

# WRANGLER NEWS

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**Home turf:** Corona football team ready for inaugural game on new turf field. **Page 15**



**Thirst burst:** Women United Mary Contreras and Adrienne Bryant team up to alleviate thirst with water bottle drive. **Page 23**



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## A GOOD SIGN FOR SCHOOLS

Details on Page 3

Wrangler News photo  
by Andrew Lwowski



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## Black entrepreneurs 'Rise' with business mentoring initiative

By Tony Gutiérrez

**F**or Adriona London, owner of Slay Blessed, a Tempe-based beauty supply business, an innovative business education and mentoring program aimed to fortify Black-owned businesses provided the boost she needed.

The program, dubbed "We Rise," was created by Local First Arizona, a non-profit organization focused on community and economic development across the state. It's especially aimed at connecting locally owned business with their communities. According to its website, [localfirstaz.com](http://localfirstaz.com), it seeks to "build a diverse, inclusive and prosperous Arizona economy."

We Rise, London said, was intense but very beneficial.

"I wasn't expecting it to be on a college level," she said. "It just made you feel like your business, your vision, your plan, is not just a dream that's so unreachable or so unattainable. It pretty much made it a reality: 'You can get there, and this is how.'"

At the outset, We Rise program organizers were looking for Black entrepreneurs with at least a year of business experience. London was one of them.

So was Derek Robinson, a 37-year-old English teacher at Primavera Online School. Robinson has been roasting coffee for about 10 years. His wife Pam, a native of Kenya, introduced him to the different ways coffee can be produced and made,

— MENTORING, Page 10



**'You can get there. And this is how.'**

Adriona London's Tempe-based business benefitted from the We Rise mentoring and education program, sponsored by Local First Arizona.

— Photo courtesy Lysa Fitzhugh

### Weekend fire at Marcos de Niza sends students back to online learning

*Statement from Megan Sterling, Executive Director of Community Relations, Tempe Union High School District*

Early in the morning on Saturday, August 15, 2021, a fire broke out in the 100 Building at Marcos de Niza. We are thankful to Tempe Fire for their quick response in managing this incident. Preliminary information released by Tempe Fire is that a device that was plugged in and charging was the cause of the fire. The good news is: No one was on site at the time, and the fire alarm and sprinkler system in place did their job. Unfortunately, in addition to the room where the fire originated, approximately

— FIRE, Page 18

### Dayspring site draws school funding petition signers

By Andrew Lwowski

[WranglerNews.com](http://WranglerNews.com)  
[KyreneCorridor.com](http://KyreneCorridor.com)

A team of protestors gathered at Dayspring United Methodist Church over two recent weekends to support a ballot referendum demanding repeal of recent tax cuts and keeping 2020's tax for school funding.

The group, mobilizing parishioners and others in an effort to attract the attention of passing motorists, supports Arizona Proposition 208, which imposes a surtax on Arizona's highest earners to provide

funding for statewide education. The measure was passed last November.

This proposal enacts an additional 3.5% tax on top of the existing 4.5% tax for individuals whose income exceeds \$250,000 for single filers or \$500,000 for joint filers. The extra 3.5% would support teacher salaries, additional staff and educational programs in Arizona.

The #Invest in AZ Now Coalition is on a mission to obtain the necessary 118,000 signatures by Sept. 30.

The group is aiming its

petition at three recently passed legislative measures: S.B. 1828, which enacted a 2.5% flat tax; S.B. 1827, which enacted a 4.5% cap on all income, giving the wealthier a larger tax break than those with a smaller income; and S.B. 1783, which created an entirely new filing category that would allow wealthy taxpayers to bypass the surcharge altogether.

Ruth Boyle, a Tempe Union High School District French teacher who is part of the group, said she notices a direct impact of Prop. 208 in the learning

— PROTEST, Page 9

# Grants from Four Peaks brewery lift teachers' spirits

By Gabrielle Dunton

Tempe Elementary School District teachers recently received a back-to-school surprise from Four Peaks Brewing Company.

All 816 Tempe Elementary teachers received school-supply kits, which included paper reams, pencils, pens, staples and retail coupons, and one of them got much more than that.

New to the campaign this year, Four Peaks is rewarding 11 teachers with \$1,000 grants for school supplies, and among them is third-grade teacher Andrea Perez of Tempe El's Thew Elementary.

On July 27, Thew employees and staff were treated to a Four Peaks lunch in the school's library to celebrate Perez as a grant winner.

Perez was selected as a Four Peaks for Teachers grant award for consistently going above and beyond for students by providing them with a caring, safe and supportive environment to learn and grow.

Perez is in her second year of teaching at Thew and plans to apply the grant toward her classroom library.

"One of my biggest goals is diversifying our read-a-loud books to better connect with my students, as I have learners from diverse backgrounds," Perez said.

"This grant will help me to continue to build strong relationships with my students and their families."

The donation is part of Four Peaks' 11th Annual Four Peaks for Teachers campaign that kicked off on Teacher Appreciation Day on May 4. The brewery raised funds to distribute school supply kits to 10,000 teachers in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah.

"Four Peaks for Teachers started in 2011 when we decided to host a school-supply drive to help our local teachers, and we ended up finding an amazing amount of support from our community," said Four Peaks communication manager Zach Fowle.

"It's just grown every year since, and we are proud to say that this year is our biggest donation yet."

Four Peaks For Teachers is distributing kits to school districts across the Valley, including Tempe Union High, Chandler Unified, Creighton Elementary, Flagstaff Unified, Glendale Elementary, Kingman Unified, Laveen Elementary, Marana Unified, Mesa Unified, Prescott Unified, Sierra Vista Unified and Washington Elementary.

*Gabrielle Dunton is a strategic communications coordinator with the Tempe Elementary School District.*



Third-grade teacher Andrea Perez of Thew Elementary in Tempe with \$1,000 check presented by Four Peaks Brewing Co.

— Photo by Gabrielle Dunton

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## Marcos teacher's AP program driven by a thirst for learning

By Janie Magruder

**H**eather Kiser's students likely haven't traveled to Cyprus, Botswana, South Korea, Ireland, Mexico, Egypt and South Africa. But they still can experience some of the culture of these nations in her classroom at Tempe's Marcos de Niza High School.

A thirst for learning — and a desire to share it with young minds — is the reason Kiser, a teacher in the Tempe Union High School District for 15 years, became an educator to begin with.

She's been at Marcos since 2015, and currently teaches AP and Honors World history and world history/geography.

The Tempe resident also is the high school's new gifted coordinator, and is co-creating the AP Scholars program, the first of its kind in the district. She and Rachael Clawson, a Marcos alumna and AP U.S. History teacher, started it in the fall of 2019 and then, well, COVID-19 hit.

Relegated to the back burner while the school dealt with a global pandemic, AP Scholars is back on now, Kiser said.

"A lot of kids here at Marcos are gifted, but they

don't know where or how to direct that. Maybe they don't have the home support or know how to make an appointment with their counselor," she said.

"We want them to become aware that help is out there, to make goals to strive for."

### A young mind influenced by geography, reading

As a child growing up in Louisiana and Indiana, Kiser took frequent car trips with her parents to many states.

(She's visited some 40 of the 50.) She recalls learning to read one day in first grade when, at the beginning of the school day, letters on the chalk board were a jumble.

By day's end, something had clicked, and Kiser was stringing words together.

"I started reading the newspaper and would gravitate toward what was going on in the world," she said.

"When I first started, I didn't understand it, but I kept reading, and it started to make sense."

Kiser, who has a Master of Education in

Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Social Studies, from ASU, has applied and been chosen for numerous national and international programs to travel and learn.

"That helps teaching not become boring for me," said Kiser who completed a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship in Cyprus in 2007, participated in a Phoenix Sister Cities' teacher exchange to western Ireland in 2008, and has been to South Korea twice, among other trips. "It helps me be excited for students and stay on top of current events."

### Experienced educator goes extra mile for students

After being inspired at a district professional development workshop, Kiser and Clawson decided to create AP Scholars for Marcos social studies students.

They felt more needed to know about the availability and benefits of AP courses.

"Marcos de Niza is 50 years old this year, and has always had honors and AP programs, but they used to be bigger than now," Kiser said.

"They haven't grown strong and robust."

Having a special program into which teachers would recommend students would give AP classes

— AP, Page 18



**Randy Goff**  
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## Fair won't be at Wild Horse Pass after all But venue adds new type of gambling

Lee Shappell  
wranglernews.com

**N**ot so fast on making a quick trip to enjoy the corndogs and cotton candy before hopping on those twisting, turning rides that take your stomach on a roller-coaster ride of its own. The Arizona State Fair is not coming to Wild Horse Pass on the Gila River Indian Reservation this fall after all.

While it is losing the fair before it ever really arrived, the reservation is gaining a new type of gambling as a result of a recently revised compact between Arizona and tribal casinos that allows craps as well as high-end Las Vegas-style roulette and baccarat games in exchange for Indian communities allowing off-reservation sports books, which are expected to open across the Valley next month.

Among the beneficiaries of the agreement is Wild Horse Pass Casino, which last week became the first in the state to

open the newly allowed table games. Previously, only card games were permitted in Arizona tribal casinos.

Early business on the new tables has been brisk, Wild Horse Pass officials say.

Meanwhile, the Arizona State Fair Board announced that, because of COVID-19 related supply issues that prevented it from obtaining infrastructure items in time, the fair will not be coming to Wild Horse Pass in October, as previously announced. It will remain at the State Fairground at North 19th Avenue and West McDowell Road in downtown Phoenix, Oct. 2-30.

"The Gila River Indian Community and Arizona State Fair continue to study the possibility of moving the fair to the reservation in 2022, in a manner that will be mutually beneficial to both parties," a statement released by the Fair Board said.

Officials hoped to move the fair to Wild Horse Pass because it offered a much larger

— WILD HORSE, Page 22



The Arizona State Fair is not coming to Wild Horse Pass this year due to delays in receiving necessary infrastructure items. — Arizona State Fair photo



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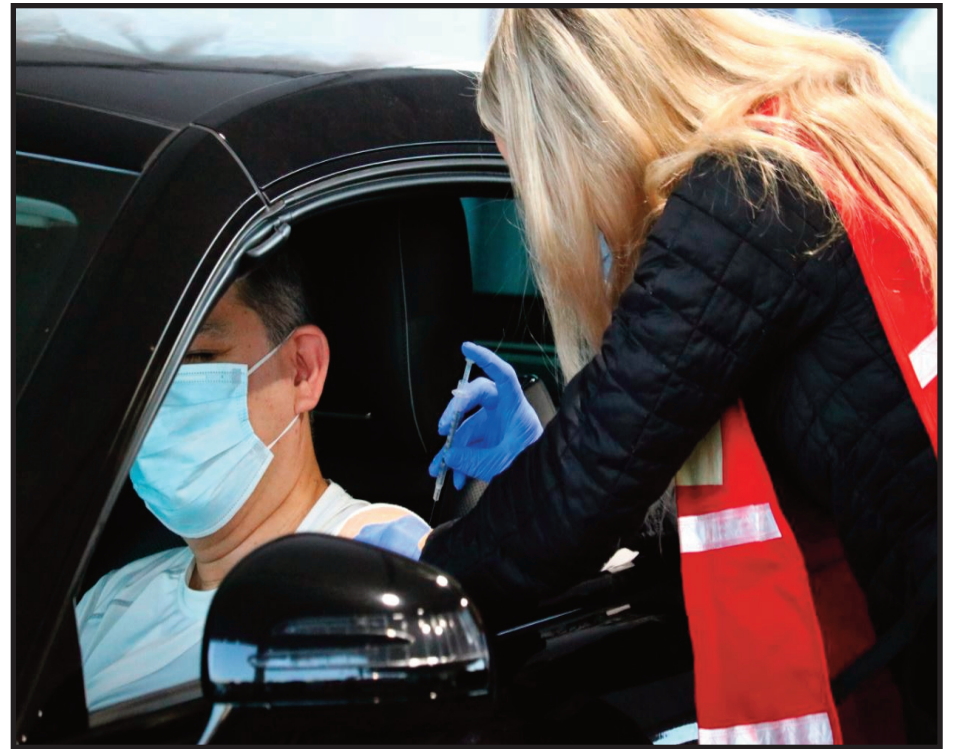
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# Tempe launches intensive effort to vaccinate against Delta variant

Mayor Woods: A 'simple step' toward protection for all



Over the next month, Tempe will launch an all-out push to get more eligible people vaccinated against COVID-19.

COVID cases across the country — particularly those linked to the highly contagious Delta variant — are increasing and unvaccinated people are at highest risk of hospitalization and death.

Tempe wants to focus outreach and vaccination efforts on local areas with low vaccination rates, so the city is rallying with community partners to host several free rapid testing and vaccination clinics in the coming weeks.

"Don't wait. Get the Covid-19 vaccine now and curb your risk," said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods.

"Let's take this simple step to protect each other and our

community."

A recent survey showed that Tempe residents who had not yet been vaccinated wanted more information to help them make their choice as well as evening and weekend vaccine opportunities.

Since the 85281 zip code has typically experienced the highest rates of COVID-19 and the lowest rates of vaccination in Tempe, the current effort will be focused there. An emphasis will be placed on reaching younger people and the Hispanic community.

Tempe has already mailed postcards to thousands of people in 85281, placed yard signs with vaccination information in 16 parks in the zip code, at fire stations and on digital marquees.





Signage for the petitions circulated by Invest in AZ Now coalition members at Dayspring United Methodist Church in Tempe.

— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski.

## Protest

From Page 3

environment.

“I think, for me, the biggest thing is to add more support staff and get class sizes down. I have 190 students that I deal with every single day,” Boyle said. With large class sizes and such a large amount of work to grade outside of class, Boyle says it hinders the quality of learning for her students.

Boyle’s objective, she said, is to provide the best learning experience for her students.

“I’ve been teaching since the mid-’90s and it was hard when I started, but it is exponentially harder to be a teacher right now,” she said.

“This is the third time now that we’re out trying to get ‘Invest in Ed’ to pass and actually bring more money into education,” she said. She was among many others outside of Dayspring signing the seven available petitions.

Tom Griffith, a church member, also signed the petitions and said change is needed.

“We somehow need to make sure that our tax system makes enough money to provide for all the things that the state needs to provide,” Griffith said, adding that the education system cannot function effectively or efficiently without adequate funding.

Griffith is opposed to the recent tax laws due to what he called disproportionate taxation based on income. “If I have to pay \$10 for something, is that going to affect my

income? If somebody has \$2 million income, and has to pay \$10 for something, it’s disproportionate.”

Amy Notbohm, the community curator, said the group’s primary focus is investment in education, and that the state’s new budget measures hinder that growth. “I think it’s really important that we’re investing in Arizona’s future,” Notbohm said.

“That applies to everything that our state budget supports—predominantly education—and helping make sure that we’re setting up a sustainable and excellent education for our children in the future.

“It’s supporting the state’s budget that helps support our cities and public safety, but overall, the reason we’re doing this is because, at United Methodist Church, we have a strong history of supporting social justice causes. Going back to our founder, they worked on establishing hospitals, schools and universities and even worked on the abolitionist movement,” Notbohm said.

Dayspring is part of a larger coalition and a member organization with Valley Interfaith Project, an organization of about 40 different churches and institutions around the Valley.

Others wishing to sign the petition may do so at Dayspring every Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon through Sept. 30.

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## Mentoring

From Page 3

giving him a desire to learn the craft of roasting. After colleagues and students began regularly asking Robinson for fresh-roasted coffee beans, he and Pam decided to turn the hobby into a business, Tempe-based Derek Sips.

When the couple learned about We Rise, they jumped at the opportunity. Robinson, along with London, is among 12 Valley-area Black entrepreneurs who recently graduated from the program.

Derek Sips partners with Genuine Origin, an organization that works to ensure farmers it purchases coffee beans from receive a sustainable living wage. Robinson has worked with producers from seven countries: Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda and Colombia.

One of his goals is to educate consumers about the cultural origins of the coffee they drink, with each bag depicting the flag of its country of origin. The company regularly posts “fun facts” about the countries their coffee is from. He also acknowledged the uniqueness of him being a Black coffee roaster, noting that if a producer visited a

coffee shop in the U.S., they wouldn't see anybody that looked like them.

“We want to draw attention to the producers and the farmers in regard to coffee. It's one of those things people just drink, and they don't think beyond it,” he said.

Thanks to We Rise, Robinson has gained some insight into how to grow his business.

Participants in the program go through a free six-month program, meeting biweekly and covering topics such as business model development and planning, financial literacy, business licensing, customer service and networking, in addition to addressing issues unique to Black business owners.

“We talked about things like redlining, predatory lending, things that are affecting our community and how we can navigate through that, and how can we be a strong resource and support system for one another,” said Carmen Attikossie, We Rise senior manager for Local First Arizona.

“With the We Rise program, we want to create more dollars circulating in the Black community, and we want to create a community where Black people here in Arizona feel supported.”

For her part, London knows there's a large market for Slay Blessed's beauty products and that

she's uniquely poised to address that demand.

As reported by Essence Magazine in 2019, African Americans account for \$1.2 trillion spent on beauty products each year. Yet only 3 percent of owners are Black, says London. Slay Blessed is an effort to change that, she said, with the products offered being geared toward the Black community, such as natural hair products, extensions, braiding or other items geared towards ethnic hair.

“The majority of beauty supply stores geared toward African Americans don't really know what they're selling. They don't know the product: ‘This is how long you need this to sit on you.’ They don't have that customer experience versus someone who is African American who is selling African American products can give you,” she said. “If we're the main contributors to this business, we should also have some ownership in that.”

Among London's goals is to open a brick-and-mortar location. Participating in the We Rise program also helped her learn to balance work and family life by budgeting her time and making use of calendars. Another skill the program helped her with was learning how to pitch to investors.

“We had a two-minute elevator pitch, pitching my business in a short timeframe in order to

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capture the attention of investors,” she said, adding that participants were able to practice their pitches at the graduation from the program.

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, the city’s first Black mayor, was on hand for the graduation.

“The We Rise program that Local First Arizona initiated is an inspiring opportunity for Black entrepreneurs to launch or expand their business to build generational wealth,” Woods said in a statement to Wrangler News.

“Attending the graduation was important to me because I wanted the participants to know that the city of Tempe is supportive and interested in the success of these amazing entrepreneurs and startups.”

We Rise is based on a similar program also sponsored by Local First Arizona—Fuerza Local — for Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs. Attikossie was hired in September 2020 to develop the curriculum and organize the first cohort, eventually designing 14 modules, including “Doing Business While Black.”

“We spent some time to understand the entrepreneurial system and what’s going on with Black entrepreneurs in our country — what are some of the weak areas, and what are the critical

areas folks need to survive in the entrepreneurial ecosystem here in Arizona and nationally,” she said.

Participants in the We Rise program are required to come up with their own goals and develop a business plan. They’re also required to save at least \$1,000 with a written plan for how they’ll use the funds to grow their business. Upon graduating the We Rise program, Local First will match the amount they saved up to \$1,000.

Being paired with a mentor helped Robinson reevaluate some of his goals to make his business more successful. Although he’d initially planned to open a brick-and-mortar location in South Tempe, with guidance from his mentor, he determined it would be better to open up a coffee cart and continue holding pop-up events, typically held near Tracy Dempsey’s at Priest and University Drives or near Crêpe Bar at Rural and Elliot Roads. The frame for the cart is built, Robinson said, and the company is in the process of installing plumbing and obtaining a permit from Maricopa County.

Robinson said he also appreciated the peer-to-peer aspect that allowed participants to trade ideas with each other and find ways to collaborate.

“All of you are willing to grind and work hard to

overcome the obstacles that will come as you try to grow your business and grow your brand,” he said. “It always takes a village, even bouncing ideas off other business owners. Why not have a village of similar cultures and similar background to help us push and pursue our dreams and the things we love?”



Adriana London discusses her business with an attendee at the We Rise graduation. — Photo courtesy Lysa Fitzhugh

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# SPORTS

With Alex Zener

## Aztecs pin hopes on last year's successes



Corona's football team spend its summer camp week at ASU's Camp Tontozona July 19-25 where the team worked hard in preparation for the 2021 season which starts Sept. 3 in a home game against Mountain Pointe. — Photo courtesy Michael Yarbrough




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Tempe Coalition is a grant-funded project of  TEMPE Community Council a 501(C)3 nonprofit

The success of Corona's football team last season spurred a lot of activity and hype in the offseason to keep the momentum going for the upcoming 2021 season, in preparation for the first game scheduled for Sept. 3 at home against Mountain Pointe.

As all three teams—freshman, JV and varsity—kept winning games last season, community members went from shaking their heads thinking it must just be a fluke to getting excited about Aztec football after almost 10 years of less-than-mediocre results.

The fact that all three teams continued to be successful and go undefeated in the regular season kept the momentum going throughout the spring and into the summer with a snowball-type effect that was undeniable during spring ball and throughout summer weight training, as well as being noticeable during summer camp at ASU's Camp Tontozona.

A lot of the credit for the resurgence of Corona's football program, deservedly so, goes to **Jon Bechtold**, in his fifth year as head football coach, and his staff.

Bechtold was named 6A Coach of the Year in 2019 after taking Corona from only one win, or a 1-9 record in 2018, to a 4-7 record in 2019.

He was also considered one of the main candidates for Arizona high school football Coach of the Year three weeks before the end of the regular 2020 season.

The Aztecs' 2020 record was 8-0 during the regular season after the season was shortened by two games due to COVID restrictions.

Although Bechtold is the head coach, others are involved in helping to build a strong foundation that is the backbone of any winning program, including several fathers of Corona football players who developed a feeder system that started with a youth program called the DevilBacks.

**Chad Ackerley**, who is the father of Corona's sophomore quarterback **Connor Ackerley**, directs this program.

In addition to Ackerley, there are six other fathers who help coach in the different levels of Corona's football program.

**Manny Carbajal** has two sons in the program. **Jake Carbajal** is a junior lineman and **Colby Carbajal** is a freshman lineman.

**Brandon Anger** also has sons in Corona football. **Gabe Anger** is a sophomore lineman and **Sean Anger** is a freshman lineman.

**Jeremy Gonzales'** son **Christian Gonzales** is a member of the freshman team, while **Lewis Kary's** son **Jamee Kary** is a sophomore lineman. **Matt Holly's** son, **Luke Holly**, is a sophomore wide receiver.

**Brian Walker**, the former 12-year head coach at Tempe High School, joined Corona's coaching staff this summer and brought along his son, **Jalen Walker**, a senior linebacker.

In addition, the football staff at Corona is unique in that there are also nine coaches that played at Corona at some point over the years—desirable because of their familiarity with the culture of Corona football, according to one assistant coach.

**Gary Venturo**, who started coaching at Corona in 1987 and retired after 23 years in 2009, would be proud to know that so many of his former football players have come back to help keep the culture he had a part in developing continue.

The Aztecs have been predicted as favorite to win the 6A East Valley Section for the second year in a row followed by Mesa, Dobson, Westwood, Skyline and Tucson.

First, Corona needs to get by its decades-long Central Region archrival, Mountain Pointe, in the first game of the 2021 season on Sept. 3 on the school's new turf-topped home field.

The Aztecs easily defeated the Pride 45-9 on Oct. 30 last season but the former 6A state champion could well bounce back from two subpar seasons and be a contender in the Central Region again.

Mountain Pointe has a quarterback, Christopher Arviso II,

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## We hear you . . .

Editor:

Our society is at a cross roads when it comes climate change.

Do we continue to think about our individual needs or do we think about the collective good for our community, country and world? With the

new United Nations' climate report calling global warming a "code red for humanity", the answer is clear.

We must take action now to preserve our livable world.

We must reduce CO2 emissions immediately. We can no longer sit idly

by saying I am fine, my family is fine and my town is fine. The time is now to take action.

Let your representatives know that solving the climate crisis is a top priority. Many policies are being written in congress.

Call, write, or email your representatives and tell them to vote for policies that reduce CO2 emissions. Working together is the only way to solve this climate crisis.

Maggie Kraft, Tempe



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# New turf on high school athletic fields will debut at Corona's season opener

Photos on Pages 16-17

By Andrew Lwowski

**H**igh schools across the Tempe Union district are in the process of upgrading from their traditional grass fields to artificial coconut-infused turf, a million-dollar project designed to reduce maintenance while providing a softer, vastly improved playing surface.

Corona del Sol is the latest to undergo the transition, and the renovation is coming down to the wire — just in time for the Aztecs' Friday, Sept. 3 home opener against rival Mountain Pointe.

Roxanne Perrin, Corona's vice principal and athletic director, said that field reconstruction began in May and should be finished by Aug. 31, allowing the teams time — if only a short amount — to practice on it before the first game.

From an outside observer's eye, the process for prepping the new field has been quite remarkable. Throughout the four-month process, crews worked long shifts, sometimes 12 to 14 hours a day, to complete the project on time.

Said Perrin:

"I've been coming in here all summer long, and when I go and check out the field, it looks like they are just moving dirt piles back and forth. But they had to take dirt out to put in conduit for electric, irrigation and drainage.

"They cover that up; then there's the process of leveling the field and tamping it down. Then they add more material because it has to be a certain height. Then they string-line to check to make sure it's level, because the field is crowned in the middle so it will drain just slightly.

"Once that is done, they'll place a black cloth down, then a padded layer and then the actual turf."

Once in place, the surface will be topped with filaments of coconut and cork. These elements, explained Perrin, help keep the temperature of the field down as well as naturally absorbing impact and moisture.

The field will still need to be watered to keep it cool, but there will no longer be a need for pesticides, fertilizer or irrigation. In addition to the field, a new, wireless scoreboard is being installed behind the far upright.

In 2020, Perrin noted, Desert Vista and McClintock high schools had their fields redone.

"I was on DV's field last year. It's beautiful. It's soft, there's a lot of traction — there's a lot of give for the players. And it's not like running on a super hard surface

Thee ost of the work is being paid through TUHSD-budgeted funds.

While football season is right around the corner, football is not the only beneficiary of this project, according to Perrin.

"The thing about the turf field is that it's going to benefit our whole campus," she said. "It's football, but it's also boys and girls' soccer. It's also going to be nice for track and field...they do all kinds of warmups and static exercises in the middle, so they'll benefit as well."

**'It will definitely be a big upgrade for us because last year we played and, like, half of our field was dirt, so it will save a lot of rocks getting on the field and just unnecessary scratches.'**

— *Player Jeff Lambert*

Corona's band program will also be able to practice on the new turf.

Opening of the new field allows for ample practice space without the possibility of ruining it for games.

"As far as practice goes, we have that full turf field. So, varsity can practice on the turf field and JV and freshman (players) can practice on the remaining two fields at the same time," Perrin said.

This field also will allow for sports later in the year to equally enjoy an improved playing experience. Normally with traditional sod, the center of the field becomes worn to dirt from the constant beating by players, and by the time soccer and track-and-field season comes into swing, it is completely worn and mostly dirt.

Jeff Lambert, a senior at Corona and wide receiver and varsity linebacker, said he and his teammates are excited for the new field.

"It will definitely be a big upgrade for us because last year we played and, like, half of our field was dirt, so it will save a lot of rocks getting on the field and just unnecessary scratches," Lambert said.

As to the difference between playing on sod versus turf, Lambert said he loves turf. "With turf it almost feels like you could stick your foot in deeper—like you have more traction."

Formal presentation of the newly upgraded field will take place Sept. 3 when Corona hosts Mountain Pointe for the season opener.





# Field of Dreams

Corona's football team continues to train and practice for its Friday, Sept. 3, opening game against rival Mountain Pointe. The first game of the season will be played on Corona's new artificial turf field that took four months to create. Crews worked long hours to move dirt and prep the area before the turf could be laid. The coconut-infused turf will still need to be watered but won't need pesticides, irrigation or fertilizer.

— Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski.



## AP

From Page 5

more panache and AP students more recognition, the teachers believe.

“We want kids to feel that, ‘This is my future, this is something I want to be a part of, this is something that can help me get into college, or into colleges and universities that I wouldn’t have thought about,’” Kiser said.

Before COVID-19, the teachers chose its first group and met a couple of times.

Since COVID-19, they plan to expand AP Scholars to include students in other AP disciplines, from Art History and Calculus to Physics and Spanish.

“It would create a broader swath, a broader buy-in from more students across the different disciplines, and that’s what we want,” she said.

“Not all students know other students taking AP classes, so that will bring more awareness across grade levels.

“And kids will know you can be an AP Scholar if you’re a football player, a band student, someone in the fine arts.”

Kiser can see a time when upperclass AP Scholars encourage underclassmen to explore the program, when more tutoring is available for AP exams, and when students feel less intimidated and isolated and more confident.

“AP work is very nuanced and highly demanding, but it’s also very rewarding,” said Kiser, pointing out benefits such as smaller class sizes, and greater in-class discussions and field trips.

“We want to elevate these students, and we think that will help create a better cultural environment that is supportive of academics.”

## Fire

From Page 3

15 classrooms in the building are currently unusable due to smoke and water damage. A restoration company is on-site and working around the clock. We anticipate that we will have additional information by the end of the week that will assist us with future planning. Currently, the entire 100 building is closed to students and staff as this initial assessment work is conducted.

For the week of August 16, classes at Marcos de Niza are being held virtually. Once the full and thorough assessment is complete - from both the restoration company and an air quality company - next steps and a timeline will be determined to get students back to learning in these classrooms.

An investigation is ongoing by Tempe Fire and any additional information would be released as part of that investigation. Marcos de Niza administration will make every effort to keep families updated, as appropriate, as plans unfold so that families can also plan appropriately.

Principal Sarah Tolar shared that when administrators initially arrived on the scene and did a walkthrough of the building, a teacher had the following quote from former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz written on the whiteboard which really struck everyone in the group: “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it.

“We know that our Marcos community is close-knit and supportive, and how they handle this setback will be a testament to their strength and resiliency.



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## Sports

From Page 13

who played in only four games last season as a sophomore but completed 34 of 46 passes for 379 yards and five touchdowns who could have a breakout game.

The Pride also have senior all-around athlete Amier Boyd-Matthew, who played quarterback last year but was more successful running with the ball with 58 carries for a gain of 405 yards and three touchdowns. It has been predicted that he may play receiver this season as well.

The Aztecs graduated 24 seniors last May, including the team's leader and outstanding quarterback **Quade Swearingen**, but they currently have 45 players on their roster returning at least 15 or more players who played significant snaps in 2020.

Some of the players from last season's successful team on offense include seniors **Austin Tygart, Izaak Kabal, Nomar Sierra and Peter Katsiris**.

Also coming back for their senior season playing defense include **Jeff Lambert, Peyton Bauer, Keegan Dunbar, Elijah De La Cerna and Nathan Cormier-Ward**. Juniors **Keona Peat, Bennett Matsler, Carston Kieffer and Tristan Shafer** return after playing on varsity their sophomore year.

Returning offensive and defensive line members include **Theren White and Angel Dorame**

In addition, when **Jalen Walker** decided to transfer to Corona to play his senior season for his dad, Corona's new defensive backs coach, the Aztecs acquired one of the top 10 linebackers in the 2021 Arizona high school programs.

Walker has a high football IQ. At 6-0, 215 pounds, he is a physical, strong and versatile linebacker who can play several positions including running back on offense.

As a defensive back, Walker is fast at getting to the outside tracking down the ball carrier, has great balance and feet, and has been said to play with high intensity.

New to varsity this season but predicted to have an impact on the

Aztecs' success, is sophomore quarterback **Connor Ackerly**.

Crews have been working all summer to get Corona's football field ready for turf by the time schools started.

On Aug. 13 they were laying down the pad with the turf to follow shortly.

### Mandatory masks

Just in, Tempe Union High School District has made it mandatory, starting Tuesday, Aug. 17, that athletes and coaches practicing the fall indoor sports, girls volleyball and badminton, must wear masks.

Outdoor sports, football, swimming and diving, golf and cross country are still optional at this point.

Nothing has yet been determined about competitions but the wearing of masks during competitive play will be discussed if COVID-19 cases continue to rise due to the Delta variant.

As far as football goes, the AIA Executive Board during a recent meeting was already discussing the probability that some schools may have to cancel football games if cases continue to rise.

This issue would be similar to last season when only eight regular season games were scheduled instead of the 10 scheduled for this fall due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 restrictions are like a moving target but it may come down to a choice between getting vaccinated or not being able to play.

Just a little over three weeks ago, on July 26, the AIA said, in accordance with CDC guidelines, if a high school athlete or coach had been vaccinated and did not have any symptoms after coming into contact with somebody who tested positive for COVID-19, they would not have to be isolated from their team for 14 days.

If they have not been vaccinated, the athlete or coach would need to quarantine for two weeks.

This quarantine ruling, put into place in 2020, forced many of the cancelled games that would not be necessary in 2021, if the rule stands, and athletes and coaches are vaccinated.

## Film Fare . . . with M.V. Moorhead

### *Painfully believable performance adds redeeming value to R-rated 'Flag Day'*

**B**ased on Jennifer Vogel's 2004 memoir *Flim-Flam Man*, *Flag Day* is roughly the zillionth telling of one of the perennial American dramas: The relationship with the father. The author's often-absent dad, John Vogel, was a career criminal in the '80s with everything from bank robbery to arson to counterfeiting on his record; he was also a sensitive, loving person who sketched, and introduced his daughter and son to Chopin and marinated steaks.

Sean Penn, who directed and who plays John Vogel, makes us see how both of these personalities can exist, albeit uncomfortably, in one guy.

It's one of his most painfully believable performances since his turn in *The Falcon and the Snowman* back in 1985; like that guy, Penn's John Vogel is one of those people who are both repellently obnoxious and charismatic, somehow at the same time.

He's a hustler in the grand Willy Loman tradition, insisting, when asked what he does for a living, that he's "an entrepreneur," with many irons in the fire at any given time.

Penn's daughter Dylan Penn is impressively un-histrionic and sympathetic as the grown-up version of Jennifer, taking over for a couple of first-rate younger actresses who play her earlier vintages. The director's son, Hopper Penn, effectively plays Jennifer's little brother as an adult.

Stylistically, the movie generates superbly convincing period atmosphere, and it has a '70s art-cinema vibe. It's like something by Terence Malick, with lots of leisurely montages cut to melancholy songs and deliberately grainy, home-movie-ish footage, and heavy use of Dylan Penn's voice-over narration.

Virtually a catalog of severe family dysfunction, it's a bitterly sad story, but seen strictly in terms of Jennifer's accomplishment, it's a pretty inspirational story, too.

I wondered why Jennifer's beleaguered Mom (Katheryn Winnick) didn't get more sympathy, until her inaction during a crisis about midpoint in the film makes it harder to like her.

Overall, though, *Flag Day* is yet another illustration of the tremendous, and tremendously unfair, emotional advantage that fathers tend to wield in the family dynamic, and in the Western narrative tradition.

The 2016 shocker *Don't Breathe* was, essentially, *Wait Until Dark* in reverse. Three thieves break into the home of a blind person, but this time, they discover that he's an ex-Navy Seal with murderous skills that compensate for his blindness and then some, and that he knows the turf and they don't.

The crooks find themselves fighting for their lives. It was a gruesome but gripping and witty tale, and it was built around a stunning performance, by Stephen Lang as The Blind Man. The veteran Lang has long

seemed to me like a great actor who's never quite had his great role, and with *The Blind Man* he elevated this movie's Grand Guignol corn, as by force of acting will, to an almost Shakespearean level.


For *Don't Breathe 2*, co-written and directed by the Uruguayan Rodo Sayagues (who co-wrote the original), The Blind Man has been made the hero, more or less; this time he's fighting to rescue an adolescent girl, Phoenix (Madelyn Grace), from a cadre of slimy creeps connected to human-organ trafficking.

Although he wreaks gory havoc on the bad guys, his character is softened by comparison to the earlier film. This inevitably results in a shrinking of Lang's power, though he's still unforgettably baleful.

And *Don't Breathe 2*, like the first film, has an outrageous and unsavory plot twist that you aren't likely to see coming. But be forewarned: it's hideously violent, and animals are among the targets.

Despite this, however, the movie does have a notably reverent attitude toward dogs; *The Blind Man* is reluctant to kill a dog even when his life may depend upon it, and the dog doesn't fail to reward his consideration.

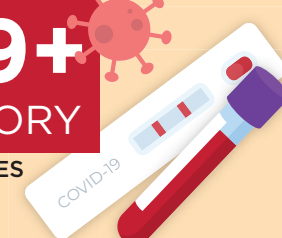
*Flag Day* is rated R and plays at Harkins Camelview at Fashion Square in Scottsdale; *Don't Breathe 2* is rated R and plays at Tempe Marketplace, Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.



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## Wild Horse

From Page 6

site, in turn hoping that distancing would mitigate the spread of the virus as the epidemic appeared to be winding down. The fair was cancelled last year due to COVID-19.

The fair and the expansion to a Las Vegas-style casino reflect big changes at Wild Horse Pass.

This spring, the Phoenix Rising soccer team moved into a new 10,000-seat stadium at the complex.

This fall, an 11-story second hotel tower at Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino is to open, nearly doubling capacity to 447 rooms.

Early this year, a 10-year plan was rolled out that essentially calls for a city to be built across the freeway from West Chandler and South Tempe that would bring a major influx of sports, entertainment and recreation options as well as job opportunities:

- A 3,300-acre mini-city commercial development, headlined by an events center and concert amphitheater, that will be rolled out over a decade. Included in the plan are five more hotels, a theme park, water park, timeshare complex, third

golf course, vastly expanded equestrian center, villas, retail and office space.

- Interstate 10 widening to four lanes plus a High Occupancy Vehicle lane in each direction as part of the Broadway Curve Improvement Project that recently got under way from the Interstate 17 split near downtown Phoenix to Loop 202 at the Wild Horse Pass doorstep.

Planning also has begun to expand the I-10 freeway to three lanes each way south to State Route 387 in Casa Grande, the final 26-mile stretch of two-lane freeway between Phoenix and Tucson, making access to Wild Horse Pass easier from central and southern Arizona.

This comes just over a year after the Loop 202 segment connecting I-10 in west Phoenix to I-10 at Wild Horse Pass opened, making the drive for West Valley residents faster and easier.

- “The new development plan will create exceptional entertainment and lifestyle experiences, new jobs for community members, and will evolve our culture and legacy,” said David White, Wild Horse Pass Development Authority general manager.

- The development will enhance an already vibrant Wild Horse Pass area that includes two

high-end resorts hotels, Aji Spa, Phoenix Premium Outlets mall, Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park and Lake,

- The Radford Racing School—formerly Bondurant High Performance Driving School, Rawhide Western Town & Event Center, Whirlwind Golf Club, Huhugam Heritage Center and KOLI Equestrian Center.

The goal at build-out is to make Wild Horse Pass the premier destination for sports, entertainment and recreation in Arizona, White said.



A new tower opens this fall at Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino that will nearly double capacity to 447 rooms.

— Photo by Lee Shappell for wranglernews.com

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Did you know, the City of Chandler sends items such as city vehicles, unclaimed police evidence, computer, office and building equipment to public auction? You never know what you will find. New items are posted weekly and auctions are open to the public through registration with **publicsurplus.com**. Select the Arizona region and then City of Chandler.



## 100,000+ donations surpass 2020 bottled-water drive total

The hot and humid days of August spell dehydration for many vulnerable populations in Tempe and West Chandler. For the second year in a row, Mary Contreras State Farm Agency helped to alleviate the thirst.

Contreras worked alongside Adrienne Bryant of Bryant Commercial Real Estate last year in a similar effort through Valley of the Sun United Way in collaboration with Women United.

In 2020, Contreras leveraged a \$500 grant offered by State Farm to launch the initial Maricopa County Bottled Water Drive. Within two weeks, the combined efforts of the two business owners amassed 51,000 bottles of water for area nonprofit organizations.

This year, the two women set their sights a little higher and hope to collect a whopping 200,000 bottles.

“Join us during this difficult heat of August, and make the difference with life giving water,” Contreras urged the public in a Facebook post. “We are asking for donations of flats of water at our agency office, 2145 E Warner Rd Suite 101, Tempe.”

Contreras and Bryant are already halfway to their goal with more than 110,000 bottles of water delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution. The drive runs through Aug. 31.

In addition to donating cases of water, financial

donations can also be made to enable the purchase bottled water for the drive. A \$5 donation will provide 40 bottles of water; \$25 provides 200

bottles; \$100 provides 800 bottles; and \$200 provides 1,920.

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## Business profile

# Despite COVID, appearances still count at So. Tempe med spa

By Joyce Coronel

**C**ecilia Brown's three young children were at a point where she found opening her own small business offered both the flexibility and earning potential she desired.

The owner of Sea of Beauty Med Spa, located in the Michael Pollack plaza on the southeast corner of Rural and Elliot, sat down with *Wrangler News* to talk about the relatively new business in town.

This month, Sea of Beauty Med Spa celebrates the two-year anniversary of its establishment.

"I am new to the small business market," Brown said. "I did substitute teaching, but before that, I stayed home with the kids. My background is education, but once I had my oldest, I stayed home and raised them."

Being on the so-called mommy track was "100 percent worth it," Brown said. Her children, Zeke, 12; Clara, 10; and McKenzie, 4 are all in school now, but Brown is still available for Parent Teacher Organization meetings and sports events because of her flexible schedule as a business owner. For now, the kids are attending school virtually due to



the rising COVID numbers in the community.

Brown said she has an autoimmune condition which could bump her into a higher risk category for severe complications from COVID-19.

She opened Sea of Beauty Med Spa in the summer of 2019, a scant five months before news of the COVID-19 pandemic broke, sending shockwaves around the globe.

By March, Brown's fledgling business, like scores of others across Tempe and West Chandler,

was shuttered.

"We opened in August of 2019 and then just plugged along. Everything was wonderful. Got through all of our opening hiccups and challenges and hiring our first set of staff and learning to get everything fine-tuned and put together. And then, here comes COVID on the news," Brown said.

She was able to get a small amount of federal grant money due to the pandemic, but because she'd only been in business a short time, she didn't qualify for more.

"We didn't have the financials in the quarters that they needed to predate the pandemic," Brown said.

By July of 2020, Sea of Beauty Med Spa was open for business again. "It was almost like we never missed a beat," Brown said. "It was great."

There was one small problem, however. "We were open with no staff because everyone stayed on unemployment. So, we had to hire new staff and then train them, still navigating all the COVID requirements and the social distancing."

—SPA, Page 26

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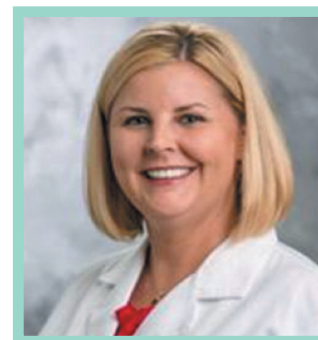
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## Spa

From Page 24

Somehow, they got through it. Brown went back to school to become an aesthetician so that she could give facials. She'd already been trained in using the body-contour machine and in performing laser-hair reduction procedures. Brown is also a certified health coach having received training from the Institute for Integrative Health based in New York.

"I believe in the spa and I believe in the approach we take," Brown said. "I'm not one to give up."

She wants the Tempe and West Chandler community to know that Sea of Beauty Med Spa is a locally owned, woman-owned, small business that caters to all.

And, Brown pointed out, Sea of Beauty Med Spa was recognized by the Better Business Bureau for its innovative approach. The BBB also chose Sea of Beauty Med Spa to participate in its Main Street Initiative. The 10-week business development and growth program was a boost and "helped solidify the direction that we're going," Brown said.

Sea of Beauty Med Spa, 953 E. Elliot Rd. Suite 101 in Tempe, offers a range of services, including HydraFacials, body contouring, laser hair reduction, waxing, organic spray tans and laser photo facials.

"We do everything with a twist. So we do a lot of contouring and we pair that with health coaching," Brown said. The body contouring is aimed at toning, tightening and lifting targeted areas and helps reduce cellulite, she said.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, extra safety precautions are being taken at this time at Sea of Beauty Med Spa. Everyone in the spa wears a mask at all times; handwashing and sanitizing by staff and guests is a must; extra guests are not permitted; high-touch areas are cleaned multiple times per day; and there are no steam during facials at this time.

*Information: seaofbeauty.biz or call 480-444-6829.*



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# Does Auntie Jane want to read about the latest accomplishments of her favorite niece or nephew?

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**WRANGLER NEWS**  
August 7 - 20, 2021 • Vol. 31, No. 15  
Covering Tempe & West Chandler for 30-plus years

**COOL WAY to beat the heat . . . & help fellow veterans combat the worrisome surge of service-related suicides.** More starting on Pg. 18

**660,000 online visits to Wrangler News.**  
Join the crowd at [WranglerNews.com](http://WranglerNews.com) • Details on Page 18.

**Advocating learning:** Tempe woman named "First Things First Champion for Young Children." Page 30

**Birthday bash:** Tempe is turning 150 and Wrangler News is asking readers and residents to help tell the story. Page 8

Here's a partial list of the public places and community-minded merchants and where you can pick up a current issue. If it's a Tempe or West Chandler business, take a moment to look around, say hello and tell them thanks for being part of our efforts to bring neighbors — and neighborhoods — closer together. Thanks! **CALL 480-966-0845, option 1.**

*for a full, updated listing*

Wrangler News office, 2145 E Warner Road (Across from GoDaddy). 24-hour outside rack.

Kyrene School District, lobby, Kyrene & Warner, Tempe

Crackers, homestyle breakfast & lunch, outside rack, 1285 W. Elliot Road, Tempe

Tempe Union HS District, lobby, Guadalupe east of Kyrene

Tempe City Hall, lobby, downtown Tempe

Mill Avenue rack, east side, just north of former vRula Bula, Tempe

Tempe Elementary School District, Rural north of Southern, Lobby

Tempe Public Library, Connections Cafe, Rural south of Southern, Tempe

Pier 54/The Lakes, On the Water, 5394 S. Lakeshore Drive, Tempe

Marcos de Niza HS, Main Office, Guadalupe & Lakeshore

Tempe Smile Design, periodical rack, reception area, Guadalupe & McClintock next to Rubio's

Steves Espresso, French press coffee & more, periodical rack inside, 1801 E. Baseline at McClintock, east side

Freeway Chevrolet, Always friendly, always great deals, Customer Lounge, 1150 N. 54th St., Chandler

Casa de Juana, The best Mexican cuisine around, on decorated bench, lobby, 1805 E. Elliot, Pollack Tempe Cinema complex

Dairy Queen, top of rack, Home of the famous Blizzard,

left of entry, Rural & Elliot, northwest corner

Sunset Library, 4930 W. Ray, Rural & Ray, Chandler

Arizona Central Credit Union, rack at front entrance, 1805 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler

Chandler City Hall, lobby, 175 S. Arizona Ave.

Chandler Chamber of Commerce, 2nd Floor, 25 S. Arizona Pl., Chandler

Corona del Sol HS, Main Office, 1001 E. Knox Road, Tempe

Arizona Community Church, All are welcome, receptionist, 9325 S. Rural Road at Knox

Great Harvest Bread, Like mom used to make, inside rack, Warner & McClintock, southeast corner

## A note to our neighborhood businesses . . .

Would you like to add your location to the places where people can conveniently pick up extra copies of Wrangler News? We provide small, countertop-sized racks for easy placement anywhere that works best for you. It's a way to show your support for the community AND bring in visitors who may not have been there before. Just email [editor@wranglernews.com](mailto:editor@wranglernews.com) and we'll add you to our dropoff schedule AND to our newspaper listing in every issue. Just one more way to get your business in the eyes of even more people and show your support for our hometown paper.

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Wrangler News Classifieds • 30 words / 2 issues / \$20 • Get details & place your ad at [wranglernews.com](http://wranglernews.com)

## Help Wanted

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**DON'T WAIT. VACCINATE.** *Tempe urges anyone eligible who has not yet been vaccinated to get the COVID-19 vaccine. It is the best protection available today against the virus. Finding a location to get the free vaccine is easier than ever. Text your zip code to 438829 for the closest locations or call 800-232-0233. Free rides and childcare are available.*

## Drop off expired, unused medications anonymously



Tempe Police are partnering again with the Arizona Drug Enforcement Administration and law enforcement agencies across the state for a drug “take back” event.

Anyone can anonymously dispose of unused or expired medications on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tempe Police South Substation, 8201 S. Hardy Drive.

Bring your unused/expired prescription and over-the-counter medications in original containers. Medications will be placed into boxes provided by DEA and Tempe

Police. Law Enforcement personnel will seal and deliver the disposed medications for proper destruction. Glass, syringes, injectables or sharps cannot be accepted. Labels are not necessary to remove.

Tempe Police and the DEA are working to stop prescription drug abuse, addiction, theft and re-sale trafficking.

Many abused prescription drugs are obtained from the home medicine cabinet.

In addition, flushing medications is a health hazard that adversely impacts our water supply and the environment. Our goal is to impact accidental poisonings, overdoses and deaths due to the inappropriate use of prescription drugs.

Two secure medication disposal kiosks are available for community members year-round during business hours at the Apache Police Substation, 1855 E. Apache Blvd., and downtown Police Headquarters, 120 E. Fifth St.

For more information, contact Molly\_Enright@tempe.gov or 480-858-6148.

## Transit service changes coming in October

Last spring, Tempe held public meetings and collected feedback on proposed transit service changes. These changes will start Oct. 25:

- *System-wide hours of operation:* Tempe bus routes will run from approximately 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

- *Orbit Mercury:* route frequency will change to 15 minutes during weekday daytime hours.

- *Route 62:* route will be modified to travel along Hardy Drive, south of Guadalupe Road. Riders needing Guadalupe Road can use Orbit Saturn

as an alternative.

- *Route 65:* route will be eliminated due to duplicative service. Riders can use Route 62 or 66 as alternatives.

- *Route 66:* route frequency will be enhanced to every 30 minutes daily, with additional trips between Elliot Road and Downtown Tempe to provide 15-minute frequency during weekday peak.

- *Orbit Saturn:* route will be modified to optimize service on Guadalupe Road.

Visit [valleymetro.org](http://valleymetro.org) for details.

### Connect with a college advisor for free

College Connect returns with free, one-on-one guidance for students and parents to explore the resources they need for college and post-secondary education.

Topics include applying for college, paying for college, available scholarships, career choice, picking the right high school classes and more. For a full calendar and to schedule a one-on-one appointment, visit [tempe.gov/CollegeConnect](http://tempe.gov/CollegeConnect).

## Tempe honors 20th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

Tempe will honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks with a display of patriotism and unity at the annual Healing Field tribute at

Tempe Beach Park, located at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway.

The free event runs Friday, Sept. 10, through Sunday,

Sept. 12, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Sept. 11, there will be a memorial ceremony at 5:46 a.m.

Healing Field is presented

by the Exchange Club of Tempe.

For more information, visit [www.tempehealingfield.org](http://www.tempehealingfield.org).

## Tempe connects families with back-to-school resources

Vaccines and masks will help ensure a healthy school year

**N**o one is more excited when school begins each year than parents. But a close second is your very own City of Tempe!



We work hard to ensure that families have information and resources to make students at every level as successful as possible. Once again, we have compiled the latest details and connections at [tempe.gov/BacktoSchool](http://tempe.gov/BacktoSchool). Check it out and find information like:

**Research help** – The Tempe Public Library has searchable databases, digital downloads and expert help so you can rock that research paper.

**Traffic safety** – We care about teaching pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists safe, proper ways to get around town.

**Before- and after-school care** – Tempe's Kid Zone Enrichment Program provides great places to

learn, relax and have fun during off-school hours.

**Free transit passes** – Any Tempe student can get a free pass each year to ride light rail and buses at no cost to them. They are available at the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth St., and at Tempe, Compadre, Marcos de Niza and McClintock high schools.

**College planning** – Tempe's own College Connect program walks parents and students step-by-step through processes like applications and financial aid.

For the second year in a row, students and educators will be returning to schools in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

And, while we thought we were close to the end earlier this year, this stubborn virus is sticking around awhile longer. As of Aug. 11, about 57% of eligible Tempe residents had received at least one shot of the COVID-19 vaccine. Our community needs that statistic to be much higher – we need many more Tempe residents to be vaccinated. Find out more about upcoming opportunities at [tempe.gov/coronavirus](http://tempe.gov/coronavirus).

Please join me in continuing to take precautions and care for your health and others' by getting

*Commentary by Jennifer Adams*

vaccinated if you are eligible, wearing a mask, washing your hands, keeping your distance and avoiding crowds. If we all chip in and do our part, we will have the best chance at a healthy, happy school year for all.

The schools in Tempe, whether districts, charters or private, are known for being strong in instruction, innovation and shaping young lives. As we begin a new year of learning, your city wants to play a valued supporting role in these educational opportunities.

Please connect with me at any point with your ideas and feedback about how we can do that even better with each passing year. I can be reached at [jennifer\\_adams@tempe.gov](mailto:jennifer_adams@tempe.gov) or 480-350-8835. You can also find me on Facebook at JenniferAdamsTempe.

Please join me at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, for my next Join Jennifer gathering. We will be focusing on topics of interest in the 85284 zip code, but everyone is invited to join. Check [tempe.gov/adams](http://tempe.gov/adams) for the details as it gets closer.

*Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council.*

# LA CASA DE JUANA



**DELIVERS A KNOCKOUT WITH ITS FRESH AUTHENTIC AND MOUTHWATERING FOOD**

If you think you have been to a Mexican restaurant lately you probably need to reconsider and visit La Casa de Juana.

The fare is authentic Mexican, and when we say authentic, we mean it! Upon entering, you'll be dazzled by the colorful décor, beautiful tables and chairs, Mexican painted murals, colorful banners hanging from the ceiling and beautiful art.

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](http://juanashouse.com)

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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.

**Please call our cell or text us for a quick response at 480-797-2892**

*Scott & Patti*

Scott and Patti Agnew



Michael Scott Patti Scotty

## Sell Your Home for a Record Price in 2021!

*"The Agnew Team is amazing to work with! Professional and knowledgeable. Great communication and always available. They made the entire process effortless for me. Coordinated photos, listing and showings quickly and at my convenience. I loved the enthusiasm and energy Patti and Scotty brought to the sale. They both are well connected in the area and brought many potential buyers to see my property immediately in under 48 hours!"*

--Sam C.

*"Scotty is very kind and caring person and his service was exactly who he is. He always communicated and responded right away. I felt like he was treating us as one of his family members. Thank you, Scotty, for selling our home successfully!"*

--Tomomi T.

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