



**WRANGLER
NEWS**

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Smiling faces were happily evident as Downtown Chandler's Christmas tree lighting extravaganza got a final go-ahead after being canceled due to inclement weather. • Wrangler News photos by Pablo Robles • Pgs 14-15

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Return of LDS Temple Christmas lights provides a 'sense of peace'

By Tony Gutiérrez

After a five-year break — exempting a minimal display last year — the Mesa Temple Christmas lights have fully returned.

The display — an annual Christmas tradition at the historic Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple since 1979 — temporarily went away while the temple underwent a major renovation completed last year with a rededication.

The effort pulled together volunteers from 63 stakes — or ecclesiastical regions — from throughout the Valley, including the Church's Tempe South and Tempe West stakes.

“We are having the largest crowds in my 10 years of doing this,” said Sister Stacey Farr, a service missionary for the church who serves as director of the Temple Lights.

“The people that are coming are there because of their desire to know more of Christ and feel that light.”

Volunteers from the Tempe stakes decorated the palm trees and citrus beds in the Temple grounds, said Sister Farr. They drilled holes into orange bounce balls and inserted lights into them to make them look like citrus.

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the Church's Young Single Adult [YSA] stakes — stakes with wards, or congregations, primarily made up of young single adults.

"They come every Monday night during the year, and they're the ones that serve and build," said Farr.

On the temple grounds, sister missionaries greet visitors and invite them to tour the displays. These include 10 vignettes about the life and teachings of Jesus, taken from both the Bible and the Book of Mormon, which the LDS Church also considers a part of its scripture.

The treatise includes accounts of Jesus visiting ancient civilizations in the Americas.

Each display includes a QR code that can be scanned to show a video relating to the scene being depicted. Music also plays over the display, and there is an inspirational message from one of the church's Apostles — or top leaders — or a poem.

"One display is the Woman at the Well, and the song we chose is 'Joy to the World,'" said Farr. "That was the message that Christ brought that dear woman in Samaria when she dropped her water pots and ran for her village proclaiming Christ had come."

The display has drawn people from outside of the LDS church but who practice another Christian denomination. Farr noted that many volunteers are not LDS church members but wanted to help, anyway.

"We have many friends of other faiths helping us with this assignment," she said. "It truly is a community based event."

Inside the Mesa Temple Visitors'

Center across the street, 152 nativity crèches from throughout the world are displayed.

"People from other countries are finding their countries' display and enjoying that part of it as well," she said. "We had people from Scotland come the other night and find their nativity, and how excited they were."

While the lights are on from 5-10 p.m. every night through Dec. 31, many of the displays can be viewed during the daytime.

"One of our goals is to make the lights as pleasant in the daytime as at night," she said.

Farr said visitors should allot at least an hour to view the displays, lights and nativities. This allows time to walk the grounds without listening to the music and bookmarking the videos for later.

"The lights are centered on the people. It's the people that come and are excited to be there and be a part of something that brings hope, brings light in this bizarre world of 2022," said Farr. "What they're finding when they come is that sense of peace."

Details: Mesa Temple Christmas Lights

Where: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Mesa Temple, 455 E. Main St., Mesa

Free parking is available nearby, and the Mesa Temple is on the light rail route; handicapped parking is also available

When: Lights will be on 5-10 p.m., through Dec. 31. Other displays can be seen as early as 10 a.m.

Cost: Free

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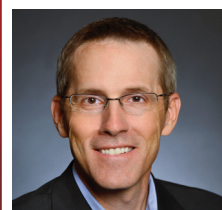
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ALL FIRED UP . . .

Tempe Fire Captain Brad Whitley and his crew promised to smoke out some holiday cheer with 150 children Dec. 17 at a nearby Target store. It's an annual treat engineered by Tempe Community Action Agency in collaboration with the fire department, which TCAA sponsors say always makes a difference in supporting the community. Easton, age 5, was among the first in line as the kids got to meet local firefighters and their second biggest hero, Santa.

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Chandler City Council, egged on by residents, says it's OK to keep chickens in your backyard. Roosters? . . . Not yet

West Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors may be crowing about an ordinance passed by the Chandler City Council that allows chickens to be housed on any single-family lot starting Jan. 5.

The ruling allows up to five chickens to be kept in any detached single-family lot; roosters, however, will continue to be prohibited.

A chicken coop is required and must be located in the rear or side yard. The coop is required to be five feet from rear and side yard property lines.

The height of required coop cannot exceed the height of property's perimeter fence. The coop is limited to a maximum of 120 square feet.

If the required coop exceeds the height of adjacent fence, the proposed structure will be considered the property's one allowable accessory building, which would need to meet the property's building setbacks, and will be limited to a maximum of 15 feet in height as measured to top of flat roof or the mid-point of a pitched and slope roof, and must be designed to match the architecture of principal dwelling.

A building permit is required for coops classified as an accessory building.

Chicken coops that are less than 120 square feet and not taller than the surrounding property wall do not need a permit.

Any coop connected to utilities (electricity or water) require a building permit regardless of size.

Residents are advised to check with their homeowner association to ensure chickens are permitted by that community's CC&Rs.



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City lists holiday hours

The city of Chandler will close its offices on Dec. 26 and 30. City offices will be open with limited services available Dec. 27-29.

More details are available at chandleraz.gov.

The facility and service impacts are as follows:

- City administrative offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 26 and Friday, Dec. 30.

- The Utility Services and Sales Tax office will be closed Dec. 26 and Dec. 30. From Dec. 27-29, staff will be available to assist customers by phone at 480-782-2280, or in person from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and again from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sales Tax transactions will be available by appointment only from Dec. 27-29 — schedule an appointment at chandleraz.gov/ContactUs.

- The City Clerk's office, including passport processing services, will be open by appointment Dec. 27-29

from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Schedule an appointment at chandleraz.gov/ContactUs.

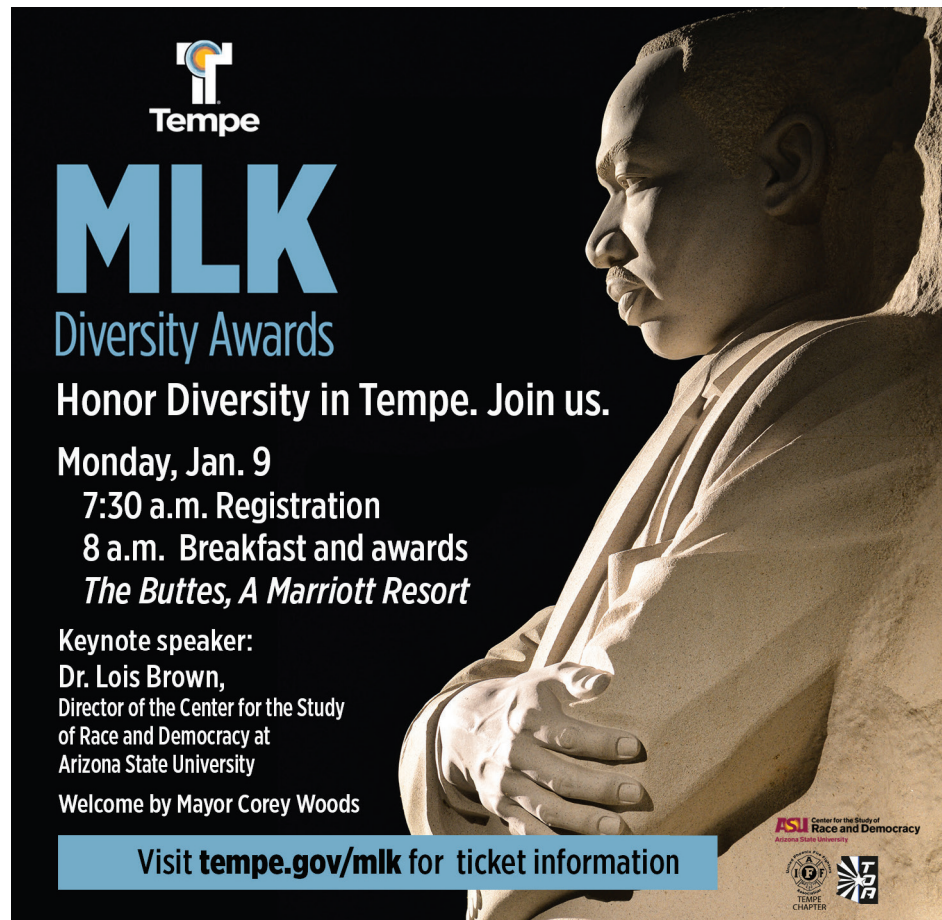
- There is no change to trash and recycling collection on the holidays. Have container to the curb by 6 a.m. on the regularly scheduled collection day.

- The Recycling-Solid Waste Collection Center will be closed Dec. 25, 26 and 30, 2022 and Jan. 1, 2023. The center is also closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays year-round.

- There will be no lap swimming held at Desert Oasis, Mesquite Groves and Hamilton aquatic centers from Dec. 18 through Jan. 8. Arrowhead Pool, Folley Pool and Nozomi Aquatic Center are closed for the season.

- Hours at Chandler public libraries (Sunset, Downtown, Basha and Hamilton) will be:

- Dec. 24 - Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 25, 26 - Closed
- Dec. 27-29 - Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 30 - Closed
- Dec. 31 - Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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Arizona State University

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Kyrene kids are ready for the future

Kyrene School District invites families to learn more about
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Kindergarten and preschool families are encouraged to
attend Showcase Nights at our elementary and K-8 schools,
and incoming 6th grade families are encouraged to join us for
middle school and K-8 Showcase Nights.

For a complete list of event dates and times, visit www.kyrene.org/showcase.

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Grades 6-8

Thursday, January 19, 2023



**Connolly Middle
School**

Grades 6-8

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

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www.tempeschools.org/middleschool



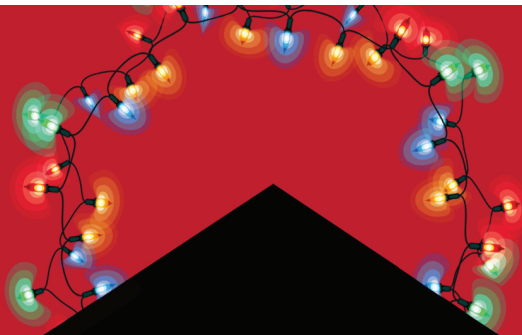
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2022
Christmas Season
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Christmas Eve Candlelight
Dec 24 @ 3, 4:30 & 6pm

Christmas Day
Dec 25 @ 10am

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Area educators hailed for pursuing advances in virtual reality learning

Students at Arizona State University are learning biology in a unique virtual reality experience, hurtling through space to interact with creatures in an intergalactic wildlife sanctuary the size of a small city and to solve the mystery of why the creatures are dying.

And the data are in to show that the experience is working.

ASU's Dreamscape Learn biology course debuted in the spring 2022 semester for students who took Biology 181 (introduction to biology for biology majors) and Biology 100 (introduction to biology for non-science majors).

The experience is straight out of Hollywood, created in a collaboration with Dreamscape Immersive, a company co-founded by Walter Parkes, former head of Dreamworks Motion Pictures and

the writer or producer of hit movies including "WarGames," "Gladiator" and the "Men in Black" series.

And while its roots are in Hollywood, the technology is an innovative new way to learn, driven by storytelling and a sense of wonder.

Consider what happened in Biology 181. Initial studies show that students who participated in the Dreamscape Learn version of the course had dramatically higher lab grades and better engagement than their peers who took the conventional lab course.

"We were amazed by the results, which far exceeded our expectations and proved our initial assumptions that the interactivity and compelling storytelling of Dreamscape Learn would indeed lead to better student outcomes," said Lisa Flesher, chief of Realm 4 Project Acceleration at ASU.

Annie Hale, executive director of the EdPlus Action Lab at ASU, a learning research lab, led a team. The team included: Michael Angilletta,

associate dean for learning innovation, EdPlus; Christofer Bang, senior lecturer, School of Life Sciences; Madison Delaney, UX researcher, EdPlus user experience; Tray Geiger, senior research scientist, EdPlus Action Lab; Annie Hale, executive director, EdPlus Action Lab; Rachel Luchmun, senior research scientist, EdPlus Action Lab; Alysha Ramirez Hall, senior research scientist, EdPlus Action Lab; Liesel Sharabi, assistant professor, Hugh Downs School of Human Communication; John VandenBrooks, associate dean for immersive learning, EdPlus; Christian Wright, assistant director, School of Life Sciences. of research scientists who studied how well the students performed.

A total of 486 students' lab grades were measured. Half were placed in the Dreamscape Learn course, which had three parts — a lecture, the virtual reality experience and a three-hour lab. The other half were placed in the conventional course, which did not include the VR experience.






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- Lemon Green Tea
- Ice Jasmine Tea

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Sugarland . . . a sweet tree-t

Chandler's Downtown Community Partnership is celebrating the holiday season again this year with Sugarland, an interactive display of holiday decorations at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West, now through Jan. 2.

Sugarland has been called the perfect destination for family photos and overall enjoyment — easy to see through the lens of Wrangler News photographer Pablo Robles and his creative view of one of our favorite Christmastime destinations.







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2022 State of the City with Mayor Corey Woods

On Friday, December 2nd, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce held the State of the City Breakfast with Tempe Mayor, Corey Woods, presented by Edward Jones and held at the Marriott Phoenix Resort Tempe at the Buttes. The Arizona State Pitchforks sang the National Anthem and children's toys were donated by attendees for Toys for Tots along with monetary donations. During their sponsor address, Silicon Valley Bank donated \$5,000 to Toys for Tots on behalf of the Tempe Military Affairs Committee.

A long-standing tradition between the Chamber and the city, Chamber President, Colin Diaz, ACE, IOM and Mayor Woods welcomed over 550 business leaders, local dignitaries and community stakeholders as Woods delivered the 2022 State of the City address highlighting Tempe's accomplishments, challenges, and provided a glimpse into plans for the future.

Chamber President/CEO, Colin Diaz, ACE, IOM explained the importance of the partnership, "The State of the City Address connects the community and provides valuable insight on issues impacting Tempe's businesses and the region. It also gives them a chance to announce accomplishments like the Care & Hope Line for the homeless."

During the program, Woods recognized the challenges and unprecedented times that the city has gone through over the past few years and emphasized the resources that Tempe has established to manage them.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TEMPE CHAMBER: WWW.TEMPECHAMBER.ORG

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 8:00 AM - Program Begins

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Reserve your seat for this highly anticipated annual event. Registration is limited and must be received by Monday, January 2, 2023. Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to the event to receive a refund.

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Individual Registration - \$60 Chamber Member
 Individual Registration - \$60 EVP Member
 Individual Registration - \$80 Non-Member
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DIVERSIONS



Rudolph: He's back, thanks again to Tempe-based Childsplay

Childsplay's record-breaking production, Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer, is back this holiday season.

The family favorite remains on stage through Christmas Eve.

Childsplay Theatre, a pioneer in theatre-for-youth since 1977, is bringing Rudolph back to the Herberger Theater in its 46th season.

The holiday classic soars off the screen in this musical adaptation of the beloved television special.

Adapted by Robert Penola, with Music and Lyrics by Johnny Marks, the show is filled with holiday hits including "Holly Jolly Christmas" and the beloved title song, "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer."

The musical features a host of favorite characters including Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Sam the Snowman, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and, of course, Rudolph.

It's an adventure that teaches us that what makes you different can be what makes you special.

Tickets start at \$13 and are on sale now. Rudolph runs weekends, through Dec. 24, with select weekday performances the week of Christmas Eve.

Rudolph is recommended for children ages 4 and up.

The show features some of the Valley's notable acting and singing talent, including Tommy Strawser in the role of Rudolph, Jon Gentry as Sam, and Katie McFadzen as Yukon Cornelius.

Performance Schedule

Sat, December 17 @ 1PM
 Sat, December 17 @ 4PM
 Sun, December 18 @ 1PM
 Mon, December 19 @ 1PM
 Mon, December 19 @ 4PM
 Tues, December 20 @ 1PM
 Tues, December 20 @ 4PM
 Wed, December 21 @ 1PM
 Wed, December 21 @ 4PM
 Thurs, December 22 @ 1PM
 Thurs, December 22 @ 4PM
 Fri, December 23 @ 1PM
 Fri, December 23 @ 4PM
 Sat, December 24 @ 1PM - Christmas Eve

Performance

Performances are held at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe Street, Phoenix.

Tickets start at \$13 and are on sale at childsplayaz.org.



SPORTS

Aztecs regroup to win vs Red Mtn

Sports Notebook
by Alex Zener



Corona del Sol's boys basketball team started the 2022-23 season Nov. 21, playing in the Jungle Holiday Tournament at Gilbert High School. Kneeling: coach Isaac MacDonald, Mihail Kostadinovski, Keona Peat, Deshaun(DJ) Johnson, Anderson Lim, assistant coach Marcus MacDonald; Standing middle: Isaac Elzy, Crew Swearingen, Zak Ali, Retief Yellowman, Jayson Covington, Lavelle Lewis, Justin Lam; Back Row: Andrej Mesihovic, Zach Jones, Ollie Hinder, Bo Dolinsek, Miles Smith, head coach Neil MacDonald. — Photo courtesy Herb Stokes

Corona's boys basketball team started the new season with preseason competition, the 2022 Welcome to the Jungle Holiday Tournament, held at Gilbert High School, where the Aztecs defeated the Desert Ridge Jaguars by 21 points, 53-32, in the first round.

The Aztecs, with only one returning starter, senior **Ollie Hinder**, lost the next three tournament games but regrouped for the start of the regular season to defeat Red Mountain 49-37.

"We have a great group of young men, who have put in a lot of hard work in the spring, summer, and fall," said head coach **Neil MacDonald**. "We are inexperienced, but we coaches believe, as our players get more games under their belts, this group will grow into a very good basketball team. We have size and athleticism, but just lack experience.

Corona's size includes 6-foot-8 senior **Ollie Hinder**; 6-foot-7 junior **Bo Dolinsek**; 6-foot-4 senior **Andrej Mesihovic**; 6-foot-4 senior **Keona Peat**; and 6-foot-2 senior **Miles Smith**.

The Aztecs are counting on these five players to deliver the offensive power for the team to be competitive.

"Our offense should run through our 'Bigs,' as they are our strength," said MacDonald. "Ollie Hinder and

Bo Dolinsek, along with Keona Peat, Andrej Mesihovic and Miles Smith should provide a large part of the offense, but our junior guards, **Jayson Covington** and **Crew Swearingen**, should have a chance to help with scoring once they get a little more court time."

As far as guarding opponents, MacDonald stressed that defense is always a team effort but he is looking to a few specific players to play solid defense for the Aztecs.

"Covington, Swearingen and junior **Zak Ali** are all very good on-ball defenders, plus Hinder and Dolinsek should help keep players out of the paint."

As far as leadership on and off the court, two senior players in addition to several others have come forward to help lead the team.

"Ollie Hinder has stepped up as a team leader, along with newcomer Andrej Mesihovic," said MacDonald. "We are actually getting a lot of leadership up and down the roster, which we coaches are really pleased about."

It should be noted that the Aztecs welcomed back Keona Peat, who broke his leg playing basketball in July 2021 and, due to complications, was not able to play during the 2021-22 season.

"We are excited to have Keona back," said MacDonald.

"He missed all of last year due to an injury, but he is

a big part of our program.”

“Keona is a very good player, with so much athleticism for a guy his size, but he also is a great young man, and his teammates are excited to have him back in the lockerroom.”

Additional members who should contribute to the success of the Aztecs on and off the court include seniors **Zach Jones** and **Retief Yellowman**; juniors **Lim Anderson**; **Mihail Kostadinovski**; **Justin Lam**; **Isaac Elzy**; and **Lavelle Lewis**, plus sophomore **DeShaun Johnson**.

The Aztecs, currently 2-6 overall, were scheduled to play at Pinnacle, Dec. 12, and at home against Highland, Dec. 15, before they take finals and break for the holiday season.

Corona is scheduled to play at Chandler on Jan. 5 and at home against Perry on Jan. 10. The Aztecs will then have 10 more games before the state playoffs start Feb. 8.

Marcos de Niza football

The Padres ended the regular season with a 9-1 record, entering the 4A playoffs as the No. 3 seed, outscoring their opponents in the regular season 410-129 points but ending up losing a heartbreaker in the first round by three points to Thunderbird, 17-14 on Nov. 18, to end their 2022 season.

Despite causing and recovering a Thunderbird fumble after the Titans had taken the ball down to the Padres three-yard line on their first possession, Marcos was not able to score points until eight minutes to go in the fourth quarter, at which point the Titans already had a 10-point lead.

Senior **Jamaal Young** caught a three-yard pass from junior quarterback **Braesen Leon** and senior kicker **Damian Gonzalez**'s point-after kick was good for the Padres to come within three points at 10-7.

Two minutes later, though, Thunderbird scored another touchdown to go up 17-7.

The Padres scored their second touchdown of the game when senior **Juan Lopez** caught a 13-yard pass from Leon. With Gonzalez's point-after kick, Marcos was once again down only three points at 17-14.

The Padres had a chance to potentially get within field goal range with one minute to go in the game but turned the ball over on downs at the Titans' 35-yard line.

Marcos racked up a total offense of 343 yards—119 on the ground and 190 through the air to the Titans' 361 yards.

Leon was the rush leader on the team with 65 yards on the ground, followed by senior **Marcus Jones** with 41 total yards.

Junior running back **Lorenzo Alexander**, the

Padres leading rusher averaging over 60 yards a game, was limited to four carries for a total of 12 yards against the Titans.

Lopez caught four passes for a total of 61 yards to lead all receivers. Senior **Clinton Hopkins** and senior **Mason Stromstad** caught passes for 47 yards each, while Young caught four passes for a total of 24 yards.

Stromstad led players on defense with eight solo tackles and six assisted tackles for a total of 14 tackles.

Senior **Luis Pichardo** was next with four solo and five assisted, for a total of nine tackles, followed by Gonzalez with five solo and three assisted for eight total tackles, and senior **Xavier Bueno** with eight total tackles.

The Padres had 20 seniors on their 2022 roster who got to experience playing in the post season their final year of their high school football year, including wide receiver/free safety **Paul Garcia**; Lopez; Hopkins; Stromstad; Jones; tight end **Dylan Maza**; defensive end **Davien Henry**; Young; Gonzalez; safety **Jireh Watson**; cornerback **Damarques San Agustin**; Xavier Bueno; Pichardo; tight end **Cameron Royalty**; defensive end **Paul Bueno**; tackle **Tucker Flores**; guard **Chaz Ponce**; linebacker **Justin Armenta**; linebacker **Jacob Armenta**; and tackle **Elian Ruiz**.

What is important to you?

Share your feedback through the Budget Survey

Better roads, more bike lanes, improved walkability? These are just some suggestions residents might have for Chandler. The City has started its annual budget process and encourages you to provide thoughts about the community and its future.

Complete the survey at chandleraz.gov/budget before Friday, Jan. 13, 2023.

Paper copies are also available in either English, Spanish or Mandarin, and may be picked up at various City facilities, including libraries, community centers and the lobby of City Hall.



Success of Tempe PRE benefits kids, families and community

By Randy Keating

It's no secret that the most robust communities are comprised of socially involved, aware and enthusiastic residents. This vivacity for community participation often starts with education.

Early childhood education (and access to it) is the first steps to building a strong foundation to provide children with strategies that help them develop the emotional, social and cognitive skills needed to become lifelong learners. These benefits are reaped not only by the students themselves, but by their families and entire support networks.

Recognizing the importance of early childhood education, I have been proud to assist our city staff in championing Tempe PRE, our city's high-quality, full-day preschool program for children ages 3 and 4. Tempe

PRE maintains its commitment to kindergarten readiness through small class sizes, a play-based curriculum and early childhood-certified teaching staff – all at established neighborhood schools in the Tempe Elementary School District. There are free and half-tuition options to income-eligible families who live in Tempe and a full-tuition option



to all families. Tempe PRE's tuition benefit has been an incredibly instrumental tool for families to save money on the cost of pre-school and thus allocate those funds towards other necessities and additional educational avenues.

Education Forward Arizona, an organization which advocates for and acts on education improvements that advance the quality of life for all

Arizonans, recently spotlighted the path to achieving the 'north star goal' of 60% postsecondary attainment. They presented four North Star Awards, which were designed to recognize collaboration and innovation in advancing educational attainment across the continuum: Early Learning, Elementary and Middle School, High School and Postsecondary Education. I am thrilled to report that Tempe PRE was chosen as the recipient for the North Star Award for Early Learning, and I was honored to accept at their inaugural dinner this past fall alongside critical members of our Human Services team.

In the coming year, Tempe PRE will be making a request for supplemental funding to provide a safety net for the stellar teachers already involved in the program. However, we are reaching for bigger and better things to ensure the permanence of this great program in the long term. Federal and state funding is crucial to bolster these programs for kids and currently is not meeting the needs of many communities. By contrast, communities can tailor the

local funding from a voter-approved children's fund to meet unique needs and support critical services. A voter-approved children's fund refers to local public revenue that is dedicated to children's services in an election by the voters, and often support a variety of youth programs. Because school districts typically receive funding from designated local, state, and federal resources, voter-approved children's funds do not support the general operating budget for K-12 public schools.

Exploring potential avenues like these for Tempe PRE to secure long-term funding will be one of my priorities in the remainder of this term as a Councilmember.

Please reach out to me anytime with your thoughts about Tempe PRE or any other matter. I can be reached by phone at 480-350-8916 or by email at randy_keating@tempe.gov. You can follow me on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/keatingforcouncil>) and Twitter [@randykeating](https://twitter.com/randykeating).

— Randy Keating is
a member of the
Tempe City Council

Building an even stronger Chandler is our goal

By Kevin Hartke

On January 12, 2023, I will have the incredible honor of being sworn in again for another four-year term as Chandler's Mayor.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the community I love so much.

For two decades I have had a role in shaping the direction of our great city, first serving on three boards and commissions, as a councilmember, and then

as Mayor.

Though we've come a long way since then, our work isn't done.

I remain fully committed to building an even better



community and a stronger Chandler.

I'm so fortunate to continue working with Councilmember Matt Orlando, who will also be

sworn in as a councilmember in January. He has been a pillar in this community for decades and his experience is a tremendous asset to the Council.

I'm also excited to work with Council-elects Jane Poston and Angel Encinas. Both are new to the political arena, and I welcome their fresh sets of eyes. They are both successful Chandler entrepreneurs, embedded in our community. They will bring such unique perspectives to the Council.

As we welcome two new faces, that means we're also saying goodbye to two familiar ones – Vice Mayor Terry Roe and Councilmember Rene Lopez. Both have been serving on the City Council since 2015. Vice Mayor Roe, a former police sergeant, is a strong advocate

for public safety and business development. Councilmember Lopez is passionate about city and regional water infrastructure, bringing a strong voice to organizations such as Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA). Both of their voices will be greatly missed on the DAIS. They were fantastic councilmembers and are even better people.

Each new year brings with it an opportunity for positive changes to our lives and to this wonderful community in which we live. I hope that's what you'll all focus on as we wrap up the holiday season and ring in 2023. I can't wait to see what's in store for the city.

— Kevin Hartke is
the mayor of Tempe

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WEST CHANDLER ENDEAVORS**

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January 2023



Holiday recycling

Residents can dispose of unwanted items for reuse, recycling or repurposing from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Tempe Fire Training Center, 1340 E. University Drive, at no charge.

Participants must live in Tempe or Guadalupe and provide proof of residency. For the full list of items accepted, visit tempe.gov/ZeroWaste.

Residents can drop off holiday trees with no

decorations, through Jan. 30, at Tempe's Compost/Inert Facility, 1001 N. Rio Road. Trees will not be accepted at Kiwanis Park.

Protect your plumbing and recycle your cooking fat, oil and grease at the Household Products Collection Center, 1320 E. University Drive, through early January.

Fats, oil and grease will not be accepted at fire stations.

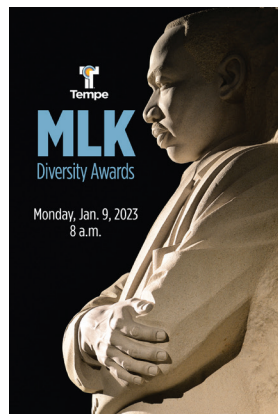
Visit tempe.gov/FOG for information.

This season, help keep the recycling stream

contamination free. No plastic bags/wrap, strands of lights, bows/ribbons or disposable aluminum trays can be recycled.

Take clean and dry plastic grocery bags, product wrap and other bags labeled #2 and #4 to participating grocery stores and retailers. Never bag recyclables. Plug-in or battery-powered strands of lights can be recycled at the Household Products Collection Center.

For information about Tempe's recycling program visit tempe.gov/recycle.



25th Annual MLK Diversity Awards: Honoring diversity in our community

The City of Tempe and the Tempe Human Relations Commission will host the 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Awards Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 9. The event begins at 8 a.m. at The Buttes, Marriott Phoenix Resort, 2000 W. Westcourt Way, in Tempe.

This vibrant tradition is a chance to connect, celebrate diversity and honor the impactful work of adults, young people, community groups, schools and businesses. Award nominees must live, work, or volunteer in the City of Tempe; nominations closed in late November.



Get involved in General Plan 2050 efforts

Join a discussion about what future Tempe should look and feel like in 2050.

Visit tempe.gov/2050 for information on the next public meeting taking place on Jan. 9 at Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road.

Empty Bowls event is Feb. 25

Tempe Empty Bowls is a free event featuring live entertainment, food and a beautiful selection of handcrafted pottery bowls crafted by Tempe Union High School district students and community members.

The bowls are sold for donations that benefit Tempe Community Action Agency and United Food Bank. The event is happening from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, outside the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. For more details, visit tempeemptybowls.org.

Budget season begins soon

Tempe will soon begin the process to develop operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2023-24, which begins July 1.

The city is planning to hold public meetings and host an online forum to engage community members about their priorities for the upcoming budgets.

Input is welcomed and an important component of the process.

For details, visit tempe.gov/BudgetPlan.

www.tempe.gov

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Razzle-dazzle: Lights fantastic

Tempe's annual Fantasy of Lights boat parade launched more than just a spectacular array of watercraft showing off their eye-popping images of the sky's holiday brilliance. It was part of an afternoon and evening of fun and holiday spirit for the whole family, featuring fireworks, music, food vendors — even mugs of steaming hot chocolate to warm mitten-clad little hands. No surprise: A good time was had by all.

— Wrangler News photos by Pablo Robles





SAVE THE DATE

Meet The Elected Officials BREAKFAST

Friday, January 20

Registration: 7:30 AM

Program: 8:00 to 10:00 AM

The Avion Center

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Chandler, AZ 85286

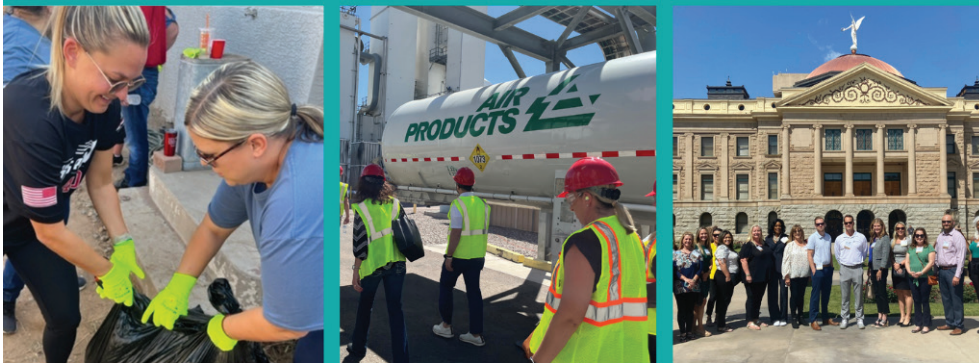


Visit chandlerchamber.com or scan QR code to register.



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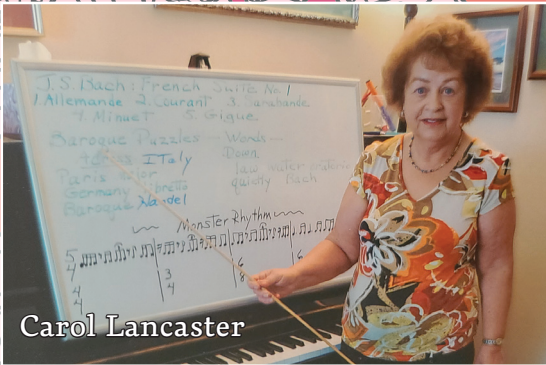
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Holiday Seasons!



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& A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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