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### Bridle path controversy brews anew at hearing

Horse-property owners  
seek Tempe's help  
to remove wall they  
say infringes on their  
pathway. **Pages 12-13**



### Just beachy

It's never too cold to  
take a paddleboat spin  
on Tempe Town Lake.  
**Pages 16-17**



### Art that gives back

Retired teacher donates  
watercolors for at-risk  
youth. **Page 10**

# WRANGLER NEWS

January 23 - February 5, 2021  
Volume 31, Number 2  
*Think Local. Read Local.*

## SOUND OFF

Stacey Sell joins  
those asking ADOT  
to address the  
75 decibel noise  
readings that  
prevent her from  
enjoying her South  
Tempe backyard.

*Coverage by Lee  
Shappell, Page 4*

Wrangler News photo  
by Joyce Coronel





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# Chandler city manager Reed to retire; search leaning toward insider

Marsha Reed, Chandler's city manager since 2016, has announced her plan to retire March 4.

Matt Burdick, director of communications for the city, said Reed had spent the last few months working with Christine Ellis and OD Harris, two newly elected Chandler City Council members, and helping them get "up to speed with the city, its departments and all the issues."

"They were among the most-disappointed when she (Reed) called them and informed them that she was going to be retiring," Burdick said.

Some who were queried about Reed's planned departure indicated surprise at the timing, just as councilmembers would be heavily involved in the coming year's budget studies.

In an interview with Wrangler News, Reed said budget matters typically are largely wrapped up and completed by "the middle of March. The only thing I'll miss is the all-day budget briefing."

While government entities such as Chandler routinely conduct a national search for top-level job replacements, consensus reportedly appeared to fall toward an internal candidate, although no names have yet come forward.

"The council has not had a meeting yet," at the time her announcement had been received. Prior to her current role, Reed had served as an assistant city manager. "I started working for the public sector when I was very young and I had 30 years in the public sector

before I ever came to Chandler. When your reach my age, it's time to retire and go do fun stuff. There's nothing bigger about it than that," Reed said.



Marsha Reed

Looking back over her four-year tenure as city manager, Reed said one of her proudest achievements was the establishment of the Downtown Quality of Life and Safety Committee.

"The committee meets monthly and includes city departments, Downtown Chandler Community Partnership and property owners.

City departments involved include Police, Public Works and Utilities, Neighborhood Resources, Community Services and Cultural Development.

Added Reed:

"It's been very key to have that committee that constantly works to do things that we feel help the safety aspect of anyone in our downtown. It's been all over the board—everything from homelessness to graffiti on buildings, and that committee tackles it all."

Reed also spoke of ways the city endeavored to increase safety in the downtown during recent years,

"everything from the installation of different lights for pedestrians and trying to create that environment that's more pedestrian-friendly."

Burdick, the communications director, pointed to the public art in the downtown area that he says has helped decrease the amount of graffiti, another urban scourge the safety committee has fought.

"One of the things that we've seen and that law enforcement has seen is that graffiti artists tend to respect other artists," he said.

"So you go down Commonwealth (Avenue) or you go down the breezeway, Chop Shop and some of the businesses having that mural and having some of that public art not only activating that space for pedestrians, it's also a mitigation measure to help prevent graffiti."

Serving as city manager during the COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges, but Reed said when the crisis began, the city "immediately went into emergency mode" and that once the shutdown was over she had already instructed city officials to create a plan for reopening.

Added Reed:

"Chandler was the first one to come out in front of their council with the plan to open, because I knew opening back up was going to be twice as hard as shutting down. And in order to do that, we had to have those plans in place."

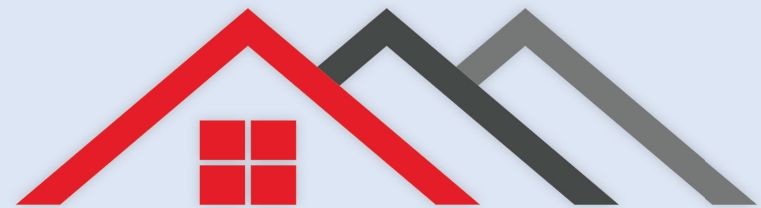


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# Neighbors livid over traffic noise on 101

## *Surface on newly widened freeway stirs complaints*

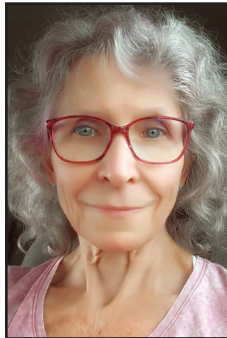
By Lee Shappell  
wranglernews.com

Perhaps the only thing louder than the roar of traffic along the recently expanded Loop 101/Price Freeway through Tempe and Chandler is the uproar from residents living within a half mile of it.

"It's been wicked loud," said Nancy Herbst, whose custom home in Round Valley Estates is on the southwestern side of the 101 and Guadalupe Road. "It's like living in a Motel 6 on the side of a freeway."

It's so bad that the Herbsts have stuffed eggcrate foam between the window and plantation shutter in their bedroom.

"It helped, but now we can't look out the window," Herbst said.



Nancy Herbst

She's not alone in her angst.

Lisa Zyriek, who lives in The Oasis near Price and Elliot Roads, about a half mile west of Loop 101, said that as soon as rush hour starts, at about 4:30 in the morning, "you would think that those cars are right on the road outside."

"Now we wear earplugs," Zyriek said. "We also have what we call a white-noise machine that we bought at Bed Bath and Beyond so we can choose the sound that we'd like it to make to drown out the traffic. That kind of helps us. We don't need to be up at 4:30."

And in Circle G Ranches, where Stacey Sells lives, she is beyond torqued that she has lost the enjoyment of her backyard, where she likes to garden and lounge on her hammock. She sent *Wrangler News* a 70-second video from her backyard, where she holds a decibel reader. The lowest reading during the video is 73 decibels. The highest is 77.6. The national standard for acceptable noise is 67.

Residents from no fewer than 12 adjacent neighborhoods have complained about expanded

freeway noise on [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com).

When the Arizona Department of Transportation added a lane to the 101 in each direction from Baseline Road south to Loop 202 last year, neighbors assumed that the freeway would be paved with a 1-inch layer of noise-mitigating rubberized asphalt. That's what was there before construction and that is the topping on nearly all of the freeways in metro Phoenix.

Instead, ADOT, in partnership with the Maricopa Association of Governments, the Phoenix region's freeway planning agency, finished the Loop 101 project with a noise-mitigation technique known as diamond grinding, in which specialized machines with diamond-tipped blades on rotating drums remove a thin layer of concrete roadway while creating small grooves to limit vehicle tire noise. It is a 3-year pilot program.

Diamond grinding is less expensive than rubberized asphalt, which begins to break down after three years and typically must be replaced at about the 10-year mark.

Diamond grinding is not quite as quiet. ADOT acknowledges that, but claims that it is below the 67-decibel noise-abatement threshold in ADOT's Noise Abatement Policy as well as federal requirements.

While ADOT insists that its Loop 101 noise measurements are within the acceptable range, nearby residents, armed with their own hand-held decibel readers, beg to differ.

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods and Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke said that their offices have been swamped with Loop 101 noise complaints.

Woods, who is a member of the Maricopa Association of Governments Transportation Policy Committee, has put the Loop 101 noise issue on the agenda for its next meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

"I specifically asked, as mayor of the city, to bring this in front of all the people who are going to be involved in that MAG meeting," Woods said. "I also have a pre-meeting with the executive director of MAG to talk about some of the issues that our residents have been experiencing in terms of additional noise on the freeway and therefore diminished quality of life, which could also lead to diminished property values."

"Diamond grinding was initially deemed as a pilot program, but from my understanding, the pilot program was going to last three to four years. What I try to impress upon them in conversations that I've had with MAG staff and ADOT staff is that our

— CONTINUED on facing page



Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, who is a member of the Maricopa Association of Governments Transportation Police Committee, put the Loop 101 noise issue on the agenda for the group's Jan. 20 meeting. — *Wrangler News* photo by Lee Shappell



residents can't afford to wait three to four years to come back to revisit this issue. It really is negatively affecting their quality of life."

Woods said that he has received nearly 200 emails and other forms of correspondence on the issue.

According to Hartke, "We have received complaints of increased noise from residents that live along Loop 101. The majority of the communications have been from Tempe residents who are writing to both Tempe and Chandler officials, although Chandler residents are sending emails, as well. We have reached out to ADOT."

ADOT explained in an emailed response why it is experimenting with diamond grinding. "ADOT will research different pavement surfaces, life-cycle costs and efforts to limit noise along regional freeways," it said. "Much of the region's urban freeway system is covered with a 1-inch top layer of rubberized asphalt, with a majority of sections extended beyond their anticipated 10-year service life. As a result, ADOT and MAG have faced decisions about long-term costs associated with pavement wear over time, including whether to resurface a freeway with rubberized asphalt or use an alternative surface treatment, such as diamond grinding, which provides a longer-lasting solution.

"As rubberized asphalt ages and wears down, noise levels associated with highway traffic increase. However, noise levels have not been shown to increase over time on freeways treated with diamond grinding. All noise mitigation efforts for (the Loop 101) project have been implemented and meet ADOT and federal noise-abatement requirements."

Further, ADOT said that in response to concerns from community members about freeway noise levels following completion of the Loop 101 diamond grinding – and as part of its analysis of this new treatment – it conducted noise testing in early October

2020 along the Loop 101/Price Freeway between U.S. 60 and Loop 202/Santan Freeway.

"Noise readings were taken in neighborhoods adjacent to the Price Freeway," ADOT said. "The noise readings ranged from 50 to 65 decibels, which is below ADOT's noise threshold of 67 decibels for noise-abatement consideration and within acceptable noise levels based on ADOT's Noise Abatement Policy and federal requirements. Those readings were comparable to previous readings taken along Loop 101 in 2013 when rubberized asphalt was in place.

"Subsequently, at the request of individual homeowners, ADOT conducted noise readings in those homeowners' backyards in early December during peak morning and evening traffic hours to verify the accuracy of the previous readings. Those readings were primarily taken in the Optimist Park neighborhood on the west side of Loop 101 between Baseline and Guadalupe roads, as well as on the east side of Loop 101 just south of Guadalupe Road. It's important to note ADOT is not allowed to include the noise-reduction benefits of pavement surface treatments – including diamond grinding or rubberized asphalt – as part of the noise-mitigation measures for a project.

"We have responded to all homeowners in these communities who have reached out to ADOT directly about noise to provide information about the diamond-grinding program and the results of our analysis to date in regard to the noise readings. We arranged to perform courtesy noise measurements at homes in proximity to the freeway at the homeowners' request. ADOT can minimize noise levels, but we are not able to eliminate all noise for those living in proximity to the freeway. While residents are hearing some freeway noise, it does not exceed levels that would require consideration of additional noise-abatement measures according to ADOT's policy and federal guidelines."

The neighbors aren't buying it.

"The noise just kept getting louder and louder, so I reached out to ADOT and asked when the project will be finished. They said the project is finished," said Zyriek, 56, a financial analyst before becoming a stay-at-home mom. "That's the first time I became aware that they were moving away from rubberized asphalt. They basically said that it was a cost and maintenance issue. Rubberized asphalt is not a failed product. We had no issues with it. They're just looking for something that's more cost effective.

"We have a two-story home. All of our bedrooms are upstairs. For us, the biggest impact definitely is



Lisa Zyriek



Stacey Sell



Kevin Hartke



Noise reading in Stacey Sell's backyard is excessive.

sleeping. We feel we can't wait for three years for things to get better. They need to have some public meetings. There was no outreach. This kind of came out of the blue. As more traffic comes because of more lanes and after the pandemic ends and things return to normal, there will be even more traffic."

Herbst, a dog walker and marathon runner, said it is difficult to have a conversation outside her home with a neighbor because of the freeway noise.

"Have they thought about sound-barrier walls? How about growing some trees?" said Herbst, 66, an artist. "One neighbor was complaining that his house looked like a bunker because of all the sound buffering that he has put it.

"The backyard ambiance is gone in the mornings and at night, especially on weekend nights by our pool. We've lived here since 1992 when there was no freeway. We knew it was coming. We thought at the time that the benefits outweighed the negatives, and, boy, did it help with getting the kids around. We were happy when the freeway came and twice as happy when they rubberized it. Now it's unbearably loud. When my husband is at the kitchen table and I'm at the island, we have to raise our voices to have a conversation."

Sell, 49, chief financial officer of a Tempe travel agency and a Circle G homeowners association board member, was so irked last fall that she and her husband distributed nearly 200 fliers urging homeowners to join them in heightening awareness of the problem to MAG, ADOT and the municipalities. She said has to sleep with "a very loud fan" on to create white noise.

"I'm not saying the freeway shouldn't make noise. It's going to make noise. That's a given," Sell said. "But the level of noise now is so significantly higher than it used to be that we are not able to enjoy our yards. I was having a conversation with a neighbor in our cul de sac. He couldn't hear me unless I was literally screaming. That's unacceptable. That's what we are upset about."



# Dentists' advisory: Don't neglect your teeth during pandemic

By Joyce Coronel

With the sobering reality that more than 389,000 Americans are dead from COVID-19, there's no room for doubt that the impact on the nation's health has been enormous. And while the ubiquitous face mask reminds us daily that we haven't yet conquered the beast, two Tempe dentists want to remind you: Don't forget about your teeth.

Dr. Stacy Tracy and Dr. Roxanne Huber of Tempe Smile Design say they have taken strong measures to protect their patients' health while they are being seen for check-ups and dental work. The dentists noted that at the beginning of the pandemic last spring, people were told they shouldn't go to the dentist for routine check-ups.

"The news was real quick to say, 'Don't go to the dentist,' but they haven't been real quick to say, 'Hey, we were wrong,'" Stacy noted.

Skipping check-ups could lead to real trouble, both dentists warn.

"Dental problems only get worse," Huber said. "They never get better. If you wait too long, it could turn into an abscess which is painful. You could even lose teeth." Not only that, oral health impacts health in general and poor oral health has been linked to diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

In order to protect and reassure their patients during the pandemic, Tempe Smile Design installed two medical grade HEPA air filters to clean the air in the office.

"One of the reasons people didn't want to come in was because they were afraid of the aerosolization of the cough droplets," Huber said. Additionally, all staff members at Tempe Smile Design have received their COVID vaccinations.

"You're much safer here than you are at the grocery store," Stacy said.

A notice on the front door of Tempe Smile Design states that anyone who enters the office must wear a mask. Temperature checks are given and patients are asked a series of questions about their health before they are seen by the dentist. They're also asked to take a pump of hand sanitizer that's prominently displayed on the front desk. Family and guests of the patient must wait outside in order to maintain social distance.

"We disinfect the outdoor handle and the indoor handle. We're constantly wiping and spraying Lysol, trying to keep the air clean and the surfaces clean," Huber said. Even the pens are segregated into those that are dirty and clean.

"Our sterilization procedure hasn't changed because they were always at the highest. But we're

more conscious of things that people are worried about and that we're worried about. Everybody's masked."

Those pearly whites that make up your smile are inestimable, both dentists say. And that isn't often appreciated until they're gone, which is why regular dental check-ups are crucial.

"People don't realize how precious dental health is—just having all your teeth," Stacy said. Once you start losing them, a domino effect can be set in motion. "I can't afford to take care of it so I'll just have it pulled," Stacy said some patients say. "But then it turns into another tooth and another tooth and pretty soon they don't have a whole side of their back teeth." The remaining teeth then have to do more work.

"They start breaking other teeth down. They have habits, they clench, they grind...they damage the teeth and they can only take so much. Unfortunately, people have to learn that lesson the hard way a lot of times.

"Then it's major work."

The moral of the story is, see your dentist. Just as the eyes are the window to the soul, your mouth is a window into your overall health. Your dentist can help you protect it.

Added Huber:

"Make sure you come to the dentist. We're always accepting new patients."

## Chandler Business Owners:

The City of Chandler is providing relief funding to businesses through its Business Hiring & Retention Program. Businesses that have retained employees, hired employees, or used independent contractors during the COVID-19 pandemic may qualify for funding. Applications are now being accepted and businesses are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

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# Lighting a path through the pandemic

By Sam Voas  
 wranglernews.com



Nicholas Knudsen demonstrates UVC sterilization technology in the battle against COVID.

— Wrangler News photo by Samuel Voas

“You don’t have to wear a mask in here. This is one of the most sterile environments in the city,” assured Nicholas Knudsen, founder of Tempe-based sanitation company Purification LLC.

But as I peeled away my mask, I was not struck by the nostril-stinging aroma of Clorox, as one might expect in “the most sterile environment in the city.” This because Knudsen has no use for noxious cleaning

chemicals; he has his lights.

Knudsen founded Purification LLC in March 2020. Since then, the company has established itself as a

LIGHT, Page 24

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# Retired teacher's paintings cast spirit of compassion for underserved youth

By Janie Magruder

Reading, writing and arithmetic weren't the only subjects Ann Clarke taught to kindergartners through fifth graders during a 43-year career. Art was an integrated part of her school district's curriculum, and so it played a prominent — and valuable — role in her classrooms.

"It's not a difficult task as a classroom teacher to find realistic ways to build up a child's self esteem," said Clarke of Tempe. "I would frame my students' art and put it around the classroom, and make sure students were part of school-wide efforts to promote art.

"There were students who didn't excel in all the academic areas," she added, "but they could excel in being creative and proud and being recognized because of their expressions of art."

— PAINTINGS, Page 19



Tempe artist Ann Clarke, a retired teacher, uses her gift with watercolors to assist young people aging out of the foster care system. — Wrangler News photo by Samuel Voas



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# Neighbors to city: Tear down this wall

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By Joyce Coronel  
wranglernews.com

Continuing controversy over a block wall built into an equestrian path in South Tempe has reared its head again and residents of nearby horse-property neighborhoods are urging the city to enforce the law they say is on their side.

At its Jan. 14 virtual meeting, broadcast and archived on Tempe 11, members of the Tempe City Council listened to a brief overview of the situation by City Attorney Judi Baumann and a prepared statement by South Tempe resident Matt Schmel.

The controversy was initially spurred on last fall when a resident of Shady Lane Estates hired a surveyor and built a 328-foot-long block wall that extends 10 feet into the bridle path just west of the neighborhood.

“City staff has looked into the issue and we have found no indication that the particular bridle path in the Shady Lanes Estates neighborhood is recorded as a public easement,” Baumann said.

“We have been in contact with the homeowners association and understand that the wall was approved by their architectural committee, so that’s just a very brief background to make the public aware of the issue and the fact that the city has spent some time looking into it.”

At those words, it might have seemed all bets were off, yet the horse race was far from over, at least according to disgruntled neighbors.

That’s because the neighborhood’s plat map—the official document which records boundary locations, nearby streets, flood zones, and any easements or rights of way—contains clear references to the path easement. The city approved the Shady Lane Estates development in 1995.

An Aug. 17, 2020, email from Shady Lanes HOA President Larry Heywood to Christa Zamora, a South Tempean who objects to the wall, states the neighborhood’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.”

An email last March from Tempe Deputy Community Development Director for Planning Ryan Levesque to the surveyor and the Shady Lane Estates resident at the center of the tempest stated that:

“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).”

Schmel, the resident who spoke at the Jan. 14 meeting, said he represented the sentiments of many residents of his neighborhood as well as those in Buena Vista Ranchos and Calle de Caballos who are upset about the wall. Those neighborhoods are unique in that they have the only bridle path system in Tempe running throughout them.

Schmel told the council the city-approved bridle paths are “under attack while the city of Tempe relies on an unelected official, the city attorney, for unreliable advice.”

To further illustrate his point, Schmel noted the group’s research revealed the city has a 12-inch water pipe that runs along the path, and “the size of the water line easement does not meet the width requirements and may in fact be encroached upon by the offending wall.”

The very existence of Shady Lane Estates, Schmel said, was conditioned upon the honoring of the contested easement.

“The evidence is clear that this encroaching wall on the bridle path is a knowing and willful violation of the legal stipulations on the plat map and the laws enumerated in the Tempe City Code.”

In his closing remarks, Schmel noted that the U.S. is a country of laws and challenged Mayor Corey Woods and city councilmembers to honor their oath of office to uphold the laws of Arizona





Rebecca Owens rides her horse on the bridle path near a recently constructed block wall in South Tempe.

— Wrangler News file photo by Billy Hardiman

and Tempe.

“The Tempe City Staff is in need of your direction and leadership to have this wall torn down and the required bridle path restored,” Schmel said.

Councilmember Jennifer Adams spoke briefly after Schmel’s presentation.

“Obviously I have great concerns about this situation about what Matt has brought up tonight and I would like to hear from our city attorney some information and see if we can get some clarification and if we need to revamp things, which it sounds like Matt made a great case for,” Adams said.

“Then I think we need to relook at this

situation moving forward and correct what’s happened if in fact we are out of code. “

Due to Arizona’s open meeting law, council members were not able to comment further on the matter since it was not placed on the agenda two weeks prior to the meeting. Woods apologized to Adams that the item was not added to the agenda in time. He also spoke with Wrangler News about the controversy.

“It’s something that we’re going to continue to discuss actively with staff. I know that as of last night, our city attorney’s statement still was that the view from her office is that it is a private situation and the city doesn’t currently have any standing,” Woods said.

“At the same time, the fact that so many residents (participated in) the meeting, and they’ll continue to send in correspondence to the city council, it’s still something that we’re actively looking into.”

Schmel said he and his neighbors have already consulted an attorney about possible litigation if the group is not successful in convincing the city to uphold the bridle path easement. He’s convinced the path is not a private easement but rather a public one the city should recognize if it doesn’t want to set a precedent for picking and choosing which laws to enforce. “I think out of this, that’s one of the choices they have to make: What’s the precedent you set?”



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## Youth clubs step up to remote learning needs

Nine Boys & Girls Clubs around the Valley, including two in Tempe and one in Chandler, have performed a delicate balancing act as schools adapt to being open or alternately relying on remote learning.

Cassidy Campana, communications vice president for the clubs, said the Tempe clubs remain open for after school programming. The Chandler Club, which is open for distance learning, was due to return to after school programming starting Monday, Jan. 18.

Campana said the clubs have followed the lead of local school districts by staying open where there is need and demand.

Students may attend

any Valley club with their membership. Nine clubs were open for distance learning as of Jan. 15 and will remain so where need and demand continue.

The Arizona Department of Education had announced earlier its continued support of the Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and the Arizona Alliance of YMCAs for the spring semester to support communities with a safe space for learning and development.

As schools operating in a distance learning model are still required to provide a physical space for the most at-risk students, the two organizations have stepped up to help schools fulfill this requirement.

Said Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman:

“Given the highly concerning rate of community spread across our state, and the corresponding need for more schools to return to a distance learning model, the extra support of the YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs provides necessary relief to schools and families, ensuring that every student who needs a safe place to learn, has one.”

Using discretionary funding from the federal CARES Act, it was said that the Arizona Department of Education has allocated \$1.5 million to support the Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and the Valley of the Sun YMCA programs.

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# SPORTS . . . with Alex Zener

## AIA's reversal of season-ending decision is hailed

Most Arizona high school winter-sports teams have returned to competition, including Tempe Union high schools, after a controversial 5-4 vote by the Arizona Interscholastic Association Executive Board to overturn its earlier decision to cancel the seasons.

The decision to cancel had been made based on the recommendation the AIA's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, which was concerned about the COVID-19 resurgence in Arizona and a lack of hospital beds.

The winter season, which impacts roughly 300 Arizona high schools and an estimated 30,000 student-athletes in basketball, soccer and wrestling, already had been postponed twice, leaving athletes emotional, depressed and stressed with the ups and downs. The same was true for their coaches and families who support them.

Reaction on social media to the cancellation was mostly negative. Executive Board members received thousands of telephone calls and emails, several supporting cancellation but most derogatory, threatening and harassing in opposition.

Teams had already been practicing. To have their season taken away only 10 days before competitions were to begin was heartbreaking. Some seniors were counting on this winter season to help them earn college scholarships.

Corona del Sol High during the fall-sports season had done a good job adapting to strict safety protocols established by the AIA, which are designed to prevent the spread of

COVID-19. Now their winter-sports teams were bending over backwards, as one coach expressed on social media, to be able to play.

"I was very proud of all of our student athletes, coaches, parents and our entire community, who worked really hard during the fall-sports season," said **Cory Nenaber**, Corona's assistant principal for athletics. "We competed in every sport, and we were able to complete the season without having to cancel or postpone any varsity games due to COVID cases or quarantining. That was quite an accomplishment on everyone's part."

If the winter sports cancellation had stood, it was believed that student-athletes would have joined clubs or found other ways to play outside of their high school. This could have put them in a less-controlled environment more conducive to the spread of COVID-19.

For example, Arizona USA Wrestling made plans for a high school wrestling program if the AIA did not reverse. The Arizona Basketball Coaches Association was believed to be talking to school-district athletic directors about ways for girls and boys high school teams to play basketball.

Other schools were talking about creating a new athletic association or joining one that existed, like the Canyon Athletic Association. Some coaches, especially soccer coaches, were talking about releasing their athletes back to their club teams.

So, winter sports will go on but with



Alex Zener

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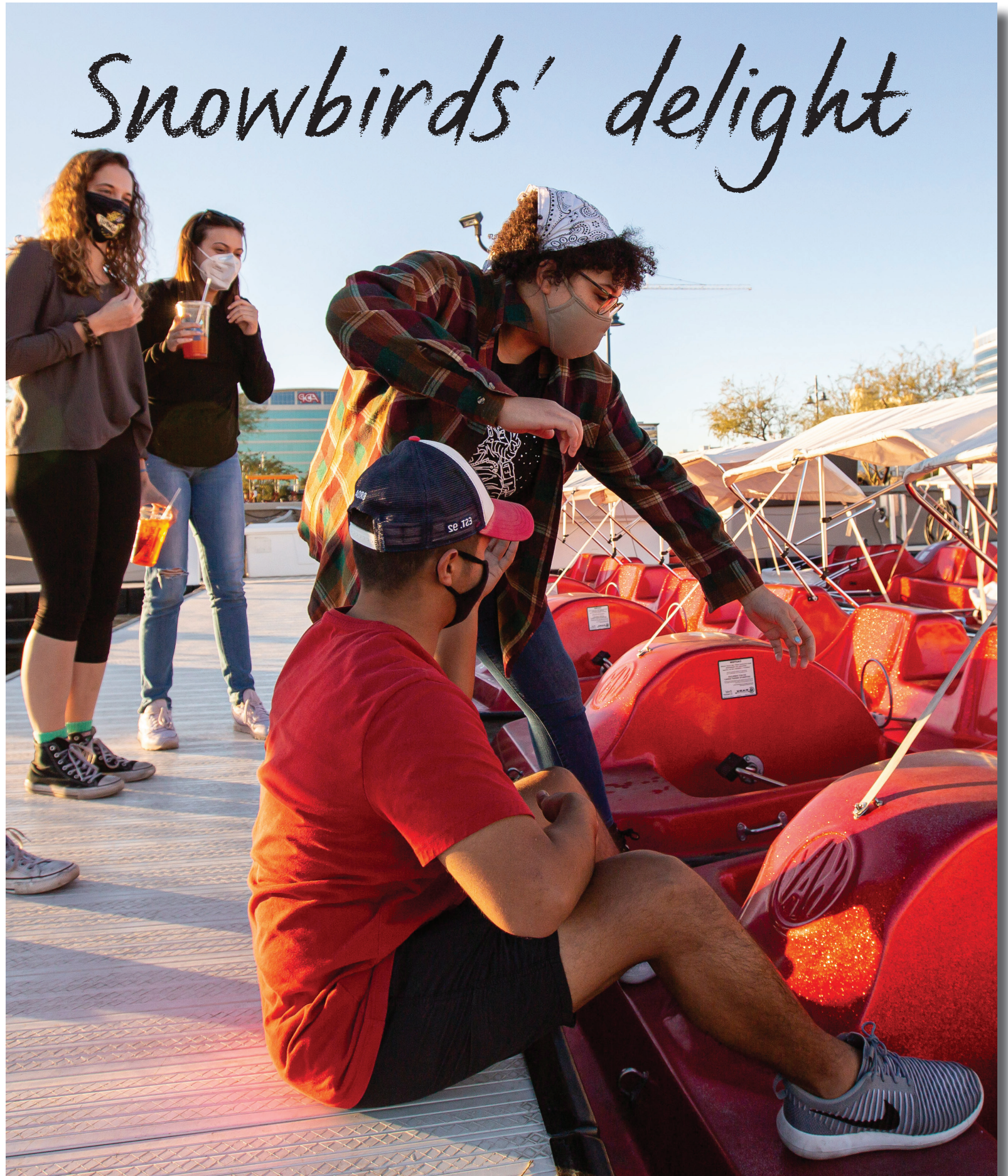


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Photo essay by  
Billy Hardiman  
for Wrangler News

# Snowbirds' delight









# DIVERSIONS . . . with M.V. Moorhead

## 'Wonder Woman' reprises '80s-style heroine versus villains

Wonder Woman was introduced in the comics in 1941 to fight Nazis and Mussolini and other thugs of that period. Her first star vehicle in the movies, just three years ago, reset her origin story in the World War I era. The cheeky sequel *WW84*, with Gal Gadot returning as Diana, has her living in Washington D.C. in the mid-'80s, working at the Smithsonian and not looking a day older, or less breathtaking, than she did when Woodrow Wilson was president.

Diana befriends a supposedly dowdy, recessive coworker (Kristin Wiig), and runs afoul of a blustering TV con man (Pedro Pascal), a "Greed is Good," You-Can-Have-It-All type, who has stumbled upon the supernatural power to grant people's wishes, but who, of course, has never heard about being careful what you wish for. This same rather vague McGuffin allows Diana to reunite with her love interest from the earlier film, Steve Trevor (Chris

Pine). Before the end of this two-and-half-hour tale, we get the origin of WW's Invisible Jet, and our heroine also has to grapple with a new iteration of one of her '40s-era enemies from the comics, the were-cat known as The Cheetah.

Returning director and co-writer Patty Jenkins generates period through style as well as sets and costumes; the film often feels like an overstuffed '80s big-budgeter. I lived in D.C. in the late '80s, and neighborhoods where I worked are featured in a number of scenes, which gave me an extra nostalgic buzz.

It's all a bit fuzzy around the edges, but it doesn't take itself too seriously, and like the first movie, though perhaps more so, it has a generous spirit. Gadot is good company once again, and Wiig brings both humor and unexpected anger to her role.

The TV fraud's worldwide mischief results in the appearance

of a huge wall, of national and international chaos, and of the threat of nuclear war. It's just possible he's meant to remind us of somebody or other.

Last week I offered my Top Ten list for 2020; here are quick hits on a few other notable films that I didn't get to earlier:

*Hillbilly Elegy*—Ron Howard's adaptation of the J. D. Vance memoir is compelling and well-acted in itself, especially by Glenn Close and Amy Adams, but politically evasive and timid in what it omits.

*Mank*—This chronicle of Herman Mankiewicz and the writing of *Citizen Kane*, a long-cherished project of director David Fincher and his late father Jack Fincher, has some superb acting and looks good, but it's accuracy-challenged, and worse, appallingly slow and overlong.

*On the Rocks*—The latest from Sofia Coppola, this mild comedy-drama



Wonder Woman, who hasn't aged a bit since her 1941 debut, comes to the rescue as nuclear war threatens civilization.

has rascally art dealer Bill Murray helping daughter Rashida Jones stalk her possibly-straying husband Marlon Wayans. Murray's performance is another classic of avuncular mischievousness, and Jones is just as good, but the movie lacks urgency, like a piece of literary fiction that ultimately doesn't feel like it's about anything much.

*The Prom*—A gay high school student throws her Indiana hometown into a tizzy because she wants

to go to prom with her girlfriend, and Broadway stars Meryl Streep, James Corden, Nicole Kidman and Andrew Rannells swoop down uninvited on the town for what they hope will be a career-boosting protest of this intolerance. The tunes in this musical are unmemorable but pleasant, the stars have a self-deprecating blast; it's sort of boring to say so at this point, but Streep is particularly marvelous. And Jo Ellen Pellman, as our heroine, is a wonder.

I also managed, at

this writing, to have not yet caught up with several important films: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *News of the* and *Nomadland*, to name a few. Any of these could have altered my list.

*WW84* (aka *Wonder Woman 1984*) plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20 and Arizona Mills, and other multiplexes Valleywide.



## Paintings

From Page 10

Clarke chose to teach primarily in public schools that had large percentages of students in the free and reduced price lunch program. She suspects that, over the decades, she had more than a few foster children in her classrooms.

"They were very open to understanding they were worthy little people, and they deserved to have special things in their lives," she said.

When Clarke retired in 2016, she combined her commitment to children in need with her love of painting with watercolors, a hobby she had taken up a few years before. A prolific artist who has created 100 pieces, Clarke joked that her family and friends advised her they'd received enough of her work to fill their walls.

Last year, she connected with the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation, and decided to contribute several paintings to the organization's annual fundraiser. That led to a partnership in which a variety of Clarke's framed originals are available for purchase online, with 75 percent of each sale going to AFFCF's Keys to Success program. Visit [affcf.org/artwork](http://affcf.org/artwork) to see the paintings.

According to the foundation, approximately 900 youth leave Arizona's foster care system every year without the family support and opportunities needed for success. As a result, they are more likely than their peers to drop out of school, become parents before they are ready, experience homelessness or end up in jail.

The goal of Keys to Success is to provide career development services for youth aging out of foster care so they may discover their potential and a pathway to living wage jobs. The youth receive help identifying short- and long-term career goals, preparing for and securing employment, completing education or training that aligns with their plans, developing personal and independent living skills, and connecting to other organizations that provide additional resources.

Qualifying youth must be between ages 16 and 21, be in foster care or have been in foster care at age 18, and reside in Maricopa or western Yavapai counties.

So far, 27 of Clarke's original paintings have been sold to benefit AFFCF, and 36 others — from aspens and Canada geese to succulents and tabbies — currently are displayed on its Art for a Cause! website. Kim Searles, AFFCF's outreach coordinator, said the nonprofit could not be more grateful for Clarke's talented artistic interpretation and benevolence.

"What Ann's doing is helping support a program that costs about \$1,000 every six months per youth enrolled in Keys to Success," Searles said. "She could sell her paintings and pocket all the money, but she has been so generous."



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# Down on the farm . . . Chandler style



Fresh, locally produced fruits and veggies plus an array of other tantalizing products comprise part of the allure that draws patrons to Chandler's Historic Downtown area for the weekly farmers market. The event takes place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday, October through June.

Organized by the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, vendors are adhering to extra safety precautions in light of the pandemic. Patrons are asked to practice social distancing, and contactless forms of payment are available.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman  
for Wrangler News









# New Chandler councilmembers sworn in; Stewart elected vice mayor

Two newly elected Chandler City Council members took their seats and a new vice mayor was chosen at City Hall on Jan. 14.

New Councilmembers Christine Ellis and OD

Harris were sworn in to four-year terms.

Ellis and Harris replace Sam Huang and Jeremy McClymonds.

Incumbent Mark Stewart, who was re-elected,

also was sworn in for his second four-year term.

Stewart then was unanimously elected vice mayor by the Council, which also includes Mayor Kevin Hartke, René Lopez, Matt Orlando and Terry Roe. Stewart will serve as vice mayor through Jan. 13, 2022.

"Serving my fellow residents is such an incredible honor and I'm grateful for the opportunity to start my second term on the Council as vice mayor," said Stewart.

"I thank my colleagues for selecting me."

Stewart spent more than 20 years with Fortune 50 organizations and now

owns a marketing and branding company, Concept2Completion. As an entrepreneur, he is involved with two startup companies as a founding partner.

Stewart represents Chandler on the Maricopa Association of Governments Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee; Arizona League of Cities and Towns Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee; METRO Rail Board of Directors; East Valley Partnership Board of Directors; National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee.

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# Politicians express continuing COVID concerns at Chandler Chamber forum

By Sam Voas  
wranglernews.com

Of the wide ranging menu of challenges that occupy the minds of politicians in most normal years, this year (no surprise) emerged with singular agreement: get through the agony of an economy-crippling pandemic.

That seemed to be the No. 1 goal of 15 of the area's most recognizable political leaders who convened for the Chandler Chamber's annual Meet Your Elected Officials gathering.

COVID-19 vaccine distribution, for instance, was a recurring theme throughout the meeting was the distribution of covid-19 vaccines or, as Councilman Matt Orlando put it, "getting shots in arms."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack Sellers reiterated Orlando's comments, saying that accelerating the distribution of vaccines was "one of

the most important things we are doing right now to get our economy back on track."

Sen. J.D. Mesnard echoed these economic concerns, as encouraged support for the small business community, which has been ravaged by the pandemic.

"(We need to) make sure our small businesses don't go under. A lot of them are right on the edge — have been floundering for some time.

"So we've got to be working on policies that help our small businesses."

Although the officials regarded mitigation of the pandemic's economic effects as a matter of urgent concern, it was not all bad news.

Mayor of Chandler, Kevin Hartke, highlighted the fact that revenues over the last year actually exceeded the expectation outlined in the city's 2020 budget.

Additionally, he reported that Chandler had continued to welcome new businesses despite the stifling economic effect of COVID-19.

Elected officials and community leaders acknowledged the severe financial fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, but remained optimistic about the coming year as they outlined their plans to restore a flourishing economy in Chandler.



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# Light

From Page 8

leading innovator in UVC sterilization technology. According to his account of the start-up, this technology uses the radiation from intense ultraviolet light to destroy virtually any pathogen that it touches, including the COVID-19 virus — a claim supported by the CDC, FDA and FEMA.

Several Valley businesses have already taken advantage of Purification LLC's cutting-edge sanitation services, including popular Tempe bar and restaurant The Porch.

Knudsen argues that UVC sanitation is more effective than traditional, chemical sanitation methods. As is routinely acknowledged, a thorough cleaning using standard germ-killing chemicals is time-consuming and labor-intensive. UVC light, however, is said to sanitize an entire room with the flick of a switch, as it instantaneously kills any microorganism it touches, including airborne pathogens.

"I have yet to find something it doesn't kill," notes Knudsen. If that makes UVC light sound dangerous, it's because it is.

Just as the radiation from UVC light destroys harmful bacteria and viruses, it can also cause severe damage to human tissue, which can lead to serious health conditions, including cancer. However, Knudsen assures that his products are designed to shield his customers from the potentially hazardous radiation, and pose no safety risk for consumers.

Unfortunately, Knudsen cannot say the same for his own safety.

Though he takes proper precautions to protect himself — wearing a hazmat suit and protective eye-wear — he believes some amount of accidental exposure is unavoidable when working closely with UVC light. But Knudsen's altruistic sensibilities outweigh any concerns he has for his personal well-being.

"I tend to burn myself pretty often — zap my eyes pretty often. But I don't care if I'm blind and dying as long as I'm able to save a few people," he confesses, adding, "I want people to stand around at my funeral and say 'he did whatever it took to try and make a

difference in the world — to try and make it safer for people."

Knudsen is clear about his motivations: Above all else, he wants his upstart to be seen as a philanthropic entity — a desire that motivated him to register Purification as a tax exempt 501c(3) charitable organization.

Currently, Knudsen's company is focused on making the community a safer place during the COVID-19 pandemic, using UVC technology. But his charitable ambitions extend well beyond Tempe and the current pandemic. He imagines a world where UVC sterilization technology is ubiquitous.

"I hope by 2025, (UVC technology) will be implemented in every international airport in the world...I want this in every school; I want this in every daycare; I want this in every old folks' facility," he declares.

"I basically want to try to save the world with this technology."

In the darkness of the pandemic, Nicholas Knudsen envisions of a brighter, healthier future for humanity.

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The Epiphany or Little Christmas is observed on January 6 in many Christian churches.

This day has come to be known as "Kings Day".

Since the 200's, the day has honored the meeting of the Three Wise Men with the infant Jesus. King Cakes became part of the celebration to symbolize the "finding of baby Jesus".

Traditionally King Cakes are oval-shaped to show unity of all Christians. The Mardi Gras season which begins on the "Twelfth Night" (January 6th) is expressed on King Cakes

by using the carnival colors of green (signifying Faith), gold (signifying Power), and purple (signifying Justice).

In the past, a bean, pecan, pea, or coin was hidden inside each King Cake. Today, a tiny plastic baby is used. As a King Cake is cut, each person awaits anxiously for a piece to locate the "baby". The person who finds the baby is "King of the Party" and obligated to bring a King Cake to the next seasonal celebration.

Celebrate this Mardi Gras Tradition in your home, class, or office. King Cake season ends on Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), the day before Lent begins.



# BRIEFLY

## Apple tech training at MCC

Tempe and West Chandler residents looking for job opportunities assisting consumers with Apple products and services may want to consider classes now available at Mesa Community College, the only college in Arizona to offer the AppleCare Technician certificate program.

MCC offers two eight-week, for-credit, evening AppleCare courses this spring. The courses incorporate curriculum from Apple's Learning Tracks for Macs and iPhones and may be completed in one semester.

"Students completing the program will be highly qualified to obtain employment assisting consumers with Apple products and services," said Diane Meza, MITI-East Valley director.

"The courses offer entry level or incumbent IT workers opportunities to increase their skills and knowledge of Apple products and be able to troubleshoot Mac, iPhone and iPad devices."

Students successfully completing this program will be prepared to earn the AppleCare iPhone Certification and AppleCare Mac Certification credentials demonstrating their proficiency in servicing Apple products.

The first AppleCare course, iPhone Certification (BPC260) began Jan. 20; the second course, MAC Certification (BPC262) begins March 22. Both classes are offered live online, meaning students meet with faculty, as a class, online during a specific day and time.

Information: [mesacc.edu/applecare](http://mesacc.edu/applecare).

## Garlid in League of Cities role

Tempe Councilmember Doreen Garlid has been elected to the National League of Cities 2021 Human Development Federal Advocacy Committee, which serves as a resource

and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

The group is responsible for developing policy positions and advocacy on issues involving social services, children and learning, poverty and income support, employment and workforce development, equal opportunity, education, Social Security and seniors, individuals with disabilities, public health care, mental health parity, and immigration reform.

Said Garlid:

"The work being done by committee can make a true difference in the lives of Tempe residents of all ages, genders, ethnicities and abilities. (It) could also benefit people throughout our country.

"I am proud to be part of these advocacy efforts."

## Museum hosts culture, history event

Those looking to explore the culture, history and art of Chandler, the East Valley and beyond have a place to find singular enlightenment in this otherwise stay-at-home era: Chandler's entertaining, thought-provoking museum.

In February, two new exhibits will open alongside existing displays presented in a comfortable environment that promotes physical distancing, mask wearing and limited occupancy to protect guests and staff from COVID-19. The exhibits open Feb. 3 and continue through March 10.

The Museum Store is located in the lobby of the Chandler Museum at 300 S. Chandler Village Drive in West Chandler.

The store is open during Museum hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. The facility is closed on Mondays.

Information: [chandleraz.gov/museum](http://chandleraz.gov/museum) or 480-782-2717.

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# Zener

From Page 15

protocols added to existing fall sports restrictions.

Corona will participate in all winter sports including wrestling, boys and girls soccer and boys and girls basketball, according to Nenaber.

"I am thankful that our student athletes, who have worked so hard, have the opportunity to play this winter," Nenaber said.

"As a school and as a district, student health and safety are our number one priority and we have a very detailed mitigation plan in place to do everything we can to keep our athletes and their families safe while on campus."

Any participant, including all players, coaches, referees, scorekeepers and trainers, must wear a mask at all times, including during competitions.

Two parents or guardians per home-team athlete may attend but must wear a mask at all times.

Any college recruiters or news media must obtain written permission from a school's athletic director to attend.

Student athletes must submit a COVID monitoring form showing they meet all of the requirements for participation.

Most athletes and coaches relish the opportunity to play. Others have decided not to participate at all because of the coronavirus.

Coaches have had to work extra hard during the COVID restrictions in dealing with the emotional and mental struggles of their athletes. Some coaches feel they have aged 10 years dealing with their own stress.

"I cannot thank our coaches enough, in the fall and the winter sports, for all of the hard work they have done and continue to do," said Nenaber.

"This year has definitely added an extreme level to their stress and they continue to put the well-being and success of our student athletes as their top priority."

Schools and coaches cannot do it by themselves, though. They need the support of student athletes and their parents and guardians.

"I think few people understand the hard work and stress associated with all of the modifications and mitigations we are doing on a daily basis to ensure that our athletes are safe and get a chance to play," Nenaber said.

"Our parents have been incredibly supportive of all of the changes and restrictions in order to be able to provide their student athletes with a season."

Some coaches and athletes are skeptical that athletes can compete while wearing a mask.

Concerns during high-intensity activities include not being able to breathe, especially for asthmatic athletes, or getting the mask wet with perspiration, which can interfere with being able to breathe.

A Mayo Clinic Health System study ([mayoclinichealthsystem.org](http://mayoclinichealthsystem.org)) shows that wearing a mask during moderate to strenuous aerobic physical

activity does not significantly affect heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, oxygen level or time of exhaustion.

It is, though, imperative that masks be replaced if they become wet during exercise.

## Corona del Sol boys basketball

The Aztecs are definitely going to play basketball, according to coach **Neil MacDonald**.

Their first game was scheduled at home against Desert Vista, Jan. 19, with a live broadcast on the NFHS Network.

Up next, they will play at Mountain Pointe on Jan. 22 and then at home against Perry and former Corona coach **Sam Duane Jr.**, on Jan. 23.

The Aztecs have 18 games in the regular season, their last game March 5 at Queen Creek.

Currently, no spectators are allowed except two parents or guardians for each home-team player.

## Marcos de Niza boys basketball

The Padres are scheduled to play 19 games starting with a home game against Saguario on Jan. 19 to be streamed live on the NFHS Network.

Marcos will then play an away game at Seton Catholic on Jan. 22 followed by three road games: at Mesquite, Jan. 26; at Notre Dame, Jan. 28, and at American Leadership Academy in Queen Creek, Jan. 29.

No spectators are allowed except two parents or guardians per home-team player.



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## Tempe and ASU offer COVID-19 saliva tests

The City of Tempe and ASU are offering free COVID-19 saliva tests every Tuesday through Feb. 23 at Cahill Senior Center, 715 W. Fifth St.

The university's free saliva-based COVID-19 test is quick and easy, with results in 24 to 48 hours. Visit [tempe.gov/testing](https://tempe.gov/testing) to register for a test at Cahill Senior Center or find links to other testing dates and locations.

About 40% of people who contract COVID-19 never experience symptoms, so even those who feel fine should consider getting tested to stop the unintentional spread of the virus.

In addition, people should be tested if they have: spent more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of unmasked people not in their core group; traveled by air; or been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

While there, you can also get a flu shot if you haven't yet.

Additional dates and locations for flu shots are available at [tempe.gov/vaccines](https://tempe.gov/vaccines).

## Residents: open invitation for budget input

Tempe community members always have an open invitation to provide their thoughts on the city budget – and especially during the spring preparation period each year for the next fiscal year's budget.

Please contribute your thoughts about how the city should be maintaining and investing in our community.

Input opportunities for the fiscal year 2021-22 budget start next month:

- Feb. 1 to March 5 – Visit [tempe.gov/forum](https://tempe.gov/forum) and participate

in this annual exercise in which each resident is given a theoretical \$100 to allocate to their particular community priorities. This helps the City Council understand the top priorities of residents.

- Feb. 24 – A virtual public budget forum will be held via WebEx starting at 6 p.m.

City staff will provide an overview of the budget and priorities for fiscal year 2021-22, which starts July 1.

Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Directions for accessing WebEx will be available at [tempe.gov/budget](https://tempe.gov/budget). The forum will be recorded and available for future viewing at [tempe.gov/budget](https://tempe.gov/budget).

Additional public input opportunities will be available as part of the Council's budget hearing process later in the spring and early summer.

Detailed information about the fiscal year 2021-22 budget process is available at [tempe.gov/budget](https://tempe.gov/budget) or by calling Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311.

## Refined designs for Country Club Way project

Tempe is adding more miles to our bicycle and pedestrian network with the Country Club Way Bike and Pedestrian Improvement Project.

Join us for another round of virtual public meetings on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m., or Wednesday, Feb. 24, at noon, to

view refined designs based on public feedback.

The project, which adds 3.5 miles of improvements between the U.S. 60 and Warner Road, includes public art, shade nodes, lighting, landscaping, improved crossings, improved sidewalk ramps and enhanced bikeways.

Once completed, this project will connect to several regional multi-use paths, bicycle and pedestrian corridors, schools, parks and transit.

For project information and to comment online Feb. 20 to March 7, visit [tempe.gov/CountryClubWayPath](https://tempe.gov/CountryClubWayPath).

## Join Jennifer

Councilmember Jennifer Adams will host her next Join Jennifer virtual community meetup for 85281 at 6 p.m. on

Wednesday, Feb. 3.

While topics will be mostly related to events and issues in 85281, everyone is invited to participate. Economic Development Director Donna Kennedy will talk about the north Tempe county island and Kim

Gaffney-Loza will discuss the Desert Conservation Commission.

Get more details, including how to connect with the webinar, at [tempe.gov/adams](https://tempe.gov/adams) or by emailing [alex\\_chin@tempe.gov](mailto:alex_chin@tempe.gov).





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## State of the District with Congressman Greg Stanton Scheduled for March 11, 2021



Each year, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce presents the State of the District, a federal update with Arizona's 9th District US Representative. This year's event will be an interactive live broadcast with Congressman Greg Stanton who will provide a comprehensive update on federal issues affecting our district, state, and country.

This year's program is sponsored by FOX and is scheduled for Thursday, March 11th at 9:00 am. Following Congressman Stanton's address will include questions from different sectors of the chamber's business community.

Registration closes Tuesday, March 9th and if you are interested in sponsoring this important event please call 480-967-7891. [Register online today!](#)

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### The Leadership Speaker Series is Underway



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The Tempe Chamber's 2021 Speaker Series: Lessons for Life & Leadership kicked off on January 22nd with PetSmart's Vice President of Field HR David Neisen who discussed embracing the value of diversity and inclusion programs as important elements in corporate culture.

Continuing each Friday through February 12th do not miss your opportunity to hear from industry leaders through this dynamic virtual series broadcast live from BD, this year's presenting sponsor.

**January 29th** | Rima Alameddine, Being Different Made Me Succeed

**February 5th** | Erika Amoako-Agyei, The Future of Work: Future-proof your Leadership Career

**February 12th** | Jeffrey Cherry, The Power of Purpose: How conscious leaders will change the world

Visit [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org) to register!

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### Military Affairs Committee Opens Scholarship for Tempe Veterans



The Tempe Chamber Military Affairs Committee has opened applications for the 2021 Merle Fister Scholarship application to eligible Tempe veterans.

The annual Merle Fister Scholarship awards \$1,000 to a Tempe US Military Veteran who is currently enrolled in an accredited college or trade school. The award is based on character, leadership, academic pursuits, and financial need.

The scholarship recipient will take part in the Red, White & Blue Award Ceremony, which will be held as a live broadcast on April 14, 2021 and includes several additional military scholarships and excellence awards.

Applications will be accepted through February 15th at [www.jotform.com/TempeChamberAZ/2021MerleFister](http://www.jotform.com/TempeChamberAZ/2021MerleFister).



# Fashion enterprise turns its energies to COVID isolation gowns

Tempe-based Fashion and Business Resource Innovation Center, best known by its acronym FABRIC, is using its unique resources to help in the fight against COVID-19.

The firm says that its staff members have collaborated to make half a million FDA-approved, reusable, Level 2 and 3 isolation gowns for medical professionals.

AZ Fashion Source, Falcon Engineering, Wulff Contracting, On Point Manufacturing and Katchina Apparel Manufacturing joined FABRIC to produce the American-made and reusable isolation gowns, which can be worn and washed 100 times.

Sherri Barry, of AZ Fashion Source and cofounder of FABRIC, said the group's efforts have helped reduce waste and minimize costs.

"With 500,000 gowns produced to date, the reusable gowns have kept 50,000,000 disposable gowns out of landfills," Barry said.

"The gowns have also helped keep costs down for healthcare providers of all sizes, with a price-per-wash that is lower than a disposable gown."

FABRIC, a public social cooperative enterprise



An employee at Tempe-based F.A.B.R.I.C inspects an isolation gown.  
— Photo courtesy F.A.B.R.I.C.

that works with private industry, local government and nonprofits to support apparel entrepreneurs, was praised for being able to pivot quickly when the pandemic hit the U.S. in March.

Local donors—including the Flinn Foundation, Virginia G. Piper, Charitable Trust, Pakis Center for Business Philanthropy, Tempe Innovation Development Association, Thunderbirds Charities, BHHS Legacy Foundation, Silicon Valley Bank, PCA Skin, AZ Community Foundation and AZ Bio—supported the effort to transform FABRIC's space into

a manufacturing hub for PPE when pandemic-related shortages were widespread.

The ramped-up manufacturing efforts also provided hundreds of essential manufacturing jobs, and garnered a visit from President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris during their October visit to Arizona.

Proceeds from the gown sales have been donated back to FABRIC Tempe, according to a spokeswoman. The nonprofit aims to support apparel entrepreneurs with equipment, training, guidance, industry resources and access to no-minimum manufacturing.

Angela Johnson, a co-founder of FABRIC and FABRIC Tempe, said that with the manufacturing turnaround, even more opportunity has evolved to help meet the mission.

"Because of our generous donors, we believe that FABRIC Tempe will help establish Arizona as a modern fashion-industry capital," said Johnson.

"Leveraging a technology-based, sustainable, closed-loop ecosystem that attracts and supports direct-to-consumer apparel brands, apparel entrepreneurs will have incredible opportunities to create, manufacture and grow their dreams."

Information: [FABRICTempe.com](http://FABRICTempe.com).

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Warm orange and yellow tones echoing throughout the eatery will make this your favorite Mexican restaurant. Give La Casa De Juana a try and enjoy great food, awesome salsa, great service and amazing ambience. Don't forget happy hour from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. every day with \$2 beer (domestic and imports) and \$3 margaritas.

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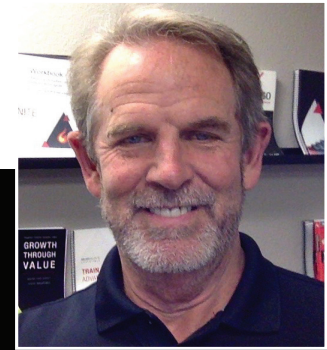
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