

For Chief Jeff Glover, new statewide role marks yet another career milestone
Details and commentary, Pages 6, 8 & 9

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Tempe joins U.S. campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking



By Janie Magruder



Perhaps you're raising an eighth grader, or you know someone who is. Maybe you teach, coach or otherwise mentor this young teenager or employ one to watch your kids or walk your dog after school.

This eighth grader is probably 14, an age that also carries the unthinkable distinction of being the average age of first-time victims of sex trafficking in Arizona.

It's a growing scourge which Tempe is addressing during this, National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The city's 1,600-plus employees have begun training to identify, report and, ultimately, prevent human trafficking.

"There's a big myth that trafficking victims are

kidnapped in store parking lots or in the front yard of some creepy guy," said Michelle Rucker, director of CEASE Arizona, a program of the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network.

"In reality, sex trafficking crimes are built on exploitation and existing relationships. Traffickers take advantage of romantic, familial or platonic relationships, building bonds, seeking to fill a need. But that relationship changes over time, and the trafficker becomes a controlling person who exploits it."

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor or a commercial sex act, using force, fraud or coercion, according to the National

Human Trafficking Resource Center of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Sex trafficking is a type of human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery, according to the CDC. When a person younger than 18 is induced to perform a commercial sex act, it's a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud or coercion.

According to an analysis of National Human Trafficking Hotline data, 10,359 trafficking situations in the U.S. were reported to the hotline in 2021, involving 16,554 likely victims. The victims generally were recruited by someone they knew

— Continued on the next page

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— a family member or caregiver (33%), an intimate partner (28%) or an employer (22%).

Since 2015, the Arizona Attorney General's Office has reported 62 convictions connected to sex trafficking, child sex trafficking or illegal enterprises/money laundering, such as illicit massage parlors. The office has prosecuted or is currently prosecuting 372 cases involving 477 defendants accused of these crimes.

Sex trafficking involves recruitment and grooming, produces shame, stigma, trauma, blame and fear, and is more prevalent today on social media than being street-based, Rucker said.

"It's not what you see in the movies," said Rucker, describing sex trafficking as an underground crime that occurs in every community. "It's more common and less sensational."

By the time Super Bowl LV11 kicks off on Feb. 12 in Glendale, Tempe hopes to have 75 percent of its workers complete the voluntary CEASE module.

Velicia Humes, the city's chief diversity officer, said the training is a citizens' initiative that bubbled up through the Human Relations Commission.

"The commission thought it would be a good fit for the city, because of who we are and what we believe in, to not only combat this scourge but also to protect our citizens and visitors," Humes said.

City staff are learning to recognize potential signs of human trafficking, which include avoiding social interaction, being kept from speaking for themselves, displaying signs of physical injuries, security measures that appear to keep people inside, and small children working.

Additional training on local and national reporting is being provided to Tempe police and to its CARE 7 team, which responds to individuals

in crisis.

"We want our employees to learn about, 'If you see something, say something,' but also for the city to be able to offer additional services to people who may find themselves victims," Humes said.

The hope is that staff members will want to share this new knowledge with family, friends and others in their networks.

"What good is diversity or equality if all people can't move and live freely," Humes said. "For me, this is a human being problem. No one should find themselves in a situation where someone is preying on them or stopping them from realizing their fullest human potential."

The NFL's annual championship game is said to cause an increase in sex trafficking crimes, but that isn't a proven fact, Rucker said.

"When you have more people together, more of these crimes will happen," she said. "What's important is that we have sex trafficking happening 365 days a year because we have people trying to buy sex 365 days a year."

If it reaches the 75 percent training completion threshold, Tempe will be the second Arizona city to have the AATN's CEASE (Cities Engaged Against Sexual Exploitation) designation. In June, Scottsdale completed the program and, according to Rucker, three employees already have reported information about three potential victims.

"That's huge," she's said. "That's potentially three, or more, lives that could be saved."

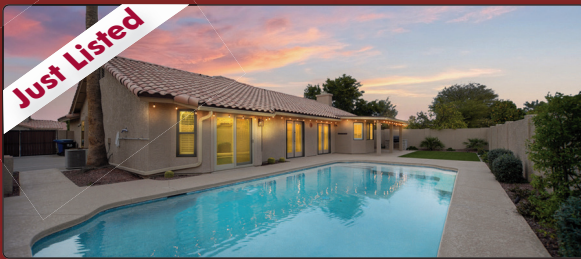
To report a crime of sex trafficking, call 911 or the AZ Tip Line: 1-877-4AZ-TIPS. To learn more about CEASE Arizona's community education programs, contact Rucker at 1-844-400-2286.

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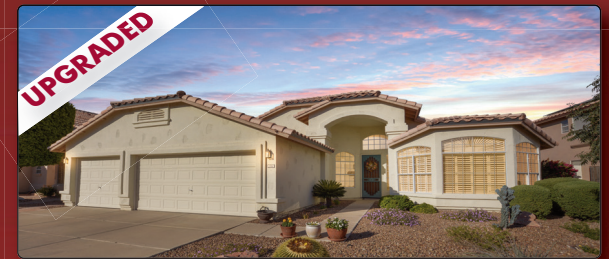
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Tempe chief to head state's top policing agency

Governor selects Glover as director of Arizona Department of Public Safety

Recognized (again) for achieving a distinguished career in law enforcement



Tempe Police Chief Jeff Glover will resign from his city role and become Arizona Department of Public Safety Director under the new administration of Gov. Katie Hobbs.

His last day as chief will be Feb. 13.

City Manager Andrew Ching has said he will appoint an interim chief as soon as possible in the coming days.

Glover, who is Tempe's first African American police chief, retired as a commander with the department in early 2020 and was appointed chief on an interim basis in late 2020. He took the job permanently in 2021.

Glover has served on the Arizona Commission for African American Affairs and was recently elected second vice president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

Said Ching:

"Chief Glover has served Tempe for more than 22 years, including as chief for two exceptional years.

"He has charted a distinguished career in law enforcement that now will continue at the state level. On behalf of the city organization, we wish him well

and thank him for his stellar service to Tempe."

Mayor Corey Woods heralded Glover as a consummate professional.

"Chief Glover has served Tempe with honor and distinction over more than two decades, working his way through the ranks from patrol officer to sergeant to lieutenant to commander to chief. It is no surprise that someone of such character and skill would be invited to serve at the highest levels of law enforcement," Woods said.

"As mayor, as a Tempe resident and, frankly, as a friend, I want to express my sincere appreciation and best wishes to the chief."

After appointing an interim chief, Ching said he intends to move quickly to appoint a new permanent chief.

"Public safety in Tempe is of primary importance," said Ching. We will ensure the continuity of our excellent police services while expeditiously and thoughtfully selecting a new Chief to working alongside the community and lead the department into the future," Ching said.

— More on Pages 8-9

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Fellow officers helped Tempe chief navigate complex roles of policing

Editor's note: the following commentary by departing Tempe Police Chief Jeff Glover provides insight into how he has approached the job of overseeing the challenges of steering a major city's law enforcement agency into the future. These remarks appeared in a previous edition of Wrangler News, coinciding with his appointment to the position of interim chief. He was subsequently named to the job permanently, and has remained in that position ever since.

By Jeff Glover

I first want to say that it is an honor and a privilege to serve the Tempe community and the men and women of the Tempe Police Department.

My journey into policing has indeed been remarkable.

Becoming a police officer was something I didn't have on my radar or even thought would be a part of my future. As a young Black man, I was raised to respect police officers and cautioned about how to interact with the police to avoid confrontations.

There is a dichotomy of thought sometimes in the Black community regarding becoming a police officer, given the history of policing within communities of color.

You will be held to a very high standard within the Black community but can be heavily criticized for taking on the position.

Policing is a noble profession that takes courage and a heart to help others in their worst moments.

There is also much bad history in policing

where healing must occur in communities around the country for the actions of the few bad actors in law enforcement.

During college, I started working for the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation. It was during this time that I had the opportunity to work closely with police officers.

The Phoenix Police Department had created a diversion program for youth that were picked up for curfew violations. In college, I was majoring in psychology but became fascinated with policing.

The officers I worked with taught me so much about the positive influence you could have on young kids.

Additionally, many of the officers that were stationed out of the Maryvale station were people of color and seeing that representation had a significant impact on me.

I was later encouraged by some of those officers to join the profession, which I genuinely believe is a calling.

Since becoming a police officer, I have experienced many challenges throughout my career, but the reward far outweighs the struggle.

The attraction to this career was the opportunity to serve the community and be a positive example

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for young men and women entering the profession.

That's why becoming the first Black police chief in Tempe has such incredible importance, not only to the Tempe Community and me, but that of the Black community within the Valley.

We are in a challenging time, where police departments are heavily scrutinized. Our efforts to work in collaboration with the community are imperative.

The Mayor's Public Safety Task Force culmination has allowed our community to help shape the Police Department's future.

I have prioritized a community-centered approach, placing a high value in procedural justice and community policing. Just three examples include: a comprehensive review and assessment of our policies and procedures to assure we are consistently performing to the highest standards, evaluating ways to expand our recruiting and hiring, and the near-term formation of a Police Community Advisory Group.

The Police Department is uniquely positioned to embrace change, which is a challenge we welcome.

I'm very thankful to have the opportunity to lead the Police Department in the community where I grew up, and which I love!



COFFEE WITH COPS

During Chief Glover's administration, Tempe PD officers launched an initiative to meet with community members to hear their requests, listen to their ideas, react to their views on local policing. In this session at the Starbucks location at Warner and McClintock, residents and employees shared a productive — and fun — session.

— Wrangler News photos

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Jared Yazzie pursuing his entrepreneurial venture

By Janie Magruder

Jared Kee Yazzie and his Tempe-based fashion label, OXDX, have forged big collaborations in the past, including with the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the internationally known Heard Museum's World Championship Hoop Dance Contest.

But Yazzie's current project, creating apparel for NFL Origins ahead of Super Bowl LVII on Feb. 12 in Glendale, is potentially the biggest game changer for this Diné graphic designer and print maker. He was among four unique designers in the Phoenix area chosen by the NFL to produce Super Bowl merchandise that represents community and doubles as art.

"It's been a trip," says the 33-year-old entrepreneur.

And it's a journey that got a jolt from a \$25,000 grant from the city of Tempe. At Tempe's MLK Diversity Awards breakfast on Jan. 9, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) micro-manufacturing grants were awarded to 27 small entrepreneurs with ties to Tempe, including Yazzie. The businesses span multiple sectors — from apparel, beauty products and food to home remodeling, manufacturing and wellness.

"I'm not good at asking for help, and am pretty stubborn on doing things myself," said Yazzie,

whom the NFL asked last summer to create five designs on t-shirts, hoodies, art prints, water bottles and magnets for sale to the public before, during and after the Super Bowl.

But he knew upfront cash would be needed to produce the apparel, and a friend suggested he apply for a BIPOC grant. The grantees were selected by the city's economic development department, FABRIC Tempe, Tempe Chamber of Commerce, State of Black Arizona, Hustle PHX, Pacific Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council and RAIL CDC.

All told, the next-generation businesses owned by people of color were awarded \$800,000 in city and federal grants to be used for rent, supplies, tools and other business supports.

"Organizations like State of Black Arizona, Hustle PHX and Rail CDC — and our other partners — are vital to helping entrepreneurs get the training and mentorship they need to really thrive," said Maria Laughner, Tempe's deputy director of economic development.

Yazzie was raised in Holbrook, Ariz., with two older brothers, his dad, an engineer, and his mom, a high school math teacher. He grew up around and was inspired by the stories and designs on Native art — Navajo pottery, paintings and rugs. His grandparents were weavers.

"There were stories in the simple rug pieces, specific designs that had meaning, and even the color of the wool was directly impacted by what was around you," he said.

Yazzie was motivated to study engineering at

Super Bowl LVII apparel to feature unique collection by young Tempe entrepreneur

the University of Arizona, but after two years, he realized that was not his passion. "I did a lot of sketching on the side, I made t-shirts and screen-printed clothing" before leaving school and moving to Phoenix in 2009. A few years later, he started OXDX, an acronym for "overdose," which Yazzie uses to describe the state of the world and how it relates to the Native experience.

When Yazzie goes back home to visit Holbrook, life is simpler, and is grounded by helping his grandparents with their livestock or the corn harvest, and working intentionally to preserve the Navajo language, practices and culture.

"That's the kind of feelings I want to put on my own designs," he said.

Origins: An NFL Collection is a merchandise collaboration program aimed at highlighting design talent in NFL-event host cities. It was launched before last year's Super Bowl in Los Angeles, and one of the four entrepreneurs represented then knew about and recommended OXDX.

"I'm one of the only brands in Tempe that has a collection with the NFL, and we wear that on our sleeve," said Yazzie, referring to Allie Stone, a textile artist and weaver who is OXDX's head seamstress and business manager.

The NFL is revealing the new apparel during Super Bowl-week events, including on Feb. 8 at ???, and at the NFL Experience at the Phoenix Convention Center. Beginning Feb. 9, there will a limited supply of merchandise at OXDX, 1425 E. University Drive, Ste. B-104, in Tempe, and on the OXDX website.

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Do you get the same enjoyment we do from thumbing through our pages?

If so, here's who deserves the credit.

Commentary by Don Kirkland

One of the jobs we've enjoyed the most in recent years, one of the parts of newspaper production that gives us the greatest satisfaction, is being able to pick up a copy of the paper a few days after it's printed and say to ourselves:

"This is our best issue ever."

We've done this quite a few times, I was reminded the other day by some former and current staff members—almost always, they noted, to eventually find something in those pages we would have, could have, done differently.

In other words, better.

So on goes this mindgame we play, congratulating ourselves for a never-to-be-outdone publishing achievement, only then to decide we can do an even better job the next time. This little bit of background, as it turns out, summarizes a very real conversation we had just the other day following the distribution of our Jan. 14-27 edition, which quite a few followers seemed to agree was, well, our best ever.

It's nice to bask in that kind of communal but all-too-often fleeting adulation.

Despite the short-lived disappointment we get from realizing we haven't yet achieved, and likely never will, journalistic and graphic-imaging perfection, it does seem to arouse a better sense of appreciation among us for all of those who contribute to the success of each edition: the editors, the writers, the photographers, the delivery people, everyone who, in one way or another, gives us their best, each knowing that his or her finished job will help bring enjoyment to the readers of Wrangler News.

To identify which of these skills contributes most

to the success of our years of local newspapering is no easy task. We know our writers understand the complexities of storytelling, and do their job well. We know our editors employ skills learned, and practiced, over long professional careers. And we know our photographers, past and present, possess an innate inner sense of how to capture the drama, the emotion, the exact second of any situation, no matter if it's a breaking news story or a contemplative moment.

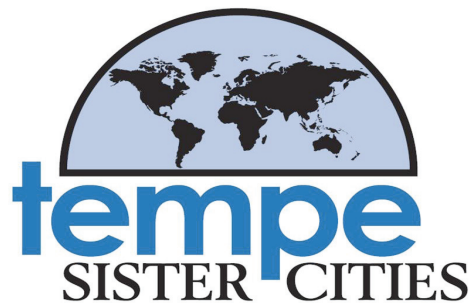
Having mentioned the pride we hold, especially in our photography, I'm reminded of the phrase, "A picture can be worth a thousand words." It was an expression that, according to history, emerged in the early 1920s, when Frederick Barnard wrote about the effectiveness of images in the process of creating advertising.

It has, of course, provided an important foundation for helping us to achieve what we hope will be a lasting presence in our communities.

While the written word and all of the related elements that go into producing Wrangler News are vital, we recognize that the visual part of what we bring to your driveway is what first catches your eye and tempts you to open the pages.

And in that regard, we like to think we're among the best.

Don Kirkland is the founder and publisher of Wrangler News



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Experts will forecast and present current data on: Employment, Finance & Banking Hospitality & Tourism, and City of Tempe Economic Development. The event will also include a Fireside Chat with Tempe Chamber President & CEO Colin Diaz and Tempe City Manager Andrew Ching. The keynote speaker will be economist Jim Rounds giving an economic forecast for the region.

The event is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased at www.tempechamber.org. Contact david@tempechamber.org if your organization is interested in sponsoring the event.

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Tempe Leadership Hosts 2nd Annual Grassroots Festival

Tempe Grassroots features live music, live and silent auction, local artists and local craft beer in a one-night-only fundraiser to support Tempe Leadership and its community-wide service project, Tempe Cares.

The event will include live auction items including private dinner with Mayor Corey Woods, a two-night stay at a winery, a silent auction, wine pull, and live music from The Optimystics. Food will be catered by Rusty Taco, beer provided by a local craft creator and selection of wines will be available.

Guests will also enjoy a unique photo booth experience created by local artist Jayarr Steiner. All proceeds to benefit Tempe Leadership and Tempe Cares.

Tickets are available at www.tempegrassroots.com

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DIVERSIONS

Screen Shots

Our film guru lists his picks for 2022 movies extraordinaire

By M.V. Moorhead

2022 is unlikely, it seems to me, to go down in history as a banner year for popular movies. But even in less auspicious years, there are always some good movies, and some good or even great scenes or performances in movies that aren't so great so great overall.

Out of what I saw, here are the 10 movies that stood out for me this past year:

Nope—Jordan Peele's latest is probably the best UFO movie since *Close Encounters*, though it has a more sinister edge. It's wildly original, funny and creepy sci-fi/horror, yet it also carries the heroic charge of a good western.

Good Night Oppy—This documentary about the Mars rovers Opportunity and Spirit has interesting information about the Red Planet, but it's really about the way the NASA nerds anthropomorphized the robots and fretted over them and cheered them on and ultimately grieved over them. In an entirely unpretentious way, the movie hints at the question of where sentience comes from.

The Duke—This pandemic-delayed release was, I thought, perhaps the most overlooked and delightful movie of the year. Jim Broadbent is superb as Kempton Bunton, a cab driver, factory worker and anti-television fee protestor who in 1965 confessed to stealing Goya's *Portrait of the Duke of Wellington* from the



'The Fabelmans': Our critic credits it with having the best final shot of any film during the year.

National Gallery in London; Helen Mirren is his fed-up wife. The direction, by the late Roger Michell, is warm, graphically lively and period-rich.

Everything Everywhere All at Once—Family drama, immigrant saga, sly comedy, martial arts actioner, *Matrix*-style sci-fi adventure and more are mashed-up in this freaky yarn from writer-directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert that tries to live up to its title. It's epic, intimate, silly and profound. All at once.

Thirteen Lives—Dramatizing a technically complicated rescue mission in detail, Ron Howard is in his element in this moving account of the rescue of twelve Thai kids and their soccer coach from a flooded cave in 2018. A little tough if you're claustrophobic, but a true feel-good movie.

The Whale—Brendan Fraser gives a luminous, possibly generational performance as Charlie, a morbidly obese English teacher trying to reconnect with his furious estranged daughter. Directed by Darren Aronofsky, the movie is a little heavy and one-note aside from the star, but Fraser's radiance shines through the prosthetics.

Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down—nfuriating because of what Giffords lost when she was shot in 2011; inspirational because of how much she got back, and how courageously she refused to give in to despair. Directors Julie Cohen and Betsy West touchingly show how central music was to Giffords' recovery.

The Fabelmans—In Steven Spielberg's loosely autobiographical coming-of-age yarn, scripted by Tony Kushner, the focus is really on the parents, beautifully played by Paul Dano and Michelle Williams. The movie isn't a grand slam, but it's fascinating, and it has the best final shot of the year.

Marcel the Shell With Shoes On—This feature expansion of the 2010 viral short by Dean Fleischer-Camp, with Jenny Slate voicing the tiny title character, is sunny and hilarious, but with improbably dramatic and poignant undertones. Isabella Rossellini is exquisite as the voice of Marcel's "Nan."

The Banshees of Inisherin—Martin McDonagh's black comedy about the agonies of friendship goes so sour in its later acts that I almost didn't put it on the list. But the brilliance of the initial conception and, especially, the magnificent acting of Brendan Gleeson, Colin Farrell, Barry Keoghan and Kerry Condon demand its inclusion.

A happy and prosperous 2023 to all!

Congratulations **On 50 Years in Business!**

Michael A. Pollack is the president and founder of Pollack Investments, one of the largest independently owned and operated real estate companies in Arizona. Pollack Investments specializes in all aspects of retail, commercial, multi-family, and single-family real estate developments, including the ownership, management, construction and leasing of a diverse selection of real estate projects throughout California, Arizona and Nevada.

During his half-century career in real estate, Pollack's lifetime real estate involvement surpasses well over 11 million square feet of property.

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Happy Golden Anniversary, Michael!





SPORTS

Sports Notebook

Ex-Corona standout makes a return appearance in his former hometown

By Alex Zener

If you hadn't noticed, former Corona del Sol basketball player **Saben Lee** is in Phoenix playing with his hometown team, the Suns. Lee recently signed his second 10-game contract to help the short-staffed Suns, who have several players out with injury.

Lee, in his third year in the NBA, was originally selected by the Utah Jazz in the 2020 draft but was traded to the Detroit Pistons, where he played for two seasons before being bounced around the league.

Discussion suggests he'd love to continue playing for the Suns.

As a junior at Corona in 2015, Lee and **Alex Barcello**, also a junior, along with senior **Terrell Henderson**, were three of the main remaining players on the Aztecs' four-time defending state championship basketball team when Coach Sammy Duane Jr. quit and Marvin Bagley III transferred to Hillcrest, a national prep basketball academy.

Both Lee and Barcello could probably have transferred someplace else, as well, but both decided to stay here and play.

Lee, Barcello and Henderson, who later became known as Corona's three-guard scoring machine, proved they could win games without an inside presence when they helped the Aztecs earn the No. 1 seed at the Division I state tournament. Unfortunately, illness struck and they ended up losing in the quarterfinals.

During their senior year, Lee and Barcello once again led the Aztecs to a No. 1 seed in the state championships, where they made it all the way to the finals before losing to Basha.

Lee averaged 22 points with five rebounds, four assists, three blocks and three steals during his senior year, which helped him earn a scholarship to Vanderbilt, where he led the team in scoring his sophomore and junior years.

Lee declared for the 2020 NBA draft after his junior year, and started bouncing around to some other teams, including the Philadelphia 76ers, before landing in Phoenix.

Marcos de Niza

Marcos de Niza's boys basketball team, led in scoring by 6-ft-4 senior **Charles Clark**, won nine out of their first 13 games before the Padres lost a game, 69-52, against St. Mary's, a team in their own 4A Division, Desert Sky Section, on Dec. 17.

During the holiday break, the Padres won two games and lost two at the **5th Annual Central Arizona Holiday Basketball Tournament** hosted by Casa Grande Union High School Dec. 20-22.

After losing a close game to Cesar Chavez, 53-50, the Padres went on to defeat the Baboquivari Warriors out of Sells, 49-40, and the Youngker Roughriders from Buckeye, 60-48 before losing 71-61 to Coolidge.

Against Baboquivari, senior **Rayvell Suggs** led all scorers with 19 points followed by Clark and sophomore **King Bailey** who both had 11 points.

Bailey led all players with nine rebounds while senior **Jamaal Young** was the assist leader with six assists.

In their win against the Roughriders, four Padres scored in double digits. Sophomore **James Steward** led the team with 14 points, followed by Clark and Suggs with 13 each and Bailey with 12 points.

Overall, Clark is currently the leading scorer on the team averaging 16.1 points per game having played in all 23 games.

He is followed by Suggs with 12.9 points a game playing in 23 games and senior **Marcus McClure** with 9.4 points in 20 games and Steward averaging 9.4 points having played in all 23 games.

Steward and Bailey have the highest average field goal percentage, 66 percent and 54 percent, respectively.

Suggs is the leading 3-point shooter hitting 34 treys to score 109 points. The next closest players are Clark with 28 treys and McClure with 15.

Young and McClure are tied in the assist category with 62 assists each followed by Suggs with 52 assists.

Bailey, only a sophomore, is the leading rebounder pulling down 199 rebounds followed by Clark with 157 rebounds, Suggs with 82 and Steward with 81.

Two of the leading blockers on the team are sophomores including Bailey and Steward with 23 blocks each while Clark has 26 blocks.

Three seniors have the quick hands necessary to create turnovers by stealing the ball. Suggs leads the team with 45 steals while Clark and Young have both amassed 41 steals each.

Marcos de Niza, with four games left in the regular season is currently ranked No. 27, with an 11-12 regular season record but is sitting on

a four-game losing streak.

In order to have a chance to make it into the 4A state championship playoffs, the Padres will need to win what looks like a winnable game on paper against the Arcadia Titans who have a 3-11 record in a game scheduled for Jan. 24 at home.

Up next the Padres look to be evenly matched against Seton Hall. Both teams currently have 11 wins. The game is scheduled on the Sentinels home court Jan 27.

On Jan. 30 the Padres will play another away game, this time against Saguaro in another game that looks good for Marcos to win. The Sabercats currently have an overall 7-13 record.

The last game of the season will be at home against Mesquite on Feb. 1, where the team will honor their seniors.

In addition to Suggs, Clark, Young and McClure four other seniors will be honored at this last home game.

Kaden Wellard played in 21 games so far this season averaging close to three points a game while **Pep Dipomazio** played in 20 games averaging 2.6 points a game.

Amare Johnson averaged one point per game while **Caylor Turner** averaged close to one assist and one rebound per game.

Other members of the team who helped the

team win games on and off the court include juniors **DJ Drew**, **Michael Turner**, **Michael Pacheco**, **Ty Redding** and **Jhamier Walker**.

Drew has played in all 23 games averaging over one point, two rebounds and one steal a game while Michael Turner averaged over five rebounds, three points, 1.5 steals a game.

Walker has played in 11 games averaging over one point and one rebound a game, Redding has played in 10 games averaging over two points a game and Pacheco has averaged close to one point and one assist per game.

Post season nominations and awards

Two members of Corona's swim and dive team were nominated for the Arizona Republic and azcentral All-State Boys High School Swim/Dive Team. Corona had two out of the 10 possible swim team nominees.

The ultimate winners will be announced at the 2023 Arizona High School Sports Awards, produced in partnership with Diamond Kitchen and Bath. The specific date and location will be announced sometime this spring.

The athletes nominated and ultimately selected were chosen by the azcentral sports high school sports reporters, using season statistics and

rankings, as well as observations from the season.

Senior **Colin Campbell** was one of the Boys Swimmer of the Year finalists.

His accomplishments included coming in second in the 200-yard individual medley at the Division I championships with a time of 1:51.96.

Campbell also came in second in the 500 freestyle at the state meet with a time of 4:36.68.

Campbell's teammate, junior Reed Lucero, was also named a finalist.

He placed second in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 55.70 seconds and was third in the 200-yard individual medley.

Two members of Corona's badminton team were included in The Republic's 2022 All-Arizona high school badminton team. The Badminton Player of the Year will be chosen out of the All-Arizona badminton team and will be announced at the 2023 Arizona High School Sports Awards held sometime during the spring.

Senior Merilyn Li was named one of the finalist for this Badminton Player of the Year. Li was awarded Section Player of the Year for her singles and doubles 12-3 record.

Li took third place at the Division I State Championship tournament after defeating Emma James from Perry High School.

Michelle Chen was awarded Honorable Mention.



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Insider

On-the-job coaching leads to his latest goal: Helping others to achieve theirs

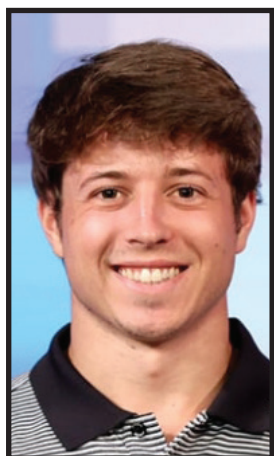
Blake Reynolds has focused his post-playing days on helping young lady athletes achieve their athletic goals through scholarships, after gaining the attention of college recruiters. In this case, Morgan Fiedler has committed to McNeese State University, a D1 program in Louisiana.

— Photo courtesy Blake Reynolds



By Andrew Lwowski

As the peak of the high school women's soccer season arrives, girls from every school in the East Valley are pushing for an opportunity to play the sport they love at the next level. One South Tempe resident is working with those girls to help their dream become a reality.



Andrew Lwowski

Blake Reynolds, a former collegiate player and coach spanning 16 years, grew up in Seattle and began his soccer career at Cal State San Bernardino in California, followed

by Baker University in Kansas. After playing, he began coaching as an assistant for South Dakota State and Baker before eventually taking head coaching positions at Midland University, Kansas Wesleyan University and Fort Hays State University in the Midwest.

Before coaching, Reynolds studied psychology in college, where he began working as a counselor with troubled youth in Kansas. While he loved counseling, Reynolds said his real passion was coaching.

It was just after he came to that realization that his coaching career took off.

Reynolds later reached a transition period, looking to step away from full-time coaching to settling down with a family, at the same time remaining connected to the sport he grew up playing—and loving. He heard through a colleague of Sports Recruiting USA, a company that works with both men's and women's athletes.

It was working with the women athletes, though, that emerged as his favorite audience.

"I was raised by a single mom," Reynolds said. "I've always had more of that compassion, and (notions) that she instilled in me." Fundamentally, though, "I've always deeply cared about people."

Sports Recruiting USA pairs high school athletes with recruiters, like himself, who have experience playing and/or coaching to provide a unique advantage during the daunting process for high school women athletes.

As the girls progress through high school, he says, that's when players will push for their athletic and academic highlights to be promoted.

"We help families navigate the process, preferably sophomores, juniors and seniors," Reynolds said, adding that the company doesn't typically take on freshmen at that point because of the lack of their experience at that level.

"Junior year is when (the players) can start talking to coaches. We help families come up with a plan to get recruited, and then hold their hands on how to do things the right way--the process, all the information and how to talk to college coaches."

Preparing the young athletes to shine with confidence is a major key in success in finding a great fit after high school, Reynolds says.

However, not all kids have the same needs.

"I was raised by a single mom. I've always had more of that compassion, and (the ideas) that she instilled in me. Fundamentally, though, I've always deeply cared about people."

— Blake Reynolds

"Some kids don't need it because they're all-stars, right? The kid that can go play at ASU, they may not need as much help recruiting. But what about the other kids?"

The goal of each individual athlete is taken into account when recruiters look to get their athlete noticed. The process begins with an initial evaluation, personally watching the athlete play to get a feel for their game.

The next step is deciding which collegiate program would make an ideal fit for that athlete, then discussing what their needs and wants are, not only for an athletic program but academically and socially.

He described the process as a funnel, narrowing down choices until a match is made.

Reynolds is currently working with nine seniors, three of whom will go to Division I; four to Division II; one to Division III; and one to NAIA, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Five of his nine seniors are now committed.

According to Blake, working through the intricate details ensures that he will be able to place his athletes in the best program possible for the best chance for success.



Standing tall

The Corona del Sol men's basketball team traveled to Mesa to take on 6A Central section rival Desert Ridge, but fell short in the final minutes, 65-61 on Saturday. The tall and mighty Aztecs held a first half lead, but ultimately could not find an offensive rhythm in the second half. Led by juniors Bo Dolinsek and Crew Swearingen, the Aztecs clawed their way back from down 55-48 in the fourth period to close the gap to just one, but could not get a favorable bounce to overcome the deficit. The Aztecs (6-13) will look travel to improve their record against fellow sectional rival Queen Creek on Jan. 24.

— Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski





Trends suggest the market is improving for homebuyers

Editor's note: We welcome occasional commentary from local business owners related to current and anticipated trends, and consider those selected for publication on a space-available basis. The author of this informational piece has a lengthy history of expertise in the home sale and mortgage-lending industries in our South Tempe/West Chandler distribution area.

By Randy Goff

For Sellers — Happening right now is a shift out of the shortest buyer market ever recorded by the Cromford Report.

The shift is a direct result of the fewest number of listings added to supply in the fourth quarter of the year going back to 2000.

Fewer listings mean fewer competitors for sellers. Demand is still very low, but when it's met

with low supply there is less downward pressure on price.

In November, every region in Greater Phoenix was in a buyer market except for the Northeast Valley.

By mid-January, Tempe, Chandler, Phoenix, Glendale, Mesa, Avondale and Gilbert had all come out of buyer markets and into balance, except for Chandler, which leapt into a seller market.

Not far behind are Peoria and Surprise. The only large cities left in strong buyer markets are Goodyear, Queen Creek (including San Tan Valley), Maricopa and Buckeye.

This does not mean that sellers can expect 2021 and 2022 scenarios to come back.

Price drops, negotiations, concessions, and rate buy-downs will continue to be the key to keeping buyers in the game this quarter.

Currently, 51% of all January sales have involved some form of concession from the seller, with a median cost of \$9,854; in line with the cost of a temporary rate buy-down.

The luxury market over \$1.5 million sees fewer concessions, but more price negotiation. January sales so far show sellers closing at an average of 94.5% of their last list price in this segment.

Under \$500,000, sellers are closing at 97.4% of list price.

All in all, the majority of sellers are coming out ahead at closing. 65% of active resale listings have been owned for at least two years.

The long-term appreciation rates for homes in Greater Phoenix are as follows using January sales to date:

25% for 2yrs., 50% for 3yrs., 63% for 4yrs., 70% for 5yrs., and 86%+ for 6yrs or more.

For Buyers — Last year, traditional buyers took a back seat to an influx of cash investors and speculators who outbid them.

Then mortgage rates increased and suppressed

their power even more. This was especially prominent in the market under \$500,000 where owner occupant buyers made up just 56.8% of sales in June (normally 70-75%), and investors took 31% (normally 11-17%).

As of November, traditional buyers have once again returned to 71% market share under \$500K, and investors have retreated under 20%.

Investors make up the majority of losses associated with recent price declines. This is great news, especially for first-time home buyers, as prices have come down significantly for starter homes.

The median sales price for a 1,400-1,600 sq. ft. single family home has declined from \$435K in May to \$370K so far in January; a decline of \$65,000, or 15%.

At today's mortgage rate of 6%, that's a savings of at least \$352 per month in payment. This is in line to the overall median sales price, which also declined \$65,000 from \$475K to \$410K.

To sweeten the pot, both FHA and conventional loan limits increased for 2023. FHA increased from \$441,600 to \$530,150, and many lenders began honoring the 2023 loan limit before 2022 ended. As a result, the market share of sales with FHA financing under \$500K increased from a low of 11% in March to 20% by November.

Many first-time home buyers take advantage of FHA financing as they have softer requirements for approval and their rates are typically lower than conventional loans.

Some buyers believe that prices will continue to drop dramatically in 2023 and continue to wait. However, after a brief 4-week buyer market from November to December, the ratios of supply to demand are showing Greater Phoenix moving back into a balanced market.

This means less downward pressure on price going forward and, if inflation and mortgage rates continue to decline, the worst may be behind us.

Wrangler News is distributed every other Saturday throughout the year to 20,000 homes & rack locations in Tempe & Chandler

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W. Chandler residents encouraged to apply for city boards and commissions

West Chandler residents looking for a way to give back and serve your community are being encouraged to apply for positions open on boards, commissions and citizens' committees.

The role of each board member is to provide guidance to Council and/or implement policies. Applications are due Wednesday, Feb. 15 and must be submitted online at chandleraz.gov/boards.

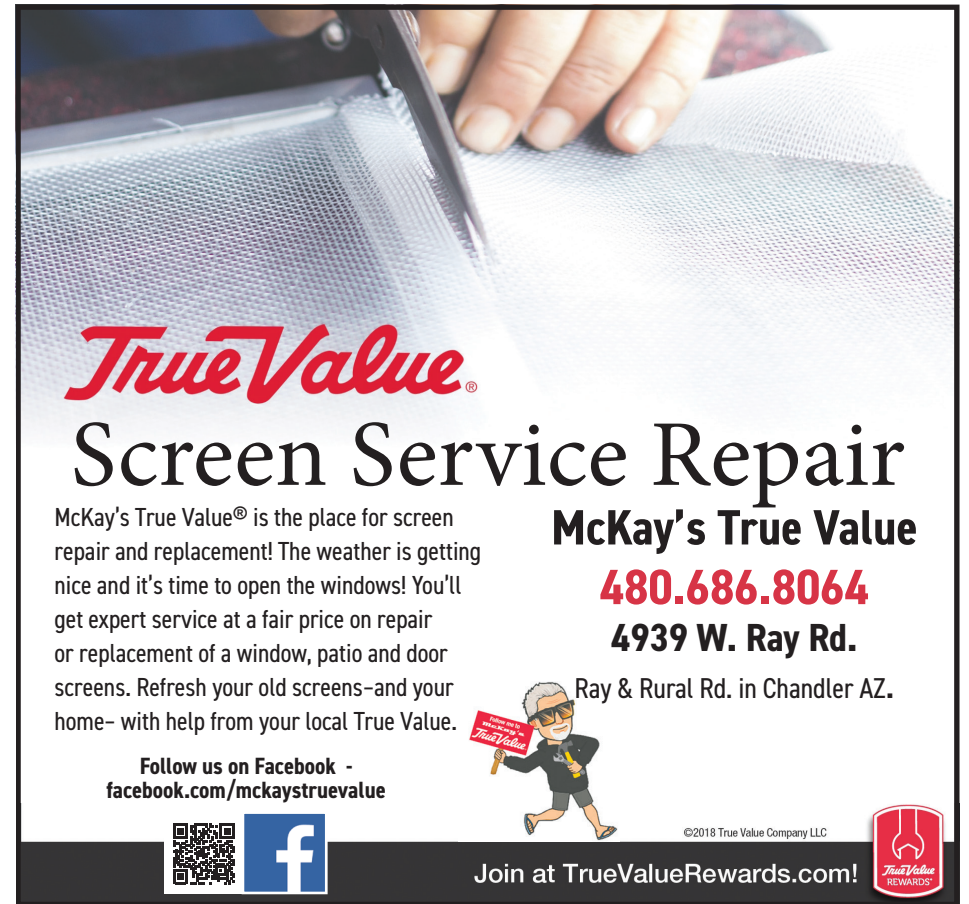
More information is available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 480-782-2181.

Openings include:

Airport Commission
Arts Commission
Board of Adjustment
Board of Appeals
Citizens' Panel for Review of Police Complaints and Use of Force
Cultural Foundation

Design Review Committee
Domestic Violence Commission
Economic Development Advisory Board
Health Care Benefits Trust Board Historic Preservation Commission
Housing & Human Svcs Commission
Human Relations Commission
Industrial Development Authority
Library Board
Committee for People with Disabilities
Mayor's Youth Commission
Merit System Board
Military & Veterans Affairs Commission
Municipal Property Corporation
Museum Foundation
Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Parks and Recreation Board
Planning & Zoning Commission
Public Housing Authority Commission
Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board
Public Safety Personnel Retirement Board Transportation Commission
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Descriptions of each board, along with the scheduled meeting dates, are available for review online at chandleraz.gov/boards. Interested applicants must reside in the Chandler City limits.



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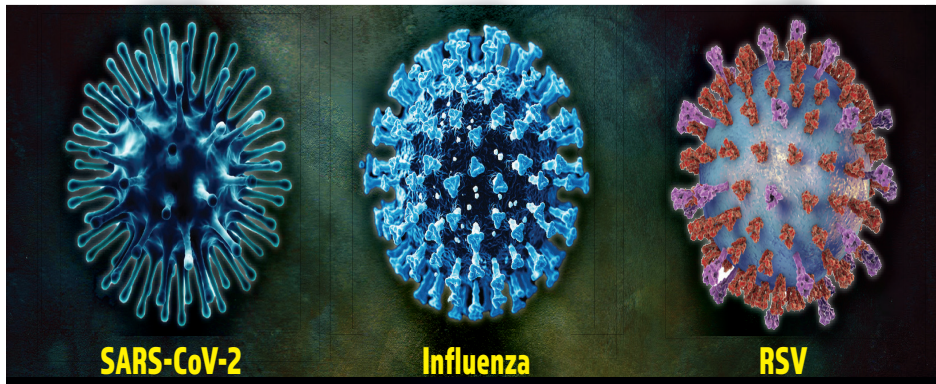
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First Person

A mystery never to be fully solved ♦ ♦ ♦ or forgotten

By Don Kirkland

How memories from times past occasionally reappear out of seemingly nowhere, then yank us back to the startling reality of a new dimension—well, it's something I've never fully understood. And because most of us have plenty to ponder just about *today*, I've not spent much time trying to figure this out.

When it happened to me most recently, however, I did manage to let my mind wander back 50 years and connect some long-forgotten dots.

A TV nightly news summary with a photo of the L.A. Times building, new since my days of walking through the doors of the paper's original location on downtown First Street, reminded me of when I made what turned out to be a major change, both in my career and the state that was to become my forever home.

I had gone to work with former Times-Mirror colleague Roger Beck, an assistant city editor who had broken away from pure newspapering to launch a media-focused PR firm in Sherman Oaks, Calif. One of my clients there was a juvenile-delinquency treatment innovator who operated a rehab facility in Tucson, at the time called Arizona Ranch School.

Part of my job was to arrange media tours for the owner, Marshall Chazen, in cities around the country, and in those days his pioneering (excuse my use of that word, as you'll shortly understand) initiatives to help guide disturbed adolescents.

While the resulting newspaper and on-air interviews did manage to generate a number of referrals to the school from government agencies, perhaps Chazen's highest profile work involved a Tucson 16-year-old, Louis Taylor. Louis at the time had amassed an already troubled childhood, having been in an out of different homes, experienced a lack of sound parenting and forged ill-advised relationships with other likewise undisciplined teens.

Then, on one fateful night in 1970, Louis made the life-changing decision to hang with friends when they, according to Louis' account of the incident, decided to sneak into the well-known Pioneer Hotel in search of snacks and, ultimately, mischief. And from there, the night's events went disastrously wrong.

At some point as the boys roamed the hallways, a fire broke out, and by the time it was controlled 29 of the hotel's occupants had died from fire or smoke inhalation. Thus the event joined a sad list of the city's most haunting disasters, one that not only was acknowledged for its horrific loss of life but for which enormous pressure was placed on the police to capture and arrest any and all responsible.

As I recall—I had moved to Tucson by then and was still working closely with Chazen and therefore familiar with what had brought many of his young wards to Arizona Ranch School—the search for the fire's perpetrators quickly zeroed in on Louis and the other teens who made the decision to be in the hotel on that

awful night.

Tracked down and questioned by Tucson detectives, Louis quickly emerged as the most likely suspect. Matches were found in his pocket, his story was sketchy and the public pressure to bring finality to a case involving such a massive number of deaths had become the overwhelming focal points of the police investigation.

Despite those and other damning elements, Louis emphatically denied setting the fire.

As the case against Louis moved forward, however, so troubled became Chazen with uncertainties about Louis' involvement that he posted the \$10,000 bond required for Louis' release from custody, transporting him to Arizona Ranch School, where he remained until a long delayed trial that ultimately assigned responsibility. Louis, by then 17, was found guilty.

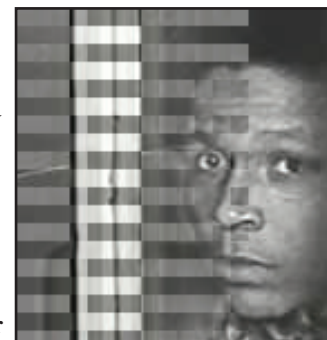
As to my own memories of those days, spanning almost a year during Louis' pre-sentencing residency at the school, I suppose it was inevitable that I would become somewhat distantly aware of him. Although he and I occasionally had relaxed-enough conversations about random topics, we never talked in detail about the fire. He did, however, never fail to make one thing clear: In his own mind, at least, he definitely was **NOT GUILTY**.

Both then and now, I'd be first to admit that I claim only a novice's understanding of adolescent psychology. However, even today, I remain somewhat aware that Louis may indeed have been the victim of a sorry jumble of unfortunate adolescent, situational and ultimately prosecutorial malfunctioning.

Who knows? Certainly not I.

Update: The story does not completely end here. Following two decades of work by the Arizona Justice Project, a judge agreed to release Louis after he had served more than 40 years in prison. But newfound freedom after so long without it apparently is not achieved minus a price. Louis was rearrested in June 2017 for using a baseball bat to threaten and rob a Tucson innkeeper. He was returned to custody and likely will remain so for the foreseeable future.

So yes, it's a story, with what seemed to be long-overlooked memories, that I likely won't forget about—again—anytime soon. No need, I suspect, for the nightly news to remind me.



Louis at time of arrest



Louis following release



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February 2023



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Tempe's "Real change, not spare change" campaign encourages residents to keep giving, but in a healthier way. Learn more at tempe.gov/HealthyGiving. Find a list of organizations serving Tempe that regularly need volunteers and support: tempe.gov/nonprofits.

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Families who live in Tempe and surrounding cities are encouraged to apply.

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Families whose children will turn 3 between July 20 - Aug. 31 may still apply now and wait for their applications to be processed after their child turns 3 and space becomes available.

Learn more: tempe.gov/TempePRE.

New rules for short-term-rental owners

Changes to short-term property regulations go into effect March 6.

Among the new regulations are requirements for property owners to:

- Obtain a business license and pay an annual \$250 license fee.
- Notify all residential properties adjacent to, directly

and diagonally across the property of their emergency contact information.

- Conduct a sex offender background check on the person booking the short-term rental.

More information is at tempe.gov/

Neighborhood Award nominations

Mark your calendar for the 2023 Neighborhood Celebration on Saturday, April 1, at the Kiwanis Park Fiesta Ramadas, 5711 S. All-America Way.

Neighborhood Award nominations are open through Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. in categories like:

- Neighbor of the Year;
- Neighborhood Event of the

Year;

- Beautiful Space; and
- The Chuck Malpede Award.

For neighborhood nomination forms, criteria, local vendor information, sponsorships and more, visit tempe.gov/NeighborhoodCelebration.

2024 City Council candidate packets

Qualifying Tempe residents who are interested in running for City Council can now make appointments with the City Clerk's Office to pick up candidate packets for the March 12, 2024 election.

A candidate Statement of Interest must be on file with the City Clerk's Office prior to circulating petitions.

A Campaign Finance Candidate Committee Statement of Organization is recommended prior to beginning a campaign.

To get a candidate packet, make an appointment with Assistant City Clerk Karen Doncovio at 480-350-8903 or karen_doncovio@tempe.gov.

Indicate whether you intend to run for Mayor or Councilmember.

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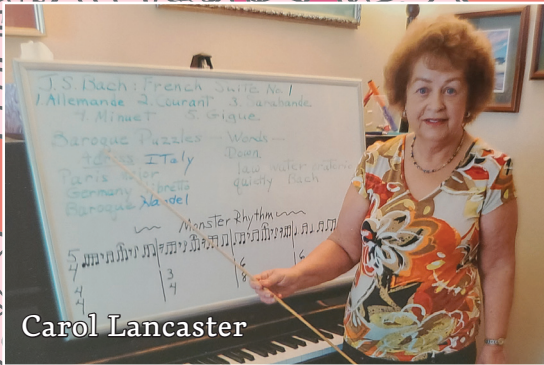
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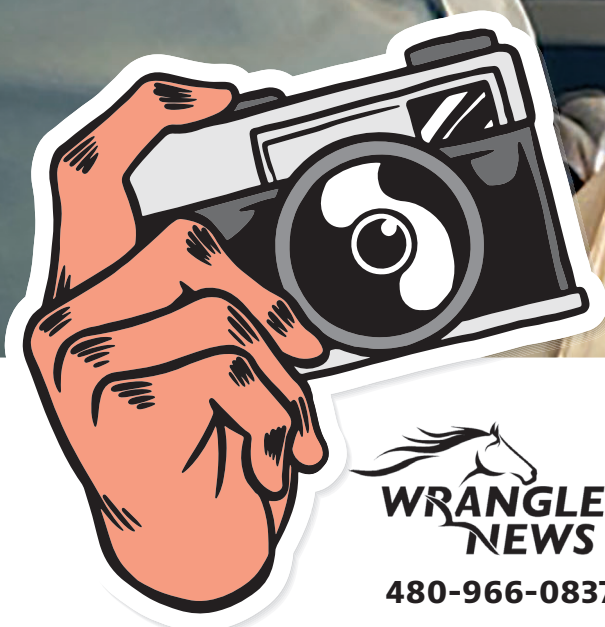


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Ken B. of South Tempe usually reads his copy of Wrangler News while enjoying a cup of coffee, this time he was on a flight!



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Send all photos and any
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Do you enjoy receiving your driveway-delivered copy of Wrangler News every other week? If you do, and you'd like to see that continue in the weeks, months and years to come, we hope you'll mention us to your favorite provider of quality products or services. We consider those businesses to be our partners in producing a neighborhood-friendly, family-friendly community newspaper, and it's their advertising dollars that have kept us in business for the past 33 years. Also, if you have an idea you think we'd appreciate hearing, or a contact you'd like us to make, call us any time 9-5 Monday-Friday, at 480-966-0837.

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2626 East Pecos Road
Chandler, AZ 85225

- Participants will be asked to remain in their vehicle during the event. All documents and prescriptions should be in the trunk of the vehicle before arriving.
- These items are **not accepted**: binders, binder clips, electronics, inhalers, aerosol cans, lotions or liquids, needles, and hydrogen peroxide.

Questions? (602) 542-2123 or CommunityOutreach@azag.gov



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