



FEB 11 - 24, 2023
VOL 33, NO 3

LOOK UP, BEAD HAPPY

It was a full-blown Mardi Gras-style Cajun celebration with all the Bourbon Street hoopla, staged by Forty-8 Live in Downtown Chandler. Details, more photos by Pablo Robles in DIVERSIONS, Pages 20-21

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Tempe asks AZ Supreme Court to review Town Lake development

Tracing recent history of project's progress



— Wrangler News file photo by Billy Hardiman

From staff reports

Tempe has filed a request for the Arizona Supreme Court to review a recent appeals court decision concerning a proposed development at Tempe Town Lake that has been predicted to bring jobs, tax revenue, apartments and condominiums, retail, offices and a hotel.

Known as South Pier, the \$1.8 billion, multi-use development would be located on 12 acres on the south shore of Tempe Town Lake east of Rural Road.

It would include seven buildings built in phases over 15 years, as well as an observation wheel, pedestrian bridge and public dock.

The developer will pay the city market value for its land and has pledged to contribute

approximately \$10.1 million to off-site affordable housing.

The Tempe City Council unanimously approved a Development & Disposition Agreement for the project at its Feb. 10, 2022 regular meeting.

After that approval, an advocacy group gathered petition signatures to place the agreement on a future city election ballot.

Group leaders had expressed their belief that the proposed development should have included on-site affordable housing units.

Tempe declined to process the petition signatures because the city maintains the ordinance is not legislative in nature and therefore not referable to the ballot for a public vote.

The advocacy group sued the city and in June 2022, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge

ruled the group's signatures could not be used because its petition form did not comply with state law.

The court also ruled that the City Council's DDA decision could be subject to voter referendum; the city had argued that it was an administrative action on the Council's part that did not call for the possibility of a referendum.

Both sides appealed to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

That body returned a judgment last month, declaring that the form of the advocacy group's referendum petitions satisfied state law, and that the City Council's DDA approval action is able to be referred to the ballot for voter ratification or rejection.

— Continued on the next page

The city of Tempe's most recent action requests that the Arizona Supreme Court review the matter and reverse the appellate court finding that the DDA can be put on a ballot. The developer requested the Arizona Supreme Court review and reverse the appellate court finding that the petition format was sufficient.

City officials will not speculate about next steps or outcomes.

The request for review by the state's supreme court continues to put on hold the processing of petition signatures.

Critical affordable housing provisions

In comments relating to the issue, Mayor Corey Woods said that the South Pier agreement provides unprecedented public benefits to the city in exchange for a Government Property Lease Excise Tax abatement on the property.

Among those benefits, he said, are \$10.1 million to the Tempe Coalition for Affordable Housing, which buys and builds permanently affordable housing in the city as part of Tempe's Hometown

for All Initiative.

Additionally, \$2.5 million to the city's transit fund; \$250,000 for education; a fully developer-paid public pier valued at \$10 million; and \$2 million toward the construction of a public pedestrian bridge.

Woods cited the city's recent \$10.7 million purchase of the former Food City plaza on Apache Boulevard as an example of where Tempe is purposefully heading with affordable housing.

The plaza land, in combination with two neighboring parcels, is now projected to be transformed into up to 400 units of mixed-income housing with an affordable grocery store.

The housing would include affordable units that would be kept permanently affordable.

Said Woods:

"The South Pier agreement was meticulously constructed to provide genuine public benefits to the city.

"Besides being an asset to the people who live and work there, and to the wider community, it represents a tremendous opportunity for Tempe to

make even more headway in building new places for people of all incomes to live and be part of our community."

Woods added:


"Through this development agreement, we would have the ability to secure many permanently affordable units within the city. That is transformative, sustainable progress."

City officials said that South Pier would be located on land that has two sizeable annual assessments that must be paid by property owners in order to contribute to maintaining Town Lake and surrounding park areas.

In similar Town Lake-area developments, those assessments reportedly are most often passed on by property owners to residential owners and renters, office renters and others on those properties.

This suggests that affordable units on the site are implausible because of the burden the additional expense would place on residents within the affordable units.

Additional commentary from Tempe is available by visiting tempe.gov/SouthPier.



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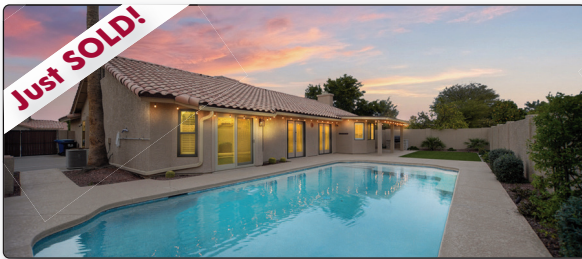
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Class offers a birds-eye view for seniors wanting to enrich their retirement years

Planners view group as a connector for lifelong learning

Story & photos by Sally Mesarosh

Peering out at the audience with great big owl eyes, a visiting raptor to Tempe Public Library's Beginning Birding 101 class delighted the crowd.

Bird enthusiast and volunteer Charles Oldham presented the class with bird facts and identification information while Liberty Wildlife volunteers Claudia Kirscher and Susie Vaught showed off various birds, including an American Kestrel, a

Western Screech Owl, a Barn Owl and a Swainson's Hawk.

The class is one of many offered by Arizona State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at various locations throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Jared Swerzenski, director of the institute, said the mission of OLLI at ASU is to provide learning experiences and a community where adults ages 50+ engage in non-credit, university-quality classes.

"We're always looking for new members to join our community," Swerzenski said.

"Our institute offers a variety of classes and partnerships. It's a great opportunity for anyone interested in continuing education and meeting like-minded people."

Swerzenski said most people are aware of the benefits of lifelong learning and follow its dictates.

"It's the reason I entered the field, but there's often a disconnect," he said. "ASU wants to be a connector, whether it's music, a trail hike or a ballet performance. Our job is to be the connector."

"Our organization is a connection point, and we open the door to many learning experiences."



Bald eagles at Veterans Oasis Park and Peach-faced lovebird at Kiwanis Park

The Tempe Public Library is a highly active OLLI location, but classes are also offered at the new ASU Health Futures Center in Phoenix, the ASU Downtown Phoenix Campus, the ASU West Campus and through Zoom. This spring they are working to offer classes in downtown Chandler as well.

“The Tempe Library partnership is our most active group,” Swerzenski said.

“The reason it’s so successful is because of Jolene Gosling and Larry Conway. They are the reasons we are highly regarded around the country. They are fantastic at what they do.”

Gosling, program poordinator for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and executive drector of Friends of the Tempe Public Library, said she came onboard about 12 years ago and enjoys how the classes bring people into the library.

“The purpose of our group, Friends of the

Tempe Public Library, is to support the library and promote literacy and learning,” Gosling said. “These OLLI classes do just that. They enrich the retirement years, build a community and get people out and involved in learning again, perhaps things they may not have considered learning before.”

Most of the classes take place in a classroom adjacent to the library’s Connections Café, which is run by the Friends group.

“People can have refreshments in the café and bring snacks into the classroom,” she said. “When they come to the library, they encounter a rich world of opportunity. They often make friends and sometimes they become library volunteers, tutoring children or helping out in other library programs.”

Liberty Wildlife has brought birds to the library for classes several times in the past few years, much to the delight of students. In March, OLLI offers

another birding class at ASU Health Futures Center and a Trail Walk at Papago Park. Both can be found in OLLI’s 2023 Spring Catalog.

The birding classes are just a small part of the extensive class offerings by OLLI. Gosling said she recommends several upcoming classes, all taught by ASU professors, that will be presented at the Tempe Public Library. The classes include 071 When Empires Fall, 087 A Geological Narrative of Arizona and the Southwest and 097 Intro to the History of the African Continent.

“The library administration has been so supportive, they love having OLLI be part of the library environment,” Gosling said. “We all work together to engage the community in lifelong learning.”

Website and schedule: <https://lifelonglearning.asu.edu/>. Questions? Contact 602.543.6440. Spring semester runs through April 28.

Bugged by that ticket for driving with your cellphone? The online class is even worse.

FIRST PERSON tale by M.V. Moorhead

On one Sunday afternoon recently, I was driving around town with my cell phone in my hand. I doubt I'll get much sympathy when I tell you that I suddenly noticed a police officer on a motorcycle with his lights flashing in my rearview mirrors. I spit out an expletive and pulled over.

"Important call?" the cop asked drily, when he walked up to the car.

"Not important enough, I'm guessing," I said with a sigh.

He explained to me that it's now illegal to have a cell phone in your hand, on or off, while you're driving, unless you're calling 9-1-1.

There was no such urgency to my call; embarrassingly, I was taking the opportunity of a

boring drive home to catch up with a friend back east. I was sufficiently chastened that I hoped the cop might let me go with a warning, but it was not to be; he wrote me a ticket and encouraged me to get a hands-free device.

What can I say? As the Brits put it, "it's a fair cop." I was totally guilty. If my kid was doing it, I'd be furious, so I could hardly make excuses for doing it myself.



I resolved then and there to put my cell phone down while I'm driving, and to pull over if I had to make a call, and I've stuck to it. So I guess it's a just and effective law.

This didn't mean, of course, that I wanted to pay the fine of over 200 bucks, so I looked into taking an online traffic class. Trying to enroll in the CHEAP EASY FAST Arizona Defensive Driving video

course, I soon found that all three of the titular adjectives were questionable.

Between the tuition and various other fees, the course came to an amount remarkably close to the amount of the fine. Not so cheap, then. But I didn't want a conviction, even a no-points conviction, on my record, so I signed up anyway.

Turns out that by law, the course has to be at

least four hours long. So the claim that it's "fast" is based on the fact that it's as fast as is legally allowed.

And easy? Well, the multiple-choice quiz questions are easy enough as long as you listen carefully to the video segments, but if you fail to catch a tidbit of information that's asked and guess wrong, you have to watch the whole segment over again from the beginning, and some of the segments are more than ten minutes long.

So for me, the class, which after weeks of procrastination I finally took a week or so ago, on the last day I was eligible to do so, ran well over four hours, alas.

What I didn't expect in all this, is that the course would be hosted by bugs.

Not Bugs Bunny; bugs. As in insects. Billy, who appears to be a purple stag beetle with mandibles rising over his head like viking horns, is the courteous, slightly stuffy host. His cohorts are Larry the Locust, a sensualist who thinks mainly of his stomach and Beatrice, or possibly Bee-Atrice, the Honeybee.

As they explain, who better to teach us about driving safety than the hapless creatures who regularly splat into our windshields? And teach they do, in comprehensive, sometimes repetitive detail

— Continued on Page 24

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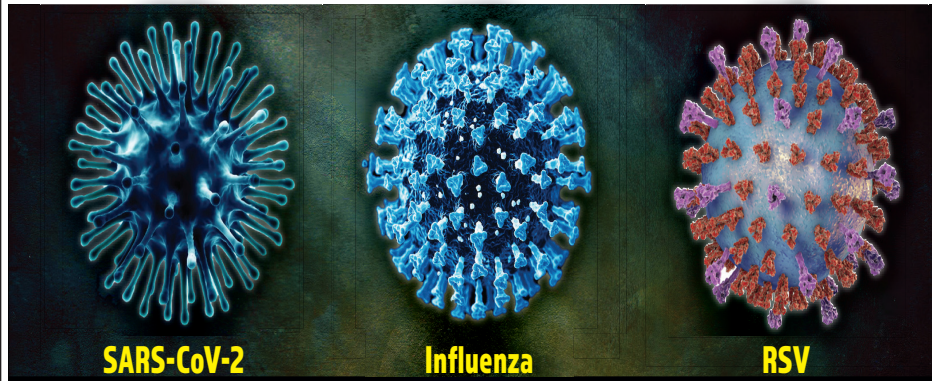
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COMMENTARY

Medicare Advantage vital to diabetic care

By Randy Keating

Diabetes is a serious, chronic condition that afflicts millions of Americans, including myself. I know firsthand how complex managing the disease is, which is why I was

glad to read a new study that found Medicare Advantage improves health care outcomes for diabetic beneficiaries. Via my community involvement,



I am always looking for ways to expand access to high-quality and affordable healthcare for our growing population of seniors in Tempe.

The study, conducted by Avalere Health, found that Medicare Advantage beneficiaries have greater utilization of preventative care, earlier diabetes detection, lower rates of inpatient hospitalizations, fewer emergency department visits, and lower total medical spending as compared to similar diabetes patients

enrolled in Fee-For-Service Medicare. Minimizing hospitalization and emergency visits is an indicator that something is clearly working.

Across Arizona, there are almost 600,000 adults living with diabetes, and it is estimated that another 2 million adults have prediabetes. Access to the best quality care for these populations at a price they can afford is of the utmost importance as it can significantly impact their quality of life.

Additionally, the supplemental benefits in Medicare Advantage plans, like fitness programs and meal delivery services, are also successful at promoting healthy lifestyles and managing diabetes.

Ensuring that diabetes treatment is accessible and effective is crucial for all Arizonans, and Medicare Advantage seems to be the perfect solution for seniors.

Randy Keating is a community activist and member of the Tempe City Council

A pitch for a return of our volunteer spirit

By Doreen Garlid

History is all around us—that is, if we stop for a moment to see it. That is what I thought as the staff of the Tempe History Museum gave their presentation on our city's past for a Backstage Pass event I held last October.



Projected on the slides were images of old Tempe, filled with leafy orchards and prosperous farms, a slice of the desert in full bloom because of one

invaluable resource: water.

For south Tempeans, reminders of our agricultural past are everywhere. It is part of our identity and we are right to be proud of and to preserve it for future generations. But it is easy to overlook how much toil and sacrifice it took to make this unforgiving desert a home for so many people. It was more than one person could accomplish, or even one family working dawn to dusk, under a blazing hot sun.

It took partnerships, working alongside an individual will to succeed, that brought life-giving water to our community. And it is that

collective spirit that I want to call on to address the problems of a much different age.

Today, problems such as homelessness, rising costs of living, and a growing sense of discord in our public sphere seem too firmly ingrained in our society to solve. How can one person make a positive impact?

However, if we look at today's problems through the eyes of Tempe's pioneers, things start to look a bit different... and a lot less hopeless.

These early Tempeans gave their talent and their time to do what many people thought was impossible. Along with other early settlers, these men and women saw the remains of ancient irrigation systems built by Native peoples and knew what needed to be done.

They volunteered to be part of the solution to a problem that was bigger than any one person.

Volunteering is often considered selfless, but it is also one of the

most important things we can do to preserve and strengthen our community—and by extension, ourselves and our families.

That is why I urge you to consider volunteering at one of Tempe's many organizations.

Tempe is fortunate to have an abundance of talent.

We boast some of the most innovative industries and educational institutions that continue to draw the best and brightest. What seems to be the most precious commodity in our busy age, is time.

Consider the impact that even an hour a week would have. Think of giving your time as the men and women living 100 years ago did—not merely as an act of charity, but as part of a common struggle against forces bigger than any one of us.

Now that is time truly well spent.

Doreen Garlid is a member of the Tempe City Council.

New year holds abundance of opportunity

By Mark Stewart

And just like that, 2023 is here, and as always, your Mayor and Council is energized to usher in an amazing 2023 for the people of



Chandler. I am lucky to serve one of the best cities in America. We are all looking forward to the ideas and energy of our two newest council members,

Jane Poston and Angel Encinas. I can tell already that both Jane and Angel love this city and will bring incredible ideas and value to our discussions.

For some of us, it can be challenging to rise above the noise and rhetoric of politics, especially at the state and federal levels.

Fortunately, your Mayor and council understand that fixing a pothole or enhancing a park amenity doesn't care about party affiliation. It just needs to happen. Our commitment to you is to stay focused on core services like roads, parks, water, and safety. These are the things that provide the quality of life we expect here in Chandler.

Here are a few examples of what to expect.

First up are road improvements. The Chandler Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 includes \$21 million for street repaving, \$30 million for street improvements on Lindsey Road, and an additional \$35 million for Chandler Heights Road.

Something that I have been pushing for over the past six years is continued investment in our parks.

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This year we will see \$24 million for Tumbleweed Regional Park improvements and more than \$14 million for existing neighborhood parks, community parks and athletic fields.

We're investing in our water infrastructure as well.

Chandler's water treatment plant and production facility received \$28.7 million for improvements, plus \$20 million for main and valve replacements.

More than \$59 million will also improve the city's water reclamation facility.

As you know, Arizona is in Tier 2 drought contingency right now. Over the decades, Chandler's smart water management has left us well-positioned to handle the drought. You and your neighbors invested your hard-earned tax dollars into our water portfolio over the years, which has positioned us for this current stage. We will continue this approach in the coming year.

Now let's talk about public safety. As far as core services go, few are more important than police and fire. Without safe neighborhoods and streets, nothing else can happen. That is why we are increasing funding for fire stations, emergency equipment, forensic services and body cameras. Chandler Police will also add a new unit dedicated to mental health calls. Also, our Police Department is best-in-class, and we are looking hire men and women with a higher calling to protect and serve. Apply at chandleraz.gov/police.

Work for the FY 2023-24 budget is already underway, and your input is crucial to the process. Please take the budget survey at chandleraz.gov/budget so we can understand what your priorities are.

The survey closes on Feb. 13. Residents can also share their thoughts and ideas by emailing mayorandcouncil@chandleraz.gov.

Mark Stewart is a member of the Chandler City Council.

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SPORTS

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SENIOR SENDOFF Update and more photos by Andrew Lwowski, Pgs 14-15

Crowd of well-wishers celebrated six Corona seniors' final game at Sammy Duane gymnasium



The Corona del Sol men's basketball team closed out its regular season with a 40-37 win over sectional rival Queen Creek. The Aztecs did so in electrifying fashion, honoring their six seniors with a win on senior night and their final game in Sammy Duane Gymnasium.

Seniors Zach Jones, Andrej Mesihovic, Miles Smith, Retief Yellowman, Ollie Hinder and Keona Peat departed with a thundering send-off, thanks part to the Tribe and Aztec community for packing the gym one last time this season.

Corona finished its regular season 9-16 overall, 5-5 in the 6A Central section - in third place.

The Aztecs were headed to Chandler on Feb. 10 to open the playoffs.

Coverage and photos by Andrew Lwowski.





Sports Notebook

AIA votes to officially sanction girls flag football



By Alex Zener

Starting this fall, Arizona high school girls will have the opportunity to play an additional sanctioned sport, which could lead to many plusses for female athletes, including additional college scholarship opportunities if their school's athletic department adds the recently sanctioned event to its offerings.

On Dec. 12, Arizona Interscholastic Association voted to officially sanction girls flag football as a state championship sport.

It is estimated that 30 to 40 high school teams will participate in the inaugural season this fall.

The movement in Arizona to have girls flag football as a sanctioned sport has been around for almost a decade but quickly flourished this past year.

For instance, last March, Chandler Unified School District started the first organized girls flag football program in Arizona history, with six Chandler teams and one Tempe Union High School District team participating.

Although it officially started with Hamilton, Chandler, Basha, Arizona College Prep, Perry, Casteel and Mountain Pointe, girls flag football began to gain interest in the East Valley when CUSD added it as a club sport in 2021.

Chandler's success with its club program smoothed the way for Mesa schools to expand its availability last fall, with all Mesa high schools participating in a five-game regular season culminating with a three-round city championship tournament.

Girls flag is also growing in popularity in several other states, including California and Colorado, which have announced plans their plans.

With the growing interest in Arizona, the AIA not only voted to officially sanction girls flag as a state championship sport but to skip the emerging status

stage and approve the sport to officially start this fall with a regular season, playoffs and a state championship.

The goal of Chandler and Mesa schools, along with Mountain Pointe and Xavier, was for girls flag football to be a sanctioned sport instead of the designation as an emerging sport first. But when the NFL, specifically the Arizona Cardinals, and Nike got involved, the decision became easier for AIA.

The Cardinals already had in place youth and high school football programs that helped to promote the expansion of football through the NFL's PlayFootball program.

The Cardinals chose girls' flag football as a focal point with the goal to strengthen and grow the sport in Arizona through their organization and the NFL.

One of their first goals was to increase fan awareness and participation for the Mesa school teams by encouraging the public to vote on the Cardinals website for which flag football game between any two Mesa schools would be designated the Cardinal Game of the Week.

A webpage was created for people to vote, followed by a member from the organization attending any matchup that received the most votes and award a football signed by one of the Cardinals' starting players to an outstanding member of the winning team.

In addition, on Sept. 2, the Cardinals and Nike combined to sponsor The Arizona Cardinals Nike Kickoff Classic to help increase awareness of girls high school flag football.

The event included an all-star game filled with top girls flag football players from Perry, Arizona College Prep, Basha, Hamilton, Chandler and Casteel high schools.

In another Cardinal-driven event, Mountain View, Mesa, Red Mountain, Hamilton, Arizona

College Prep and Chandler were invited to play a seven-minute game during halftime at the Cardinals' game against the Chargers on Nov. 27. In addition to donations from the Cardinals, Nike has provided uniforms and equipment to Mesa and Chandler schools, which has helped grow recognition and participation in the sport.

Starting this fall, girls flag football will have a three-week preseason, then an eight-week regular season which will include 14 regular games before a state championship tournament. The final championship game will be played the same weekend as the 2A and 3A boys football championship games.

It is expected there will only be varsity teams to begin with, and depending on how the sport progresses, freshman and junior varsity would follow.

Girls flag football should give more girls a chance to play a sport that is fun but yet competitive plus a one that is currently being recognized on the college level, with backing from the NFL which has offered to provide a \$15,000 stipend to schools that agree to offer the sport.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) added women's flag football as a sanctioned sport in 2020 with 19 participating schools listed as of Dec. 9, 2022, most in the midwest or south including five in Florida.

For now, La Sierra University in Riverside, California, is the only school in the western U.S. that offers women's flag football.

A list of Arizona high schools that will participate in girls flag football this fall has not been released but contact the athletic department to express an interest.

If interested in learning more about girls flag football or information about the Arizona Cardinals Girls Football Camps

and/or training, find it on the cardinals website at www.azcardinals.com/youth/girls-football/

Winter Sports State Championships

The state championship play-ins and playoff tournaments for Arizona high school winter sports teams was scheduled to start the second week of Feb.

Corona's girls soccer team, with a 6-8 overall record ended the season ranked No. 16 after defeating Desert Ridge, 6-0, on senior night, Feb. 2 where they honored six seniors.

As the No. 16 seed, the Aztecs were scheduled to play against No. 17 ranked Chandler in the 6A Conference Play-In Tournament on Feb. 9. If they win, the Aztecs will advance to the 6A state championship playoff brackets.

During the regular season, junior Kyarra Aparicio led the team in goals scoring eight goals in 13 matches followed by senior Samantha Camino, freshman Lucy Corcoran and freshman Paige Buckley with three goals each.

Aparicio led the team in assists with five scoring a total of 21 points while senior Aja Lister has four assists scoring eight points.

In addition to Camino and Lister, forward Ali Estrada, who scored one goal earning two points and midfielder Kailee Austin, with two assists and two points, along with defender Erin Karlin and midfielder Maddie Depew were honored on senior night.

Corona's girls basketball team, with a 13-11 overall record and 6-4 Central Section record, ended the regular season ranked No. 14 in the 6A Conference.

With the No. 14 ranking in the 6A Conference, the Aztecs were the last 6A team to qualify to play in the 2023 AIA Girls Basketball Open State Championships.

In the Open brackets, Corona, given the No. 29 seed, was slated to play at No. 3-ranked Xavier in Round 1 on Feb. 7.

The second round of the Open championship is scheduled for Feb. 9.

The 6A Conference Play-In Tournament for 6A teams ranked No. 15 through No. 30 is also scheduled for Feb. 9 at the higher seed.

With the addition of the Open Championships, the rules are a bit different this year.

The 4A-6A state tournament brackets will not be revealed until Feb. 11 because the 16 teams

that make up each of the 4A, 5A, and 6A state championship brackets will include teams that lost in the first two rounds of the Open tournament and teams that won in the Play-In tournament.

The results of both the first two rounds of the Open tournament and the Play-In tournaments will have been determined by Feb. 11.

Therefore, if the Aztecs lose to Xavier in the first round, or defeat Xavier and lose in the second round of the Open playoffs, they will be one of the 16 teams to fill the 6A state playoff brackets which will be posted Feb. 11.

Corona's boys basketball team, with a 7-11 overall and 5-5 Central Section record finished the regular season ranked No. 24. The Aztecs were scheduled to play in the 6A Play-In tournament at No. 19 ranked Chandler on Feb. 10.

Corona will need to win that game in order to play in the 6A state championship playoffs.

Corona's boys soccer team, with a 5-10-2 overall record, ended the regular season ranked No. 24, the last team to make it into the 6A Conference Play-In Tournament scheduled at the higher seed on Feb. 9.

The Aztecs will need to defeat No. 9 ranked Mesa to get a spot in the state championships slated to start Feb. 14.



XX

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Stocking up for a truly love-ly day

With Valentine's celebrations just around the corner, Makayla Corella and her fellow workers at the Safeway at McClintock and Elliot sprang into action to ensure there was plenty of stock on hand for customers with flowery intentions.

— Wrangler News photo by Don Kirkland





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Bourbon Street, Revisited

Southwest Cajun Fest, presented by Forty8 Live in Downtown Chandler, celebrated with Cajun culture, cuisine and crafted cocktails.

The fest featured live music with jazz, blues and brass bands.

Festival patrons were treated to an imaginary ride to the southeastern region of Louisiana for a sampling of the fares of vendors serving up regional dishes.

Other highlights included the Bourbon Street Experience, a live alligator petting zoo, The Swamp bar featuring hurricanes and daiquiris, street performers, eating competitions, kid zone and more Mardi Gras-style interactive experiences.

*Photos for Wrangler News
by Pablo Robles*





Screen Shots: 80 for Brady

'Lamest film ever' but bring tissues

By M.V. Moorhead

It's a testament to the star power of the four leading ladies in *80 for Brady* that I didn't resent that their characters were Tom Brady fans. Not that much, anyway. I didn't even resent that the film amounts to a feature-length commercial for the NFL; it was released the weekend before Super Bowl Sunday, almost as if the league is trying to offer its own counterprogramming.

Who cares? At this point in their careers, Lily

Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Sally Field and Rita Moreno could pretty much read groceries lists and it would carry a certain pop-culture gravitas. The script, by Sarah Haskins and Emily Halpern and inspired by a real-life circle of elderly Boston-based fans of *Tommy Boy* and the *Patriots*, doesn't really offer them much more to work with than a grocery list would, and they still come off all right.

Tomlin, a cancer survivor, is the outspoken instigator who insists that she and her friends must go watch Brady play in the 2017 Big Game.

Fonda is a flirt given to romantically leaping before she looks; she's also successful writer of erotic fiction about Rob Gronkowski.

Field is an academic weary of her dependent, literally absent-minded professor husband (Bob Balaban) and Moreno yearns to break free of assisted living despite a fellow resident (Glynn Turman) who likes her.

The quartet ends up in Houston having wacky adventures at the Super Bowl Experience and at parties and poker games and chicken wing eating contests and such.

All does not, it need hardly be said, go smoothly. They're befriended by the choreographer of the half-time show (Billy Porter) and if you think they don't end up dancing to get past security, think

again.

With her blunt, urgent delivery, Tomlin somehow emerges as the team captain of the ensemble.

But all four are infectiously energetic and seem to enjoy goofing around with the supporting players shoved in their paths, like Porter, or Harry Hamlin as a love interest for Fonda, or Sara Gilbert as Tomlin's daughter, or Andy Richter as a high roller in a skybox, or Alex Moffat and Rob Corrdry as a dyspeptic sports-talk team, and of course Brady, Gronk, Guy Fieri and others as themselves. Even the bit players include the likes of Patton Oswalt and Sally Kirkland.

80 for Brady starts slow, but it should be said that as it progresses, and gets broader and sillier, it also gets better; both livelier and more heartfelt.

By the end these women had me absurdly emotionally invested.

This is, possibly, the lamest and most ridiculous film that has ever brought tears to my eyes.

80 for Brady is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, AMC Centerpoint, Majestic Chandler and other multiplexes Valleywide.

Harkins Tempe will host 2023 Jewish Film Fest

Now that the holidays and the New Year and the Top 10 lists are in the rearview, the film festival season is getting ready to crank up here in the Valley.

Leading the pack is the Greater Phoenix Jewish Festival, with in-theatre screenings on Sunday, February 19 and Monday, February 20.

Now in its 27th year, the Fest offers one of its films nearby at Harkins Tempe Marketplace; two others play farther north at Harkins Shea.

The selection here at Tempe Marketplace is *Farewell, Mr. Haffmann*, at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 19 (it also shows at 7 p.m. at Harkins



Shea). The great French actor Daniel Auteuil stars in this drama set in Nazi-occupied Paris, in which a Jewish jeweler must hide out in his own shop's cellar. Also on the bill with this feature is an 18-minute short subject from Israel, *To Meet Esther*.

The first offering at Harkins Shea, also at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 19, is *Mordecai*, with Judd Hirsch in the title role and Carol Kane as his wife Fela, Holocaust survivors adapting to life in modern day Florida. Sean Austin plays their son. There's an Israeli short subject with this one too, *My Senior's Permit*.

Also at Shea, at 7 p.m. Monday, February 20, is the Spanish film *The Replacement* (*Il Sustituto*). This thriller, starring Ricardo Gomez and set in the early 1980s, concerns Nazis living incognito in coastal Spain.

These in-theater shows, however, represent only a few of the more than twenty

movies offered at this year's festival; the others are available (in Arizona only) to stream online through Sunday, March 5.

Individual tickets for the in-theater shows are \$15; individual virtual shows are the same price. A six-ticket virtual bundle is \$80. A household pass, the best deal if you're really going to binge, is \$250. Go to gpjff.org or call 602-753-9366 for the complete schedule, the film menu and more information.



Widely acclaimed “once-in-a-generation” vocalist Samara Joy will kick-off Tempe Center for the Arts’ 2023 fall season, center officials have announced.

The 23-year-old winner of Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album at this year’s 65th Annual Grammy Awards will perform one night only — 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21. General on-sale starts on February 9, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Those who are said to have seen Joy dazzle crowds at jazz clubs, festivals and cultural institutions across the globe praised her “glowing, auspicious debut” at the 2022 Newport Jazz Festival.

She also has performed on NBC’s Today Show, The Kelly Clarkson Show, and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.

The New York Times praised the “silky-voiced rising star” for “helping jazz take a youthful turn”. Samara’s Verve Records debut album *Linger Awhile*, in addition to winning a Grammy and earning a 2023 NAACP Image Award nomination. She also was spotlighted on “Best of The Year” lists by the New York Times, Rolling Stone, Downbeat, Ebony, Philadelphia Inquirer, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Slate, Jazz Times, and more.

According to critics, the Bronx native’s rich and velvety yet precociously refined voice, has already earned her fans like Anita Baker and Regina King, and millions of likes on TikTok — cementing her status as perhaps the first Gen Z jazz singing star.

Coming Up at Tempe Center for the Arts



Tony Tripoli & Friends

Feb 16 | 7:30 pm

Live from Laurel Canyon: James & Joni

Feb 23 | 7:30 pm

J. White & The Dubbs

Mar 9 | 7:30 pm



The Suffers

Feb 18 | 7:30 pm

Pokey LaFarge

Mar 2 | 7:30 pm



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Tempe Center for the Arts



Continued from Page 8

and at a leisurely pace; it led me to the suspicion at times that they were padding the proceedings out to fill up the four hours.

There's a surprisingly deep dive into the psychology of driving, as when they note that road rage can result when one's "belief system is challenged," as well as of the physical impacts of poor driving, as when they note that anger management reduces the chance of a heart attack by 44%.

This unhurried atmosphere also allows for rich character development and interpersonal dynamics

between the bugs.

For instance, when Billy reproaches Larry for his tardiness and self-indulgence, Beatrice challenges him for unfair self-pity.

Maybe it's just me, but I thought I detected a hint of romantic tension between Billy and Beatrice.

Even with all of this, however, Billy, Larry and Beatrice are not sufficient to fill the time requirement all by themselves. Much of their role is introducing video segments on safe driving sourced from all over the place, especially YouTube. At least one came from England; a likable young Brit calculates the kinetic energy of two vehicles at different speeds.

There's candor, too, as when Scottsdale-based

lawyer Robert Gruler of the R&R law firm discusses how commonly Arizona police officers hand out the charge of Criminal Speeding: "It's ridiculous, but they do it." The effect of this jumble of information offered in a jumble of formats, and presided over by arthropods, was deeply weird.

It was also, I must sheepishly admit, informative and thought-provoking.

At one point Billy and his pals note that as we age, our senses and reaction times lose their sharpness.

When I looked up the life spans of the stag beetle (1-2 years) the locust and the honeybee (both under a year) it gave this lesson an extra poignancy, when I reflected that you have to have your learner's permit for at least six months.

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2145 E. Warner Road, Ste. 102 Tempe, AZ 85284

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Real change, not spare change

Did you know there's a healthy way to help unsheltered people?

The most effective, lasting help for those in need is giving to local nonprofits that are assisting people in ending their homelessness.

When people give money at street corners or in public spaces, those donations can delay or divert a person from seeking help, create unsafe conditions on busy streets and prolong addictions for those struggling with substance abuse.

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.

Apply today for Tempe PRE

Applications are open for Tempe PRE, the city's full-day preschool program.

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

Free and paid tuition options are available depending on eligibility.

Tempe PRE is located on school campuses in the Tempe Elementary School District.

The school year will begin July 19. The program accepts children ages 3 and 4 who are fully potty-trained. Students must turn 3 by July 19 to be eligible.

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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National Volunteer Month celebrates the impact volunteers have on our lives and encourages volunteering for future generations.

Looking to make a difference in Tempe? Here are three ways you can get involved.

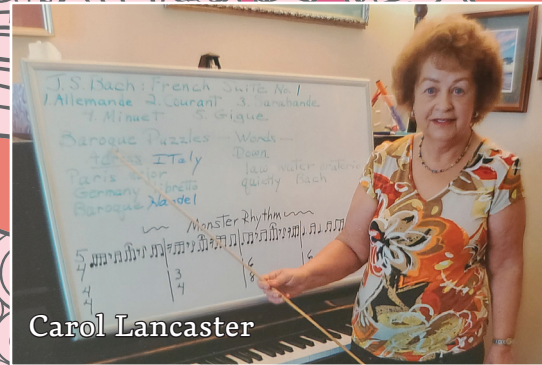
1. Adopt a street, path or park: If you have a passion for your neighborhood and can invest time and love, Tempe's Adopt-a programs are perfect for you. Support litter control and stormwater management while enhancing the appearance, safety and cleanliness of Tempe streets, parks and paths. Visit tempe.gov/adopt.

2. Care for community members: Volunteers are needed to work alongside our HOPE team as they assist unsheltered individuals and families in Tempe; no formal experience is needed. Find out more by emailing volunteerHOPE@tempe.gov.

3. Volunteer for the city: Whether it's an event, assisting at the library or becoming a docent at the Tempe History Museum, you can play a vital role in your community. Find youth and adult volunteering opportunities at tempe.gov/volunteer.



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85283, 85284, 85226



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Average Sold Price:
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Average Sold Price Per
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Carol Royse

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Which of These Costly Home Seller Mistakes will You Make When You Sell Your Tempe/Chandler Home?

Local Home Selling Expert. Carol Royse has just released a new report which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most home sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, you can request this report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To order a FREE Special Report, call 480-775-5231 for your no obligation report. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

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