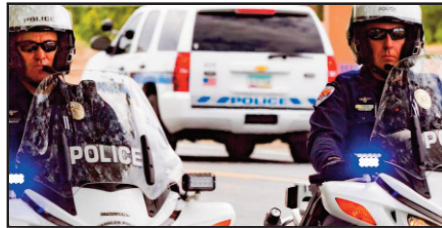


These stories & more inside



Freeway Chevrolet partners with Desks for Kids to help students in need. **Page 9**



Police woes Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan getting 27 more officers. **Page 3** (Related commentary Page 31)



Waggoner Celebrates Kyrene elementary marks 50 years of kids learning. **Page 4**



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June 5 - 18, 2021 • Volume 31, Number 11

Covering Tempe & West Chandler for 30-plus years

WE MADE IT!

For all of those who wondered when, and even if, we'd see the end of a year of fear and uncertainty, May 2021 brought a welcome message of at least some sign of normalcy, including long-awaited graduation. With our annual listing of the names of graduating seniors, plus photos by Billy Hardiman, we join the celebration with welcome relief...and hope

Keepsake section starting on Page 11

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Hopes that Chandler's new budget will help meet increasing demands Overtime, lack of staffing create 'exhausting' conditions for city's police force



Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan: Increased overtime has strained officers.
— Wrangler News file photo

By Lee Shappell
wranglernews.com

Sean Duggan made it clear that his Police Department needs more people and resources because the model it uses to keep the city among the safest in the country for its population size is not sustainable.

The Chandler chief has been finding ways to make a depleted force appear larger than it

really is. The department is short-handed and consequently is too reliant on overtime, according to the chief. "These people are tired," Duggan said of officers. "It's almost impossible to get people to come to work on their days off.

"This is not a money issue any longer. We're pressing people to work. It's been an exhausting year."

Chandler City

Council heard him. For fiscal year 2021-22, it plans to give Duggan just about everything he asked for, including 27 new officers, during his detailed state-of-the-police presentation in April.

The Council on May 27 adopted a \$1 billion 2021-22 Tentative Budget, which includes \$90 million for police, up from the \$86.5 million for police in the

adopted budget for the current fiscal year.

The increase addresses the need for more sworn officers.

Duggan also cited a need for task forces to address an increase in shootings and sexual assaults, a bike or hybrid-response team to make officers more nimble, a mental-health task force that can train other officers, Police

— POLICE, Page 5

Huge sports retailer forecast to bring jobs, economic boost to W. Chandler

Chandler Fashion Center's vacant space will be gutted and re-emerge in two years as a massive employee-owned, all-sports retailer that employs about 400 associates, Fargo, N.D.-based Scheels announced.

After a full renovation and expansion of the space, the first Scheels in Arizona will be a 220,000-square-foot premium, family-friendly sports destination with entertainment attractions, specialty shops and boutiques stocked with top brand names under one roof. This includes 75 specialty shops staffed by trained experts.

The West Chandler store is expected to attract sports fans, outdoor enthusiasts and customers seeking a wide variety of fashion, footwear and home decor.

It will be more than just retail, the company says. A variety of fun, family-friendly attractions will include a 16,000-gallon saltwater aquarium with

more than 600 fish, a wildlife mountain and Fuzziwig's Candy Shop. There also will be interactive arcade games, sports simulators and Ginna's Cafe, a restaurant serving gourmet soups and sandwiches, homemade fudge and specialty coffee.

CEO Steve M. Scheel said his company has been eyeing the Phoenix market for several years.

"We want to thank Chandler leadership and the team at Macerich for help bringing this project to life," Scheel said. "We look forward to working with them throughout the building process as we become a new partner in the Chandler community, and serving the people in central Arizona when we open our doors."

Macerich's President Ed Coppola said that Chandler Fashion Center is an ideal setting for a high-performing, sporting-goods retailer to enter the Arizona market.

"We appreciate the terrific partnership we've

established with this outstanding company," Coppola said. "Scheels will be a great amenity for this family-friendly market."

Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke said that, under the leadership of Macerich, "Chandler Fashion Center continues to iterate with the times and cement itself as a premier shopping, culinary and entertainment destination."

"We are excited to welcome Scheels to Chandler along with their 400 new associates," Hartke said.

The West Chandler Scheels will be the company's 31st store after the scheduled opening of one this fall in Missoula, Mont.

After the Montana and Arizona openings, Scheels will operate in 14 states, joining North Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Nevada, Illinois, Utah, Kansas, Colorado and Texas. The company employs more than 8,000 associates.

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BRIEFLY . . .

Waggoner school strikes Gold

C.I. Waggoner, the first elementary school and the oldest operating school in the Kyrene district, is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The school was named after depression-era educator C.I. Waggoner, who became superintendent in 1939, ultimately serving for 32 years.

When it opened in 1970, the school had eight classrooms for 4th and 5th graders. It now is the site of a preschool and serves more than 460 students in grades K-8.

The anniversary celebration included a commemorative tree planting and a performance of the school song "Waggoner Wildcats."

Guests included Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, Legislative District 18 legislators, Kyrene Governing Board members and parent organization representatives.

Tempe among tops for summer jobs

Economic update for Tempe: With summer having arrived and the leisure and hospitality sectors gaining 331,000 jobs in April—especially those involving entertainment and tourism that were restricted during the pandemic—the personal-finance website WalletHub took an in-depth look at 2021's Best Places for Summer Jobs.

To help job seekers find the best summer employment opportunities, the study compared more than 180 markets in the U.S. across 23 key metrics. Data ranges from the median income of part-time workers to the availability of summer jobs to COVID-19 cases.

Here's how Tempe scored: (1=Best; 91=Avg.):

- 21st – Availability of Internships
- 90th – Rental Price as Share of Median Income
- 22nd – Ratio of Part-Time to Full-Time Workers
- 39th – % of Insured Part-Time Workers
- 74th – Labor-Force Participation Rate of Population Aged 16 to 24

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Police

From Page 3

Department information technology, support services and forensics.

Mayor Kevin Hartke said that not only must immediate needs be addressed but that the city must develop a plan to keep the police properly staffed and equipped moving forward.

“In conversations I’ve had with council members, I’ve found strong commitment to public safety and I expect to see that reflected this year as we go through budget decisions,” Hartke said.

A public hearing and final adoption of the city’s 2021-22 budget are June 10 in Council Chambers. The budget becomes effective July 1.

“We are one of the safest cities for number of sworn (officers),” Councilmember René Lopez said. “I had a conversation with a council member in a city in North Carolina and he did not believe me about our staffing numbers versus our crime rate. He said it’s impossible. He thought I was making it up.”

During its annual budget-development process, the City Council reviewed a five-year staffing plan for the Police Department that would add 67 sworn and civilian positions. Of those, 27 positions – 12 new

and 15 “overfill” –are proposed for the coming fiscal year, funded through a combination of Chandler’s General Fund and anticipated American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Currently, the Police Department has 505 sworn and civilian budgeted positions and 15 overfill sworn positions.

Duggan, during his presentation, pointed out that Police Department staffing is the same today as it was nearly 13 years ago despite a significant population increase.

He added that the complexities of policing, with new types of crimes that did not exist a few years ago, also have stretched the department thin. Consequently, officers have been moved to patrol, the department’s most critical function, from other areas, in turn leaving it short elsewhere.

Duggan added that more than 80 officers are nearing retirement.

Duggan said that serious crimes, such as rape, murder, burglary, arson, theft and assault, are down.

“Overall Chandler had 20.5 Part 1 crimes per 1,000 residents last year, the lowest recorded in the history of Chandler,” Duggan said. “The crime index, or volume of crime, was just under 5,500 last year. The last year that Chandler experienced 5,500 crimes was in 1987 when the population was about 80,000. Today, with almost 200,000 more people, we are experiencing roughly the same volume of crime.”

The overwhelming majority of crime in Chandler is property crime and other issues not measured by traditional tracking and reporting of crimes. Among those is homelessness.

“Last year, our officers responded to more than 1,300 calls for service involving homelessness,” Duggan said. “Remember, being homeless is not a crime, but the problem is there are no other resources to call. The reality today is that police are the first contact for homelessness.”

Police also are first responders to mental-health issues.

“We had almost 1,000 mental-health calls for service last year,” Duggan said. “By statute, police are responsible for transporting people to a facility if there is a signed petition from the court.”

Other relatively new crimes are drawing on police resources in time and capital.

“There were no internet crimes in the 1980s,” Duggan said. “Our officers every day are dealing with internet crimes against children or human trafficking. Also, financial crimes and identity theft are very complex crimes that we have a challenging time keeping up with the pace.

“And in the last eight months, there have been about 30 protests in our city. The reality is that our policing model is not set up for protests.”

POLICE, Page 6



Randy Goff
Broker/Owner

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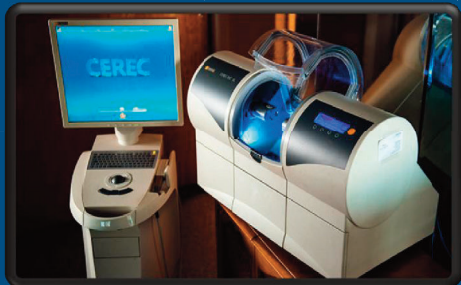
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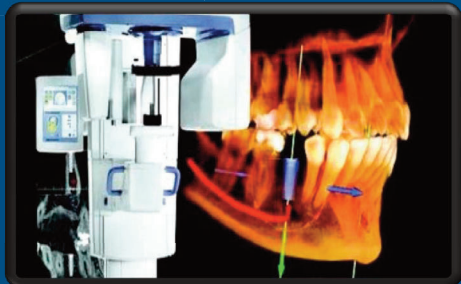
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Police

From Page 5

Several times in the past year Chandler also sent officers to other jurisdictions to assist them.

“These events require significant overtime, require changing schedules, are major disruptions in peoples’ lives and the lives of their families,” Duggan said. “I am especially grateful and proud of the level of dedication and service and how our folks stood up and did everything they can to help keep our community safe. But it has been exhausting.

“We’re facing all of these challenges with the exact same number of police officers today that we had in 2008.

Clearly, the world has changed since 2008.”

Duggan said that his father

became an officer in 1964 and that he became an officer in 1986.

“I can tell you this job is fundamentally different today than anything my father experienced and what I experienced as a new officer,” Duggan said.

“These are societal issues, generational issues. It is exponentially more difficult to be a police officer today than it’s ever been in the history of the city. So the need for training has never been as important as it is now.”

Against that backdrop is difficulty in finding qualified recruits who even want to do the job. Chandler is competing with other communities for a small pool of qualified candidates.

“Dealing with mental health, social issues: There’s been a dynamic change in policing,” Councilmember Matt Orlando said.

“It is a compelling story of where our Police Department is today.”



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Volunteers guide kids toward improved reading, life skills



Experience Corps volunteers went into virtual mode this year to assist dozens of Tempe students in need of a little extra help with schoolwork. — Photo courtesy city of Tempe

Nearly 90 elementary students in Tempe boosted their reading skills this school year thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers, who shifted to virtual tutoring from in-person sessions in order to continue serving children in need of extra help.

The city of Tempe's AARP Foundation Experience Corps program, part of AARP's national program, focuses on early literacy skills and supports students in partnership with the Tempe Elementary School District. The program is open to volunteers ages 50 and older.

Volunteers don't need special skills, just a willingness to share their experience, time and patience. This year, in the face of the global pandemic, volunteers gave all that, and more.

"In this difficult year, teachers and parents have really had to adjust the way teaching and learning happen in a virtual environment," said Tempe

Finally, a place for underprivileged schoolkids ‘to concentrate and focus’ **Dealership’s manager sees need, finds a creative way to fill it**



By Joyce Coronel
 wranglernews.com

Freeway Chevrolet, a full-service, long-popular auto dealership in West Chandler, is not, it would seem, the typical destination to acquire desks.

But that was before General Manager Tim Mort heard about a local man building free, high quality desks for students who didn’t have a proper work station at home. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic when thousands of students were compelled to attend school virtually, not having a suitable place to do schoolwork was a problem.

“My kids, fortunately, they each have a desk in their bedroom so they got a nice setup,” Mort said. “I know that’s not always feasible for everybody. We know a lot of people who are struggling with school, work space, a place to do your homework and put your books—a place just to concentrate and focus.

“That’s why we thought it was such a great idea.”

Mort said when he saw a video about Steve Weinberg building desks to give away to students in need, he offered Freeway Chevrolet’s help.

“He told me all about what he was doing and why he was doing it and it was fantastic,” Mort said. “I said if you’re looking for a sponsor, I think we’d like to get involved with this.”

The dealership paid for all the building materials to construct 30 desks. With lumber prices having shot up 250 percent over the last year, it was no small investment.

“We’re always looking for a way to give back to the community in a positive way,” Mort said. Weinberg said he’s “always looking for projects” and liked the fact that he could combine his woodworking hobby with providing a service to others.

Since the project began, he’s built around 120 desks.

Principal Brian Lockwood of the Roosevelt School District was on hand at Freeway Chevrolet May 18 to receive the donated desks.

“The students who receive these desks will now have a space to work in at home if they selected our virtual learning program for next year. It will mean a great deal to them to have a space to work in other than their beds, tables or laps,” Lockwood said.

Tiffany Hughes, the lead Roosevelt School District social worker and social worker at V.H. Lassen, said:

“We’ve seen a lot of families with multiple students in one space because that’s their only area to work.”

Tiffany Buitrago and Augustine Mason of Freeway Chevrolet help move the new desks that were donated; bottom photo, from left: Brian Lockwood, principal of V.H. Lassen Elementary School, Steve Weinberg of Desks for Kids; General Manager Tim Mort of Freeway Chevrolet and Tiffany Hughes, lead social worker for the Roosevelt School District No. 66 and Social Worker, V.H. Lassen Elementary School. — Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



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Literacy

From Page 8

Councilmember Doreen Garlid, who was on hand to thank volunteers at a recent drive-up event.

"I'm so grateful that our beautiful, wonderful volunteers were able to make that transition right along with them so the kids didn't miss a step. This was so important for their continued learning."

Tempe and the school district worked jointly to schedule sessions virtually during the week, providing the one-on-one tutoring opportunity for students that is the hallmark of the successful program.

In all, 40 volunteers tutored 86 students in grades 1-3.

Volunteer Carol Williams joined Tempe's Experience Corps program in its early days and wanted to continue with the program during the pandemic.

"I love interacting with the little children and seeing them actually learn to love to read," she said.

Despite the daunting task of tutoring virtually, the volunteers dove in and quickly connected with the students as they always do during a regular school year.

"Unfailingly, the tutors showed up for them across the computer screen," said Tempe Senior Social Services Coordinator Nicole Burner, who oversees the program.

"We are so appreciative of them. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being the heart of our program."

For any interested in Experience Corps and willing to commit to approximately five hours per week September to May, information is available by visiting tempe.gov/ExperienceCorps.

Each tutor is assigned to four students and meets individually with them for 30 minutes twice weekly during school hours.

Comprehensive training and support services are provided.

Volunteers must undergo background checks, including fingerprinting, and 15 hours of pre-service training.

In Memory of a Wonderful Neighborhood Boy



Brandon Ulman

August 9, 1988 – June 1, 2021

Forever in Our Hearts

Tempe's high schools have once again sent their best and finest on to the next step toward their future—a time when these outstanding young people, the Class of 2021, will go forward into a new and challenging world.

We at Wrangler News have worked with and personally know many of these students — teens who have contributed not only to us but to their community, their friends and families—and, not to be overlooked, to a future that we're sure will be better because of them.

Based on what we read and see in today's media, some of us occasionally ask where our world is headed.

If we answer that question by looking at the young people who are celebrating their high school graduation this year — students who have made their way through four challenging years at one of our Tempe Union High School District campuses — we can feel confident that this world of ours indeed will be a better place.

To them we say
**Congratulations, Go Forth,
 Make Your Mark.**

And, what we think is
 important parting advice:
Carpe Diem.

The Editors

Meet the Class of 2021

Special pull-out Graduation Section

Photographs by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News



Graduates of Corona del Sol, top, and Marcos de Niza celebrated the end of their high school days and the culmination of years of preparation for the next phase of their lives.

Corona del Sol High School

Salmaan Abdulahi Abdi
 Trustyn Samer Abdin
 Ethan Tsong-Chi Abeyta
 Daniel Eduardo Abreu
 Salah Saeed Abshir
 Dominic Paul Affuso
 Caden Ryan Agnew
 Andrew Gannon Aguilar
 Zain Ali Ahmed
 Zeeshan Ali Ahmed
 Natalie Daniela Aikins
 Briana Nicole Albidrez
 Iqbaal Mahdi Ali
 Zoey Marie Allen
 Elian Alberto Alvarez
 Tyler Diane Amberg
 Sean Shayan Amjadi
 Katelyn Sky Anaradian
 Kavya Alija Anderson
 Rylee Bryn Anderson
 Jesee McKenna Andres
 Amaya Christine Antonio
 Asia Solei Areyzaga
 Joseph Justin Arleo
 Sage Elizabeth Arthur
 Sophia Rain Arthur
 Jeremiah Jacob Asis
 Oscar Giovanni Asis III
 Ashlee Grace Attridge
 Jacob Edward Attridge
 Shaleigha Grace Attridge
 Noelle Anne Auernheimer
 Jacob Aaron Ayze
 Ebraheem Bin Ali Baadiyan
 Ashanti Simone Bailey
 Natalie Simone Baker
 Dante Trout Baldi
 Kyle Harrison Bambling
 Ariel Marie Barber
 Jade Skye Bare
 Bryce William Barks
 Alexander William Barria
 Darren Douglas Bartlett
 Kailob Jordan Bartreau
 Luke Hollister Bashford
 Wyatt Joseph Bauer
 Logan James Beatty
 Larry Walter Beck
 Kathryn Marie Becvar
 Esequiel Isaias Bejarano
 Brian Ben Benally
 Abby Elizabeth Benedict
 Emma Mabel Benefield
 Julie Elizabeth Bengoa

Mackenna Price Berg
 Corbin Leo Berling
 Toni Renee Berns
 Danielle Lee Bertout
 Xavier Michael Betancourt
 Shreya Bharath
 Benjamin Darleen Biggs
 Michael Albert Blaser
 Tatum Elaine Blattenberger
 David Nation Boone
 Payton Lacey Born
 Claire Frances Bowman
 Taylor Lynn Boyle
 Alexandra Sunday Braender
 Madyson Elaine Brayman
 Ryan Francis Brennan
 Andrew Owen Brethour
 Nova Florencia Broessel
 Julia Elyse Brown
 Jeremiah Scott Bukovszky
 Mia Catherine Burgas
 Jedidiah Douglas Burgeson
 Bruce Adrian Burgmeier
 Kayla Raquel Burik
 Josh Ryan Burkis
 Aiden James Burnes
 Peyton Eve Burnside
 Iman Moorman Cabdullahi
 Indigo Nia Cadogan
 Jewel Mia Cadogan
 Karina Lizbeth Calderon Hernandez
 Rheana Ogoy Calica
 Maile Grace Call
 Hailey Denise Cameron
 Viann Renee Villapa Campo
 Joseph Antonio Canney
 Reyes Mikel Carbajal
 Chandler Thomas Carlisle
 Camron Daevon Carroll
 Jesse Wesley Carter
 Olivia Simone Carter
 Katie Lynn Casper
 Shelby Kristen Castela
 Elexia Ana Maria Castillo
 Sebastian Christopher Castro
 Shea Erin Catero
 Eveny Estela Cazares
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 Isaac Anthony Chavez
 Jacob Preston Cheshire
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 Nabihah Mahmud Chowdhury
 Aidan Ryley Christenson
 Jacob Thomas Clements
 Reagan Joy Clevenger
 Mitchell James Coakley
 Emma Danielle Connolly

Chase William Conrad
 Madison Zoe Cooner
 Makayla Marie Panzer Corella
 Kayla Rose Cortez
 Sebastian Rolando Cortez
 Lara Cosic
 Ethan Daniel Courter
 Ryan Michael Courter
 Kimball James Cowgur
 Nathan Lewis Cowley
 Dusten Derek Croswhite
 Morgan Ari Crudup
 Joshua Edward Cruz
 Kylie Ann Cummins
 Makena Kathryn Cummins
 Jason Scott Cvengros Jr
 Carson Karim Dada
 Ryan Matthew Dagnino
 Anastazia Marie Daniels
 Brooklyn Elaine Davis
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 Dylan Jay Hatfield
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 Savannah Kelly Hayes
 Esli Giovanna Hazell
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Class of 2021

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Observation: If teens sound successful, they will be

By Joyce Coronel
wranglernews.com

Three Marcos de Niza 2021 graduates are on their way to higher education thanks in part to the generosity of members of the Kiwanis Club of Friendship Village.

Shazeen Imtiaz, Grace Marker and Emily Saenz, who each belonged to the Key Club at Marcos, applied for scholarships offered by the Kiwanis Club. Every year the Kiwanis Club awards scholarships to deserving senior Key Club members, based on leadership, academic accomplishments, and service achievements.

Thomas Rosenthal of Kiwanis

served as the Key Club mentor. He described the students chosen to receive the scholarships as “very articulate. They sounded like they were going to be successful.”

Shazeen

Imtiaz was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and will attend Arizona State University’s Barrett Honors College in the fall

where she’ll study biochemistry. “I’ve always known I wanted to pursue a higher education,” Imtiaz said. She’s hoping to pursue a career as a primary care physician or health care researcher, though she hasn’t made up her mind yet.

Stephanie Attridge, a math teacher at Marcos who is the Key Club advisor, said Imtiaz is “probably one of the most amazing board members I’ve ever had. She is in all honors courses and Advanced Placement courses and still manages to pull off an exemplary



Grace Marker, Emily Saenz and Shazeen Imtiaz received scholarships in recognition of their leadership and service

superior organizational skills and she’s excellent as far as collaboration and leadership with adults and peers alike.” Marker organized and ran two major blood drives at Marcos .

Emily Saenz received a \$750 scholarship from the Kiwanis Club

GPA.”

Grace Marker, who received a \$750 award, said she is “beyond grateful to receive a scholarship from such an amazing and charismatic club. With the help of the Kiwanis Club, I will be able to further my education and give back to the community.”

Marker plans to study criminal justice at Northern Arizona University and said she is grateful for the Kiwanis Club and Key Club for the impact they have had on her character and leadership skills.

Attridge said Marker is “phenomenal. She has just really

and plans to study art at Mesa Community College. Attridge called Saenz a “a brilliant artist. She’s done a couple of murals at Marcos that are just really beautiful and she loves helping other people. She’s a very compassionate, caring individual.”

Saenz will be the first person in her family to attend college. Rosenthal said Kiwanis Club members were impressed by Saenz’ aspirations.

“We thought what our scholarship would do is give her confidence that someone believed in her, that she could make it.”



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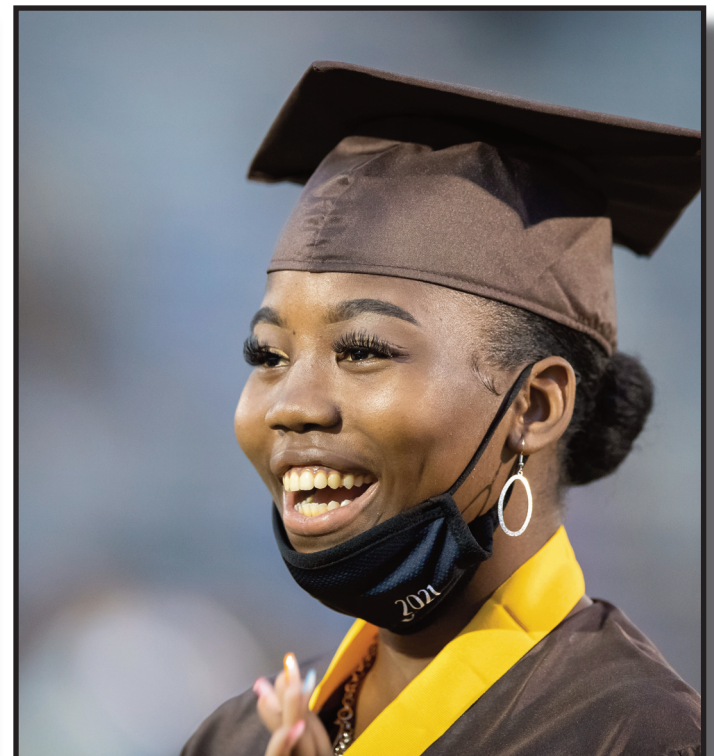
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Graduation 2021: A photo essay by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News





The Corona del Sol graduation parade that made its way through Warner Ranch included decorated cars, floats and plenty of high school seniors and their families; Marcos de Niza seniors lined up to process onto the football field for commencement exercises; a Corona senior embraced a friend as the parade got underway; Marcos de Niza Principal Sarah Tolar addressed the crowd gathered for graduation; even Fido got into the graduation spirit; a Marcos grad got into the spirit as the school band accompanied the festivities.



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Grads share' \$78,000 in awards to top scholars

Tempe Dollars for Scholars, a chapter of Scholarship America, has announced the award of scholarships totaling \$78,000 to graduating seniors from all seven Tempe Union High School District schools.

Each scholarship recipient received a \$1,000 award that can be used toward tuition, books, campus fees, or other college-related expenses for the 2021-2022 school year.

The organization celebrates its 15th anniversary this year and is an all-volunteer group of community members and school guidance counselors that raises funds through individual donations, special events, partnerships, and grants.

Since its inception in 2006, the chapter has awarded \$418,000 in scholarship funds to TUHSD graduates. Many of the scholarships are tribute or memorial grants that are funded by friends and family. Two major donors – the Janis Chapman Merrill Foundation and the Tempe St. Luke's Medical Staff – have provided significant financial support for the chapter's scholarship program.

During the school year, TDFS board members provide a mentorship program that supports scholarship

recipients as they transition to higher education. The chapter provides assistance to classroom teachers and scholarship counselors who request scholarship application assistance with their students and also offers support to donors for fund-raising initiatives.

Students apply for the awards online and can also apply for additional scholarships promoted by Scholarship America.

Community members interested in contributing to TDFS or establishing a scholarship should contact Nori Cannell Zavaleta at noricannell@gmail.com or Dianne Welling at dwelling@tempeunion.org. 2021 Tempe Dollars for Scholars Scholarship Award Recipients at two area schools include:

Corona del Sol High School:
Blake Norvell "Smile" Scholarship
Namita Shah and Nicole Perez
Rund Family Scholarship – Kasey Wochner

Tempe St. Luke's Medical Staff
Ione Sharp Memorial Scholarship – Ahmez Standifer

Janis Chapman Merrill Foundation
Scholarship - Andrew Sandberg,
Hannah Seyler, Kayla Cortez, Abraham Jimenez, Nathan Shapiro, Makayla Corella, Anissa Rios, Samuel Johnson, Anvitha Doddipalli, Clara White

Compadre Academy: Tempe St. Luke's Medical Staff Ione Sharp Memorial Scholarship – Jackelyn Guillen
Zita and Pen Johnson Scholarship – Miranda Banuelos



Many Tempe Union High School District 2021 graduates won honors and scholarships, including Jared Grissom and Peyton Burnside. For more photos and stories, visit wranglernews.com or check out our Facebook page. Jared, Marcos de Niza Class of 2021, is enlisting in the Navy to serve as an Information Systems Technician. He was on the student council, Best Buddies, JROTC and was nominated as the homecoming king runner up. He took the All City Award in volleyball as well as the Joe Selleh Award. Jared maintained a 3.7 GPA while being involved in sports, clubs and working a part-time job. He spoke at graduation, encouraging his classmates to "put their stamp on the world." Peyton, Corona Class of 2021, was senior class president. She won both academic and athletic scholarships to college and will attend Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., where she will run cross country and track. Peyton will major in psychology with minors in Spanish and business. She plans to get a master's degree in counseling. "I'm so excited for this opportunity and think it will be a great opportunity for me," she said.

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SPORTS With Alex Zener

Quick season turnaround no problem for Aztecs

Although the spring season started later than normal, Corona's boys volleyball team played its first regular season match on March 18, finished a total of 17 regular season matches and qualified for the state playoffs during an eight-week timeframe.

"I am really thankful we were able to have a season for the boys this spring," said head coach Geoffrey Horewitch. "Last year was rough only getting to play one week before everything shut down but our players persevered beyond expectations."

"Every coach and team we competed against this spring really embraced the opportunity, like Corona did, to be able to play again this year. It was a fun season."

The team finished the regular season ranked No. 10 in the 6A Division out of 31 teams in its division with a 5-5 Central Region record and a 9-9 overall record.

As the No. 10-ranked team, the Aztecs faced Mesa High School in the first round of the state playoffs held May 8 at the higher seed for Mesa High School.

The Jackrabbits, with a 12-5 record, started off strong, winning the first set, 25-11, before the Aztecs even got a feel for the game.

In the second set, the Jackrabbits kept their momentum going and won 25-13. Corona finally got on the board with a 20-25 win in the third set but it was a little too late. The Jackrabbits, sensing a slight shift in momentum, defeated the Aztecs in the fourth set, 25-20, to win the first 2021 state playoff match 3-1.

"We were young this season with only two seniors, so we had some young players in key positions, that only got better as the season progressed," said Horewitch. "We are excited to continue building on the playoff experience these young players

gained this season for next season."

For instance, senior Logan Beatty was the team's kill leader with 139 kills for the season, but sophomore opposite hitter Jon Seddon was right behind him with 138 kills.

"Logan really increased his range as an offensive weapon for us on the outside, which allowed him to be a terminal player for us," said Horewitch. "His height, at 6-foot-4, and athletic ability really helped us sustain runs and get side-outs."

Seddon's kills per set increased as the season progressed. He was the kill leader against Mesa, during the state playoffs, with 12 kills.

"Jon was a big key for us on the right side," said Horewitch. "We were able to rely on him in the front row and backrow to help us put the ball away. He has a high ceiling as a volleyball player and especially only as a sophomore. He really added some more tools to his game this season."

Junior outside hitter Connor O'Brien was another young player who improved over the season. He had nine kills against Mesa in the state playoffs and was the third kill leader on the team with 111 kills only playing in 52 out of 63 sets.

"Connor is a really smart volleyball player," said Horewitch. "His IQ for the game allowed us to move him from libero to outside hitter."

"Connor was able to embrace the outside hitter position and move the ball around on the court," said Horewitch. "He was really good at using all of his offensive tools to keep our team in contention."

Against Mesa in the state playoffs, O'Brien proved he could do more than hit the ball when he led the team with 21 digs followed by freshman Luke Vlcek with 14 digs.

As a former libero, O'Brien was the second dig-leader on the team with 173 digs next to freshman libero Vlcek

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who had 183 digs over the season.

“Luke played really well for us as a freshman,” said Horewitch. “He has a real knack for the game and his IQ is getting better and better each passing day. He really embraced being able to play anywhere on the court.”

“Connor is a natural libero and really knows his opponents,” said Horewitch. “He was able to set himself up in the right place to be successful defensively on the court.”

Seddon and Carter Nicolson were the third and fourth dig leaders on the team, with Seddon being credited with 162 and Nicolson 109 digs.

“Jon got better and better at defense as the season progressed, making sure to really read his hitters and put the ball in a better position for us to run our offense,” said Horewitch.

“Carter was able to play everywhere for us,” said Horewitch. “As he continued to embrace playing as a defensive specialist, he really worked hard at getting his feet to the ball in order to better the ball placement for the next player. He made a lot of great touches on the ball and we are excited to have him back next year.”

Against Mesa, in the state playoffs, another young Aztec player showed off his volleyball skills.

Sophomore setter Cade Banks had 35 assists in that four-set match while he had 555 or an average of almost nine assists a set during the season.

“Cade only started playing volleyball at 15 and has improved tremendously in the short time he has been playing,” said Horewitch. “He really embraced running our varsity team and helped all of his teammates be better hitters. He has a real understanding of the game and represents Corona to the highest level.”

The Aztecs had four sophomores who led the team in blocks starting with 6-foot-6 middle blocker Michael DeHorney who had 46 total blocks, nine of them solo blocks.

“Michael is an amazing athlete and really embraced his role on our team,” said Horewitch. “This season was his first season playing volleyball for Corona. His primary sport is basketball, a sport that has some skills that transfer well to volleyball.”

“As the season progressed and he became more familiar with the game, Michael only got better,” said Horewitch. “He is a great person and teammate we were happy to have on our team.”

Sophomore middle blocker Toby Lim, Corona’s 6-foot-3 middle blocker, was the team’s second leading blocker with 40 total blocks.

“Toby did a good job reading the other teams hitters and got better moving back and forth on the net to get into position as the season progressed,” said Horewitch. “We look forward to seeing how much he improves by next season.”

Seddon and Banks, who each had 35 total blocks, were the third leading blockers on the team

followed by Beatty who had 23 blocks.

“Jon was probably our most skilled blocker on the team,” said Horewitch. “We were able to put him in front of the other team’s best players and trust he would be able to shut them down.”

“Cade and Logan did really well with adjusting their blocks to make our defense better and really embraced making blocking become a more offensive skill,” said Horewitch.

The Aztecs also embraced the idea of boosting their ability to score points with a strong serve by compiling 151 aces in 63 sets or 2.4 aces a set.

Luke Vlcek led the team in aces with 33, followed by Connor O’Brien with 23 and Jon Seddon and Cade Banks with 22 each. Junior Carter Nicolson had 15 aces and Toby Lim had 12 aces.

“Yes, we spent a lot of time as a team improving our ability to control the game from the service line,” said Horewitch. “In addition to making aces, Connor, Luke, Jon and Cade really worked hard at making it so the other team was out of system the majority of the time to help set up our defense.”

Corona’s two seniors, Logan Beatty and Abhi Sachdeva, were honored at the Aztecs’ last home game May 5 against Chandler.

“Logan was a great captain for us this season,” said Horewitch. “He made Second Team All-Region and First Team All-City for Tempe.”

“Logan represented the school to the highest level and helped all of his teammates be a better version of themselves,” said Horewitch. “He moved to an outside hitter position this year and really embraced that role for us. Excited he will continue his playing career at Park University in Gilbert.”

“As a middle blocker for the Aztecs, Abhi embraced his role on the team even pushing himself through his ankle injury in order to continue playing,” said Horewitch. “He took it upon himself to help guide the younger players whenever possible to help them pursue their desire to be the best players possible.”

“Abhi took every opportunity to try new skills and went out of his way to help his teammates when needed such as giving them rides home from practice or after games,” said Horewitch. “The team showed how much they appreciated Abhi for his help by voting him as the player to receive the Ridge Award for teammate of the year.”

The coaches and players who made up the Aztec volleyball team are thankful for the support that came from the district, administrations and teachers who made it possible for them to play volleyball this spring 2021 season, according to Horewitch.

“It was really special to have the boys be able to represent Corona del Sol and they took pride in it each and every day,” said Horewitch.

“We look forward to next season so we can continue working with these special young volleyball players.”

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Downtown Chandler business successes recognized with awards

Downtown Chandler is taking center stage in recognition of the successes of its business community during the past year, celebrating top achievements, innovative projects and the accomplishments of a strong collaboration with the city's management and government leaders.

The recognitions came during a May 18 awards ceremony hosted by Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, honoring those who made significant contributions to the area's sustained economic wellbeing.

Mayor Kevin Hartke presented this year's State of the Downtown remarks, sharing information on the recent growth in Downtown Chandler, as well as development properties coming online this year and next, including DC Heights, a 157-unit multi-family housing complex.

DCCP Executive Director Mary Murphy-Bessler offered an update on such 2020-21 highlights as COVID safety precautions implemented by the Clean & Safe Team; community placemaking activations such Sugarland; and communication efforts in partnership with the city of Chandler regarding 30-minute parking, an On the Street Dining Program and Dine in the Park initiatives.

The ceremony included a special Spirit award presentation honoring Bobby Kramer, memorializing the life and legacy of Kramer, Food & Beverage's director for the Brickyard Downtown and Hidden House, whose life was tragically lost in a wrong-way-driver accident.

The award celebrates individuals and/or businesses that lift the "spirit" of the Chandler Community through acts of kindness.

Said Mary Murphy-Bessler, Downtown Chandler Community Partnership's executive director:

"2020 was an extremely difficult time for all, including the small businesses in Downtown Chandler. The DCCP wanted to acknowledge the businesses who

gave back to the Chandler community during the pandemic, donating food, coffee and supplies to those in need." Fan favorite awards such as Downtown Champion, Best Creative Space, Best Live Venue and Downtown Destination were also presented.

"The awards illustrate the fabric of what makes our downtown so special," Murphy-Bessler added. "From live entertainment seven nights a week to the businesses who contribute to making the downtown a regional destination in the Valley."

Awards and their recipients include:

Bobby Kramer "Spirit" Award — Mingle + Graze; Peixoto Coffee; The Local Chandler; Serrano's Mexican Restaurant; The Perch Pub & Brewery; The Brickyard Downtown; and The Sleepy Whale.

Downtown Champion — John Owens, Downtown Redevelopment Specialist for the city of Chandler. Recognizing individual or company that contributes to the overall health and well-being of Downtown Chandler in the areas of economic development, health and safety, cleanliness, marketing, promotions and experience.

Best Creative Space — Presented to George Oliver for The Alexander. This award can be given to a new development, redevelopment, enhancement or activation display in the areas of architecture; landscaping/patio; mural/art activations.

Best Live Venue — The Stillery. Honoring a Downtown Chandler establishment that provides live entertainment and serves as a great place to connect with people through a shared cultural experience.

Downtown Destination Award — The Stillery, paying tribute to a Downtown Chandler establishment that is a "great place to be" based on its unique experience and excellent offerings.



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Dr. Aneesah Nadir Named 2021 Businesswoman of the Year

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce named Dr. Aneesah Nadir as the 2021 Businesswoman of the Year at the 26th Annual Leadership Conference, presented by Tempe St. Luke's Hospital on May 14th during a live broadcast production from the Video West studio.

Dr. Nadir has lived, worked, and worshipped in Tempe for more than thirty years. She is a graduate of Arizona State University's Department of Social Work where she taught for 17 years. Dr. Nadir is a co-founder, and President of the Islamic Social Services Association-USA, a national nonprofit organization engaged in mental health advocacy and education headquartered in Arizona. She is the CEO of Dr. Aneesah Nadir & Associates, LLC which provides diversity and inclusion education and training, as well as family life and premarital education programs. Additionally, Dr. Nadir's Independent LegalShield Agency works with a nationwide network of attorneys, including Tempe's own Davis Miles

McGuire Gardner Law Firm, to provide affordable top quality legal coverage for business owners, their families, and employees. The Tempe Chamber is honored to recognize Dr. Nadir for her outstanding leadership!

The two additional finalists recognized this year were Suzy Greenwood of Arizona Tax Advisors and Rosa Inchausti with the City of Tempe (pictured).

Come Enjoy Tot Town at First Baptist Church of Tempe!

Bring your tots and meet up with new friends for some great play time at our New Indoor Playground in our Kid City!

This is an amazing NEW community space which includes bounce houses, imagination play, train table sets, an indoor playground and MORE. FREE indoor play space for tots (birth to 5).

We request that parents stay with their children at Tot Town.

Every Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Information:
Pastor Jeff Savage
201-519-2856
Fbc-tempe.org



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

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

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Commentary . . . by Matt Orlando

New city budget will boost Desert Breeze precinct efficiencies

Recently, the City Council adopted a tentative 2021-2022 budget that will include 27 additional police positions for our community. In addition to the 27 police positions, the council was presented a plan by the Chandler Police Chief to



add 40 additional officers and civilian personnel over the next four years. The additional resources are the first significant hires to our police force since 2010, despite an almost 11 percent increase in Chandler population. This year's request for officers includes 15 "over hire" positions, which will allow the

department to hire and train new officers in anticipation of future officer retirements. Of the remaining 12 positions, the city will add 10 "net gain" new officers as well as a school resource officer and mental health coordinator for the department.

Although Chandler still is a relatively safe community, the last 10 years have not only seen a higher demand for patrol officers, but an increased need for detectives, cybercrime and sex trafficking analysts, and many other social and mental health

professionals to confront issues of our modern society. The additional police personnel are a welcomed addition for our community.

Our personnel assigned to the Desert Breeze Precinct strive to strengthen partnerships with our community and provide exceptional customer service. The following are a few of the contributions that were made by the men and women of the Desert Breeze Precinct in 2020:

- The weekend swing shift patrol team from the Desert Breeze Precinct was recently awarded the coveted 2020 Patrol Team of the Year for their efforts to proactively combat crime while engaging residents on one of the busiest shifts in the city.

- The precinct enhanced its strong working relationship with Chandler Fashion Center and surrounding businesses. This dedicated patrol area afforded officers the ability to complete timely and thorough investigations to hold offenders accountable. The combination of community outreach and education contributed to a reduction in calls for service within the Retail District.

- The precinct has seen an influx of homeless and transient persons in the last couple of years. To provide the essential services to assist people in this

unfortunate situation, we continued to support the Homeless Liaison Program. This program brings together a variety of community partners with the mission of sharing information and resources to address and reduce homelessness in Chandler.

- The Chandler Police Department continued its partnership with the Neighbors application. The Neighbors app is a virtual gathering point for residents with the Ring Doorbell devices and provides a forum for neighbors from a geographic region to share pictures and videos from their security devices. On several occasions, officers and detectives utilized the application to link crimes together or identify suspects who committed multiple crimes such as vehicle burglaries or criminal damage.

Despite the challenges COVID-19 presented, Desert Breeze personnel were instrumental in serving the public while taking a hard line against criminal activity. Proactive enforcement coupled with community policing and relationships were effective in maintaining an overall downward crime trend in 2020.

Matt Orlando is a member of the Chandler City Council.

The Nick Bastian
Your Real Estate Experts **Team**

REALTY EXECUTIVES

Kyrene Corridor Market Snapshot

Subdivision	Address	Square Feet	Beds/Baths	Sold Price
Camelot Village	1965 E. Lodge Drive, Tempe	2,776	4 / 2.5	\$740,000
Duskfire	61 W. Secretariat Drive, Tempe	2,242	4 / 3	\$635,000
Harmon Ranch	5030 W. Laredo Street, Chandler	2,232	4 / 2	\$580,000
Oasis at Anoizira	1976 E. Brentrup Drive, Tempe	3,207	5 / 3	\$660,000
Park Promenade	902 N. Lakeshore Place, Chandler	2,265	3 / 2	\$595,000
Pecan Grove Village	160 W. Palomino Drive, Tempe	1,806	3 / 2	\$505,000

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1356 E. Palomino Dr - Warner Estates
List Price \$1,820,000



1833 E. Carver Rd - Estate La Colina
List Price \$710,000



1401 E. Palomino Dr
Warner Estates
List Price \$925,000

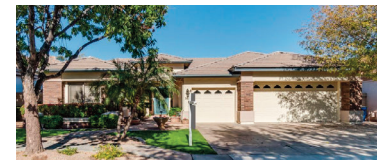
**227 W. Caroline Ln -
Duskfire**
SOLD in 4 Days



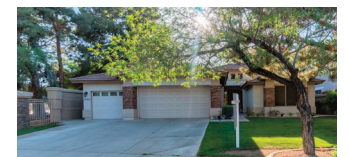
**7229 S. Los Feliz Dr -
Oasis at Anozira**
SOLD in 5 Days



**998 E. Divot Dr -
Galleria**
SOLD in 5 Days



362 W. Knight Lane - Alisanos
SOLD



7990 S. Stephanie Ln
Alisanos
Sold Over Asking



9315 S. Rita Ln - Corona Vista
SOLD Cash

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