



As Julius Rhodes elevates, he lifts the fortunes of the Marcos de Niza boys basketball team with him. PAGE 24



Kate Hanley and former Tempe Mayor Harry Mitchell get a lift from Tempe Transit Manager Eric Iwerson. PAGE 3



Hover with your cellphone camera and click the prompt to see these stories & others at our Wrangler News website

Heartwarming stories for the holidays

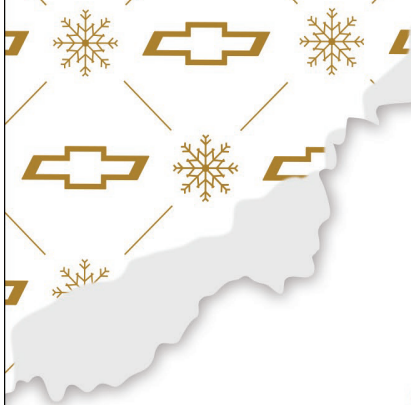
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In our final edition of 2021, we bring you stories on Pages 8 through 19 about generous people sharing their time, effort and joy to help others. Wrangler News returns with its first issue of 2022 on Jan. 8. Until then, visit WranglerNews.com for all the latest local news.

Wrangler News file photo by Billy Hardiman

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Cycling Without Age provides a lift to those who are otherwise unable to enjoy a bicycle jaunt to their favorite Tempe spots, courtesy new electric-assisted pedicabs.

—Tempe photo

New pedicab concept promotes a breath of fresh air — for all

By Cliff Summerhill
Special for Wrangler News

Everyone deserves to feel wind in their hair, backers Tempe's newest bike program say.

Cycling Without Age provides those who are otherwise unable to enjoy the benefits of bicycle riding a jaunt to their favorite Tempe spots via new electric-assisted pedicab rides. The program is aimed toward older adults, those with poor physical and/or mental health, and anyone else who may be unable to enjoy a typical bike ride without assistance.

"Cycling Without Age is based on generosity and kindness," Erin Boyd, co-founder of Cycling Without Age, said. "It starts with the obvious generous act of taking elderly or less-abled people out on a bike ride. In this past year, older

adults have felt more socially isolated than ever, which is a major risk factor for poor physical and mental health. The goal of the program is to build intergenerational relationships and connections for individual and community wellbeing."

Cycling Without Age is partnered with the Tempe Community Action Agency and Escalante Community Center, working in conjunction with their already established senior programs.

"Tempe has a great community-minded biking community as well as a growing number of older adults that are living alone and vulnerable to isolation," Laura Kajfez, co-founder of Cycling Without Age, said. "Putting the two together seemed like a no-brainer."

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the

— PEDICABS, Page 21

Candidates certified for Tempe Council primary

Seven Tempe City Council candidates will be on the March 8, 2022, election ballot for three open seats after they were certified by City Clerk Carla Reece.

The candidates who met the Nov. 8 filing deadline are incumbent Jennifer Adams, Arlene Chin, Casey Clowes, Berdetta Hodge, Gina Kash, Harper Lines and John Skelton.

Winners will be sworn in to four-year terms in July 2022.

Adams is the only member among three whose terms are expiring who is seeking re-election. Lauren Kuby announced that she will instead run for a seat on the Arizona Corporation Commission. Robin Arredondo-Savage chose to

step down from the council when her term is up.

Prospective candidates were required to submit nomination paperwork and petitions containing 1,000 to 2,752 valid signatures from registered Tempe voters. Nomination petitions and paperwork are subject to legal challenge.

According to the Tempe City Charter, Section 7.01, the Primary Election is held to nominate or elect candidates. The General Election, if needed, would be May 17.

Voters must be registered by Feb. 7 to vote in the March 8 primary. Ballots will be mailed starting Feb. 9.

Register to vote through the Maricopa County Elections Department at maricopa.vote or at 602-506-1511.

More information about the election: tempe.gov/election. Voters also can call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311 or email clerk@tempe.gov.

Survey examines city's diversity, inclusion

In the wake of Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke and City Council issuing a June 2020 Unity proclamation, which tasked the city's Human Relations Commission with engaging with the community and to make recommendations that benefit quality of life, economic opportunity and relationships, the city has begun its assessment.

The diversity, equity and inclusion assessment will use Sacramento-based CPS HR Consulting to coordinate the effort with the city.

The project will take approximately six months, pending participants' availability and ensuring the that consultants hear from all interested parties.

The assessment consists of four key tasks:

- Meet one-on-one with the mayor and Council.
- Conduct a community focus

group with key stakeholders and residents.

- Engage city staff to complete a diversity, equity and inclusion survey and conduct employee focus groups.

- Work with City Council members and City Manager's Office to build a DEI policy framework and finalize a statement.

The focus group will consist of 20-25 community members. Selected participants will be notified in early January 2022, and the initial focus group meeting will occur a few weeks later.

Public comment on diversity will be accepted throughout the process online at chandleraz.gov/DEIPublicComment. The purpose of the assessment is to engage all of the city's diverse voices to provide input that will be used to develop a roadmap for future programs.

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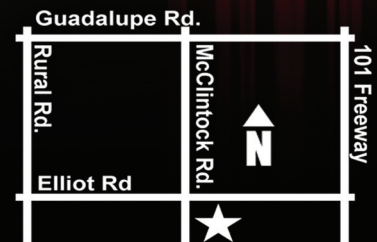
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At ASU, 'Happy Lab' is not a contented dog but a route to sustainability

By Sally Mesarosh
Special for Wrangler News

Arizona State professor Scott Cloutier has a vision: By creating healthy, happy and sustainable neighborhoods in South Tempe and across the Valley through the university's Happy Neighborhoods Project, the model could empower communities all over the U.S. and internationally.

"We are fundamentally addressing some of the ways humans pursue hap-

piness that directly diminish natural ecosystems," Cloutier said. "We specifically do so by working to regenerate land, human communities and more-than-human communities."

Cloutier, a Tempe resident, directs the Sustainability and Happiness Research Lab – the "Happy Lab" – in ASU's School of Sustainability, which combines knowledge, methods and practice from several ways fields of research in order to develop strategies for moving toward a sustainable and happy future.

Because sustainability and happiness can share many of the same values and goals, improving one may also better the other, he believes.

According to the Happy Lab website, although factors that contribute to happiness differ among individuals, places and cultures, people tend to experience happiness in similar ways. Happiness often is influenced by family and social connection, economic success, educa-

The Sustainability and Happiness Research Lab – the "Happy Lab" – at Arizona State University combines knowledge and practice from various fields of research to develop strategies for a sustainable and happy future. — Arizona State University photo

— HAPPY LAB, Page 6

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Happy Lab

From Page 5

tion, freedom of choice, stable governmental, health and standard of living.

In recognizing how happiness corresponds to one's environment and ability to meet one's needs, we can also use happiness as a metric for sustainability. Like sustainability, happiness can be enhanced through initiatives that contribute to individual, community and global well-being without negatively impacting people, the environment or future generations.

The connection between sustainability and happiness, according to the Happy Lab website, becomes even more apparent when we consider the economic, environmental and social challenges humans face today. Population growth, pollution, environmental degradation and an ever-increasing demand for resources have resulted in a need for changes in the way we live, work and grow.

Happiness is a potential tool for transformation.

At ASU, project members work alongside residents to create edible landscaping. They also do home-improvement projects customized to the vision of each resident. They paint mailboxes, support individual households, design and install gardens, and revitalize school gardens and related community projects.

Although some of the efforts were put on hold because of COVID-19, Cloutier said the Happy Lab has had hundreds of students involved with projects all over the Valley and abroad.

"We have also served dozens of individuals, households, organizations and institutions," he said. "Post-COVID-19, we are just getting back to serving communities and are now focusing on collaborating with organizations addressing food insecurity and those integrating land-based practices."

ASU student Kate Hartland said working on place-based projects that focus on happiness and connectivity has been incredibly impactful to her, both in

her sustainability journey and her personal life.

"This semester, I had the opportunity to create a project that focused on reducing stress, fostering connection and community, and encouraging place-making for SOS students," said Hartland, who expects to graduate in May 2022. "Doing this work allowed me to conceive of how to support others in their journey, and it also allowed for my own growth, as well."

Hartland said she also learned that sustainability is about so much more than she originally thought when she started her masters program.

"I have realized that in order to fix the world's problems, or take advantage of sustainability opportunities, we must address the challenges we each face within," she said.

What inspired Cloutier to create the Happy Lab?

"The need for a space to explore our relationship with happiness and how it translates to (un)sustainability," he said. "More, a place that can be driven by the purpose of promoting happiness and sustainability in service to the communities near our university."

Cloutier said that Happy Lab projects fundamentally address some of the ways humans pursue happiness that directly diminish natural ecosystems.

Cloutier is confident the Happy Lab and its members will continue to make strides. He continually seeks ways to promote pathways toward sustainability that will enhance overall happiness outcomes.

"The lab is a catalyst for researching methods for and outcomes from integrating and bringing together those beings interested in service-based learning, sustainability and happiness," he said. "Serving communities and holding space for remembering ways of knowing that more deeply align us to our place in collaboration with nature is what it's all about."

Information on becoming involved in Happy Lab projects: email Scott.Cloutier@asu.edu or sign up for the Happy Lab newsletter athappylabasu.com.

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

1 in 4 adult Americans over the age of 40 could develop an irregular heartbeat.

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Heartwarming stories for the Holidays

Corona del Sol students share the Spirit of Giving

Story by Janie Magruder with photo by Pablo Robles



Kabiswa, 7, a second-grader, is overjoyed with his Christmas gift presented by members of the Corona del Sol High Student Council and National Honor Society.

Craving a steaming mug of holiday cheer? Take one large high school in a nice part of Tempe. Add 100 compassionate students and a handful of dedicated teachers. Fold in hours of planning and action. Mix until everything is purchased and wrapped and giving hearts overflow with joy.

Serves 185 disadvantaged children whose week, whose December, perhaps whose 2021, have just been made.

“Screaming and glee,” said Sean Hannafin, principal at David Crockett Elementary in Phoenix, describing the scene at his school Dec. 10

when the Corona del Sol High Student Council and Honor Society visited for a day.

“If you can imagine Santa’s workshop, it’s that kind of feeling.”

Corona for years has had a Holiday Buddies program with Crockett, an inner-city Phoenix

school attended primarily by homeless and refugee children, 100 percent of whom qualify for the federal government's free and reduced-price meals. In past years, Student Council has organized drives to collect enough toys for Crockett's second-graders. Other area high schools also participate so that every child in K-3 has at least one gift to open.

After COVID-19 spoiled last December's drive, meaning this year's third-graders received no gifts in 2020 from Corona's jolly elves, its sophomore class council this fall came up with a solution, said Student Council advisor and teacher Benjamin Forbes.

"They asked if we could collect toys for second- and third-graders, twice our normal load, so that's what we did," Forbes said.

The students bussed over to Crockett with 185 wrapped gifts — from art sets, books and Hot Wheels to Legos, Slime and Uno cards. They helped the children open, learn about and play with their gifts, make crafts, decorate cookies, enjoy pizza and chase around the playground.

"Kids who come from a not-so-great part of town got an older brother or sister and had a day they could boss them around," Forbes said. "The look on their faces is fantastic."

It works both ways.

"This fills our students' cup in the sense that there's something incredibly human about doing something incredibly generous for someone in need," he said.

Hannafin agreed, saying, "For older students, this flattens out the world a bit for them. They see things on TV and on the Internet, and it's all so accessible. Coming in behind our gates, and seeing that you can make an impact, is a big gift."

Corona del Sol senior-class president Ashlinn Aguayo, 17, has done Holiday Buddies three times. As a freshman, she learned that many of Crockett kids wouldn't otherwise receive many, if any, gifts, much less "have a grand Christmas" as most Corona del Sol students do.

"It's a mindset change, seeing how blessed I am," Aguayo said. "That special joy in giving a child a gift and getting to spend all day with her. It was very humbling."

She became more involved as a sophomore, helping to plan and promote the event. Aguayo considers it Student Council's finest hour — better than homecoming, prom and the Thanksgiving canned-food drive.

"This event is bigger than us, because we are able to spread joy into these young children who face so

many hardships," she said.

Aguayo spent the day with her second-grade buddies, Aaliyah and Naima, bringing dolls and hair bows, Poppet toys and Play-Doh.

"They were so happy with the presents, their faces lit up and they gave me hugs," Aguayo said. "They said they had 'waited their whole life for a baby doll like this.'"

When it was time to leave, everyone was sad. "They both said they wished I could stay forever and that this was the best day ever of school," she said.

Cheer extends to 4-legged buddies

Corona students also demonstrated altruism with a drive for pet supplies, toys and treats to benefit Four Paws and Friends (fourpawsandfriends.org), founded by Lorena Bader, a former Corona science teacher. The drive was led by English teacher Jen Bart specifically to benefit "e-listed" dogs in Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's shelters — those marked for euthanasia.

"A lot of them are seniors, many are pit bulls or mixes, many have been in the shelters for a long time, and they are deteriorating in their kennels," Bart said.

— STUDENTS, Page 10

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Students

From Page 9

"These gifts are for the long-timers that no one wants."

Bart enlisted the help of National Honor Society students to create 150 tags with photos of the most at-risk dogs and place them on a tree in the school's front office. The tags had QR codes linking to an Amazon wish list, and the collected gifts were delivered to Four Paws and Friends.

"Being involved in something like this helps children develop empathy and compassion," Bart said. "Kids today are absolutely more empathetic and tolerant, much less judgmental and more compassionate to others. You just need to educate them and introduce them to things they haven't seen before."

Animal lover Paige Davies-Boerner, a Corona del Sol sophomore, jumped to be involved in Bart's drive. As part of the school's [cdstv] video magazine, she create a video for the school's morning broadcast and purchased items for a dog.

"It's a real bummer that there's an e-list where selected animals have to be put down," Davies-Boerner said. "Instead, we should assess the situation and understand the cause of overpopulation so we can problem solve."

According to Pew Research Center, members of Gen Z — those born between 1997 and 2012 — are sometimes referred to as the "loneliest generation." These so-called digital natives, especially those spending endless hours online, often suffer isolation and depression.

But being involved in a good cause, cultivating relationships with others outside your day-to-day circles, and thinking about someone else, can help.

"In a society where we tend to focus on ourselves, giving time to someone else really changes your perspective, and allows you to focus on ideals like love and joy, rather than on what you can gain socially or materialistically," Aguayo said.

On that recent day at Crockett, where pupils come from many places and speak many languages, students from Tempe and Phoenix, old and young, had little difficulty communicating. They exchanged fewer words, more smiles and hugs.

It was good for the soul, Forbes said.

"Those in Student Council are spirited, and they're expected to be good leaders for the school," Forbes said. "But to have them go outside their comfort zone, just to make a kid happy, is a better lesson than I could ever teach."



Top photo: Corona del Sol senior-class president Ashlinn Aguayo, 17, enjoys her second-grade Holiday Buddies Aaliyah and Naima. Above: National Honor Society students at Corona load pet supplies, toys and treats from their drive for Four Paws and Friends.

— Holiday stories continue on Page 12



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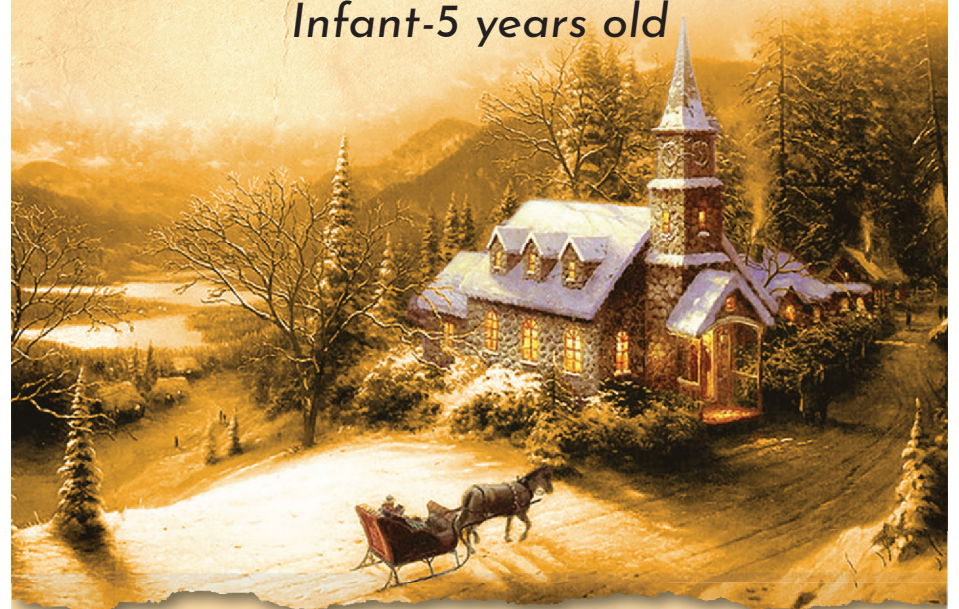
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Cookies 'n' Cocoa: Rover school Christmas party built on teacher's faith, memories

Story by Meghann Sepulveda with photo from Cierra Chamot

It was an instant connection for Cierra Chamot when she met her friend Heather at church several years ago. Heather had recently moved to Arizona from Illinois to pursue her teaching career.

The two young women shared a love of country dancing, adventuring and Bible study. But on Oct. 5, 2019, Heather tragically died in a car accident just two days shy of her 26th birthday.

After losing her best friend, Chamot was overcome with grief. Still, with Christmas approaching, she felt compelled to celebrate their favorite holiday and honor Heather's memory by giving back to students in need.

"We both loved Christmas," Chamot said. "Although losing her was one of the hardest things I've ever experienced, I didn't want to go through the holiday season feeling sad."

That year, Chamot hosted a Christmas-theme book drive at her home to benefit the school where Heather had taught.

"She was an extremely dedicated and passionate teacher," Chamot said. "Her students were so important to her."

Chamot's family and friends, rallied from near and far to support her effort. She received more than 1,000 books.

"It was incredible," she said. "After that event, I was inspired to organize a larger school-supply drive to better meet the needs of the students the following year. We were able to collect and donate enough school supplies for all 860 students."

This year, Chamot organized a community event – Cookies 'n' Cocoa – on

Friday, Dec. 10, at Rover Elementary, a Title 1 school in the Tempe Elementary School District. She spent months planning every detail, from Santa's workshop and an interactive winter wonderland, to raffle prizes, music and food.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to bring people together, which has been difficult to do because of the pandemic," said Edward Goldstein, principal of Rover Elementary.

The event, which drew hundreds of people, was free for the community.

"Cierra is so selfless to do this out of the goodness of her heart," Goldstein said. "We are beyond grateful and privileged to have been part of it."

Goldstein says there is a need for school supplies throughout the year for families who cannot afford to purchase them on their own. In addition, monetary donations provide food and gifts, especially during the holidays.

Guided by her faith, Chamot says giving back has helped her find greater meaning in life.

"Sometimes it can be hard to see the good, but I've found that it can come from tragedy," she said. "Honoring Heather's life by giving back to the community and offering hope to others is what inspires me."

Chamot plans to continue this annual tradition and looks forward to one day establishing an event in Heather's home state of Illinois.

"I want to continue to make an impact," she said.

If you would like to contribute to Chamot's efforts to raise funds for students in need, visit the GoFundMe account: <https://gofund.me/2717b9e7>.



Cierra Chamot (left) organized a community event – Cookies 'n' Cocoa – on Dec. 10, at Tempe Elementary's Rover Elementary, a Title 1 school, to celebrate the life of her late friend, Heather Began.

– Photo courtesy of Cierra Chamot

So. Tempe man makes a positive impact through his work with Fiesta Bowl

Story by Alison Bailin Batz

Call it a neighborhood kid's holiday gift to his community. Corona del Sol High School alum Brett Miller grew up in South Tempe

dreaming of the day he would join the Fiesta Bowl, which has grown into one of the Valley's endearing institutions with its football game, parade and year-round charitable work.

"This may sound odd, but I began volunteering for the bowl when I was about 6 – well, however much a little kid can help," said Miller, now 34 and a Fiesta Bowl Yellow Jacket Committee member.

Miller fondly remembers as a kid running around the Fiesta Bowl Parade with his brother, 3 1/2 years his senior, and then trying to help all of the grown-ups who worked the game later in the day.

"Both my brother, Chad, and I knew from that moment we wanted to make a positive impact on the community," Miller said.

Of course, they would need to learn how to read and master multiplication tables first.

The Miller brothers had a trailblazing mentor, Sherry Henry, a family friend and the first female head of the Fiesta Bowl, and the first woman to head any college football bowl organization of any kind.

"The Fiesta Bowl also opened my eyes to sports from a young age. Chad, too," Miller said.

Miller and his brother played every team and individual sport while growing up. Chad settled on baseball and football, Brett on basketball.

Miller would play basketball for Corona all four years in high school before being recruited to several smaller col-

leges, where he played for two seasons.

"I knew I wanted to transition to ASU, so I had to make a very hard decision and end my formal playing career at about 20, but it was the best thing I ever did," said Miller.

He earned his bachelor's degree in 2010 and, at 23, joined the Fiesta Bowl as the youngest active Yellow Jacket in the history of the organization.

"Unfortunately, I had to go inactive for a spell as I built my business," said Miller, who rejoined as a full active member in 2015, just in time to see Chad complete his service and earn life-member status.

Miller partnered with his father and brother on a business venture, Legacy Sports USA, the brain trust behind Bell Bank Park, a privately owned, 320-acre multi-use family sports and entertainment complex set to open in the Southeast Valley in January 2022. Bell Bank Park will feature a multi-purpose arena and outdoor amphitheater. The project is expected to create more than 1,500 jobs and generate millions of dollars in direct economic impact to the community, with an expected 3 million visitors annually.

Miller also married the love of his life, Jennifer, in 2018 and began a family with the birth of their daughter last year.

It is the spirit of giving to the community that feeds him, though, Miller said, and that drew him back to donning one of those yellow jackets.

The past six years since rejoining the Fiesta Bowl, Miller often has been plucked to serve as liaison for one of the teams in the bowl game, which on Jan. 1 will pit Notre Dame against Oklahoma State.

There's more to it.

"Outside of the game and its economic and cultural impact, which is immense, not everyone realizes our direct community impact," Miller said.

That reach is due in large part to the



Brett Miller

influence of his mentor, Henry.

"Sherry Henry is not only a dear family friend but a second mother to me," Miller said.

Henry got involved with the Fiesta Bowl Parade in 1973, the bowl's third year, handling just about every detail – down to painting the horses' hooves silver and buying doughnuts for the volunteers. She wrote scripts for the parade's television hosts, and later acted as a spotter after the broadcast was syndicated and the hosts began writing their own scripts.

By the early 1980s, she had joined the Yellow Jacket Committee and was invited to join the Board, becoming its first female member and eventually serving on the Executive Committee before becoming board chair.

In 1994, after years of service on the Fiesta Bowl Yellow Jacket Committee, Henry became the first female head of the Fiesta Bowl.

"Some media wanted to make an issue of her gender, but Sherry wouldn't allow it," Miller said.

Henry was known for getting things done and that spirit still defines the organization, according to Miller, who said that during the past year alone, the Fiesta Bowl:

- Donated 50,000-plus pieces of personal protective equipment.

- Presented more than \$1 million to Arizona teachers via Desert Financial Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers.

- Provided nearly 3.75 million meals to those in need.

- Supported more than 688,000 youth through grant programs.

- Personally touched nearly 50 local nonprofits via time and financial contributions.

"For about six years now, we've also been active with our Fiesta Bowl Playground Builds Program," Miller said.

"Through it, the bowl builds two playgrounds a year, with a goal of providing a safe space for kids throughout the entire state of Arizona."

— Holiday stories continue on Page 19

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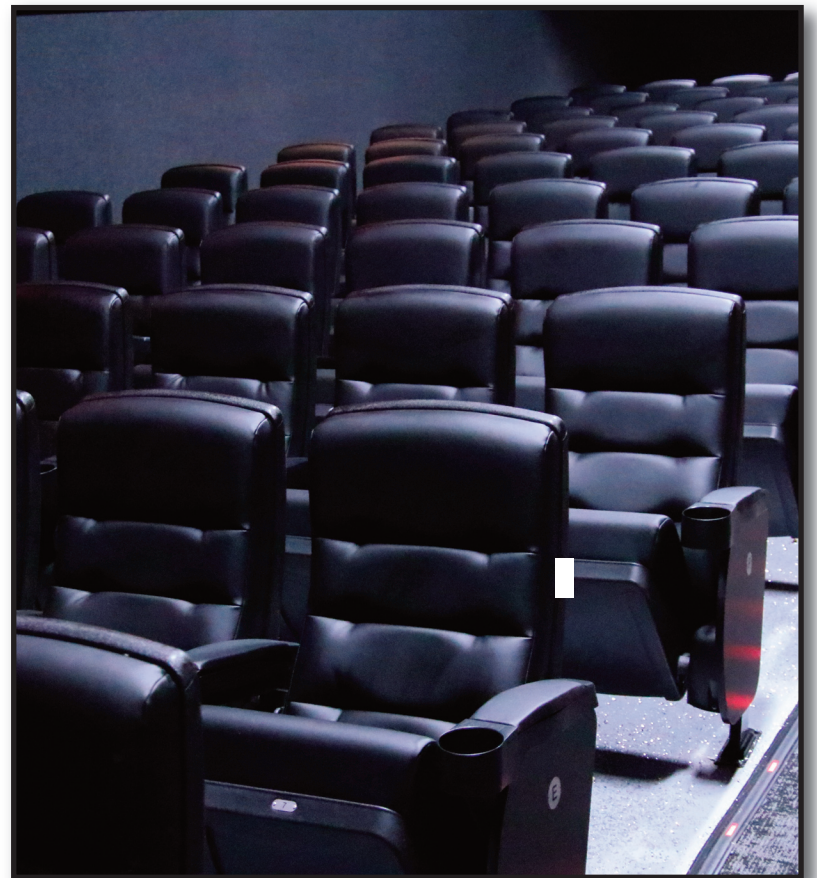
Pollack Cinemas reopen to large, enthusiastic crowds

Valley real estate entrepreneur Michael Pollack reopened his Pollack Tempe Cinemas Dec. 10 after more than a year and a half in shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the hiatus, Pollack (top photo, third from left) did a million-dollar renovation to create an “out-of-this-world” experience at the theaters, 1825 E. Elliot Road at the corner of McClintock Drive.

Renovations include upgrades to the snack bar, all six theaters, lobby area and the building’s exterior. In the theaters, customers get larger, reclining, leather-like seats. Pollack continues to offer movie-goers \$3.50 admission for every show.

Photos by Andrew Lwowski for Wrangler News



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Cardinals, State Farm team to provide 8,000 holiday meals to TUHSD families

Story and photos by Executive Editor Lee Shappell

Life can deal people unexpected downturns. And it does it without regard for the time of year. Although there is no particularly great time to be down on your luck, the holidays are a particularly bad time.

While people, for whatever reason, are suffering, big corporations often appear to go chugging along, seemingly soul-less and oblivious, on their fast tracks.

Two notable Tempe exceptions, however — the Arizona Cardinals and insurance giant State Farm — took stock of the community this month and then took action to lend a hand to families in need for the holidays.

The Cardinals, whose training facility is at Warner and Hardy in South Tempe, and State Farm, with a sprawling corporate hub on the southern shore of Tempe Town Lake, teamed on a recent Saturday morning to provide 8,000 meals to 500 families in the Tempe Union High School District community for the holiday season.

“It’s just in the spirit of giving,” said Sonya Robinson, State Farm area vice president. “Most important, we’re helping people recover from the unexpected in their time of need. We know that this year, particularly, because of COVID we find opportunity to connect with people who have needs.”

Food was distributed during a contactless drive-through at TUHSD’s Compadre Academy in South Tempe.

“To see the children in the cars as they come through, you feel so warm knowing that we’re doing something to help people feel a little bit better for a couple of days through the holiday sea-

son,” Robinson said.

Volunteers from the Cardinals, Valley NFL alumni and various departments from State Farm and their children turned out to load food boxes and milk containers into recipients’ vehicles.

Dr. Ray Perkins, vice principal at Tolleson High School and an adjunct professor at Grand Canyon University, has been in education for 33 years since his playing days with the Dallas Cowboys. Among his duties is being a role model for students and coaches. He was among those volunteering onsite.

“Our NFL alumni do a lot of charity functions in the community. This is the season to give back,” Perkins said. “If you want to serve other people, this is an opportunity to serve other people by making sure we feed families in need.

“You know, with COVID creating a financial need along with associated mental-health issues, our community is hurting. We want to make sure we’re serving and no one this holiday season is hurting. We try to do our little part.”

Lord Byran DeGraffenreid, a former Kansas City Chiefs player, who lives in suburban Detroit, was visiting his brother, Allen DeGraffenreid, a former Cardinals lineman. The DeGraffenreid brothers and Allen’s children turned out to help load food into vehicles.

“We’re just trying our best to provide a service to those who need a helping hand at this particular time,” Lord Byran DeGraffenreid said.

The meals were prepared by Craft Culinary Concepts at State Farm Sta-

— CARDINALS, Page 20



The Arizona Cardinals and State Farm donated food and milk to needy families in the Tempe Union High School District at Compadre Academy. Clockwise from top: Former Cardinals lineman Allen DeGraffenreid and sons await the next cars in line; Dr. Ray Perkins loads milk and a volunteer works the service line.



Cardinals

From Page 19

"It's all about giving back and service. That's what we try to preach to our kids, not just by telling them, but showing them by example."

The meals were prepared by Craft Culinary Concepts at State Farm Stadium in Glendale and transported in a semi-trailer to Tempe.

Among the dinners, according to Denise Dewald of Culinary Concepts, were fajitas with rice and beans,

barbecue chicken with potatoes and carrots, cheese ravioli with meat balls, broccoli and Brussel sprouts. Orange slices, watermelon, bread sticks, dinners rolls, cornbread and tortillas also were included.

"They're all microwaveable in microwaveable containers," Dewald said.

"We're just hoping to lighten their load so they don't have to cook dinner, which will help them do other things. We're very excited to help."

Food was distributed to 130 Marcos de Niza High School families, 122 from Tempe High, 120 from McClintock H.S., 56 from Mountain Pointe, 29 from Corona del Sol and 27 from Desert Vista.

Dave Huffine, Tempe Union director of athletics and activities, said the Cardinals, in conjunction with State Farm, reached out to the school district to identify 500 families that are in need this holiday season. CARE 7 specialists and members of the school district's intervention teams at each school site assisted in identifying students.

"We couldn't be more happy to accommodate them because we've got families that are really going to benefit," Huffine said.

"These families are able to take this home and have probably a week's worth of food.

"This couldn't come at a better time, either."



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Chandler's Orlando to head U.S. cities panel

Chandler City Councilmember Matt Orlando has been appointed chair of the National League of Cities Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Federal Advocacy Committee.

Orlando was elected to a one-year term on the panel and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC's agenda and policy priorities. This is his fourth term on this committee. The appointment was announced by NLC President Mayor Vince Williams of Union City, Georgia.

"Maintaining strong and balanced financial policies, ensuring equal opportunity for residents and strategically leveraging intergovernmental relations

to better meet community needs has been at the forefront of my 18 years of service to the City of Chandler," Orlando said. "I look forward to continuing this work in my new capacity as chair."

Orlando will play a key role among a diverse group of local leaders in shaping NLC's policy positions and advocating on behalf of America's cities and towns before Congress.

"NLC's federal advocacy committees are a key tool for gathering insights directly from the communities that our members serve," Williams said. "I look forward to working with (Orlando) to fulfill the promise of America's cities, towns and villages."

Pedicab

From Page 3

Arizona Lottery Gives Back Program, Cycling Without Age launched in Tempe last September with a goal of expanding Tempe's mission of an inclusive community for all ages and mobility. The program is also sponsored by Microsoft's ChangeX Sustainable Community Challenge program and other community members.

"There are many innovative initiatives in Tempe - from Arizona State University's Mirabella senior living center in the heart of the university campus to Culdesac Tempe, a car-free neighborhood for people of all ages," Boyd said. "A more walkable and bikeable urban core has many positive impacts of creating an environment that supports health longevity and more opportunities for positive interactions."

Cycling Without Age originated in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2012. Since then, the program has expanded to 47 countries, with services to more than a million people.

This program is among many in Tempe as the city looks to become Arizona's most bike-friendly city. With its new Scottsdale Road Bike Lane Project, programs like Cycling Without Age will be given better infrastructure to fulfill their mission, both in safety and practicality.

Tempe's bike-lane project is funded through the \$1.5 million Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant. Construction on the Scottsdale Bike Lane Project is slated to start the first part of

2023. But in Boyd's opinion, Scottsdale Road should just be the start.

"I believe the City of Tempe can become a leading example for bicycle infrastructure," Boyd said. "Just imagine it: Tempe can become the Copenhagen of the United States. In Copenhagen, over 62 percent of the population commutes by bike because it's safe and joyful to do so."

Tempe already hosts 217 miles of bikeways in its ever-evolving multimodal transportation system, but this new project promises to make biking safer for those along Scottsdale/Rural Roads, and make the connection between Tempe and Scottsdale easier for those using alternative means of transportation.

Tempe's '20-minute' future

The Scottsdale Road Bike Lane Project is part of Tempe's Transportation Master Plan, which hopes to turn Tempe into a "20-minute city" for all commutes, regardless of the mode of transportation.

"Let's start with Scottsdale Road, but there's much more we can do," Boyd said. "People of all ages, income, race, gender and ability will ride more if they feel confident and connected to work, school, running errands, or just for fun by a network of safe, protected bike lanes."

Boyd believes Tempe's transition toward a more-inclusive multimodal infrastructure will decrease congestion, drive economic development, increase tourism, create new jobs and support the city's small businesses.



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DIVERSIONS

Smith serves up an ace in depiction of Venus and Serena Williams' father in 'King Richard'

By M.V. Moorhead | Wrangler News Film Columnist

The biopic *King Richard* concerns the early rise of two of the greatest athletes of our time, Venus and Serena Williams.

I found myself feeling a pang of sympathy for the casting director. How the heck is anyone supposed to find young actresses who plausibly suggest those two demigoddesses, and who presumably had to have at least some aptitude for tennis, as well?

Saniyya Sidney and Demi Singleton got the parts, and play them well, with unaffected sweetness and physical confidence that brings the tennis scenes to

life. But we catch a glimpse of the genuine articles in some video footage near the end, and realize that there's no replacement for them.

This doesn't matter much, however. The real focus of the film, as the title indicates, is Richard Williams, their father and, in their earlier years, their largely self-taught coach and manager.

A security guard from Louisiana living in L.A., the elder Williams, played by Will Smith, is shown here to have essentially created his two world-beating prodigies from scratch.

The movie begins with him explain-

ing to baffled White tennis coaches and sponsors he's trying to recruit that he wrote a plan to develop his girls into champs before they were born. Then he talked his wife Brandi (Aunjanue Ellis) into having two more children for this purpose (they both had children from previous relationships), and coached them rigorously, on dangerous, gang-infested neighborhood tennis courts in Compton, California.

You can hardly blame the guys listening to Williams for dismissing him as a crackpot, or even his disapproving neighbor for wondering if he's working them too hard. The point of the movie, however, is that almost everything Williams predicted came spectacularly true. It also shows him teaching them humility and good sportsmanship, almost tyrannically.

I think you'd have to have a piece of your soul missing not to find this story, briskly directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green from a script by Zach Baylin, at least a little bit moving and inspiring. The role fits Smith like a glove, both in his tireless, slightly obsessive positivity

and his eccentricity, and we feel it when he gets angry at the racist condescension of the White tennis bigshots. And it's also hard not to love the character's preaching to his girls against unsportsmanlike braggadocio, and his disgust with abusively competitive tennis parents.

But there's no way around it, there's something crazy, almost science-fictional, about this story as well, as if the champs were cloned and programmed for their destiny. This sunny movie shows us happy, well-rounded, singing, squabbling little girls. If either Venus or Serena ever thought they might want to do something else with their lives we don't see it. Probably the world is full of sports parents with grandiose visions like this. What makes *King Richard* seem far stranger than fiction is that in this case the vision wasn't delusional.

King Richard is rated PG-13 and plays at Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion 20, Tempe Marketplace and other multiplexes Valley wide.

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From left: Victor Sese, drums; Sam Otterson, co-lead vocals and guitar; Joe Gonzalez, lead vocalist; Dane Hess, bass, and Josh Browning, lead guitar.

ASU band Palomas takes big step forward with release of Christmas single *'Missing Mistletoe'* produced by Grammy-winner, available on Spotify, iTunes

Working with an industry legend to cut a Christmas single, appearing on Amazon Prime and meeting recording luminaries during a session in Los Angeles: It's all been a bit humbling and intimidating for five guys from Arizona State University in the band Palomas.

The group released a Christmas single, "Missing Mistletoe," through Spotify and iTunes on Friday, Dec. 3. The song was produced by Grammy-winning, multi-platinum producer Mikal Blue, who has worked with the likes of One Republic and Colbie Caillat.

"It was a bit intimidating to work with Mikal due to the acts he's worked with previously," said Joe Gonzalez, Palomas' lead vocalist, "but it was incredible to see his creative process in action and we were in awe at how he can create a new section of music from a subsection of a main melody.

"We would love to work with him again." "Missing Mistletoe" was written by the band while its members were in high school.

Palomas spent three days in Los Angeles recording with Blue. During the stay, Palomas was featured on The Recording Artist, a series for Amazon Prime.

Describing the experience of recording

with Blue "humbling," band members also met major artists — including Toad the Wet Sprocket and Porno for Pyros — during the session.

Two years ago, when the group was known as Droogs, it was a finalist in Alice Cooper's Proof is in the Pudding Competition. The band has gone through a few name changes.

Rebranded as Palomas, it performs around the Valley, where all five members grew up. In addition to Gonzalez, Palomas comprises Sam Otterson, co-lead vocals and guitar; Victor Sese, drums; Josh Browning, lead guitar, and Dane Hess, bass.

The band started with Gonzalez and

Sese, who were grade-school friends and began playing together at age 11. The other three joined them while they all were in high school.

Though describing their sound is difficult for the band because it doesn't fall into any specific genre, the members typically describe their music as highly energetic, alternative rock indie, psychedelic, garage and punk with occasional layers of jazz and blues.

For more about Palomas, including a schedule of Valley performances, go to the band's Instagram page: [instagram.com/palomaslive/](https://www.instagram.com/palomaslive/) or go to [facebook.com/Palomas.Live](https://www.facebook.com/Palomas.Live).



SPORTS

Marcos de Niza boys making a fast break from COVID-season memories

By Andrew Lwowski | *Special for Wrangler News*

Marcos de Niza's High School boys basketball team hasn't had a winning record since 2016, but this year's team is determined to change that.

After ending .500 the last two years, the Padres have started 6-2, led by senior center Tony Mottola and transfer-senior shooting guard Julius Rhodes.

The team has its eyes on more than a winning season. It is chasing a home playoff game and the Class 4A state championship game.

"Definitely playoffs," said Rhodes. "We want a home playoff game."

Rhodes transferred from Tennessee and quickly stepped up as a leader. In a recent Padres' home game against Tempe High, Rhodes led the team with 19 points on 9-for-12 shooting. Although Tempe snuck away with a 68-67 victory, the Padres showed resilience and grit after coming back from a 44-33 halftime deficit. Rhodes, who led the comeback, credits his new team for accepting him.

"This is my first year here, and the guys were open and accepted me," Rhodes said. "They helped me adjust. It feels great to be here and to be able to work with these guys."

Mottola, on the other hand, has been on varsity since his sophomore year. He says that continuity has helped the team this season.

"We have experience and some of the guys have played together last year," Mottola said.

"We're older and have chemistry this year. We've also been driving harder to the basket and putting up shots. I would say we're being more aggressive at the hoop just mentally, and coach has been pushing us."

Along with team synergy, having fans back in the stands has made a difference. The 2020 season was cut short and no fans were permitted at the games.

"I had COVID," Mottola said. "Last season sucked. We didn't get to play with fans and it was cut short. Having the fans back makes a huge difference, especially for my senior year. It's good to be back."

Padres head coach Mark Stark said his team appears is ready to rebound after an off-year.

"Last year slighted our seniors because of COVID and only 16 qualifying instead of the usual 24 (for playoffs)," Stark said.

"We ended up 21, so our guys are ready to get back in again."

During the nail-biting loss to Tempe High, the home crowd helped rally the Padres from that 11-point halftime deficit to take the lead midway through the fourth quarter. Mottola scored 14 points, shooting 9-for-11.

Both Mottola, a co-captain, and Rhodes are leading the team, but Starks added that a senior-heavy roster has helped push the group in the right direction, too. Co-captain Jamaal Young along with seniors Wes Salter and Kenyelle Bailey are contributing.

"We definitely have benefitted from our senior leaders," Stark said.

Having a sense of normalcy coupled with senior leaders has given the Padres a chance to make a statement.

"This is my 24th year as the Padres head coach and these fine young men are grasping our traditional basketball team concept of 'Padre Scrap,' and for that I am happy and proud," Starks said.



With senior guard Julius Rhodes (top photo) and senior center Tony Mottola (bottom) leading the way, crowds are back at Marcos de Niza.

Corona del Sol esports team wins AIA title

By Alex Zener | *Wrangler News Sports Columnist*

Corona del Sol High's Super Smash Brothers electronic sports ultimate team beat Seton Catholic, 2-1, in the championship match for the 2021 AIA Fall Super Smash Brothers Esports State Championship and an undefeated season.

In the state semifinals, Corona, 12-0, upset heavily favored Brophy by a score of 2-1.

Esports in its third year as an AIA sanctioned interscholastic competition.

Like traditional sports, esports requires teamwork, communication, critical and strategic thinking, creativity, sportsmanship and leadership.

The AIA offers competition in "League of Legends," "Rocky League," Nintendo's "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate" and "Splatoon 2," Electronic Arts' "FIFA 21" and "Madden 21."

Corona's team includes **Ethan Pouncey, Aiden Mikissic, Mark Hernandez, Jessie Crandal, Leo Mitchell and Dominic LoFranco**, coached by **Kellen Castillo**.

In the state championship match on Dec. 4, Pouncey won, 3-0, Mikissic, 3-2, while Hernandez lost, 3-0.

More information on AIA esports competition: azpreps365.com/esports.

Corona boys basketball

The Aztecs, with a three-game streak, started 5-3, with victories over Cesar Chavez, 55-51; North, 56-37, and Basha, 46-33. They were to play Mesa Mountain View on Dec. 14 at home.

"We feel we are just starting to come together after such a strange season last year," said coach **Neil MacDonald**.

Corona returns eight players but only six have been available on a consistent basis.

"Our starting lineup has shifted some from game to game due to illness and injuries," MacDonald said.

Senior guard **Quinn Thorne**, senior forward **Peyton Beauer**, sophomore guard **Preston Lee**, senior guard **Hunter Stratton**, junior center **Ollie Hinder** and senior guard **Raymond Lam** are experienced players getting the most minutes.

Senior guard **Brandon Lee** and senior forward **Nikola Kostadinovski** have been dealing with injuries.

New to the varsity are senior power forward **Vin Hutcherson**, junior guard **Retief Yellowman**, junior **Miles Smith**, sophomore **Mihail Kostadinovski** and freshman **Jordan Lee**. Six-foot-6 sophomore **Bo Dolinsek**, who plays on the JV also, will dress for varsity

games.

"Jordan Lee and Mihail, Nikola's younger brother, have both added a big spark to our lineup this year," said MacDonald "They have already both made huge contributions."

Corona takes great pride in its defense.

"For us, defense is a whole team effort. Most of our early success has come from our team's defense and our ability to get stops when we need them," said MacDonald. "Jordan Lee has been very active on defense for us and Peyton Beauer has already taken 10 charges in our first eight games.

"We are defending well in the half court but still working to get our offense up to speed with our defense."

The offense revolves around ball and player movement, according to MacDonald.

"But when we need a basket, Quinn Thorne is a guy we look to and also Preston Lee who has made some big shots for us this season," MacDonald said.

Rebounding and steals also are important for the Aztecs, he said.

"Mihail Kostadinovski has led us in rebounding, along with Peyton Beauer," MacDonald said. "Jordan and Preston Lee have been able to create a lot of turnovers while Hunter Stratton has been one of our very best on-ball defenders."

Stratton, along with Lam, showed remarkable improvement in the off season according to MacDonald.

"Ollie Hinder works hard in practice and continues to improve every day," MacDonald said.

MacDonald is optimistic about the Aztecs' continuing their early success.

"We are sure that as the season goes on, we will continue to improve," he said. "We have an excellent group of young men whose attention to our culture, their attitude, and their efforts are all solid. We can't ask for more than that."

Starting Dec. 20, Corona will play in the Visit Mesa tournament at Mountain View High.

First up will be Perry at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 20, then Rancho Solano Prep at 10 a.m. on Dec. 21, Smoky Hill at 2:30 on Dec. 22 and an opponent and time to be determined on Dec. 23.

The Aztecs next regular-season matchup will be Jan. 4 at home against Scottsdale Chaparral. On Jan. 7 they will play at home against Desert Ridge.

Watch for your next edition of **Wrangler News** on Jan. 8th. In the meantime, visit WranglerNews.com for the latest in neighborhood and community news.



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BUSINESS

Blown away

Drybar expands to Tempe despite difficulty filling jobs

By Lee Shappell | Wrangler News Executive Editor



Amy Ross has built a small empire with her six Drybar blow-dry bars in the Valley, including her newest in Tempe. However, a shortage of employees is thwarting her comeback from a difficult COVID-19 setback. — Photo courtesy of Amy Ross

Admittedly, 2020 was a financial disaster for Amy Ross, who owns a half-dozen Drybars, premier blow-dry bars, around the Valley, including her latest that opened Nov. 12 at The Watermark, 410 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 111 in Tempe.

"We were closed four months in

2020," Ross said. "We did have to close again in July. So we were down over 50 percent for the year."

Now, the supply-chain bottleneck and The Great Resignation are thwarting her businesses once again. She currently has 50 openings throughout her organization, which includes the six

shops and a regional call center, where there are five employees in a facility designed for 12.

"Like yesterday, one of my managers had four call-center interviews set up, and she had confirmed them all," Ross said. "Not one of them showed up. It's the lack of consideration for people's time."

"We would be blowing away our 2019 numbers, which was our best year ever, and we've been in the Valley over 10 years, had it not been for this situation with employment right now."

And product? Good luck with that.

"There are a lot of products that we are having a hard time getting," said Ross, 51. "Things that we usually have in larger sizes that we use on clients we are having to use retail versions of it now at elevated costs because we are not able to get some of these larger sizes. For example, a larger size shampoo that may cost me \$15 for 32 ounces we're now using 12-ounce retail versions that which cost me the same thing."

She was forced to increase pricing by \$4, her first hike in five years, she says.

"That, I can figure out because there is light at the end of that tunnel with supplies and we'll start seeing things coming back into stock. It's the employment piece that is our snafu right now."

So there couldn't be a more perfect time to expand a business, right?

"Well," Ross said, chuckling, "they say opportunity presents itself at the craziest times."

"There were many days I cried sitting at my desk, to be very honest with you, in 2020. Then my broker reached out to me and said there's this landlord in Tempe who is really interested and thinks Drybar would be great mix at the Watermark, which is right on Town Lake."

She knew that neck of the woods.

"There may or may not have been a bar at that site that I frequented while I was at ASU," Ross said. "Club Rio had two-for-one on Fridays before 5 p.m."

"This opportunity that the landlord

kind of presented to us was one of those that's too good to be true. Our Watermark shop is definitely taking off, doing great. Had it not been for the withdrawal of the landlord to make us a deal we couldn't refuse, to be very candid, we wouldn't have done it, but he saw value in the brand."

According to Ross, an average Drybar can bring about 500 women a week into a shopping center.

"He saw the upside," she said. "It's a good financial arrangement for both of us."

Walk into the new 1,400-square-foot Tempe shop, which specializes in just blowouts, no cuts or colors, and customers can't miss the eight custom Italian styling chairs, tufted fabric walls, marble bars with built-in phone-docking stations and flat-screen TVs featuring cult-favorite chick flicks.

At the core of every Drybar shop is the mission to help women love their hair, dedication to over-the-top customer service and obsessive attention to every detail.

The Watermark shop is no exception. It offers the brand's signature services.

Full style menu: With all styles always available, guests may choose from an extensive menu of options that include The Straight Up, The Manhattan, The Cosmo, Dirty Martini, Mai Tai or The Southern Comfort.

Signature in-shop services: These are the Classic Blowout, Uptini (aka an updo), Shirley Temple (special service available for ages 10 and younger) and Add-A-Braid, as well as styling for weddings, group specials, and parties.

Line of professional hair-styling products and tools: Aptly named in keeping with the pervasive bar theme, all products are created for the perfect blowout and include favorites like The Double Shot Oval Blow-Dryer Brush, Cure Liqueur Shampoo and Conditioner, Detox Dry Shampoo.

"What's great is now, between the population boom in Arizona and people just being tired of being at home, we are seeing people going out, people wanting

to feel good about themselves, so we have a lot of demand," Ross said. "When we first reopened in May of 2020, I was asking a customer, 'How have you been? What's going on? Are you going somewhere today?'"

"She said to me, 'Amy, I just want a place I can go where I feel welcome. I leave here feeling great and it's a great experience. I'm not going anywhere tonight, but it makes me feel good.' In the end, that's something about Drybar that we love. That's why we are doing blowouts. It's really about happiness and confidence."

Appointments can be booked at 480-877-1010 or online through the Drybar iPhone or Android apps.

More information: drybar-shops.com.

Former Sam's Club now hosts Airstream sales/service

We Are Airstream has purchased a former Sam's Club at 1375 S. Arizona Ave., on the southeastern corner of Loop 202, and has converted it into the recreation-vehicle manufacturer's largest sales and service facility in the nation, creating more opportunities for West Chandler job seekers.

The new Chandler facility, a destination for "Airstreamers," adventure seekers and travelers, is now open to customers while Airstream finishes construction on exterior improvements.

The 136,000-square-foot freestanding building sits on 14.9 acres, 40 percent of the space for showroom and sales, the remainder dedicated to servicing and storage. We Are Airstream expects to employ 60 people at the facility for all things Airstream as technicians, concierge ambassadors, property maintenance, accounting and sales experts who provide personal-

ized recreation-vehicle sales and concierge services.

"We searched diligently and strategically to find a new location and couldn't be happier to land in Chandler," said Aaron Korges, president of We Are Airstream, formerly known as Airstream of Scottsdale. "Chandler is at the heart of the burgeoning Southeast Valley and we were impressed with the strong demographics in the area. We look forward to building a long-term relationship with the community as we ramp up operations."

The family-run business has been selling travel trailers for more than 20 years and, as the sole Arizona Airstream dealer north of Tucson, serves the entire metro Phoenix area to help new and experienced RVers with their travel-trailer needs.

Korges said he encourages the public to stop by the showroom or browse the extensive selection online at weareairstream.com.

"We are thrilled to welcome We Are Airstream to Chandler and appreciate their significant investment into this important property," said Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke. "The Airstream product has built a loyal following over many decades and we wish them many years of success at their new location in Chandler."

Airstream trailers are famous for their distinctive round shape and polished aluminum. Introduced in 1932, Airstream continues to be among the top sellers in the RV business.

Sales in the RV industry have increased significantly over the last several years as Americans look for experiential outdoor trips and baby boomers retire. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic also has led to more customers considering the mobile, outdoor lifestyle that an RV provides, according to Airstream.

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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.

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OPINION

City Council, stop digging up dirt and move on

As a Tempe resident of over 30 years, I would like to express my extreme disappointment in the Tempe Council for their decision to pursue street and park name changes due to historical KKK contributions by the individuals for which they were named.

These monetary contributions were made 100 years ago and the contributors are deceased! Why is the Tempe Council stoking this fire?

And most importantly, where is the forgiveness in our society? Why can't we accept that bad things were done (throughout our history), but there is forgiveness, we learn from our mistakes and WE MOVE ON.

I feel that this action taken by the Tempe Council is not progressive, productive or unifying to our Tempe community. And it speaks volumes that this is the type of issue that Council decides to take on when Tempe is facing so very many challenges. What problem in Tempe does this solve? Please tackle some real problems in our community instead of digging up dirt and making statements.

— Kathy Kendree, Tempe

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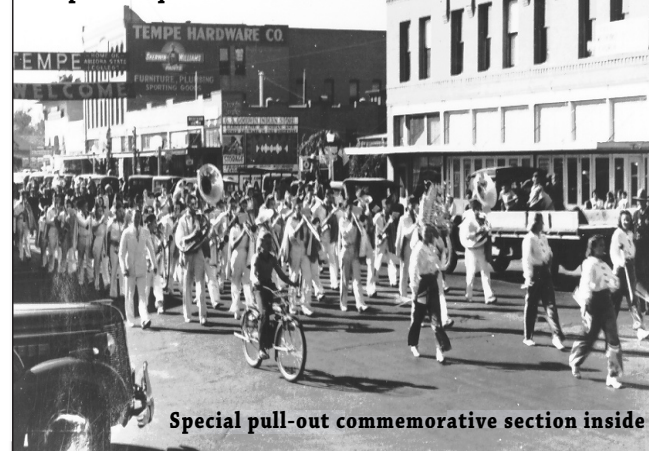
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We need you to tell us your budget priorities

Commentary by Jennifer Adams

Did you know that the City of Tempe relies on your input in many ways as we formulate the budget each fiscal year?

In fact, we truly could not do it without you.

City staff members have begun their work to develop the operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2022-23, which begins July 1, 2022.

The City Council will not vote to finalize the budget until June, so there are many months and many opportunities to get involved. I will tell you all about those here.

But first – it is important to note that you already have given invaluable feedback that we use each year during the budget process and for so much more.

In November, the City Council was presented with the results of our 2021 resident and business satisfaction surveys. All the details are at tempe.gov/surveys.

In the community survey, residents shared that they are very satisfied with services like Tempe Fire Medical Rescue and the Tempe Public Library, and

that they believe we should prioritize police services, neighborhoods and the condition of city streets and sidewalks.



Jennifer Adams

My Council colleagues and I genuinely use your views to help shape our budget priorities. What you think of our services and facilities matters a lot, and we listen.

Thanks to revenues from sales taxes and other sources, our operating budget has funds to provide services like recreation and trash pickup.

And, thanks to property taxes from residents and businesses, our capital budget has funds for maintaining and constructing physical city assets like buildings and infrastructure.

In our neck of the woods, the budget recently has

included investments like new trees at Harelson Park and repaving of Warner Road.

I invite you to participate in any or all of these budget input opportunities:

Virtual budget forum: Wednesday, Feb. 16, Noon, via Webex (link will be at tempe.gov/BudgetPlan).

In-person budget forum: Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m., Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Online survey: tempe.gov/forum, available Feb. 1 through March 7.

Look for city staff at various pop-up budget engagement opportunities that will be happening throughout Tempe in the coming months as well. Learn more about all of this at tempe.gov/BudgetPlan.

As always, I can be reached at jennifer_adams@tempe.gov or 480-350-8835. You can also find me on Facebook at JenniferAdamsTempe.

Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council

Is your car seat correctly installed?

Chandler Fire Department's Child Safety Seat Program teaches parents and caregivers how to properly install child safety seats into their vehicle. Certified car seat technicians inspect and install the car seats during Car Seat Clinics. The clinics are by appointment and usually held on Saturday mornings.

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