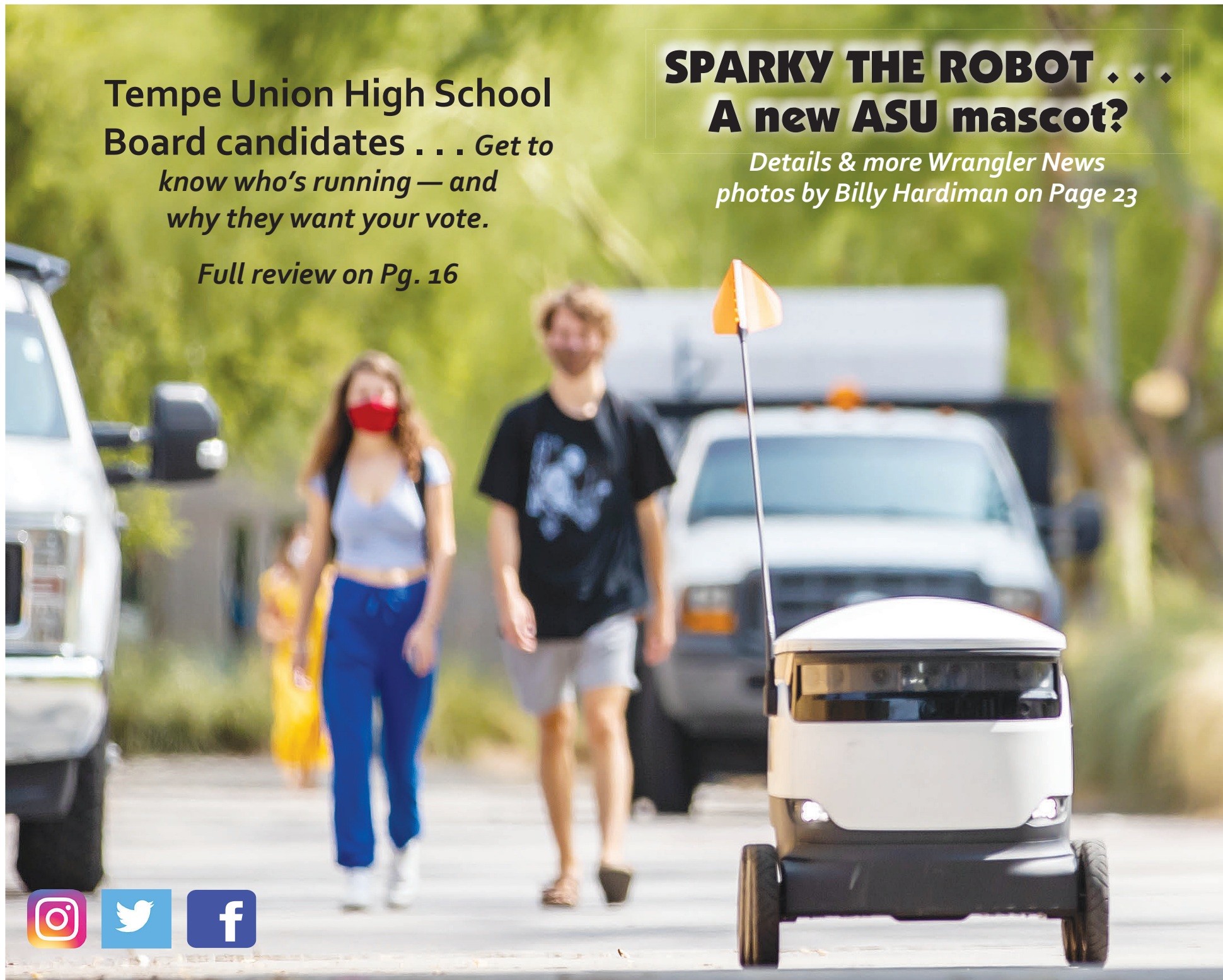


**Tempe Union High School Board candidates . . .** *Get to know who's running — and why they want your vote.*

*Full review on Pg. 16*

## **SPARKY THE ROBOT . . .** **A new ASU mascot?**

*Details & more Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman on Page 23*



*More stuff*



**200 jobs coming to Tempe**

As consumers continue to turn to online car buying, Carvana in Tempe is experiencing high demand. To address it, the company is looking for additional talent for its customer-care team. **Page 8**



**Exciting changes are here!**

As Wrangler News nears its 31st year, the number of folks who want to read each copy as it arrives has also grown. Learn some of the ways you're now able to find us almost anywhere you look. **Page 5**



**1-year term for interim TPD chief**

A recently retired Tempe police commander has been named interim chief of the department, succeeding Sylvia Moir, who retired from the post last week. **Page 3**

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# Retired Tempe commander, 20-year PD veteran, named interim chief

Tempe City Manager Andrew Ching has selected retired Tempe Police Commander Jeff Glover to serve for one year as Tempe's interim police chief beginning Oct. 12.

Glover, who retired in February after a 20-year career with Tempe Police, will be the city's first African American Police Chief. Ching said that Glover will bring expertise, enthusiasm and a desire to collaborate with the community to the new role.

According to the Tempe City Charter, it is the City Manager who has ultimate hiring authority for city employees, including hiring and management of the role of Police Chief. The City Council, according to the Charter, has no authority in any hiring and management decisions, except for the appointed employee roles of City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Presiding Judge.

"Jeff is a consummate professional who has impressive public safety credentials and experience, is well respected by residents and peers, and has a unique ability to collaborate and bring people together," Ching said. "I look forward to working with him and seeing what he brings to the Tempe Police Department."

The interim role is expected to last until October 2021. Next year, Ching will lead a public process to hire a permanent chief; the details about that process will be released in the future.



According to Glover's agreement as Interim Chief, he will be able to apply for the permanent role when it is officially opened.

Glover has a Bachelor's degree in Education from Northern Arizona University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix. He began as a Mesa Police patrol officer in 1998, and after

joining Tempe Police in 1999, Glover held increasingly responsible roles in various divisions of the department, including about four years as a Commander over areas such as the Professional Standards Bureau, Organizational Services Division and Criminal/Special Investigations and SWAT.

Since June 2018, Glover has served as a Governor-appointed Commissioner on the Arizona Commission for African American Affairs. He also has served as a national board member and Arizona chapter member for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

Glover said that he admires and thanks the sworn and civilian professionals of the Tempe Police Department for their dedication and commitment to protecting the community.

"This is an incredible moment and opportunity for me to contribute to the department and the city I love so much," Glover said. "My professional life has been about serving others and I want to once again bring my passion for service to this community and to my Tempe Police sisters and brothers. We can and will rise to this occasion and will work together to hear and implement what our community expects from policing in this new day."

## Tempe City Council statement

Last week, it was announced that Tempe Police Chief Sylvia Moir will resign her role effective Oct. 25, after having provided exemplary service to the Tempe Police Department since 2016. Retired Tempe Police Commander Jeff Glover will become Interim Police Chief for a period of about one year starting Oct. 12.

— CHIEF, Page 18

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# Fun run goes virtual as Dignity Health sprints to a new goal

In the COVID-19 pandemic atmosphere of 2020, events of all kinds have transferred festivities to the virtual world.

The annual fundraiser for Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center is following suit in keeping with local social-distancing guidelines.

The Heroes in Health Care community run unites hospital staff, business partners, friends and family in support of the health care teams at Dignity's Chandler hospital.

While the teams will not be together in person at a traditional community run, participants are encouraged to raise funds and get moving in their neighborhood, park or on their treadmills to honor health care heroes who are working on and supporting the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Event participants will receive a State Forty Eight shirt, a custom face mask and more.

As a charitable organization committed to caring for the poor and disenfranchised, philanthropic contributions to this effort make a difference at Dignity Health by directly supporting critical programs and advancing health care for the rapidly-growing East Valley community.

Proceeds from this year's run benefit many teams at Chandler Regional including some of Dignity Health's Community Health programs such as the Healthier Living Program.

Since April 2016, the Healthier Living Program has provided free health education workshops to more than 1,500 seniors and other vulnerable populations.

The program empowers participants to actively take charge of their health and well-being. This much-needed program helps to improve patients' overall quality of life and only exists through grant funding and donations.

"We are transforming lives one person at a time," says Sherri Eshkibok, program manager for the program.

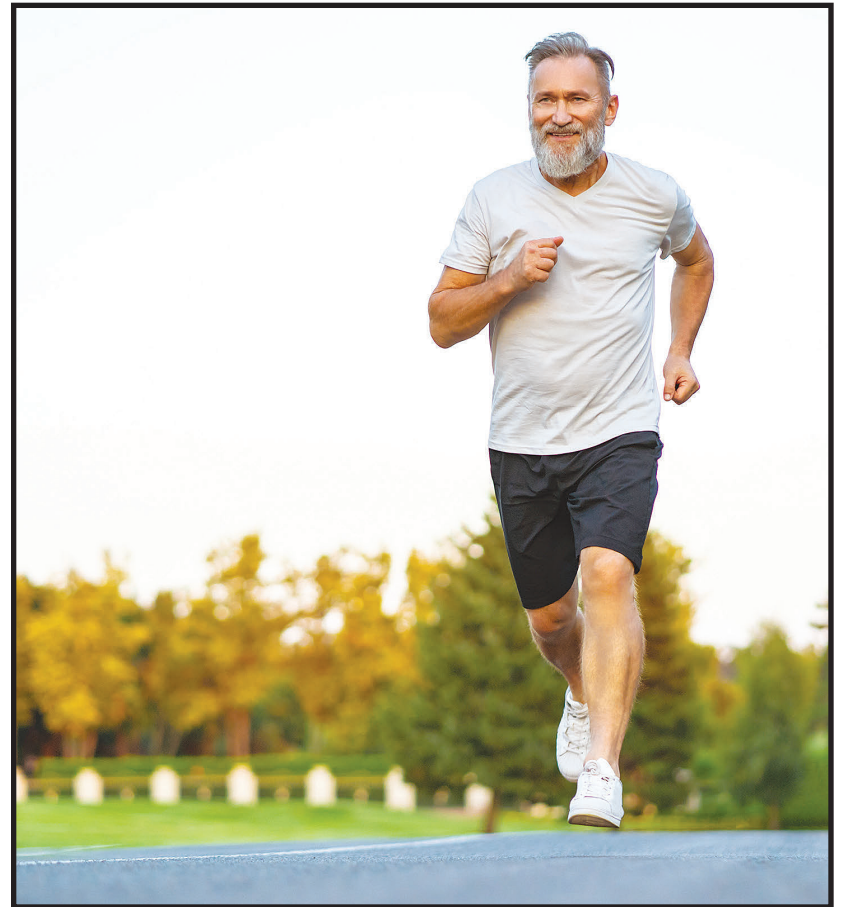
"I am so grateful to be able to offer such a powerful program to the community. This type of free self-management health education is particularly beneficial for adults with chronic conditions, but it is even more impactful for the elderly and underserved populations who often live with multiple chronic conditions and are socially isolated – especially in today's COVID environment.

"I have been blessed to witness just how much this program can help reduce the loneliness and resulting depression that isolation often creates."

Participants are asked to be safe and get active in the community in honor of their health care team on or before Saturday, Oct. 24.

The virtual event costs \$40.

Register, donate and invite others to donate at [bit.ly/2020HeroesEV](http://bit.ly/2020HeroesEV).



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## Wrangler News

An exciting expansion to Wrangler News is coming your way!

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are the result of many months of thoughtfully researched and planned strategies to ensure our Tempe/West Chandler coverage will reach more potential readers than ever before in our three-decade history.

### ***Here's what you can expect to see in coming weeks:***

- Newspapers delivered to homes where neighborhood-related news, features and photos tend to be statistically better read;
- Repositioning from low-readership areas to more affluent neighborhoods that aren't now receiving our paper—and have told us repeatedly how much they want it;

- A newly energized push into all aspects of social media, including daily updates and breaking LOCAL news;
- More places to pick up extra copies of each edition, including Downtown Tempe, Downtown Chandler and, newly added, more than two dozen sites on the ASU Tempe campus;
- Our continuing effort to be your neighborhood's best source of local news.

We invite you drop by our office in Warner Century Plaza at 2145 E. Warner Road (look for the Wrangler News sign on the front of our building, across from GoDaddy). We'll look forward to seeing you and enjoy hearing your ideas about how we might do an even better job during our next 30 years!

***Thank you for your support, and know how much we enjoy being your Tempe and West Chandler neighbors.***

**PHOENIX**  
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## Commentary . . . by Joyce Coronel

# Political, social debate, OK. Hateful discord, a battleground precursor.

I had just left church and had a sense of deep peace flowing through my veins. Before I even got to my car that morning though, I spied three women in the parking lot arguing, loudly, over the efficacy of face masks.

Really? Not five minutes after leaving church? Yet this is where we are right now in America: deeply divided, angry and suspicious of each other.

The country is torn by strife and fury, broken by discord. From the pandemic to the racial divide to the presidential election, Americans are fed up with it all and at each other's throats.

Even at church.

In my mind, I'm back in 1984, the first year I was eligible to cast a vote in a presidential election. Ronald Reagan was campaigning for reelection against Walter Mondale.

The Gipper managed one of the most memorable (and laughable) moments in presidential-debate history when asked if he was a bit too old, at age 73, to continue in office.

"I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience," Reagan quipped, garnering a laugh from Americans across the political spectrum, including Mondale.

Oh, for the 1980s. Now, some 30 years later, we've definitely lost something in our country. Civil debate seems to have been eclipsed by anger and violence and

insults. We've come to see our opponents, for the most part, as bad people, even mortal enemies. It's personal and emotional and visceral.

This must change, for we are all Americans. We're brothers and sisters.

This was brought home to me last night when my husband and I ran into two old friends at the grocery store.

Our sons played on the same basketball team years ago and we have many happy memories of hard-fought games and even a championship title.

Their family is one of the nicest ones we know and we were delighted to see them after so many years—we've missed them. We love them and the feeling is mutual.

What's interesting is that we are on completely opposite ends of the political spectrum. And you know what? I think that's wonderful. America needs more of this: friendships that cross political boundaries, relationships built on respect, love and good will, not politics.

I grew up in a household where this was demonstrated to me every day. Mom was a loyal Democrat and Dad a staunch Republican. We subscribed to two daily newspapers and watched

the national and local news together every day. At dinner, we talked politics. The debates were sometimes heated but they never, ever, descended into insults and shouting. We were able to joke about it.

It's different now; politics has become blood sport and one's opponents must be utterly destroyed. This, I submit, does not bode well for the country.

I saw an old friend from the 1980s recently. He told me, mournfully, that his son's godparents have cut ties with him because of his bumper sticker.

They disagree with him about who should be president and let him know that the two families no longer share the same values.

This is but a microcosm of what is going on in neighborhoods, cities and towns all across America. And it has to stop. The alternative, I fear, is civil war.

Let the debate be fierce. Let the reasoned arguments resound. But let's remember that our political opponents are human beings who bleed red just like us. They are someone's beloved, just as we are, and they are endowed with the human dignity we all share.

Let's choose friendship over politics and savor our common bonds over the discord that now runs rampant.

America the beautiful, we need you to turn from the ugliness and remember who you are.

— Joyce Coronel is editor of Wrangler News



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*The Job Market*

High demand prompts Carvana to seek 200 employees in Tempe

As consumers continue to turn to online car buying, Carvana in Tempe is experiencing high demand.

To address it, the company is looking for additional talent for its customer-care team.

Carvana, which boasts that its mission is to change the way people buy cars, is hiring 200 hourly customer-car employees, who will work remotely initially and then transition to its Tempe headquarters at 1930 W. Rio Salado Parkway.

Start dates are every Monday through the fall.

Carvana is No. 18 in Arizona on Forbes' America's Best Employers by State.

It is a cutting-edge team in search of cutting-edge professionals.

Carvana is noted for its innovative-commerce platform for buying and selling used vehicles, in which customers may browse inventory and then either have their vehicle delivered to them or go to a Carvana site, deposit a special "coin" into a slot in Carvana's

exclusive, multi story "vending machine" and have their car come down to them.

The customer-care team will guide the consumer through their car-buying journey, answer questions, resolve issues and serve as an advocate during the customer's purchase experience.

The company offers full benefits, including 401k with match, paid time off and auto discounts.

High school diploma/GED, ability to work full-time hours, including one weekend shift, and internet access are required.

A bachelor's degree is highly preferred.

Carvana has taken steps to support the health and well-being of current and potential employees.

The interview process is hosted virtually and training programs are now delivered online.

To learn more, schedule an interview and upload a resume: [carvana.com/careers/corporate](http://carvana.com/careers/corporate).

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# Arts Center to host popular Lakeshore events

Its season will open four months late due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Tempe-based Lakeshore Music is moving forward cautiously with its announcement of an abbreviated six-concert 2020-21 season lineup.

Opening night is Saturday, Jan. 23. The series runs through May.

Difficult times call for bold leadership, says Lakeshore president Woody Wilson.

Accordingly, Lakeshore introduces a live-streaming option for season-subscription buyers—they won't even have to leave their recliners if they choose to watch from home rather than venturing to Tempe Center for the Arts to see the concerts in person.

Another bold step is proceeding with the season despite having audiences limited to 25 percent of normal TCA house capacity so that seats can be socially distanced for patrons' safety.

Lakeshore consequently is selling only a six-show season package this year at \$400. Those now are on sale at lakeshoremusic.org. There will be no single-show ticket sales this season.

Purchase of the season subscription includes a Lakeshore Music face mask and a complimentary

cocktail for those who come to the theater.

Said Wilson:

"We are in the vanguard of presenters who will jump-start live music again. Zoom and streaming concerts are interim alternatives. I love bringing people together for the music at TCA, and I need to get back to it."

Other performing-arts destinations face similar challenges, Wilson said.

"We are not alone. Venues and presenters throughout the world, large and small, are faced with the same realities. When it comes to live performances, everything is an experiment for at least the next year.

"We've survived two global economic meltdowns and a pandemic. After 12 years, I have no intention of stopping any time soon."

TCA concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Lakeshore's Jan. 23 opening performance features The Tierney Sutton Band in a concert titled "Screenplay," the group's latest Grammy-nominated album that has been hailed as "an aural Oscar."

The group has garnered nine Grammy nominations in the past 15

years.

On Feb. 20, Lakeshore welcomes Bob Sheppard & the LA Aces. The group includes Larry Koonse on guitar, Josh Nelson on piano, Alex Boneham on bass and Mark Ferber on drums. Sheppard is a versatile super talent who has played with A-list greats Herbie Hancock, Tony Bennett, The 5th Dimension, Chuck Mangione, Stevie Wonder and Natalie Cole.

In a rare double dip – two shows in one month – Lakeshore brings back Harold López-Nussa in "Te Lo Dije" ("I Told You So") on Feb 27.

The Cuban pianist was rebooked after his April 2020 concert was canceled due to the pandemic. López-Nussa's work reflects the range and richness of Cuban music and its embrace of jazz improvisation. His younger brother, Ruy Adrián López-Nussa, is on percussion, Julio Cesar Gonzalez on bass and Mayquel Gonzalez on trumpet.

Tempe Center for the Arts, which opened in 2007, overlooks Tempe Town Lake, is located at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway.

Information: 480-350-2822 or visit [tempecenterforthearts.com](http://tempecenterforthearts.com).

A NOTE TO OUR REGULAR READERS: Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out what's happening in our Tempe and West Chandler community. And be sure to sign up for our eEdition at [wranglernews.com](http://wranglernews.com)

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# School draws on art to inspire the future

Creating art that tells an inspirational story for years to come was the challenge facing staff and parents at Holdeman Elementary School when they met for a summer brainstorming session.

The outcome was an effort they named The Husky Mural Project, designed to celebrate the diversity and school spirit on their campus.

The project began when a group of teachers visualized an opportunity for more art on the Holdeman campus.

An art group was formed during the break, partly out of an aspiration to bring fine arts education to all students, partly to ensure that the diverse population of the community was acknowledged and honored.

The group began meeting and invited staff and community members to help develop the vision, ultimately deciding that adding a mural would become a welcome addition to the campus.

“Placing a mural on our campus that depicts our diverse population, that will withstand the test of time, will help inspire pride in the Holdeman community,” said Holdeman Principal Dr. Jeff Shores.

As the group came together to discuss ideas on how to bring art to Holdeman, they thought of the father-son duo Such and Champ Styles. Such and Champ are a part of the Holdeman community as resident studio artists and have taught different variations of art to the school’s fourth- and fifth-grade students for years.

Taking into consideration the suggestions from community and staff, Such and Champ sketched out an image with the theme of diversity in mind.

The Art Group felt that the proposed image represented the diversity of the Holdeman community and incorporated unique artistic techniques, all while using the school mascot, the husky. For now, the group is working to get the



funding needed to complete this project, and possible future projects.

They have a GoFundMe set up and are awaiting approval of their Vibrant City Arts Grant application, with hopes to complete the project during the 2020-2021 school year. Art

Group members are Rebecka Johnson, fifth-grade teacher; Julie Wood, third-through fifth-grade resource teacher; Freda Rothermel, community member; Jill West, librarian; and Julie Bertoni, community member and former Holdeman speech language pathologist.

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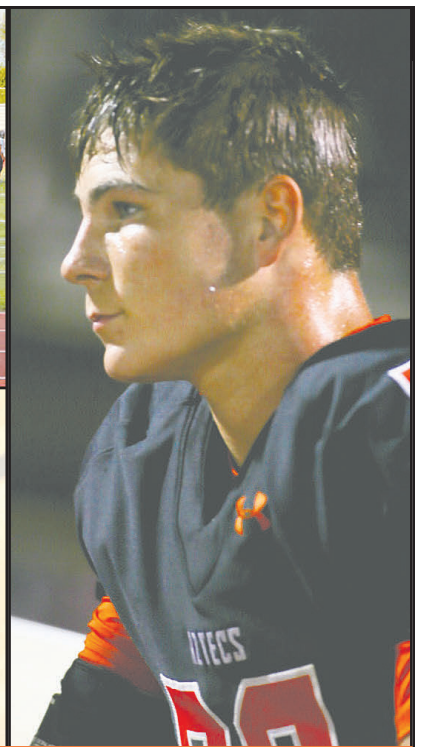
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# Shofar: An Awakening of the Soul

Photo feature by Billy Hardiman  
for Wrangler News

With concern over attending a traditional service, Chabad of the East Valley found a creative way of bringing the spirit of the Jewish High Holidays to the open space of Desert Breeze Park. Members of the Jewish community gathered in a social-distancing environment to participate in a short yet uplifting High Holiday experience.

The event featured the traditional blowing of the shofar, a simple hollowed-out ram's horn that has been the symbol of the celebration of Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the new Jewish year, for thousands of years.

Rabbi Mendy Dietsch noted that, according to ancient prescription, one must hear the blasts directly from the shofar itself. No medium will do — not a microphone, not CNN, not even a slight echo. "Intrinsically, the Shofar is not just a sound. It is a cry. A prayer.

A soul-awakening, personal, meditative and rousing experience," Dietsch said. "Hearing the sound of the shofar is the main commandment associated with celebrating the holiday."



# Rescue group faces worrisome challenges for displaced pets

Article by Tony Gutiérrez

Photography by Billy Hardiman

“There’s nothing in there,” Jenna Carlson, 20, says to Inca, a 5-year-old Labrador Retriever and Catahoula Leopard Dog mix, as the canine licks another dog’s bowl clean in the Lost Our Home shelter office on Hardy Drive. “We literally just had breakfast.”

Moments later, Inca is playing with Gidget, a 10-year-old black Chihuahua mix and owner of the aforementioned bowl. Gidget is a part of the shelter’s temporary care program, or TCP.

Inca was wandering in south Phoenix when she was found. Carlson, a student at Arizona State University, has been fostering her for several weeks until Inca can be adopted for her “fur-ever” home. Meanwhile, TCP animals like Gidget are being cared for by other foster volunteers until their owners can care for them again.

Jodi Polanski established Lost Our Home in 2008 as a response to the mortgage crisis. The shelter used to provide accommodations for up to 90 days for pet owners who couldn’t care for their pets temporarily.

In light of the economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, that has been extended to 120 days. Even with an eviction moratorium in Arizona extended through Dec. 31, Polanski is preparing for an influx in pets needing help.

“We would care for their pets for them for up to 90 days while they were sleeping on somebody’s couch and not have to go to a shelter,” Polanski said of the shelter’s early days. After losing their homes, she said, “the last thing you want to do is lose a family member, too. We use that program, not just for foreclosures but also for people dealing with domestic violence.”

Natalie Kaska, a single mother from north Phoenix, is currently caring for Cash, a boxer in the TCP program. The situation is ideal, she says, because she’s unable to make long-term commitments.

“When you take him in, you know that you’re just helping them out while their owner can’t and is just getting things together,” Kaska said. “You know that they’re owned, they’re loved, and they’re missed.”

In the meantime, Kaska, with her 14-year-old



Furry friends whose human parents are unable to care for them due to the economic crisis, domestic violence or other issues find plenty of lovin’ at Lost Our Home Rescue. The Tempe shelter helps match four-legged critters with foster families who welcome them until they can be adopted into a “fur-ever” home. Some 170 pets are now living in foster homes thanks to the work of LOHR.

# Briefly

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## Town Lake feedback needed

Feedback is being sought from Tempe's business community on suggestions to help activate the area surrounding Tempe Town Lake.

The invitation to offer commentary relates to the Rio Salado and Beach Park Master Plan, a comprehensive overview that provides recommendations for improvement that will shape the area over the next 20 to 30 years.

The plan was adopted by Tempe City Council in fall 2018; the request for project ideas was released in November 2019.

The master plan area includes both sides of Tempe Town Lake between Priest and McClintock drives. It focuses on programming, infrastructure, access, use of space and land/water activities to provide a blueprint for the future of the area.

For project information and background, visit the Rio Salado and Beach Park Master Plan webpage for categories and comments. Submissions are available through Oct. 1 at [tempe.gov/forum](http://tempe.gov/forum).

## Tempe reviews future transit needs

A multi-year process to address long term issues with Tempe's transit system came under review during a Sept.

17 public meeting of the Tempe City Council.

Discussion focused on a transit tax that has been in place almost 25 years and is being evaluated to determine how further maintenance and enhancements to the system likely will require other funding or investment by the city beyond what the tax generates.

Under a heading "Service Reduction and Optimization Proposed Plan," officials from various city departments, joined by staff at Valley Metro, are studying the performance of six Orbit routes, a Flash route, Tempe Streetcar, three express bus routes, light rail and all of the current 16 fixed-route bus service.

Among considerations of ways to maximize revenue, staff has laid out a variety of fund-maintenance or maximization initiatives, including:

- Methods to reduce incidents of riders avoiding payment of fares;
- Possible use of real estate agreements to reimburse the transit fund;
- Potential for bus and related advertising;
- Possibility of partnering with other transit providers; and
- Exploration of increasing fares on system buses and introducing a fare for those who use the Orbit buses.

The City Council is scheduled to hold public review sessions in the coming fall and winter months and implement changes, if any, by October 2022.



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## Pets

From Page 13

daughter and 12-year-old son, can provide care for Cash. When they first brought him home, they were told he “likes to box.”

“We didn’t know what they meant by that. Then we quickly figured it out when we got home,” Kaska said, as she mimicked a boxing gesture. “He will take my son down to the ground, completely playing. My son giggles and laughs. They get so, hyper; they can go to town.”

If that’s not enough, the Kaskas are also fostering an adoptable cat, Cinder, who just gave birth to six kittens.

“They’re super cute. I have a million pictures,” she said. “You’d think I was their own mom. We just love to hold them.”

The litter is the second they’ve cared for. Before Cinder came, another dog they fostered gave birth to seven puppies.

In the last year, including the litters, the Kaskas have fostered 29 animals. Every time they say “goodbye,” Natalie takes several photos with the goal of having a memory wall. While it can be tough to say that “goodbye,” she said, “they know that there’s always another adventure coming. There’s always somebody coming.”

Carlson, whose family lives in Council Bluffs, Iowa, across the state border from Omaha, Neb., said while she is unable to adopt an animal in her current state of life, she missed her dog and wanted to at least “give a dog a nice home until it could be adopted.”

Inca will go running with Carlson every day, and occasionally go for a hike. Inca’s also a cuddler, Carlson

said—and a snorer. While she won’t play with her own playthings, she will occasionally grab another toy that Carlson brought home from a trip. “I have this little stuffed yak that I got in Scotland, Actually. it was sitting on one of my shelves, and she won’t play with her toys, but she’ll grab that and just hold it and look at me.

“I’m like, ‘I know that you know what you’re doing. Give me that back,’” Carlson laughed. “She’s absolutely perfect. I would love to adopt her, but it would be unfair to her for me to adopt her at this point.”

Lost Our Home used to be able to facilitate adoptions through walk-ins, but since the pandemic started, the shelter has had to close its adoption centers.

“During the pandemic we immediately had to find fosters...and had a really good response,” Polanski said. “Foster homes are the primary place for pets, and shelters are the overflow.”

Currently, there are 170 pets in foster homes. “We need fosters that can do fostering of big dogs and fosters who may have experience with active dogs,” she said, acknowledging the difficulty for people whose landlords don’t allow large pets or people with small children.

Other ways to support the shelter, Polanski said, include donating money, food, toys or other items, using the Fry’s Rewards program, encouraging others who are in a position to foster, sharing social media posts and, for landlords, to allow larger pets.


“This is a community-wide problem, and it can’t be all on the pet rescues,” she said. “It’s going to take the whole community to come together.”

Information: 602-445-7387 or [lostourhome.org](http://lostourhome.org).

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# Profile: Tempe Union High School Governing Board candidates

## Get to know those who are running — and why they want your vote

By Joyce Coronel

The 2020-2021 school year is underway but by all accounts, it's taking place under circumstances no one saw coming just six months ago. In the midst of social unrest and a contentious political climate, the race to be elected to — or remain on — the Tempe Union High School District's Governing Board is drawing plenty of attention this year.

Governing board members are elected to four-year terms to represent the residents within the district's boundaries. Elections are held in November every other year with the majority of board seats up for election in presidential election years.

Two incumbents on the board, president Burdetta Hodge, and Sandy Lowe, are seeking re-election. Six other candidates seek to fill the three open seats. If Hodge and Lowe are re-elected, that leaves just one seat open.

And while the school board race is meant to be non-partisan, it's clear that emotions are running high with many parents calling for students to be back on campus. The TUHSD Governing Board voted Aug. 5 that in-person instruction be delayed until the first day of the second quarter which this year falls on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Megan Sterling, executive director of community relations for TUHSD, shared the district's latest plan with Wrangler News:

"On Oct. 13, we will start in a hybrid two days per week learning

model. Students will be divided into cohorts by last name, and attend school in-person on either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. The other three days of the week will see learning conducted virtually. Wednesdays are also a deep cleaning day, to ensure that our campuses are fully cleaned in between each cohort of students," Sterling wrote in an email to Wrangler News.

Meanwhile, a Facebook group, Keep Our Kids in School — Tempe Union, sprang up over the summer and boasts 710 members who share information and strong opinions on how the district is handling the school year's challenges.

According to its homepage, the group "was created to serve as a nonpartisan, nonpolitical diverse group of parents representing all seven TUHSD schools who want to keep their kids in school. This group supports having choices for those who desire online, up to a 5-day option. We are concerned with the quality of education, safety, social and emotional health, as well as the lack of communication and parental input."

Among the members of the group is **Lori Bastian**, the mother of three Corona del Sol students. She said she is seeking a spot on the board because she feels it's crucial, especially in the light of the pandemic and resulting impact on education, for a parent of a current TUHSD student to serve on the board.

"I am invested as a parent of high school



LORI BASTIAN

students, and right now, that perspective is missing," Bastian said. "I also have zero political aspirations. The only reason I'm running for the board is because I care about our district and our students. If elected, I will be a reasonable parent voice on the board - one representing our entire community."

Wrangler News reached out to all candidates for the TUHSD governing board; most responded to inquiries for information about their candidacy but two did not. Information about those candidates was garnered from their statements on the Office of the Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson.



DON FLETCHER

**Don Fletcher**, a former teacher and small-business owner, is seeking to serve on

the TUHSD board. "I know what it means to make payroll and work hard to build a business. I have served on many community boards and committees for over 20 years in the Tempe/Ahwatukee area and have received awards for service to our youth," Fletcher's statement reads. He says he supports paying teachers "a fair wage" and that he supported the 2018 pay raise. His other concerns are to provide a safe and secure school environment, strong academic expectations, and the maximization of extracurricular activities include arts and sports.



BERDETTA HODGE

**Berdetta Hodge**, seeking re-election, says she supports "Arizona's next generation of leaders" and that begins by ensuring the entire TUHSD is cared for. "That means taking steps to level the playing field for all students in our education system, paying our teachers and staff livable wages, and providing critical services to our neighbors in need," Hodge's statement on the county website reads in part. "I have been a student, parent, volunteer, and leader in this district for my entire life because I love our community. I will continue to strive

to ensure all of our community has a seat at the table and that Tempe Union has a strong voice in shaping the future of education and wellbeing in Arizona."



SARAH LINDSAY JAMES

**Sarah Lindsay James** is in her 22nd year of teaching and has two children in the Kyrene schools. "I witness the changes happening in education from both perspectives, and I see the effect those changes have on our students and educators. Our educators and students are constantly having more placed on their shoulders, and the focus on test scores is drowning out the focus we should have; how to create meaningful connections with our students and the world in which they live," James said. "We have to empower our educators and students to do what they do best - teach and learn. We must also work with parents and educators when making educational decisions, because we have to trust those who best know our students. As a board member, I will be a voice and ear for our educators, our families, and our community."

**Sandy Lowe** has served two terms on the TUHSD board and hopes to be re-elected



SANDY LOWE

for a third. She said she understands the importance of a quality high school education that will positively affect students after they graduate. "My decisions consistently focus on students with consensus building and even pragmatism when appropriate. Now more than ever, we need experienced school board members to address the challenges we are facing today. Together with my analytical skills, in-depth knowledge of issues facing schools, as well as understanding the importance of addressing academic, safety and mental health needs, I will continue to make decisions in the best interest of every student."



PAIGE REESOR

**Paige Reesor** is a middle school art teacher in the Tempe Elementary School District and runs her own business as an



artist. She received an Excellence in Education award from the Tempe Diablos this year. She said she hopes to be elected to the board because she has “the opportunity to impact the same students as they continue to move on to the high school level. If elected to the board, I will contribute my valued perspective as a Tempe Elementary School teacher, as I collaborate with our neighboring school districts.

I am interested in elevating all student, parent, teacher, and classified staff voices.”

**Armando**

**Montero** is the youngest candidate on the ballot for the TUHSD board.

“Growing up here and having graduated from Tempe Union (Desert Vista) in 2019 with direct ties to our educational system still, I know firsthand what



**ARMANDO MONTERO**

issues our students are facing and have a fresh perspective on how to solve them.

A school board with more diverse perspectives that reflect all parts of our community and those affected is a stronger board.

After the past years of advocating on behalf of students on social/emotional well-being and suicide prevention, I have been called on by board members, teachers, students, and community members to bring a vital voice

to the board this year and am proud to have the support and endorsements of many national and local leaders.”

**Michael Myrick** currently serves as president of the Kyrene Governing Board. He’s not seeking re-election to Kyrene’s board but has thrown his hat in the ring for the TUHSD school board. He’s a graduate of Corona and has two children now attending his alma mater.

He says he’s “noticed a lack of leadership with the board and also at the superintendent level. As a parent, I have been extremely frustrated with the district’s return to school plan and have had some other



**MICHAEL MYRICK**

troubling interactions with the district special education department that should have been easy to resolve. The voters in TUHSD need to vote for three new board members.

“With that being said, I strongly feel the candidates need to feel confident and able lead. I am confident in my abilities to address all issues and lead TUHSD in the proper direction for the future of our community and all students.”

## Crucial dates for voters

Procrastinators beware: According to the publicity pamphlet published by the Office of Arizona’s Secretary of State, Katie Hobbs, Monday, **Oct. 5**, is the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming election.

Wednesday, **Oct. 7**, is the first day of in-person voting.

It’s also the first day for Arizona counties to mail ballots to voters on the Permanent Early Voting list and those who have requested a ballot by mail.

Friday, **Oct. 23** is the last day to request a ballot by mail or join the PEVL.

Tuesday, **Oct. 27**, is the recommended last day to mail back a ballot.

Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, **Nov. 3**, to be counted. Voters who do not mail back their ballot by **Oct. 27** should drop off their ballot at their County Recorder’s Office or any ballot drop-box or voting location in their county.

Friday, **Oct. 30**, is the last day of in-person early voting.

Polls are open on Election Day, Tuesday, **Nov. 3**, from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.

To check if you are on the PEVL, request a ballot by mail or get information on early voting locations, contact the Office of the Maricopa County Recorder at 602-506-3535 or visit [Arizona.Vote](http://Arizona.Vote).

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# Utility cut-off moratorium extended to January

A moratorium on power disconnections by SRP has been extended for customers on its limited income program, the Economy Price Plan (EPP), until early January.

Additionally, beginning in October, SRP will automatically place its non-EPP customers with \$80 or more of debt on eight-month payment plans if they have not already called SRP to set up personalized payment arrangements.

Non-EPP customers on SRP's prepay program, the M-Power Price plan, will have any accumulated debt placed in a paydown account, and a percentage of every future energy purchase will be applied to this account so they can pay off the debt over time.

SRP will put standard payment policies, including disconnects for non-payment, back in place on Oct. 1 for non-EPP customers, and SRP customer service representatives will continue to work with all customers to set up payment plans, share referrals to community action agencies with available COVID-19 relief funds, help customers switch price plans and receive payment extensions and discounts.

Any of these support activities can help reduce debt and help customers with past-due balances avoid potential disconnection this fall.

Customers who are having any difficulty paying their bill should call 602-236-8888, and SRP customer service representatives are ready to discuss customers' arrangements in more detail and work with customers on other solutions unique to their circumstances.

SRP has resource counselors who work with both English and Spanish-speaking customers.

Beyond further prolonging disconnects for EPP customers, SRP will not charge EPP customers any late payment fees through early January. SRP Customer Service will also continue to work with EPP customers to develop repayment plans and identify available bill assistance through community partners so these customers do not face unsustainable debt at the start of 2021.

SRP's Here to Help website, [srpnet.com/heretohelp](http://srpnet.com/heretohelp), provides information on a variety of assistance available to customers.

SRP is continuing to allow customers to switch price plans at any time with no waiting period, and the utility also shares tips online on how customers on Time of Use plans can save money on their energy bills.

In keeping with longstanding policies, SRP will not disconnect customers' power during an Excessive Heat Warning categorized by the National Weather Service.

*SRP Residential Customer Service is available to serve customers 24/7 at 602-236-8888 in English and 602-236-1111 in Spanish.*

*SRP Business Customer Center representatives are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at 602-236-8833.*

# Chief

From Page 3

As your elected city representatives, we respect the City Charter and City Manager Andrew Ching's role and authority under that system. We support his selection of Mr. Glover as the appointed Interim Police Chief. He has the experience and credentials to lead the department, and he has always had the commitment to collaborate with our community members.

Of course, it is of paramount importance that our community continues to get high-quality police services and stable leadership throughout this transition. We know that will continue, thanks to Chief Moir, the dedicated men and women of the Tempe Police Department and the leadership of Mr. Glover.

We sincerely thank Chief Moir for her years of service and contributions to the Tempe community and we warmly wish her well.

We look forward to working with Mr. Glover and to his leadership as our Interim Police Chief.

*Statement issued by Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, Vice Mayor Randy Keating and City Councilmembers Jennifer Adams, Robin Arredondo-Savage, Doreen Garlid, Lauren Kubly and Joel Navarro.*

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## Tuesday, Nov. 3 is date for voting in city bond election, statewide and federal elections

The City of Tempe will hold a Special Bond election in conjunction with the statewide and national elections on Nov. 3. These questions will all appear on the same ballot.

Tempe has estimated the costs of projects necessary to maintain the public's assets over the next five years and will ask residents to decide whether to authorize the issuance of bonds to support those projects.

Each registered voter will receive an informational pamphlet by mail to their home.

Tempe registered voters will decide five separate bond questions that provide authorization to issue bonds in these categories and amounts: Water and Sewer Improvements, \$134 million; Street Improvements/Storm Drains \$74 million; Public Safety: \$34 million; Park Improvements/Community Ser-

vices, \$45 million; and Municipal Infrastructure Preservation, \$62 million. Total bonding authorization of \$349 million is being requested.

The estimated average tax rate for the proposed bond authorization is \$0.68365 per \$100 of limited assessed valuation for property tax supported bonds.

Information about the bond questions was presented at a Sept. 21 virtual community

forum. The session was recorded and can be viewed at [tempe.gov/budget](http://tempe.gov/budget) and it is being replayed on Tempe 11.

### Important upcoming dates:

- Oct. 5 – Voter registration closes. Check your status at [BeBallotReady.Vote](http://BeBallotReady.Vote)
- Oct. 7 – Early ballots are mailed to voters
- Oct. 23 – Deadline to request an early ballot by mail from Maricopa County

• Oct. 7 – Nov. 3 – In-person voting. Find your location at [Locations.Maricopa.Vote](http://Locations.Maricopa.Vote). There are also ballot drop box locations.

• Nov. 3 – Special Bond Election

*Tempe maintains election information, including the text of the bond election questions, at [tempe.gov/election](http://tempe.gov/election) and Tempe 311 staff are available for questions on weekdays at 480-350-4311.*

## Virtual presentations from Dementia Friendly Tempe

Dementia Friendly Tempe Presents is offering a free online education series this fall designed to raise community awareness of memory loss conditions and help families access available resources.

Due to the pandemic, events will take place as webinars.

The classes are free and registration is required. Visit <https://agefriendlytempe.eventbrite.com> or call 480-594-7442.

The series is offered on the second Wednesday of each month, from 1-2:30 p.m.

Upcoming topics include: Oct. 14, What Caregivers Need to Know about Medications; and Nov. 18, Ask the Doctor Any Question about Dementia.

For more information: [tempe.gov/DFT](http://tempe.gov/DFT).



## State of the City is Oct. 30

Mayor Corey Woods will deliver his first State of the City address on Friday, Oct. 30, from 8-10 a.m., and it will be a completely virtual event.

Each year, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and the City of Tempe partner on the event. Tempe 11 televises and rebroadcasts the event. Information about the State of the City is at [tempechamber.org](http://tempechamber.org).



Corey Woods

## Rent assistance for those in need

Renters impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic who are unable to pay their rent should take several steps:

- Find out if you qualify for a federal residential eviction moratorium in place through December. Get details and a declaration form: [justicecourts.maricopa.gov/Notices/covid-19.aspx](http://justicecourts.maricopa.gov/Notices/covid-19.aspx)
- Notify or renotify your landlord or property owner in writing with supporting documentation of ongoing financial or

medical hardships related to the pandemic.

• Provide your landlord or property owner with your completed pending application for rental assistance through a government or nonprofit program.

• Apply for help. Tempe Community Action Agency is providing rent and utility assistance to Tempe residents: [tempeaction.org](http://tempeaction.org). Find a list of rent assistance programs through the Arizona Department of

Housing: [housing.az.gov](http://housing.az.gov).

- Request a payment plan in writing from your landlord or property owner.
- Be prepared to provide documentation and application information to a constable, law enforcement officer or court, if requested.

Landlords impacted by the pandemic are advised to keep communication open with tenants, share information about rent assistance and discuss payment plans.

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](http://tempe.gov/reopening), [tempe.gov/coronavirus](http://tempe.gov/coronavirus), or call Tempe 311 on weekdays at 480-350-4311.

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## 2020 State of the City on October 30, 2020



The Tempe Chamber's annual State of the City is the premier forum that brings together Tempe's business, civic, and community leaders. The 2020 State of the City address, delivered by newly elected Mayor Corey Woods, will highlight key business development initiatives, provide strategic municipal progress updates, address challenges and opportunities, and provide a glimpse into the City's future.

To protect the health and safety of our community, this year's State of the City will be a live broadcast from a closed studio. This interactive event will include Mayor Woods' formal State of the City address, as well as a fire-side chat with Tempe Chamber President & CEO Anne Gill.

Sponsorship packages and registration are available at [tempechamber.org](http://tempechamber.org) or email us at [events@tempechamber.org](mailto:events@tempechamber.org).

*About Mayor Woods: Corey Woods was elected mayor of the City of Tempe in March 2020. In his professional career, he is the chief of staff at ASU Preparatory Academy. Woods is responsible for assisting the managing director with operations, external partnerships and strategic initiatives. He previously served as the chief operating officer for the Greater Phoenix Urban League, director of college and career articulation for the Phoenix Union High School District and director of government relations for the American Lung Association of Arizona.*

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## Meals on Wheels, 2020 style



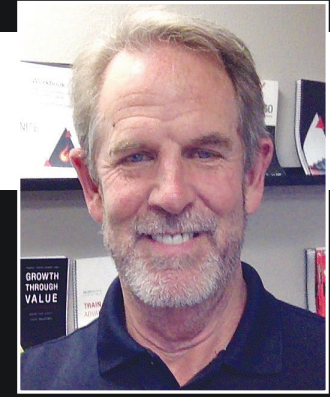
An effort to provide contactless delivery of meals has merged with technology in an amazing marriage of mechanization and food. Starship robots are advanced devices that can carry items within a 4-mile radius. Once ordered the robots' entire journey and location can be monitored on a smartphone. Starship's robots move at pedestrian speed and weigh no more than 100 pounds. They can navigate around objects and people, even on a busy Arizona State University campus in Tempe, as seen here. For security, the cargo bay is mechanically locked throughout the journey and can be opened only by the recipient with their smartphone app. The location of the robots is tracked, so customers know exactly the location of their order and receive a notification at the time of arrival.

*Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News*



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