



WRANGLER NEWS

JULY 1-21 , 2023
VOL 33, NO 11



When we heard that the notorious gangster Al Capone once hung out at San Marcos golf resort, we knew exactly who to send to cover the story. After all, even Al would enjoy spending a few minutes with our own Mr. Nice Guy Andrew Lwowski. Story and more photos Pgs. 12–13

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Jody Polanski, founder and chief paw pleaser at Lost our Home Pet Rescue.

— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

Pet rescue provides homes, heart for our furry friends



By Janie Magruder

When Charley the basset hound died 14 years ago, Steve and Melinda Lottig thought they'd never have another pet because the pain of that loss was too great. As children will do, however, their daughter Bella kept after them, and a compromise eventually was reached.

Beginning with Ahsoka the German Shepherd in 2021 and ending (so far) with "Sweet" Teava the pit bull last month, the Lottigs have fostered 12 big dogs for Lost Our Home, a Tempe pet rescue. Melinda didn't

grow up with large breeds, but after the joy of dressing her 50-pound fur baby in a Christmas outfit to match Bella's, she's smitten.

"I don't know if I could ever go back," she said.

As Lost Our Home celebrates its 15th year, one of its most critical needs is finding people willing to open their homes and hearts temporarily to, especially, the big dogs.

The nonprofit was founded during the 2008 recession by Jodi Polanski, then a local mortgage banker who witnessed the devastating impact a massive housing crisis had on helpless pets.

Foreclosures were off the charts — Arizona endured a whopping 203 percent increase in filings from 2007 to 2008 — and Maricopa County had nearly 25,000 eviction filings that year. Polanski heard story after story of dogs and cats being left behind, often without food and water.

One report, of 26 Newfoundlands abandoned in a Gilbert home, made the news, and an outpouring of love, help and donations resulted.

Polanski acted quickly to set up a shelter in her Scottsdale home and assemble volunteers to do the same.

In less than a year, Lost Our Home helped 400 pets, a number that would grow to 2,300 in 2022.

Saving pets and people

Among many happy endings over the years is the tale of Bartley and Baylor, two cats rescued from a disgusting abandoned rental in which 12 dogs also were locked. The bonded pair tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus, and needed to be adopted together, which didn't happen immediately.

"They were cool cats—up on the desk, hanging out, greeting people, not afraid of the dogs, and the staff loved them," Polanski said. "We had them for two years, and they were adopted by great pet parents who traveled around in their RV.

"They lived their greatest life together."

Almost immediately after opening, Lost Our Home established one of the first temporary care programs in the country. To this day, it provides up to 90 days of complete care for pets when their owners experience a life hardship and temporarily are unable to care for them. This relieves owners of

— Continued on Page 14

Tempe's 2023 award winner was truly a 'bike hero'

Mark McWhirter, a lifelong Tempe resident, was so dedicated to bicycling that he was known to some as "a bike evangelist."

If asked, say his friends, McWhirter would gladly share his knowledge of biking and what he considers Tempe's bike-friendly history.

Simply said, those who knew him called his enthusiasm contagious.

One of McWhirter's impressive projects was to turn a portion of the family's garage into a bike storage space.

"An amazing bike room," where there was "a place for everything and everything was in its place," a friend recalled,

For his passion, dedication and daily commitment to bicycling, McWhirter has been named Tempe's Bike Hero for 2023. McWhirter died this year at the age of 55 after colliding with a car during his usual morning bike ride.

Each year, the Tempe Bike Hero Award recognizes individuals and organizations

that aid in increasing awareness of bicycling and promote bicycling as a viable mode of transportation.

Winners are selected by the Tempe Transportation Commission, a 15-member Tempe resident advisory board. McWhirter's friends and neighbors submitted six nominations to support his selection for the award.

Mayor Corey Woods and the Tempe City Council honored McWhirter at the Regular City Council Meeting on June 15. McWhirter's wife Katie and their four sons Thomas, Benedict, Dominic and Vincent accepted the award on his behalf.

Past Bike Hero Award winners include:

- 2022 – Erin Boyd
- 2021 – John Dollar and Melissa Mahon
- 2020 – Julian Dresang
- 2019 – Dr. Trisalyn Nelson
- 2018 – JC Porter
- 2017 – Broadmor Elementary Bikecats
- 2016 – Catherine Brubaker & Bike Saviours
- 2015 – Erick and Rochelle Geryol
- 2014 – Ryan and Jennifer Guzy
- 2013 – Maja Wessels
- 2012 – Patricia Berning
- 2011 – Eric Iwersen
- 2010 – Bicycle Cellar
- 2009 – Sue Fassett
- 2008 – Tempe Bicycle Action Group

Find more information on biking in Tempe at tempe.gov/bike



Mike McWhirter's wife and sons display his 2023 award — Family photo



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Founder/Publisher: Don Kirkland

Associate Publisher: Ty Tabat

Content Coordinator: Andrew Lwowski

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Inchausti approved as new Tempe city manager

At its meeting on Tuesday, June 27, the Tempe City Council approved the permanent appointment of Rosa Inchausti as Tempe's new city manager, succeeding Andrew Ching, who resigned to become chief administrator of the town of Paradise Valley.

Inchausti is a 30-year city of Tempe employee. She was selected to serve as interim city manager following Ching's mid-June departure. Inchausti

will receive an annual salary of \$315,000, effective June 27, with an annual merit step increase of up to 5%.

The contract includes standard city employee, requirements, duties and benefits.

During her previous years with the city, she served as the Chief Deputy City Manager, overseeing the areas of Economic Development, Community Health and Human Services, Community Development, Information Technology, and Strategic Management and Innovation.

Grant to widen fight vs human trafficking

The Chandler City Council has approved a \$499,480 grant from the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs to help the city's Police Department combat human trafficking by supplementing existing police resources.

The grant will enable purchase of state-of-the-art technology and fund police department overtime and benefits needed to support the human trafficking unit as it conducts complex operations

and investigations.

The unit was formed in 2015 to investigate individuals or groups who engage in human trafficking, prostitution, child prostitution, luring minors for sexual exploitation, pandering, illegal sexually oriented businesses and massage parlor violations.

Last year, the unit made or assisted in 48 arrests and conducted eight training sessions with community partners.



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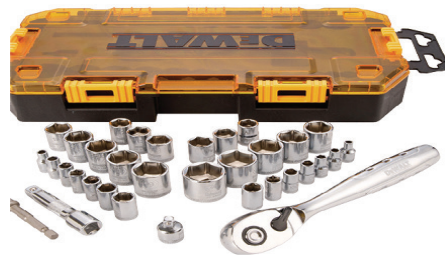


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Expanded medical resident staff at Chandler Regional aided by lifesaving technology

Twenty-eight new medical residents have joined the staff at Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert medical centers, taking roles in the areas of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and General Surgery.

In an effort to address the severe statewide shortage for doctors, hospital officials say the new residency program will train physicians to help fill the gap. Over the next five years, the program will expand to 124 residents and five specialties. Donations from philanthropic supporters are said to

have contributed funding provide each new resident with a Point of Care Ultrasound devices.

These are devices that physicians can bring to the bedside or clinic, allowing for rapid diagnosis aimed at providing prompt intervention and treatment. The POCUS device is being called the stethoscope for today's practitioners and donors should be proud to equip 21st century physicians with this life-saving device.

\$1.66 billion targets multiple priorities in newly approved 2023-24 Chandler budget

West Chandler residents get close-up look at the budget for the city's 2023-24 capital improvement program that becomes effective July 1.

The budget totals \$1.66 billion across all operating and capital funds. That figure includes an \$800 million operating budget for department expenses, payment of public safety retirement pension unfunded liability, debt service for municipal bonds, and budget contingencies and financial reserves. It also includes \$856 million in capital improvements, providing \$358 million in new appropriation and \$498 million for capital projects that are in progress.

Highlights of the budget:

- Maintains the lowest combined annual cost of services among Valley cities for water, wastewater,

solid waste, property tax and sales tax.

- Proposes to reduce the city property tax rate for the 8th consecutive year, pending City Council approval.
- Makes a one-time payment of \$73 million to pay-off Chandler's Public Safety Personnel Retirement System pension unfunded liability.
- Invests \$178.5 million in infrastructure projects to support the Intel expansion needed to create new jobs and mostly reimbursed by the State of Arizona and Intel.
- Allocates nearly \$209 million toward the sale of bonds, primarily to be used on projects to enhance the city's streets, parks, recreation, fire facilities, water and wastewater infrastructure.

The City Council was due to adopt the Property Tax Levy as part of its June 29 meeting.

Many of the services provided to West Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors are financed through the General Fund, including police and fire services, libraries, maintenance of city streets, parks and other infrastructure. General Fund revenues largely come from city sales tax and state-shared revenues.

Other services are financed through separate self-supporting Enterprise or Utility Funds, which include Water, Wastewater, Airport and Solid Waste services, which come from fees paid by users of the service.

Other Special Revenue and Capital Project funds support services and the capital program, with revenues that come from the State of Arizona, grants, system development fees and bonds.

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Tempe Tomorrow: General Plan 2050 is a vision for the future of Tempe. It incorporates innovative principles for sustainability, a planning framework for projected growth with quality of life for Tempe residents as a priority. The principles in this plan become the guide for boards and commissions, Tempe City Council and others to consult for best practices.



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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a newspaper. The word 'Business' is printed in a large, blue, serif font across the top of the page. Below it, there are smaller sections for 'Currencies', 'Commodities', and 'News'.

Business

Currencies Commodities News
Gold for Tesco Company halts sales



Ever Green

Famed San Marcos course boasts a noteworthy past, future

Cover story and photos on facing page by Andrew Lwowski

Although it likely wasn't planned as such, Arizona's oldest and arguably most historic golf site provides the perfect welcome to downtown Chandler.

The course, San Marcos, boasts a long list of notable names to have played its grassy fairways, including gangster Al Capone. Legend has it that the mid-19th Century estate located behind a thin line of palm trees behind the 13th green and along the 14th fairway once housed the notorious mobster.

Two mounds that sit at the dogleg right of the 14th fairway are, allegedly, the burial sites of two bodies of those who betrayed him, and stories prevail that any balls that land on either mound go left despite the hole being located to the right, according to Golf Event Coordinator Nick Lacy.

There is even speculation that there are tunnels under the course leading from the house in case Capone needed to escape.

Leta Fumuso, San Marcos's executive assistant and course historian said that the alleged home of Capone was built by John Dobson in 1919 as his family house around his agricultural ranch before swapping land with Dr. Alexander Chandler.

Back then it was "an alfalfa or cotton farm," and the natural slope of the land became a prime spot for a golf course, said Fumuso.

While the home was used to accommodate hotel and resort staff and host events, Fumuso is not sure exactly where or when the Capone legend materialized.

During our research for this story and as a group of golfers prepared to tee off, they overheard the name Al Capone and turned with faces lit up. Questions surrounding his history at the course began to swirl and the consensus was the aforementioned manor across the pond once belonged to him.

Despite Chandler Museum having no specific evidence that Capone actually lived at the residence, the mystery surrounding the history of the home and rumors of Capone playing the course remain a seemingly unending topic of conversation.

San Marcos Golf Resort was originally situated on the east side of Arizona Avenue, near the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Delaware Street, and was paired with the San Marcos Hotel as a "package deal," said Fumuso.

The compact 100-acre nine-hole course was first designed by Harry Collis and Robinson before later being expanded to a full 18 holes in 1915. That didn't happen until 1926 when Chandler became the first city to adopt a zoning ordinance.

However, due to a conflict involving business and residential living, Chandler and Dobson swapped plots. The hotel that was once paired with the golf resort is no longer related, although it has remained in its original location.

San Marcos was originally played on compacted oil and dirt before it claimed its name as the first grass course in the state. In 1928, it was moved, redesigned and integrated with the first sprinkler system.

Later, in 1964, it was redesigned by a golf architect and has remained since.

More recently, in 2014, Touchstone, the golf management company that owns San Marcos, renovated and remodeled the resort's facilities. The renovation included moving the clubhouse and pro-shop and state-of-the-art irrigation for year-round play. The course has been growing in popularity since, despite the encroachment of development in surrounding areas.

"A lot of people have been here and said 'we never knew there was a golf course down here,'" said Fumuso. "Before they put up those apartments or condos along Chandler Boulevard, you could see the golf course; now you definitely can't."

The rise of Chandler's development put a cloak on the course, but Fumuso says she has seen attendance rising every season with snowbirds.

Due to the limited space San Marcos has, its driving range is unique. In fact, it's technically not even a driving range since drivers aren't allowed. The range uses cayman style golf balls, which only travel a third or half the distance than a traditional ball.

Irons and wedges are allowed on the range only to ensure balls stay on the course property, but this isn't a crutch.

It's just one more unique aspect that, paired with the legend of Al Capone and the history surrounding San Marcos, makes this course one of a kind.



Full Swing Ahead! As the golf season continues at San Marcos Golf Resort in Chandler, hundreds of enthusiasts make their rounds through the historic course with friends and fellow golfers. The intriguing history of the course and well-kept greens are a draw for avid golfers or those just looking for fun activities before temperatures soar to extremes.

— Continued from Page 3

the overwhelming fear of losing their pets and, in turn, allows them to focus on regaining stability so they can be reunited.

Another service that differentiates Lost Our Home from other rescue organizations is its outreach to victims of domestic violence. A longstanding partnership with Sojourner Center of Phoenix allows women escaping domestic violence to keep their pets with them, either in their rooms or, if they are at work or at appointments, in day boarding. The pet companion shelters established by Lost Our Home at Sojourner and at A New Leaf help victims heal from trauma.

“Animals feel like home,” Polanski said. “When your life and everything you know has been torn apart, and you are staying in a shelter, animals give you that unconditional love you need. They’re your best friend and confidante. They depend on you, and help you heal.”

Many domestic violence shelters can’t accommodate animals, so victims are forced to choose between their safety and their pets, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Up to 40% of victims remain in abusive relationships because they can’t find alternative living situations for their animals, the coalition reported.

A relocation to Tempe and expansion

In 2013, Lost Our Home moved in Tempe, and it has become the community’s go-to place for adopting and fostering animals. As a result of a partnership with the city, Tempe police officers can bring abandoned or stray animals to the shelter 24/7.

“Tempe is such a philanthropic city, and the support has been great from the city, its residents and students,” said Polanski, noting Tempe police sponsored a pet-food drive among local schools that gathered more than 10,000 pounds of food.

Lost Our Home recently expanded its space, adding 4,000 square feet, and services. These include a veterinary clinic, so that sick and injured animals no longer need to be transported to outside clinics, an expanded food storage area and a play room, for dog training and people meetings.

Polanski said Lost Our Home always needs more foster parents for the bigger breeds, but acknowledged fostering can be difficult for some because of fear of the unknown. Others worry they will get attached to a foster animal and won’t want to return it when it is reunited or adopted.

“I’ve been fostering for a bazillion years, and I fell in love every time,” she said. “But the reason we keep doing it is we know these pets are going



Volunteers and workers at Lost Our Home pet shelter make sure all furry friends have adequate water and food, and are taken outside regularly to play with toys and enjoy the misters in the summer hours.

— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

to go to good homes and it opens up space for us to do more, to help other animals.”

Despite its expansion, Lost Our Home already full with 180 animals, cats in the community cat rooms or playpens, and dogs in separate dog suites or in dog groups and with buddies.

Lost Our Home is flexible with foster parents, allowing them to return animals that are not good fits and, if they on vacation, to bring them back to the shelter for temporary care until their return.

The Lottigs have decided to continue fostering the blood hounds, like Gonzo the fetcher, the lovable pit bulls (they’ve had three), and the other big dogs as long as they can.

“We like helping someone else while they’re struggling, when they maybe aren’t able to get into a place where they can have their animals,” he said.

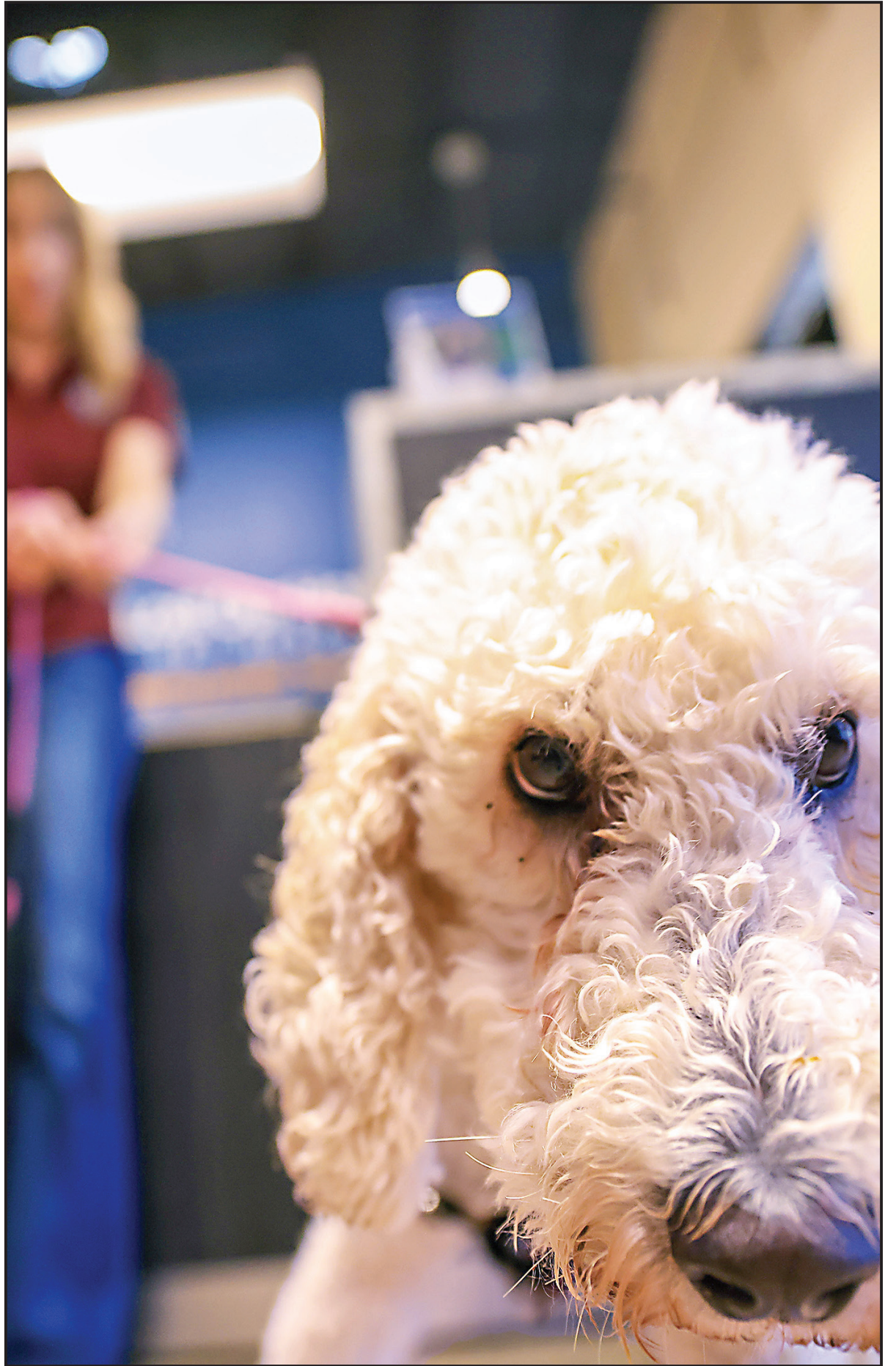
“It’s still difficult in most cases to give the dogs back, because you grow attached to them and them to you, but it makes it a lot easier to know you’re helping someone.”

Other needs and ways to support

Lost Our Home also needs consistent volunteers to be trained in everything from answering phones and doing office work to being advanced behavior trainers or event volunteers.

In-kind contributions are appreciated, but cash donations give the organization flexibility to meet its changing needs, Polanski said.

Watch for an open house at Lost Our Home later this year, as well as a special anniversary edition of its annual fundraiser, “Paws for Celebration! Sit. Stay. Brunch.,” scheduled for Dec. 3.





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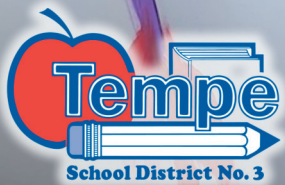
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Tempe takes steps to curb opioid crisis

Commentary by Joel Navarro



As a firefighter, I have seen how opioid addiction affects all ages, income levels and ethnicities, from young athletes to senior citizens.

Opioids are a class of drug prescribed by doctors as an effective way to relieve severe or chronic pain. You may know these drugs as OxyContin, Vicodin,

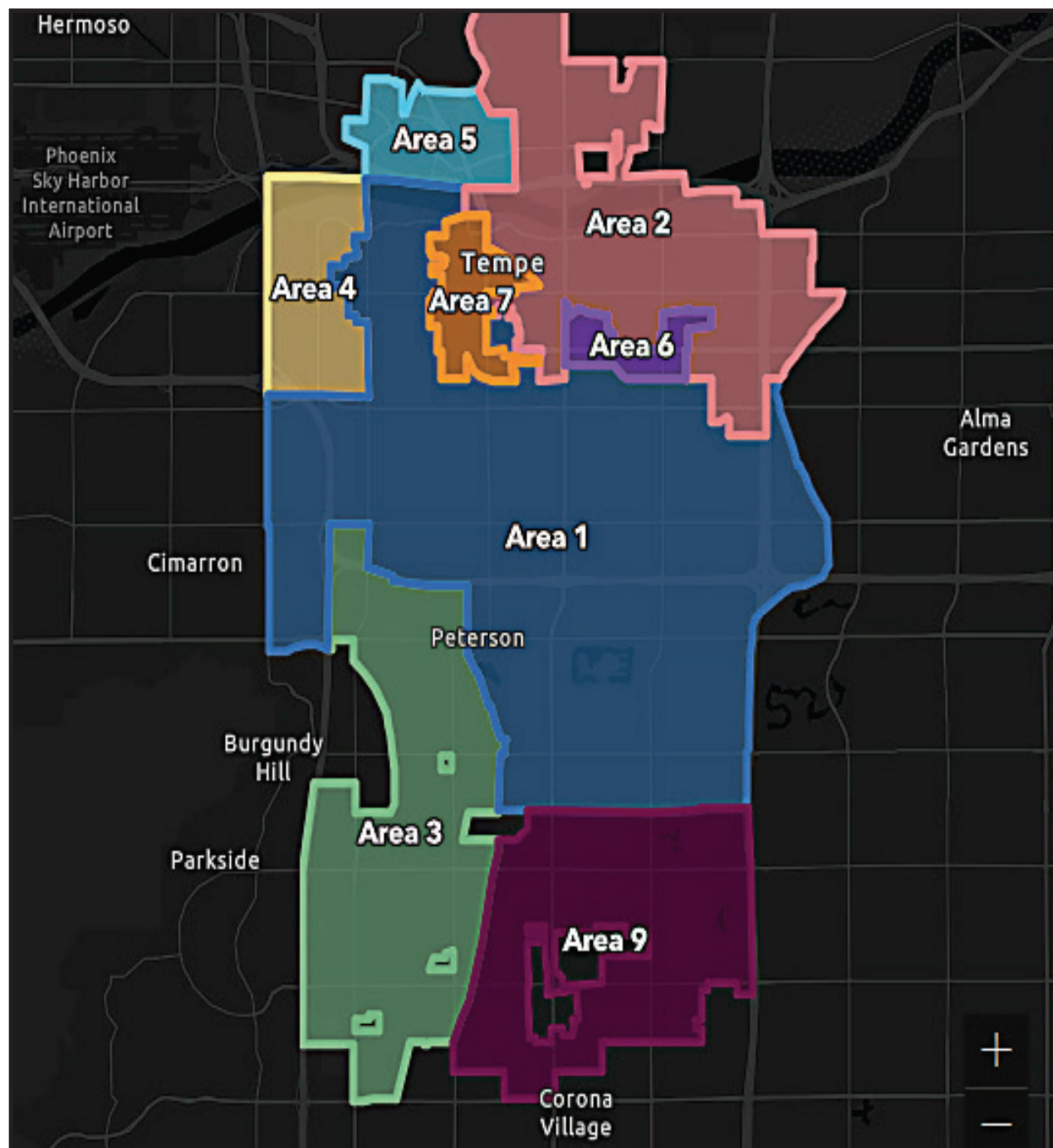
codeine, morphine and fentanyl, among others. Heroin is also an opioid. These drugs can be highly addictive.

In Tempe, we've taken innovative steps to help our community overcome addiction, survive an overdose and receive abuse prevention education.

I've been working with the city on this important topic since 2017 and even started a regional task force with other cities to find ways we could work together to save lives. I've served on the National League of Cities to fight this problem nationally. Starting July 13, I will be on the Maricopa Association of Governments Human Services and Community Initiatives Committee. Improving the capacity of our city to respond to the opioid epidemic is a goal of the Human Services and Community Safety Council Committee, which I co-chair with Councilmember Doreen Garlid. Part of this work is looking at new and innovative ways to protect our community.

We partnered with ASU Biodesign Institute and their researchers' groundbreaking science in wastewater-based epidemiology. Analyzing wastewater provides a way to understand community health and narcotics consumption in a way that does not convey any personally identifiable information. This information can be used to track opioid prevalence within an area. Higher traces of opioids might indicate that more education efforts are needed in a part of our city. While it's impossible to tell whether these opioids are being used as prescribed, this emerging science can show the presence and trends of opioids in wastewater.

In 2018, Tempe became the first city in the United States to incorporate wastewater data with



other population health data to make strategic decisions about the opioid crisis. Tempe's Wastewater BioIntel Program tests wastewater for the presence of seven kinds of opioids. City staff has created a data dashboard that shows the signals for opioids detected in wastewater in the nine geographic regions of our city. I invite you to explore this data. This dashboard provides awareness and opportunities for action.

Education is important to keep our next generation safe. Tempe Fire Medical Rescue trains students in grades 5 through 12 about the dangers of opioid misuse as part of its RX360 program.

Tempe was also one of the first cities in Arizona to have its own crisis response team, CARE7. This

team of mental health professionals engages people at the point of crisis in their lives, such as opioid addiction, and supports them throughout the journey of healing and recovery. Their services are free to Tempe residents.

I'm proud of our efforts to eradicate the misuse of opioids. From providing our police officers with lifesaving Narcan to using wastewater data as one factor to protect community health, Tempe stands out as a compassionate, innovative leader. Learn more at tempe.gov/opioids or visit tempe.gov/navarro.

—Joel Navarro is a member of the Tempe City Council



The City of Tempe is proud of the active and former services members who live and work within our community. We are dedicated to providing information and resources to help all veterans, service members and their families succeed.



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Abe McCann, "Essayons"
 Tempe Veteran Services Coordinator
 480-858-2388
 Abe_McCann@tempe.gov

CARE 7

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 sean_green@tempe.gov

24/7 CARE & HOPE Line: 480-350-8004

Contact City of Tempe Human Services Department:

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 resources@tempe.gov



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In our view



Journalism, photography and other visual media winners from around the country gather for tour in downtown SF. Lwowski, fifth from left, was among group.

Young WN staffer recounts the thrill of receiving coveted Hearst writing honor

First person account by Andrew Lwowski

I would be lying if I said I wasn't a bit overwhelmed as I walked through the San Francisco airport for the first time in my life, alone, on a Saturday afternoon. I followed the signs to baggage claim before I found myself in an Uber heading toward the heart of the Bay.

The time for Hearst Journalism Awards national

writing championship had come and I was being transplanted into a city in which I had no previous experience, no expectations and very little ground under my feet with two championship-level stories due just three days after the eight contestants had arrived.

I checked into the Palace Hotel — one of the nicest hotels I've had the pleasure of staying in — and unloaded my physical and mental luggage. Little did I know I would be starting one of the most memorable journeys of my young journalism career.

It came time for check-in with the judges and seven of the best collegiate writers from around the country. Introductions were made, directions discussed—and the competition was on.

Our assigned topic on the future of the SF ferries overcoming plummeting ridership and

pressure to electrify the dozens of fleets had a sharp 5 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, giving us little time to conduct our business and get typing.

I spent all of Sunday on the SF Bay ferries, riding to and from the communities that encompass the Bay, breathing in the smell of the salty air, feeling the ocean wind and scoping out my first subject to speak to — just finding ground to build on for Monday.

Sunday night was the introductory dinner where the seeds of friendship with my fellow competitors and judges were planted. Monday came with more ferry rides and finding myself in the captain's cabin of numerous ferries talking experience, the future of ferries and life in the Bay. The stress of scurrying to collect subjects and build my angle was weighing heavy, but it's not called a national championship for nothing, right?

On Monday morning we had a virtual meeting with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who discussed two separate but timely topics: the evolution of AI and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. This was the second of our two championship stories.

My final and most important interview with the executive director of the Water Emergency Transportation Agency, the department that oversees the bay ferries, was Tuesday morning. I swiftly got back to my room with two unwritten stories and typed for six hours straight.

Tuesday was something I will always look back on and find myself smiling. The pressure and adrenaline of a deadline with massive implications to being relieved after finally submitting my work was a rollercoaster of emotions. After submitting my work and taking a small break to reward myself, it was time to suit up for dinner and drinks with my new friends.

All the championship finalists gathered and we ate dinner while discussing our struggles, our finds of the past three days that felt more like eight. No

With family and the pride of competing in such a prestigious championship, I came home a better journalist, with friends and resources from around the country.

— Andrew Lwowski

one had an empty glass of wine or bottle of beer; it was just a bunch of college kids having a great time over drinks on an expense-paid trip.

I spent Wednesday with my parents and brother who came out for this once in a lifetime experience and, after riding ferries and getting into business for my stories, spent my free day on another ferry. Only this time I embraced the role as a tourist.

We took a tour of the Golden State Bridge and around Alcatraz before I met with some fellow writers and headed for a meal in Little Italy.

That night we had our final dinner with everyone's work on display ahead of the winners being announced.

The past four days felt like weeks, but it was something that I will always cherish. I walked through the San Francisco airport, only this time with family and the pride of competing in such a prestigious championship. I came home a better journalist with friends and resources from around the country.

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DIVERSIONS

Tempe Center for the Arts will host slate of memorable ATC shows



Arizona Theatre Company will present its Valley market shows at the state-of-the-art Tempe Center for the Arts for at least the next five years, thanks to a long-term partnership designed to bring high-quality, professional theater to the East Valley.



MV Moorhead

In its first season at TCA, ATC will feature nearly 80 performances, with its current subscriber base of over 2,000 along with an estimated attendance of 40,000 during a five-show season.

The season will open with the classic American romantic comedy *Barefoot in the Park* by the godfather of funny, Neil Simon.

The Tempe City Council approved the partnership in May, which includes options for three extensions. A short-term agreement for the first year was approved in October 2022.

The long-term agreement brings Arizona's preeminent professional regional theatre to the visitor heart of Tempe, centrally located and easily accessible to South Tempe/West Chandler market and other Valley communities.

ATC will also bring a program of education, outreach and various community partnerships to the East Valley as it begins what planners envision as a robust engagement with the city and surrounding communities.

Said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods:

"We are thrilled to call Tempe Center for the Arts the official new home of Arizona Theatre Company. This long-term agreement means that our community will experience exciting theater for years to come, in addition to opportunities for enriching our youth and inspiring the next generation of thespians."

ATC Executive Director Geri Wright was likewise enthusiastic.

"Tempe Center for the Arts is the new home of Arizona Theatre Company, the state's professional regional member of the League of Resident Theatres.

"We are thrilled to share the power of world-class theatre and serve the local community and surrounding areas with our education and outreach programs.

"Our current season ticket subscribers have responded enthusiastically about our new chapter at TCA, and we look forward to years of partnership at our new home."

Compiled by M.V. Moorhead



Students from Corona del Sol and other Tempe high schools were among the “18 under 18” honored by Junior Achievement of Arizona for their leadership and entrepreneurial spirit at an awards ceremony. — Wrangler News file photo

Tips for teens in summer

Tempe-based Junior Achievement of Arizona says summer is a great time for teens to continue their career exploration.

Here are 7 simple ways:

Investigate. What activities are you willing to trade your time for? What if you could get paid for these activities? For those of you who played a sport for many years, could you referee this sport in the summer? How about those who helped cook dinner each night for the family? Could you cook/

serve food at a local restaurant?

Network. Join LinkedIn, a social networking platform for professionals. The first step to others viewing you as a professional in the workforce is for you to view yourself as one. How about a mentor? A good mentor and match for you will likely be able to see qualities in you that you can't yet see in yourself.

Skills. Identify and list your top 3-5 transferable skills. Have you been part of a team and did you contribute (e.g. teamwork)? Did you show up to school every day on time (e.g. time management)? Don't be shy and communicate your top skills to potential employers!

Prioritize. List and prioritize career paths and use opportunities to gravitate to what makes you feel proud and happy. Ever heard of the phrase “Be you; Do you”? Using your strengths DNA and leveraging passions is sure to lead to fulfillment and job satisfaction. Perhaps you need to reevaluate your high school academic plan to ensure alignment to these paths.

Intentional. Failing to plan is planning to fail. Make a plan, and know that it is ok if it changes. We all have to adapt but being intentional on action steps will better position yourself to meeting short and long term goals.

Resume. It is never too early to start one and allows you to compartmentalize and organize your experiences and accomplishments (big or small). Check out Canva for templates!

Enjoy. This is your career journey, no one else's. Enjoy the process, embrace the accomplishments and the road bumps, as each day gets you closer to what you determine as your success.

Junior Achievement of Arizona also offers JA Inspire Virtual, a re-imagined, virtual Career Exploration fair that allows Arizona middle and high school students to explore the careers of the future and equip them with critical work readiness skills, ultimately preparing them for success. You can register for free at <https://www.jaaz.org/programs/ja-inspire/>.

Tempe's Adams sets priorities for new role on transit board

According to those who have worked with her, Tempe Vice Mayor Jennifer Adams isn't one to wait for improvements to the Valley's transportation challenges to inch their way toward solution.

Adams is among a slate of officers elected—in her case, re-elected—to the Valley Metro Public Transportation Authority for a term July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The boards set policy direction for the Valley Metro transit system, aimed at pursuing high-

quality, cost-effective service to the region and its communities.

Said Adams:

“One of our highest priorities for the coming year is to prioritize the passage of regional transportation funding with Prop 400E, fully funding not only our public transportation, but also the maintenance of our roads and highways statewide.”

Her agenda doesn't stop there, she added:

“We're also focused on making travel on all public transportation systems safer for users – whether it be bus, light rail, or streetcar – as well as bringing our 7th Orbit route to the southern part of Tempe, a longtime goal of mine.”

Other East Valley officials elected include Chandler Councilmember OD Harris.

Valley Metro plans, develops and operates regional bus service and alternative transportation programs for commuters, seniors and people with disabilities. The board is comprised of elected officials from 19 cities, towns and Maricopa County.

Valley Metro Rail plans, constructs, operates and maintains light rail and high-capacity systems throughout the Valley. The board is comprised of elected officials from four member cities who provide policy direction for rail service.

Located in one of the fastest-growing counties in the U.S., Valley Metro has the job of connecting people to their destinations each day. Riders travel across the area on what officials describe as eco-friendly public transit including bus, light rail, paratransit and streetcar.

In May 2022, Valley Metro launched streetcar travel in Tempe, featuring the transit system's first off-wire operations. Progress continues on five high-capacity transit extensions that are either in planning or under construction to create a 50-mile rail system by 2030. Valley Metro also offers alternative transportation programs including paratransit services for seniors and people with disabilities, commuter vanpools, online carpool matching, bus trip mapping, bicycle safety and telework assistance.

Two boards of directors from 19 local cities and towns and the county set the policy direction for the agency with the intent of advancing the regional public transit system in Maricopa County.

In addition to federal and local funds, Valley Metro receives critical capital and bus operations funds from Prop. 400, the 20-year, regional half-cent transportation sales tax that is set to expire in 2025.



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SPORTS NOTEBOOK

with Alex Zener

47th annual Arizona decathlon/heptathlon state championship

Corona had one athlete, freshman **Christina Cooper**, compete at the 47th Annual Arizona Heptathlon State Championship held at Red Mountain High School on May 19 and May 20.

In order to qualify for this event, Cooper needed to be working on all events in this championship during the year.

These heptathlon events are for serious multi-athletes and include the 200 meters, 800 meters, 100-meter hurdles, shot put, javelin, high jump and long jump.

Cooper competed against 24 other high school women multi-athletes in these nine events taking 15th place in the 200 meters, 18th place in the 800 meters, 18th place in the 100-meter hurdles, 20th in the shotput, 23rd in the javelin, 10th in the high jump, 15th in the long jump and 19th overall with a score of 2986 for a personal record.

2023 Nike Outdoor Nationals

Six Corona track and field athletes participated in the 2023 Nike Outdoor Nationals held June 15-18 at Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus.

Junior **Zuri Glenn** took 25th place in the men's long jump with a leap of 19'5" in the Emerging Elite Finals.

Glenn had competed in the long jump in nine track meets during the spring of 2023 with a personal record jump of 22'1" on Apr. 11 at the Top of the Mountain meet.

Glenn was the only Aztec who competed in the men's events but Corona had two female athletes each compete in two individual events and one relay event at the Nike Outdoor Nationals.

Senior **Ena McMahon** competed in two



Corona's softball team made it all the way to the third round of the 6A state championships. Front Row - Lizzy Cowgur, Brooke Sheehan, Olivia Rios, Jaclyn Ibarra, Abby Ritchhart, Jacqueline Tom, Kaitlyn Schmidt Back Row - Leah Montenegro, Siena Meraz, Jami Sheehan, Saige Peters, Laraysa Pagel, Gina Jackson, Alyssia Munoz, Madison Romero, Belle Freund. — Photo courtesy Sean Thornton

individual women's events and one relay event while freshman **Addison Steward** competed in two long-distance races and one relay race.

McMahon took 12th place in the 100-meter hurdles, with a time of 14.37, in the Championship bracket but did not make the cutoff for the finals.

During the 2023 season, McMahon competed in the 100-meters hurdles in eight track meets placing in the top three in the state every time setting a personal record time of 14.07 at the AIA Division I State Championships on May 4.

McMahon is ranked No. 2 in the Division I Conference Women's 100-Meter Hurdles Rankings in Arizona.

McMahon placed 14th in the long jump event competing against 26 other female athletes at the Nike Outdoor Nationals.

McMahon is ranked No. 2 in the Division I Conference I Women's Long Jump Rankings with a personal best jump of 19'5.5" on April 11 at the Top of the Mountain meet.

McMahon's last event of her high school career was running the anchor leg of Corona's 4x100 relay team in the Emerging Elite Finals with teammates junior **Anna Maney**, junior **Reilly Speaks** and sophomore **Sarai Enriquez**

Corona took fourth place in the 4x100 prelims but turned on the jets in the finals to take third place out of 13 teams with a time of 50.54.

Stewart ran in the 1500-meter race placing 31st out of 47 runners in the Freshman Finals with a time of 5:13.82.

Stewart, who usually ran the 1600-meter race during the regular season, steadily shaved seconds off her time at every consecutive meet. At the end of the regular season, she set a personal record time in the 1600 of 5:23.18 at the AIA Division I State Championships on May 4.

Stewart's time of 5:23.18 moved her into 25th place in the Division I Conference Women's 1600 Meters Rankings.

On June 18, Stewart competed against 46

runners in the Freshman One Mile to cross the line in 31st place with a personal record time of 5:35.41. That was her first official one-mile race of her high school career.

Stewart's last race was a sprint medley relay that requires four team members to run a total of 1600 meters but of different lengths.

The first two athletes each run 200 meters, the third member runs 400 meters and the last team member runs 800 meters.

Enriquez and Speaks ran the first two legs of the relay for 200 meters each. Maney ran the third leg or the 400 meters while Stewart ran the anchor leg or the last 800 meters.

Corona's team finished in seventh place with a time of 4:27.53.

Section 7 Basketball Showcase

Arizona's State Farm Stadium in Glendale was the place to be this past weekend, June 23-25, as more than 200 high school boys basketball teams from 12 states played at an open-to-the public

basketball showcase called Section 7.

This four-day event was sponsored by the Arizona Interscholastic Association and run by the Arizona Basketball Coaches Association, with the endorsement of the National Federation of High Schools and the NCAA.

This recruiting platform came to fruition last year after the NCAA-imposed suspension was lifted for Division I schools of in-person recruiting due to COVID-19.

This year, twelve courts were set up so that 450 games could be played in front of an estimated 500 plus college coaches.

The action on the basketball courts may not have been the only interesting place to watch at the Section 7. Several NBA star's sons, including LeBron James' youngest son, Bryce, were rumored to be playing. LeBron and other dads were expected to accompany their sons.

On the court, though, one of the main attractions had a last name that Wrangler News readers should recognize. Actually, there were two

familiar names: Peat and Duane, as in 6-ft-8 junior **Koa Peat**, the brother of Todd, Andrus and Casius Peat and former Corona head basketball coach **Sammy Duane, Jr.**

Koa was one of the biggest attractions for college recruiters. He helped Perry win a state championship last season, was the Arizona high school basketball Player of the Year, plays for Team USA and is ranked No. 3 overall by recruiting services.

He plays for Perry High School under coach Duane.

Section 7 was not only for the boys basketball teams this year but also hosted 136 girls teams from Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Washington on June 15-17 at State Farm Stadium.

The teams, almost half from Arizona, played on 12 courts at the stadium where four Arizona schools won titles including Phoenix Sandra Day O'Connor, Mesa Dobson, Waddel Canon View and Show Low.

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