



WRANGLER NEWS

January 8 - 21, 2022 | Vol. 32, No. 1



Downtown Chandler Community Partnership joins Thunderbird Artists to present arts, wine festival. Page 22



Former Corona del Sol Emmy winner Chandler Carlisle is moved by recent real-life events. Page 18



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2021 in review

Memorable stories from the past year, Pgs. 14-15; photos Pgs. 16-17

CORONA DEL SOL H.S. GRADUATION CEREMONY • WRANGLER NEWS PHOTO BY BILLY HARDIMAN

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FIND NEW ROADS™



Developer Michael Pollack sells his Apache Center to Tempe, which plans to retool it into affordable housing, one of Mayor Corey Woods' campaign pillars.

Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments photo

\$10.7m sale of Apache parcel boosts housing

By Lee Shappell

Wrangler News Executive Editor

Tempe-area developer Michael Pollack has agreed to sell his Pollack Apache Center strip mall to Tempe, which, in turn, plans to redevelop it into a hub of affordable housing as well as a new grocery store and shopping in the aging, low-income neighborhood.

Pollack, principal of Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments, is selling the 3-acre site, 1328-1348 E. Apache Blvd., for \$10.7 million. The deal, using the city's General Fund unrestricted fund balance to purchase the property, was approved unanimously by Tempe City Council.

Pollack recently reopened his popular Tempe Pollack Cinemas in South Tempe after massive renovation made during a shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

'ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LIVE IN Tempe should be able to. We are working hard to make that a reality for more people and more families.'

— Tempe Mayor Corey Woods

He said he looks forward "to passing the key to the future progress of the Apache Corridor" to the city.

Tempe gladly grabbed that key in its latest acquisition along Apache Boulevard to support its Hometown for All affordable housing initiative, launched in 2021. Pollack Apache Center becomes the sixth city-owned property along Apache set to be "reimagined," as the city describes it.

Tempe envisions more affordable homeownership

— HOUSING, Page 5

Chandler names assistant, deputy city managers

Tadd Wille, deputy city manager of Tacoma, Wash., has been named Chandler assistant city manager and Andy Bass, Chandler's community services director, has been promoted to deputy city manager.



Tadd Wille



Andy Bass

They will oversee city departments and ensure that policies and goals of the City Council are achieved. They also will give the council

input and information to support its decision-making and policy direction.

"Both Tadd and Andy stood out for their professional experience, knowledge, approachability and commitment to Chandler among an exceptionally talented candidate pool," City Manager Josh Wright said of a competitive, nationwide recruitment. "Their diverse municipal leadership experience will enhance our capabilities to provide outstanding quality and value through the services and programs offered for Chandler residents and businesses."

Wille begins work on Feb. 8, replacing Assistant City Manager Debra Stapleton, who will retire. Bass assumed his new role on Jan. 3, filling a vacancy created in August, 2021, when Wright was appointed city manager.

In Tacoma, Wille oversees several city departments. He previously was Tacoma's budget director. He has been assistant budget director and grants administrator in San Antonio. Wille is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's in history.

Bass oversees the Chandler Public Library and the city's recreation/aquatics, park operations and park development divisions, a role he will continue until a replacement is hired. He previously held a similar position in Reno, Nev., and has been parks and recreation director for communities in Colorado and Texas. Bass is a graduate of the University of Colorado with a master's in business administration and a graduate of the University of Utah with a bachelor's in exercise physiology.

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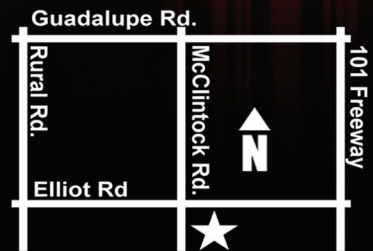
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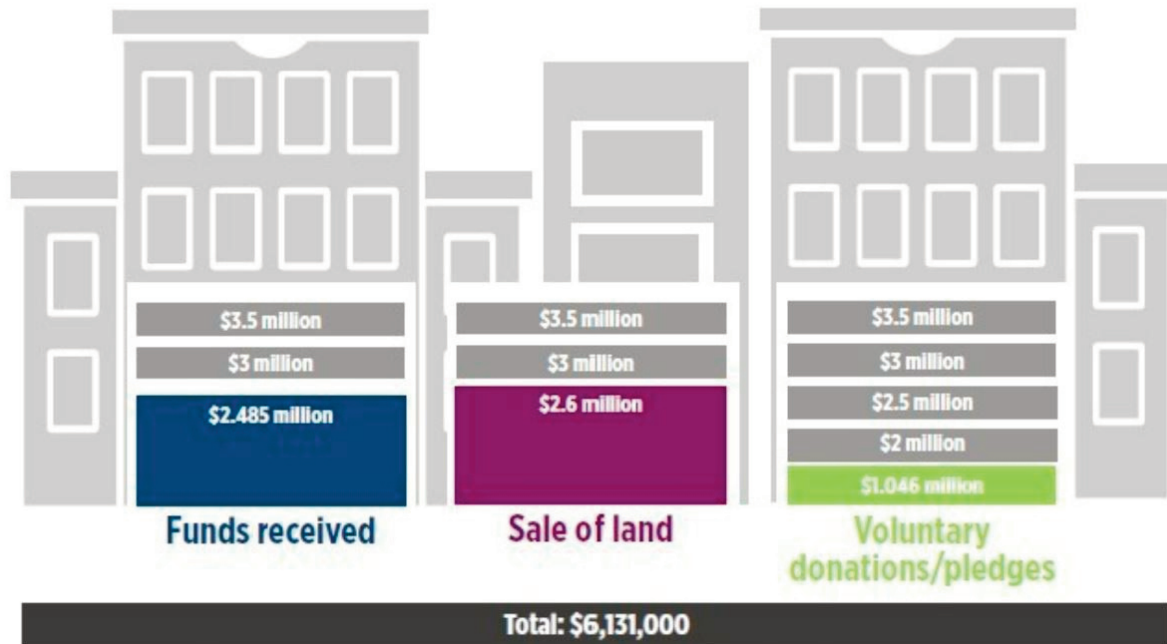
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**Open Friday - Sunday*

Hometown for All

Funding affordable and workforce housing in Tempe



City of Tempe graphic

Housing

From Page 3

opportunities for low-to-moderate-income residents, as well as mixed-income developments, on the stretch from Rural Road to just east of Price Freeway along Apache.

“Anyone who wants to live in Tempe should be able to,” Mayor Corey Woods said. “We are working hard to make that a reality for more people and more families.”

Woods said he is especially excited about bringing a grocery store back to the neighborhood to benefit current and future residents. Food City in Pollack Apache Center recently closed.

“This acquisition also meets another really critical goal: Ensuring that all communities share in the prosperity we are seeing across Tempe,” Woods said. “With light rail and new affordable housing planned for the corridor, we are determined to see this area thrive.”

Pollack Apache Center is adjacent to EnVision Tempe, the city’s new one-stop resource center opening this year. The center will provide job and housing

— HOUSING, Page 23

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COMMUNITY

A tip of the beret to Tempe Family History Center staffers for helping me discover who I really am

First-person account

By Lee Shappell
Wrangler News Executive Editor

I'd like to think I have a pretty good idea of who I am. Maybe I've been kidding myself.

My visit to Tempe Family History

Center shed light on that, briefly shaking notions that our family has held for generations about our heritage.

I was surprised to learn that I am the direct descendant of two captains and a colonel in the Colonial Army. I



Lee Shappell

would later learn that I also am a distant relative of two pioneer-era Tempe mayors as well as the family for whom Broadway Road is named.

Then, just as I was soaking that in and thinking it's about time people started treating me with a little more respect, I learned that I'm

also a distant relative of Ladmo.

The real knife to the gut for me, though, was taking a look at my fan chart and not seeing a single person of French heritage. It showed a lot of German.

My family always was under the impression that we were French. No offense to people of German ancestry, but I don't want to be German. I want to be French.

Then Debbie Ostler, a volunteer research assistant at the center, came to the rescue with research showing that my ancestors very likely were French and escaped to Germany to escape religious persecution before making their way to the New World.

Imagine fleeing to *Germany* for *that*. But I'm going with it. I look a lot better in a beret than I do in Bavarian lederhosen.

It doesn't cost a penny to give — or receive — the gift of identity, and it is available 365 days a year at the center, where dedicated staffers like Steve

Bowles and Mike and Debbie Ostler are devoted to helping people learn more about their families and perhaps even build a family tree to pass along to children or other relatives.

"That is one of the most remarkable gifts that you can give your children," said Bowles, 65, director of the center.

The goal is to send people home with a fan chart that traces seven generations of lineage, back to the time of the American Revolutionary War.

When a person comes in to the center, 2707 S. College Ave., volunteers like Bowles and the Ostlers ascertain their goal. Usually after an initial 60-minute session they don't have quite enough information to do the chart and they come back to complete it.

"We try to make sure they accomplish their goal," Bowles said. "We want to send them home with a burning desire, a joy of what they've accomplished and greatly expanded eagerness to

— HISTORY, Page 8

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History

From Page 6

come back and delve even deeper.”

Knowing who you are and where you're from can give a person confidence and embolden them as they navigate life's journey, according to Bowles.

“This is you. We stand on the shoulders of all of our ancestors, collectively. All that they accomplished, that all funnels down to you,” Bowles said. “It's a shame that we don't even know who we are.”

Bowles pointed out that the New York Times ran a story about studies showing that adolescents, when they know their family story and know who they are ancestral-wise, have much more resilience, adaptability and confidence in facing the trials of life.

“Instead of being a disconnected entity wondering why am I even here, they know who they are,” Bowles said. “They know that their ancestors weathered very difficult circumstances. They have that grit within them. It was extremely telling in how successful they were in life based on being connected to and knowing about their family story.

“‘Embolden’ is a good word. I see it all the time. Many of the people we help are from really tragic, disconnected family situations. We help a lot of people who are adopted. They love their adopted family with all their heart and they trace that back, but then, they also want to find their birth line, too. They really want to know everything about who they are. There's an inner peace connected with knowing your narrative, not just to link relationships among people but also to help preserve memories of those people.”

If that sounds like a sales pitch, it isn't. The center provides its service at no charge. It is underwritten by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, but everyone is welcome to use its services. During the pandemic, Tempe Family History Center is operating by appointment only.

Bowles said it is helpful to come armed with as much information as possible, such as vital records and photographs of known family members, to begin research into a family tree. However, modern search tools – and there are 18 subscription tools online at the center's 14 computer work stations – have made it relatively easy even with little information to start.

The Tempe center is a FamilySearch library, FamilySearch being a major database that genealogists use to access records.

Many decades ago, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints began helping members collect photos, vital records and church records of family members around the world, microfilming it all to help future generations put their families together.

As that continued around the world for decades, the large volume of collected information was digitized by volunteers into a searchable database that became FamilySearch.

Now, the database has billions of digitized records so that it is, in effect, a worldwide shared tree.

“Think of it as a jigsaw puzzle. You've got the whole world sitting around the table putting in pieces of the puzzle,” Bowles said.

The research room at the Tempe center has access to billions of records and also access to other subscription portals, such as ancestry.com.

“When people come in to the center, they can use both, including the international versions, for free,” Bowles said.

They also have access to newspapers.com to look up birth notices, death notices and obituaries.

“So there are about 18 premium family-history services, desirable databases to researchers, that you'd have to pay a subscription fee for each to use them at home,” Bowles said. “We really want to help the community find their family. We provide the center and volunteers to walk people through it.”

The center has scanners that enable researchers to digitize all the memories they have, whether it's photo negatives

or prints to preserve them. The scanner can process 30 photos in 30 seconds at 300 dpi, and there is software to do image enhancement to remove scratches, sharpen brightness and contrast or do color correction. It can even colorize old black-and-white images.

Mike Ostler, 66, says it is possible today to do on a computer in 15 seconds what used to require hours and hours of searching through microfilms, country by country, looking for names.

"I like the instant gratification that it brings," Ostler said. "I became a volunteer really to enjoy watching other people have these discovery moments, discovering who they are. There was a woman a couple of months ago who came in and did research and found a picture of her father, who had died when she was 5. She just wept. She shared that, 'Just to see the man that my mom married, now I feel like I'm worth something.'"

"We get to enjoy those types of experiences with people."

FamilySearch doesn't give searchers people, it gives them records, according to Ostler.

"They give us digital information from birth records and death records, census records, where a person was living, and obituaries," he said. "So we're trolling through large databases of records and we're

— HISTORY, Page 30



An early-20th-century photo of Bertie Hogle Bowles, mother of Tempe Family History Center director Steve Bowles. The center wants to help people trace their family trees.

— Courtesy of Bowles family

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The research center at Tempe Family History Center has 14 work stations for those seeking to trace ancestral roots. —Tempe Family History Center photo

History

From Page 9

grabbing out the ones that relate to a particular person that thoroughly documents that this is this person.”

The research room at Tempe Family History Center has 14 work stations for those who want to trace their ancestry. —Tempe Family History Center photo

FamilySearch recently built a tool that, once a person is completely fleshed out in the database, creates a biography in a narrative form with photos.

FamilySearch also gives a searcher the ability to upload information to others on



Steve Bowles



Mike and Debbie Ostler

their family tree, immediately sharing memories.

“I routinely log in to show me photos of my family that have been uploaded by people I don’t even know, but I know the ancestor they’re descended from,” Bowles said.

Debbie Ostler, 65, Mike’s wife, had a good start when she began to trace her family history.

“My mother was raised on a farm in Washington,” she said. “She had the foresight to interview her father and get his narrative about the family moving from Virginia, to Missouri, and then to homestead in Washington. She took a cassette recorder. It was very precious to have his memories in his own voice.”

Family history truly is the gift that keeps giving, Bowles says.

“Any age is a good time to start,” he said. “We routinely have youth come in, who are very skillful on a computer. They have a blast in here.”

More information: 480-907-4919.

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THE FINAL TRICK

Husband-wife owners of iconic downtown Tempe restaurant say they're ready now for dessert — to go

By Meghann Sepulveda
Special for Wrangler News

For 34 years, Bob and Robin Trick have spent nearly every day at the award-winning House of Tricks, their beloved downtown restaurant, a favorite among South Tempe diners.

The couple, who met almost 50 years ago when she managed the Bannersnatch Pub in Tempe and he was a chef there, say that while it's bitter-sweet to bid farewell to their dedicated employees and loyal customers, they're looking forward to their next chapter: Retirement.

Bob and Robin have been discussing retirement for a few years but felt that the time finally was right.

"It was the most difficult decision of my life," she said.

Although they are sad about the end of this era, they are excited to relax, unwind and pursue their passions. Bob is looking forward to fly fishing at the couple's Payson home. Robin will focus on her art.

While the sale of the restaurant closed on Dec. 15, the Tricks are leasing the building back from the buyers for six months and will permanently close it in June.

"We really wanted to give our employees and the community a little more time to enjoy the restaurant, especially during the busy upcoming spring season," Robin said.

It will be the second recent closure of an iconic downtown Tempe restaurant. On May 23, 2021, Rula Bula on Mill Avenue gave last call when the restau-

rant/bar owners and the building owner could not come to terms on a new lease.

The charming House of Tricks is nestled in the heart of downtown Tempe at 114 E. 7th St., just off Mill Avenue.

But you might forget the hustle and bustle just a couple of blocks away when you're surrounded by a garden of beautiful flowers and lush greenery on the quaint patio and dining on award-winning cuisine served by the warm, welcoming staff, and enjoying a selection from its 300-bottle wine menu.

"It truly is an experience," Robin said.

If you haven't dined at House of Tricks, now's the time.

"We're happy that people will have the opportunity to come together and celebrate," Robin said.

Guests remember much more than the food and drinks.

Whether it was grandma's 80th birthday dinner, a friend's baby shower, or an ASU graduation party, House of Tricks proudly has hosted them all, as well as many other landmark occasions.

It's often not easy to get a table.

Generating an enthusiastic following, it has been the site of memorable family and professional events, including marriage proposals, weddings, business meetings and fundraisers. The casual-yet-professional setting has been a favorite of guests Valley-wide, including neighbors from the South Tempe community, ASU faculty and staff, local and national politicians, businesspeople, spring-training fans and gourmet enthusiasts.

Over the next few months, customers can expect the same delicious cuisine that has made House of Tricks so special. Its chef of nearly two decades, Scott Umscheid, will continue to use fresh, seasonal ingredients to blend cultures and flavors and create contemporary American dishes, such as maple-peach glazed duck breast, winter vegetable risotto and coffee-rubbed seared ahi tuna.

The restaurant is open for happy



In making the decision to move on from their iconic House of Tricks after 34 years, Robin Trick looks forward to more time for art and her husband, Bob, plans to do more fly fishing near their retirement home in Payson.

— House of Tricks photo

hour and dinner and closed on Sundays. Reservations will continue to be accepted for small, private gatherings. Several special farewell events also will be planned.

The purchaser, 101 East 6th Street

LP, has not announced its plans for the site, but the Tricks are supportive of the staff and hopeful that the House of Tricks brand can continue in the future.

More information:
houseoftricks.com.

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Grades 6-8

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Grades 6-8

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2021: A year of action, activism in South Tempe

Compiled from Wrangler News staff reports

1. School Board members caught in middle of angry parents, students on both sides of many issues

There always will be disagreement on key issues but it became particularly salty in 2021, when being a school board member in districts that serve South Tempe was not for the weak. Ask those on the boards of Tempe Union High, Kyrene and Tempe Elementary school districts.

COVID-19: Classes on campus, or off? There were both, and each time a change was made, someone howled, claiming their rights were violated.

Masks mandatory, or optional? Emotions were strong both ways. TUHSD requires them, Kyrene makes them optional.

School resource officers on campus, or not? TUHSD did a big backpedal for more discussion in the wake of strong public outcry after initially voting to get rid of them. All six district principals want them and five former TUHSD School Board members wrote a blistering editorial in support of them. In December, two Kyrene board members asked for a study of SROs, which are at all district middle-schools.

2. Neighbors raise din over noise on widened Loop 101

Perhaps the only thing louder than the roar of traffic along recently widened Loop 101/Price Freeway through South Tempe was the uproar from residents living within a half mile of the din. A disconnect between Arizona Department of Transportation noise readings and what hundreds of angry neighbors were saying about noise from an experimental diamond-grinding finish was the hot-button local-news topic of early 2021.

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods took it to the Maricopa Association of Governments Transportation Policy Committee, of which he is a member, on Feb. 17. The committee and ADOT in late February agreed to have an independent third party take noise readings and conduct an independent assessment. One resident within a half-mile of the freeway backyard reading in the mid-70-decibel range during morning rush hour.

ADOT claimed it took numerous readings well within the maximum 67 decibels in federal noise-abatement guidelines.

3. Property owner gets oil-change shop; neighbors get a bistro at McClintock-Warner

Residents near McClintock Drive and Warner Road wanted a bistro, not an oil-change shop, on a vacant parcel at the intersection. There will be both.

Initially slapped down by the city for an oil-change shop, land owner Walt Brown filed a notice of claim for \$2.1 million followed by a Superior Court lawsuit. When push came to legal shove, the Council backed down and deferred to Brown's property rights. Work began on the oil shop June 28.

Then, in October, Freely Taproom & Kitchen opened 2,500-square-foot bar and kitchen, and large, east-facing, pet-friendly patio on the opposite side of the intersection. Owner Paul Gillingwater plans to add a bottle shop where bottled and canned beer and wine that can be purchased for takeout. Everybody wins.

4. City Council reverses course, takes action that could bring down wall in equestrian-trail flap

Disgruntled neighbors in South Tempe's Buena Vista Ranchos, Calle de Caballos and Sunburst Farms horse-property communities finally were heard: City Council on Oct. 14 unanimously approved action in a two-year controversy that could bring down a 328-foot-long block wall built by a Shady Lane Estates homeowner that extends 10 feet into an equestrian-path easement near Carver Lane.

Tempe in 2020 had said it is a private-property issue, and therefore the city has no jurisdiction. Those for whom the bridle path defines a way of life they expected when they purchased their homes, persisted and got another audience with the Council.

5. S. Tempe cements reputation as rugby player-development hub, placing 2 on U.S. Olympic team

Marcos de Niza High graduate Brett Thompson, 31, who'd been trying for nine years to make the U.S. Olympic rugby team, finally did, as did former Corona del Sol athlete Maceo Brown, 25. Both went to Tokyo in August. South Tempe resident Wilbert "Salty" Thompson, noted rugby coach and 2021 Rugby Hall of Fame inductee, coached them both.

6—Corona del Sol High's film and TV program takes home 2 regional Emmys

Might the next Steven Spielberg be in Corona del Sol High's film and TV program? On Nov. 6, its [cdstv] broadcast team won two Rocky Mountain Emmys: Best High School Magazine Program and student Chandler Carlisle for Best High School Multimedia Journalist. [cdstv], taught by Benjamin Forbes, also brought home 14 Arizona Interscholastic Press Association awards, including the top honor, General Excellence for Broadcasting.

7. Changing face of City Council could impact South Tempe representation

South Tempe resident Jennifer Adams, whose City Council term is up in 2022, announced that she'll seek re-election. Lauren Kuby and Robin Arredondo-Savage, whose terms also expire, said they will not. Adams is among seven who met the Nov. 8 filing deadline for three seats in the March 8 election, along with Arlene Chin, Casey Clowes, Berdetta Hodge, Gina Kash, Harper Lines and John Skelton.

8. House of Tricks owners say it's time for dessert – to go

For 34 years, Bob and Robin Trick made their beloved downtown restaurant, House of Tricks, an award-winning favorite among South Tempe diners. Robin, looking for more time for art, and Bob, eager for more fly fishing near their Payson retirement home, announced in December they've sold the building and will close the iconic restaurant in June.

9. Pollack Tempe Cinemas reopen after million-dollar makeover during 20-month COVID hiatus

After 20 months in shutdown due to COVID-19, Michael Pollack's Tempe Cinemas returned Dec. 10, still charging \$3.50 for every show. A million-dollar renovation during the hiatus included upgrades to the snack bar, lobby and all six theaters, where customers get larger reclining, leather-like seats.

10. After slow start, Corona football defends league title but misses playoffs; coach retires

Expectations never were higher for a Corona del Sol football season with varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams coming off undefeated 2020 seasons. Then the Aztecs lost their first four games, but won five of their final six, repeating as region champs. Coach Jon Bechtold stepped down on Dec. 17.

2021: West Chandler comes of age with recognition, jobs

1. 'It was like a bomb went off': Explosion from damaged natural-gas pipe that was not replaced blows roof off W. Chandler print shop, injuring 4

Karen Goetz was going about her work as office manager at Arizona Community Church on the morning of Aug. 26 when a thundering boom startled and shook her.

"It was like a bomb went off or something," she said.

An explosion from a natural-gas leak in a pipe that had degraded — and through a clerical error was not flagged for replacement in a Southwest Gas remediation project — blew the roof off of Platinum Printing, 4940 W. Ray Road, Suite 1, at the northeastern corner of Ray and Rural roads.

Brothers Andrew Ryan, 39, and Dillon Ryan, 29, who own the print shop; Parker Milldebrandt, 29, a lifelong friend of the Ryans, who works in their shop; and Glenn Jordan, 58, who owns All-American Eyeglass Repair a couple of suites west of the shop, were burned seriously and spent weeks in Valleywise Health Arizona Burn Center.

2. Intel to build 2 chip plants, agrees to re-claimed-water pact to bring 3,000 jobs to W. Chandler

West Chandler expects to see more than 3,000 high-tech, high-wage jobs with announcement March 23 of a \$20 billion expansion at tech giant Intel's Ocotillo Campus, the largest private investment of any kind in Arizona history. The semiconductor manufacturing icon will build two new fabrication plants in the historic expansion. Intel entered an agreement with Chandler for construction of a reclaimed-water interconnect facility to meet Intel's yearly projected needs, critical because it saves and reuses water.

3. West Chandler branding initiative gives neighborhood sense of place, identity

Many West Chandler residents, feeling disenfranchised over perceived slights from the city, got a boost in November when a West Chandler branding campaign was rolled out to heighten visibility and establish a sense of place. City Council spent \$239,937 to buy nine 15-foot-tall signs with "West Chandler" lettering and a high-tech theme that reflects the area's industry base. West Chandler has 630 businesses employing 29,000 workers. With six miles of frontage along I-10 and Loop 202, it is seen by thousands daily.

4. Mall brawl startles community; all suspects tracked down and arrested

A fight broke out March 12 involving nine young men, including three who were stabbed, at Chandler Fashion Center. It was shocking and horrific to a community not accustomed to that sort of crime. Police said the brawl was random, and that it is safe to shop at the mall and to live in West Chandler. Officers identified and eventually arrested all suspects.

5. -Chandler Regional opens 96-bed Tower D, increasing Level 1 Trauma Center to 429 beds

A five-story patient-care Tower D opened in August on Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center's campus, marking its second major expansion in less than a decade and bringing expanded patient care and new jobs. The project included an 1,100-vehicle parking structure.

6. Massive sports-entertainment complex coming to Wild Horse Pass

A major influx of sports, entertainment, recreation and jobs excited West Chandler with the February announcement of major development at Wild Horse Pass. A 3,300-acre project would include events center and concert amphitheater, five hotels, theme park, timeshare complex, third golf course, expanded equestrian center, villas, retail and office space. A 10,000-seat stadium for Phoenix Rising soccer opened last spring. An 11-story second tower at Wild Horse Pass Hotel nearly doubled capacity to 447 rooms in the fall.

7. State fair coming to Wild Horse Pass – and then it wasn't

Not so fast on just crossing the freeway to enjoy corn-dogs and cotton candy – and then hopping on twisting, turning rides that make you want to give them right back. Arizona State Fair, planning to move to Wild Horse Pass in October, scrapped plans due to supply-chain issues that delayed delivery of infrastructure items. Officials hoped the larger site would mitigate spread of COVID-19.

8. Sports betting comes to Wild Horse Pass, Cardinals jump on board for action

Gila River Hotels & Casinos joined forces with the Arizona Cardinals and BetMGM in September to operate sportsbooks at Gila River's Wild Horse Pass Casino, across Interstate 10 from West Chandler, and at Lone Butte Casino, just south of the city along Loop 202. High-end Las Vegas-style roulette and baccarat are now legal, too.

9. City puts 5 bonds on November ballot and all carry easily

West Chandler voters joined those across the city in overwhelmingly approving sale of five municipal bonds worth nearly \$273 million to fund police facilities, replace a fire station, upgrade parks and streets and add bike paths. Each carried by more than a 2 to 1 majority.

10. City employees get \$3k bonus

Every Chandler full-time employee who was with the city as of Dec. 31, 2020, and remained employed through March 27, 2021, received a one-time exceptional-performance award of \$3,000 in April for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every part-time employee who was onboard during those dates got \$1,500.

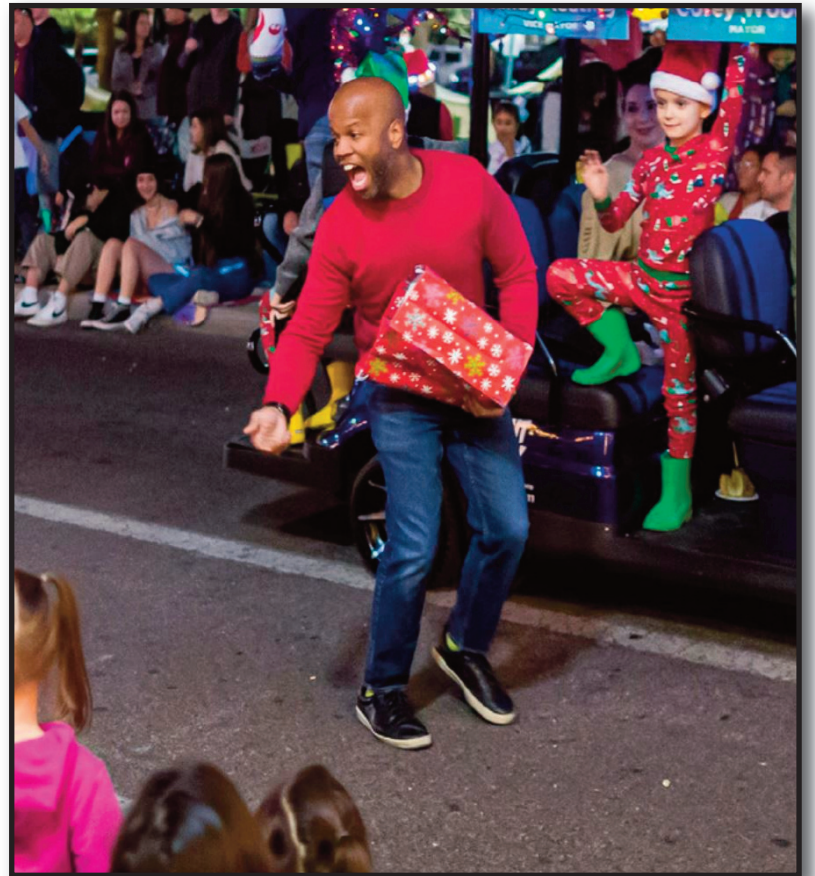


2021: At least it was better than 2020

Our Wrangler News photo team captured many incredible moments during the past year in these memorable images: (clockwise from left above) – Koa Peat is a ray of hope on the prep hoops scene, by Billy Hardiman; Susan Deaton, who lost a leg in 1994, appreciates the intention of the Americans With Disabilities Act but says it could be better, by Joyce Coronel; and Former Chandler Vice Mayor Bud Wood and wife Irene say 60 years of married life have not dulled their affection, by Billy Hardiman.

Opposite page (clockwise from top left) – Not everyone in our community enjoys an affluent lifestyle, by Joyce Coronel; Tempe Mayor Corey Woods connects with the crowd at the city's Fantasy of Lights Street Parade, by Billy Hardiman; J.J. Ragsdale, 19, of Tempe, masters flow boarding, by Hardiman; and Chandler Police Officer Christopher Farrar, killed in the line of duty, is remembered, by Peter Coronel.







DIVERSIONS

Chandler International Film Festival has something for all

By MV Moorhead

Special for Wrangler News

Here in the Valley, the early months of the year – post holiday but still temperate – constitute the film festival season.

Feb. 10-27 is the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival, all-virtual once again this year. This is followed by the Phoenix Film Festival March 31 to April 10.

But leading the pack is the Chandler International Film Festival, running Jan. 18-23 at LOOK Dine-In Cinema at 1 W. Chandler Blvd. downtown.



Pat Finn comes to Chandler filmfest.

The sixth-annual edition, which claims to be “The Fastest Growing International Film Festival,” will offer more than 120 films from six continents. Presumably only Antarctica isn’t on the schedule.

Ancillary red-carpet event, award ceremonies, filmmaker interactions,

panels and parties also are planned.

Among highlights this year are Marcella Cytrynovicz’s psychological drama *American Cherry*; Rich Ragsdale’s cult-theme thriller *The Long Night*, with veteran character actor Jeff Fahey; and the romantic tale *Second Chances*, from Arizona director and cowriter Rick Walker.

The Canadian director Phillippe McKie’s dance drama *Dreams on Fire*, shot in Japan, is another notable selection. Just a bit late for the holidays, the Arizona-filmed Christmas story *Hashtag Blessed: The Movie* is also on the schedule.

Each of these films and many more will be making their Arizona premiere in Chandler.

Celebrity appearances scheduled include leading lady Sean Young, familiar from such Hollywood hits as *Stripes*, *Blade Runner*, *No Way Out* and *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, and actor and Flagstaff native Bubba Ganter, veteran of TV’s “Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.” and Nickelodeon’s “Sam and Cat.”

Also scheduled to appear is actor Pat Finn. Don’t recognize the name? You almost certainly will recognize the face: Finn plays “Pat,” the suburban guy with the unhealthy fixation with Toyotas, in the long-running series of TV commercials. He’s also appeared in TV shows that include “Murphy Brown” and “Friends” and movies *Dude, Where’s My Car?*, and *It’s Complicated*. His recent film, *Funny Thing About Love*, was shot here in Arizona.

The celebrities will walk the red carpet on opening night and hang out for a question-and-answer session. Finn will host an improv workshop. A documentary exploring the Toyota commercials by filmmaker Jordan Brady will be



Double Emmy winner Chandler Carlisle, now a freshman at NAU, knows life’s ups and downs.

Ups, downs of life’s journey come into focus for Emmy-winning CdS student

By Lee Shappell

Wrangler News Executive Editor

Priorities. Finding direction in life. They’re often struggles for young adults even in the best of times.

The past couple of months have not been the best of times for Chandler Carlisle, for whom what’s important was brought into sharp focus – as if through the lens of a skilled cinematographer, which Carlisle is.

Winning two Rocky Mountain Emmys one week and a couple of weeks later grieving the loss of his mother, Sue, after a 15-year medical battle are plenty real.

They altered the outlook of the 2021 Corona del Sol High graduate from South Tempe, now a freshman at Northern Arizona University.

“I wasn’t entirely sure what I wanted to do when I started college,” Carlisle said, “but when my mom passed away, that kind of shifted my goals. Now I want to use my skills to help share peoples’ stories to make sure they are not forgotten. Everyone has a lot of memories to show the world. My mom passing made me realize that’s something I want to try to do.”

In the 2020-21 school year, [cdstv] at Corona submitted several videos for consideration in the regional Emmys, the same ones the big commercial TV stations in Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Tucson and Albuquerque enter.

Corona won an Emmy for Best High School Magazine Program. Carlisle was the executive producer of the broadcast, as well as its sole director and camera-

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Carlisle

From Page 18

man – and editor of the anchors, introduction, lip-dub commercial, credits and main news feature on the episode.

It featured Corona's National Honor Society doing charitable work – a clothing drive, food donation, trash pickup at a park, handing out sandwiches to homeless people. He followed them, creating a masterpiece as he told their story through his camera.

Carlisle was the sole recipient of the second Emmy, Best High School Multimedia Journalist.

Corona's Film and TV program brought home 14 Arizona Interscholastic Press Association awards last fall for the previous school year, including the top honor, General Excellence for Broadcasting. Carlisle's fingerprints were all over those accolades, too.

The Corona [cdstv] crew had an Emmy-viewing party for the Nov. 6 awards livestream. Carlisle took a bus down from Flagstaff just for the night to be there and celebrate with his former classmates. He was back on the bus heading up the hill at 7 the next morning.

It all might be different had a technical-theater class not been full three years ago.

"It all was a bit of an accident," Carlisle said. "I was trying to sign up for that class and they told me it was full a week before my sophomore year. They switched me in to [cdstv]."

From the first video he worked on, he was hooked.

"It was a bit of a passion," he said. "I enjoy that creativity and being able to help the school. We did a lot of virtual tours, assemblies, Student Council – things people got to watch, especially during COVID."

Benjamin Forbes, advisor of Corona's Student Council, made Carlisle an honorary council member due to his diligent work documenting the group on video. According to Forbes, who also oversees the school's Emmy-winning [cdstv] program, there was no one better for the challenge than Carlisle.

"With the kids who want to do the work, they want to go in headfirst," Forbes said. "They do as much as possible. Those are the kids that end up really, really shining. Chandler is one of those kids."

Forbes says he sees kids all the time who have no work ethic.

"Chandler definitely has the work ethic," Forbes said. "And he definitely has an eye for cinematography and for a good story."

"From what I know about the industry, being there and being on time and being consistent are some of the best qualities you can have in film. People won't want you back on their set if they can't rely on you. He has a great eye for editing, a great eye for cinematography. And he challenges himself. That's a big part of it, too. He'll discover something new that he wants to try out and he'll just teach himself do it, and he'll do it. That's a really cool thing."

As his mom underwent several surgeries, Carlisle said the family's finances were drained.

"She got sick 16 years ago and the doctor said she had 0.085 chances in a million," he said. "She did survive, and she did end up living 15 years longer than they said she was supposed to. The big thing is she went through so many surgeries."

"I had to save up for a lot of years to get my first camera. I put a lot of work into pursuing that hobby."

Carlisle is pursuing a bachelor's in Creative Media and Film at NAU. He was allowed to skip several introductory classes because of his proficiency coming in.

"Film is kind of my whole personality," Carlisle said. "Documenting life stories is a way to spread good memories."

Carlisle left behind good memories for Corona.

"He definitely saved the program last year," Forbes said. "He definitely was the steroid it needed. It was a tough year with the COVID-19 pandemic. I thought for sure we would struggle a little bit but we recovered and we ended up doing better than ever, and a lot of that I give credit to Chandler."



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S. Tempe promoter presents Grammy-winning jazz pianist Bill Cunliffe

His roots as a pianist and arranger trace to his days with the Buddy Rich Big Band and with Frank Sinatra before establishing himself as a solo artist with more than a dozen albums.

His musical journey continues when Bill Cunliffe brings his trio to the Valley on Jan. 15 to kick off the new year for Woody Wilson's Lakeshore Music in a 7:30 p.m. concert at Ravenscroft Hall in Scottsdale.

"Bill Cunliffe is one of the towering Grammy award-winning composers, pianists and band leaders of our time," said Wilson, South Tempe resident, civic leader and Lakeshore Music founder and president. "He has performed and recorded with the legends of jazz music and spent his career passing that knowledge and experience along to several generations of young musicians. He is truly the embodiment and the soul of jazz and we are always honored to present him."

Cunliffe, known for his innovative and swinging style, will appear with the legendary Joe LaBarbera on drums and Derek Oles on bass, performing a tribute

to the late legendary jazz pianist Bill Evans.

Cunliffe won a Grammy for Best Instrumental Arrangement for "West Side Story Medley," on the album "Resonance Big Band Plays Tribute to Oscar Peterson" (Resonance Records, 2009). He has received five Grammy nominations and two Emmy nominations.

He was commissioned by Hall of Fame basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to write the score for Abdul-Jabbar's film "On the Shoulders of Giants," an homage to the Harlem Rens basketball team of the 1920s and '30s. Cunliffe's soundtrack was nominated for NAACP Image Award Best Album.

"Kareem was great. He very much let me do my thing," Cunliffe said. "He knows the music. There's a real intellect that goes into being a great basketball player and a real intuition that goes with being a basketball player. And there's the ability to team up with people. It's so much like jazz it's amazing. Kareem really understands what jazz is about. Of course, he's a huge jazz fan."

Abdul-Jabbar asked Cunliffe to create music reminiscent of 1930s jazz, the beginning of the Big Band era, from the



Grammy-winning jazz pianist Bill Cunliffe and trio play Ravenscroft Hall on Jan. 15, presented by South Tempe-based Lakeshore Music. *Lakeshore Music photo*

African American perspective. Cunliffe describes it as a lighter kind of swing.

"The notes are shorter, the vibrato is kind of faster," he said. "Kareem wanted original music but he wanted it to be in that mold, like early Duke Ellington."

In 1994, Discover Records sent Cunliffe, a salsa-music fan, to Brazil to do an album.

"I love Brazilian music. I like music that makes people feel good, that swings," he said. "They said go for three weeks and come back with a record. So I got to Brazil and they said, 'Sorry, we can't let you in, you do not have a visa.' I didn't do

my homework."

Instead, he ended up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the San Telmo neighborhood, the city's oldest, which features rich culture with its pop-up art galleries, late-night bars and raucous steakhouses.

"I hung out for four days – it was supposed to be three but there was a bombing in the Jewish embassy and they shut the country down for a day," he said. "In every city, there's a club where the really good underground stuff is. In LA, it was the Blue Whale. New York always had more than one club like that. In Buenos Aires, it's the San Telmo neighborhood. You go in there and guys do tango nuevo. It was fabulous. It felt really real."

With LaBarbera, a jazz drummer who played with Evans in the final years of his career, and Polish-born jazz bassist Oles, Cunliffe recently has gotten "deeper and deeper" into the music of Evans.

"Which is a thrill," Cunliffe said, "but it's hard. You've got to work at it. In the '70s, he sounded a little bit polite rhythmically. Then I saw his trio in '78 and it was fiery, like Bill Evans meets John Coltrane. It would get really loud, really intricate, really intense. I attribute a lot of that to Joe. He brought that to Bill. It made Bill's music take on a lot more life for me. Now there's a fire that makes it more contemporary for me. That all made it work. That's what you'll hear in this concert."

Bill Cunliffe Trio

Saturday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Ravenscroft Hall, 8445 E. Hartford Drive, Scottsdale.

Reserved Seating: \$60, available at lakeshoremusic.org.

Students 50% off (must present student ID).

Chandler joins iconic Thunderbird Artists' tour for 2022 with help of DCCP

After a challenging 2021 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fountain Hills-based Thunderbird Artists is planning to return with a seven-stop 2022 cultural tour, including its newest in downtown Chandler.

Thunderbird Artists' inaugural Downtown Chandler Fine Art & Wine

Festival, Feb. 18-20, is to feature world-renowned fine arts, live music, delectable edibles, wine and microbrew tasting, and spirit sampling with a first-class festival experience, promoters say.

Thunderbird Artists is partnering with the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership on the juried fine art and wine festival.

It marks the continuation of Thunderbird Artists' four-plus decades of fine art and wine festivals with artists and specialty vendors that make the series special for patrons.

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Filmfest

From Page 18

shown.

With its diverse selection of films, meet-and-greet opportunities with industry professionals and plenty of partying, the Chandler International Film Festival has something for everybody.

Festival single-show tickets are \$10-\$15; day pass is \$50; full-festival pass \$220. At-home streaming options are available: full online pass is \$100 and single-shows \$8-\$10.



The sixth annual Chandler International Film Festival runs Jan. 18-23 at LOOK Dine-In Cinema, 1 W. Chandler Blvd. *Chandler International Film Festival photo*

Housing

From Page 5

assistance, educational classes, health programs, heat relief and assistance with emergency preparedness.

Pollack Apache Center is zoned Commercial, Shopping and Services. Rezoning will be required to transition to mixed-use residential housing.

Potential grocers interested in locating in the Apache neighborhood may contact Tempe economic development director Donna Kennedy at Donna_Kennedy@tempe.gov.

Apache Boulevard, with its central location and access to light rail, is expected to see major additions to affordable and workforce housing.

Last March, City Council approved \$1.2 million for first-phase site preparation on five parcels. Another \$1.5 million is available for additional work as needed. That facilitates as many as 325 rental units and 50 homeownership opportunities on city-owned lots along Apache.

The city is working with development partners and seeking a

new partner for a parcel just east of Price Freeway. That parcel includes four vacant lots.

15 apartments and homes dedicated for affordable rental housing

Tempe late in 2021 dedicated 15 apartments and single-family homes for affordable rental housing through the Hometown for All initiative. That brings the number of permanent affordable units in the city to 100.

Increasing affordable housing was among the pillars of Woods' mayoral campaign two years ago.

"I'm so proud of what we've been able to accomplish so far through the Hometown for All initiative," Woods said. "Whether purchasing an apartment complex, buying land to create new homeownership options or partnering with a developer to bring more affordable and workforce housing to Tempe, these actions mean more individuals and families who want to call Tempe home have that opportunity."

The 100 affordable and workforce units are scattered citywide and are all leased. The units are operated by the Tempe Coalition for Affordable Housing, a nonprofit af-

iliated with the city's Public Housing Authority.

City Council in late 2021 conveyed 15 apartments and homes owned by the city, from small apartments to a five-bedroom home to expand the types of housing, to Tempe Coalition.

The Council approved a Hometown for All initiative, with its dedicated funding stream, a year ago. For every development project in Tempe, the equivalent of 50 percent of certain permitting fees paid to the city's General Fund goes to Tempe Coalition. More than \$6 million came through Hometown for All during its first year. That includes cash received, projected permitting fees and pledges of voluntary contributions.

Funds are used to buy and rehabilitate properties, develop city-owned land, and buy land and partner with developers or nonprofits to build affordable or workforce units.

Hometown for All, coupled with the city's Affordable Housing Strategy, has a goal of adding 11,000 affordable units by 2040.

More about Hometown for All: tempe.gov/HometownforAll.



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SPORTS

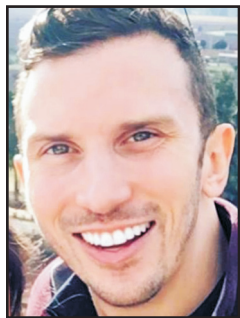
Notebook

Experienced Corona girls basketball 2nd in early Central Region standings

It's early, but Corona del Sol High's girls basketball, with an experienced team, is second in the 6A Central standings at 2-3, behind Desert Vista at 4-1.

The Lady Aztecs return all but two players from last season. Eight of their 14 players are seniors, three are juniors and three are sophomores.

The seniors are forward **Kayla McDonald**, guard **Taylor Wasson**, forward **Sarahiah Ervin**, guard **Abby Porter**, guard **Megan Kirchhardt**, forward **Trinity Bratlien**, forward **Molly Siegel** and center **Ellie Steward**.



Alex Zener

Returning juniors include guard **Elizabeth Lopez**, guard

Maddie Mitchell

and center **Brielle Phelan**.

Sophomore guards **Amarie Garza**, **Deven Kircher** and **Ashlee Peters** are new to the varsity.

Kirchhardt, who led the team with nearly 10 points a game last season, is continuing to score, as is Mitchel, who averaged nearly 7 points last year.

Kirchhardt and Mitchel can drain the three-point shot. Lopez, Wasson and Kircher also have been hitting beyond the three-point arc.

Kirchhardt, the leading rebounder last

season, is getting help on the boards from McDonald, Mitchel, Phelan, Ervin and Bratlien.

Over the holiday break, in the Nike Tournament of Champions in the Valley, the Lady Aztecs stopped Chaparral, 49-33, and then lost to Westwood 63-35. Corona lost a close 37-34 game to Newport Beach (Calif.) Corona del Mar, before defeating Marcos de Niza, 51-16.

In the Queen Creek Backyard Girls Tournament, they beat San Tan Foothills High, 58-19, Queen Creek, 48-22, and Mesa Mountain View, 63-57, but lost to Arcadia, 38-50, Campo Verde, 41-46, and to Pinnacle by forfeit.

Corona was scheduled to play its first game of 2022 on Jan. 4, a non-section game at Chaparral, followed by a game Jan. 7 at Desert Ridge, a Central Region foe. Corona will play Highland on Jan. 11 in a Central Region matchup and a non-section game against Cibola on Jan. 12, both at home. The Lady Aztecs visit Queen Creek on Jan. 14.

Corona del Sol girls soccer

The Lady Aztecs, 2-2 overall and second in 6A Central, return seven players who started or played in all 11 matches last season plus the goalkeeper in nine of the 11 matches.

Returners are senior forward **Cassidi O'Connor**, senior midfielder **Paige Sever**, senior defensive midfielder **Ally Wachtel**, senior midfielder **Kira**

Caspers, junior midfielder **Samantha Camino**, junior defensive midfielder **Aja Lister** and sophomore midfielder **Marina Carson**. Senior goalkeeper **Rosalia Oyzerovich** played 720 minutes.

They're joined by senior defensive midfielder **Ashley Lutes**, sophomore forward **Kiera Campbell**, sophomore forward **Kyarra Aparicio**, sophomore defensive midfielder **Celine Sarian**, sophomore midfielder **Giana Garza**, and junior defensive midfielder **Erin Karlin**.

Last season, Sever and Lister led the team with three goals each.

New to the team are senior midfielder **Olivia Bradley**, junior midfielder **Kailee Austin**, sophomore midfielder **Maia Flanagan**, sophomore defensive midfielder **Avry Scholl**, freshman forward **Kelsey Eastman**, freshman defensive midfielder **Sadie Robertson**, freshman forward **Chloe Derouin**, freshman defensive midfielder **Ella Barria**, freshman defensive midfielder **Kayley Weid**. Freshman **Amara Yetka** is another goalkeeper.

The Lady Aztecs did not participate in a tournament over the holiday break. They will see action again Jan. 10 at Westview for a non-section matchup, Boulder Creek at home on Jan. 11 and at Valley Vista Jan. 21.

The Lady Aztecs play their first Central Region match at home against Queen Creek on Jan. 25.

Corona del Sol boys soccer

The Aztecs lost five seniors to graduation but return 13 players, including senior goalkeepers **Aidan Burns** and **Jacob Feliz**. Burns played in all 11 matches last season, allowing 21 goals.

Also back are senior defensive midfielders **Padraic Maguire** and **Diego Aplicano**, senior midfielder **Nick Fiet** and senior forward **Frankie Sunderland**.

Juniors who played last year on varsity are defensive midfielders **Nico Ramirez** and **Brandon Olivares**, midfielders **Nico White** and **Aran Garza**, forward **Andrew Davies-Boerner** and goalkeeper **Antonio Lopez**.

Sophomore defensive midfielder **Vaughn Harris** played in 11 matches.

New this season are seniors **Bennett Gun** and forward **Patrick Ngendahayo**; juniors **Javi Ferrando Borrás**, a midfielder, forward **Diego Ramirez**, defensive midfielder **Tyler Tisinger**, forward **Dylan Atkerson Aldaba** and defensive midfielder **Myles Larsen**.

Additional newcomers are sophomore forward **Sean Maguire**, sophomore defensive midfielder **Pablo Frausto** and freshman midfielder **Devin Donahue-Stephens**.

The Aztecs opened the season in a match at Chandler that went into two overtimes before the Wolves scored a goal to win, 2-1. Garza scored Corona's goal on an assist from Harris.

Corona lost to Perry, 1-0, before playing in the Coyote Classic Soccer Tournament hosted by Campo Verde. In that tournament, they defeated South Mountain, 4-3, but lost to Campo Verde, 2-1, and Pinnacle 2-0.

White scored Corona's goal against Campo Verde. Garza scored two goals and White and Sean Maguire scored a goal each in the 4-3 win over South Mountain.

The Aztecs are set to play a non-section match against Basha on Jan. 5 before hosting Westview on Jan. 10.

Corona then has two more non-section matches, at Boulder Creek on Jan. 11 and at home against Valley Vista on Jan. 21, before moving into Central Region play.

Don't Wait. Vaccinate.

Tempe urges everyone eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine and booster. 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. The city also continues to host vaccination clinics. Flu shots and testing are available at the clinics as supplies allow.

For a current list of opportunities, visit tempe.gov/vaccines.



FanCon returns to Tempe Public Library

Save the date for the anticipated return of Tempe FanCon, an annual event featuring costume contests, artists, authors, shopping and activities for kids and adults.

The 2022 festivities, which could include virtual or in-person options, will be held Saturday, Jan. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit tempepubliclibrary.org/FanCon for details.

Candidate informational opportunities on television

Three City Council seats are opening with terms of office beginning in July 2022. The Primary Election is March 8 and the General Election, if needed, is May 17.

As a community service, as it has in past elections, the City of Tempe will offer equal opportunities for candidates to provide information to residents. Pursuant to state law, these forums are purely informational and provide equal opportunity to all candidates' viewpoints. The city remains impartial and does not support or endorse any particular candidate or viewpoint.

Candidate forums

A limited number of candidate debates/forums for city elections will be broadcast live on Tempe 11 and streamed at tempe.gov/tempe11. They will take place at the Tempe City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.** – Hosted by the Arizona Republic and Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

- **Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.** – Hosted by the North Tempe Neighborhood Association and the League of Women Voters.

• A possible forum may be hosted by a community organization on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m.

'Open mic' opportunities

Tempe 11 will tape and air televised statements from certified City Council candidates. Before the Regular Council Meetings on Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and March 3, residents can tune in to Cox Channel 11 at 5 p.m. to watch five-minute, unedited candidate statements that will be taped earlier on those same days. Statements also can be viewed anytime at tempe.gov/tempe11. Register to vote by Feb. 7 for the March 8 election. Ballots will be mailed starting Feb. 9. Register to vote through the Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511 or at www.maricopa.vote. Information about the election can be found at tempe.gov/election. Voters also can call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311 or email clerk@tempe.gov.

Neighbor nominations

Tempe is fortunate to have some amazing neighbors living, working and building strong connections in our city. We need your help to identify and celebrate them!



nations are also being sought for significant contributors to Arts and Culture, Sustainability and Water Wise Landscape.

For all nomination forms, criteria and event information as available, visit

tempe.gov/neighborhoods.

Nominations are open Jan. 3 through Feb. 15.

Expanded Neighborhood Award Categories include: Neighbor of the Year; Neighborhood of the Year; Neighborhood Event of the Year; Neighborhood-Friendly Business of the Year; Beautiful Neighborhood Space; and Chuck Malpede Award. Nomi-

A reimagined in-person celebration to recognize all award winners, enjoy music and refreshments, play some games, make new connections and build upon existing ones is being planned for Saturday, March 26, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., at Kiwanis Park Fiesta Ramadas, 5711 S. All-America Way.



BUSINESS

Amazon announces plans to create 550 jobs in Tempe



Amazon is bringing an additional 550 corporate and tech jobs to Tempe in the new year, to be housed in a 63,000-square-foot expansion of its offices at 100 S. Mill Ave., developed by Cousins Properties and Hines.

— Amazon photo

Amazon, which employs more than 5,000 in corporate and tech jobs in the Valley, in late December announced that it is bringing an additional 550 similar positions to Tempe in 2022 as it expands its Phoenix Tech Hub.

The positions include software-development engineers, senior solution architects, project managers and business analysts to support Amazon's consumer retail, web services and operations teams. They will be housed in a 63,000-square-foot expansion of its offices at 100 S. Mill Ave., developed by Cousins Properties and Hines. The new office space is expected to open in late 2022.

"Not only do Phoenix and Tempe have an incredible existing talent pipeline, but this is a place where people want to move to, as well," said Doug

Welzel, site lead for Amazon's Phoenix Tech Hub. "We've experienced amazing growth over the last few years, creating jobs and economic opportunity for the wider community, and we are excited to continue investing here."

Sandra Watson, president and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority, says that Amazon's Tech Hub expansion in Tempe reflects the community's growing skilled workforce, which attracts technology and innovation.

"We are proud of Amazon's continued investments in Arizona and the more than 32,000 jobs they support," Watson said.

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods pointed out that investments from companies like Amazon will continue to help Tempe attract businesses and tech talent.

"These types of investments not only create good jobs, but they help to power the economic engine of our community and provide more opportunities for our residents and citizens," Woods said.

Two Amazon programs are designed to do just that:

Amazon Returnship, a 16-week paid initiative, helps professionals get back to work after they lost or left their jobs, including workers displaced by the impacts of COVID-19. Amazon offers the program to those who have been without a job or underemployed for at least a year. The initiative provides an opportunity to rejoin the workforce by restarting their careers at Amazon. They receive dedicated support and personalized coaching on a specific project and, after four months, could move into full-time positions with the company.

Best Fit allows software engineers to apply once and be considered for thousands of jobs across hundreds of teams at Amazon, including roles they may not have considered.

Amazon also supports more than 40 schools across the Valley, reaching almost 1,100 students with high-quality computer-science curriculum, robotics clubs and project-based learning. Its Future Engineer program is a global computer-science education program designed to inspire and educate millions of students each year to try computer science and coding.

Since 2010, Amazon has created more than 32,000 full-time and part-time jobs in Arizona and invested more than \$16 billion across the state.

More information: amazon.jobs/en.

West Chandler gaining 280 jobs at new Stryker facility

Stryker, known worldwide for its innovative medical and surgical products and services, is bringing about 280 new jobs to West Chandler in mid 2022 when it opens a recently leased 104,000-square-foot manufacturing center.

Stryker will be relocating manufacturing operations from Florida to Chandler in the facility at 6635 W. Frye Road, just north of Loop 202 between 56th Street and Kyrene Road.

Stryker's multi-million-dollar investment, which marks a significant expansion of its sustainability solutions operations in the region, will be looking for production associates, engineers and technicians to facilitate reprocessing and cleaning of medical devices previously used in surgery.

"Stryker's ongoing investment into Arizona, and specifically Chandler, further demonstrates the value we see in this community," said Brian White, president of Stryker's sustainability-so-

lutions division. "We've been fortunate to work with many great organizations over the years, which ultimately helped make this expansion into Chandler a reality."

The sustainability-solutions division handles reprocessing of single-use medical devices, which involves collection, inspection, cleaning, testing, sterilizing and re-packaging them before they are returned to hospitals for another use.

"Stryker is an internationally recognized leader in medical-device manufacturing," said Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke. "We appreciate Stryker's significant investment in West Chandler and the additional job opportunities this facility will provide to our residents. Fortune 500 companies like Stryker can choose anywhere in the world to open a facility like this and we are proud they chose Chandler."

Stryker reprocesses more than 20 million devices per year with a 99.98 percent success rate, which has di-

verted 25 million pounds of waste from landfills over the past five years.

“Stryker is a great example of a global company attaining success in Greater Phoenix and expanding its operational footprint within the region to better serve its customers, while creating high-quality jobs for residents,” said Chris Camacho, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

More information: stryker.com.



Stryker will be relocating manufacturing operations from Florida to Chandler in the facility at 6635 W. Frye Road, just north of Loop 202 between 56th Street and Kyrene Road.

Photo by Cyndi Bosworth/Todd Photographic

New area office expands job opportunities for S. Tempe

International data and analytics recruitment giant Harnham is expanding into Tempe to meet the growing demand for talent across the region and creating about 50 job opportunities for South Tempe residents. It marks Harnham's third U.S. office, joining San Francisco and New York.

Global data and analytics is a high-dollar market, estimated to reach upwards of \$420 billion by 2027. Greater Phoenix figures to get a significant share as it continues to emerge as a leading market, thus securing investment and interest from hundreds of major companies like Harnham around the world.

According to the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, in the past year alone 45 companies expanded or relocated to the Valley, creating 10,000 new jobs and \$13 billion in capital investment.

“Arizona is an incredibly pioneering state,” said David Farmer, chief executive officer of Harnham. “We knew

our next move in the U.S. had to be within an area that was a growing hub of activity, which we could support and scale alongside.”

Chris Camacho, president & CEO of GPEC, added that with more than 300 companies in the active business pipeline representing a potential 16,000 jobs and \$50 billion in capital investment, Harnham recognizes the opportunity to scale its business in the Valley to meet growing demands for data and analytics talent.

Harnham, 410 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 1000 in Tempe, is entering the market at a pivotal time. Arizona and Tempe are positioned to be integral players in the country's data and analytics innovation as it continues to grow.

“Tempe is known as a technology hub within the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area,” said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods.

“Harnham's new Tempe office is a welcome addition to our dynamic, innovative community.”

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2022 Leadership Speaker Series

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Founder & CEO
Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels

January 28th
Norris Thomas

Owner
Norris Thomas Seminars

February 4th
Stephanie Klocke

VP Research & Development
BD

February 11th
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Owner / President
Phoenix Business RadioX

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Public Tickets: \$35 session / \$112 series

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TEMPE CHAMBER BUSINESS ACADEMY



Rio Salado
College

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the 2022 Business Academy with co-sponsor Rio Salado College, presented by Silicon Valley Bank. Exclusively for Tempe Chamber Members, The Business Academy is an opportunity for businesses and business leaders to gain the knowledge they need to grow their companies and strengthen our community. Leaders can attend individual classes or the entire series. Each class will be held at Rio Salado College on the second Tuesday of the month from 2:00 - 3:00 pm starting January 11th, 2022. This program serves both organizations' missions to serve the educational needs of local business and industry sectors.

Academy participants will receive structured training in various disciplines ranging from leadership and marketing, to human resources and finance. The program will run monthly from January to June 2022, consisting of six 90-minute classes taught by expert instructors. Those who complete the Academy will receive a digital badge and certificate of completion.

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Faster response time with new ambulance pact

Commentary by Matt Orlando

As we start our new year, the Chandler Fire Department begins a new four-year partnership with Maricopa Ambulance that will reduce response times and enhance our ability to respond to emergencies. This collaboration will increase ambulance resources, introduce new advanced medical equipment and elevate 9-1-1 response capabilities. This partnership benefits residents and businesses in need of emergency medical services and medical transportation to any area hospital.

Response to emergency medical calls is a critical function of fire departments. A unique agreement among Valley fire departments deploys the closest response units to an incident regardless of where the call originates. This means calls for emergency medical services and fires in West Chandler can result in response from fire departments in Chandler, Tempe, Phoenix, Mesa and possibly other Valley cities. The Chandler Fire Department responded to nearly 28,000 emergency calls in 2021 with most of those calls requiring emergency medical services.

Chandler Fire Department uses an integrated

emergency medical services system where a private ambulance company provides the ambulance, an emergency medical technician and reimburses the city the cost associated with having the City's firefighter paramedic on each ambulance and maintaining an on-site presence at Chandler fire stations.



Matt Orlando

Two additional staffed ambulances will now be in use across Chandler for a total of seven ambulances during the busiest peak hours – one additional ambulance 24 hours a day, seven days a week and one ambulance 12 hours a day to cover peak hours when most 9-1-1 calls occur. Maricopa Ambulance will provide three backup ambulances for a total of 10 response units as an additional layer of redundancy to handle a surge in calls and during special events or as a backup while ambulances undergo vehicle maintenance.

Each ambulance is equipped with advanced life

support equipment, including automated chest compression devices, and custom-built to house specialized firefighting equipment and gear for response to all types of hazardous incidents.

Automated chest compression devices represent a significant equipment upgrade for our emergency medical services. These devices optimize the pressure and speed of chest compression while freeing the hands of an emergency medical technician and firefighter paramedic to address other medical care of the patient. Consistent, uninterrupted chest compressions are proven to improve outcomes in patients experiencing cardiac arrest.

We all should be proud of the Chandler Fire Department because it's among the nation's elite, holding international accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence and an Insurance Services Organization class one rating for fire suppression capabilities. Hoping for a safe and Happy New Year for you and your family.

Matt Orlando is a member of the Chandler City Council.

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