



# WRANGLER NEWS

NOV 19 - DEC 2, 2022 • VOL 32, NO 22



Not-so-old-timers, including two of Tempe's most recent mayors, were on hand to meet and greet at this year's Old Timers gathering. PAGES 24-25



Corona brought home its third state championship for girls volleyball over Hamilton. It was the program's 12th state appearance. PAGES 13-15



**Flags flew,  
even in the  
littlest hands,  
as Tempe  
celebrated  
its heroes on  
Veterans Day**

Photo story by  
Billy Hardiman for  
Wrangler News

Pages 28-29



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## Sky high with hope and travel plans: Tempe Sister Cities is back in business

Popular program is cooling its jets no longer.

Article by  
Janie Magruder

Editor's note: The author's son was a delegate to Skopje, Macedonia, in 2009.

Photos contributed by  
Steve and Kirstin LeClaire

**A**fter being grounded for three years due to a global pandemic, Tempe Sister Cities plans this summer to take to the skies again, sending 20 to 30 teenage ambassadors around the world to promote goodwill and create lasting friendships.

"We're really looking forward to being able to meet again, to being face to face again," said TSC president David Carrera.

"We just need to get our foundation back and make sure all the things we talked about during the pandemic are implemented."

It's been a rough three years for the organization, which also was forced by COVID-19 to postpone its 50th anniversary celebration last year, and hasn't sent students to any of its 11 sister cities since 2019. The 2020 delegation had just been chosen, following a rigorous selection process early that year, when the deadly virus shut down travel.

"We got together to figure out what we could do instead," said Steve LeClaire, TSC's youth ambassador and selection committee co-chair.



Delegates and their host families shared experiences during a trip to California.

"But I still feel bad for those kids."

In 2021, student representatives were chosen, and the 2020 delegation was given the option to travel that summer, too. However, when TSC leaders determined there would be no travel in 2021 either, an optional virtual exchange was planned and held that summer.

"It revolved around six themes — 'about me,' food, culture, former delegates doing cool things, guest speakers and fun," said LeClaire, noting about 12 Tempe teens participated.

One of the organization's biggest fundraisers, the Four Peaks Oktoberfest at Tempe

Beach Park, also took a hit during the pandemic. It was virtual in 2020 and cancelled in 2021. But its return last month was a huge success, Carrera said, with an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 people enjoying bratwurst, beer, music, games and more. Even a German delegation from Regensburg, one of Tempe's sister cities, was impressed.

The rescheduling of TSC's 50th anniversary celebration, themed, "Bringing the World Together — One Friendship at a Time," was a gratifying triumph, he said. An estimated 300 guests attended.

"You can just feel excitement

Continued on Page 4



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Participants Josh Hutlet, Christian LeClaire, Victoria Scott and Chloe LeClaire.

from all the volunteers and members that we're coming back," he said.

Within the next couple of months, TSC plans to interview applicants and choose its 2023 delegation, juniors from public and charter high schools across the city's limits. Each will be paired with a host "sister or brother" from these cities — Skopje, Macedonia; Regensburg, Germany; Lower Hutt, New Zealand; Zhenjiang, China; Beaulieu sur Mer, France; Carlow, Ireland; Cuenca, Ecuador; Cusco, Peru, and Trollhätten, Sweden. Delegations likely will not travel to TSC's other two sister cities, Timbuktu, Mali, and Agra City, India.

In the past, Tempe students

visited their host countries and stayed with their host families for five weeks in early summer to experience everything from unfamiliar foods and traditions to special outings and activities. Later in the summer, the scheduled foreign students arrived in Tempe to do the same for five weeks.

However, because the Tempe Union High School District has adopted a modified year-round school schedule, the travel schedules will be abbreviated to about three weeks, LeClaire said. Doing so will enable the foreign students to attend classes with the Tempe teens.

Carrera's daughters, Milena and Eliana, were TSC delegates to New Zealand in 2012 and 2015,

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## Coalition recognizes efforts on behalf of reducing risk behaviors among area young people

Those who have contributed to the betterment of area young people and their goals for the future have been honored again this year by Tempe Coalition, an organization comprised of residents and professionals who live and work in the community to collectively educate and advocate for the reduction of risk behaviors among Tempe youth.

Coalition members represent a wide range of community sectors including business, media, law enforcement, schools, substance use providers, youth, parents, youth serving organizations, civic groups, healthcare professionals,

governmental agencies and faith-based organizations.

Coalition officials say the group's mission is to reduce youth risk behaviors and promote health and wellness through awareness, education, advocacy and connecting to community resources.

This year's recognitions were announced at the group's 2022 Celebrating Champions for Youth event at Compadre Academy, emceed by KTAR's Becky Lynn.

Recipients included, by category:  
**Youth Champions** — Cloe Bolen, McClintock High School; Ryne Cook, Corona del Sol High School; Parys Frederick, Kyrene Middle School; Remie Harris, Mountain Pointe High School; Savanna Hennigh, Desert Garden Montessori; Manuel Ortiz, Tempe Preparatory Academy; Emily Starr, Marcos de Niza High School.

**Adult Champions** — Veronica Cadengo, Protector Award; Donald Abram, Inspiration Award; Tempe Youth Leadership, Advocate Award.

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respectively. He and his wife Deanna have volunteered for the organization in myriad ways over the years, as parent involvement is critical to the program's success.

LeClaire's children, Chloe and Christian, also were delegates Down Under in 2015 and 2019, respectively. His wife Kirstin also has chaired and participated in activities, among them, the emotional farewell dinners held at the end of summer and even a prom.

"It was amazing, to the point that we still stay in contact with both of our families and consider them to be friends," said LeClaire, noting Christian's host family will be spending Thanksgiving with them.

His children benefited from

the friendships formed with other Tempe students and those from abroad, and they grew in confidence, risk-taking and life skills. Among LeClaire's most memorable experiences with both of his children was a trip to the Grand Canyon.

"Early on, we decided we wanted to keep all the kids together, and the bonding we saw over that couple of days, what was happening around the campfires, kids pulling out guitars, and seeing the language barriers being overcome with friendships and music, was just amazing," he said.

The Grand Canyon trip also was a highlight for my son, Sean, a TSC delegate to Macedonia in 2009.



Continued on Page 11

A trip to the Grand Canyon provided visiting teens a look at Arizona's top wonder.

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## Fiesta Bowl charities provides \$2,500 bonuses to teachers

**F**iesta Bowl Charities has granted 400 teachers with \$2,500 each, spread throughout the state, including eight from Tempe.

Nearly 212,000 students across 321 schools and 95 districts were recipients. The awards went to those teaching a variety of subjects, both gifted and special education, and languages and life skills among a diverse group of subjects.


Recipients included:

- Mike Blair, a music teacher at Kyrene de los Niños Elementary School, who will purchase new percussion instruments;
- Lacey Chavez, a Spanish teacher at Tempe High School, who will purchase an Apple TV and iPads;
- Leslie Lychock, a kindergarten teacher at Kyrene de los Niños

Elementary, who will purchase items to organize the classroom.

- Emily MacDonald, a first grade teacher at Ward Traditional Academy, who will purchase new books;
- Robert Owen-Jones a librarian at Marcos de Niza High School, who will purchase new furniture for the library.
- Christina Sanchez, a third grade teacher at the Carminati School, who will purchase coding robots for students.
- Veronica Speir, an English teacher at Kyrene del Norte Elementary School, who will create a reading room for the school.
- Brooke Warwick, an art teacher at Waggoner Elementary School, who will purchase new art supplies for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Wishes for Teachers has been called one of the most impactful teacher support programs in Arizona, donating \$1 million to benefit thousands of Arizona students according to Randal Norton, Fiesta Bowl Board chair.



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## Commentary

# Giving back

By René Lopez

The spirit of giving is on full display year-round in Chandler. Residents, community groups and businesses always step up to help those in need. Now that the holiday season is here, that spirit tends to grow as new needs arise. Here are a few ways you can help make a difference in the coming weeks.

The Salvation Army has several volunteer opportunities for the Christmas Angel Tree Program and other holiday activities. Several donation items are also needed, including blankets, hand and foot warmers, jackets, sweatshirts and warm pants. Visit the Salvation Army Chandler Corp Facebook page for more information.

Chandler's AZCEND also has several volunteer needs for individuals or groups. From drivers to data entry to help with

Meals on Wheels, there is an opportunity for everyone to lend a helping hand. Visit [azcend.org](http://azcend.org) to learn more.

And of course – monetary donations are always appreciated at any local non-profits, which provide a range of services from emergency food boxes to housing to medical help to emergency home repairs.

Chandler City staff is also focused on helping those in need this holiday season. Our Neighborhood Resources Department works tirelessly to connect residents to services for housing and financial assistance. Outreach programs like Chandler Connect assists people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with supportive services and permanent housing.

The City's Housing Youth Program will launch its Holiday Site Buck Store incentive program. Chandler youth can earn "site bucks" by participating in after-school programs, completing homework and helping at community events. They can use their bucks to



purchase gifts from the store, which are later wrapped and delivered to their homes closer to the holidays. Learn more at [chandleraz.gov/sitebuckstore](http://chandleraz.gov/sitebuckstore).

On Dec. 3, the Chandler Fire Department will host a toy drive at Chandler Fashion Center, near the food court area. Drop off a toy between 2-8 p.m. and you'll get a free ride in the fire truck. The fire department is partnering with Chandler Unified School District and Chandler Care Center to distribute all the donations to local families.

On the evening of Dec. 3, families from across the Valley will fill the streets of downtown Chandler to watch the iconic Tumbleweed Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights.

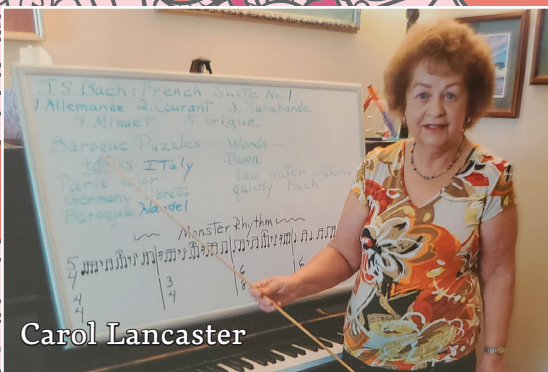
This free event brings people together, giving them an opportunity to fully embrace the beauty of the season.

I'm so grateful to be part of a community that is committed to togetherness. For more ways to give back this holiday season, visit [Forourcitychandler.org](http://Forourcitychandler.org).

Have a wonderful holiday.

— René Lopez is a member of the Chandler City Council.

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An impromptu pool party provided delegates with a memorable bonding opportunity, helping to ensure long-lasting memories from all corners of the world.

“The temperatures were brutal because it was August, but that didn’t seem to matter with everyone together,” he said. “You got to know each other. You had your friends, and they had these new friends, and everyone was introduced. It was constant adventures, really a great experience.”

He, too, remains in touch on social media with his Macedonian brother, Nikola Trajkov, who still lives in Skopje and recently was married.

“The great thing is, and this sounds like a cliché, but no matter how long it’s been since we’ve messaged each other, we always seem to pick back up where we left off,” Sean said. “We still laugh at the same things, more than a half a lifetime later, and we call each other “OPAT” or “brat” (Macedonian for “brother”).

Travels through Macedonia — to Lake Ohrid, one of the oldest lakes in the world and on the border with Albania, through Montenegro to the Adriatic Sea, across the Balkan Peninsula to hear Gregorian monks chanting from an ancient stone building — are embedded in his memory. Learning words in the Cyrillic alphabet, enjoying burek (meat pastry) with a liquor made from potatoes grown in nearby fields, and soaking up

kindnesses of the local people also have stayed with him.

“It was such a unique experience in seeing an ancient culture, one that isn’t so far removed from the land and agriculture and the old school ways of life,” said Sean, a wine writer and sommelier in Central Coast California.

“That was really defining for my life and has led to my interests today.”

Macedonia made such a mark on my son that he recently applied for a writing and travel scholarship through Vinous, an international wine publication, to return to the Old World.

“The only option for me was to return to Macedonia to unearth this very unknown wine culture,” Sean said.

“To tell the story of their wine would be a privilege because not many people are doing that.”

Beyond sending students around the world, TSC also has exchange programs for teachers and professionals that strive to build international harmony and cultural understanding. Carrera hopes travel can resume for them in 2024.

For more information about the student selection and application process, visit [tempesistercities.org](http://tempesistercities.org).

## Gastronomic adventure and new friendships; An insiders’ view of the world around us

By Michele Coble and Shannon Corcoran

**F**all break has come and gone, but French students from Corona del Sol and Desert Vista high schools are still relishing in memories made during their French exchange in the beautiful city of Bordeaux, France.

A port city in southwestern France, Bordeaux boasts 250,000 inhabitants with a history dating back to the ancient Celts.

Best known for its fine wine and gastronomy, students were recipients of the city’s warmth and hospitality as they spent a week with host families from the private Catholic school St. Marie Bastide. This is the first year of the exchange between Bordeaux and Tempe, and plans are to continue every alternate year.

Continued on Page 23



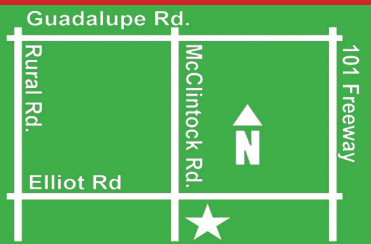


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# SPORTS

Pullout section

## STATE CHAMPS ONCE AGAIN

Corona's Aztecs top the  
Hamilton Huskies in 5.





# Aztecs get redemption, capture state title

Story by Andrew Lwowski  
Section photos by Billy Hardiman

After coming a mere one point shy of reaching the state finals last season, the Corona del Sol girls volleyball team knew what it took to get back and complete its mission.

After cruising past the Chandler Wolves in the opening round, then handling Queen Creek in four sets in the quarterfinals and defeating Perry in four in the semis, the Aztecs finished the job and took down the defending champion Hamilton Huskies in five hard-earned sets.

Corona and Hamilton traded set-for-set, leading to the fifth, but before the fifth set began it was clear who was going to win. The Aztecs were loose and dancing while Hamilton was tense.

Just as the Aztecs had been doing all night, they kept feeding senior outside Kierstyn Barton. The power and momentum carried Corona to a 10-3 lead, without looking back as they closed the match with banner in hand.

However, the story may have been different if it were not for last year's experience.

Coach Ben Maxfield said the moment in last



year's postseason may have prepared his team more than anything.

"They knew what it took to get that far, and also learned how to react differently when things aren't going very well," Maxfield said. "They used that all year. I never saw—this whole season—a moment of panic. There was a little frustration, but I didn't see panic."

Last season the Aztecs lost in devastating fashion. Now, they have the sweet taste of success.

Barton and senior middle blocker Ella Lomigora experienced devastating heartbreak in the semi-finals against Sandra Day O'Connor, being up two sets to none, with game point in third, and lost.

Knowing the pain, Lomigora said this year's team played for one another.

"Playing for each other and (kept) having fun," she said. "We worked so hard to get here; this is for everybody—for all the time, all the work, all the

blood, sweat and tears.

"It's like a blackout; I couldn't even remember what happened, but running back out onto the court and hugging everybody."

Barton, one of the leaders physically and emotionally, said there was only one word to describe the feeling: redemption.

The support from her teammates guided her to a monster night as she finished with 24 kills, five of those coming in the final set.

"It showed me that my teammates really relied on me," she said.

"That gave me a little trust in them to be able to make sure that they can help me out and I can help them out."

This is the first time since 2016 that the women's team won the 6A state title, and the first time since then that Corona has brought home a

championship banner.

The program has continued to be strengthened by Maxfield as well as the Aztec community.

"To me, I think that's huge," Maxfield said. "I think that's great to put the Aztecs back on the map and show that we are still an athletic powerhouse."









# Padres ride historic season into playoffs

By Andrew Lwowski

**T**he Marcos de Niza Padres put together an incredible 2022 season, going 10-1 and securing the Desert Sky region title for the first time in school history.

The Padres are the only 4A conference team to hold nine or more wins and have earned the 3 seed in the playoffs in doing so.

Coach Anthony Figueroa said it's all due to his strong seniors and their leadership.

"The biggest turnaround for us has been the accountability within the group," Figueroa said. "Knowing that our season is dependent on them coming together and holding each other accountable. That way it's not a coach-led team but a player-led team, and we can maximize the opportunities we have in front of us."

Figueroa added that everything materialized for his group over the summer.

"That's where we made the most ground in us coming together," he said. "Knowing that when one corrects one or the other, it's nothing personal it's, 'Hey, man, I love you, we got to get this done. If we don't it's going to creep us up on us.'"

Senior running back and safety Paul Garcia also attributed camaraderie to their success.

"All the juniors and seniors—we all just came as one," he said.

"I think that's what really made this season for us. Without that bonding experience we really could not have done this."

Together, the Padres have outscored opposing teams 410 to 129 during the regular season.

Senior linebacker and captain Marcus Jones led the Marcos defense that stunted the opposing team's offense.

"It's all of us," Jones said. "We all love each other and have played with each other the last four years."

"I mean, we can't do it unless our coaches give us a good game plan," Garcia added.

"Our offense, our defense—it's just a team effort. (Last year) 4-6 was hard, but I think it was a learning experience."

After a historic season, the Padres will host the 14-seed Thunderbird of Phoenix Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.



Marcos running back Lorenzo Alexander and lineman Chaz Ponce look to score.



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# Sports Notebook ♦ ♦ ♦ with Alex Zener

## Corona Girls Volleyball

Corona's girls volleyball team came from behind two sets to one to defeat the two-time defending state champions, Hamilton Huskies, in five sets, 3-2, to win the school's third state title in the 6A Volleyball State Championship finals Nov. 12 at Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Although Corona has eight runner-up finishes since the 1980s, three of those under current head coach **Ben Maxfield**, this championship is the first since the Aztecs defeated Mountain Pointe in 2016. The other state title was in 1991 under coach **Debbie Moore**.

The seven starting players—seniors **Natalie Mantini**, **Kierstyn Barton** and **Ella Lomigora**; juniors **Julia Owens** and **Maggie Beauer**; sophomore **Alyssa Aguayo**, and freshman **Erin Clark**—never seemed to lose sight of their focus, even after losing the first set 19-25.

Barton, who led the team in kills with 25, appeared at times to take the team onto her strong shoulders, especially when slamming five kills to the floor in the fifth set to help the Aztecs take a 10-3 lead in this best of five set series.

Beauer, who led the team along with Lomigora in aces with three each, was also spectacular in that final set, with three service points that had the Huskies scrambling to get into system.

Lomigora lived up to the hype in blocks, with two solo and three assisted, but also served well, especially in the pivotal fourth set, when the teams were tied at 12 each.

Corona put on a 10-2 run, which included Lomigora serving six straight service points plus putting down one of her 11 kills for the match. Beauer added a kill and Barton two more to put the Aztecs up 22-14 in that must-win fourth set.

Beauer was instrumental in her defense, as well, with 35 digs—the same number as Clark, the libero—who were bombarded with kill attempts from an array of hard-driving Hamilton hitters, including senior **Neomi Beach**, who finished the night leading all hitters with 26 kills, and **Mikayla Haner**, who had 14.

Aguayo, an all-around player, was second on the team in kills with 14, or close to three kills a set,

often smashing the ball to the floor when the Aztecs needed to score. She was very consistent, only two hitting errors out of 49 attempted kills.

Owens did an incredible job setting the ball up in places that Corona's hitters had the best chance of getting a successful kill, with an average of 11.4 assists a set or a total of 57. In addition, she served the ball 18 times with one ace and only one service error, and had 16 digs, two kills and one block.

Middle blocker Mantini's solo block in the fifth set, with Corona leading 12-5, put the Aztecs within two points of the title, while the Huskies saw their chance of a third title slip away. Mantini ended up with six blocks and two kills.

In addition to 35 digs, Clark, a freshman, was an effective server and often handled the second touch, placing the ball where her teammates had the best chance to keep the ball in play.

Corona was the No. 1 seed entering the playoffs, defeating No. 16 Chandler 3-0 in the first round on Nov. 3; No. 8 Queen Creek 3-1 in the quarterfinals on Nov. 8; No. 4 Perry 3-1 in the semifinals on Nov. 10; and No. 2 Hamilton 3-2 in the finals on Nov. 12 to conclude the season with a 40-5 season record and ranking No. 1.

Additional members of Corona's volleyball team who contributed to the team's success this season include seniors Maddie Cohen, Kendra Harrell, Brianna Mitchell, Georgia Lee, Kacie Bikofsky and Ella Swansiger; sophomores Morgan Moraga and Emma Uribe; and freshman Avery Lim.

## Corona Swim and Dive

Corona had several boys and girls swim at the 2022 AIA Division 1 State Championship held Nov. 4-5 at the Rio Salado Swim Club. The boys team finished in seventh place and the girls in 15th.

The top results from the individual events include senior **Colin Campbell** taking second place in 200-yard IM with a time of 1:51.08, setting a new school record. Campbell also came in second with a time of 4:36.68 in the 500-yard freestyle.

Senior **Reed Lucero** finished right behind Campbell in the 200-yard IM for third place with a time of 1:53.30. Lucero came in second in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 55.70 after finishing first in the prelims with a time of 55.11.

According to head coach **Ron Musgrave**, both Campbell and Lucero had times that qualified them

for All-American considerations.

"Colin broke our school records in the 200 IM and Reed did the same in the 100 Breast," said Musgrave. "Earning the All-American times should help both Colin and Reed gain national attention by making them more marketable to universities who are looking to add to their swim teams in their respective areas."

"As a result of their successful efforts at the state meet, both swimmers are patiently weighing their options and waiting for more offers of potential spots on university swim teams."

Six other Corona swimmers competed in individual events at the state meet, including senior **Walter Moffatt** who finished 16th in the 50-yard freestyle; junior **Justin French** who finished 31st in the 200-yard IM; and senior **Ryan La Ra** who came in 26th in the 100-yard butterfly and 32nd in the 100-yard backstroke.

Senior **Andres Esparza** placed 23rd in the 100-yard butterfly; senior **Cabhan Kelleher** came in 26th in the 200-yard freestyle and 28th in the 100-yard freestyle; and sophomore **Diego Silva** was 26th in the 100-yard breaststroke.

The Aztecs had two boys relay teams qualify for the state meet. The 200-yard medley relay team of French, Lucero, Campbell and Moffatt came took 6th place while the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Kelleher, Moffatt, Campbell and Lucero came in at 8th.

The boys team had two divers qualify to dive in the one-meter dive competition, in which junior **Gavin Buttram** took 5th place with a score of 404.55 and senior Gabriel Calderon came in 15th with a score of 303.25.

"Gavin had a heck of a season, breaking his own six-dive school record and also breaking the 11-dive school record that had been up on the board for four years," said diving coach **Kacee Hoffer**.

"He did a great job at state being consistent in his scores and being able to do that on both days. Gabriel was exciting to watch because he truly had his best meet at state and put together the best list of dives he could to finish his high school diving career in the state finals," said Hoffer.

Continued on next page





“I could not be prouder of my dive team this year. The continued effort and drive to do their best every time they saw competition,” said Hoffer.

“It was tough on the girls side for them to have been so close to state, but it only makes me more excited and the girls more determined for the future.”

The girls team had four swimmers qualify and swim at the state meet, including freshman **Dylan Rhodes**, junior **Brea Zandt**, senior **Daytona Duggan** and freshman **Regan La Ra**.

Duggan was the top finisher among the girls team, taking 10th place in the 100-yard backstroke and 14th in the 100-yard butterfly.

“Daytona had a great year for us and earned the girls MVP award as a result,” said Musgrave.

Rhodes was 16th in the 200-yard IM, while Zandt took 19th in the 100-yard freestyle and 20th in the 50-yard freestyle.

La Ra swam the 500-yard freestyle taking 26th place.

“Dylan Rhodes is our female ‘Rookie of the Year’ award winner,” said Musgrave.

“She is a highly touted freshman who has great potential to excel in several events as she advances through her high school swimming career,” said Musgrave.

“I believe Dylan has just begun to search for her favorite events and will continue to be an asset to our swim team the next three years.”

The girls team qualified for three relay events, with the 200-yard medley relay team of Duggan, senior **Giada Schmidtknecht**, sophomore **Alex Burnes** and senior **Isabel Silva** coming in at 13th place.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Isabel Silva, senior **Madison Mascari**, Burnes and Zandt finished in 12th place, while the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Zandt, senior **Macy**

**Haugland**, Rhodes and Duggan touched the wall in 11th place.

A few swimmers who qualified for state were not able to swim due to injury or illness, including **Kate Pyatt**, **Kirsten Marquis** and **Callista Baluha**, according to Musgrave.

In addition, freshman **Bruss Bowman**, designated ‘Rookie of the Year,’ was unable to compete in his two individual and one relay events, but Musgrave said he is excited about what Bowman can bring to the team in the next three years.



Corona del Sol freshman Dylan Rhodes swims during the state finals.





## Corona Swim and Dive

Corona del Sol High School swimmers were among competitors at the 2022 Division 1 state swim and dive meet held at Rio Salado Swim Club on Nov. 6. While schools across the East Valley had a number of swimmers competing, it was those from Chaparral and Desert Vista high schools who out-swam the competition. The Chaparral men's and women's teams emerged with first-place honors, followed by Desert Vista placing second.

Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

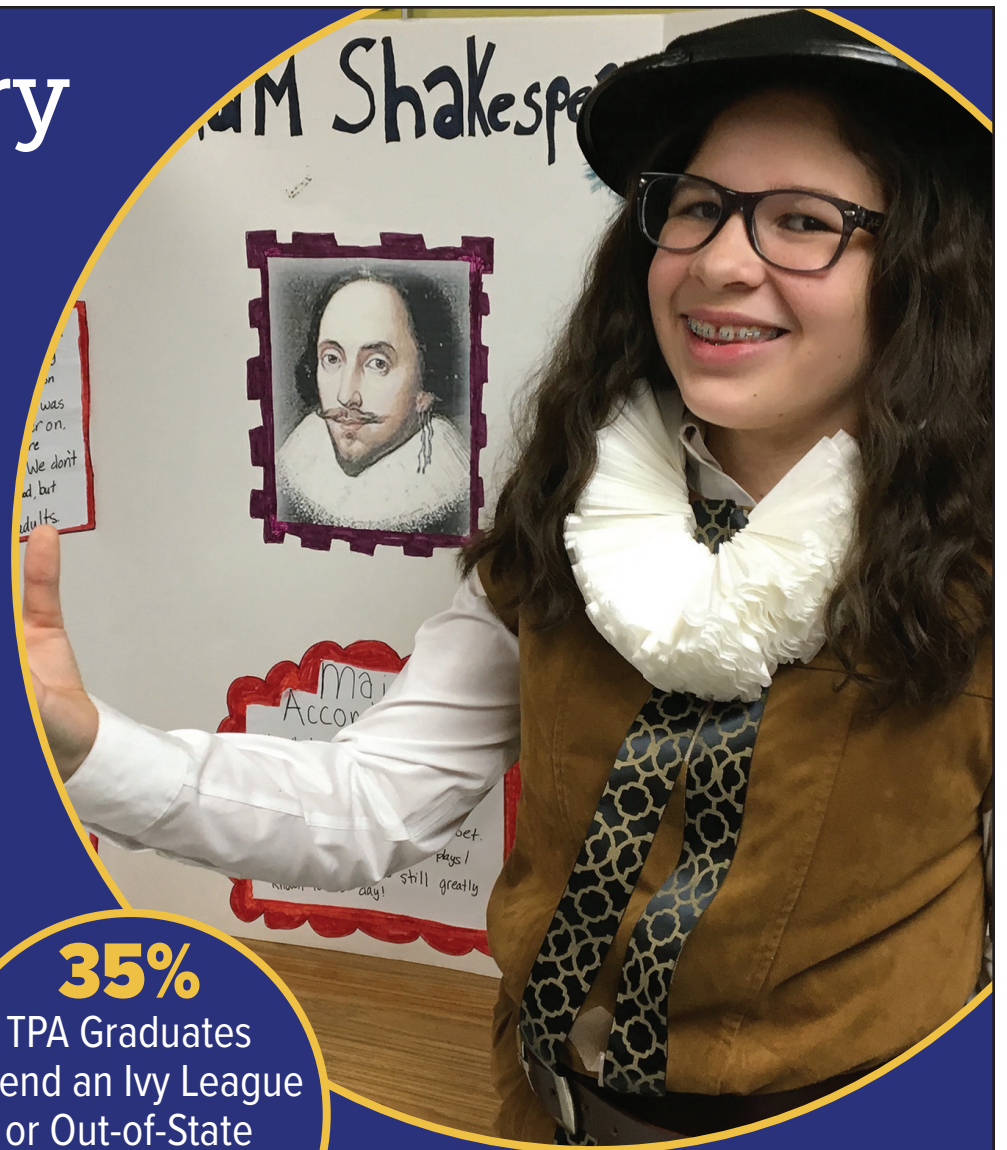


# Tempe Preparatory Academy

## Information Night & Open House

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## Help choose design of new parks signs

Tempe's park monuments are nearing the end of their repairable lives, with many showing severe wear and tear.

Over the last nearly 40 years, parks staff has cared for and maintained the monuments that mark every park, park facility and golf course.

It's now time to start the process of exploring what new signs could look like, and the city is seeking resident feedback on proposed designs.

These options aim to reflect our community while using materials that can be easily cleaned and maintained for decades to come.

Submit feedback now through Nov. 30 at [tempe.gov/forum](http://tempe.gov/forum).

The survey results will help shape next steps for design, budgeting and timeline for the project.



### Holiday traditions make the season bright

Tempe celebrates in style every winter. These and many more activities are happening throughout the community. For more details on downtown events, visit [downtowntempe.com/events](http://downtowntempe.com/events).

For information on city happenings, visit [tempe.gov](http://tempe.gov).

#### Fantasy of Lights Street Parade & Tree Lighting

Nov. 25, 4-9 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season with a street parade, tree lighting, live music, Santa photos and holiday market.

#### Tempe Festival of Arts

Dec. 2-4, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Explore creations from nearly 350 U.S. artists. Enjoy tasty treats from local vendors, live performances and arts programming.

#### Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade

Dec. 10, 4-9 p.m.

Soak in a festive boat parade featuring 50 lighted and decorated boats at Tempe Town Lake. Enjoy local food vendors and a fireworks show.

#### Second Sundays on Mill

Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stroll this outdoor market with live music, snack vendors and free family fun. Along Mill Avenue between Third Street and University Drive every second Sunday through March. Dog friendly.

#### Christmas at the Petersen House Museum

Three weekends in December, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admire Tempe's Victorian jewel as it is decorated in high style with an emphasis on its Danish heritage. Free self-guided tours, refreshments, entertainment and a pop-up museum store.

Donations welcome. Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 at 1414 W. Southern Ave. Learn more at [tempe.gov/PetersenHouse](http://tempe.gov/PetersenHouse).

#### World of Illumination

Nov. 16 through Jan. 1

Drive through this mile-long light show at Tempe Diablo Stadium featuring holiday characters and millions of lights synched to music.

Open daily. Tickets at [WorldofIllumination.com](http://WorldofIllumination.com).

## MLK Diversity Award nominations open now

Nominate someone who works for the promotion and acceptance of diversity in Tempe for an MLK Diversity Award. The MLK Diversity Awards honor people who demonstrate a commitment to diversity, inclusion and who exemplify the spirit

of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's program honors people and organizations, including students, who work to make Dr. King's dream a reality.

There are categories for adults, youth, businesses, education leaders, community groups and more.

It takes just a few minutes to nominate someone for one of Tempe's top honors.

More information is available at [tempe.gov/MLK](http://tempe.gov/MLK). Reach out to Ginny Belousek at 480-350-8979 or [ginny\\_belousek@tempe.gov](mailto:ginny_belousek@tempe.gov) for additional details. Winners will be recognized at the annual MLK Diversity Awards Breakfast held on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, at The Buttes, Marriott Phoenix Resort, 2000 W. Westcourt Way.

The MLK Diversity Awards are hosted by the City of Tempe and the Human Relations Commission.



## City shows its holiday finest starting Saturday, Dec. 3

West Chandler residents are being invited to join their citywide neighbors for a colorful start of the holiday season, which begins in Chandler with the lighting of the iconic Tumbleweed Tree and the Parade of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 3.

The 66th annual event is presented in partnership with Chandler Lions Club, Waste Management, Salt River Project and Downtown Chandler Community Partnership.

This family-friendly event begins at 4:30 p.m. in Downtown Chandler. Spectators can gather around the tree in Dr. A.J. Chandler Park to watch local performers from 4:40 to 6 p.m. The parade will begin at 6:45 p.m., followed by the tree lighting at approximately 8 p.m.

Five facts about the Tumbleweed Tree:

- It is 35 feet tall and 20 feet wide.
- It is made of nearly 1,000 tumbleweeds covered in 65 pounds of glistening glitter, 25 gallons of white paint and 20 gallons of fire retardant.
- The tree is wrapped in more than 1,200 LED

lights.

- Known nationwide, the iconic tree has been featured on several Travel Channel shows and Saturday Night Live.

- The Tumbleweed Tree debuted in 1957, making 2022 its 66th year.

### Holiday festivities

The free event is perfect for holiday revelers of all ages, who are invited to come early to get a free photo with the jolly old elf at Santa's House (closed from 6:30-8 p.m. when Santa is in the parade) and watch local dance troupes at the nearby stage.

Write a letter to Santa and then take photos with family and friends at the Tumbleweed Tree and Sugarland displays. The kids will also love the inflatable bounce area with activities and games that will require the purchase of tickets. Tickets will be sold at the event.

### How to watch the parade

More than 40 participants in the Parade of Lights will bring holiday cheer with festive floats, dancing elves, Santa (and his firetruck), and millions of twinkling lights.

The parade will travel north on Arizona Avenue between City Hall and Chandler High School (Frye Road to Chandler Boulevard).

Bring chairs and blankets and arrive early to get a spot along the route.

### Where to park

Guests attending the event are encouraged to arrive early to find parking. There are multiple locations with free parking, including five parking garages on the east and west side of Arizona Avenue, including the largest garage, Oregon Street. Visit [chandleraz.gov/TumbleweedTree](http://chandleraz.gov/TumbleweedTree) to view a list and map of available parking garages and surface lots.

Several streets in the downtown area will be closed to traffic. Below are the closures scheduled:

- 2-8:30 p.m. Arizona Avenue closed between Frye Road and Pecos Road
- 6-8:30 p.m. Frye Road restricted from Washington Street to California Street
- 2-10 p.m. Arizona Avenue closed between Frye Road and Chandler Boulevard
- 6-9 p.m. Chandler Boulevard restricted from Delaware Street to California Street
- 6-9:30 p.m. Arizona Avenue closed between Chandler Boulevard and Galveston Street

Several other smaller streets in the downtown area also will be closed or restricted during the festivities. For more information showing street closures and general event information, visit [chandleraz.gov/TumbleweedTree](http://chandleraz.gov/TumbleweedTree).

# Vacation Watch Program

If you are planning a vacation, don't forget to let the Chandler Police Department in on your plans. When a resident of Chandler goes on vacation, the Police Department can offer extra patrols to check on your property. Submit your request at least a week prior to your absence. Complete and submit the Vacation Watch form at [ChandlerPD.com/vacation-watch](http://ChandlerPD.com/vacation-watch).





Continued from Page 11

“Thanks to an online French teacher community, I was able to take over an existing exchange between schools in Atlanta and Bordeaux due to a teacher’s retirement,” said Michele Coble, a French teacher at Corona del Sol.

“It has long since been a goal to launch an exchange which would provide students the opportunity to forge new friendships, find meaningful context for their language skills and invite our families to be part of the experience as well. Language comes alive through travel and experiences; this is the beginning of continued exchanges with Bordeaux in the future”

The first few days of the trip students explored the sites of Paris: the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, and finished with a sunset cruise along the Seine River called the Bateaux Mouches.

After taking the TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse which offers high speed rail connections throughout the country) to Bordeaux, students continued their French-speaking adventures with their host families.

Upon arrival students were greeted with a convivial welcome dinner hosted by our generous exchange students and families. During the exchange, activities included a walking tour of Bordeaux, shadowing their host student’s classes,

learning to master taking the tramway, as well as a day trip to the beachside town of Arcachon.

“Meeting my host family was both very exciting and nerve wracking,” said Corona del Sol senior Ryan La Ra.

“I was very nervous to meet my French student since I was in a different country, had to speak French, and had never seen him face to face. There were a lot of new experiences happening all at once.

“But after seeing him for the first time, I started to feel less anxious and became more comfortable with speaking, even if I was making frequent mistakes. My host student and his family were very nice and understanding as they knew I was trying my best. Even though I was nervous, it was definitely worth the experience and I can’t wait to host him early next year.

### Bringing the classroom to life

While students had prior correspondence via video with their host students and families, experiencing the daily life of a French family brought classroom learning to life.

The immersion experience challenged them to engage and utilize their French language skills. While students appreciated exposure to the day-to-day experiences of their French counterparts at school and bustling about Bordeaux, they found most rewarding the free time spent with their

host families including family dinners, outings to concerts and sporting events.

“I went to a Ninho concert and it was amazing,” said Abby Rugg, also a senior at Corona del Sol. “It was my first concert and I loved having floor seats and being so involved with the crowd.

“We also went to the fair and it was super fun; it was similar to the Arizona State Fair but with better rides. I was able to try duck liver and oysters which was super cool. I loved seeing how the French eat and the typical day to day life they live. I also loved being immersed in the culture since it is so different from being in Paris with lots of tourists. I got to hang out with a lot of French students and it was just great to see the differences in our cultures.”

The hospitality shown to our students by the Bordeaux community provided an experience that will never be forgotten and inspires us as we plan to reciprocate the exchange in January 2023. Bordeaux students arrive this January and we are excited to showcase our high schools and highlights of the Valley of the Sun as well as Arizona.

Activities range from visits to the Grand Canyon, visiting the Heard Museum, and taking in a Suns game.

We are thankful for the support of our families and community as we embark on this exchange.

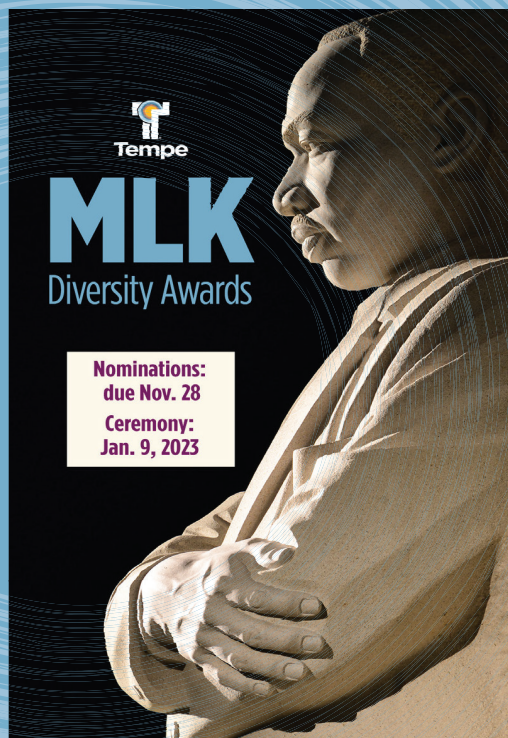
Tempe’s welcoming atmosphere is important to us. We celebrate it every year with the prestigious MLK Diversity Awards.

Nominate someone who works for the promotion and acceptance of diversity in Tempe for this award.

**Deadline: Nov. 28.**

Categories for adults, youth, businesses, education leaders, community groups and more.

Details:  
[tempe.gov/MLK](http://tempe.gov/MLK)







**For those who remember** Tempe as it was in 'the old days,' a reminder, plus a chance to share memories, can't come often enough. And so it was again this year that the Tempe Old Timers held their annual gathering at Arizona Community Church. The event offered longtime friends a chance to renew acquaintances, share stories and offer their observations on how times have changed. Among celebrants, from upper left, were a pair refreshing experiences of yore; planner and chief promoter Doug Royse; assorted alumni from this corner of a much wider world than it used to be; and two former and current mayors, Mark Mitchell and Corey Woods.

— Wrangler News photos by Billy Hardiman









## STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Corey Woods



### Civic and business leaders to gather for 2022 State of the City with Mayor Corey Woods

In it's 24th year, the State of the City provides a valuable opportunity to enjoy a breakfast with civic, business and political leaders of the Valley. This year's State of the City is presented by Edward Jones, and will be held at the Marriott Phoenix Resort Tempe at the Buttes on Friday, December 2.

Mayor Corey Woods will deliver this year's State of the City address, which will highlight key business development initiatives, provide strategic municipal progress updates, address challenges and opportunities, and provide a glimpse into the city's future.

The address will be followed by a fireside chat with Tempe Chamber President & CEO Colin Diaz, ACE, IOM.

Contact [david@tempechamber.org](mailto:david@tempechamber.org) if your organization is interested in sponsoring the event.

This event is open to the public and individual tickets can be purchased at [www.tempechamber.org/events](http://www.tempechamber.org/events)



### Annual Copper 5 Awards recognizes service members at Air National Guard 161st Refueling Station

In cooperation with the Arizona Air National Guard, the Tempe Military Affairs Committee presented the Copper 5 Awards Luncheon on November 9, 2022 to honor one outstanding officer and one outstanding enlisted member on duty with the 161st Air Refueling Wing.

On March 13, 1982 a KC-135 air fueling tanker, from the 161st Air Refueling Wing, Phoenix, call sign "Copper 5", collided with a small civilian aircraft and crashed near Luke AFB in Maricopa County, Arizona killing the tanker's 4-man aircrew. The Plough and Young Awards are presented to commemorate the Copper 5 crew.

This year's Plough Award recipient was 2d Lt Jamie Easley. This year's Young Award recipient was SMSgt Jacqueline Wilgosz. Both received a cash award and a 2-night local hotel stay thanks to Tempe Mission Palms & VIB Tempe.



# Neighborhood Services by Neighborhood Businesses you know

Announcements appearing in our Neighborhood Services section are placed by local business owners who want to be a reliable go-to source that you can trust now and in the future. Ads in this section appear in 6 consecutive issues at a cost of \$150, plus tax, which includes an accompanying classified ad at no additional charge. Call 480-966-0837 for information.

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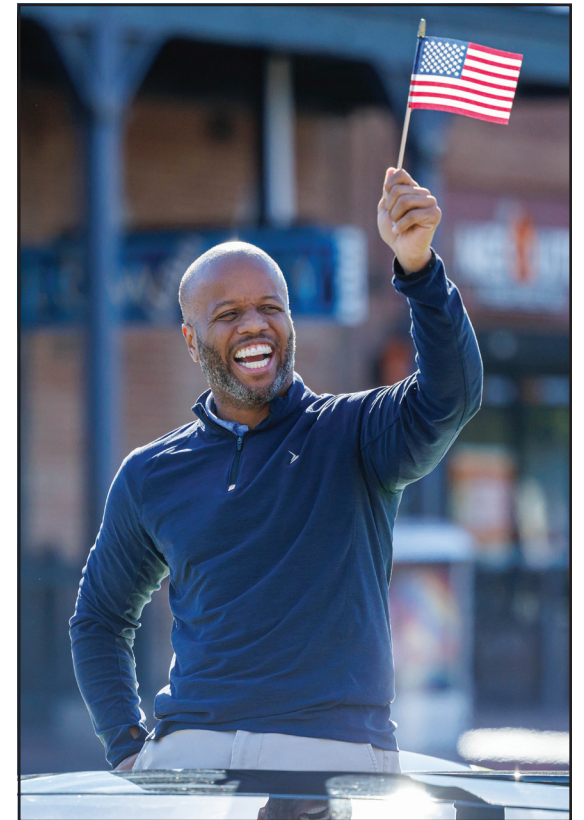


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## Tempe's parade, and the flags that were evident everywhere we looked, paid tribute to those who fought to make America a better place.



### A salute to remember

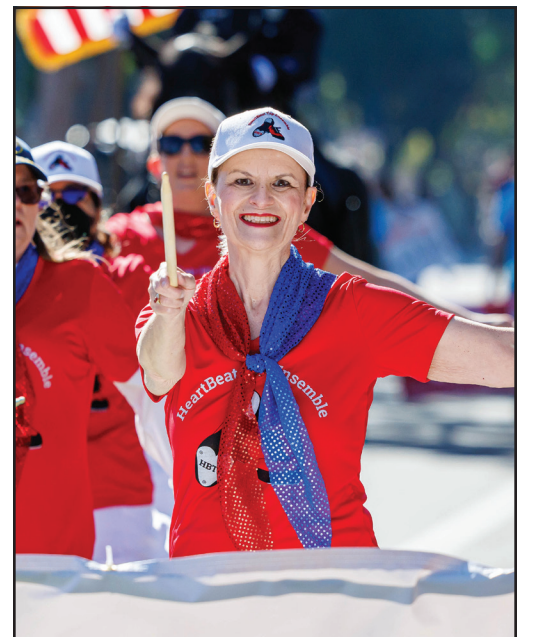
Tempe continued over 50 years of celebrating Veterans Day with its annual parade through downtown Tempe. The parade included members of the Tempe City Council, various Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, local marching bands, and members of the community.

Those in participation marched from ASU Gammage down Mill Avenue to Tempe Town Lake with thousands of onlookers. The patriotic event pays tribute to our veterans and all they do to protect and serve our country. Small American flags were handed out to those watching as the parade passed.



A Wrangler News special feature  
by Photographer Billy Hardiman









Kyrene de las Brisas staff, along with students and parents, took part in a Nov. 14 walk to stand against racism and bullying. The event is inspired by six-year-old Ruby Bridges, who was one of the first Black students who integrated the all-white William Frantz elementary school in New Orleans during the 1960s. The Ruby Bridges foundation was created after the inspiration and courage Ruby showed during her time. The annual walk also works toward opening discussions to unify those within the community. Brisas is one of the first schools in Arizona to participate in the annual event, and those who took part met at Brisas before walking with signs and banners to Desert Breeze park.

— Photo courtesy Kyrene Elementary District

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**Founder/Publisher:** Don Kirkland  
**Lead Photographer:** Billy Hardiman  
**Content Development:** Andrew Lowowski

**Contributors:** Alex Zener, M.V. Moorhead,  
Janie Magruder, Sally Mesarosh, Nicole Greason,  
Meghann Sepulveda, Cliff Summerhill

We welcome your stories, photos — and ideas! Feel free to call with article suggestions. We accept manuscripts and photographs from area residents about topics of interest to our community. Sorry, we do not accept paid "advertorials."

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**IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SELLING, NOW IS THE TIME TO CALL.**

Dear South Tempe Neighbor,

We're writing you because there are 82 homes for sale in the 85284 and 85283 Zip codes. It's a shockingly low number since last year there were less than 200 homes for sale! Would you have any interest in selling your home? Our phone is ringing off the hook with buyers willing to pay over asking price for a home in South Tempe. Your sale would be quick, simple, and very profitable right now. With a brief Zoom or Facetime call, we can look at your home and tell you what it's worth today for free. It's a more accurate price this way than what you'll find online. It will take 15 minutes. I'm certain you'll be pleasantly surprised at its value. You're also likely thinking... "That's great, but I don't want the hassle of dealing with showings and how do I time the sale to buy my next home in this market?" We have a lender who will give you the money upfront to make an all-cash, non contingent offer on your new home today (this will also help you win the home you love in this competitive market). Then, we'll sell your home once you've moved out. You get a Flexible close date, your home sold for full market value, and plenty of time to find your next home.

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

*Scott & Patti!*

Scott and Patti Agnew



Michael, Scott, Patti, Scotty

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

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