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Tempe Salutes

High school seniors honored for their upcoming service in the military. **Page 30.**



Intel Water Deal

Chandler, Intel water pact could save ratepayers \$100 million. **Page 3.**



Feliz de Mayo Traditional Mexican holiday was a cause for celebration at this popular Tempe dining spot. **Page 8.**



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WRANGLER NEWS

Eye on the future

As MCC and other community colleges prepare to offer four-year degrees to qualifying young people, student John Gomez envisions new career and life possibilities. How this will be good news for prospective thousands. **Page 3.**



*Wrangler News photo
by Joyce Coronel*

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Chandler/Intel pact to preserve city's water resources as drought lingers

By Joyce Coronel
wranglernews.com

Chandler has entered into a new agreement with Intel for the construction of a reclaimed water interconnect facility. The agreement is critical because it saves and reuses water—a precious commodity in the desert.

With 12,000 employees, Intel is the city's largest employer.

"It's a win for Chandler, it's a win for Intel and it's a win for us," said Chandler City Councilmember Matt Orlando. "We won't waste water and it's a great way of reutilizing our

natural resource."

City officials say the partnership with Intel is designed to optimize the use of the city's water resource. Matt Burdick, Chandler's communications and public affairs director, boiled down the essentials of the agreement:

"Currently, the city and Intel execute an annual reclaimed water agreement to meet Intel's yearly projected needs. This agreement was only possible as long as the city had adequate reclaimed water volumes to fill Intel's request while still meeting our other obligations," Burdick said.

"This new agreement with Intel for the Reclaimed Water Interconnect Facility allows for additional water resources to be treated and delivered through our reclaimed water system to meet their future industrial cooling water needs long term. "

Key to the agreement is a construction project which is slated to begin in the fall when design is complete.

John Knudson, director of public works and utilities for Chandler, spoke with Wrangler News about the agreement between the city and Intel as

— WATER, Page 23

What you need to know

4-year degrees coming to MCC, other colleges

By Lee Shappell
wranglernews.com

Who really will benefit when Arizona's community colleges begin offering four-year degrees in a couple of years after Gov. Doug Ducey signed Senate Bill 1453 into law on May 4?

"It really depends on what your field of study is," said Lori Berquam, president of Mesa Community College. "We're never going to offer engineering as a four-year degree. We're never going to offer chemistry. We're going to be limited.

"And, you can always start here and then transfer into those fields and get those first two years at a much less."

The new four-year degree program will not be as radical as it might appear. The number of degrees and the number of majors offered by a community college will be strictly limited, especially in Maricopa and Pima Counties, where community colleges will be permitted to award baccalaureate degrees to no more than 5 percent of the total number of degrees during the first four years of the program, and then to no more than 10 percent thereafter.

Which bachelors programs they offer will be determined by market and community needs, among other criteria.

— DEGREES, Page 15

A community in grief

Friends, residents share final thoughts on fallen officer



A young boy lays flowers for fallen officer Christopher Farrar. —Wrangler News photo by Joyce Coronel

By Joyce Coronel
wranglernews.com

In the glare of the harsh morning sunlight, they came, one by one, to silently pay their respects to a Chandler police officer killed in the line of duty April 29.

Chandler Police Officer Christopher Farrar, 50, was struck and killed by the driver of a stolen vehicle who was fleeing law enforcement. From shooting at Pinal County Sheriff's officers to driving on the wrong side of the freeway and crashing

through a gate at the Chandler Regional Airport then tearing through a car dealership, it was a wild night that ended in tragedy.

Within hours, a growing makeshift memorial sprang up in the plaza in front of the downtown Chandler Police Department headquarters, where two life-size statues representing law enforcement officers have long been displayed near the entrance. Chandler residents began piling

— GRIEF, Page 17

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CARE 7 team aids post-covid anguish

Staff reports

For those struggling to return to normalcy from the psychological upheaval of the last year, Tempe Mayor Corey Woods offers some words of guidance.

“Human connection has never been more important, and I want to encourage everyone to find ways to safely connect (now) and beyond,” Woods said.

“A walk with a neighbor, a phone call with an old friend, coffee with a colleague, a takeout meal in the park with family—these are small things that we can all do to take care of ourselves and others.”

Woods is not alone in delivering the message. The Tempe’s Human Services CARE 7 staff is doing its part to raise awareness of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, which promotes mental wellness as vitally important to facing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tempe says its CARE 7 team members have joined experts across the country in encouraging a focus on the healing value of connecting in safe ways, prioritizing mental health and acknowledging that it’s OK to not be OK.

Key elements of that focus are crisis response, youth services and counseling—all among CARE 7’s ongoing priorities

Said Woods:

“We have spent the past year taking care of our physical health to stay safe from COVID-19, and that’s still very important. But it’s also important to take care of our mental health.”

CARE 7 offers 24/7 crisis response services, counseling and support groups, youth specialists, services for veterans, and online mental health resources. Agency staff can also make connections to other community resources, including the city’s crisis response program.

Naomi Farrell, director of the city’s Human Services Department, noted that nearly everyone has been affected by stress during the last year.

“The pandemic experience has touched all of us,” she said. “Recovering will be easier for some and harder for others...Tempe and CARE 7 can help. Just reach out, don’t wait. Let our staff be your starting point.”

CARE 7 also encourages community members to consider how they can make a difference in the lives of a friend, family member or neighbor who might be struggling, including these suggestions:

- Give them a call or send a text message to let them know you are thinking of them. A kind word can go a long way;
- Offer to seek resources with them or for them; and
- If appropriate, visit in person and just be present or engage them in an activity that has brought them joy before.

Information: tempe.gov/CARE7 or 480-350-8004.

Ready, set . . . cool. Tempe offers tips, warnings for coming heat

With 100-degree temperatures upon us, Tempe is asking residents to stay in, stay cool and get prepared for the hot summer months. The city is also seeking bottled water donations and offering pool passes as a token of thanks.

Heat-related illnesses are common during Arizona summers. Each year, nearly 2,000 people visit the state's emergency rooms because of heat-related illnesses, and some of those result in death. Here are some ways to stay safe, get cool and help others in need:

Respect the heat

- Drink plenty of water;
- Never leave children or pets in the car;
- Keep your head covered and reapply sunblock every two hours;
- Take breaks in the shade or in air conditioning; and
- Plan outdoor activities in the early morning or late evening to avoid the heat

Get cool

Three city facilities are currently serving as heat relief and bottled-water donation sites. Hours of operation throughout May are:

Kiwanis Recreation Center, 6111 S. All America Way, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on weekends

North Tempe Multi-Generational Center, 1555 N. Bridalwreath St., 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; *Escalante Community Center*, 2150 E. Orange St., 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-5:30 p.m. on weekends.

Additionally, the Salvation Army's location at 40 E. University Drive is open from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. as an emergency heat relief station during days with excessive heat warnings.

For any experiencing homelessness, Tempe Community Action Agency operates the Oasis Drop-in Center, 2146 Apache Boulevard, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Donate water

Donate bottled water at Kiwanis, North Tempe and Escalante centers for those seeking heat relief at city facilities or served by the city's HOPE homeless outreach and CARE 7 crisis response teams.

Donors will receive one pool pass for one or more cases (24 bottles minimum) of water. Pool passes are valid through Sept. 5, for Kiwanis, McClintock or Escalante pools during calm water or lap schedules (subject to capacity).

Get help

• The city of Tempe is not disconnecting water service for late, partial or non-payment at this time. But it is vital that residents make a payment plan in ad-

vance of services being shut off. Setting up a payment plan is easy. Call 480-350-8361 for details.

Tempe residential renters are entitled by city ordinance to working air conditioning. If the temperature in your home or apartment is above 88 degrees for evaporative cooling or above 82 degrees for air conditioning, contact your management company or landlord.

After that, file a complaint with the city's Code Compliance Division through Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311.

• TCAA offers emergency rent and utility assistance. Get details at tempeaction.org or by calling the Help with Bills Hotline at 480-389-1375. Maricopa County also offers rent and utility assistance to Tempe residents. Learn more about applying at maricopa.gov.

• Donate bottled water at Kiwanis, North Tempe and Escalante centers for those seeking heat relief at city facilities or served by the city's HOPE homeless outreach and CARE 7 crisis response teams.

• Donors will receive one pool pass for one or more cases (24 bottles minimum) of water. Pool passes are valid through Sunday, Sept. 5 for Kiwanis, McClintock or Escalante pools during calm water or lap schedules (subject to capacity).

—Susie Steckner



Randy Goff
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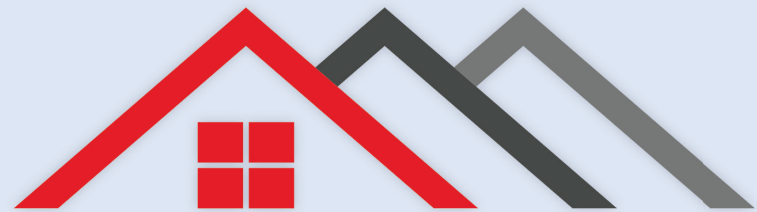
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Tempe City Councilmember Jennifer Adams visits the construction site for Banyan North Tempe, an area the city recently annexed.
— Photo courtesy Jennifer Adams

Commentary: City's land annexation expected to positively impact all of Tempe

By Jennifer Adams

Tempe City Councilmember

The City of Tempe expanded its north Tempe boundaries earlier this year and the construction and new residents to be located there will mean an estimated \$1 million each year in new revenues, which benefit all areas of the city.

Our city grew by a little more than 17 acres for the first time since 2006 by annexing a portion of the north Tempe county island. We hope to annex more of that area in the future. The newest part of Tempe is south of east Curry Road, west of north Miller Road and north of east Gilbert Drive.

But how does an annexed county island in north Tempe affect residents in south Tempe?

The answer is in the development permit fees, property taxes and sales taxes that will flow to the city as a result – and those revenues benefit all of Tempe.

Banyan North Tempe has started work at the former county island on a new mixed-use development featuring 651 residential units along with retail opportunities.

The project by Milhaus Development will have significant benefits for everyone. The developers are improving the area's access streets and even adding a public dog park. Phase 1 of the \$180 million development is expected to be complete in early 2023.

Tempe will receive approximately \$1.8 million in one-time construction sales tax, as well as estimated annual revenues of \$400,000 in new property taxes and \$500,000 annually in new sales taxes from residents' spending.

Residents in north Tempe have been wanting to see improvements to the county

island for a long time. Its industrial uses and lack of stringent code enforcement and maintenance led to an appearance that has not been in keeping with the city-owned land that surrounds it. The property we annexed is very close to Tempe Town Lake, Arizona State University and downtown Tempe. It is prime real estate. I know even more development of this area will be coming – it is just a matter of time.

To help ensure we are working in concert with our residents, this area has been included as part of the new Character Area 1 planning effort currently underway. A character area plan uses input from neighborhoods and businesses to formulate planning and design guidelines that can be used during review processes for development. You can get involved at tempe.gov/CharacterAreas. The next meeting is on May 11.

I am proud to have had a role in this effort to transform what used to be a county island into a highly desirable area. That helps everyone, including residents of all parts of Tempe.

When we make investments in any part of our community, the whole city benefits. New businesses bring jobs. New places to live bring residents who pay sales taxes and contribute to our community's vitality. Revenues to the city help pay for parks, police, streets and services throughout the city.

We are one Tempe. I can see a tremendous future for north Tempe that will improve the quality of life for everyone in our city. I would love to hear what you think about our efforts in north Tempe – or any other ideas you might have. Reach out to me at jennifer_adams@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8835.

You can also find me on Facebook at JenniferAdamsTempe.

Is your heart trying to tell you something?

Those odd sensations, a fluttering feeling in your chest, erratic heartbeats? The fact is, irregular or abnormal heartbeats, known as arrhythmia, aren't normal at all, and they definitely aren't to be ignored. It could be atrial fibrillation or other heart rhythm disorders—conditions that may cause the electrical impulses of the heart to happen too fast, too slowly, or erratically, when left undiagnosed and untreated.

The first step in protecting yourself is a heart health checkup with one of our heart rhythm experts at the Dignity Health Heart Arrhythmia Center – Chandler Regional Medical Center. Now's the time to schedule a consultation with our experts. Call 480-728-5500 or visit [LearnAboutArrhythmia.org](https://www.learnaboutarrhythmia.org).

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A Cinco de Mayo tip of the sombrero

Tempe's colorful — and popular — La Casa de Juana dining spot was once again the place to be for this year's celebration that commemorates the first Battle of Puebla, where the Mexican army defeated the French during the U.S. Civil War on May 5, 1862. As is becoming a more common occurrence these days, a crowd of patrons looking for an excuse to escape the confines of pandemic-induced mealtime isolation picked Casa de Juana's welcoming atmosphere as their place of choice to observe the holiday.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

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Tempe offering free Chromebooks, hotspots to eligible students and residents ages 50+

Tempe Public Library, in partnership with Tempe's Human Services Department, is launching Connect Tempe, which will distribute dozens of free Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots to students and residents in need. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools, libraries and other public places with access to computers, creating a "digital divide" for many low-income residents, including students and older adults. Connect Tempe will offer eligible Tempe residents a Chromebook and hotspot on a first-come, first-served basis for a period of five months.

Eligibility requirements: Must be Tempe resident (K-12 student or adult age 50 and older); Must have no accessibility to Wi-Fi or adequate technology to meet the needs of the household; Household income must be at or below 300 percent of federal poverty level; Must have a Tempe Public Library card; Must obtain Google account to fully utilize Chromebooks.

Those interested must complete an online loan form to begin the request process. Applications will be accepted until all Chromebooks have been checked out. This program is part of the Economic

Recovery and Workforce Development Recovery Initiative and is funded through the AZCARES initiative.

Information: tempepubliclibrary.org/ConnectTempe.

Covid-19 vaccine free at clinics in Tempe, Chandler

911OccMed, a Valley-based Cuban-American and woman-owned company, is offering COVID-19 vaccines free at its clinics in Tempe and Chandler.

To schedule in Chandler: covid19-chandler.rsvpify.com. To schedule in Tempe: covid19-tempe.rsvpify.com.

The vaccine is provided at no cost, however the clinics are required to collect recipients' health-insurance information and submit it for payment.

Those who do not have insurance are covered under federal funding programs.

Passes available for free rides for youth

Tempe and Guadalupe kids ages 6-18 can now sign up for a Youth Transit Pass and ride light rail and Valley Metro buses for free.

Tempe is issuing passes valid July 1 through June 30, 2022. Sign up is at the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth Street, on weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturday, Aug. 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students who attend Tempe high schools, and who live in Tempe or Guadalupe, can get a pass at school.

Information: tempe.gov/YouthPass.

Finalists for Chamber Business Excellence awards

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce announced six finalists for the Business Excellence Award in small-business and large-business categories.

Finalists in large business are BD – Becton Dickinson, Dirck's Moving & Logistics and Vitalant.

Finalists in small business are Laura's Gourmet Granola, Rango Honey and Terrain Hopper.

The awards recognize companies that have demonstrated business success, community involvement, leadership, dedication to employees, commitment to customer service and membership in the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

Recipients in both categories of the Business Excellence Award will be announced at the State of the Chamber & Annual Awards in a live broadcast at 9 a.m. on June 25.

Businesses can be nominated by anyone in the community or by an employee of the business. Nominees complete an application and then a committee reviews them and selects the finalists.

The selection committee, made up of past recipients, conducts online interviews with the finalists before choosing the winner. Videos of each finalist are produced by Resound Creative and will be shown at the State of the Chamber prior to the announcement of the recipients.

Be Water Wise

Water bill higher than normal and don't know where to turn? Water Conservation staff can help track down leaks and offer tips to reduce household water consumption.

Complete a Water Use Audit Request Form at chandleraz.gov/water or call 480-782-3580.



'Hey, Brother, have you got time to lend a helping hand?'

One of many volunteer efforts by ASU 'Fiji' frat members



Braeden Belnap, Nolan Goldsmith, Nick Nauser and Ari Kahn, Fijis from ASU, alongside Tempe Mayor Corey Woods at the Tempe Salvation Army center.

— Photo courtesy Salvation Army

By Lawn Griffiths

Eighty men strong, the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity at Arizona State University is a force on the Valley landscape when it comes to volunteering.

Ask the Tempe Salvation Army Corps where a dozen Fijis, as they call themselves, have created a 350-square-foot shaded patio where homeless may find respite and a gathering place. They spent two days removing dirt and vegetation to deposit sand, then laid pavers. Bob Glenn, a contractor and owner of CAJ builders, provided construction oversight.

The secured space is located between the social services building and the worship building and coffee shop on the Salvation Army campus at 714 S. Myrtle Ave. This renovation in particular was the pinnacle of Fiji's service projects throughout the Spring 2021 semester, wrapping up the weekend with a total 50 service hours under the 93-degree Tempe sun.

Corey Woods, the mayor of Tempe, has a long-lasting relationship with the Tempe

Salvation Army, and he stopped by to see the impact of the chapter's service firsthand and express his gratitude for the time spent giving back to the community for which he is so passionate.

"I had a wonderful time meeting the members of the Fiji fraternity," Woods said. "It was great to see students partnering with the Salvation Army to make physical improvements to the facility, put together food care packages, and assist our unsheltered population. So many people have faced unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it's wonderful to see our ASU students stepping up to help."

Every hour of community service, to the man, is tracked by the fraternity. Altogether 393 hours of service have been logged since December, while newer 'brothers' have given 252 hours. Their records show that in the past five months, Fiji hands have been provided to a diverse array of 20 community organizations and projects.

Fraternity president Taylor Dintzner, an ASU junior majoring in finance, says service



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is an expectation that comes with belonging to the Phi Gamma Delta, which was established at ASU in 1965 and has more than 850 alumni.

“We all strive to get in as many hours of service as we can, and organizations that positively impact the communities surrounding us are prioritized,” he said.

Bob Kawa, chairman of the Tempe Salvation Advisory Board, is one of those alums. He was a Fiji at ASU 1969-72 and fondly looks back on Greek life a half-century ago. “I needed volunteers, and these guys came through. A lot of people in the community weren’t volunteering because of Covid.”

Dintzner likewise said the fraternity, adhering to the guidelines and recommendations of the university, was in a holding pattern awaiting more socially safe conditions, but were eager to get back to volunteering in December. The opportunity arose when Kawa needed bell ringers for the Salvation Army Red Kettles at Tempe stores. The fraternity provided a team for three weekends.

From there, Majors Mario and Claudia Ruiz, the officers of Tempe Salvation Army Corps, stepped in and were diligent in coordinating volunteer work for the Fijis. There were 24 filled assignments to deliver food to Guadalupe, six roles filled delivering coffee, helping with the Salvation Army Angel Tree, plus 72 slots filled for bell ringers. They tallied 137.5 hours with the Salvation Army alone.

Throughout that same period, Fiji also sustained partnerships with other nonprofit organizations. In a matter of mere months, chapter members combined their efforts to successfully complete the following acts of service:

- Donated blood with Vitalant
- Prepared meals at the Feed My Starving Children center in Mesa
- Sorted used medical supplies at Project C.U.R.E
- Packed food at St. Mary’s Food Bank
- Renovated a dog park with the Arizona Shih Tzu and Small Breed Rescue
- Executed a Read > Lead > Achieve one-day car wash event to “inspire a lifelong love for reading”
- Served on a panel for Turning Point, a nonprofit that works with sex trafficking awareness
- Carried out “March for Sight”, an event benefiting the Foundation for Blind Children, raising \$316
- Ran a social media campaign “Fiji Suicide Awareness Week” to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, raising over \$2,000 in one week

In just two months, through a shared passion and dedication to philanthropy, the Fijis amassed 393 service hours, raising a total of \$3,734.37 as of April 17.

It is clear that the members of Fiji share a similar mindset when it comes to service. “In helping out, I have the opportunity to give back to the community and help any way I can,” said Braeden Belnap, a freshman majoring in economics.

Nicholas Nauser, a freshman majoring in sustainability, who has distributed clothing and coffee to the homeless, said, “Whenever I help out, it gives me satisfaction, and I know it will make a difference.”



Class of 2019

INSPIRED MINDS BECOME TOMORROW'S LEADERS

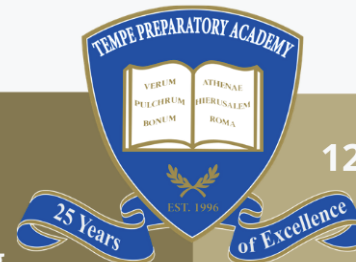
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SPORTS With Alex Zener

High schools experience a spike in beach volleyball

Corona Sand Volleyball Beach, or sand volleyball, has been a Division I sport in Arizona high schools since 2012. In 2016 there were enough schools interested in playing the sport that Division II was added.

Even though the season was cancelled in 2020, 39 teams played this spring in Division I and 36 teams in Division II.

Corona was one of the first schools to field a beach volleyball team, along with such schools as Xavier and Desert Vista, which had good indoor volleyball programs with skilled players to feed into their teams.

The sport has become more popular every year with interest being further piqued when colleges started fielding beach volleyball teams to play competitively.

Basically, to field a team, a high school needs a minimum of 10 players, but most have two to six alternates who can work their way up to play regularly or substitute when a teammate cannot play.

Beach volleyball is set up similarly to high school team tennis, where each school has five doubles or pairs of teams with two players each.

These two-person pairs are put together based or ranked on ability, with the No. 1 pair the best players, on down to the No. 5 team.

Usually there is competition within the players to move up and down the ladder based on some form of performance.

During competition, the team or school that wins is the one that captures the best of three or more out of five matches.

Corona's beach volleyball team ended the regular season with an 11-1 record, No. 1 in Section I, and the No. 4 seeded team in Division I for the state playoffs.

Corona, as the No. 4 seed, was scheduled to play, on their home courts at Kiwanis Park, against the No. 13 Ironwood Ridge Nighthawks in the first round.

Unfortunately, the Nighthawks were

the only team the Aztecs played in the regular season, except Perry, that they had a hard time defeating.

Corona finally walked away from that match, on April 9, with 3-2 win.

As to the rest of the regular season matches, Corona won 5-0 five times and 4-1 five times, defeating even Desert Vista, the No. 2 ranked team in Section I, 4-1.

In the state playoffs on May 3, Corona lost in the first round to Ironwood Ridge, 2-3, and dropped out of the team competition but still had individual pairs teams qualify for the state playoffs two weeks later.

In the pairs competition, Corona qualified two teams to play in the 2021 AIA Beach Volleyball Pairs Division I State Championship scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. May 19 at Casteel High School in Queen Creek.

Ranked No. 8 in the pairs portion of the Division I playoffs, senior **Maddie Mortensen** and sophomore **Ella Lomigora** are scheduled to play against an unranked team from Sandra Day O'Connor High School.

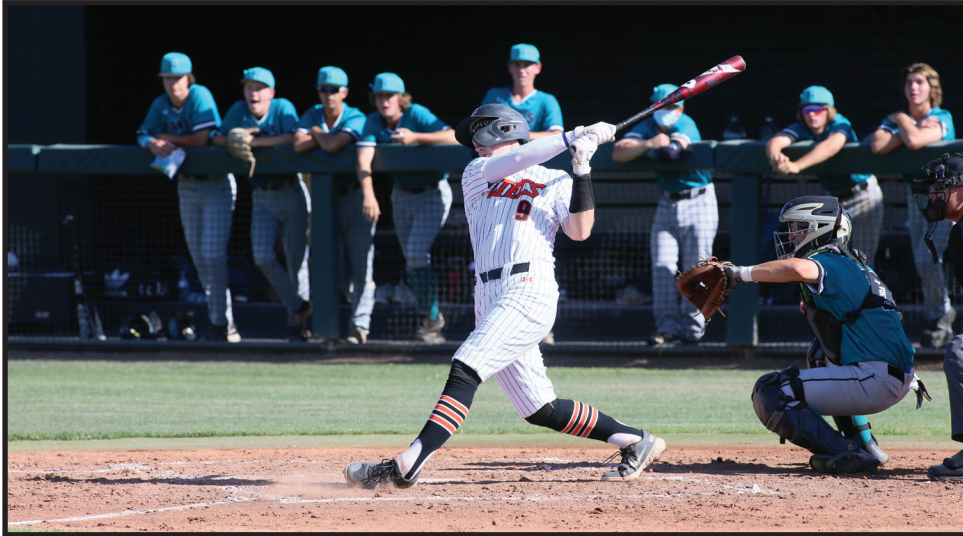
Mortensen, at 5-foot-7, plays mostly in the back row in the defender position while Lomigora, at 6-foot-2, plays mostly on the net in the blocker position.

During the regular season they are classified as Corona's No. 1 beach volleyball pair.

Corona's second team, juniors **Taylor Erickson** and **Dominique Wofford**, are scheduled to play the No. 7 ranked pair from Millennium High School.

Erickson and Wofford, both 5-foot-10, play the defender and blocker positions respectively and are, during the regular season, Corona's No. 2 pair.

Corona's No. 3 pair for most of the season was comprised of 6-foot-2 freshman blocker **Maggie Beauer** and 5-foot-7 junior defender **Angelina Bour**, while the No. 4 pair consisted of 5-foot-8 senior defender **Mia Lomigora** and her partner, 5-foot-6 sophomore defender **Maddie Kamolz**.



Corona senior Zach Kress hits a long ball against Highland.

Photo by Kris Cartwright

Designated as the No. 5 pair were 5-foot-11 sophomore blocker **Ella Swansiger** and 5-foot-5 sophomore defender **Kacie Bikofsky**.

Senior blocker Anna Jackson was the No. 1 alternate, sophomore blocker **Maddie Cohen**, the No. 2 alternate, while junior blocker **Heather Heimlich** was No. 3, junior **Sophie Reif** No. 4 and sophomore defender **Vivian Murphy** the No. 5 alternate.

Corona baseball

After not being able to play last season due to COVID-19, the Aztecs, with a 14-6 regular season record, were hoping to go far into the Division I state playoffs this season, but a couple of losses late in the regular season may have derailed their chances by changing their state playoff seeding.

Despite being the No. 1 team in their 6A Central Region with a 7-3 region record, the Aztecs, with an eight-game winning streak on the line, lost to No. 1 ranked Hamilton, 3-19, on April 29.

The Aztecs rallied in their next-to-last regular season home game to defeat Mesa Mountain View, 12-4, on senior night, April 30.

Ten seniors were honored that last home game: **Michael Fuller, Garrett Merdich, Drew Mathews, Zack Kress, Wyatt Bauer, Marcus Harrison, Caden Griffin, Luke Bashford, Jackson Doren and Quade Swearingen**,

On May 3, the Aztecs lost their last game of the regular season to No. 3 ranked Mountain Ridge in a tight 8-9 heartbreaking loss.

Down 7-3 in the fifth inning, the Aztecs put forth a valiant effort, scoring five runs to two by the Mountain Lions to come within one point of tying the game at nine.

Those two losses at the end of the regular season knocked the Aztecs down to the No. 8 ranking and set Corona up to play No. 9 Basha in the single elimination first round of the 6A state playoffs on May 8.

The Aztecs were up 5-2 heading into the seventh inning when the Bears rallied to score three runs in the seventh and tie the game at 5-5.

Basha then went on to score two more runs in the ninth inning to walk away with a 7-5 win.

The Aztecs were thus eliminated from the current single-elimination state tournament.

Football recruit

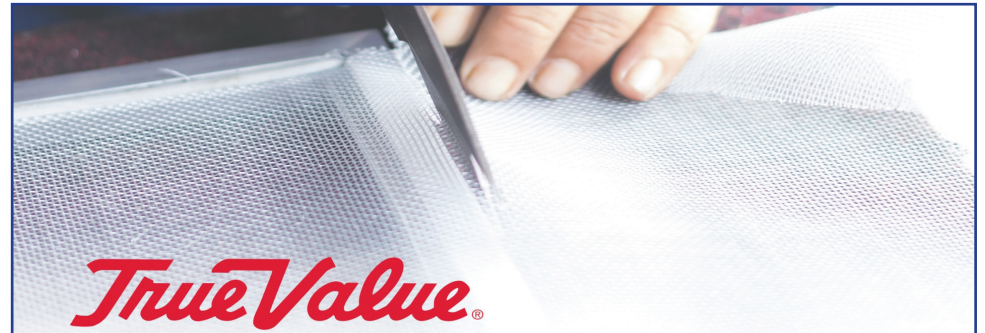
Jake Schmitt, who played outside linebacker and tight end for Corona, has accepted a scholarship for the linebacker position at Northern Arizona University.

Schmitt, at 6-foot-2, proved at Corona that he could play on both sides of the ball, either defense or offense.

During his senior year he recorded 25 passes for six touchdowns and 467 yards in nine games.

On defense, he was credited with 33 solo and 20 assisted tackles for a total of 53 tackles or an average of 5.9 tackles a game.

He is also credited with 11 tackles for loss along with three sacks and two interceptions in nine games.



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Maggie Kraft, Tempe

Trapping cats not the answer

Tempe City Councilmember Lauren Kuby is right to want to address the homeless cat crisis, but trapping, neutering, and re-abandoning cats is not the way to go about it ("Kuby's \$148K animal-welfare plan, mostly for

feral cats, raises concerns," 5-5-21).

There is no evidence that TNR reduces homeless cat populations. On the contrary, TNR can actually increase cat numbers because more people are likely to abandon their cats if they think they will be "cared for" and because the food set out for "managed" colonies makes un-trapped cats better able to reproduce and attracts more cats, as well as wildlife, including rats and rabies vectors like foxes and raccoons.

Nor does TNR protect cats from the many dangers they face on the streets, including extreme temperatures, deadly contagious diseases, parasites, speeding cars, and attacks by dogs, wildlife, and cruel people.

After Albuquerque, New Mexico, implemented a TNR program, it was sued by property owners whose living conditions were described as "a giant litterbox." Ulster, New York, abandoned its TNR program because "[i]t didn't capture a sufficient number of cats to make the residents... happy." Instead of sentencing cats to a short, painful life on the streets, Tempe should adopt humane solutions, including requiring that all cats be sterilized, licensed, microchipped, and kept indoors.

Teresa Chagrin, Animal Care & Control Issues Manager, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Fur flies as opinions shed light on cat issue

It's sad that the only comment is from Mr. Woodward, who obviously hates cats. As the guardian of four adopted shelter cats, TNR Programs DO WORK if allowed time to work. I guess some people would prefer using glue traps, poisonous food that kills native animals as well, or inhumane culling hunts. If feral colonies are provided food daily, the majority of

ferals would not kill for fun (as Mr. Woodward prefers). Removing ferals and stray or abandoned cats will cause an increase in disease spreading rats, mice, etc.

— Debbie Hunter

Chandler employees to get \$3K bonus

Only 29 part-time employees? Not all part-time employees? I know there are a lot more part-time employees than that.

— David

More Tempe streetcar expansion needed

In order to realize the full potential of this line Tempe needs to get to work expanding it, and fast. At the very least, get it extended from Marina Heights to McClintock near the Tempe Marketplace (after that, start lobbying Scottsdale to start expanding it north along Hayden road as far as you can get).

Second, expand the southern route to McClintock and then head south at least to Southern Ave. And then keep going south. Baseline, Southshore, Guadalupe, Western Canal, Elliot, Warner, Way, Chandler. Every additional stop just adds to the ridership and the utility of the line. If they turn this into a line running from Chandler Blvd. to ASU to even Scottsdale Town Center (let alone the Scottsdale Airport) by 2050 they would have an incredibly used transit line that probably would need 5 minute service to keep up with ridership.

And the increase in mobility along these major routes would be a massive boost the entire eastern valley.

— Andrew E.



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Degrees

From Page 3

In Arizona's 2018 high school graduating class, roughly half of students went on to higher education, and about a quarter of them into a four-year university. Those are low numbers in a growing state with increasing demands in certain fields.

"For example, you can't find a substitute teacher right now," Berquam said. "There is a huge demand for teachers. The half that doesn't go to (four-year) college, how are they going to have sustainable jobs throughout their lives?"



MCC President Lori Berquam says the plan to offer four-year degrees at the school will be aimed at filling gaps in the workforce. — Photo courtesy Mesa Community College

college for two years, get an associate degree and then move directly into the workforce without transferring to a university and completing a four-year degree.

"Many of our students, and especially students of color and low income, have said that they can't afford to go to one of our universities and get a degree," Berquam said. "I don't think we're taking anything from the universities. I hope not. We're good partners with them. We consider them to be amazing collaborators."

"What we want to do is address some of those high workforce needs. We can do that on our campuses for about \$127 a credit, which is significantly less than at our universities."

Where Arizona State might charge roughly \$12,000 a year in tuition, the community colleges will do it for about \$3,000 a year.

Among fields likely to be offered for four-year degrees at community colleges are health care, information technology, police and fire science, and education, where there are workplace shortages of qualified candidates.

Berquam and Greg Peterson, president of Chandler-Gilbert Community College, agreed that

added expenses associated with research coupled with consistently shrinking funding from the state have caused universities to consistently raise their tuition.

Community colleges do not have research expenses and they receive funding from property taxes, allowing them to offer education at a much lower price.

"In those spaces where there is a shortage in the workforce, if we can find ways to decrease costs for that teacher, for example, then hopefully we'll increase the number of students that are selecting that career," Peterson said. "They'll be better able to access it."

"We're very excited that we have this opportunity. I think it's our opportunity to demonstrate the great work that community colleges can do. I definitely think cost is going to be of benefit for students."

That's touchy. The community colleges are mindful of not ruffling the feathers of Arizona State, Arizona and Northern Arizona, with whom they've been strong longtime partners in education. The community colleges have been, and plan to remain, a strong feeder system to the universities.

"What we want to do is address some of those high workforce needs. We can do that on our campuses for about \$127 a credit, which is significantly less than at our universities."

MCC President
Lori Berquam

"What I can tell you is we're going to pay attention to our workforce. What does the community need? We are excited for our students to be able to give them an opportunity to get a four-year degree with very little cost and make it more obtainable for more of them."

High on the list of those who will benefit are marginalized students, especially low-income and minority students, who currently might go to community

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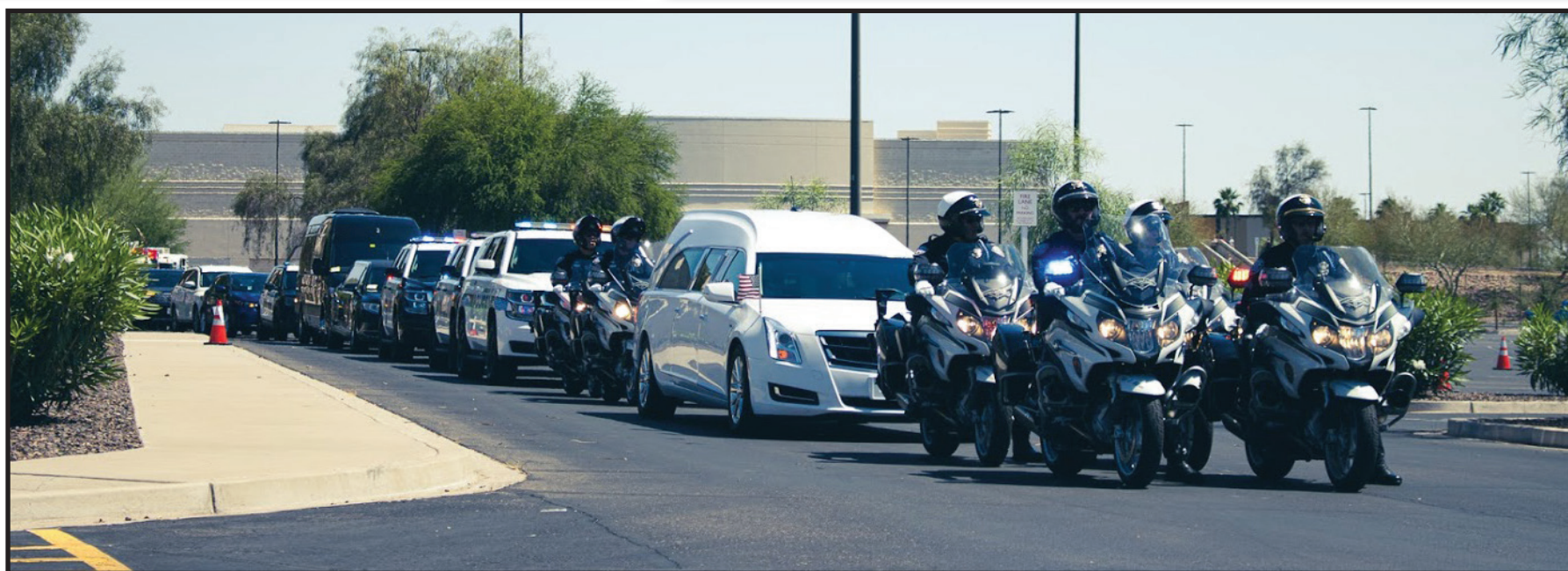
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A saddened community honors a hero . . .



The procession for fallen Chandler Police Officer Christopher Farrar began near Chandler Fashion Center, then threaded its way through city streets to Compass Christian Church for a public viewing and funeral. Members of the community, including a young boy who offered a salute, were on hand to express their grief and show their respect for Farrar. The K-9 officer, a father and grandfather, was killed when an armed man attempted to elude police.

— Wrangler News photos by Peter Coronel



Grief

From Page 3

bouquets of flowers there in the aftermath of the officer's death.

Brenda Bishop came with her son, Noah, 5, to teach him about the value of respecting police officers.

"Twenty years ago, I got a DUI and the police officer literally saved my life and probably other members of society, too," Bishop said.

"So every year when I pick up a sobriety coin, I also come and thank the police."

Bishop said she wants her son to appreciate the sacrifice made by officers like the one who saved her life.

"We love police officers," Bishop said.

Carmela Mardies brushed away tears as she laid an arrangement of sunflowers at the feet of the police officer statue.

"It just saddens me. They protect us and they're always here for us," Mardies said.

"It was just senseless. It was a horrible thing and my heart goes out to his family. Can you imagine getting that knock on the door?"

Mardies said she appreciates the Chandler Police Department and is thankful that a year ago, they came to her defense. She was on her way to work before sunrise when a car with out-of-state license plates began following her. Mardies said she called the Chandler Police and led her pursuer straight to the parking lot of the police department where the man pursuing her was immediately surrounded by officers.

"They helped me," Mardies said of the officers' actions that day. "He (the man chasing her) didn't know I was coming here."

Lori Wagner brought flowers to the memorial to show her appreciation for those who risk their lives to defend the public, she said.

"I would not want to be a police officer today with today's climate. It's a no-win situation for them.

"This is a small gesture to let this family know that we're thinking of them."

Don Black, a retired El Paso, Texas police sergeant, was friends with Farrar through his church,

Compass Christian, where the two served on the security team. Farrar's funeral was held at Compass following a procession that wove its way through the city.

"Police officers early on in the hiring process are asked a very important question, and that question is, why do you want to be a police officer? All the good candidates almost always say the same thing. 'I want to help people and make a difference in my community.' That was Chris. He was doing just that. He was trying to help keep his community safe the night he lost his life," Black said.

"I don't remember ever being around Chris without seeing a smile on his face. Chris being a man of God knew the decisions he made as a police officer had to meet the standards of his police department, community and most importantly, his Lord."

Black says he'll miss his friend but that the separation is only temporary. He pointed to a Bible verse to support his belief in an eventual reunion. "We will see each other again. John 15:13 says 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'"

Degrees

From Page 15

The Arizona Board of Regents and the state universities were not crazy about the bill. Berquam and Peterson agree that four-year degrees at their colleges will augment but not compete with Arizona State.

In the East Valley, there are many manufacturing and high-tech companies -- Boeing, Apple and Amazon in Mesa; in Chandler, the Price Corridor is filled with high-tech firms needing trained employees, especially at computer-chip giant Intel, which has committed billions of dollars to build two more chip plants.

"I feel like the 4-year degree is actually helpful for people who don't have that much income," said John Gomez, a freshman at MCC who is a member of the track and field team. "It's a good money-saver for families who choose to come here and not go to the big universities. You can kind of have a humble education and focus on yourself and your family and what you choose to do for your job."

Peterson was in California when that state approved a community-college four-year degree plan similar to Arizona's. The partnership among the California and California State university systems with the community colleges has proven to be successful. Those entities coexist more or less peacefully, providing access to higher education for more students, in turn putting more employees into the workforce and boosting the economy.

"It was a rigorous process and, as we know, California is highly regulated," Peterson said. "They wanted to make sure there wasn't competition there. There are similarities."

Arizona's universities may offer input into community college four-year degrees but they may not veto a proposed offering.

"We'll try to be mindful of how we're using our resources so we're not duplicating in spaces that are not beneficial for our communities," Peterson said. "California found success in their program. I think that Arizona is going to find the same thing by creating more opportunities for our students, especially in niche programs where there is great demand."

Peterson anticipates that the 10 Valley institutions in the Maricopa County Community College District will huddle to assess student demands and industry demands in their areas as they discuss potential offerings, and likely partner regionally on offerings so they are more different than they are alike.

Berquam points out that there then will be accreditation and licensure processes before the four-year programs are approved for roll out, likely for fall 2023.

"We don't want to overproduce a student with a skill set and then not have a position for them in the workforce," Peterson said. "For example, Gateway Community College has respiratory therapy program that is in demand in hospitals. We currently don't offer that as a four-year degree in Arizona. I imagine that would be one of the first degrees that we'd be looking at."

Students will get desks through efforts by area man, Freeway Chevrolet

Freeway Chevrolet is teaming up with an area man to provide desks to students in need.

Steve Weinberg began building desks for needy students when the COVID-19 pandemic led to school closures.

Many students, he learned, didn't have a work station at home to do schoolwork.

Freeway Chevrolet, 1150 N. 54th Street, Chandler, will host Weinberg for a desk giveaway at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 18. The event will feature 25 of Weinberg's desks being presented to representatives of the Roosevelt Elementary School District.

The public is welcome to attend.

Information: Desksforkidscharity.com

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Top: Hugh Hallman, former Tempe Prep headmaster, left; Augustus Shaw, president of TPA board of directors; current headmaster Dr. Wayne Porter; Karen Snyder, capital campaign committee chair; and Matt Waltz of Waltz Construction at the groundbreaking. Above: a rendering of the entrance for one of the new buildings under development.
— Photos courtesy Tempe Preparatory Academy

\$7.5m fundraising campaign leads to expansion at Tempe Preparatory

The hard work involved in a \$7.5 million fund drive takes on tangible meaning May 20 when Tempe Preparatory Academy dedicates its new

2-story, 20,000-square-foot fine arts and sciences building and a 3,000-square-foot athletic performance center area.

The project also includes a renovated

faculty building and study hall and expanded student center.

Tempe Prep spokeswoman Karin Moffitt said improvements will also

include an enhanced profile along Southern Avenue, as well as modernized fencing and gates to enclose the campus.

The new fine arts/sciences building will more than double the space of current art classrooms and science labs.

According to Moffitt, additional room in the music, art and drama spaces will provide students with space to better experience those disciplines.

For students exploring science, additional space for lab work will provide training in scientific observation, help crystalize concepts, improve cognitive thinking and arouse students' interest—essential to advanced honors chemistry and biology courses.

The fine arts/sciences building will also be

home to the school's enhanced college and career center, which includes a resource library and space for academic and college counseling. Additionally, it will provide a location for colleges to conduct prospective-student interviews on campus, as well as dedicated computers for students to use to research colleges and fill out college applications.

The new athletic center will have 3,000 square feet shared by indoor and outdoor space. It is being called a critical step that the school needs to take to improve its students' athletic performance and reduce injuries.

Students will be able to access the facility year-round.

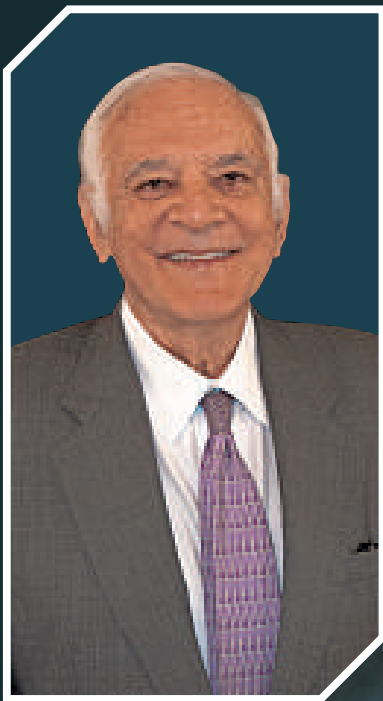
Renovations to an existing building will create a new Faculty Building and Study Hall, according to

Moffitt.

This change is aimed at providing easier student access to teachers; incorporate faculty-student meeting and tutoring rooms; and create space for faculty collaboration, among other features.

Also, an auditorium that can accommodate the entire student body and faculty and will double as a multipurpose space, Moffitt said.

Founded in 1996, Tempe Preparatory Academy was awarded one of the first mandates to operate as an open-enrollment charter school in Arizona. The school has been recognized by Newsweek magazine as one of the best high schools in the nation, and in Arizona by the state's Board of Regents.



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Sydney Storment, the winner of Valley Metro's art contest, stands aboard the bus wrapped with her design.

—Wrangler News photo by Peter Coronel

Year filled with hardship seen as inspiration Marcos de Niza teen wins bus artwork prize

By Peter Coronel
wranglernews.com

Two Marcos de Niza High School juniors brought home the coveted first and second place awards in Valley Metro's Design a Transit Wrap art contest. Sydney Storment was awarded first place in the contest and Kimberley Nunez won second place.

This is the 21st year that Valley Metro has held the competition, which drew 48 participants from 18 schools in 11 towns and cities. The contest's first and second place winners receive \$750 and \$500 respectively in prize money for their artistic endeavors. In addition, the first-place winner's art is used to wrap the outside of one bus and one light rail car for one year.

It's not the first time Marcos de Niza students have captured the top honors in the annual contest. The school has had first- and second-place winners for two consecutive years and has had six top-placing contenders in the last five years. While the artists themselves deserve the lion's share of recognition for this achievement, one wonders why Marcos de Niza? Do the Padres somehow have an edge on artistic abilities? Look no further than the woman who serves as chair of Marcos' art department.

Regan Guzman, a 1996 Marcos alumna, began her teaching career in 2006. In addition to her duties on campus, Guzman also operates a business that teaches painting to adults.

This month, students and faculty presented her with flowers and a rousing round of applause in recognition of all her achievements in the fine arts program. Providing guidance has been especially challenging in the wake of the COVID-19 lockdowns, but educators like Guzman provide much-needed support to struggling students.

Guzman had words of praise for Storment:

"I don't think she realized how amazing she was until she just started creating," Guzman said. "She's all-over talented...all I do is provide her with space and she takes off."

Storment's winning piece, *Together We Go*, is eye-catching with its rich color layout. The work is a combination of acrylic paint and colored pencil, a vibrant medley of hues. On a deeper level, the work serves as a commentary on current social issues.

"I really wanted to create a piece that would reflect unity through diversity," said Storment. "Especially with all the hard things we've been through this year, including the pandemic and a lot

of social unrest. I just thought we needed a design that could bring us all together."

Storment has been a lifelong artist but began pursuing her practice more regularly around the age of 12 with colored and graphite pencil. This is her second year entering the Design a Transit Wrap competition.

Last year she brought home the second place award with her piece *Ride Out of This World*, which incorporated a blend of space travel and desert landscapes.

With plans to continue honing her skills in fine arts after graduating high school, Storment holds aspirations of becoming an art teacher like her mentor, Guzman, who jokes about her star pupil's future.

"She's not allowed to graduate. I want her to stick around forever—she could be my teaching assistant."

Storment's mother, Amy Storment, shed tears of joy as she approached Guzman to thank her while Dad Matthew beams in the background.

"This has been such a tough year, and I feel like her art has just completely blossomed," her mom said. The love and support in the Storment family is palpable.

Young people, isolated from their peers, high school students in particular, have had difficult obstacles to overcome in 2021.

In a year filled with hardship, *Together We Go* becomes a colorful beacon of hope for Tempe and the East Valley.

Virtual show displays students' creativity

Artwork created by students in Kyrene elementary and middle schools is on virtual display again this year, with an online gallery representing young artists from every school in the district.

The event salutes a year of discovery, growth and creativity as Kyrene students show off their expanded artistic horizons.

Laura Toenjes, the district's superintendent, noted that the display will again represent the importance of artistic expression in the learning process.

"Visual arts are essential to a high-quality and balanced education," she said. "In Kyrene, we take a whole-child approach to teaching and learning, ensuring well-rounded and creative thinkers."

The 2021 showing, live 24-7 for visitors to view art at their own pace, will be available through Wednesday, June 30.

Information: kyrene.org.

Water

From Page 3

well as the city's water situation in general.

"The city will construct a small membrane water treatment facility which will treat our surface water supplies received from SRP and from the Colorado River to A+ reclaimed water standards," Knudson said.

The 10 million gallon per day treatment facility will be located at the city's Airport Water Reclamation facility at 955 E Queen Creek Road adjacent to Salt River Project's Consolidated Canal.

"This A plus reclaimed water will then be used by the five million gallon per day portion of the project which is the city's to recharge the aquifer beneath Chandler."

Unknown to many of the city's residents is that Chandler exists atop a large natural aquifer. An aquifer is a body of porous rock or sediment that's saturated with groundwater.

"It's like a huge bathtub or a huge pool," Orlando explained. The agreement with Intel entails recharging additional water into the groundwater aquifer which will be key in case of increased drought conditions.

The natural aquifer contains groundwater, but the city plans to add to it with its innovative plan.

Savings add up

Knudson said one of Intel's largest needs is water for its cooling towers.

"And so rather than bringing it through the potable system at great cost, we are going to bring it through our reclaimed system and deliver it to their cooling towers," Knudson said.

Intel uses billions of gallons of water each year in its manufacturing process. The agreement with Chandler means the city can provide reclaimed water rather than drinking water to the computer tech giant.

Knudson addressed the Chandler City Council last month about the joint project with Intel.

"We invited Intel to join us in this project and Intel was very excited to join," Knudson said. "Their five million per day allotment will be piped through our existing infrastructure over to Intel where they will use this water for their new cooling systems that they'll need for their current and future projects. So it's a great project for Chandler and a great project for Intel."

The partnership also spells a savings for Chandler residents.

"By doing the joint project with Intel and then using treated water rather than potable water, we save the rate payers about \$100 million in designing and building a new potable water plant," Orlando said.

"In addition, our energy costs are reduced due to not pumping ground water, and finally our treatment cost for reclaimed water will be reduced. The rate payer will see more stable utility rates and will not be as high as once projected."



A sign indicates the use of reclaimed water by Chandler, which recently signed an agreement with Intel.

—Photo courtesy city of Chandler

Linda Qian, Intel's communications manager for global public affairs and sustainability, weighed in on the agreement between the city of Chandler and Intel.

"Water is a vital natural resource here in Arizona, and Intel and the city of Chandler have collaborated on water conservation and recycling for decades," Qian said. "Using reclaimed water in our cooling towers is a great way to responsibly manage our water use."

In the last quarter of 2020, Intel used about 1.8 billion gallons of water. The company treats and discharges about 80 percent of that water back to the city for further treatment and reuse. It also voluntarily discloses environmental information quarterly at its Explore Intel website.

Last summer, West Chandler residents saw hundreds of trees die from the extreme heat and lack of rainfall. Arizona is in the midst of a drought—rainfall is below average and lake levels are low—but "Chandler's water supply is secure," Knudson said.

That's because of the huge aquifer the city rests on, its extensive wells, and careful planning. So where exactly is the aquifer?

"It's everywhere. We exist over quite a bathtub," Knudson said.

Then there's the water the city purchased.

"We, the city, about five years ago went out and did another water purchase to even further secure the water resource here in Chandler and actually gave us the ability at that time with the additional water that was purchased, for an expansion opportunity like this for Intel," Knudson said.

The additional Colorado River water was

purchased from the Gila River Indian Community and entails an exchange agreement.

As the city continues to grow, it begs the question: Is there going to be enough water?

"The answer is yes," Knudson said.

The city has over 30 wells in addition to its natural aquifer. "The city has a tremendous aquifer... and we have the ability to recover water from that aquifer. And that's why the aquifer recharge systems we have are so important."

According to the city's drought management plan, a 30 percent reduction in Colorado River water deliveries and/or a 60 percent reduction in SRP water deliveries would have to occur before implementing mandatory city-wide water demand reductions.

The plan declares: "The Drought Management Plan will ensure that the basic water needs for Chandler residents and businesses will be met during extreme water shortages."

Chandler does a supply-and-demand study every few years. The most recent was done in 2018. The city looks at the updated general plan which talks about every land use in the city and attributes a water volume to every land use within the city at buildout. "We look at all the different buildout scenarios that the general plan envisions and we look at the water volumes necessary to take care of those different scenarios," Knudson said.

"We have adequate water resource for all of those scenarios at buildout and beyond."



Tempe crisis response agency braces for coronavirus aftermath

Wrangler News staff reports

Coronavirus worries may be trending downward, but the side-effects seem to show no sign of disappearing. As awareness increases, say experts, feelings such as fear, anger, sadness, numbness or frustration have created a new range of concerns for professional-services counselors, and a need for ways to treat such problems.

That, say the experts, is responsible for the growing subset of challenges to mental-health-service providers, including Tempe-based Crisis Response Network, which announced last week it will extend its free services until Dec. 2.

From across the U.S., professional counselors say there has been an increase in the number of people experiencing changes in appetite, energy and activity levels; difficulty concentrating and making decisions; problems related to sleeping, or nightmares; physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, stomach problems and skin rashes; worsening of chronic

health issues; and increased use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

This likely is why Crisis Response Network, now operating as Solari Crisis & Human Services, has put new emphasis on its confidential and free Resilient Arizona Crisis Counseling Program, designed to assist individuals and communities in their recovery from the psychological effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Elements of the program, says an agency spokesman, involve crisis counseling, including community-based outreach, emotional support and educational services.

The initiative, which was launched last year, is being conducted in partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. Funding was made possible from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The program began in June 2020 and was originally scheduled to end after a year. Its funding is more than \$3.3 million, which thus far has provided crisis counseling to more than 10,000 Arizona residents, according to a spokesman.

Accessible via the agency's existing 2-1-1 statewide information and referral phone number, the program is a bilingual (English and Spanish), program that connects callers to crisis counseling providers in their area throughout the state.

According to an agency spokesman, crisis counseling aims at preventing the onset of diagnosable disorders by helping individuals understand they are experiencing common reactions to extraordinary occurrences.

Services are provided at no cost and are available to anyone who has been impacted by the pandemic.

Help is provided virtually or telephonically, making consultation easily accessible to those in rural areas of Arizona who may not historically have had such access. Services can be provided in a group setting or one-on-one and include supportive crisis counseling, education, development of coping skills and connection to appropriate resources, according to a program announcement.

Crisis counselors endeavor to enhance social and emotional connections to others in the community and promote effective coping strategies and resilience. The counselors also work with community organizations to familiarize themselves with available resources to then refer and connect individuals and families to other necessary services in their local area.

Statewide crisis counseling services for the Resilient Arizona Crisis Counseling Program are provided by Crisis Preparation and Recovery; Empact – Suicide Prevention Center; Family Involvement Center; La Frontera Center; The Guidance Center; RI International; and West Yavapai Guidance Clinic.

Said Justin Chase, president/CEO of Solari Crisis & Human Services:

"I want to express our sincere gratitude to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System for the opportunity to continue providing access to these potentially life-saving crisis counseling services to state residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through 2-1-1 Arizona.

"We are also very grateful to the crisis counseling providers with whom we are working in this important program,"

While counseling-provider hours vary, bilingual live-answer service is available via 2-1-1 Arizona.

Information: resilientarizona.org.

Revered coach, teacher inducted into Tempe's All-City Hall of Fame

To Coach Tim McBurney, being inducted into Tempe's All-City Hall of Fame may have seemed the ultimate wrap-up to a 47-year career—but very likely not its end.

The widely recognized teacher and athletic mainstay at Tempe High School was recognized for his multitude of successes during a ceremony packed with friends, family and, of course, admirers.

McBurney, who graduated from ASU with both bachelors and masters degrees starting in 1971, lists among accomplishments a notable stint as head football coach at Tempe High school, where, among other satisfactions, he led the school's 1996 team to a state championship.

During a stint at Basha High School, where he was head football coach for eight years of his career, he also guided that team to a state championship in 2005.

McBurney's successes weren't only on the football field, however.

He was part of the planning team for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, co-founder of the Arizona Football Coaches Association, recipient of the Frank Kush Lifetime Achievement Award and Hall of Fame inductee in the National High School Coaches Association—among countless other recognitions and accolades.

With his wife of 35 years, Joyce, the couple raised three sons, Shawn, Shane and Ryan.

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A digital tour of Auschwitz only intensifies the horrors

Chilling images include never-before-seen areas of notorious deathcamp

By Samuel Voas
wranglernews.com

According to professional Auschwitz tour guide Dr. Jerzy Wójcik, the Nazi concentration camp saw a record 2.3 million visitors in 2019.

When the pandemic hit in early 2020, the Polish government closed the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in the interest of safety. It has not welcomed visitors since.

But Rabbi Michael Beyo, CEO of the East Valley Jewish Community Center, believes that the experience of visiting Auschwitz is too important to be suspended indefinitely. With that in mind, the EVJCC's Center for Holocaust Education has partnered with Auschwitz expert Dr. Wójcik to bring the first-ever virtual walking tour of Auschwitz to Arizona.



Samuel Voas

Eventually, tours will be offered through Jewish Community Centers throughout the U.S. But for now, the tour is only available to residents of the East Valley.

Over Zoom, Wójcik guides groups of digital tourists through Auschwitz. He designed the presentation using a combination of personal and historical footage or photographs taken within Auschwitz.

He also employs digital resources provided by Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, such as Auschwitz Panorama, which uses 360-degree imaging to create a virtual reality-style view of various locations within the camp. At the conclusion of the presentation, Wójcik invites questions from attendees.

As a guest on Beyo's podcast, *Conversations with the Rabbi*, Wójcik describes the digital tour saying, "Everything I do as a guide in Auschwitz, I recreated online. So I'm using all of the

possible digital software that I can use."

Over the two-hour tour, Wójcik takes his digital tourists from building to building within the camp, and describes in detail the unthinkable atrocities that were committed in each.

"I'm telling (people) all the time, 'It's going to be long. It's going to be uncomfortable,'" said Wójcik.

Although he says there is no substitute for a hands-on experience of Auschwitz, Wójcik notes that the virtual tour offers a perspective that the in-person tour does not. Throughout the tour, he can easily juxtapose photos and footage of the modern-day museum sites with chilling images of the horrors that they were host to.

Additionally, attendees of the digital seminar will have virtual access to sections of the camps that have never been open to the public.

In the view of Wójcik and Beyo, Wójcik's virtual tour of the Nazi's largest concentration camp is not a mere exercise in academia.

To them, Holocaust education is not only relevant in today's political climate, but imperative.

"We can see what is happening right now in the world(...) The growing anti-Semitism today: it's a great danger. It's the universal message of Auschwitz that if we neglect the political process — if we left our future in the hands of certain populist politicians... This is how it started in Germany in the 20's and 30's. It was a slow political process that led Germans exactly to this place — to Auschwitz," Wójcik says.

The men agree that education is the first step to ensuring that the catastrophe of the holocaust is not allowed to repeat itself.

"For me, learning about the holocaust and fighting antisemitism — they go hand in hand," says Beyo.

For information on booking a virtual tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, visit www.evjcc.org.



A photo of Rabbi Beyo and Adrian McIntyre interviewing Jerzy Wójcik, creator of the Auschwitz Virtual Tour Project for their Conversation with the Rabbi podcast; German Wegbraut, a Tempe man, whose grandparents survived the Nazi death camps. — Photos courtesy East Valley JCC, Center for Holocaust Education and German Wegbraut

Grandparents' memories still live in his mind

Tempe man recalls growing up with stories

By German Wegbraut

Walking into my grandparents' house was always a moment of shifting realities, within which mine was defined.

Zeide Isaac Eglin was born in Lithuania and by the age of 7, he had a Great War under his belt. The only boy of a family of 9, he grew healthy and strong. His days passed learning his tailoring profession and eating apples on rooftops. He professed being able to punch a nail through a wooden board with one hit. He became part of the Lithuanian army at the age of 18 and fulfilled his duties honorably. When the Second World War rammed through, Isaac was confined

to the ghetto of Kaunas, where he remained until he was taken to Stutthof, a concentration camp in a northern part of Poland. He would spend the war

stay busy, stay helpful, stay alive.

One day, a position was vacated working the heating system of the camp, a boiler room with a wood-

hungry children, which provided warmth, solitude, and access to material. Isaac had set himself in the warmest of places, during the coldest of times. From there, he would keep the camp warm, stay out of trouble, and help by making sandals for people who had lost their shoes, out of wooden planks. As much as he could, he kept himself, and others, healthy, and on occasions, even alive.



years there until the camps started to be evacuated.

At the camp, he would volunteer to do any job,



long, and through a swift and merciless selection, she was set in the barracks of the 'to be killed tomorrow' folk. She didn't quite agree with the schedule, and scratching away the caulking used in the barrack window, she waited 'till nightfall and removed the window glass, and leaped to life.

To her surprise, an armed Nazi soldier was standing there, between the barracks, looking straight at her. A prisoner of a different kind, he turned around, allowing her to finish her 30-foot race to potential survival, into the barracks of the "may make it" folk.

At camp, she worked in the munitions factory in Birkenau. It was close to the end of the war, and the Russians were gaining ground fast. The camp needed to evacuate. Her march started, and at some point, she and some other girls she knew from her hometown, all escaped to the woods, where they would spend some time hiding. One day, seeing a Nazi general leaving a house, they suspected it had provisions and they



set out to hide there. They were right, and ended up spending some time in that basement. Not sure exactly how long she spent there, but what we know is that it ended abruptly.

The doors of the outside of the storage space swung open indelicately, allowing light into the basement as fast as lightning. Snow crystals and dust particles drew the light-path in the space and hovered playfully and unsynchronized. A soldier covered in white camo snow outfit followed. Uncertain this meant freedom, one of the girls spoke in Russian to the soldier, and she received a friendly response. They were saved.

This place quickly became a pop-up hospital where she and her friends became nurses or nurse assistants, and spent a good deal of time until the war was over. Slowly, Esther made her way back to her home, to find it sacked by her own neighbor. At



Zeide Isaac Eglin and Esther Bercowicz, who survived Nazi imprisonment, after their release from the death camps, photo at left; a fence encircling Auschwitz, above; and prisoners in the garb they were forced to wear, below left.

—Photos courtesy East Valley JCC and Center for Holocaust Education

Isaac saved friends' lives twice, that I know of, while at Stutthof.

Once coming back from his shift, he found his friend hanging from his own belt. He was able to hold his friend's weight and bring him down before it was too late.

As the camps started to be evacuated toward the end of the war, and Jews and other prisoners were set in what historically became the 'March of Death', where thousands of people started to be moved in long lines, walking through snowy fields, or mud roads, for kilometers. Lots died. One of his friends completely gave up; dropped cold onto frozen ground. Isaac picked him up and carried him the rest of the way...

After the war ended, a lot of organizations were formed to help people find their loved ones, their location, their status, and figure out their own future. He was approached by different groups, one of them, on its way to a Refugee camp just outside of Rome. Thus, his journey to Italy began, and there, he would meet Babba Esther.

Esther Bercowicz was born in Czechoslovakia, in a rural area, and in somewhat of a privileged life given the surroundings. War, for Jews, believed in no status, and she spent the first four years of the war fleeing in and out of her home, to Poland and back, hiding from the Nazis, with her family of 6. Eventually, in 1944, the Nazis came directly to her home, which became the local Nazi's authority lodging, and she and her family were taken to Auschwitz-Birkenaw. She was only 17.

In Auschwitz, one's fate was not kept a secret for

night, she tried to unbury her mom's jewelry which her mother had buried under a tree. She was held at gunpoint and kicked away from her property by her neighbor. She needed shelter.

She made her way to a refugee camp in Hungary and from there to Castel Gandolfo in Rome, where she met Isaac.

Three weeks later, they were married. They lived together in Rome for 3 years while Isaac was finishing a tailoring apprenticeship which would be the way in which he would make a living the rest of his life.

He worked tirelessly and as much as was needed. Esther did the chores expected of a wife at the time, in a loving and committed way. They were my example of what the love between a man and a woman should look like.

In 1948 they migrated to Uruguay, where they rebuilt the family into what became mine and were a positive part of the Jewish Uruguayan Community. They have both passed.

When one thinks about genes, one hardly thinks about personality traits as part of genetics. I am not trying to embark in a scientific discussion, but to share the conviction that, the concept of survival, of never giving up, of being the best you can for your community, of working hard, of nothing is impossible, of life is to be lived, are all part of the heartbeats that remind me of them and fill my body with strength and passion for living.

Those were my Eglins, only two survivors from two families amounting 15 individuals all together. Two people that did not become part of a 6 million dead-jews-statistic, two that escaped a total count of up to 60 million dead. Two that may seem at random, or luck, however, after reading their story, why them, would be an unnecessary question to ask.

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Salute to youth bound for military

Young men and women who have aimed their sights at being part of the nation's armed services got a notable sendoff at Tempe Center for the Arts when they were saluted in a commemorative thank-you ceremony presided over by Mayor Corey Woods.

"Though we remain in very challenging times, these incredible men and women are stepping up to serve their country," said Woods.

"We are thrilled to recognize these individuals and let them know they are in our hearts and on our minds. We are grateful for their decision to serve."

The event was held to salute the hundreds of young men and women in Arizona who make the decision to serve in the armed forces, according to a statement released by Tempe.

Each recruit received a commemorative *First to Say Thank You* coin to celebrate the occasion.

In addition to Woods' appearance, others elements of the ceremony featured Colonel Wanda Wright, U.S. Air Force (retired); a performance of the *National Anthem* by Sophia Pizzilo; and an appearance by the Marine Corps Color Guard.

It was the seventh year of Tempe Community Salutes, which was the vision of Vice Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage. "It was the first program of its kind in the state to demonstrate support for high school seniors and their families," she said.

Sponsors included Gorman & Company, Waste Management, Gammage & Burnham, Napa Auto Parts and USAA Financial Services Company.



Graduating high school seniors who have volunteered for military service were honored in a ceremony at Tempe Center for the Arts, where Col. Wanda Wright, Ret., USAF, and a U.S. Navy representative, among other dignitaries, paid tribute to the teens, including five young men headed to the Marine Corps.

— Photos by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News



Make plans for a safe summer!

Summer classes for summer fun

Tempe is expanding its in-person and virtual program offerings this summer. Find an activity for the entire family, at your comfort level. Explore the options at tempe.gov/play.

Attention, campers!

Tempe offers a variety of quality camps ranging from full-day, summer-long options to week-long special interest, sports, arts and STEM choices. Check out the complete list at tempe.gov/SummerCamps.

Beat the summer heat

Stay cool at Tempe's pools, splash

pads and The Cloud at Kiwanis Park this summer. Kiwanis, Escalante and McClintock pools will open this summer with safety and capacity protocols. Find details at tempe.gov/pools.

Learn to swim

Lessons are available for swimmers of all ages and skill levels at Kiwanis Recreation Center and Escalante Pool this summer. Children as young as eight months old can learn to swim in parent-assisted lessons. Classes are available for adults and older children as well. Visit tempe.gov/swim for times, locations and registration.



June is Garbologist Month

Tempe's garbology experts (Solid Waste staff) take pride in their work. Their efforts help keep Tempe clean by collecting your solid waste and recycling each week. Nationally, June 17 is the official day of recognition for these committed employees. We know how special a neighborhood's relationship can be with its "Garbologist" – even the smallest Tempe kids

love to wave and watch them at work! If this fits you and your neighbors, take a moment to show your appreciation in June. There are many ways to show them you care.

Visit tempe.gov/garbologist for ways to make sign for your yard, send a letter or email, or just wave and smile. Calls will be taken by Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311.

Apply for Tempe PRE preschool today

Is your family looking for a high-quality preschool? Applications are open for Tempe PRE, the city's full-day preschool program. All students must be age 3 or 4 by July 31 and fully potty-trained to be eligible for preschool. Free, half-tuition and full-tuition options are available depending on eligibility.

Due to the high number of applications for financial assistance, the city will choose applicants by lottery. Families paying full tuition will be selected in the order applications are received.

Tempe PRE serves approximately

200 children at seven neighborhood schools in the Tempe Elementary School District. The program focuses on small class sizes, a play-based curriculum and early childhood education-certified teaching staff. Extended care is available at select school sites before and after school. For the 2021-22 school year, Tempe PRE will follow school district guidance related to the implementation of any necessary health and safety precautions. For information about applying, visit tempe.gov/TempePRE. To contact staff: pre-k@tempe.gov.



Patti Agnew - Realtor

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How to Sell Your Home Without Becoming Homeless

Dear South Tempe Neighbor,

We're writing you because there are only 30 homes for sale in the 85284 and 85283 Zip codes. It's a shockingly low number since last year there were about 315 homes for sale! Would you have any interest in selling your home? Our phone is ringing off the hook with buyers willing to pay over asking price for a home in South Tempe. Your sale would be quick, simple, and very profitable right now. With a brief Zoom or Facetime call, we can look at your home and tell you what it's worth today for free. It's a more accurate price this way than what you'll find online. It will take 15 minutes. I'm certain you'll be pleasantly surprised at its value. You're also likely thinking... "That's great, but I don't want the hassle of dealing with showings and how do I time the sale to buy my next home in this market?" We have a lender who will give you the money upfront to make an all-cash, noncontingent offer on your new home today (this will also help you win the home you love in this competitive market). Then, we'll sell your home once you've moved out. You get a Flexible close date, your home sold for full market value, and plenty of time to find your next home.

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