



WRANGLER NEWS

MAY 29 - JUNE 10, 2022 • VOL 32, NO 10



South Tempe-West Chandler home prices have skyrocketed in the past year – and they might still be undervalued, experts say. PAGE 12



Do you love pickleball but don't love playing it in 110-degree heat? A new West Chandler indoor facility is a smash hit. PAGE 18



New Corona del Sol High football coach Jake Barro likes what he saw in spring practice, including improved quarterback Connor Ackerley. PAGE 21



UNIFORM ACCEPTANCE

Kauri Crownhart and The Manhattan Dolls entertain at Tempe Community Salutes, where armed-forces-bound high school grads were honored.

Pages 16-17

Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

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FIND NEW ROADS™



South Tempe neighborhoods unlikely to suffer water-main flood like that at U.S. 60-McClintock

By Lee Shappell

Wrangler News Executive Editor

The recent gusher at U.S. 60 and McClintock Drive raised the disquieting specter of a similar water-main break flooding a South Tempe residential neighborhood and damaging homes.

If it happened there, what are chances of it happening a couple of miles south, essentially in our community's backyard?

Slim, according to Tempe officials.

City water mains generally follow major arterial streets and do not go into residential neighborhoods, according to Mark Weber, Tempe interim deputy municipal utilities director.

Water-delivery pipelines into subdivisions generally are 6-inch to 8-inch distribution lines. The water main that ruptured on May 7 and caused traffic nightmares while U.S. 60 was shut down for repairs was a 24-inch main, which continues south on McClintock to Guadalupe Road, where it connects with a larger line that comes out of Tempe's South Water



Work continues to rebuild westbound flood-damaged lanes of U.S. 60 under the McClintock Drive overpass after a break in a water main May 7. — Arizona Department of Transportation photo

Plant south of Guadalupe at Price.

That's not to say that there might not be a water leak in a neighborhood.

There have been 1,100 of them in the system since 1998 when Tempe began tracking breaks.

"So we have a number of breaks every year," Weber said. "We have had some sporadic breaks in South Tempe, but the majority of the breaks are north of Baseline and primarily north of the 60, and the breaks

— WATER MAIN, Page 4

Chandler utility rates to increase on July 1

West Chandler residents will see a small increase in their utility bills beginning July 1.

Chandler, which manages and operates water, wastewater, reclaimed water and solid-waste utilities in the city, on July 1 will implement a rate increase of, on average, \$1.39 a month or \$16.68 a year.

Early this year, the city evaluated results of a cost-of-service study and determined a need for utility-rate increases to fund rising ongoing operating costs as well as debt-service costs associated with capital improvements.

After several public meetings and public outreach, the new rates were approved by City Council.

The increased rates are essential to ensure that the city has the needed funds to cover costs of providing services, and ensure that the rates are fair and equitable among each customer classification.

In a comparison with seven other Valley cities after this rate increase, Chandler still provides the lowest cost for its utility services on average at \$75.89.

That compares with Gilbert at \$87.37, Peoria at \$98.05, Scottsdale at \$107.10, Tempe at \$120.40, Glendale at \$136.11, Phoenix at \$148 and Mesa \$152.08.

In addition to utility-rate changes, there will also be changes to some of the fees and/or policies for the Recycling Solid Waste Collection Center, bulk collection and for solid-waste customers who receive alley collection service instead of curbside service.

Bulk collection will be allowed two times for free

per calendar year. A fee of \$30 will be charged for additional bulk collections. Current usage patterns show that 98 percent of households will not see an impact from this change.

All residents will be allowed two free visits to the Recycling Solid Waste Collection Center per calendar year for loads up to 400 pounds, with any additional weight being charged in 20-pound increments.

Additional visits, with loads up to 400 pounds, will be charged a fee of \$10, with any weight over 400 pounds being charged for the full weight at \$50 per ton charged in 20-pound increments. Current usage patterns show 95 percent of households will not see an impact from this change.

Alley customers will pay an additional \$1.61 per month. For questions or concerns, call 480-782-2280 or email utilitybilling@chandleraz.gov.

Water main

From Page 3

we have had are in our smaller lines.

“It’s pretty normal for utilities across the nation to have breaks, depending on the age of the pipe, the materials in the system and when it was installed.”

The break in the 24-inch transmission line behind a retaining wall near the top of the McClintock Drive westbound off-ramp at U.S. 60 was Tempe’s first on a major pipeline, city officials say. They still do not know what caused the cast-iron pipe to fail, nor do they have an estimate of the cost to repair it.

South Tempe, comprising newer neighborhoods, has primarily ductile-iron delivery pipes, the newest type in the system. The oldest pipes in the Tempe system are cast iron. Then came asbestos-cement pipes.

Its entire water system is about 860 miles of pipes, about 50 miles of which are big transmission mains like the one that recently failed.

Monitoring every inch of the system is daunting, but the city, acknowledging that records of the oldest pipes are sketchy, eight years ago implemented an identification and replacement program. So far, 38 miles of pipelines have been replaced.

“We have a replacement program on our distribu-

tion system, which is different from the pipeline that broke under the freeway,” Weber said, referring to the smaller delivery pipes in neighborhoods. “Our replacement program is concentrated on those pipelines because that’s where all of the breaks have been that we consider natural breaks, in other words due to age and material.”

So it’s unlikely that anyone will be body-surfing down a street in, say, Warner Ranch.

See South Tempe water-pipe age graphic, Page 6

The majority of the 1,100 breaks have been in cast-iron pipes, the oldest in Tempe that represent about 21 percent of its system but account for about 75 percent of the breaks, Weber said.

“We primarily look at break history, where they occur,” Weber said. “As the city develops, the developers build the water lines and then turn them over to the city. Generally, if one part of the system in a neighborhood goes bad, then we look at that whole neighborhood as a replacement project because it was built at the same time.”

Major transmission lines are a different story.

“We are in the planning stages of doing an assessment where we actually put instrumentation into the lines so we can determine the structural condition of

the transmission mains like the one under the 60 that broke,” Weber said. “In order to do that we have to build access into the pipes, so that’s going to take some time to get into all of the pipes to structurally assess all of them.”

While the line at McClintock and U.S. 60 was torn up, it received the new technology, according to Weber. If it failed in that spot, the city wants to know if it is vulnerable elsewhere.

“We just sent the first instrument through (on May 17) so we can see the condition of that,” he said. “And there is additional instrumentation that’s coming to look at a different part of the pipe.”

The newly installed equipment includes a camera as well as electromagnetic instrumentation that looks at the steel in the 50-year-old pipe, which Weber says typically has a life expectancy of about 75 years.

“Our transmission-main assessment includes a detailed inventory of exactly what types of pipe we have,” Weber said. “We didn’t have the best records over the years so we don’t actually know specifically the exact details of every single pipe. We will assess each of those individually.

“This transmission line is the first one to break. We’re not sure exactly what happened yet and we’re not going to speculate.”

— WATER MAIN, Page 8

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Real Estate



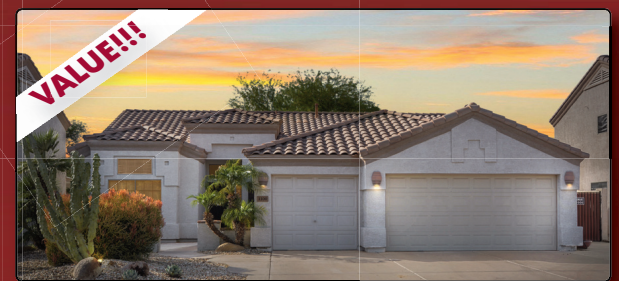
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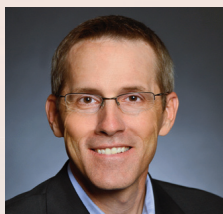
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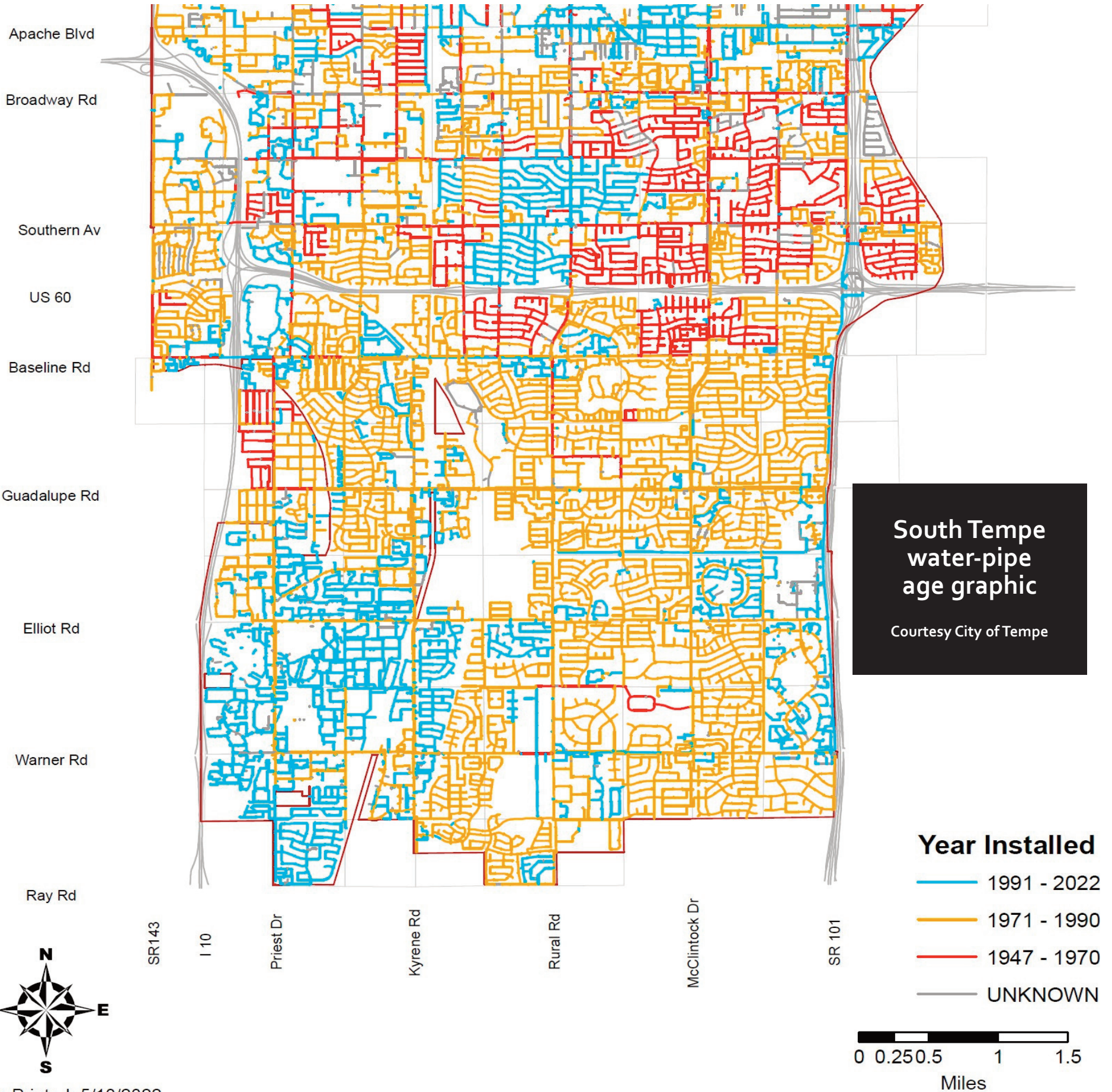
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Water Main

From Page 4

not going to speculate.”

Tempe has worked with Arizona Department of Transportation to repair the flood-damaged freeway. Eastbound lanes reopened May 15. More-seriously damaged westbound lanes were on the verge of reopening as *Wrangler News* went to press. ADOT has declared the McClintock Drive overpass across the freeway structurally sound.

Concrete was poured by Tempe-hired contractors on the reconstructed westbound lanes starting May 18. The process of pouring about 1,500 cubic yards of concrete 14 inches thick in a few sections of the westbound lanes could take two or three days, according to Chris Kabala, principal civil engineer for Tempe. About 34,000 square feet of the flood-damaged roadway was removed.

Drivers had to make substantial detours for more than two weeks while westbound lanes were closed from McClintock Drive to Loop 101.

“We clearly know that this is a very big challenge if you’re commuting back and forth,” Tempe Mayor Corey Woods said. “We know this is absolutely an in-



Eastbound lanes of U.S. 60 under McClintock Drive were the first to reopen after a water main ruptured May 7 and caused severe flooding that damaged the freeway surface. – Arizona Department of Transportation photo

convenience. But at the end of the day, I think people have been very understanding of the fact that, unfortunately, sometimes things like this happen.”

Contractors hired by Tempe worked with ADOT staff, surveying areas beneath the freeway pavement to determine if soil shifted due to pressure from water released by the broken water main. They wanted to ensure the stability of the ground and to ensure the structural integrity of the McClintock Drive overpass.

ADOT and Tempe are repurposing the old concrete

and asphalt roadway materials that were torn away to make repairs as fill material in ADOT’s Interstate 10 Broadway Curve Improvement Project, which includes widening the freeway from Ray Road to the Interstate 17 split near downtown Phoenix and adding pedestrian bridges.

“Sustainability is very important to the city of Tempe,” Kabala said. “We are glad that this material is being used over here and not being shipped somewhere to a landfill.”

Plan your route

Chandler aims to develop streets that are designed to provide safe and efficient movement for a multitude of users (e.g., motorized vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit for all ages and abilities). Sometimes this requires road construction projects. Stay informed by visiting chandleraz.gov/TrafficRestrictions for an interactive map to learn about projects that are currently taking place.



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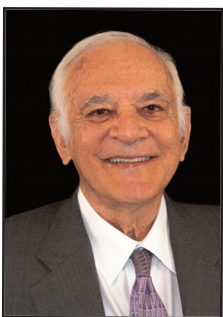
OPINIONS

Memorial Day and the Gettysburg Address

By Glynn Gilcrease

Many Americans think of Memorial Day as a time of celebration with family and friends, and picnics with hotdogs.

The history and meaning of this special day are important and sacred.



Memorial Day began in May, during the time of the Civil War, with flowers being placed on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Because of the flowers adorning the graves, it was originally called Decoration Day.

After World War I, this special day of honoring our deceased soldiers was changed to Memorial Day. Memorial Day began as May 30 each year, however, in 1971, it was

changed to the last Monday in May.

As we take time to remember those who have lost loved ones in battles, let us give thanks for their sacrifice in preserving our democracy.

Perhaps nothing expresses its meaning better than the words of our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln, who stood at the cemetery near Gettysburg on Nov. 19, 1863, to honor the soldiers in the U.S. Army who died in battle, when he spoke these majestic words:

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who have given their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

“But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say



here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure for devo-

tion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Glynn Gilcrease is an attorney in Tempe and a noted authority on the life and works of Abraham Lincoln.

Dedicated, expert helpers support our Tempe students every day

By Joel Navarro

More than ever, students in Tempe need our support, and I am so proud of our partnerships with Tempe Union High School District and Tempe Elementary School District to provide CARE 7 Youth Specialists and School Resource Officers on campuses.



Joel Navarro

As we close out this school year and begin planning for the next one, I want to reflect on the valuable role these trained professionals play in meeting our students' needs. From providing social and emotional support to increasing campus safety, their work throughout the city is just outstanding.

More than two years into the pandemic, many in our city – especially youth - are struggling to navigate life. Partnering with our school districts to help students feel safe and supported is so critical. That's why our Mayor and City Council is committed to investing in Youth Specialists and School Resource Officers.

Since 2021, the city has invested more than \$1 million in our Youth Specialist program. Additionally, in 2020 we committed about \$438,000 in federal funds through COVID-19 recovery initiatives.

We currently have seven Youth Specialists in six Tempe Union high schools. This is a shared investment with the district and this year, the Council approved transitioning these to full-time permanent positions. The district also is fully funding another five specialists, giving us two at each high school next school year. This means more help for more students.

We also have five Youth Specialists at Tempe Elementary School District campuses funded by temporary federal dollars. Under the city's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-23, we would put city dollars behind these positions.

I can't overstate the value of these services. This school year alone, our Youth Specialists helped more than 1,400 students through individual, group and crisis support. These were students struggling with anxiety, depression, basic needs, family issues and more.

I'm also proud of Tempe Police Department's commitment to Tempe schools through the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. While Tempe Union works to evaluate the future role of SROs, I value how these specially-trained officers make sure students and staff can learn and work in a safe environment.

They play a vital role in daily safety operations, both on and off campus. They have direct information about potential concerns, handle all safety-related issues on campus, conduct investigations as needed and can deter criminal activity by their presence.

Safety for all is the top priority and SROs see their students every day, building rapport, trust and mutual respect. Through that relationship building, they know about concerns at home, changes in behavior and how to approach the student on a more personal level. SROs change lives, create change and bring students and schools together.

Tempe is a stronger community thanks to these dedicated mentors, counselors, protectors and trusted adults. Do you have ideas for making our community stronger? Please reach out to me anytime at or 480-350-8795.

Joel Navarro is a member of the Tempe City Council.

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COMMUNITY

After year of skyrocketing home prices, S. Tempe, W. Chandler may still be undervalued

Special report for Wrangler News by Janie Magruder

There's a saying going around Nick Bastian's real estate office in South Tempe in response to this question: "How many days do you think that house will be on the market?"



Nick Bastian

Despite recent inflation, rising mortgage interest rates, Russia's war in Ukraine, continuing fallout from the coronavirus pandemic and an uncertain political climate in the U.S., the residen-

"The joke is how many hours will it be?" Bastian, a Realtor with Realty Executives Tempe, said, laughing. "If a house is on the market for 10 days, we look at it and ask, 'What's wrong?'"

tial real estate market in South Tempe and West Chandler remains frenetic, he said.

"Our market has been hotter than nationally," Bastian said, noting that some homes in the area are selling for 30 percent more than just two years ago. "More homes are under contract now than are for sale, and that's certainly an indicator of strong demand. But we're coming out of something you could almost call insanity. It might now just be in a frenzy."

The Kyrene and Price corridors are highly desirable for myriad reasons, among them good schools, proximity to freeways and the airport, and a steady stream of business development that has brought higher-paying jobs in health care, technology, banking and construction.



Carol Royse

behind other compa-

able areas in the U.S. "The South Tempe and West Chandler markets were underpriced for so long that the inflation percentages and cost of living are just now catching up to other markets," Royse said. "We still rank nationally undervalued for how much home you can buy."

"As pricing has increased, buyers have still been plentiful for homes in South Tempe. With average days on the market of 10 or less, sellers have realized equity gains as well as favorable terms, such as post possession after

Carol Royse, a real estate team leader with Keller Williams East Valley, says that even though prices have jumped sharply in South Tempe and West Chandler they still are be-

hind other compa-



South Tempe and West Chandler, with their upscale homes and well-groomed neighborhoods, remain attractive to buyers despite a sharp increase in value over the past year.

— Photo by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

closing, appraisal waivers and inspection waivers. Buyers desire to be in custom neighborhoods, many with larger lots and gated communities, as well as some of the best public and charter schools."

Those factors will keep South Tempe and West Chandler desirable for home buyers," she says.

"While 30 percent appreciation will be slowed, we should still see appreciation in the double digits," Royse said.

According to December 2021 U.S. Census Bureau data, 269 people move into Arizona every day, 200 of them bound for the Phoenix metro area.

"We have a much more well-rounded job base, and that's big for us. It will sustain us for a while, even with an increase in interest rates," Bastian said. "But we don't have enough houses to put people in."

During the first week of May, there were only 52 single-family homes for sale within the ZIP codes of 85226, 85283 and 85284. In 85284, there are only four to five single-family homes for sale at any given time, and finding one under \$500,000 is almost unheard of, he adds.

"It would be alarming if there were only 200 homes total," said Bastian,

himself a South Tempe resident. "I feel badly for young families and first-time buyers because the average sales price of these 52 homes is \$700,000."

However, as summer heats up in the Valley, there are signs that the Phoenix metro housing market is starting to cool a bit. Whereas some home sellers received 20 offers in the past, now they may expect just two or three, he said.



Randy Goff

inventory.

"This is a direct result of the higher home prices and increased mortgage interest rates," Goff said. "We expect this trend to likely continue throughout the rest of 2022."

Michael Bell, senior loan officer at Security National Mortgage Co., said he, too, sees inventory slowly starting to rise. There has been a significant slowdown in mortgage loan applications and

Randy Goff, marketing manager at Lucas Real Estate and owner/broker of Chandler Mortgage, says that in the past few weeks there has been a much needed uptick in local housing

overall submitted offers since mid-April, he said.

"The biggest reason is the cost factor," said Bell, who also lives in Tempe. "Taking into account home values and higher interest rates, for a lot of people it makes it more difficult to afford or justify owning a home right now."

For example, the 30-year fixed rate six months ago was in the mid-3 percentile, he said, then in the mid-5s in May. Bell predicts it could go as high as 6.5 percent.

"But if you look at median interest rates over the last 50 years, we're still well below that," he said. "The last three years have been a great opportunity for people to lower their monthly payment and lock into a fixed interest rate, but it's not forever."

The average monthly mortgage payment for a home purchased this spring is 55 percent higher than for the same home a year ago. A \$4,500 monthly payment now was \$3,000 last year, Bell said.

"That, along with inflation, is really starting to become a big concern," Bell said. "Everything is becoming more expensive to purchase and more difficult for people to sustain the same lifestyle they had last year."

Goff points out that Maricopa County has been among the fastest-growing counties in the U.S. over

the past decade.

"Phoenix is a desirable place to live and the business/jobs environment is extremely strong," Goff said. "This should help stabilize the market both in the near and long term."

According to data provided by Brooke Bogart, a Realtor for Keller Williams Realty in Tempe, active listings in the greater Phoenix area increased to 6,722 in April, from 5,403. Closings dropped to 8,825 from 9,640 in the same time period.

Bell predicts first-time homebuyers and people who can't afford large down payments may soon be able to jump back into the market.

"Over the past year, if you didn't have at least 10 to 15 percent to put down, the chance of your offer being accepted was low because there was so much competition," Bell said. "A lot of agents are now starting to reach back out to people who couldn't get a contract six months ago."

Crystal-ball gazing into the housing market is tricky business, one that experts are reluctant to tackle.

"If you had asked me at the end of last year, I'd have had a very solid answer," said Mark Stapp, executive director of the Master of Real Estate Devel-

opment Program and the Fred E. Taylor Professor in Real Estate in ASU's W.P. Carey School of Business. "But as of six weeks, two months ago, oh boy, I wouldn't say all bets are off, but it's becoming more difficult to see a more precise future."

Contributing to the uncertainty, in addition to continuing global supply-chain issues, and the decreasing amount and rising cost of available land, is China's COVID-19 lockdown along with rising prices due to the Ukraine war and inflation, Stapp said.

In attempting to tamp down inflation, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate by half a percentage point on May 4, the largest increase in more than 20 years. But mortgage rates aren't directly connected to that rate, experts say.

"What the Fed rate is telling us is money is becoming more expensive," Stapp said. "That will trickle through the capital markets for sure, but will it be in lockstep (with mortgage rates)? Not necessarily."

Prospective homebuyers boxed out of the market often have to resort to renting, but there are too few available properties in South Tempe and West Chandler. Chandler has passed Scottsdale as the most expensive rental market in the Valley. "One thing that

— Continued on next page

Youth and Adult Summer Series

YOUTH RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS



Every Wednesday in June and July 2022 from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. at the Innovation Center there will be a workshop focusing on toxic stress, coping skills, and resiliency. Building confidence, minimizing anxiety and depression, and developing protective factors against substance use.

ADULT RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS IN ENGLISH



Every Wednesday in June and July 2022 from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at the Innovation Center there will be a workshop focusing on stress management, resiliency and self-care, and suicide prevention. Building confidence, minimizing anxiety and depression and developing protective factors for substance use.

ADULT RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS IN SPANISH



Every Wednesday in June 2022 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Innovation Center there will be a workshop focusing on stress management, resiliency and self-care, generational trauma, and suicide prevention. Building confidence, minimizing anxiety and depression and developing protective factors for substance use.


LOCATION & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All workshops will be offered at the Innovation Center at 490 W Guadalupe Rd, Tempe, AZ 85283. Registration is not needed to attend workshops.

If you have additional questions, please call: **480-350-8004**.

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 **Tempe Coalition**

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causes rents to go down is vacant homes, but we don't have that now because there's so much competition from institutional investors," Bastian said.

In early May, just 32 single-family homes were for lease within the Kyrene and Price corridors, with the average monthly rent at just under \$2,500, he said.

That's a big concern for Stapp because an under-supplied rental market unfairly impacts certain people, those with less buying power.

"It's very difficult for your average hourly worker or even a salaried worker who is a paraprofessional — the teacher, the firefighter, basic-services providers," Stapp said. "This situation is not good for them."

Royse agrees.

"For first-time home buyers, it is going to be im-

possible to become a home buyer in today's market," she said. "First-time home buyers are going to have to move further away from the city and live on the outskirts if they want to buy a home. Interest rates impact first-time buyers more than home prices, not to mention inflation, which also decreases first-time buyers' affordability."

Renters in metro Phoenix suffered an average 26 percent increase in rent payments last year, while the average increase in wages was 6 percent, Stapp noted. The simple answer is supply, he acknowledges, but, "we don't control a lot of that," given significant issues with supply chain and employment.

Additionally, the region has a history of and a mindset for keeping housing density relatively low,

Stapp said.

"Growth patterns are pushing people out, rather than in-filling," he said. "We have to be able to adjust to accommodate urban growth, and that requires significantly more density. But our land-use laws and public policies don't support that."

Without change, at least in South Tempe and West Chandler, there are few places to grow.

"There's not a lot of vacant land, not much to build out," Stapp said. "But the area is highly desirable, and will be continue to be so, especially in certain neighborhoods in certain locations."

Wrangler News Publisher Don Kirkland contributed to this report.



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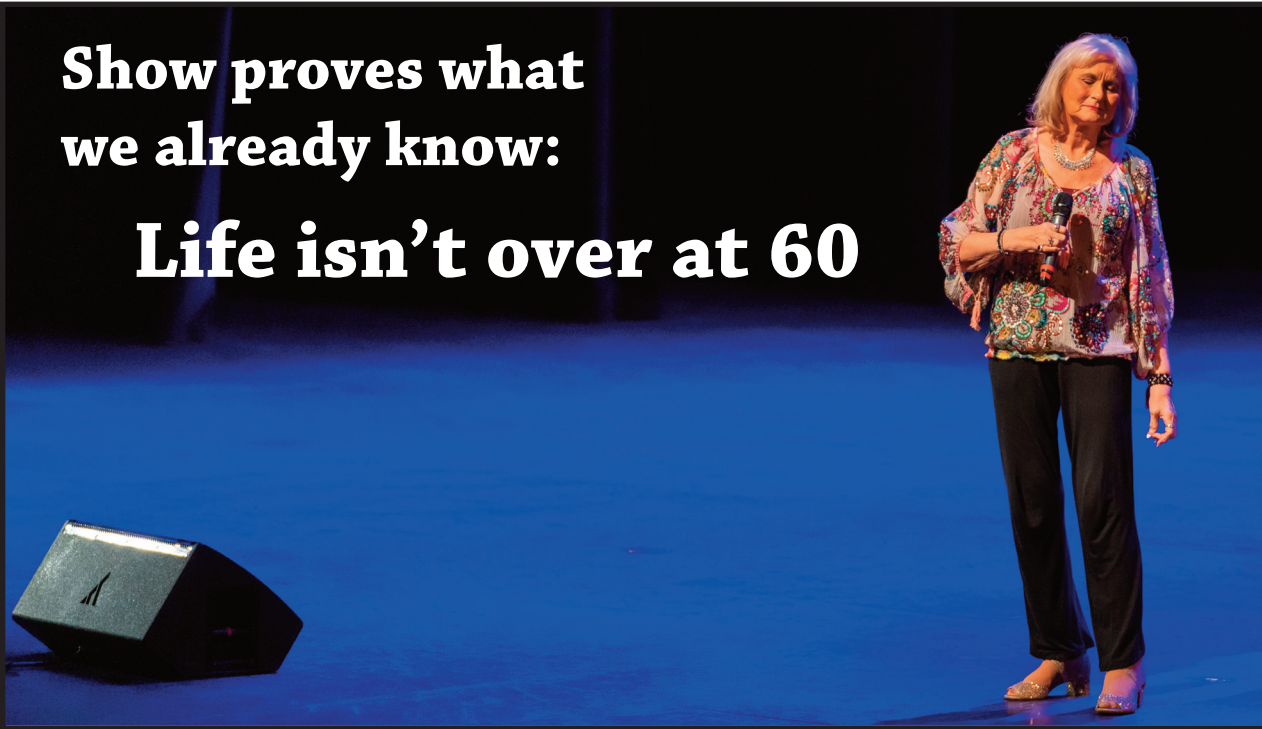
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Chandler's Spice of Life Senior Variety Show proves talent has no age limit. Presented by Chandler Senior Center, the 50-plus showcase featured something for everyone in the lineup, which pulls amateur and professional performers from all over the Valley. Rosemary Morton, a founding member of the show committee, said, 'We thought it would be a great way to showcase the talents of seniors and show that just because you turn 60, your life isn't over.'

Photos by Edmundo Mendez/City of Chandler



Community Salutes recognizes nearly 40 service-bound grads

Tempe high school graduates and residents who have committed to serving in the U.S. armed forces were honored May 9 during the eighth annual Tempe Community Salutes at Tempe Center for the Arts.

Representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines were on hand along with a Marine Corps Color Guard to salute the 38 aspiring servicemembers.

Since 2015, when the program began, Tempe Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage, an Army veteran, has shaken the hands of more than 300 service-bound Tempe residents during the ceremony.

"We started this program eight years ago as a

hometown salute to honor the young adults who will be entering military service and to recognize their families for their support," Arredondo-Savage said.

"I am proud to have attended every year to personally say thank you to them."

The Patriot Guard Riders of Arizona, a veteran's group, greeted guests as they entered. Entertainment was provided by vintage entertainment singers The Manhattan Dolls, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band of Arizona and the East Valley Harmonizers Barber-shop Chorus.

WM, Sender, Gammage & Burnham and Blue Star Mothers sponsored the program.

2022 Community Salutes honorees

Army

Lily Brown, Timothy E. Hardiman, James A. Ledo, Mariana Herrera Plascencia, Linda Quincy, Zachary S. Ray.

Navy

Nadja Messerschmidt, Michael Nunez, Kyle Prescott, Alexis Delgado, Colin Gilmore, Keira Schrecken-gost Ynhi Nguyen, Peter Nguyen, Marco Rosas Troncoso, Leah Finstrom, Dustin Carmona, Kevin Morales Loera.

Air Force

Carlos Herrera, Hunter Marnelos, Abelardo Sandoval, Zoe Stone.

Marines

Karime Acostabucio, William Christian Michael Chadwick, Antonio Elizarraraz, Alfonso Gamez, Azael Gamez Ramirez, Jocelyn Angelina Gonzalez, Nicolas Angel, Haines Pizzaro, Leon Edward Jenkins, Francis Taylor Jones, Mariette Mbaju, Javin Quang Nguyen, Valeria Marylynn Parker, Xavier Fernando Ramirez, Alejandro Rosales Montejo, Victor Zazueta.



A U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard (facing page) presents the colors to open the ceremony.

At left (from top), those headed to the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines are saluted.

Above, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band provides entertainment.



*Photos by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News*



DIVERSIONS

Smash hit

W. Chandler's newest fun venue proves pickleball isn't just for Grandma

By Meghann Sepulveda
Special for Wrangler News

It took a little convincing from neighbors to get Mike Rodrigues to try pickleball, a sport that combines tennis, ping-pong and badminton on a pint-size court.

The Chandler resident and business owner quickly fell in love with the sport and began thinking about ways to improve the experience for others.

Fast forward from a little more than a year ago: Rodrigues opened Pickleball Kingdom, Arizona's largest indoor pickleball facility, on May 2 in West Chandler.

As a successful business owner, Rodrigues wasn't looking for a new opportunity. Her felt compelled to explore his vision of an indoor pickleball facility.

"My brain immediately caught on fire," Rodrigues said. "I couldn't stop thinking about it."

Rodrigues was confident that he could use the same fundamentals and concepts developed in his previous experiences and apply those to a new business – but the process proved to be humbling.

"I didn't think it would be that hard to bring this idea to fruition," he said. "I learned that I was wrong, and it was incredibly complicated."

However, Pickleball Kingdom finally was born. The 15-court, 40,000-square-foot facility is on the northeastern corner of Ray and Rural roads.

Those who've played pickleball know that most courts are outdoors, which can pose a challenge for Arizona residents during hot summer months.

Outdoor courts in the area are limited. Coupled with the increased demand from the meteoric rise in popularity of the sport, players are waiting longer for courts.

"By design, the sport is affected by wind, sun and heat," Rodrigues said. "Now, players can enjoy an indoor, air-conditioned facility, any time of day or night."

Pickleball Kingdom caters to busy schedules and is open from 6 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

But one of the most appealing aspects of pickleball is the sense of community.

"The social element is the best part of our facility," Rodrigues said. "There are so many friendships that develop."

Couples, friends, coworkers and even large groups enjoy the facility. Private events are perfect for team building, graduation celebrations and birthday parties, all of which come with a private coach and a tournament.

While some may have a false preconceived notion that pickleball players tend to skew toward the retiree population, the truth is that the game is enjoyed by all ages.

"I think pickleball has shifted from an older to a younger population," Rodrigues said. "There are many retired people who gravitate toward the sport, but that's because you can be active without being so hard on your body."

Rodrigues believes one good thing that came from the COVID-19 pandemic is that it helped introduce more people to pickleball, and now many individuals – including young athletes – look to it as their regular workout session.



Mike Rodrigues, owner of the new Pickleball Kingdom, 4950 W. Ray Road in West Chandler, wanted to improve the experience for those who love the fast-growing sport. He opened an indoor facility (above).

– Photos courtesy of Pickleball Kingdom

Those interested in joining Pickleball Kingdom can choose from three membership options ranging from \$85 to \$190 per month with various levels of perks, such as advanced reservations, locker usage and invitations to tournaments and ancillary events.

Or, visitors can pay \$15 to reserve a court and play. Paddles and balls can be rented, along with ball feeder machines to practice hitting.

Locker rooms with showers, a pro shop and a snack bar are onsite.

Private, semi-private and group lessons as well as leagues are available.

The facility recently launched Pickleball 101, a free class offered to the public, which includes paddles and balls and is taught by an experienced coach.

"The class is a great introduction to pickleball," Rodrigues said. "As ambassadors of the sport, we want to eliminate any barriers so everyone can experience the game."

More information: pickleballkingdom.com.

Film Fare

'Downton Abbey: A New Era': Nice surprise from its sedate predecessor

By **MV Moorhead**
Wrangler News Film Critic

The Brit franchise known as Downton Abbey, about the lives of nobility and their servants at the fictitious pile of bricks of the title, was an ITV series from 2010 to 2015, then a feature in 2019, and now this sequel.

I never watched the show, and while I had seen the earlier film, I could barely remember a thing about it, just the impression that it was pleasantly sedate. So it was with no special excitement that I settled in for the sequel, *Downton Abbey: A New Era*.



M.V. Moorhead elegant ones.

Thus the new movie, directed by Simon Curtis, was a nice surprise. Screenwriter Julian Fellowes has concocted twin storylines, both of which have a fairy-tale charm and both of which pay off with a gratifying sense of wish-fulfillment. Most of us could do with a happy ending right now, and this movie serves up a couple of elegant ones.

In the first strand, Crawley family matriarch Violet (Maggie Smith) informs her astounded relations that she's been bequeathed a villa in the south of France by a passionate admirer from her youth who has passed on, and that she wishes to give the place to her great-granddaughter, Sybil. Violet is past traveling, but the Frenchman's highly civil son (Jonathan Zaccai) invites the family to visit the villa and get acquainted, much to the disgust of his mother (Nathalie Baye).

The other, livelier plotline has a film crew arriving to shoot a movie at Downton Abbey. The family reluctantly agrees to this indignity to finance a new roof for the house. It starts as a silent picture, but *The Jazz Singer* has just come out, so it becomes a talkie mid-shoot. What ensues is surprisingly similar to the plot of *Singin' in the Rain*, right down to a beautiful blonde silent star with an incongruously grating voice.

The regulars from the series, among them Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern, Robert James-Collier, Samantha Bond, Phyllis Logan, Jim Carter, Penelope Wilton and the beguiling Michelle Dockery

— FILM FARE, Page 20



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Film Fare

From Page 19

as Lady Mary, who keeps an eye on the film folks while her family is in France, are in solid form.

One of the veterans from the series, Kevin Doyle as butler-turned-schoolteacher-Mr.-Molesley, gets a particularly marvelous payoff here.

A cinephile, Molesley's rapture at being in proximity to moviemaking is funny, but it borders on moving, as well.

The fun this time, however, is mostly from the new characters. As the film producer who understandably falls for Lady Mary, Hugh Dancy hits just the right quietly lovestruck note.

Just as good are Dominic West as the jovial leading man of the movie and Laura Haddock as his breathtaking, covertly cockney leading lady.

Fellowes, who also triumphed this year with *The Gilded Age* on HBO, has so long been a skillful—and seemingly admiring—chronicler of the obscenely rich and those who derive their living from pampering them that it may be hard while watching *Downton Abbey* to entirely stifle your class outrage at times.

At one point Violet, watching the film crew at work, remarks, "I'd rather earn my living down the mine!" Drawing on a lifetime's experience as a hard-working actress, Maggie Smith delivers the line peer-



'Downton Abbey: A New Era' has the structure and some of the pastoral flavor of a Shakespearean comedy.

lessly. But even as she makes you laugh, you may not be able to suppress the thought of the Dowager: Yeah, spoken like some mega-rich jerk who never had to earn a living at all.

Try 10 minutes "down the mine" sometime and see if you still feel that way.

But the idyllic tone of *A New Era* wore me down. I couldn't maintain any indignation. Of course, the social system depicted here is grotesque and, not to put too fine a point on it, wrong. But so are the social systems approvingly depicted in, say, *Twelfth*

Night or Much Ado About Nothing, and that doesn't stop us from entering into and enjoying them. I'm not remotely putting Fellowes, brilliant though he is, in the same class as Shakespeare. But this movie does have the structure, and some of the pastoral flavor, of a Shakespearean comedy, with all the storylines resolving in joy.

Downton Abbey: A New Era is rated PG and plays at *Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion 20, AMC Centerpoint, Majestic Tempe 7* and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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SPORTS

New Corona del Sol football coach finds 'a lot to build on' after spring workouts

By Andrew Lwowski

Special for Wrangler News

While it was a frustrating autumn on the gridiron at Corona del Sol High, Casa Grande was having a banner 2021 football season that ended with the undefeated Cougars winning the 4A state title.

The Aztecs, meanwhile, rode a jolting escalator. Coming into 2021 with expectations through the roof due to holdovers from undefeated teams at all three levels – varsity, junior varsity and freshman – they proceeded to lose four of their first five games. They then rallied to win their final five games, successfully defend their league championship and finish 5-5. It was not enough to earn a return to the playoffs.

Jake Barro, who is a hero in Casa Grande for his team's success, but in the Valley better known as part of the Barro family that owns a chain of popular Italian restaurants, made the move up I-10 to pick up the pieces after Jon Bechtold resigned in January. Bechtold, who remains a teacher on campus, led the Aztecs to the 6A Open Division playoffs two years ago.

After his first spring ball wearing orange, Barro believes there is no reason why the squad can't return to its winning ways.

"I see a lot of potential, a lot of good talent," Barro said. "I see high energy and lots of enthusiasm. There's definitely a lot to build on."

That begins with junior quarterback Connor Acklerley, whose improvement opened eyes at several quarterback camps during the winter and spring.

Senior kicker Carston Kieffer is regarded as one of the best in the nation.



The two-time defending league champ Corona del Sol High football team relaxes after a recent spring practice. – Corona del Sol football photo. Below, new Aztecs coach Jake Barro, who has been on the job since January, says he likes what he sees. – Photo by Andrew Lwowski for Wrangler News

Senior linebacker Ryne Cook and senior defensive back Tristen Shafer appear ready for key roles on defense.

Barro has family rooted in Tempe dating to Corona's opening days in 1978. His grandfather started Barro's Pizza and was part of the Aztecs coaching staff on the 1980 state-title team.

"That was a cool family connection that I've always had with this campus," Jake Barro said. "I've had a lot of family come through that have graduated."

Having those family ties to Corona makes this opportunity even more exciting to him, Barro said.

"This was always the destination job for me for that reason," Barro said. "When this popped up, it was perfect timing because I knew it was my last year at Casa Grande and I was coming back to the East Valley."

Barro said he has been building his relationship with his team since March, getting to know his kids off the field in order to build and grow a winning culture.

"You have to really get to know who these kids are as people and what motivates them," Barro said. "We know where this program can go, where the potential is. We know what the kids want, so we're holding them accountable for the work that it takes to get there."

Barro added that the Aztec football program was in good shape when he took over. He couldn't say that at Casa Grande.

"They're not just good football players," Barro said of his new team. "They're good teammates, as well. It's

the seniors that help establish that culture as players move through the program.

"As long as they put in the work, I feel we can get this thing rolling the same way I did at Casa Grande. We can turn this into a regular East Valley powerhouse. I believe that, and I wouldn't be here if I didn't."



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Sports Notebook

7th-ranked Aztec boys volleyball reaches 6A state quarterfinals

By Alex Zener

Ending the regular season No. 7 in the state, its highest in years, and qualifying for the 6A state playoffs, the Corona del Sol High boys volleyball team regarded this spring as a success.

"I think for us to come in and make the playoffs this year was a great showing overall for the team's focus on our process," coach Geoff Horewitch said of the 21-12 record. "It was such a wonderful experience for the boys and especially the seniors that lost time due to COVID in 2020."

The Aztecs were eliminated in three sets in the quarterfinals by No. 2 Highland on May 10.

"This team put in extra time on the practice court together and competed hard in every match regardless of the lineup," Horewitch said. "There were a lot of great moments for us. We reached the Gold Bracket at the Wolf Howl Invitational early in the season, we defeated Desert Vista on their home court and we finished in the top four at the Higley Tournament in April."

In the first round, at home, the Aztecs defeated No. 10 Tucson Rincon High in three sets.

"We won a state-championship playoff match for the first time in four years," Horewitch said. "What is even better is that we won our first home playoff game in 12 years."

In the Rincon match, Corona junior Jon Seddon led the team with 11 kills and a .500 hitting percentage.

Seniors Carter Nicholson and Tim Hinton each had eight kills and junior Toby Lim added seven.

Senior Jeremy Acedo led the Aztecs with three service aces. Junior Nathan Magro's five blocks led the squad.

Senior Connor O'Brien had 19 digs to lead all players. Carter Nicolson had 11 digs and junior Cade Banks had nine.

Banks, as the setter, had 12 assists with only two errors.

The Aztecs honored their six seniors during their final home match: O'Brien,

Acedo, Nicolson, Drew Moraga, Hinton and Drew Nicolson.

"Connor, a four-year starter for us, was a huge part of our team's success," said Horewitch. "As our libero, he constantly kept us in system and was like a mini coach for me on the court. He has such a great read of the game."

"Connor made First Team All-Region and was selected to the Tempe All-City. He will be missed but next fall he will be playing volleyball at Queens University of Charlotte in Charlotte, N.C. next fall."

Others who contributed were sophomore Luke Vlcek, junior Omar Leon, junior Walter Moffatt, junior Kai Becker and junior Ollie Hinder.

Marcos de Niza boys volleyball

The Padres finished the season No. 23 in 4A.

Senior setter Nicky Wong was backed up by sophomore defensive specialist/setter Sebastian Arrieta.

Junior Gavin Connell and sophomore Joseph Lara both played libero and outside hitter. The other outside hitter was senior Chris Kenehan. The opposite hitter was sophomore Daniel Hambleton.

Middle blockers were senior Ken Marshall-Perez, freshman Daniel Horton, sophomore Robert Vacasequa Quihuis, junior Tavon Clark, and freshman Josh Edwards.

Defensive specialists were senior Adam Barwick and sophomores Marco Pulido, Gabriel Mayer and Aaron Zamora Garcia.

Corona del Sol beach volleyball

Corona's beach volleyball team reached the team state semifinals, where it fell to Sandra Day O'Connor on April 25.

In the individual pairs state championships, which took place May 2-5, Corona had two pairs entered: senior Dominique Wofford and junior Kierstyn Barton were seventh seeded and received a first-round bye, and senior Taylor Erickson and junior Ella Lomigora entered unseeded.

Wofford and Barton lost to a Sandra Day O'Connor team in the second round, while Erickson and Lomigora made it to the quarterfinals before being eliminated.

McClintock's Pierson joins Tempe All-City Hall of Fame

Ann Pierson, a McClintock High standout in several sports during the late 1980s, was inducted into the Tempe All-City Association Sports Hall of Fame during the organization's spring sports awards banquet on May 9.

Standout athletes from schools in the Tempe Union High School District also received all-city recognition during the ceremony at Marcos de Niza High.

Pierson was all-city and all-region in softball; all-city, all-region and all-state in volleyball; and all-city, all-region and all-state in basketball.

Pierson took her talents to Arizona State University, where she was a four-year starter at shortstop on the Sun Devils' softball team and earned All-Pac-10 and All-American honors. She was inducted into the ASU Hall of Fame in 2006, and into the Arizona Softball Hall of Fame in 2018.

Pierson went on to star on the U.S. softball team at the Pan American Games, where she led the U.S. to gold medals in 1991 and 1995. She also led the U.S. softball team to a gold medal at the 1993 World Cup.

Pierson was an assistant softball coach at Arizona State from 1994 through 2001. In 2002, she was named head softball coach at Grand Canyon University, a position she held for two decades until her retirement in 2021 with more than 500 victories.

Pierson, her husband and their daughter reside in Chandler. She is a college and career counselor at Queen Creek High as well as an assistant softball coach.

The Tempe All-City Association is a group of citizens and business people dedicated to giving wider recognition to student-athletes who attend TUHSD's six high schools.

2022 spring sports All-City selections from Corona del Sol, Marcos de Niza

Baseball: Catcher Landon Springmeyer, Jr., CDS; outfield Justin Corless, Jr., CDS; first base Rosalino Valenzuela, Sr., MDN; second base Noah Heyn, Jr., MDN; shortstop John Paul McIntyre, So., MDN.

Softball: Outfield Gina Jackson, Jr., CDS; outfield Izabella Cummins, Sr., CDS; shortstop Isabella Freund, Jr., CDS; first base Em-malyn Brinka, Sr., CDS; second base Alani Beltran, Sr., CDS; third base Megan Ireland, Sr., CDS.

Boys Track and Field: Jumps Brett Wynn Sr. CDS; shot put Jalen Walker, Sr., CDS; hurdles Alexander Lutz, Jr., CDS.

Girls Track and Field: Long jump Sofia Wyatt, Jr., CDS; triple jump Kendyll Garcia, Sr., CDS; pole vault Ena McMahon, Jr., CDS.

Boys Volleyball: Libero Connor O'Brien, Sr., CDS; middle blocker Tobias Lim, Jr., CDS; Setter Cade Banks, Jr., CDS.

Beach Volleyball: Pairs Kierstyn Barton, Jr., CDS; pairs Dominique Wofford, Sr., CDS.

Erickson and Lomigora defeated a team from Sunnyslope and then a team from Millennium before losing to Sydnee Broadway and Maro Smith from Sandra Day O'Connor, 21-15 and 21-15.

Marcos de Niza girls beach volleyball

The Padres relied on the No. 1 team of juniors Zoey Arner and Celeste Rivas,

and No. 2 team of seniors Champlevey Carr and Jazmyn Vital.

The No. 3 pairs team comprised freshmen McKenna Baker and Caylee Ellett.

Sophomore Mariah Estrella and freshman Grace Vullo made up the No. 4 team and freshman Mia Bracomonte and sophomore Katelyn Griffin were the No. 5 team.

Working hard every week as an alternate was junior Mackenzie Porter.



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Frank Elementary School

Tempe Union School District



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SCHOOLS



Noelle Anderson, a third-grader in Mr. Cisneros' class, dresses as Albert Einstein for Kyrene Traditional Academy-Sureño's anniversary celebration. — Kyrene School District photo

Kyrene Traditional celebrates dual growth milestones

One of the Kyrene School District signature campuses in West Chandler recently celebrated a rarity: two milestone anniversaries for longevity.

Kyrene del Sureño opened in 1987, 35 years ago, at 3375 W. Galveston St.

In 2012, the school was rebranded as Kyrene Traditional Academy-Sureño Campus, a pre-K through Grade 8, and this school year is completing a decade of service. KTA's learning environment is highly structured and disciplined, and the school has a uniform dress code.

On May 4, the school hosted an open house in honor of the milestones that was more than just a celebration. It was an educational experience for families and community members.

Each grade level was assigned a project in which students would show-

case their work for the open house. There were projects on major historical events as well as Arizona history.

Some grade levels created and displayed terracotta pottery.

In third grade, students "turned to wax" for their historical figure wax museum presentations. Families met many influential leaders in wax, including Michelle Obama, Babe Ruth, Albert Einstein, Milton S. Hershey and Abraham Lincoln.

KTA fifth-graders showed off their stellar cellular science projects.

Between presentations, students sang and danced on the cafeteria stage to thunderous applause.

Due to the pandemic, this was the first time in nearly three years that KTA hosted an open-house for the community.

A ceremony filled with music and speeches capped the evening.

Representing the school's past were a former Sureño principal, student and parent.

— KYRENE, Page 27



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Top photo: Katherine Formisano, media tech at Kyrene Traditional Academy, chats with students. Above (from left): Kyrene Superintendent Laura Toenjes, KTA principal Dr. Marianne Lescher and former Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely enjoy anniversary ceremonies at the school. – Kyrene School District photos

Kyrene

From Page 25

Former Kyrene Superintendent Dr. Jan Vesely shared memories about the school and its impact on the district and community. KTA principal Dr. Marianne Lescher and Kyrene Superintendent Laura Toenjes looked ahead to the school's future.

Toenjes and Lescher expressed gratitude and appreciation for the community's continued support of Kyrene students, staff and schools.

The ceremony also included the construction team that built the KTA middle school addition as well as state Sen. Sean Bowie.

KTA is now accepting enrollment applications for 2022-23.

To enroll: kyrene.org/kta.



Congratulations to the award winning Film & TV Students who participated in the 4th annual TEMPE UNION FILM FESTIVAL!



1st Place: *Go Fish* (Corona del Sol)

2nd Place: *The Bakers Ace* (McClintock)

3rd Place: *Me* (Corona del Sol)

Best Use of Prop: *Your Loss* (McClintock)

Best Use of Dialogue: *A New Angle* (Corona del Sol)

Best Use of Character: *Go Fish* (Corona del Sol)

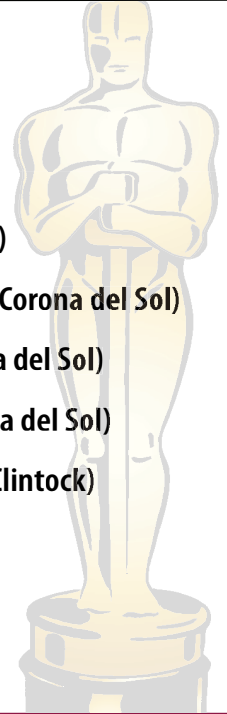
Best Cinematography: *Go Fish* (Corona del Sol)

Best Screenplay: *The Bakers Ace* (McClintock)

Best Editing: *Me* (Corona del Sol)

Best Original Score: *Me* (Corona del Sol)

Fan Favorite: *Go Fish* (Corona del Sol)



**To watch the winning films, visit
TempeUnion.org/2022-Film-Festival**



BUSINESS

Slow growth blamed for Carvana layoffs

Carvana, which as recently as September reported it was hiring 200 employees at its headquarters at 1930 W. Rio Salado Parkway, announced that it is laying off 2,500 workers, about 12 percent of 20,000 on the payroll across the U.S.

While the majority of those let go are in Ohio, some Tempe jobs were affected.

“Recent macroeconomic factors have pushed automotive retail into recession,” according to a Carvana statement.

“While Carvana is still growing, our growth is slower than what we originally prepared for in 2022, and we made the difficult decision to reduce the size of certain operations teams to better align with the current needs of

the business.

“Saying goodbye to any team member is not a decision we take lightly and we aim to be transparent, thoughtful and supportive throughout this process, including providing meaningful assistance, resources and support to impacted team members.

“We believe these decisions, while extremely difficult, will result in Carvana restoring a better balance to our operations and facilitate the company returning to efficient growth on its mission to change the way people buy and sell cars,” the statement said.

Industry speculation is that Carvana, which sells used cars from a multi-story, glass building that resembles a vending machine where customers access their selected car by inserting an oversize coin that starts a conveyor belt resulting in delivery of the vehicle, made the personnel reduction as a result of having been overzealous in its recent hiring



Carvana, which aggressively hired workers in 2021, recently announced 2,500 layoffs.

waves of 2021.

The move also immediately preceded the company’s announcement that it is buying Adesa U.S., a wholesale vehicle-auction company, for \$2.2 billion.

Carvana grossed \$13 billion in 2021. It said that terminated employees received four weeks’ pay and an additional week’s pay for each year of service.

It also assured those who were let go will have an open door for rehire “once we start growing again.”

The company said that its executive team members are forgoing their salaries for the rest of the calendar year to help fund severance pay for those it released.

Carvana is No. 18 in Arizona on *Forbes’* America’s Best Employers by State.

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2 iconic Downtown Chandler office buildings sold for \$86.5M

Two years ago, Phoenix-based developer George Oliver purchased First Credit Union Plaza and Chandler City Center on the eastern side of the Downtown Chandler square with plans to renovate and rename the iconic structures after the city's namesake, Dr. A.J. Chandler.

Oliver put \$14 million into the renovation of the plaza, now known as The Alexander (The "A" in A.J. Chandler) and the Johnathan (the "J").

Last month, Oliver sold the pair of Class A experiential office buildings that are convenient to West Chandler employees for \$86.5 million to North Carolina-based Asana Partners. The Alexander, at 25 S. Arizona Place, which has 112,000 square feet, and the adjacent Johnathan, 55 N. Arizona Place, which has 107,500, are 93 percent leased.

"The Alexander and The Johnathan are two of the most coveted office buildings in metro Phoenix evidenced by the recent wave of leasing momentum at the property," said Ben Geelan managing director of JLL Capital Markets, which represented Oliver and found the buyer. "Tenants today desire modernized buildings with a health and wellness focus and best-in-class amenities, which is exactly what George Oliver's repositioning of the two properties brought to the market."

Asana Partners claims to be a vertically-integrated

real-estate investment company that creates value by acquiring, enhancing and operating distinctive mixed-use and retail properties in dynamic urban and near-urban neighborhoods in the U.S. it specializes in preserving and redeveloping existing buildings, mitigating portfolio-wide energy and water consumption, employing wind, solar and waste management programs, developing LEED-certified buildings and increasing the number of LEED-trained associates.

George Oliver LLC bills itself as a Valley-based commercial real-estate company that operates on the cutting edge of office and industrial workspace environments. George Oliver, according to the company, believes that the workspace should enhance productivity, improve employee retention and help a business better compete in an increasingly volatile marketplace.

Consistent with that belief, Oliver re-imagined the two buildings to be the premier location for tenants seeking experiential office space with best-in-class amenities, streamlined workplaces, spec suites with move-in-ready design and a health-and-wellness focus.

The buildings share a tenant lounge, billiards room, library, bocce-ball courts, outdoor gaming area, outdoor tranquil garden with swinging daybeds, dog patio, green room and meditation room. Also available



to tenants are complimentary fitness classes, yoga studio, fitness center with Peloton bikes and NordicTrack treadmills and juice bar.

Parking is available in two adjacent garages.

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Founder/Publisher: **Don Kirkland**

Executive Editor: **Lee Shappell**
Contributors

Andrew Lwowski, Alex Zener,
M.V. Moorhead, Janie Magruder,
Sally Mesarosh, Billy Hardiman,
Pablo Robles, Nicole Greason,
Meghann Sepulveda,
Cliff Summerhill

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Chandler PD offers hiring incentives to bolster ranks

As with most law-enforcement agencies in the Valley, Chandler Police Department is seeing its numbers decline.

With retirements and officers leaving for other opportunities, the city finds itself in dire need of recruits, and to be competitive with neighboring cities, it is offering lateral police officers outside the metro Phoenix area a \$10,000 signing package that includes a \$5,000 hiring incentive and as much as \$5,000 in relocation assistance.

Recruitment of lateral officers is a large emphasis of Chandler's nationwide talent recruitment campaign that launches this summer.

Chandler was the first police department in the Valley to offer hiring incentives, ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. It has hired 44 positions through that pro-



Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan — Wrangler News photo

gram since July 2021, adding new and lateral police officers, dispatchers and detention officers in an effort to fill its full complement at the urging of Police Chief Sean Duggan.

Chandler has 360 police-officer positions and has

requested two additional sworn positions in the 2022-23 fiscal-year budget. That would mark the most sworn positions ever for the department. Those figures include 10 new positions plus 15 over-hire positions that were added a year ago.

The over-hire positions provide time to hire and train new officers, while current officers continue serving the community in patrol and specialty roles.

In its 2022-23 budget request, Chandler Police is seeking to create a five-person behavioral-health unit to respond and investigate related calls for service.

This unit would focus on establishing relationships with behavioral-health partners, reducing calls for service through early intervention and improving outcomes of encounters with people who have behavioral-health issues.

Serious crimes in Chandler have declined by roughly 2,000 incidents during the past decade to 5,333 incidents in 2021.

The rate of serious crimes in Chandler has decreased to its lowest in 35 years. Response times to high-priority calls also have been reduced to nearly 4 minutes.

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