

MARCH 11 - 24, 2023 • VOL 33, NO 4



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Landfill adjacent to proposed entertainment district, which would have to undergo massive clean-up before work could proceed.

— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

‘Landfill to Landmark’ is project's call to action

Projected to be largest project ever proposed to Tempe voters

Special for Wrangler News by Andrew Lwowski

As Tempe inches closer to the vote in May to transform a 46-acre landfill currently occupying the area around Rio Salado and Priest, activists from both sides are cranking up the rhetoric. Tempe Wins, a group comprised of former Tempe political leaders, Tempe residents and business owners, favors ‘Landfill to Landmark,’ a proposed new downtown Tempe entertainment district.

Tempe Wins held a meeting on Feb. 23 at The Beer Shop Co. off First Street in Tempe to discuss why Tempe residents should vote YES on Props 301, 302 and 303, as well as bust some myths about the proposition.

Xavier Gutierrez, the president and chief executive Officer for the Arizona Coyotes club, led the meeting which covered the financials of the \$2.1 billion project. The development would be the largest private sector investment in history of

the city of Tempe, meaning this is 100% private and would be no risk to city tax payers.

By voting YES on the three propositions, Tempe will sell land for \$25 per square foot, with a developer surcharge of \$120 per square foot, which is \$240 million. The developer, the Alex Meruelo group, would then pay Tempe \$150 per square foot, increasing the total purchase price at \$593 million.

Gutierrez made sure there was no confusion

about the GPLET or the Coyotes' loyalty to Tempe, citing their exit from the city of Glendale. He stated that GPLET is a very common developmental tool, adding that there are 37 similar projects already around Tempe Town Lake.

Additionally, he said, there is a no relocation clause in the 30-year GPLET that would be signed by the National Hockey League.

An eight-year GPLET would be signed for nearby retail, office and housing.

The bonds used to develop the site are not taxpayer backed, either. They are earmarked for remediation of the landfill, public infrastructure and title to the land.

Officials say the bonds would be repaid through uncommitted and voluntary surcharges, such as shopping in the district or attending a Coyotes game.

The Bonds are guaranteed through the land, the private real estate and buildings.

Gutierrez said he supports Alex Meruelo and his successful record as a businessman and developer, citing a 40-plus-year track record of successful businesses, ranging from banking, media and gaming. It is worth noting that over his career, said officials, that Meruelo has had no bankruptcies.

Allowing the Meruelo group to develop downtown would bring in a net gain of \$693 million, with a \$115 tax abatement over 30 years, according to reporting by a support group. Gutierrez said the plaza would be anchored by the Arizona Coyotes, but would feature two hotels, a private medical office, nearly 2,000 residential units, a theater with 3,500 seats, and a row of boutique shops and restaurants.

The planned community-focused district would

create a vibrant, year-round hub for all of Tempe and its surrounding communities to enjoy while creating nearly 7,000 new, permanent jobs.

While some concerns arose over traffic and an influx of travelers, the city of Tempe will create 6,900 new parking spaces and beef up streetcar, shuttle and bus capability for alternate transportation. Gutierrez cited Sun Devil Stadium, home of ASU's football team, as an example.

Sun Devil Stadium holds 50,000 during home games, that Tempe is said to be able to accommodate—not to mention five freeways within a five-mile radius of downtown Tempe, which it is claimed will alleviate increased traffic.

The time to develop downtown Tempe is now, said backers, and Tempe city officials call this deal a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity for the city. Details: TempeWins.com.



Signage opposing project are appearing around Tempe, paid for by Democracy for Tempe PAC.

— Wrangler News photo by Don Kirkland

Argument Against Prop. 303

The entertainment district that would be created by Prop. 303 is completely wrong for Tempe.

Tempe's diverse residents want a liveable city with facilities and services that serve all of us.

We are a caring city that looks after our most vulnerable residents.

And we are a generous city, willing to pay fairly levied taxes to support those goals.

Prop. 303 will require the city to impose hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes to finance a private business venture of a Las Vegas billionaire.

The Coyotes arena, luxury hotels and residences, and high-end shops will do nothing to meet Tempe's needs.

Instead they will create

traffic congestion and will place expensive burdens on city services that have to deal with the crowds that the district is expected to draw.

The congested, noisy entertainment district will detract from the healthful and serene ambience of Tempe Town Lake, the Tempe Center for the Arts, and the bike and pedestrian paths along the lakefront.

While the rest of us pay our fair share of taxes, billionaire Meruelo will get a free pass on his obligations.

We're told that the entertainment district could have a net positive economic impact on Tempe.

But these rosy projections are belied by the sad experience of Glendale and other cities that have been seduced by the siren call of publicly financed sports facilities.

This is not who we are. This is not who we want to be. Please vote NO on Prop. 303 as well as the accompanying propositions, 301 and 302.

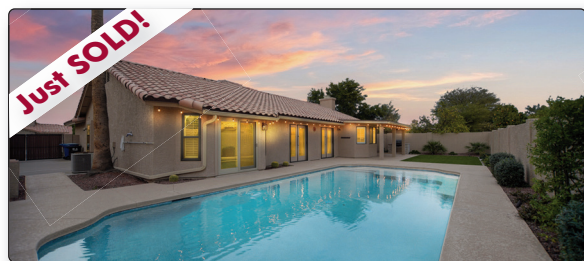
— Robert A. Zumoff

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Smokin' Fun

Hundreds came out for Downtown Chandler's first annual Beer, Bourbon and BBQ festival, plus a chance to enjoy good drinks, smokin' barbeque and nice weather.

Wrangler News photos
by Andrew Lwowski



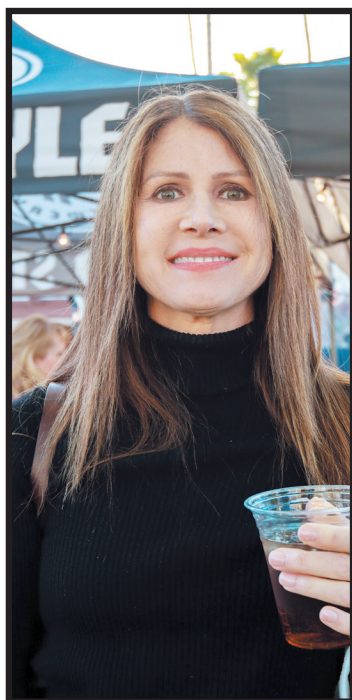
BBQ + A

Our reporter quizzes a group of (formerly hungry) visitors at Downtown Chandler's foodfest: **'DID THE DAY MAKE YOU AS HAPPY AS YOU LOOK?'**



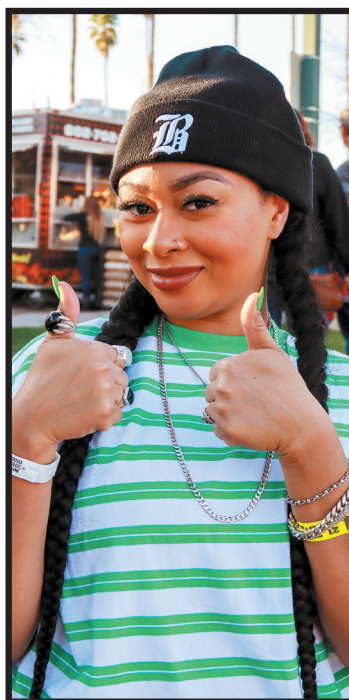
**Ryan Barmore
Chandler**

"Barbeque, Bourbon and beer! Favorite is Pedal Haus for sure, great rub, great flavor. I look for fall off the bone deliciousness."



**Diana Hodge
Chandler**

"Came to enjoy some barbeque and drinks with friends. Definitely Pedal Haus, I like the atmosphere and I like the food — I look for authentic taste and hometown feel."



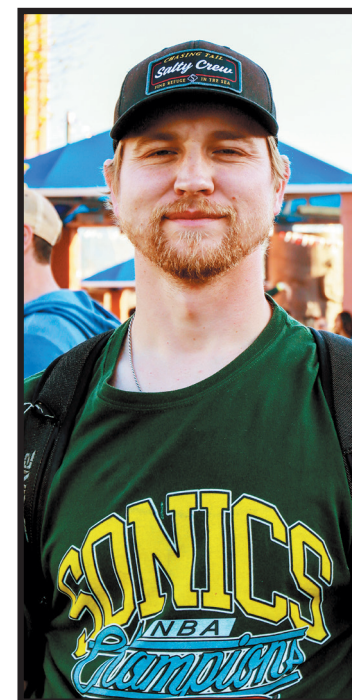
**Danielle Walker
Chandler**

"I did enjoy San Tan Breweries green chili mac n cheese; it was very cheesy. It's something that's kind of unique to the southwest I would say. I really liked Pork on a Fork because it's at a really good price point. They had two ribs for \$4 so that was good to try ribs and they were really good."



**Tyler Farganus
San Tan Valley**

"My favorite would be the West Alley barbeque smokehouse because the pork was great and it had really good sauce. I liked the sauce; I look for a little bit of sweet and a little bit of heat. I also like it Kansas City style."



**Ethan Venjohn
Tempe**

"I came out for the barbeque and festival atmosphere. I really like the pork sandwich from West Alley, I really liked the sauce. I actually wish I would've gotten more."

Interviews & photos by
Wrangler News staffer
Andrew Lwowski

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Tempe Human Services Day

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- Talk with our experts about the best ways we can assist you.
- Find out how to volunteer with us!



From left: Marty Laird, Tempe Elks; Steve Farquhar, Tempe Elks; Interim Tempe; Police Chief Josie Montenegro; Detective Chris Miller, TPD; Councilwoman; Berdetta Hodge; Firefighter/Paramedic Cody Welch; Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Chief Greg Ruiz. — Photo courtesy Tempe Elks

First responders recognized by Tempe Elks for their dedication to service, safety

Tempe Elks Lodge No. 2251 honored two city of Tempe first responders for their outstanding service to the city at the group's annual Charity Ball last month.

Detective Chris Miller of the Tempe Police Department has served in the Homicide Unit since 2017.

He has been the lead detective in 20 homicide investigations during that time, with a 100% clearance rate.

Highly respected across the Phoenix metro area among his peers, he serves on the board of the Arizona Homicide Investigators Association.

Miller is recognized for an unmatched work ethic and dedication to his job. He is married with two children.

Firefighter/Paramedic Cody Welch of Tempe Fire Medical Rescue began his career with the department in 2017.

After graduating from the fire academy he has volunteered to

mentor aspiring candidates, who have gone on to positions with the city of Tempe and with fire and rescue departments in other communities.

Co-workers say he brings positivity, high energy and a commitment to excellence in his work and is admired for his strong work ethic and personal integrity.

He is following in the footsteps of his father Jim Welch, of the Scottsdale Fire Department.

Marty Laird, leader of the Tempe Elks chapter, hailed the contributions of the award honorees.

"The Tempe Elks are a local, community based organization that is pleased to be able to honor these first responders for 2023," he said.

"These two first responders display a commitment to their local community that all Elks lodges across the country support and value.

Each honoree named a favorite charity, which was awarded \$500 by the Tempe Elks.

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COMMENTARY

Former mayors add support to plan for \$2.1 billion upgrade at onetime landfill

By Pam Goronkin

Four former Tempe mayors—Harry Mitchell, Neil Giuliano, Hugh Hallman and Mark Mitchell—have endorsed a proposal to transform a former landfill into a new so-called entertainment district.

The four led Tempe from 1978 to 2020. They don't agree on all the issues. But they do agree with proponents that Propositions 301, 302 and 303 represent a historic opportunity to improve Tempe's environment, generate more tax revenues, boost the local economy and improve Tempe's quality of life.

These acknowledged leaders have made key decisions that have kept Tempe moving in the right direction. They know a good deal when they see it. That's why they have endorsed a plan that would see a development group led by the owner of the Arizona Coyotes buy the old landfill next to Tempe Town Lake, clean up that property and invest \$2.1 billion to create the first privately funded sports and entertainment district in Arizona that includes new retail and restaurants, new housing and a new arena for the Arizona Coyotes.

And, they agree collectively, it won't cost the city a dime.

"This project is a win for Tempe," said Harry Mitchell. "The city ensured that there would be no cost or risk to the city, while also benefitting from the thousands of jobs, hundreds of millions in revenues, and billions in spending this project will bring.

"This is an important project and one that will have an impact on Tempe's future, and I hope voters join me in voting yes."

Giuliano agreed. "Not one dime of public money is at risk to develop a project that will create nearly 7,000 sustainable, good-paying jobs and bring a massive

financial windfall for our city to help fund municipal services into the future such as affordable housing, park improvements, public safety, emergency medical response and more," he said.

Hallman, another former mayor, added his endorsement.

"It was an honor to work with the Tempe City Council to write an agreement that benefits the people of Tempe," he said. "We drove a hard bargain that uses private sector dollars for the greater good."

Mark Mitchell added his support. "We have an opportunity to turn an existing landfill site with huge environmental liabilities into a project that will provide future resources and revenues. The current site is not generating any property tax or sales tax to the city.

"Once complete, the proposed development will generate city sales taxes which will benefit Tempe's quality of life."

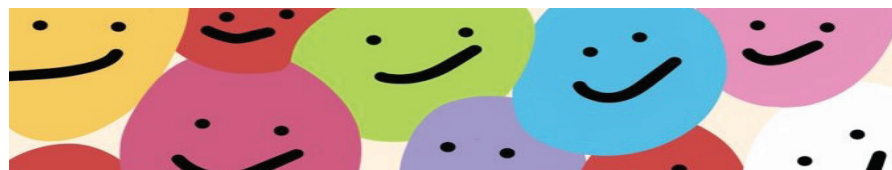
The old landfill currently generates no funds, while all the old trash remains a health and safety hazard. It even caught fire last year.

The developer has committed to cleaning up that landfill through the use of a small surcharge on purchases within the limited entertainment district. If you make no purchases inside that district, you don't pay the surcharge. The project is expected to create nearly 7,000 permanent jobs and generate over \$690 million in net economic and community benefits for the City of Tempe.

All four former mayors are urging residents to vote YES on ALL THREE propositions on or before May 16th.

— Pam Goronkin

Pam Goronkin is a former member of the Tempe City Council and past president/CEO of Downtown Tempe Community Inc.



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We Hear You!

OLLI is coming to Chandler

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) has partnered with the ASU Chandler Innovation Center (ACIC) to bring two "pop-up" classes to the City of Chandler and East Valley communities.



Doug Bradley

Doug Bradley is a author, educator, and Vietnam veteran who has written extensively about his Vietnam and post-Vietnam experiences.

Tuesday, April 4th | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Next Stop is Vietnam: The War on Record



Kevin Sandler

Kevin Sandler is an associate professor in the Film and Media Studies Program. He specializes in the contemporary media business, with a particular focus on censorship and animation.

Friday, April 21 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

A look back at Tootsie

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New driver licenses due this month; provide extra security

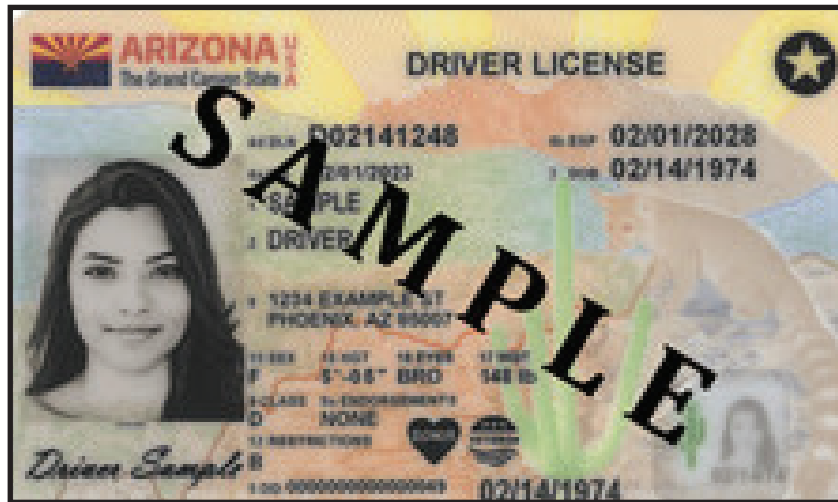
New driver licenses will be available to Tempe, Chandler and other Arizona drivers starting this month, incorporating improved security features designed to help prevent counterfeit reproductions or fraudulent use, according to the Arizona Department of Transportation.

The change is being implemented, according to officials, in an effort to control attempted counterfeits of driver license and ID cards, which they say continue to be a concern for law enforcement, as well as personal information security.

The advancement of security features in the card help prevent those counterfeit attempts from being successful.

The new design, which highlights several Arizona features, is a result of a new contract with Thales Group. Thales was selected through a procurement process as the new vendor based on the company's ability to provide improved security features on the license and ID cards.

New features include:



- 100% polycarbonate material that consists of multiple layers of plastic, fused together without adhesives, to form a solid structure impervious to tampering. The high durability of polycarbonate also provides the longest lifespan of any card, allowing for extended card life without compromise.

- Laser-engraved information and black and

white photo.

- “Dynaprint,” with two high-resolution images that appear based on the angle of the card, provides front-line authenticators with assurance that the card is genuine and strong protection against duplication or reproduction efforts.

- Saguaro cactus and ponderosa pine tree images were selected to represent the diversity of Arizona terrain and communities.

- “Secure Surface” is another security feature that incorporates a slightly raised surface and provides a subtle feel to part of the card. This is another quick authenticator for law enforcement and

other authorities. It also helps reduce potential alterations or fraudulent cards.

The new cards for both the travel and standard ID will be available in mid-March,.

The current card design will continue to be issued for requests through Feb. 28, and will remain valid until the expiration date.

Information: azdot.gov.



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How to learn city's history... and have fun at the same time

Attractions ranging from merchant tents to food to interactive booths and live music immersed the crowd at Tempe History Museum's celebration of Hayden Ferry Days while the rest soaked up Tempe's rich history. Families tried their hands at arts and crafts while learning about what built Tempe over a century ago.

Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski



Nature's beauty in glorious display

A combination of mild winter temperatures and above-average rainfall in January, February and so far in March have created the perfect conditions for a 'super bloom' of wildflowers across the state. While a handful of mountain ranges and lakes around the Valley are seeing an explosion of flowers, Picacho Peak State Park has been truly exploding with spring colors.

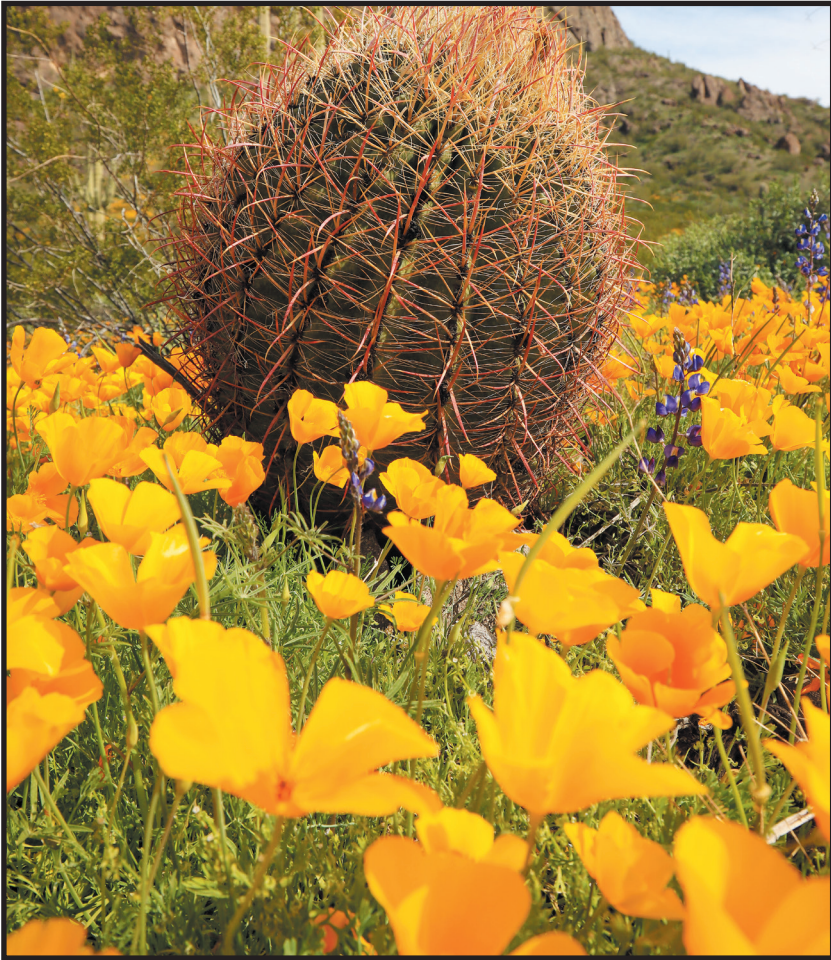
Picacho, located along the Interstate-10 just a few miles south of Eloy, is home to a handful of hikes for both families and experienced hikers. There is a one-time \$7 entrance fee for single vehicles that is good for one week.

The bright golden-yellow fields have created a beautiful contrast to the native Arizona cacti on our desert terrain. The bloom at Picacho has been active since early February and is expected to continue through mid- to end-of March, slowly creeping up in elevation of the peak, replacing the normally brown sides with color and visitors.

The vibrant California poppies have brought tourists from around the world to see the spectacle. Vehicles from Mexico, Canada, Minnesota and an abundance of other states can be found at the state park, with hikers and photographers admiring nature's beauty.

**Commentary and photos
by Andrew Lwowski**







SCHOOLS

Cardboard houses teach kids city planning skills

Story and photo by Becca Smouse

A group of Fees College Preparatory Middle School students became city planners while working on a creative classroom project, a dream town made out of cardboard and completely built to scale.

PACE Teacher Ariel Roller's sixth- and seventh-grade Honors Project-Based Learning classes worked together to imagine a city where they would want to live, work, raise a family, and age gracefully in. They used those inspirations as a blueprint for their box-city project.

The students discussed what elements were important to them for creating a sustainable community, including a shopping center, emergency complex, amusement park, school campuses, community park and library.

"I'm amazed it all fit together and it's all uniform," Roller said, standing over the tiny town that sprawls along the carpet of her classroom. "I'm so impressed."

The class researched information on how cities are built as well as what goes into city planning. Students had to create a plan for their building first, then present it to Roller for



approval. "We never go straight to building," she said. "With any of our projects, you have to have a blueprint before you can build a building."

Once the blueprints were approved, students had full creative free reign.

Some students worked by themselves, like Seventh-grader Ryder Godemann who built the Tiny Town Resort and Spa that even featured a rooftop pool. Godemann used a variety of materials to construct his block including cardboard, pompoms, toothpicks, and LED lights.

Others worked in groups of two, like seventh-graders Samantha Arce and Jaiya Lewis who built the city park, which included trees, a pond, and a ball pit.

"All of us had different ideas on our project from our partners, so we had to compromise to fit what we all wanted to do," Arce said.

The only requirement was students had to work within the parameters of a 2x2 foot square. The group chose to use a scale of 1in:5ft to build their town.

"My favorite part was working on [the city park] and seeing everyone else work on their [blocks]," she said. "It was cool to see their different ideas and how they interpreted their own block."

The project was a cross collaboration between the two levels

of PACE classes offered at Fees. If changes were made with one group, the second class had to follow suit.

"[Building our block] was challenging in some parts because we didn't have it all quite planned out, but it all came together," said Seventh-Grader Michelle Rodriguez, who worked with Angel Limbachiya on the city plaza.

Limbachiya said learning to scale the buildings was harder than she expected, but the final product was worth the challenge.

Nearly every element of the town was handmade by the students, taking into consideration the smallest details down to the town dumpsters and street lights.

"My favorite part is when it all came together and it turned out so good," said Limbachiya.

The box city project was a first for the students and Roller herself. Roller said she has incorporated scale modeling into her curriculum for years and has become a popular project among her students.

To prepare, she researched similar box city projects, picking up elements that she felt would work best for her students. While she went in with a plan, she left room for her students to adjust and guide the project. The results exceeded her expectations.

— Continued on Page 23

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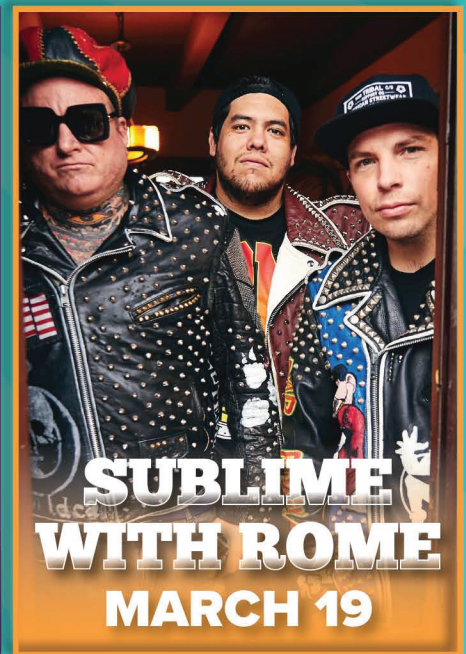
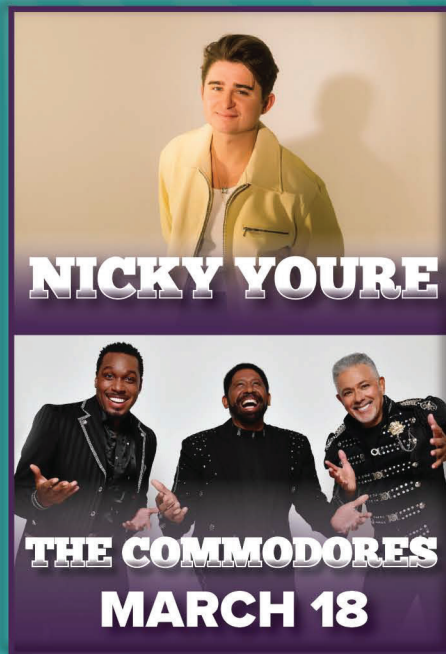
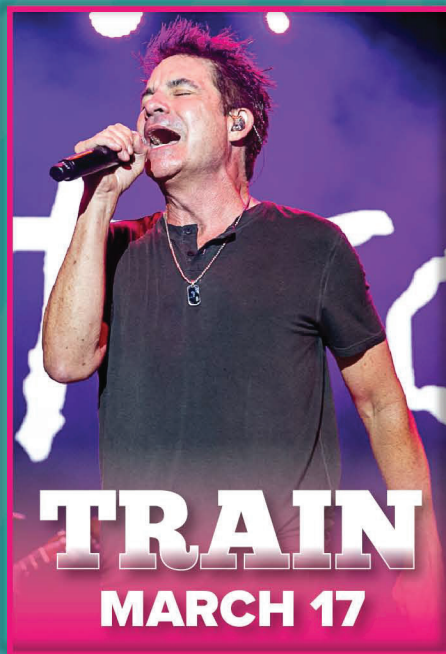
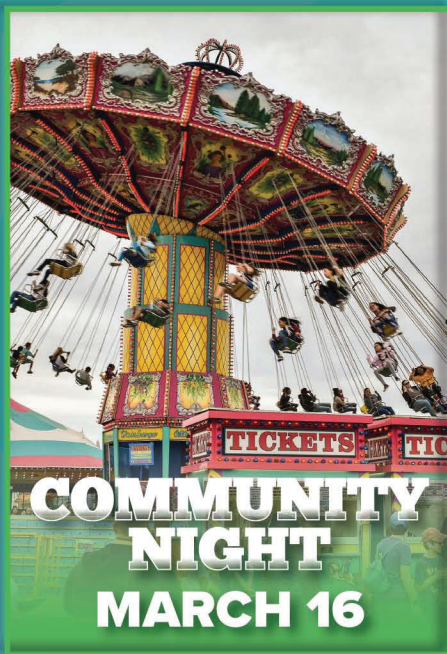
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SPORTS

Track and field season starts with Aztec Invitational

By Alex Zener



Arizona high school teams, including track and field, have started competing in this year's spring season. Corona's track and field team hosted its annual Aztec Invitational with 11 teams competing in both the boys and girls events. It was first meet of the season.

Corona's boys and girls both finished fifth out of 11 teams.

Highland bested Desert Vista by one point, 126 to 125, to take first place for the boys teams, followed by Red Mountain and Brophy College Prep, then Corona.

For the girls teams, Chandler beat out Red Mountain by just two points, 137-135 to take first, followed by Highland and Xavier College Prep and, next, Corona.

The top finisher for the boys team was senior **Tyler Tisinger**, who crossed the 1600-meter finish line in first place with a time of 4:20.09, more than eight seconds faster than the second-place runner from Highland, whose time was 4:28.34.

Tisinger's time of 4:20.09 set a significant personal best-time record his last season running high school track.

Tisinger's first place finish in the 800 meters was also impressive. His time of 1:55.17 was 1.57 seconds faster than the second-place runner from Red Mountain, whose time was 1:56.74.

Senior **Alexander Lutz's** first-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles was also an outstanding accomplishment, along with his third-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles.

Lutz's time of 38.86 in the 300 meters was a remarkable personal record so early in the season. His time of 15.05 in the 110 meters was a season record and one he can work to improve.

Among the other top 10 finishers on the boys team was sophomore **Raiden Vines-Bright** who

took fifth place, and junior **Cameron Guss** with a ninth place finish in the 100 meters.

Senior **Myles Larsen** came in seventh in the 400 meters.

Corona's top relay team was the 4x400 with a second-place finish. Junior **Zuri Glenn**, Larsen, Lutz and junior **Luke Holly** finished with a time of 3:25.83 finishing behind Desert Vista, whose team took first with a time of 3:21.07.

The Aztec 4x800 relay team of freshman **Joshua Wiesner**, senior **Zachary Wiesner**, junior **Aidan Weber** and junior **Sean Waters** took fourth place while the 4x100 relay team of junior **Kambrel Walker**, Guss, junior **Quinton Bradley** and **Keyvon Thomas** came in fifth.

Corona's top finisher in the boys field events was a tie between sophomore **Domonick Ruiz** and Guss, with both taking fifth place in their individual event.

Ruiz took fifth place with a triple jump of 41-06.50 and Guss placed fifth place in the long jump with a leap of 20-11.50. Both Ruiz and Guss set personal records.

Corona had three athletes finish one right behind the other in the long jump.

First, Guss in fifth place, then sophomore Ruiz took sixth place with a jump of 20-08.25 and teammate Glenn was seventh with a jump of 20-04.50.

Sophomore **Keane Abril** set a personal record of 42-03.25 in the shot-put event to take sixth place.

Lutz proved that he could jump in the field events as well as run hurdles when he tied for seventh place in the high jump event getting over 5-08.00.

Corona's girls team, led by senior **Ena McMahon** who had three first places finishes, amassed 76.5 points to take fifth place.

McMahon was first in 100-meter hurdles, the 300-meter hurdles and the long jump setting two personal best records.

McMahon ran the 100-meter hurdles in 14.56 seconds beating the second-place racer by 1.3 seconds. In the 300-meter hurdles, she set a

personal record time of 45.96.

When she switched over to her field event, McMahon took first in the long jump with a personal record leap of 18-05.75.

The top 13 finishers in the track events for the girls team included a seventh place for freshman **Addison Stewart** in the 800 meters and a 12th place in the 1600 meters.

Sophomore **Sloan Guess** also ran in two individual events taking ninth place in the 3200 meters and 11th place in the 1200 meters.

In the hurdle events, sophomore **Jenna Hatton** came in 10th in the 100 meter hurdles while senior **Kelsey Gunning** was 12th in the 300 meter hurdles.

In the shorter races, junior **Reilly Speaks** finished the 100 meters race in 12th place while junior **Anna Maney** was 12th in 400 meters just ahead of sophomore **Sarai Enriquez** who finished 13th in the same 400 meter event.

The top finish for Corona's girls relay teams was a third place in the 4x800 for Stewart, junior **Paige Davies-Boerner**, junior **Maria Gonzales** and junior **Mia Brannon** with a time of 10:46.50.

The 4x100 relay team of freshman **Maris Peterson**, Speaks, junior **Tajanae Hairston** and Enriquez crossed the finish line in fifth place.

The girls team had three top five finishers, in addition to McMahon, in the field events.

Senior **Sofia Wyatt** was third in the triple jump with a distance of 32-02.00 while junior **Alysha Jenkins** was fifth in the same event with a leap of 30-06.50.

Freshman **Cristina Cooper** took fourth place in the pole vault setting a personal best record of 9-06.00. She also high jumped 4-08.00 feet to tie with six other athletes for sixth place.

Additional results in the top 15 for the field events include sophomore **Ava Tice** taking 9th place in the javelin and setting a personal best record with a throw of 65-02.

Senior **Sofia Wyatt** was 9th in the long jump at 15-07.7 while junior **Paula Hoyos Martinez** set a personal best record long jump of 15-01.50 to take 13th place.

Sophomore **Summer Reif** and freshman **Ava Welch** both participated in the triple jump taking 10th and 11th place respectively.

Up next, the Aztecs will compete in the Red Mountain Rampage on March 24 plus the 83rd Chandler Rotary Track and Field Classic held March 24-25.

Marcos de Niza Track and Field

The Padres girls and boys track and field team competed at the Saunders Montague Desert Classic held March 3 at Queen Creek High School against over 30 other Arizona high schools.

Senior **Jamaal Young** was the top finisher for the boys team taking fifth place with a time of 22.54 seconds in the 200 meters and sixth place in the 100 meters.

Other top finishers were senior **Luke Sieveking** with 24th place in the 800 meters race and 33rd in the 1600 meters and junior **Braesen Leon**, 27th in the 400 meters race.

The 4x100 relay team of junior **Kenyan Brewer**, junior **Lorenzo Alexander**, Leon and Young finished above the Padres other relay teams with an

8th place out of 28 teams competing.

Junior **DJ Drew** was the top finisher for Marcos in the field events with an 11th place jump of 5-08.00 in the high jump. Junior **Jamari Johnson** competed in the same event coming in 23rd with a jump of 5-04.00.

In the long jump, junior **Ty Redding** placed 21st with a jump of 18-09.00 and was also 27th in the triple jump.

Senior **Marcus Jones** putted the shot put 37-09.50 to set a personal best record and take 32nd place while senior **Elian Ruiz** was 34th with a shot put of 37-03.00.

Jones also jumped 35-10.00 to come in 29th in the triple jump while sophomore **David Smith** was 39th in the long jump.

In the discus, junior **Erik Godoy Arvizu** was the top finisher for the Padres taking 34th place with a throw of 99-02. Next was Ruiz in 46th place.

The Padres had four athletes throw the Javelin with Jones getting top honors taking 18th place with a throw of 119.00.

Junior **Tegan Melendez** was next to take 30th place with a throw of 106-07 followed by Ruiz taking 35th and Arvizu in 56th place.

The top finisher for the girls team was sophomore **Talitha Dubose** who took 23rd place in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 19.01. She also finished 39th in the 300-meter hurdles.

Freshman long distance runner Ashlynn Sieveking crossed the finish line in 25th place in the 3200 meter race with a time of 14:35.43 setting a personal best record.

Junior Bianca Acosta was the top finisher in the field events putting her shot put 24-5.00 to set a personal best record and take 36th place.

The girls 4x100 relay team of sophomore Na'Rya Cunningham, Dubose, junior Amalia Wrigley and freshman Leah Thompson came in 22nd out of over 30 teams.

The Padres were scheduled to have a track meet at Arizona College Preparatory with McClintock, Williams Field and Seton Catholic on March 8. Their next meet was scheduled for April 5 at Marcos de Niza with the same four high schools.



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FUN LOVERS FIND IT APLENTY AT OSTRICH FEST

The Chandler Chamber's 33rd annual Ostrich Festival is offering a slate of attractions promising to appeal to virtually every age and fun-seeker category, and it's all coming to town March 16 to 19 at Tumbleweed Park

Here's an insider's peek at what's on the list of attractions:

Imaginolog — STEAMMind Work! is a traveling science museum with a couple dozen of interactive, fun and visually captivating displays and activities. Many of the displays in this fun and interactive exhibit are STEM/STEAM-based and involve critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork.

USA BMX Presents Monster Energy BMX Stunt Show — The USA BMX / Monster Energy stunt show features the world's most extreme bicycle stunt riders in a spectacular, non-stop, action-packed show. These national champions use Half Pipes, Quarter Pipes and box jumps to ensure a spectacle for their crowds.

The Flying Royals — The Flying Royals is a

troupe of multi-generational Flying Trapeze artists and students of the country's premier Circus schools. The Flying Royals had the honor of being the first flying trapeze act ever to audition for Travis Pastrana, Nikki Bella and Simon Cowell at America's Got Talent.

Dominguez Circus — As seen on America's Got Talent and in NBA HalfTime shows, The Dominguez Circus is a family of 3rd and 4th-generation performers who present top quality, fun, professional shows for adults and children of all ages. The show features the Dominguez Poodles, Cube Manipulations, Ariel Lyra, High Wire and Globe of Death.

Ostrich Experience — Come and meet the infamous Ostriches of the Chandler Chamber Ostrich Festival. Ostriches will be roaming freely in their designated Ostrich viewing area.

Jest In Time/Family Fun Tent/Professor Smart — Professor Smart's Science Shows are primarily built for kids 5 to 13-year-olds but are just as entertaining for adults. Even the youngest kids will be engaged by the juggling, the comedic physicality of the performer and the tempo of the show. Professor Smart is accurate, funny, lively and uses many volunteers.

Bounce Zone — This year's Bounce Zone will include "adventure" type activities like a zipline, Ninja Warrior Dome, bungee trampoline, etc. Tickets are \$1 each or \$20 for 25 tickets.

Curiosity Cube (Saturday & Sunday Only)

— MilliporeSigma's Curiosity Cube® is a 22x10-foot, retrofitted shipping container that has been transformed into a mobile science lab. It features interactive, hands-on science experiments led by MilliporeSigma employees. This allows visitors to ask questions and discuss the possibilities of a future career in STEM.

Live Cooking with Chef — Live cooking demonstrations will be provided by United Catering. The chefs will welcome you and your family to fully indulge in a food tasting experience. Different chefs will be hosting a variety of live cooking demonstrations to showcase new skills and unique dishes.

World's Funnest Photo Booth — The World's Funnest Photo Booth is the perfect way to create memories and laughs with the family. Take home your photo for a keepsake from this year's fair. Picture yourself riding a tiger, shark... or even a unicorn! The World's Funnest Photo Booth is one you are not going to want to miss!

Bear Hollow — Bear Hollow's traveling shows bring the excitement of the full-throttle art form to events across the nation. Attendees will be able to watch as professionals carve intricate pieces live. The carvings produced will be auctioned off.

Mango and Dango — Back again, Mango and Dango perform a one-of-a-kind theatrical circus show. Their training includes partner acrobatics,

juggling, aerial arts, stilt walking, physical comedy, mime, chair stacking and more.

They specialize in both stage and street shows and provide a variety of entertainment and cirque-style performances that engage spectators of all ages.

BOOM! Percussion — Returning again, BOOM! Percussion is a high-energy drum line that has performed in festivals and parades nationwide. Their colorful uniforms and LED suits will engage audiences of all kinds.

Living Zoltar — This comedian, magician and impressionist has reinvented the classic arcade midway attraction – the Zoltar Fortune Teller booth. Simply press the start button and the mechanical figure inside the box comes to life, dispensing comical banter, magical effects and a funny, free fortune.

Great American Duck Races — A fan favorite, the duck races will have attendees select their favorite ducks at the start of the show to release the ducks on the water race track. Prizes are given to the winners of each race. Each show will include five different races.

Piggy 500 — The pig races have long been an attendee favorite. These curly-tailed friends will be racing up to 4 times a day.

Rides include festival favorites like the Giant Ferris Wheel, the Century Wheel, 1001 Nachts, Turbo, Wave Swinger, Starship 3000, Giant Scooter and Scrambler, among many others. The festival will also feature kiddie and family rides, including the Dizzy Dragon, Tommy Kangaroo, Chopper Hopper, Wacky Worm Coaster and more.

A comprehensive list of rides and attractions can be found on the Ostrich Festival website, OstrichFestival.com.

Additional headliner acts already announced include MULTI-Grammy Award-winning pop-rock band Train (March 17), Grammy Award-Winning R&B and Funk Group, The Commodores with special guest Nicky Youre (March 18) and Billboard Music Award-winning band, Sublime With Rome (March 19).

Tickets for the event are on sale now at OstrichFestival.com.

General admission tickets start at \$30 for adults and \$20 for children. Children four and under will be admitted to the festival free of charge.

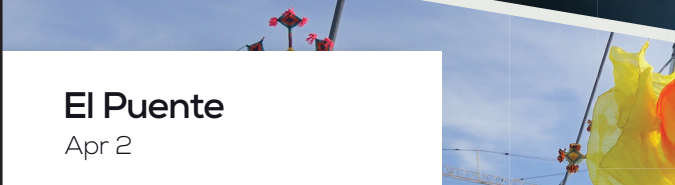
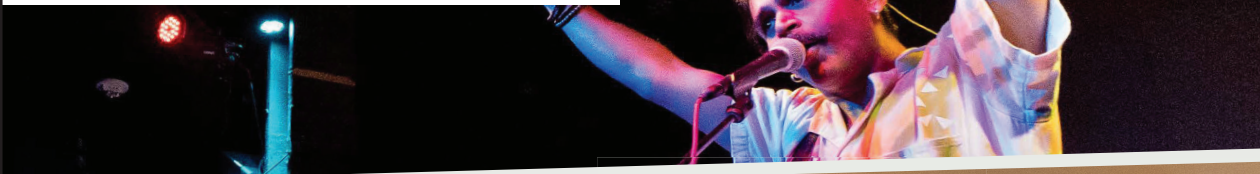
Limited VIP tickets are available starting at \$150, and pricing for family packs will be available for purchase at a later date.

Keep up-to-date with the Ostrich Festival by following the latest news on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Coming Up at Tempe Center for the Arts

Red Baraat: Festival of Colors

Mar 24



El Puente

Apr 2



Melissa Dunmore

Mar 16

Radmilla Cody

Mar 30

Safos Dance Theatre

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Tempe Center for the Arts



Film Fare with M.V. Moorhead

'Champions' brings out Harrelson's best, with a twist

Just like Gene Hackman in *Hoosiers*, Champion's Woody Harrelson is hotheaded basketball coach who loses jobs over violent outbursts on the court.

Just like Keanu Reeves in *Hardball*, he has a coaching gig forced on him, in this case as community service in lieu of jail time.

In short, *Champions* follows the standard sports movie playbook-plot point for plot-point. The variation, this time, is that Harrelson is assigned to a Special Olympics team made up of players with intellectual disabilities.

Thus the obvious worry, going in, is that these characters will be either ridiculed or patronized, or both.

The director is Bobby Farrelly, half of the Farrelly Brothers, who in their earlier films have indeed derived broad comedy from intellectually disabled characters; his brother Peter Farrelly, who we saw advising the Down syndrome filmmakers in the documentary *Sam and Mattie Make a Zombie Movie*, insists that they



"revere" such people but refuse to sentimentalize or condescend in their depictions of them.

So, how does this approach work out in *Champions*? Well, certainly the quirks and limitations of Harrelson's ballers are played for laughs, but I think no more insultingly than in, say, *The Mighty Ducks* or *Dodgeball* or, for that matter, *Major League*, or any other formula sports flick about the

triumph of a ragtag bunch of misfit underdogs.

It helps, too, that the coach is generally the butt of the jokes.

More importantly, the guys who play the team members are exuberant, ebullient, confident performers with vivid personalities.

They also bring out the best in Harrelson, who responds to them with what appears to be genuine

warmth and delight.

Aside from the charming engagement between these actors and the star, the movie, set in Des Moines but mostly filmed in Canada, is pretty by-the-numbers, though it's pleasant and watchable (it's a knockoff, by the way, of a 2018 Spanish film called *Campeones*, a hit in that country).

Ernie Hudson and Cheech Marin turn up in supporting roles but have little to do.

Harrelson's love interest is Kaitlin Olson as a small-potatoes Shakespearean actor and the protective sister of one of the players, and the bantering dialogue Mark Rizzo provides for them isn't a disgrace.

And I'm inclined to like any movie in which the climax of *The Winter's Tale* is used to teach the pick-and-roll.

Champions is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, AMC Abwatukee 24 and other multiplexes Valleywide.

This year's Oscars a girls' (actually girls +) night out

By Debra Moorhead

Debra Moorhead, no second fiddle to her film-obsessed husband Mark, thought this special month might offer a good opportunity to share her own movie-loving passion. To wit:

It was not so very long ago that an actress over the age of 50 might as well be dead, at least by Hollywood standards.

Even Meryl Streep, now 73 and seemingly never at a loss for plum parts, complained about the lack of film roles for older women—and that was 20 years ago. That's what makes this year's batch of award-worthy female performances so startling.

The Screen Actors Guild award ceremony which was, sadly, only available by streaming on YouTube, saw huge wins for Jennifer Coolidge (*The White Lotus*), Jamie Lee Curtis and Michelle Yeoh (*Everything Everywhere All at Once*), and Sally Field's Life Achievement Award.

Curtis' win was considered an upset of the favorite, Angela Bassett (*Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*) who had already racked up Golden Globe and Critics' Choice award wins.

These nominated performances, along with the addition of Viola Davis (*The Woman King*), mirror those in contention for the Oscars on March 12th.

In addition to the excellence of their performances is the knowledge that each of these actresses is over 60 years old; perhaps especially astonishing considering the physicality of Yeoh's role.

While it's true that each of these women has always been beautiful to look at, there can be

no doubt that they are more beautiful now than they have ever been, and it's not just about their physical beauty. There is a confidence and a calmness to their demeanor that perhaps only the experience of passing years can bring.

Field, 76, clearly uncomfortable with the praise being heaped on her, seems finally to have found her own voice and comfort in her own skin. Long gone are the days of caring whether "You like me. You really like me."

The Oscar ceremony may well succeed in overshadowing the accomplishments of these veteran actresses with news of the addition of a crisis team in the event of another Will Smith/Chris Rock-type debacle or the Best Actor competition between newcomer Austin Butler (Elvis) and comeback-story Brendan Fraser (Whale), but one thing is for certain.

In this Women's History Month, these women are intent on making some history of their own.

— Continued from Page 16

“I took the idea and ran with it and it’s developed as we’ve gone along,” Roller said. “I am blown away by the final product.”

The students are part of Fees’s gifted learning class, also known as PACE: Promoting Actualization through Creativity and Excellence. Gifted learning options are available at all Tempe Elementary schools.

Students spent two months from start to finish working on the Tiny Town. For many of Roller’s students, this is the longest project they’ve ever worked on.

“PACE is offered every day all year. We wouldn’t be able to go in-depth without an elective like this,” Roller said. “It’s just opened up a whole different side of creativity for them.”

Roller said this is her 14th year of teaching project-based learning and says she can’t see teaching any other way.

“[Project-based learning] is direct application,” she said. “It keeps them totally engaged and it makes it relevant.”

While Roller is a veteran to the PBL landscape, she said gearing up for new projects can be daunting, from finding materials for her students to building unique curriculum, often working on the fly. The drive and motivation from her students make it all worthwhile.

“We go from projects that look like garbage, because we’re making them out of garbage most of the time, and I just think halfway through, ‘oh no what did I start?’” she laughed. “And then they just blow me away every time.”

Roller said she’s looking forward to continuing the box city project in future school years and hopes to expand it to other Tempe Elementary middle schools. Her group of students has already reflected on what they would include next time, making room for essentials like a gas station and a fire station.

Up next for Roller’s class: They plan to work on a mini golf course.

— *Becca Smouse is on the Communications staff at the Tempe Elementary School District*

Kyrene schools earn A+ recognition by Arizona Educational Foundation

Four Kyrene schools have been awarded the 2023 Arizona Educational Foundation A+ School of Excellence award.

All of the schools that sought A+ recognition this year were successful in their bids for the coveted award.

Twelve Kyrene schools currently hold an A+ recognition.

Newly added to the list of A+ recipients were:

- Kyrene de los Cerritos Leadership Academy

- Kyrene del Cielo Elementary School
- Kyrene de la Colina Elementary School
- Kyrene de la Paloma Arts Integration Academy

Kyrene del Cielo is celebrating a new A+ designation (the school previously earned the award in 2006); Kyrene de los Cerritos was previously recognized in 2017 and 2013; Kyrene de la Colina and Kyrene de la Paloma are renewing their A+ status, last award in 2018.

Schools applying for the recognition take part in a rigorous process that includes a written application, on-site visits by a team of judges and participation by faculty, students and families.

Schools are evaluated in areas such as school culture, curriculum, leadership, assessment data and community involvement.

Recipient schools receive an A+ School of Excellence banner and a \$500 award.

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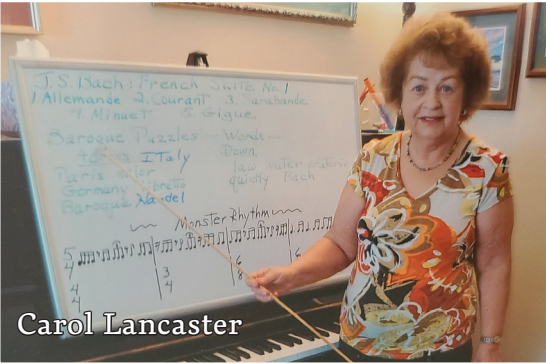


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Junior Achievement partnership helps kids discover college early

Tempe-based Junior Achievement has helped celebrate the official opening of Maricopa Community Colleges' new BizTown storefront, part of an initiative to help elementary school students gain insight into higher education at an early age.

Said Scottsdale Community College President, Dr. Eric Leshinskie:

"Introducing younger students to the Junior Achievement of Arizona BizTown familiarizes them with potential career opportunities.

"The Maricopa Community Colleges' Pathway to a Degree hopscotch game introduces students to our nine Fields of Interest and the higher education paths needed to accomplish their career goals."

BizTown is an interactive learning experience giving fourth- through sixth-grade students opportunities to run their own businesses.



The program teaches essential financial literacy, workforce readiness, and entrepreneurship skills.

MCCCD has a 3-year commitment with Junior Achievement of Arizona. As the only higher education institution in BizTown, approximately 25,000 students from 300 schools are expected to experience the MCCCD storefront each school year.

MCCCD Governing Board President Marie Sullivan joined in congratulating the program's developers.

"We hope students leave BizTown knowing they have access to the endless possibilities and opportunities a Maricopa Community College degree can provide," said Sullivan.

"We look forward to welcoming these

elementary school students in the near future as college students, where they can explore a number of degree and certificate options, including our forthcoming bachelor's degrees to prepare for their continued educational experience."

MCCCD's storefront design showcases the diverse fields of study available at Maricopa Community Colleges and enhances learning by encouraging student exploration.

The interactive "Pathway to a Degree" game board allows students to quickly determine their field of interest and corresponding career path offered at the colleges by simply choosing one out of nine options in a fun and casual setting.

During the BizTown experience, the college president and faculty are tasked with sharing the Pathway to a Degree game with 10 students.

Potential college-bound students are guided toward becoming familiar with higher education, such as picking a major, applying for college, meeting with an advisor, enrolling in classes, paying for tuition, studying, tutoring, and graduating.

Upon completing the Pathway to a Degree game, students graduate from Maricopa Community Colleges and receive a degree they can take home.

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“Are Tempe voters and its City Council who have not bothered to learn from history, **ESPECIALLY THAT OF GLENDALE, doomed to repeat it?”**

- Joyce Clark

Former Glendale Vice Mayor & Current City Councilmember

Wherever Meruelo goes, bad news follows...

BUSINESS INSIDER

Arizona's terrible NHL team is begging voters for \$200 million to build a permanent home, but stadiums are consistently huge money pits

Brent D. Griffiths Feb 6, 2023, 3:20 PM

©CBS | NHL HOME SCORES SCHEDULE STANDINGS TEAMS STATS ...

Coyotes may be locked out at Gila River Arena over delinquent taxes, unpaid arena charges, per report

Glendale, Ariz. announced earlier in the 2020 that it wouldn't renew its operating agreement with the team

By Wajih AlBaroudi Dec 9, 2021 at 12:24 pm ET • 1 min read

azcentral.

Arizona Coyotes stiffing Glendale? And this team wants somebody to build a new arena?

Opinion: Glendale should be raising holy you-know-what over the Coyotes stiffing them on the rent.

Laurie Roberts
Arizona Republic

Published 5:30 p.m. MT Sept. 17, 2020 | Updated 11:43 a.m. MT Sept. 18, 2020

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A busy spring for two of Tempe's nonprofits

COMMENTARY by Jennifer Adams

South Tempe residents are plugged-in to the community and care about those in need, so I know that the names Tempe Community Action Agency and Tempe Community Council are ones you surely know.

These two legendary, longstanding Tempe nonprofits are gearing up this spring to undertake activities that are central to their core missions to help the community. I am inspired by what they do and I am always proud to share it with others.

VICINITY Tempe

Each year, a beautiful Tempe event gathers hundreds for a beautiful cause. It is called VICINITY Tempe and it is Tempe Community Action Agency's biggest fundraiser of the year. Tickets are available at tempeaction.org. The event is Friday, April 14, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Arizona Heritage Center, 1300 N. College Ave.

It is an amazing experience with live music,



Beyond VICINITY Tempe, Tempe Community Action Agency is a longstanding pillar of our community – they do so much good work. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with their mission and consider giving and getting involved.

Human Services Day

Make plans to stop by the Tempe Community Complex – where the Tempe Public Library and Tempe History Museum are – on Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, for Human Services Day. Each spring, Tempe Community Council and the City of Tempe partner to put on this empowering, uplifting resource fair for all things human services. At this free event, you can learn from more than 50 agencies about programs and resources for aging, disabilities, homelessness, domestic violence, addiction, youth and families, financial stability and more. You can also learn about volunteer opportunities in the community if you are interested in getting involved. Event sponsors and volunteers are being sought too. All of the details

dancing, tastings from local restaurants, wine and beer, a live auction, raffle and awards ceremony. Tempe Community Action Agency applies funds raised towards their mission to “eliminate poverty and advance equitable communities” through housing, food, health and economic empowerment programs.

are at tempecommunitycouncil.org or by calling 480-858-2300.

Also this spring, the Tempe Community Council will advance nonprofit funding recommendations to the Tempe City Council through a longstanding process known as Agency Review.

As you may know, the City of Tempe allocates more than \$1 million each year to nonprofits that serve Tempeans. For the last few months, community volunteers have been working hard to evaluate funding requests from nonprofits.

Their recommendations for fiscal year 2023-24 funding are scheduled to be reviewed with the City Council at its May 11 Work Study Session. I salute the volunteers who apply their experience and insights to these tough decisions, with a laser focus on bettering our community.

If you would like to help TCC year-round, you can visit togethertempe.org and donate to the Together Tempe campaign, which goes to help people in need.

Tempe Community Council also runs a longstanding tax preparation program for qualifying people and families. Thanks to volunteer support, hundreds of people can get their taxes prepared free by professionals, allowing them to obtain and invest refunds that can help their families and community.

Make an appointment now and get your taxes done by April 15. Simply visit tempecommunitycouncil.org/schedule-tax-appointment. If you have questions, call 480-858-2300. As always, I welcome you to connect with me if you ever have questions or concerns at jennifer_adams@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8835.

— Jennifer Adams is Vice Mayor of Tempe



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ASU, Intel join forces to expand, diversify microelectronics workforce

Arizona State University is working with semiconductor manufacturer Intel to meet the rapidly expanding workforce needs of the microelectronics industry.

Faculty members in ASU's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering have received grants from Intel to enable hands-on experience in building semiconductor technology for a broader range of students at ASU and at Maricopa Community Colleges.

Plans include an internship program through which students learn chip manufacturing skills

such as etching, lithography and deposition. In addition, a new Research Experiences for Undergraduates program will embed students in summer projects where they will build new semiconductor devices that ASU faculty members and doctoral students are designing through their research.

"Intel takes great pride in supporting Arizona State University's semiconductor industry workforce development initiatives," says Intel's Arizona Public Affairs Manager Angela Creedon. "These programs are essential to enabling Intel and the industry's growth in Arizona and to helping ensure our workforce reflects the incredible diversity of our community."

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A few timely words about lawn care, plus hello to a new furry face

Editor's note: The following article by longtime contributor Lee Shappell appeared on these pages a couple of years ago, and with a welcome new season almost upon us, it seemed like a good time to repeat some of the useful ideas shared at the time by the owner of True Value Hardware, Gary McKay. Also new, as it turns out is the store's mascot, Sonni, who succeeds Tucson, the virtually constant companion of McKay's son and employee Noah, who, like Noah, survived a serious accident. They were both lucky, as are all of us who consider McKay's their go-to place for all things hardware.

Over the years, perhaps you've gotten a bit soft in the upkeep of the exterior and yard of your home. The place needs paint, but it can wait until next year, you think – for about the fourth straight year.

The grass isn't coming back as green as it used to, so you crank up the irrigation to twice a day, every day, and all it seems to do is send a river down the gutter of your street.

And if the winter zapped a few plants in your landscaping, there's an unsightly gap, but you live with it, no matter how much it really irks you.

With the spring weather now approaching this is the perfect time of year to...put it all off again for another year. Or, plant your foot firmly in the dirt where once there was grass and finally do something about it before it gets so hot your fingers sear while handling an aluminum ladder.

The South Tempe-West Chandler community is home base for Gary McKay, owner of McKay's True Value, for advice and supplies. "I've got 46 years of experience and knowledge helping people fix their problems, so customers come in and stand and wait for me so they can ask me a question," McKay said. "That's part of what we're selling. People can buy this stuff anywhere, so I teach my

staff that the only thing we have to sell is customer service."

McKay's True Value has nearly everything one would need for a spring spruce up, but it has identified key departments in which it specializes. Among them are grilling and outdoors, including patio furniture – tables, chairs and umbrellas.

"And spray paint," McKay said. "We have 24 feet of spray paint, which is huge. Most hardware stores have 12 feet. We just wanted to do a few things over the top."

Before moving to the Valley, McKay owned a landscape company in Texas for 15 years and was a licensed applicator of weed spraying and the like. He had affiliations with the Scotts fertilizer company and the Texas A&M University extension program to build his expertise.

So let's start with the yard. Weed killer is flying out of the store, according to McKay.



"With all of the rain we had around the first of the year, weeds are now coming up in people's rocks," he said. "But if they start using pre-emergents, they won't have nearly as many. I put pre-emergent in my rocks three or four times a year.

"I'm selling gallons and gallons of Roundup to spray weeds," said McKay. "At my house, I'm not spraying weeds."

Using a pre-emergent might save a homeowner from receiving a nasty letter from their HOA.

"Don't wait for weeds to come up and spray them," McKay said. "Right now, put pre-emergent down and get a barrier built up. Our yards have billions of weed seeds buried in the soil, so as a weed seed germinates, it's killed when it hits that barrier before emerging from the soil."

There also are pre-emergents for flower beds and gardens, and they're pet safe, according to McKay, who also carries products to boost or amend soil for those starting to think about planting spring flowers.

People are raking up leaves, pruning bushes or cleaning debris in yards if they don't have a landscaper. McKay sells equipment necessary for those tasks, too.

Most summer grasses in Valley yards are Bermuda hybrids that go dormant during the winter, often overseeded with winter rye. As we move into April and May, and Bermuda emerges from dormancy, the lawn should be mowed low and aerated, but not dethatched, McKay says.

"We need to start thinking about weed and feed for the lawn as it transitions to summer, because this is the time when weeds can get a foothold," McKay said. "Once our nights stay above 60 degrees consistently, Bermuda grass starts to come out of dormancy. In the April to May timeframe, start to mow it kind of short so the Bermuda can get sunlight, then I'd hit it with a fertilizer. Bermuda grass will start getting aggressive and grow.

"And then once we get to 80-to-90-degree days, the winter rye just burns off."

Bermuda grass grows in runners. Dethatching shreds those runners and

inhibits new growth.

"What they should be doing is a core aeration instead of dethatching," McKay said. "That's one of most beneficial things you can do to yards here. With our hard soils, when you drill a bunch of holes in it, water just penetrates right into the ground."

That allows oxygen and gas exchange in the root system, provides more room for the root system to expand and allows moisture to penetrate.

"It makes me crazy when I drive down the street and I see a river of water running because it isn't penetrating as fast as it comes out," McKay said. "That's where core aeration comes in."

As the Bermuda comes back, check the watering schedule, he urges.

"People around here just don't get it right," McKay said. "People water their yards like three times a day, five minutes at a time, and it's not good. It's actually better to water only once or twice a week for a longer period of time. At my house, the root system on my grass is two feet deep. I water it once a week for like 30 minutes. My grass stays green all summer. If you water several times a week, roots stay real shallow.

"And as summer wears on, I mow my grass a little taller each month because a grass blade holds water."

Bermuda grass, McKay says, needs about 6 pounds of nitrogen a year to keep it growing healthy and thick. And iron.

"Iron is what makes grass green," he said. "So use a good balanced fertilizer that has at least 2 percent iron in it helps keep it nice and dark green."

Whether it's time to repaint the entire exterior or just touch up the trim, McKay has the paint and the latest computerized paint-color matching software to blend a perfectly matched paint for your job.

"Now is a good time to start thinking about painting before it gets too hot, especially if you plan to do it yourself," McKay said. "It's not too hot, not too cold, and the paint will go on really well.

"We can match virtually anything.

Stucco is one of the hardest things to match. You can bring in a little piece. Our machine can change the size of its aperture to take the color to a smaller size. You don't get the shadows that a lot of older machines get, so we get much more accurate color matching."

Before you paint, McKay recommends pressure washing.

"You don't realize how dirty a stucco house is until you start to wash it," he said. "Everything outside in Arizona has pretty good layer of dirt and dust on it."

It's a good time to look at your window and patio-slider screens.

"While it's cool, you want to start opening windows," McKay said. "Right now, we're doing a lot of screens. We're taking in probably 70 screens a week for repairs. We'll build them from scratch if you're missing screens or need new screens. We have anything from a bug screen to 90 percent sun blockage."

If the screens are OK, take them down and wash them. While they're off, wash the windows, too.

"We have tools for doing windows," McKay said. "And when you do that, dirty water will run down the side of your house. You've got to rinse that off."

Usually, the routine "eyeball test" will tell you what is needed around your yard and home exterior and could save you from a bigger, more costly remedy later.

"Just go around your house and check it out," McKay said. "We have big temperature changes and a dry climate here. Look at fascia boards to see if they are pulling off. As wood dries, nails get loose. Take a look at the eaves, or tiles coming loose before summer comes and it's too hot to want to get out and do these things. "We all have HOAs and they all 'remind' us about this stuff."

McKay's True Value is on the southeastern corner of Ray and Rural. Phone: 480-686-8064.

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