

April 3 - 16, 2021  
Volume 31, Number 7

*Covering Tempe & West Chandler for 30-plus years*

# WRANGLER NEWS



*Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News*



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## Cover Photo

### Bargain bonanza

Spring cleaning for some Tempeans spells a browsing heyday, as seen in our photo essay in the Alta Mira neighborhood.

**Page 23**



### Green machine

Tempe's long-awaited streetcar has arrived and will soon be tested. **Page 15**



### Window Wizards

Corona's football team made windows sparkle at Desert Marigold Senior Living. **Page 18**



### The joy of Easter

Area pastors share a message of hope, promise. **Page 20**



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FIND NEW ROADS™





## **PAGE 3**

Your Home Page for Tempe & West Chandler Neighborhood News



A surveillance video captured these images of a vehicle and some of those involved in a fight at Chandler Fashion Center.

— Photo courtesy Chandler Police Department

## Fight at mall called random, no threat to nearby neighborhood

By Lee Shappell  
wranglernews.com

**W**hen a fight broke out March 12 inside Chandler Fashion Center involving nine young men, including three who were stabbed by a man armed with a knife, it was shocking and horrific for a community not accustomed to this sort of crime.

Was it gang related? No, the Chandler Police Department said.

Did the opposing groups – six on one side, three on the other, including the young man with the knife – know each other? No, Chandler PD said again.

Is it an indication that this type of violent crime, which

— THREAT, Page 19

## New hope for pets losing their homes due to pandemic

*Collaboration is said to be the first of its kind in Arizona, one of only few in U.S.*

**T**o Jodi Polanski, it's just another one of the myriad collaborations she prides herself on helping to organize, grow and sustain with sweat and, yes, unbridled determination.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started putting millions of pets across the country at risk of being surrendered to animal shelters, the families who love their pets—but were forced choose between keeping them or finding a place to live—found hope with the then-newly formed Pet Housing Help AZ Task Force.

As the hastily conceived idea began taking shape, seven of the state's leading animal welfare organizations in Arizona, including Tempe-based Lost

Our Home, of which Polanski is executive director, proactively formed Pet Housing Help AZ Task Force, the first of its kind in Arizona and one of few in the country.

Its goal, explained Polanski, is to provide a multi-faceted approach, including a centralized website, to help owners keep their beloved pets with them and out of shelters.

In Arizona, according to Polanski's and the group's studies, the ability of unemployed people in Maricopa County to cover pet-care costs and related expenses has been drastically affected by the pandemic.

Because the pandemic has exacerbated affordable-housing shortages that already existed, Polanski said, renters and low-income households across the country often choose between paying rent and buying groceries, medicine and other necessities—including pet-related expenses.

It is anticipated that when the moratorium lifts, an estimated 22 percent to 39 percent of renters will have faced economic challenges, including the financial concerns of caring for the approximately 5,000 affected pets in Maricopa County each month.

— PETS, Page 8





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*Profile:*

## **Raveen Arora**

### Lifetime of valued pursuits earns Nobel Peace Prize nomination

By Janie Magruder

**Y**ou can't help but be impressed by Raveen Arora's life story: Born in a refugee camp in India; raised in Calcutta by parents who emphasized education and character above all else; helping Mother Teresa serve the poor; meeting civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

All before the age of 12.

Now, this continuum of humanitarian service brings even more renown to Arora, a Tempe businessman: nomination for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

Arora was recommended by Satish Lakhota, founder of Alliance International, an India-based global organization providing opportunities

for fellowship, leadership and service.

This year, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said 329 candidates — 234 individuals and 95 organizations — were nominated. Submissions come from heads of state and politicians, university professors, directors of foreign policy institutes, past prize recipients and Nobel Committee members.

Among other 2021 nominees: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny; Stacey Abrams, founder of a movement to ensure every American has a voice in our election system; Jared Kushner, a former Trump administration senior adviser; the World Health Organization; NATO; and Reporters Without Borders.

"It's been very humbling and overwhelming for me," said Arora, most recently founder and CEO of Think Human, which seeks

to humanize communications in the workplace, social settings and relationships across the globe.

"It's people on the front lines — those working at food banks to fight food insecurity and essential workers who clean surfaces just to keep us safe — who deserve to win."

Arora earned accounting, finance and business management degrees and worked as a white-collar crime

specialist in India before moving to the U.S. in 1981.

He and his family came to Arizona in 2002, and the following year Arora bought and converted a rundown building on Apache Boulevard into a cultural center, Dhaba Indian Plaza.

His first act of kindness there:



Nobel Peace Prize nominee Raveen Arora alongside the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

— Photo courtesy Raveen Arora



giving cold bottles of water to thirsty people on the street on the hottest summer days.

"Water is so basic, and if it can save a life or give someone a second chance, what is that costing me? A few cents?" he said.

"It was a small thing that mushroomed."

Arora gave free space in his plaza to entrepreneurs working in yoga, henna, eyebrow threading and other ethnic services, and he opened a punjabi food restaurant, The Dhaba.

"We gave away 3,600 meals a month after inviting people who'd been dumpster diving out back for food, to come in the front door," said Arora, who is United Food Bank's chairman of the board.

"You do it because it's in your DNA. You treat people with dignity and respect."

Arora is no stranger to the award stage. He received the 2018 Mother Teresa International Service Award; a National Restaurant Association Face of Diversity - American Dream Award; a National Diversity Council Diversity/FIRST Award; and honors from Tempe Sister Cities and the Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

Tempe's most prestigious honor, the Don Carlos Award, received by a person or couple whose commitment to the community has impacted many in need, was bestowed on Arora in 2015.

Dick Neuheisel, himself a Don Carlos recipient and former longtime president of Tempe Sister Cities, met Arora that year.

"He's tireless," Neuheisel said. "The poor, the hungry, anybody who is down and out, he's there to help."

Neuheisel gladly supported Arora's nomination, saying he is most deserving. "The Nobel Peace Prize is the peak of the mountain for those who are climbing and seeking peace in this troubled world," he said.

"And Raveen is a climber. He's reached the mountaintop with his lifetime of service to others."

The Nobel Committee will announce the winner in October, and the award will be presented Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, a Swedish chemist, engineer, inventor, businessman and philanthropist.

## Space contract to benefit Grumman

The Price Corridor location of Northrop Grumman Corp. is among the company's worldwide facilities that stands to benefit from a contract awarded by the Missile Defense Agency for the rapid development and flight test of an interceptor designed to defend against complex long-range threats.

Many of the local operation's employees live in West Chandler and Tempe.

Northrop Grumman officials say the company has teamed with Raytheon Missiles & Defense, a business of Raytheon Technologies, to bring together the experience of the two companies on one team, to deliver an effective solution for the defense agency's needs on an accelerated schedule.

The program is said to be an

element of the MDA's Ground-based Midcourse Defense System, which is the primary U.S. missile defense system used to defend against long-range ballistic missile attacks.

Northrop Grumman and Raytheon currently provide the interceptor booster, kill vehicle, ground systems, fire control and engagement coordination for the country's GMD system.

The contract, including flight test options, has a period of performance through 2029.

Besides the West Chandler location, the companies' NGI program team will be headquartered in Huntsville, Ala., with major operations in Tucson and Magna, Utah, as well as elsewhere across the nation.

*Information:*

[northropgrumman.com/space/](http://northropgrumman.com/space/)



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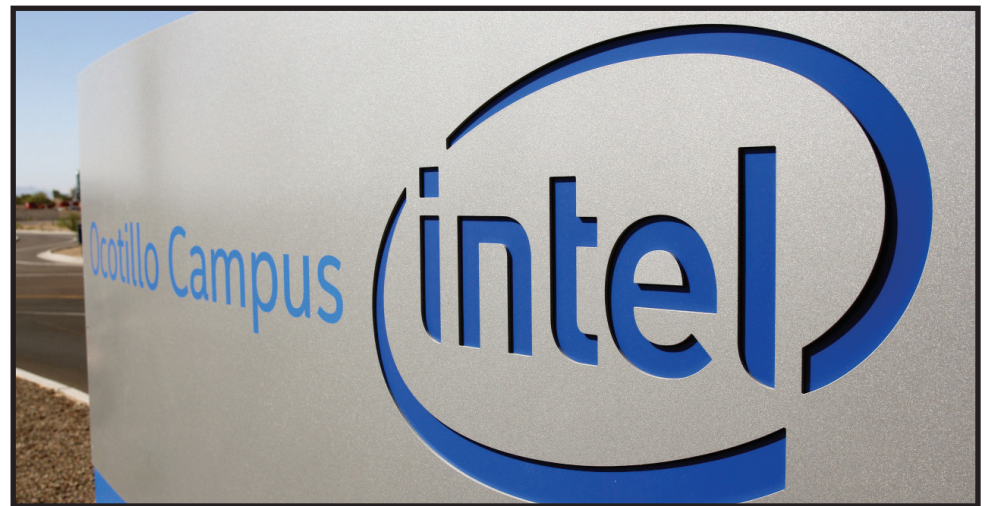
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## 2 new fab plants, 3,000 jobs part of \$20 billion Intel expansion at its Ocotillo campus

**M**ore than 3,000 high-tech, high-wage jobs will be coming to Chandler and neighboring areas as part of a \$20 billion expansion at tech giant Intel's Ocotillo campus, the largest private investment of any kind in Arizona history.

In making the announcement March 23, Jim Evers, Intel vice president and factory manager, said that the semiconductor manufacturing icon will build two new fabrication plants on the campus, making the scope of the expansion historic.

"We are proud to have a 40-year legacy of innovating in Arizona and are grateful to the city of Chandler for creating a business environment that encourages these types of investments," Evers said.

In addition to the more than 3,000 new jobs at Intel, the expansion will support an additional 15,000 jobs indirectly, according to Intel. And about 3,000 will be employed during construction of the fabrication facilities.

Work is slated to begin late this year. Micah Miranda, Chandler's

economic development director, noted that an investment of this magnitude has significant supply-chain implications for local businesses. Intel annually spends about \$1.5 billion with Chandler-based suppliers and another \$3 billion with other Arizona-based suppliers.

"Existing and prospective Intel suppliers can connect with our economic-development team for assistance with office and industrial space site selection in Chandler," said Miranda.

Suppliers can use the "initiate a project form" to begin that process, he said. Intel's presence in Chandler began in 1980 with its first production facility and it has grown to become the city's largest employer.

Intel celebrated 40 years in Chandler last year, when it opened its fourth manufacturing plant on its 700-acre Ocotillo campus, Fab 42, a \$7 billion investment that created the most advanced manufacturing facility in the world.

Semiconductors, known as chips, are used in an array of electronic devices, including computers, cars, cellphones and medical equipment.

The latest announcement will add to the company's manufacturing presence and jobs with more than 15,000 Intel employees expected to be working in Chandler once the new fabs come online.

"Intel's continued expansion of its largest, most advanced manufacturing site in the world exemplifies the presence of innovation in Chandler," said Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke. "A talented workforce, excellent quality of life, proactive planning and decades of infrastructure investments enable global innovators like Intel to excel in our community."

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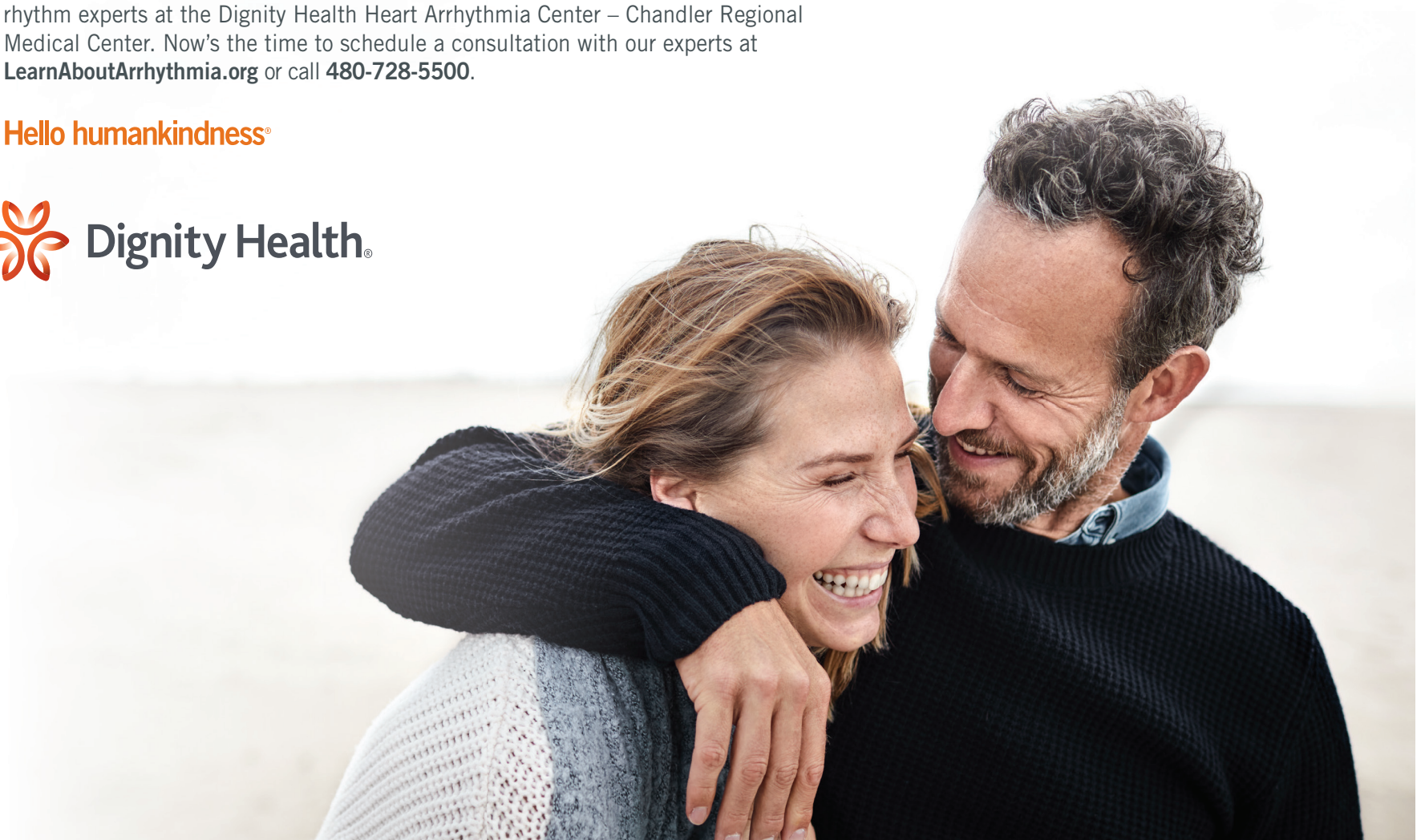
# A fluttering heart is a romantic idea. But not a healthy one.

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## Pets

From Page 3

This, says Polanski, doubles animal shelters' monthly intake.

Sadly, despite the eviction moratorium's extension, there has been a steady increase of people losing their homes and potentially their beloved pets.

As such, the task force, with Polanski's group at the forefront, was formed to offer a community-wide solution to what became a community-wide problem.

So far, explained Polanski, the task force's efforts have included:

- Expanding temporary foster programs for pet owners.
- Increasing surrender prevention and intervention efforts.
- Increasing collaboration with human and health service agencies and animal shelters.
- Increasing education and awareness around the benefits of pet-friendly housing for landlords.
- A specialized website—

pethousinghelpaz.org—with resources and easy-to-use tools to help owners find permanent or temporary homes for their pets by connecting them directly with people who want to help.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, in Arizona, there are only 26 affordable and available rental homes per 100 extremely low-income renter households (183,343).

And, 73 percent of extremely low-income renter households are severely cost-burdened.

Meanwhile, only 9 percent of rental housing across the country allowed

companion animals without any significant size or breed limitations.

Most tenants (82 percent) with animals reported having trouble finding a rental unit that would accept their pets, further showcasing the importance of educating landlords on how to minimize their risks by removing breed- and size-restriction barriers and reducing fees to give renters with pets more opportunities to find safe housing.

Now, more than ever, said Polanski, renters would benefit from increased support and fewer limitations. Additionally, studies indicate:

- Pet-friendly landlords who place no restrictions on pet ownership enjoy an 11.6 percent rental premium over

landlords who do not allow pets.

- Residents with pets were found to stay significantly longer in their rentals — by an average of 23 to 46 months — than residents without pets.
- Only 9 percent of pets cause damage, and owners of both pet- and non-pet-friendly housing believe adults and children are likely to create more costly damage than dogs or cats.

Pet owners in need of help or community members who want to help can do so by visiting [www.pethousinghelpaz.org](http://www.pethousinghelpaz.org). Through the specialized website, pet owners can access bilingual resources, sign up to rehome their pet or connect with fellow pet lovers to temporarily foster their pet until they get back on their feet.

Those who want to help can sign up to become a temporary foster parent to a pet owner in need.

*Lost Our Home Pet Rescue is at 2323 S. Hardy Drive, Tempe. Phone: (602) 445-7387 (PETS).*





## Jazz up at Downtown Chandler festival

After the unsettling year many have experienced, Stephanie Romero says she has the perfect answer. Romero, a public information officer for Chandler, suggests that a bit of soulful jazz should offer a welcome mood-raiser when the 22nd annual Chandler Jazz Festival comes to town—just in time to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month.

To ensure the health and safety of jazz aficionados and downtown visitors alike, this year's free festival will take place April 8-10, with open areas for all to continuously walk throughout Chandler's Historic Square, including Crust, Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West, Saba's Western Wear, Sibley's West and the nearby Vision Gallery.

Attendees can stroll through the downtown while tapping their toes to lively musical performances during the afternoon or evening hours. To add to the enjoyment, visitors also can bring a blanket or lawn chair, grab a meal from a favorite eatery and dine in the park while taking in the sounds of live jazz performances.

Performers will include Mike Ozuna Trio; Pete Pancrazi and Todd Johnson; Beth Lederman & Jazz Con Alma; WildeP'lay; Trio Maxo; The Gaines Brothers; Charlie Smith; and the Claudia Bloom Trio.

The complete entertainment schedule is available online at [chandleraz.gov/special-events](http://chandleraz.gov/special-events). As a reminder, Romero says, the area offers live entertainment seven days a week at its bars and restaurants.

Information: [downtownchandler.org](http://downtownchandler.org).

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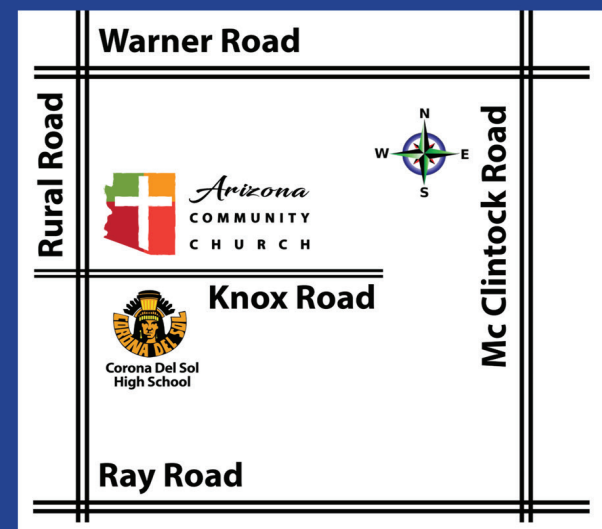
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# 'Arizona Gives' crucial to many hurt by pandemic

By Janie Magruder

It was holiday time, the end of 2020, when Miriam came into the office of AZCEND, a Chandler nonprofit organization that helps families, senior citizens and individuals living in poverty and crisis.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chandler woman and her husband had had their work hours reduced. They were behind on their rent and utility payments, and struggling with larger grocery bills, too, because school was closed to their three children; free breakfasts and lunches no longer were available to them.

The family needed help with their bills to stay in their home, and AZCEND stepped up, providing cash assistance to them, as well as thousands of others during the darkest months of the pandemic.

AZCEND, which also provides Meals on Wheels to homebound elderly, emergency housing to homeless people, parenting, health and literacy classes to families and other services, is among hundreds of Arizona nonprofits that have been devastated by the pandemic.

According to the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits, this sector reported losses of \$91 million in revenue during 2020, a 52% drop from 2019 in year-end giving. At the same time, nonprofits sustained an increase of more than \$15 million in expenses, primarily for personal protective equipment, supplies and technology.

That's why Arizona Gives Day (azgives.org), now in its ninth year and scheduled for April 6, is more vital to sustaining nonprofit work than ever. An annual collaboration of the alliance and Arizona Grantmakers Forum, the online giving campaign has since 2013 helped raise more than \$23 million for nonprofits across the state.

Arizona Gives Day helps citizens find, learn about and contribute to the local causes they believe in, and enables nonprofits to share their stories and engage the community. It raises awareness about the critical role nonprofits play, and inspires people to give generously to nonprofits, strengthening Arizona and creating a thriving community for all.

More than 1,000 nonprofits will be participating this year, from faith-based organizations such as Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest and Catholic Charities Community Services to animal rights groups like Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center and youth-development associations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona.

"Arizona Gives Day puts a human face on the need, and brings an understanding

of people's struggles," said Trinity Donovan, CEO of AZCEND (azcend.org), which hopes to raise \$10,000. "They look different from one person to the next — some are on the brink of eviction or losing their job, wondering how they're going to feed their kids or seniors wondering how they will get their meals."

AZCEND experienced a doubling of requests for its Meals on Wheels Program, to 1,400 meals per week during COVID-19, and applications for rent, mortgage and utility assistance grew to 6,000 payments in 2020 from 2,700 the previous year.

Donovan said her organization primarily will use social media and online communication with supporters to publicize its campaign. It also will tie in an annual fundraiser, the Virtual Walk in the Park to End Poverty, scheduled for April 10.

Arizona nonprofits have an annual economic impact of \$22.4 billion, more than 8 percent of gross state product, and account for 325,000 jobs, making the sector the state's fifth largest non-government employer, according to the alliance.

"The nonprofit sector is a major employer of essential workers such as those at Tempe Community Action Agency, which stayed open during the entire pandemic to help people address their needs and make the community a better place," said Deborah Arteaga, TCAA's CEO.

TCAA (tempeaction.org) has Tempe's largest food pantry, three senior centers, an emergency shelter and several other programs in its mission to tackle poverty, hunger and homelessness, Arteaga said.

It served 3,240 more people in 2020 than in 2019, and experienced a 37% rise in food pantry customers, 66% increased demand for home-delivered meals for seniors, and a 125% jump in the volume of those meals.

The nonprofit hopes to raise \$5,000-\$10,000 on Arizona Gives Day to support its Financial Success Center, which addresses issues that become problems that lead to poverty, said Joe Rivera, director of philanthropy.

The center offers employment assistance, financial coaching and income support, partnering with Maricopa County to offer career counseling too, Arteaga said.

"This year's focus is to help people impacted by the pandemic and get them back into the workforce or gain more permanent employment," she said.

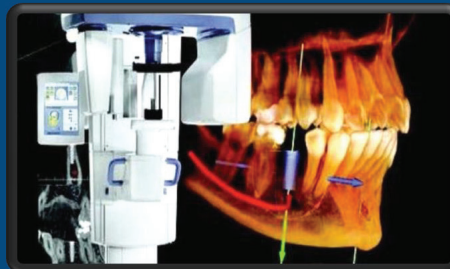
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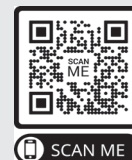


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# SPORTS . . . with Alex Zener

## Track Invite emerges as a post-COVID 'first'

Competition in spring sports for Arizona high schools started March 12, for the first time since COVID-19 caused a halt to any high school sports.

Corona's track and field team wasted no time getting things rolling by hosting the Aztec Invitational, where nine boys teams and eight girls teams competed in track and field events held at Corona High School, on March 20.

The boys team tallied fourth place after Desert Vista, Red Mountain and Highland with 81 points, senior **Jack Farley** leading the way with a first-place win in the 100 meters and setting a personal record with a time of 11.01.

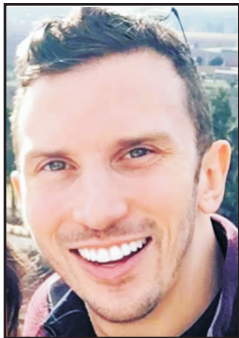
Fellow senior **Rickey Williams** finished the same 100 meters in third place with a personal best time as well.

Farley finished sixth in the 200 meters, followed six seconds later by fellow teammate junior **Jaden Shepherd** in seventh place.

Junior **James Van Wicklin** was the top Aztec finisher in the 400 meters, taking second place with a time of 51.33.

Van Wicklin, Shepherd, Williams and sophomore **Marcos Perez Ruiz** took third place in the 4x400 relay

with a time of 3:34.60. Sophomore **Alexander Lutz** was next in line as Corona's track event finisher when he combined speed and leaping ability to set two personal records in the hurdles events.



Alex Zener

Lutz had a fourth-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 42.66 and a fifth-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.16.

Additional Corona runners who competed in this first track meet of the season were seniors **Jake Schmitt** and **Scott Musgrave**, who came in 10th and 16th, respectively in the 100 meters.

In the 400 meters, junior **Izaak Kubat** finished ninth, while **Perez Ruiz** came in 16th.

In the 800-meter race, sophomore **Tyler Tisinger** placed 8th, junior **Bennett Gunning** 9th, sophomore

**Andrew Davies-Boerner** 16th, and senior **Robert Wright** 18th.

Tisinger did well with a 9th place finish in the 1600 meters, followed by junior **Callum Rohrer** 14th, junior **Diego Diaz** 16th, and senior **Nathaniel Goodman** 24th.

Another young Aztec with potential in the longer races, sophomore **Grant Murad**, crossed the finish line in 11th place in the 3200 meters, followed by freshman **Zachary Wiesner** 18th and senior **Carter Mendoza** 20th.

Junior **Miles Prince** competed in both hurdle events, taking 8th place in the 110 meters and 10th place in the 300 meters.

Junior **David Staab** led the way in the field events for Corona, with a second-place finish in the discus to set a personal record with a throw of 141-01, followed by junior **Brett Wynn** with a third place in the long jump with a leap of 10-01.50.

Wynn continued with his ability to leap in the high jump, where he cleared 5-10.00 feet to take fourth place. Senior **Sathya Narayanan** proved he could also score a triple jump of 37-09.00 to take fourth place in that event.

— SPORTS, Page 14

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## Sports

From Page 13

Sophomore **Carston Kieffer** set a personal record in the javelin, a relatively new field event for Arizona high schoolers, with a throw of 133-01.50 to take fourth place.

Additional field event competitors from Corona included a sixth place in the long jump event for Williams and an eighth place for senior **Lucas Hertel** in the triple jump event.

Staab was eighth in the shot-put, while seniors **Jason Cvengros** and **Caden Agnew**, along with sophomore **Robert Whetstine**, competed in the same event.

Sophomore **Kevin Swindler** took eighth place in the pole vault with a vault of 11-00.00 to set a personal record.

Junior **Colemann Clark** and senior **Elijah Stewart** also vaulted, while Narayanan, Staab and senior **Eduardo Laco** competed in the javelin event.

Besides Staab, three other Aztecs competed in the discus event: junior **Ujjayan Behera**, Cvengros and Agnew.

Corona's girls team finished fifth as a team but had five first-place finishes, including three by sophomore sensation **Ena McMahon**, who not only can run fast but also has the strength to leap over hurdles and push herself over a bar several feet in the air when competing in the pole vault event.

McMahon crossed the line in first place in the 100-meter hurdles, setting a personal record of 15.17 and beating her second-place opponent, Kali McEuen from Highland, by .43 seconds and the third-place finisher from Perry High School by almost a second.

McMahon also ran the second leg of the 4x100 relay race with teammates sophomore **Allie Alday**, senior **Jasper Schineller** and junior **Kendyll Garcia** to take another first place victory.

In the field events, McMahon vaulted a personal best record 12-00 in the pole vault event to take first place.

Corona's 4x800 relay team of junior **Ashlinn Aguayo**, senior **Dalee Higgins**, freshman **Angelina Hickey** and Schineller took home first place with a time of 10:11.91.

Finally, Garcia proved she could not only run fast but jump when she took first place in the triple jump event with a personal best of 34-02.00.

Other notable track results for the girls team included a third-place finish for Schineller in the 200 meters, a fifth-place finish in the 100 meters for Alday, a fourth place for Hickey in the 3200 meters, a

sixth-place finish for senior **Anissa Rios** in the 400 meters and a seventh-place finish for Higgins in the 800 meters.

Other athletes competing for the girls team in the track events included junior **Kameryn Bond**, freshman **Reilly Speaks** and freshman **Tajanae Hairston** in the 100 meters, while Bond, Garcia and junior **Hannah Latto** ran the 200 meters.

Senior **Audrey Weldner** competed in the 400 meters while Aguayo and senior **Teadora Zawilak** ran the 800.

Freshman **Paige Davies-Boerner**, sophomore **Kimberly Musgrave**, junior **Ashley Lutes** and freshman **Maria Gonzales** took on the 1600-meter race and senior **Peyton Burnside** ran the 3200 meters.

Notable finishes in the field events included a fourth-place finish for sophomore **Eloise Holmes** in the discus event with a throw of 79-11 and a fifth-place finish for sophomore **Sofia Wyatt** in the long jump with a personal record jump of 15-09.00, as well as a sixth-place finish in the triple jump.

Other Corona athletes who competed in the field events included freshman **Rachel Sindlinger** in the pole vault and sophomore **Peyton Topic** and Rios in the long jump.

### Wrestling State Championship results

Corona del Sol had six wrestlers qualify to wrestle at the DI state championships March 16-17 at Poston Butte High School in San Tan Valley. Corona junior **Anthony Garcia**, wrestling in the 170-lb. weight class, was the top wrestler for the Aztecs with a fourth-place finish.

Garcia, with an 11-6 overall record, won his match in the first round by a 9-4 decision and a fall at the 3:45 mark in his second-round match.

In his third match, he lost a hard-fought match to the eventual champion, Gunner Luke, from Mesa Mountain View, in a fall at the 5:26 mark.

Garcia's next and final match was against Brandon Russell from Hamilton to determine the third and fourth place winners. Garcia eventually lost that match to win fourth place.

Sophomore **Tyler Hamm** qualified for and wrestled in the 113-lb. weight class at the DI state wrestling championships where he ended up taking home a fifth-place medal.

Hamm, with a 14-6 overall record, defeated his opponent in the first round but unfortunately lost in the second round of this double-elimination tournament and was therefore knocked into the loser's side





The Tempe streetcar is finally here and should be up and running later this year.

## Tempe Streetcar: City, Valley Metro hope it provides a modern solution to an old problem

By Lee Shappell  
wranglernews.com

The track is complete. Workers are applying final touches to landscaping and installing art along the Tempe Streetcar's 3-mile downtown loop and at its 14 stops, two of which connect to Valley Metro Light Rail.

Soon, streetcars will be on the track for testing.

The long-awaited debut of the system, which is intended to create a more-connected downtown, is expected late this year.

While an opening date has not been set, the nearly \$200 million system, more than a decade in the making, took a giant step toward completion when the first of six streetcar vehicles, the Liberty NXT, was delivered in March from Pennsylvania-based Brookville Equipment Corp.

"They are going to be doing some tests of the vehicle in our maintenance facility, then each vehicle has to do what's called burn in and travel several-hundred miles to make sure it's basically able to withstand travel on the track," said Valley Metro's Madeline Phipps. "We're going to use the light-rail track for that because with only a three-mile loop on the Tempe Streetcar line, that would take a really long time.

"Then we'll do testing on the actual Tempe Streetcar system, probably starting in late May. Streetcar vehicles can travel on the light-rail track. In fact,

every night, the streetcars will switch over onto the light-rail track and travel to our maintenance center at 30th Street and Washington to be serviced."

There were challenges designing a system to operate on streets shared with congested vehicular and pedestrian traffic while powered by hybrid technology.

Unlike light rail, the streetcar is powered by overhead wires along most of the route but switches to reserve power stored in its lithium-ion battery along some stretches. This feature was particularly attractive to Tempe, which did not want to uproot trees and destroy landscaping along Mill Avenue in order to install overhead wires.

The streetcar operates as a single car rather than in a train of two or three connected cars, as with light rail. The 72-foot long streetcar's two hinges allow for tight turns and give the appearance of being three cars.

Another difference from light rail is that the streetcar shares lanes with street traffic rather than having a dedicated lane.

Existing street parking did not need to be removed except for the equivalent of three parking spaces at each stop and to clear adequate turning radius in some locations.

"We are really excited about the streetcar coming into play in the city of Tempe, particularly to add to our regional infrastructure along with

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11:00 AM - Worship Center

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at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Children Grades 1-6 in Kid City  
at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM  
for Bible study and Easter Egg Hunt

Teens at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM in Worship Center.

Online worship at  
[www.facebook.com/FBCtempe](http://www.facebook.com/FBCtempe)





## Streaking not allowed

Members of the Corona del Sol football team flexed their muscles to do more than just fight their way through the grueling training their coaches put them through. They showed team spirit and a willingness to serve the community when they spent a recent Saturday morning washing windows at Desert Marigold Senior Living in Tempe. Wielding buckets, spray bottles and Squeegees, the young men washed away grit and grime in a team-building exercise that brought smiles to the faces of the retirement home's residents—who now see their world with an even brighter outlook.

— Photos by  
Billy Hardiman  
for Wrangler News





# Threat

From Page 3

is more common in other areas of the Valley if you watch TV news, finally is invading Chandler? Or is this a random, isolated incident that drew heavy media coverage?



Sgt. Jason McClimans, a 20-year veteran of the Chandler Police Department, said that those shopping at the mall, 3111 W. Chandler Blvd., just northwest of the Loop 101/Loop 202 interchange, should know that this was random and isolated.

It is safe to shop at the mall and safe to live in West Chandler, he said.

"At our Chandler Fashion Center, seven days a week we have an officer assigned to that mall specifically as what we refer to as their beat," McClimans said. "Also on the weekends, on Friday and Saturday nights, the mall hires what we refer to as an extra-duty security officer, which is one of our officers."

McClimans also noted that across Chandler, including the Desert Breeze Precinct, which serves West Chandler where the mall is located, there has been a 40 percent decrease over the past 10 years in what the FBI Uniform Crime Report describes as Part 1 crime, which includes aggravated assault, robbery, sexual assault, homicide, arson, auto theft, auto burglary and general theft.

Chandler has experienced rapid population growth, adding roughly 100,000 residents over the past 20 years. Yet statistics from the FBI Uniform Crime Report show that crime actually has declined, from about 11,000 Part 1 crimes in 2000 to fewer than 6,000 in 2020, even as the population increased.

"On top of that," McClimans said, "our response times to Priority 1 calls, which are these Part 1 crimes, those that we need to get there extremely quickly, has decreased in the last two years by almost three minutes, so we are getting to these calls for

service to help our residents quicker."

In West Chandler, which encompasses nine neighborhoods between Interstate 10 and Loop 101 and north of Loop 202 to the Tempe city line, crime seems to be right in the middle of the chart compared to the entire city. Some areas of Chandler have lower crime rates and some have higher. The presence of the mall and other commercial property tend to drive the numbers higher than in the residential neighborhoods, crime maps of the area show.

Among West Chandler neighborhoods in the very low crime category are Glenview Estates and Corona Village. In the moderate crime range are Alta Mira, Village of Gila Springs, the 56th Street/Chandler Blvd. area and Pepperwood. In the high-crime range are Hightown, where Chandler Fashion Center is located, West Chandler and Prada del Sol.

"Why that is to be expected around the mall is you have a lot of commercial property and businesses. So there's shoplifting, thefts, vehicle burglaries, financial crimes. We have an influx of calls for service because of that," McClimans said. "Ninety percent of Part 1 crimes in Chandler are theft cases."

He pointed out that those are nonviolent crimes.

"We always do our best in all parts of our city to make sure that our residents live in a safe community," McClimans said. "'Live, work and thrive,' that's our mission statement. Keep everybody safe. People are moving to Chandler because it is a nice community. We have businesses and large corporations moving here."

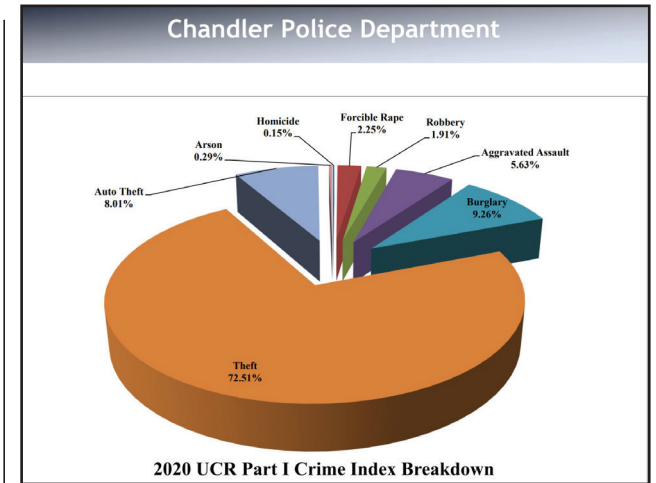
"We're always looking to reduce crime in Chandler, and we could not do it without the partnerships of our residents, local community leaders and, of course, our businesses. They are our eyes and ears, and we need for them to give us a call if they see suspicious activity to identify individuals who are causing crimes or causing problems to get them off the street."

In Chandler overall, the chance of becoming a victim of violent or property crime is 1 in 44, according to crime reports. Most crimes in West Chandler are residential and commercial burglary, auto theft and general theft. Most occur after dark. There has been roughly one aggravated assault per month during the past year in West Chandler.

"At nighttime, we have 15 to 20 officers working," McClimans said. "I wish we could be on everybody's street at one time to make sure crime is at zero percent but that's something that can't happen. So, call us if you see something suspicious so we can get in the neighborhood and take enforcement action if it's deemed necessary. If you see something, say something. Call us."

He also recommends following the department's "Lock it or lose it" campaign to deter overnight vehicle burglary and theft, and a 9 p.m. routine of going outside to check on things.

"Individuals drive down streets or walk down streets and easily open unlocked doors and take valuable items out of vehicles parked on the street or parked in driveways," McClimans said. "We are seeing an increase of that in Chandler. Remove valuables, lock vehicles."



The Chandler Police Department, in an attempt to connect law enforcement with the community to improve public safety, has an online, interactive Community Crime Map at [chandlerpd.com/data/crime-maps](http://chandlerpd.com/data/crime-maps) that allows residents and visitors to input an address and view crime activity for their requested area.

"We try to get everybody involved," McClimans said. "We want to make sure that information is available to them, whether for work purposes or somebody curious about moving to Chandler. We believe that Chandler is a safe community."

The department employs 334 sworn officers and 171 civilians, serving a population of nearly 270,000 residents. McClimans said that during his tenure only a handful of officers have left before their retirement dates. There currently are seven openings in the department and recruitment is under way to fill them.

Regarding the mall fight, the department's investigation is ongoing. Seven of the nine involved have been found and interviewed. No arrests have been made.

McClimans confirmed that at about 5:30 p.m. on March 12, the two groups of young men, believed to be ages 18 to 22, exchanged words on the lower northwest level inside the mall, which escalated into a fist fight. One of the young men, wearing a yellow hooded sweatshirt, gray sweat pants, sandals and a white face mask, took out a knife and stabbed three men.

"This was not a knife fight like you would see on television or in a movie," McClimans said. "There was just one person who was armed with a knife. We haven't gotten down to the exact words that were exchanged that led to the fight because we have not been able to locate everybody involved."

After the brawl, three participants, including the man with the knife, ran outside to a gray four-door sedan and drove off. One of them was wearing a red, hooded sweatshirt, red shorts, black sandals and a white face mask. The other was wearing a white-and-dark-blue striped shirt, dark face mask and red, beanie-type hat.

Others, including the three who were stabbed, ran through the mall seeking help.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Chandler Police Department at 480-782-4130.



# Messages of faith from our Tempe, West Chandler pastors

## *After an incredibly challenging year for all, Easter gives rebirth to hope, promise*



Easter celebrates one of Jesus' primary purposes on earth: to bring anyone who believes out of the darkness of rebellion, of perishing, of the wrath of God, and of sin. The incarnate, eternally existent, messiah, son of God who died on a tree and resurrected from the dead on Easter Sunday is the

only hope for humanity.

Since Jesus came down from heaven, the second member of the trinity, He was able to live a perfect life on earth. Since He lived a perfect life and still died a sinner's death, He was able to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the world, once for all time.

As we believe, we celebrate Easter together, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, because we have been pulled out of the darkness. There is no guilt in life and no fear in death because Jesus Christ rose from the dead and so shall we. This good news is without

partiality. No one is worthy to receive this salvation, yet it is offered to all without partiality. Let us never forget where hope is found in this life and after death. The only hope for humanity is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Let us glorify Jesus Christ together this year. He is our eternal hope.

— *Pastor of Discipleship, Anthony Whitlatch, First Baptist Church of Tempe*



Easter is the ultimate reminder that no matter how many skeletons we might have in our closet...God will forgive all who turn to His Son with a repentant heart! So often, people think that they have made too many mistakes, and committed too many sins, to be forgiven by God...but

that couldn't be any further from the truth!

As a matter of fact, God is so rich in love and mercy toward those with skeletons in their closet

that He sent His only and sinless Son, Jesus, into the world to die on the cross in order to take the punishment that we all deserve for our sins.

So our forgiveness came at a price, but it's a price that Christ Jesus paid in full!

This is exactly why the death and resurrection of Christ is called, "Good News." Because it's the amazing news about how sinful people can be forgiven and made right in the sight of God! As it says in Romans 8:1, "There is now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus."

So what does this mean for you? It means today is the day of salvation! Instead of running from Christ, run to Him! The one who created you is also the one who died to save you! Trust in Him! Believe in Him! Follow Him!

As Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

— *Pastor Bill Meiter, Arizona Community Church*



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**I**wonder if the pandemic has raised any theological questions for you. *Why is this happening? What have we done to deserve this? Is the pandemic God's punishment? Is God testing us or trying to teach us something?*

How we respond to such questions depends on our understanding of the nature and character of the divine. If God is seen as an omnipotent superpower, then I suppose you might believe God is somehow responsible for the pandemic. If God is retributive, then I suppose one could understand this pandemic to be a lesson or even a punishment. Is there another way to understand the divine?

I believe that in his life and teachings Jesus expressed the nature and character of God. His love and compassion, his struggle for justice—these are God's values. Jesus taught that God isn't responsible for evil; bad things happen—often without explanation. Jesus invites us to see the divine as the power of love that doesn't exist apart from the world, but who is the One who suffers with and comforts the afflicted and invites us into

creative collaboration to help repair the world. In the crucifixion, we see God as the “fellow sufferer who understands” and in the resurrection, we discover that death doesn't have the last word. Our Easter hope is in a God who cares for all of creation, whose love knows no bounds. In the words of Paul, “Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God.”

— Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dayspring United Methodist Church



**I**t's #Easter2021! On a lighter note, I wonder if it is #Easter2021 or #Easter2020.

'Lol'. Considering we are “winding up” the “anniversary” of “two weeks to flatten the curve”, I am sure #Easter2021 brings many emotions of unfulfilled plans, loss of loved

ones, among many others.

Boy, what a ride!

Easter is an august season when we celebrate the Paschal Mystery, i.e., the suffering, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ into

heaven (Mt.16:21–28, Mk.8:31–9:1; Lk.9:22–27). We celebrate the example of perfect love that Jesus set for the world. (Jn.3:16, Phil.2:5-11).

During this season and beyond, let us continue to love one another, listen to each other more, and work together irrespective of age, race, tribe, creed, color, nationality, or social status (Gal.3:28, Phil.2:1-5).

But before we do that, we must acknowledge that we have the dignity that comes from none other than God (Gen.1:26-27).

As we celebrate #Easter2021, let us recommit to our faith by renewing our baptismal promises. “*Keep holding your candle, and don't let it burn out.*”

Guard your light, and it will serve to guide you. It takes humility for each of us to live as Jesus did. It takes courage to redefine our lives for the better, even though this “stuff” is not popular to do even at a young age.

Happy Easter! And as they say it in Swahili, “*Heri ya sikukuu ya Pasaka.*”

— Fr. Teilo M. Lwande, AJ, Associate Pastor, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church

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This place is a must. The flavorful salsa, the delicious margaritas, the extraordinary and well-priced food will definitely keep you coming back.

Check out our menu or order online at [juanashouse.com](http://juanashouse.com)

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# Woods, other mayors address Ducey's mask rollback order

**T**empe Mayor Corey Woods, alongside other mayors across Arizona, has spoken out on Gov. Doug Ducey's March 25 executive order that relaxed or extinguished COVID-19 public-safety measures after the state hit key public-health benchmarks.

Among provisions of Ducey's order is prohibiting mask mandates by local governments.

"While I am encouraged by the recent uptick in vaccination rates, I strongly believe the use of masks, social distancing and other (Centers for Disease Control) protocols are key contributors to the lower rates of COVID cases we have recently been experiencing," Woods said in a statement. "Tempe City Council's number one concern is the health and safety of our community. My Council colleagues and I will work together, along with our City Attorney's Office and Tempe stakeholders, to explore safety measures that will continue to protect the well-being of our community."

"I've confirmed with City Manager Andrew Ching that COVID-19 protocols will remain in place for all City of Tempe facilities and programs. My Council colleagues and I will work together, along with our City Attorney's Office and Tempe stakeholders, to explore safety measures that will continue to protect the well-being of our community."

Nikki Ripley, Tempe communications and media relations manager, also addressed the city's response to Ducey's order.

"The Executive Order allows cities the ability to require masks in city facilities and that is what Tempe is doing," Ripley said in a statement to Wrangler News.

**Woods, she emphasized, is not challenging Ducey's latest order.**

"The mayor's statement addresses that not having advance notice causes confusion community-wide among businesses, and that his statement was an effort to provide clarity about what it meant for Tempe. In addition, he conveyed that he values mask-wearing and will still choose to wear masks and follow CDC guidelines," Ripley's statement reads in part.

Other mayors around the state, all of them Democrats, took a dim view of the order by Ducey, a Republican.

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego lamented that she had not received a heads-up that the executive order was coming, saying, "The risk of another surge is real. The governor clearly cares a lot less about the people of Arizona than his political future."

And the Democrat mayors of two other Arizona cities, Regina Romero of Tucson and Paul Deasy of Flagstaff, essentially thumbed their noses at the governor's order, saying that their cities' mask mandates will remain in place.

But Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke, a Republican,

supported the governor's order.

"The vaccine is out far and wide, many Arizonans are vaccinated, and COVID numbers are down," Hartke said. "We're ready to carefully lift restrictions and trust Arizonans to make responsible decisions. I'm grateful to the Governor for responding to local needs as we move forward and fight the pandemic."

**Under the changes announced by Ducey:**

Events of more than 50 people no longer require approval of local governments. These events should continue to follow safe practices and Centers for Disease Control recommendations, including physical distancing. This includes youth sports.

Business guidance will transition from requirements to recommendations. Ducey is providing businesses with the ability to continue requiring masks and social distancing.

Bars have already been allowed to operate as dine-in at full capacity. They now may resume regular operations, but still with the ability to require social distancing and masks.



Woods and Tempe City Council will discuss further how the city will move forward in the wake of Ducey's order. That could occur at the Council's April 8 Work Study Session. Until then, all city facilities and programs will continue to operate under restrictions, including requiring masks, according to Woods.

Arizona never issued a statewide mask mandate, instead encouraging personal responsibility with an aggressive educational campaign, which the governor said resulted in more widespread mask usage than states with mandates.

However, some local governments, including Tempe, implemented their own mandates, which, the governor said, rarely, if ever, were enforced. Under Ducey's latest order, those local mandates are to be phased out, however mask usage still is encouraged, especially in groups that are not vaccinated.

Woods said that Tempe had followed an education-before-citation approach to non-compliance with its proclamation. Hundreds of educational phone calls and contacts were made by the city to businesses that were reported to have difficulties with enforcement of the mask ordinance. Some citations were issued to businesses that were not complying with the governor's measures to combat COVID-19 in previous orders, he said.

**Ducey said that several key data points contributed to his order:**

Mass distribution of the vaccine. More than 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to nearly 2 million people in Arizona, including 1,185,986 who have been fully vaccinated.

Ten weeks of declining COVID-19 cases.

Hospitalizations at the lowest level since late September/early October.

Opening of vaccine appointments to all Arizonans 16 years and older.

A recent evaluation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that ranks Arizona among the best states in the nation for getting the COVID-19 vaccine to vulnerable communities.

President Joe Biden's recent promise that every American will be able to be vaccinated by May 1.

"As we've said all along, distribution of the vaccine is our best path to getting back to normal, and I want to thank the millions of Arizonans who have rolled up their sleeves to make the distribution and uptake so successful," Ducey said. "In Arizona, we never did a shutdown, so it's impossible to have a grand reopening."

"Instead, we are continuing to take reasonable, safe and sensible steps. The measures put in place last summer allowed Arizona to fight back COVID-19. I want to thank the local leaders who supported these efforts with their own measures, and the businesses who implemented them. Today, we are in a different spot, and we are also a lot smarter. I'm confident Arizona's businesses and citizens will continue to practice the fundamentals and act responsibly as we gradually get back to normal."

While Tempe's facemask mandate no longer is enforceable, Tempe businesses still may choose to require patrons to wear face coverings. Tempe Police could still be called to respond to businesses with patrons who refuse to comply.

Tempe public-transit riders and operators must continue to wear face coverings, in accordance with a January order by President Biden. In Tempe, this applies to light rail, city buses and Orbit neighborhood circulators.

**Tempe bars may fully reopen and they can choose to require masks and physical distancing.**

Ducey's executive order eliminates the state's previous requirement that city governments must approve all events with 50 or more people, Tempe's normal, pre-COVID special-events permitting process still applies for organizations wanting to stage events in the city.

Local governments may require masks in their facilities. Face coverings have been required at Tempe city facilities since mid 2020.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend physical distancing and wearing face coverings as significant ways to reduce the risk of contracting the coronavirus.

Tucson's Romero said in her statement that she has "no intention of removing our local mask-wearing requirement. We will continue to follow the science and advice of our public health experts."

Flagstaff City Council met in an emergency executive session March 26 to discuss how it would proceed and afterward Deasy released a statement in opposition of Ducey's executive order.

"Executive Order 2021-06 is not in the best interest of public health and further erodes home rule," Deasy said.

"COVID-19 continues to spread with many variants and the City Council remains committed to seeing our community reach collective immunity through vaccination. Ensuring public health and keeping our community safe is our fundamental responsibility and priority."

More information or questions regarding Tempe: 480-350-4311, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.





## Good Day!

The streets of Tempe's Alta Mira neighborhood became a tempting market for bargain hunters drawn to the neighborhood's annual community garage sale. From bikes and gently used clothing to a whimsical 'Tigger' hoping to find a new home, the assorted wares attracted potential buyers enjoying every moment of the sunny spring day that warmed their search for newfound treasures.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman  
for Wrangler News





## Sports

From Page 14

of the bracket.

He managed to get back on track and defeated his next two opponents before taking to the mat against a Hamilton High School wrestler for fifth place. He secured the fifth-place award with a 3-1 decision.

Junior **Sasso Villasenor** also had a chance to take home a fifth-place medal in the 145-lb. weight class however losing in the second round after winning an ultimate tie breaker, 6-5, in the first round.

Villasenor won his third match in a 9-5 decision over a Boulder Creek wrestler and his fourth match in a 12-5 decision against a Kofa wrestler, earning a chance to wrestle for fifth place.

Unfortunately, Villasenor lost in a fall to a wrestler from Dobson to take sixth place.

The three other Aztec wrestlers who qualified to participate in the DI state championships were freshman **Gavin Martinez**, senior **Joshua Gutierrez** and junior **Micah Castro**.

Martinez, wrestling in the 106-lb. weight class, won his first match in an 8-6 decision over a Desert Ridge wrestler before losing in the second round in a close hard-fought 11-9 decision. This second loss moved him into the loser's side of the bracket, where he was defeated in his third match, giving him an overall 8-8 record his first year as a high school wrestler.

Gutierrez, who ended his senior season with an 11-6 overall record wrestling in the 220-lb. weight class, did not place in the top six nor did Castro in the 152-lb. weight class with an overall 9-9 record.

### Marcos de Niza wrestlers

Three wrestlers from Marcos qualified for and wrestled in the DIII state wrestling championships, including senior **Andon Amparando**, senior **Noah Martinez** and junior **Keith Painter**.

Amparando, wrestling in the 170-lb. weight class, was the top finisher for the Padres with a fifth-place finish.

After losing in the first round in a 12-9 decision, Amparando used his experience to fight his way through the loser's bracket and win the next four matches to take home a fifth-place medal.

Amparando's first lost was a 12-9 decision to a Yuma wrestler, which knocked him into the loser's side of the bracket, where he proceeded to defeat an American Leadership Academy – Gilbert North opponent in a fall at the 3:40 mark.

Next up he beat a Payson wrestler in a 6-4 decision and then an Arizona College Prep competitor in a 6-3 decision, setting himself up to wrestle against Ogi Mircic from Barry Goldwater to determine who takes home the fifth-place medal.

He defeated Mircic in a 4-2 decision to win a medal his last and final season as a high school wrestler.

Martinez, with an overall 3-5 record, in the 220-lb. weight category wrestled at the state tournament but did not get past the second round.

Painter ended his junior season wrestling in the 113-lb. weight category with a 2-4 record after losing in the first two rounds of the double elimination state tournament.

## Our community focus is here to stay, thanks to you

By Don Kirkland  
[wranglernews.com](http://wranglernews.com)

Although Wrangler News revenue has remained mostly steady during these pandemic months, we've been encouraged nonetheless by the surprising number of businesses inquiring about advertising rates, both for our online and print editions.

Happily, as a result, you may have noticed a number of entirely new ads on our pages, not to mention what previously were smaller ads that now appear in half- and full-page sizes as a result of our post-pandemic pricing structure.

Along with similar changes we've made in the last year or so, these same print ads now also appear directly next to articles in our digital edition, always at no additional cost. Which turns out to be a double bonus, due to analytics that show viewership of our digital edition continuing to skyrocket.

For example, content in several recent issues tallied as many as 5,000 views, an impressive number to any who are familiar with the growingly popular access to local news, photos and feature stories on laptops and

cellphones.

For those who aren't as savvy about online viewership, it's also quite a bonus for the companies whose once print-only ads now appear next to Wrangler News digital stories, with direct links to the websites of each business.

In summary, we're delighted with what appears to be light at the end of this excruciatingly long COVID-19 tunnel. Not only for us but for our business partners, some of whom sadly have gone away or been impacted by the decline that started a year ago.

It comes as no surprise, we're sure, that big daily newspapers continue to explore ways to stimulate revenue and reduce costs. One of the ways that seems to be universally employed is to increase the number of in-depth stories on major topics of potentially statewide interest and decrease those that are community-focused and typically would be of more relevance to neighbors and neighborhoods.

That's not us. We are and always have been committed to our own Tempe and West Chandler communities and the people who live and work in them. This is a promise

we made in our very first issue of what was then called—and still is, by many—the Warner Wrangler.

If you haven't yet looked at our digital edition, we hope you will. The online version of our newspaper won't be replacing the driveway-delivered edition any time soon, but we think you'll find it a way to stay current with everyday happenings around town (like the big dailies, we upload new content every day) and to have access to weeks, months and years of Wrangler News content available wherever and whenever its most convenient for you.

Oh, and by the way, as long as we're talking about our newspaper's growing convenience and popularity, perhaps you'll be reminded to mention Wrangler News at the places where you do business. Because our newspaper is published at no charge to you, our readers, we rely on community-based advertising to continue bringing you interesting, quality journalism, hopefully for yet another 30 years.

Finally, to the many of you whose thoughtful suggestions to business owners already are, as mentioned above, helping make our phones ring more often: Thank you!

## Film Fare: Funny but sad; I leave it to you to decide

By M.V. Moorhead  
[wranglernews.com](http://wranglernews.com)

In “French Exit,” Frances, an elegant, widowed Manhattanite, finds herself broke at around 60. She's been warned for years about the impending collapse, but she blithely assumed she'd expire before her finances did.

A kind friend offers her the use of an apartment in Paris, so Frances liquidates her art, books and other valuables. She, her twentysomething son (Lucas Hedges), and her rather marvelous black cat Small Frank make the crossing to the City of Light. Her plan is to exhaust what's left of her money, and then end her life.

Adapted by Patrick deWitt from his own novel and directed by Azazel Jacobs, this wistful comedy of the unconscionably upper class is carried by Michelle Pfeiffer's enchantingly brittle performance, and by the dialogue, as polished and carefully curated as the décor in the socialite homes we see. Pfeiffer gives her lines an edge of polite impatience behind the dizziness, as if Frances simply can't believe that she's expected to deal with these irksome details of

reality. But she's too essentially good-natured to make a fuss about it.

In 2017 Jacobs wrote and directed *The Lovers*, a terrific marital comedy that I thought was one of the more original films of its kind in years; I put on my list of the best of the 'teens. His directorial touch here is light and smooth as well. He gets delightful performances not just from Pfeiffer but from Hedges as the helplessly enthralled son, Valerie Mahaffey as an eccentric Paris widow who insinuates herself into the drama, and Danielle Macdonald as a sullen psychic. Jacobs even brings off a mild supernatural element, connected to Small Frank the cat, with amusing urbanity.

But there was something about the skewed fatalism by which Frances lives, and that I seemed expected to admire, that I couldn't help but find off-putting from my view in the cheap seats. *French Exit* is a comedy, and at times it's laugh out loud funny. But there's also an aching sadness to it, and a sense of wounded entitlement that's almost infuriating.

Now streaming...

With so many to choose from in the world right now, let me narrow

the title *Crisis*: It refers to the opioid crisis. Writer-director Nicholas Jarecki (of *Arbitrage*) bounces between three strands, two of which eventually converge.

The settings are Detroit and Montreal, tacitly making the point that while the southern border of the U.S. gets the hype as a sieve for drug trafficking, probably mostly for racist reasons the same activity, rapidly rising at the U.S./Canada border, gets much less attention.

Armie Hammer plays a wound-up undercover FBI agent trying to set up a complicated fentanyl bust between Armenian gangsters on the Detroit side and a powerful Montreal kingpin.

Evangeline Lilly plays a single mother, herself a recovering addict, who loses her adored 16-year-old son to an apparent overdose.

The devastated woman begins to probe the tragedy and soon learns that there may be more to it.

Finally, a word should be said for the bad guys;

They're as close as a realism gets to supervillains, and they're entirely convincing.



## Library dusts off old pleasures as Friends open the pages to discounted literary treasures...and more

If Vicki Linoff says she can't talk because she has her nose in a book, it's likely not one on this week's *New York Times* bestseller list. Quite the opposite. There's a better chance she's thumbing through a dog-eared copy of *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Brave New World*—maybe even *For Whom the Bell Tolls* if she's a devotee of Hemingway's classic 1941 battle with the censors who banned it for being "pro-Communist."

No, Linoff's reading habits are much tamer. At least those she's willing to talk about.

Besides, the demure Tempe librarian has more on her mind these days, namely how to sell off the estimated 5,000 books she's been storing at the Tempe Library since last March. The good news is that she and a cadre of hardy volunteers have spent literally hundreds of hours this past year, making sure that these donated literary masterworks (or not)

have been lovingly dusted off, labeled, catalogued and put on shelves, waiting for The Friends of the Tempe Library's next big sale.

It comes as no surprise, of course, that any public gathering for such events as book sales has been, much like Hemingway's classic, banned. So when Saturday, April 10, rolls around, Linoff expects many of those cooped-up bibliophiles to turn out en masse to peruse—and hopefully buy—from the now overflowing stockpile of formerly loved but now abandoned books.

The sale, for which Linoff hopes to see lines snaked around the Tempe Library's outside perimeter — remember, humans aren't allowed inside yet—represents a return of the Friends' annual disposal of previously read books that have been donated by their owners so others can enjoy them at a fraction of the volumes' original price.

And, of course, that it's an especially enthusiastic crowd: Book lovers eager to see what treasures are there waiting, probably as happy for an excuse to get outside as will be the trapped and, yes, bound denizens for whom dusty shelves have been a solitary

home these past 12 months.

The sale, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., features books from not only the library's own already-sorted stockpile but thousands more, so far uncatalogued, that have been awaiting inventory in a separate huge warehouse that the Friends' organizers will soon be diving into.

Best of all, dedicated readers who have long awaited the availability of literary favorites at a more affordable price than they'd have to pay at a commercial bookstore know they'll be able to buy them at greatly reduced cost. For hardbacks, the price is \$1 each or six for \$5. Softcovers will go for 50 cents.

Note: Linoff advises that for the coming sale, the onetime bargain-basket deal—a single price for all the books that could be stuffed into a single bag—won't be offered this time around.

One buyer bought 20 bags full the last time, she said, helping ensure that the warehouse was pretty well cleaned out by day's end.

— Don Kirkland



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## 'A' Mountain bike-a-thon called a road to recovery

A little ingenuity is all it takes to get back out and enjoy what Tempe has to offer, and that's exactly what the 'A' Mountain Challenge, a two-month competition, is promising.

The event, rolled out April 1 by the Downtown Tempe Authority and Zebra E-Bikes, is described as a fun, healthy and safe event that showcases Tempe's landmark 'A' Mountain, also known as Hayden Butte.

With its site recognized as a convenient and accessible hiking destination, the competition is designed as a way to support the downtown community and compete for prizes.

Said Kate Borders, the business group's executive director:

"After a year of COVID-related cancellations and restrictions, there's loads of energy and excitement waiting to be rediscovered in Tempe. The 'A' Mountain Challenge gives people a great reason to take advantage of some of Arizona's best outdoor amenities during patio season and support our downtown merchants on (the businesses') path to recovery."

The challenge allows participants to enjoy the outdoors while tackling hikes on their own schedule, solo or with a partner, within the period from April 1 to May 31.

Registration is open through May 15; a \$20 entry fee includes a challenge T-shirt and access to an online tracking gateway.

Participants will log their hikes via the portal and earn milestone prizes from local merchants based on the number of times they climb. Entrants who complete the hike at least 40 times—calculated as roughly equally the distance of hiking Mt. Everest—will be eligible to win the grand prize, a new Zebra Z1 e-bike.

Additional entries for that prize will be awarded to anyone who tags @DowntownTempe in their social posts and uses #AMtnChallenge2021.

A grand prize presentation event is planned for Saturday, June 5.

## Streetcar

From Page 15

light rail and bus rapid transit," said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods. "We are looking forward to doing everything we can to make sure our residents and visitors can get anywhere around the Valley without a car, if they choose to."

Valley Metro purchased six vehicles from Brookville, the only maker of streetcars designed and manufactured exclusively in the U.S., on a \$33 million contract awarded in 2017.

Four vehicles will be on the system at a time at 12- to 15-minute intervals.

Each has 40 seats. With standing room, a streetcar can transport roughly 120 people along the short-hop line.

With its frequent stops, the streetcar is more like a bus than like light rail.

Tempe's is the first modern streetcar line in the Valley, connecting riders to the city's historic neighborhoods, businesses, and arts and cultural destinations.

The route starts on Rio Salado Parkway at the massive Marina Heights development that houses State Farm, and then heads west to Ash Avenue, south on Ash to University Drive, east to Mill Avenue, continuing south on Mill to Apache Blvd., then turning east to the Dorsey/Apache Light Rail Station.

On its return trip to Marina Heights, the route goes north on Mill Avenue to Rio Salado Parkway.

It won't be a free ride. "We will have a fare system in place but we're still kind of determining what that is going to be," Phipps said.

So who will ride it? "We anticipate all kinds of people using this," Phipps said. "Students at ASU, employees at Marina Heights, people coming to Tempe from other parts of the Valley for arts or cultural events, people traveling from Sky Harbor can use light rail and then connect to the streetcar in Tempe."

"Certainly, it is designed for those shorter trips within the city because it has more frequent stops. It's more of a connector

between our different transit systems in the Valley."

Anticipated weekday ridership is 2,250 to 2,750, according to Phipps.

The cost, to be paid with a mix of federal, regional and local funds, has been controversial from the start. Tempe also will pay the estimated annual operating and maintenance cost of \$3.1 million.

Some critics suggested that it would be less expensive to add buses that run on compressed natural gas.

"Roadways downtown are pretty much near capacity," Phipps said. "The streetcar can transport more people more efficiently. Knowing we have traffic as an issue, efficiency is a consideration. Adding in more buses wouldn't necessarily solve the problem. We need to move more people more quickly."

Thinking toward the future, as Tempe continues to grow and there is still-more travel demand, it's really about serving the community there and anticipating what the future's going to bring.

"This system gets cars off the street, at least that's certainly what we anticipate."

Also, modern streetcars are quieter than buses and light-rail trains.

Tempe, which has the most densely populated downtown among Valley suburbs with its high-rise residential structures and the Arizona State University campus just off Mill Avenue, has been proactive in creating multimodal transportation, hoping to get as many automobiles as possible off its crowded downtown streets.

"We didn't build any new park-and-rides for this project, but the existing one at Dorsey and Apache also will serve the streetcar," Phipps said.

Valley Metro, in coordination with Tempe, recommended the current route, a slight tweak from an initially proposed 2.6-mile loop, to better fit federal funding criteria. In April, 2013, the Federal Transit Administration approved the project, the first step toward getting it funded.

With FTA funds along with money from several other sources secured, construction began in

2017 on the joint project between Valley Metro and Tempe Public Works Department.

Stantec Consulting Services, which designed other streetcar projects in the U.S., also designed this project.

Planners envision the streetcar supporting the Tempe-area transit network with an ability to attract new riders, increase mobility, strengthen existing neighborhoods and create sustainable development.

It could positively impact housing values near the route as it not only connects to downtown attractions but also connects to Valley Metro Light Rail to downtown Phoenix and downtown Mesa.

More information: valleymetro.org/project/tempe-streetcar.

### Tempe Streetcar funding sources

	Millions	%
County Prop. 400 Tax	\$93.0	48%
Federal Transit Grants	\$75.0	39%
Tempe	\$13.0	7%
Federal Air Quality Fund	\$11.4	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$192.4</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Valley Metro

### Tempe Streetcar stations

The Tempe Streetcar will have 14 stops:

Marina Heights/Rio Salado Parkway  
(route's northern terminus)  
Hayden Ferry/Rio Salado Parkway  
Tempe Beach Park/Rio Salado Parkway  
3rd Street/Mill Avenue (connection to Valley Metro Light Rail)  
3rd Street/Ash Avenue  
5th Street/Mill Avenue  
6th Street/Mill Avenue  
University Drive/Ash Avenue  
9th Street/Mill Avenue  
11th Street/Mill Avenue  
College Avenue/Apache Boulevard  
Paseo del Saber/Apache Boulevard  
Rural Road/Apache Boulevard  
Dorsey Boulevard/Apache Boulevard  
(route's southern terminus, connection to Valley Metro Light Rail, park-and-ride garage)

Source: Valley Metro

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Announcements appearing in our Neighborhood Services section are placed by local business owners who want to be a reliable go-to source that you can trust now and in the future. Ads in this section appear in 6 consecutive issues at a cost of \$150, plus tax, which includes an accompanying classified ad at no additional charge. Call 480-966-0837 for information.



## For Sale

**Piano for sale:** 1948 Baldwin baby grand piano. Soundboard in excellent condition, finish in good condition, professionally tuned and cleaned February 2021. \$5,000 OBO. Buyer and seller split moving costs. Contact (480) 510-2689.

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## Help Wanted

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## Services

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**Carpentry** — Carpentry, Concrete, Drywall, Stucco, Roofing, Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, Patios, Additions, Kitchens, Bathrooms. Call Roger 480-215-3373. [rchildcustomcarpentry@cox.net](mailto:rchildcustomcarpentry@cox.net). Plans if needed. Lic. Bond. Ins. 5/21

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**Drywall, Stucco and paint**—Call or text for a free estimate: 480-215-3373. All textures perfect match. Compare our prices to non-licensed contractors. Discount for vets and teachers. 5/21

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## Commentary . . . by Matt Orlando

### W. Chandler projects part of upcoming bond proposal; no tax hike seen

**B**ond Elections allow taxpayers to decide what community enhancements or infrastructure they are willing to pay for through property taxes. Since 2000, the City of Chandler has held three bond elections, with the last one occurring in 2007.



In order to keep Chandler moving forward as the Community of Innovation, the Citizen's Bond Exploratory Committee was created in August 2020 to review capital and infrastructure needs. This committee was chaired by former Chandler Mayor and former Arizona Corporation Commissioner, Boyd Dunn, and consisted of 49 Chandler residents serving on subcommittees with a specific area of focus,

including the Airport, Facilities, Finance, Technology, Parks, Public Safety and Public Works.

Over a period of seven months, the Citizen Bond Exploratory Committee reviewed and evaluated 80 possible bond projects with an estimated total cost of \$851,973,600. Within those projects, the committee

identified 52 projects to move forward with, equating to a \$403,747,000 bond need in the areas of Parks, Fire, Police, Streets and Transportation, Library, Stormwater, Airport and Facilities. After utilizing the remaining authorization from prior bond elections, the committee recommended the City Council pursue \$272,685,000 in authorization for needs in Facilities, Fire, Parks, Police and Streets and Transportation for approval in the November 2021 bond election.

Citizen Bond Exploratory Committee  
Recommendations: \$272,685,000

Facilities: \$33,570,000  
Fire: \$25,160,000  
Parks: \$72,985,000  
Police: \$55,190,000  
Streets: \$85,780,000

The following projects were recommended in West Chandler:

Mountain View Park Renovation  
Pine Shadows Park Renovation  
Fire Station 284 Rebuild  
Maintenance at Libraries  
Kyrene Branch Canal Shared Use Path  
Highline Canal Shared Use Path  
Kyrene Road (SR-202 to Chandler Blvd) Improvements

The recommendations are based on the City Council's commitment to maintain existing infrastructure, finish planned construction of streets and parks, limit new projects that add ongoing operations and maintenance, and address public needs all while not negatively impacting property tax rates.

If approved, this recommendation to City Council would not increase primary or secondary property tax rates using current projections.

The City Council will be reviewing the proposal submitted by the Citizen Bond Exploratory Committee until April 30, 2021. If the City Council accepts the proposal submitted by the Steering Committee then we will call for an election by resolution no later than May 27, 2021. The election would occur on Nov. 2, 2021

Learn more about the Bond Election and recommendations at [chandleraz.gov/bondelection](http://chandleraz.gov/bondelection). Please feel free to reach out to me for any other issues at [matt.orlando@chandleraz.gov](mailto:matt.orlando@chandleraz.gov).

*Matt Orlando is a member of the Chandler City Council.*

## Commentary . . . by Lauren Kuby

### U.S. Congress needs to tackle threats to our area caused by air pollution

**W**orsening air pollution is rampant across the nation, with the crisis especially acute in much of the West, including Arizona. There are myriad causes of our pollution emergency, but the largest contributor to the dirty air we breathe comes

from the transportation sector.

Now, more than ever, we need effective strategies to limit vehicular pollution, particularly in communities that are near roadways.

Transportation pollution is clearly impacting our changing climate, but it heightens the health impacts of COVID-19, which attacks respiratory function. Death rates from COVID-19 are much higher for

those with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, which can be triggered by air pollution.

Just as the COVID-19 crisis was taking hold last year, the previous federal administration made the reckless decision to abandon federal clean car standards, allowing auto manufacturers to veer away from building cleaner cars and trucks. The rollback assured that vehicular pollution would continue clogging our air as commuters traveled across I-10 and throughout the Valley.

Continued pollution from cars and trucks, including heavy-duty vehicles worsens air quality

and threatening our health. In Maricopa County alone, more than 340,000 adults and 80,000 children suffer from asthma, according to an American Lung Association study. That same group awarded Maricopa County with an "F" in its annual county-by-county air-quality grades.

Federal clean-car standards were one of the most effective policies we had on the books, not only to address pollution from the transportation sector, but to combat the broader climate-change crisis, which has made extreme weather events like heat waves, wildfires, and flooding more frequent and intense. In my city of Tempe, the transportation sector accounts for half of our community greenhouse gas emissions. Climate neutrality is a pipe dream without cleaner cars.

Cleaner cars and trucks will not only improve public health but will spark our economy and create jobs through a transition to cleaner and pollution-free vehicles. Before the rollback, clean-car standards were spurring innovation across the transportation sector. Thousands of good jobs in science, research, and manufacturing were created to support investments in advanced vehicle components and technology. Nationwide, 288,000 jobs are associated with clean-vehicle technologies. Arizona could expect 9,700 new jobs by 2030 if strong clean car standards are in place. The benefits are tangible for both the U.S. economy and individual households, which

were expected to save thousands on gas bills as we transitioned to electric vehicles.

Now is the time to roll back the rollback. The Biden administration has already demonstrated a deep commitment to addressing the climate-change crisis, making decisions based on science with the intent to protect and improve public health. In just one month, President Biden has signed multiple forward-thinking executive orders and nominated leaders who will work tirelessly to tackle the root causes of climate change, including those stemming from transportation. It is heartening to see an administration's clear commitment to investing in clean Infrastructure and other initiatives to address the climate emergency.

We now need the U.S. Congress to do its part to tackle this existential threat. That starts with a commitment to bolster the transition to a clean economy and pollution-free cars, trucks, buses, and other heavy-duty vehicles.

Our leaders in Washington, including Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly, understand the devastating effect climate change is having on Arizona, particularly driven by vehicle pollution. Now is the time for Congress to act.

We can no longer afford to be stuck in reverse.

*Lauren Kuby is a member of the Tempe City Council.*



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## Kyrene Corridor Market Snapshot

Subdivision	Address	Square Feet	Beds/Baths	Sold Price
Corona del Sol Estates	8815 S. Juniper Street, Tempe 85284	2,858	4 / 3	\$700,000
Corona Village	4141 W. Orchid Lane, Chandler 85226	1,876	4 / 2	\$542,000
D'Arcy Ranch	3201 W. Genoa Way, Chandler 85226	2,811	5 / 3	\$560,000
Harmon Ranch	740 N. Bradley Drive, Chandler 85226	2,759	5 / 2.5	\$638,000
Oasis at Anozira	1883 E. Dava Dr, Tempe 85283	2,445	4 / 2	\$580,000
Pecan Grove Village	8360 S. Stephanie Ln, Tempe 85284	2,639	3 / 3	\$541,000
Warner Estates	8514 S. Willow Dr, Tempe 85284	4,650	5 / 4	\$925,000
Terrace Walk	518 W. Dennis Court, Tempe 85283	1,567	3 / 2.5	\$391,000

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## Carol Royse, Real Estate Expert and Radio Show Host, announces her “Get the Highest Price for Your Home - Guaranteed”

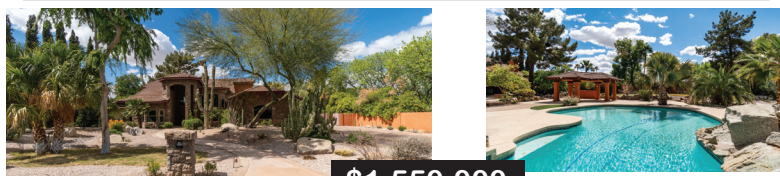
Are you thinking of putting your Tempe home on the market? There are many things to consider when that thought turns into reality. What do I do to get my home ready, should I have my property inspected before putting it on the market, what about getting it appraised? The most important question you may ask is which Real Estate Agent will put the most money in my pocket, guaranteed!

These are all important questions, and I will answer each of them. To get your home ready, consult with an experienced Realtor, who works in your area and who has a proven track record of getting homes sold like Carol Royse. I will advise you on what to do and what not to do. As far as an inspection, many times it is beneficial to have your roof and air conditioning units checked. These are the major factors in buyers canceling a contract. An appraisal can help if you are unsure about the accurate square footage of your home, or if it is a very high-end home and there have been no recent sales in the area to base a sales price on. And, the most important question, which agent will put the most money in my pocket!

There is a difference in agents and agent selection matters. Especially in this fast-moving market. To maximize your equity and proceeds from your sale, it is critical to use the very best agent who consistently gets home sellers the highest price. At the Carol Royse Team, we have sold hundreds of homes in Tempe and consistently get our sellers the most money. My guarantee to home sellers is, I guarantee the sale of your home at your price GUARANTEED! We have an exclusive data base of ready to buy buyers who are ready today. We will advise you every step of the way, from beginning of the process to the very end when your proceeds check is delivered. You never have to worry about making the right decision when you select the Carol Royse Team. We are here to get you the highest price in the least amount of time GUARANTEED. Call Carol Today for more details at 480-776-5231.

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