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Our 32nd year of publication

Bullying is common among high schoolers and younger around the U.S. Does it happen in families you know? Have you been a victim? Help us understand the problem as part of National Bullying Awareness Month

Coverage starts on Page 3



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Bullying in our high schools: What is being done about it?

Cover story

Editor's note: October is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and Wrangler News wants to take the pulse of bullying that may exist in our area's high schools. Have you been bullied? If yes, we'd like to hear what your school is doing about it. Please call our writer Andrew Lwowski at 480-966-0837 from 9-5 Monday-Friday. Leave a message if Andrew is not available; he'll be in touch. We will not ask for or use your name in anything we publish. Remember: We're on your side.

If you've ever dealt with someone making threats against you, been the subject of physical or verbal attacks, had rumors said behind your back, or been purposely excluded from a group, you know what it's like to experience bullying.

National Bullying Prevention Month has been set as a time to raise awareness and focus on prevention.

Bullying is any unwanted and aggressive behavior that involves a power imbalance, whether real or perceived. It's typically a repetitive behavior that takes place over a period

of time.

Technology, notwithstanding its benefits, has also made bullying more widespread.

Cyberbullying includes distributing mean or inappropriate emails or text messages and using social media to post rumors or embarrassing photos, videos, comments, and fake profiles.

As a parent, if your child has been the victim of bullying and you've noticed a change in their mental health, or if your child or someone you love is struggling with depression or thinking about suicide, get help now.

The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, or 988, is a free resource, available 24 hours a day for anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

For more information on ways to prevent, respond, or act against bullying, visit stopbullying.org, an initiative from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Often, a young person will exhibit clear warning signs prior to an attempt. By knowing the warning signs and knowing how to help, you could save a life.



Goal of awareness is early prevention

Far too often in our country, young people take their lives because of bullying. According to an April 2023 post by the website What To Become:

- 46% of teens report experiencing cyberbullying at least once.
- 25% of LGBTQ+ students experienced bullying at school.
- 22% of students get bullied during the school year.
- At 79%, verbal harassment is the most common form of bullying at school.
- Name-calling is the most common form of child cyberbullying.

October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. This campaign unites communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention.

— Please turn the page

The ultimate goal of bullying awareness is to prevent bullying before it starts.

There is a strong link between bullying and suicide. The latest data from the Centers for Disease Control reports that suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-18.

Bullied students are twice as likely to attempt suicide. Statistics show that suicide attempts are 1.9 times higher for bullying victims.

In the past few years, we have seen more young people take their own lives and bullying has been a factor. Schools have a role to play in preventing bullying.

School district policies must contain key policy and procedural

elements, including the definition of bullying, disciplinary consequences for policy violations, procedures for reporting bullying incidents, and designation of appropriate school staff to receive reports of alleged bullying.

It is vital that these district policies are consistently adhered to.

Parents need to help their kids understand that bullying is wrong and unacceptable.

They also need to keep the lines of communication open and educate their children about bullying and bullies.

Friends can play a vital role in helping friends who face bullying. Check in with your friends, ask how

they feel, and if they need anything. You can support them by reporting the bullying to a trusted adult. Finally, a friend can reassure the person experiencing bullying that it's not their fault.

Visit www.jasonfoundation.com to learn how you can help a friend or loved one who may be struggling mentally. There you will see other risk factors besides bullying that can increase the possibility of suicide.

Wrangler News has asked the Tempe Union High School District to share information on its programs and policies to address bullying. We are awaiting the district's response.

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\$2.25 million OK'd for investment in technology designed to assist Chandler PD investigations

West Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors may soon be benefitting from advanced high-tech crime-solving techniques.

City Council members recently approved proposed uses of \$2.25 million in Senate Bill 1720 funding by the Chandler Police Department to invest in technology and part-time staffing to support police investigations.

"This funding will equip the Chandler Police Department with advanced technology and resources that address high priority criminal cases and protect the safety of our residents and police officers," said State Representative Julie Willoughby.

The funding will support investigative staffing and technology for criminal cases



including internet crimes against children, human trafficking, cold case sex crimes, homicides and latent prints.

The addition of a criminal justice video management system will enable secure file sharing.

The funds also will provide technology for the police department's real time crime center by integrating police

radios and officer safety features for greater visibility during police incidents. Cameras used for traffic collision investigations and events also will be replaced.

The department also will use a portion of the funds to initiate a pepper ball pilot program designed to deter and temporarily incapacitate suspects without causing long-term harm.



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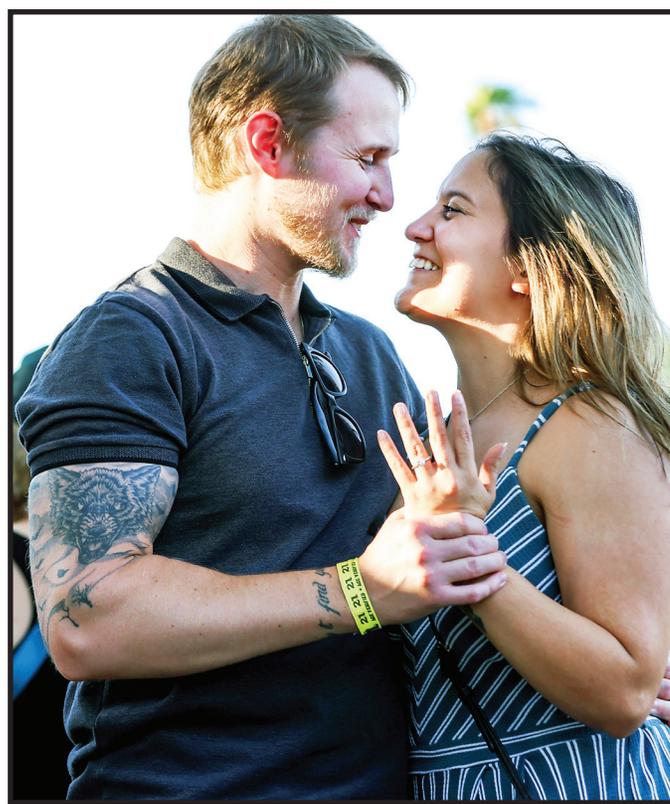
Pictures clockwise: Dressed in traditional Oktoberfest outfits, these two brought their own pints to join the downtown Chandler festival.

Despite not knowing each other, these two lads had the same costume and shared a few laughs plus drinks over the coincidence.

Love (and good spirits) were in the air as this newly engaged couple enjoyed music, beer and a fun time. Congratulations!

Face paintings and family fun activities were also in abundance, kicking off the fall season for anyone and everyone.

— Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski



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Refresh for Tempe's vitality

Commentary by Arlene Chin



Arlene Chin

The Mill Avenue Refresh Project is buzzworthy, and rightfully so.

Capital improvement projects in the city generate a lot of interest from community members who are naturally curious about how and where resources get allocated.

Importantly, residents want to know why.

With thoughtful consideration for the many competing needs in our city, the city council determined that investing in the downtown area of Mill Avenue is a top strategic priority, given the long-term

economic returns that will benefit all areas of Tempe.

Mill Avenue is iconic! Other cities have endeavored to emulate the vibe and allure of our downtown, and for good reason – it's beneficial to residents and strengthens the community's social fabric.

But, for many of my fellow longtime Tempe neighbors, the memories of Mill Avenue that emerge, with its distinctive visual streetscape features and bustling activity, were catalyzed by a transformational investment in downtown Tempe and Mill Avenue in the late 1970s through the late '80s.

The decisions made back then by city leaders to invest in Mill Avenue prompted the economic development that we have witnessed in Tempe for the past 40 years. For example, the Centerpoint on Mill began construction in 1985 and provided the opportunity for more downtown retail, restaurants, and public art: Who doesn't love the jackrabbits?

Downtowns are the epicenter of activity for thriving cities across the world.

A vibrant and eclectic downtown, with a diversity of architectural styles and building ages, enhances the character and appeal for businesses and visitors.

Interestingly, our downtown area comprises only 2.3 percent of the land in Tempe. However, this geographically small area of the city generates a large percentage of Tempe's property tax revenue in addition to the sales tax and the bed tax revenue generated from downtown businesses.

By improving Mill Avenue, the experience people have will elevate to the next level. Additionally, the refresh will help retain existing businesses and attract new businesses to locate here, thus bringing more visitors to Tempe. Revenue generated from taxes in the downtown character area of Tempe will contribute to improvements in neighborhoods, parks, streets, and services in all of Tempe, thereby enhancing the quality of

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life for all community members for decades to come.

And just like dealing with a 40-year-old house, the time has come to get in HGTV mode and update and renovate our property.

We will improve the irrigation system for plants and trees and upgrade our dry utility capacity to support technological advancements for the anticipated increase in electricity demand of our digital world. Of course, no renovation project would be complete without also updating the design with new lighting, materials, and artwork!

After 40 years since its last major upgrade, our historic Mill Avenue, Tempe's economic heartbeat, is due for a refresh. Groundbreaking for this multi-year project will begin around February or March 2024, with heavier construction occurring in late spring and early summer to not disrupt events and



Rendering of streetscape concept under consideration.

— Courtesy of Ty Lee, City of Tempe

tourism. Please visit the webpage at Tempe.gov/DowntownTempeRefresh for information and updates.

Arlene Chin is a member of the Tempe City Council



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Arts center site as Biden unveils funding for McCain Library at ASU

Speaking from Tempe Center for the Arts, President Joe Biden announced a major federal grant to Arizona to help design and build a new McCain National Library at Arizona State University.

It was the first time a sitting U.S. president had addressed an audience from a city of Tempe building.

The library will honor the life and legacy of the late John McCain, who represented Arizona first as a congressman and then as a longtime United States senator and a Republican presidential nominee.

Biden called the plans a fitting tribute to who he called his "good friend, longtime fellow Congressman, and American statesman."

Biden was joined by Ambassador Cindy McCain, Sen. McCain's widow, along with members of the McCain family, Gov. Katie Hobbs, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, members of the Tempe City Council, and an at-capacity audience at Tempe Center for the Arts.

"Tempe was proud to welcome President Biden to our community and we look forward to the advent of the McCain National Library," said Tempe Woods.

"This facility will be an amazing resource for our community and we are honored that Tempe will be forever connected to his legacy of country first."

The library project will rejuvenate a 22.5-acre parcel of ASU near Mill Avenue and Curry Road, north of Tempe Town Lake.

The new 80,000-square-foot structure will include archives for McCain's papers and materials from his decades of high-profile work in Arizona, Washington and around the

globe while in office.

A visitor center and an Arizona home for the Washington, D.C.-based McCain Institute are among other elements planned for the site, envisioned as a solutions center and gathering spot to learn more about leadership, democracy and national security.

ASU already is home to the archive of the senator's papers from his public career, a place where scholars, journalists, students and the public can study his work and life.

As the design and construction of the library proceeds, it has been noted that ASU will identify complementary programs, uses and partners that can be further integrated into the site.

The ASU Foundation will launch a fundraising campaign to support the development and enhancement of the site.

The schedule and timeline for planning and development for the ASU project have not been established.

McCain represented Arizona for 35 years. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving two terms.

He then moved to the U.S. Senate, succeeding Barry Goldwater, from 1987 until his death in 2018. McCain was the Republican nominee for president in 2008.

The McCain Institute is a nonpartisan organization that is part of Arizona State University and based in Washington, D.C.

Today's was not the first presidential visit to Tempe—there have been 16 additional stops by current or former presidents.

President Theodore Roosevelt was the first. He dedicated the Roosevelt Dam while in Tempe in 1911.

President Barack Obama gave a commencement address at ASU in 2009. Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush also appeared in Tempe.

Biden first visited Tempe while he was still a candidate in 2020.



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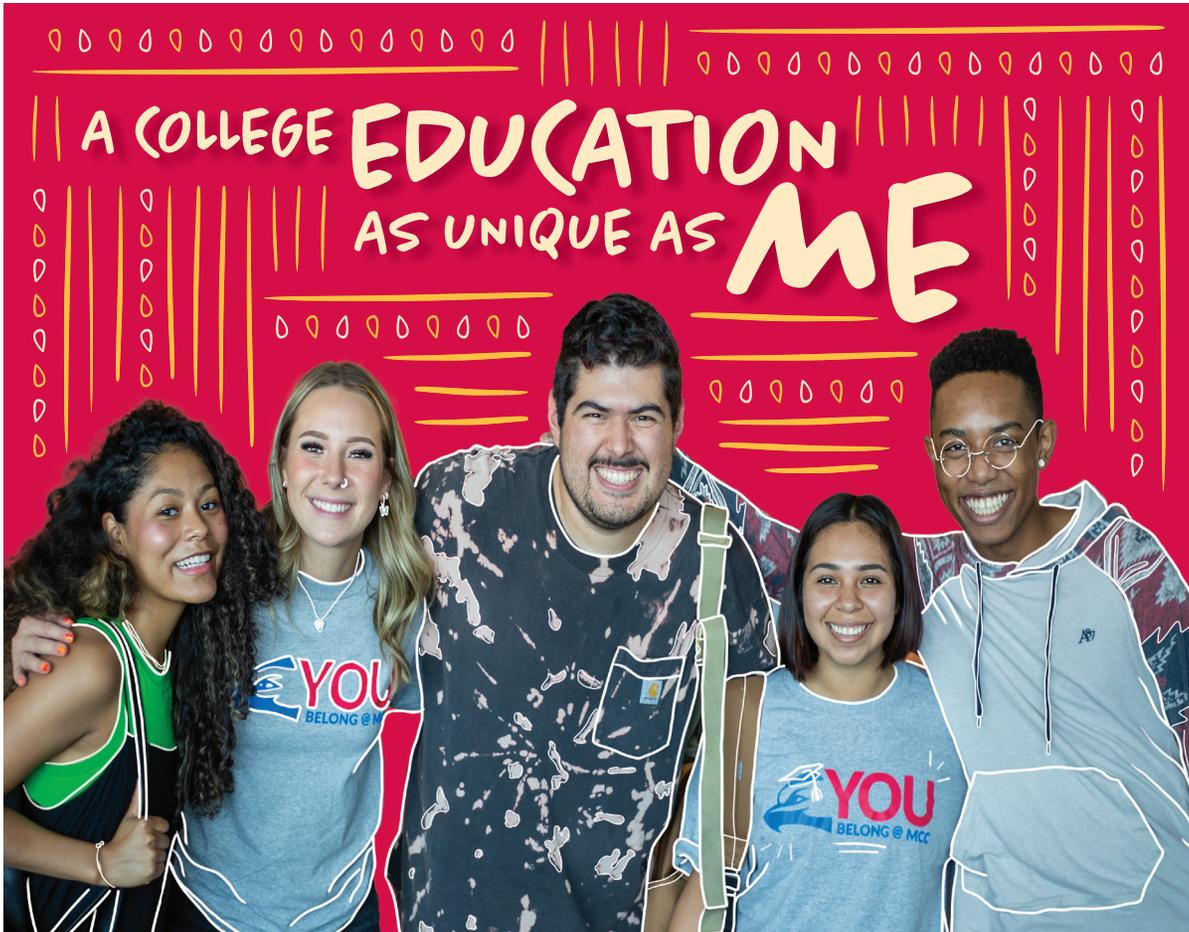
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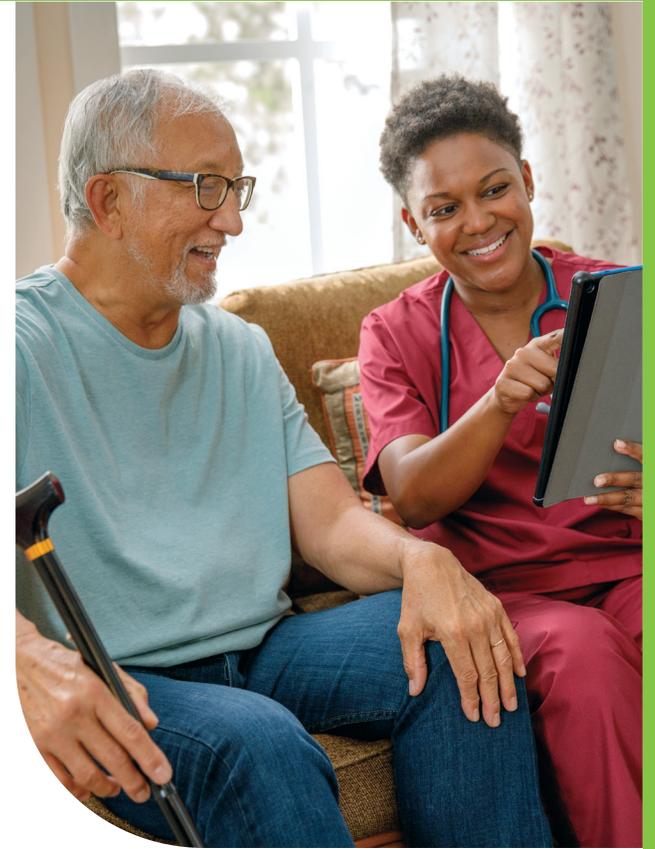
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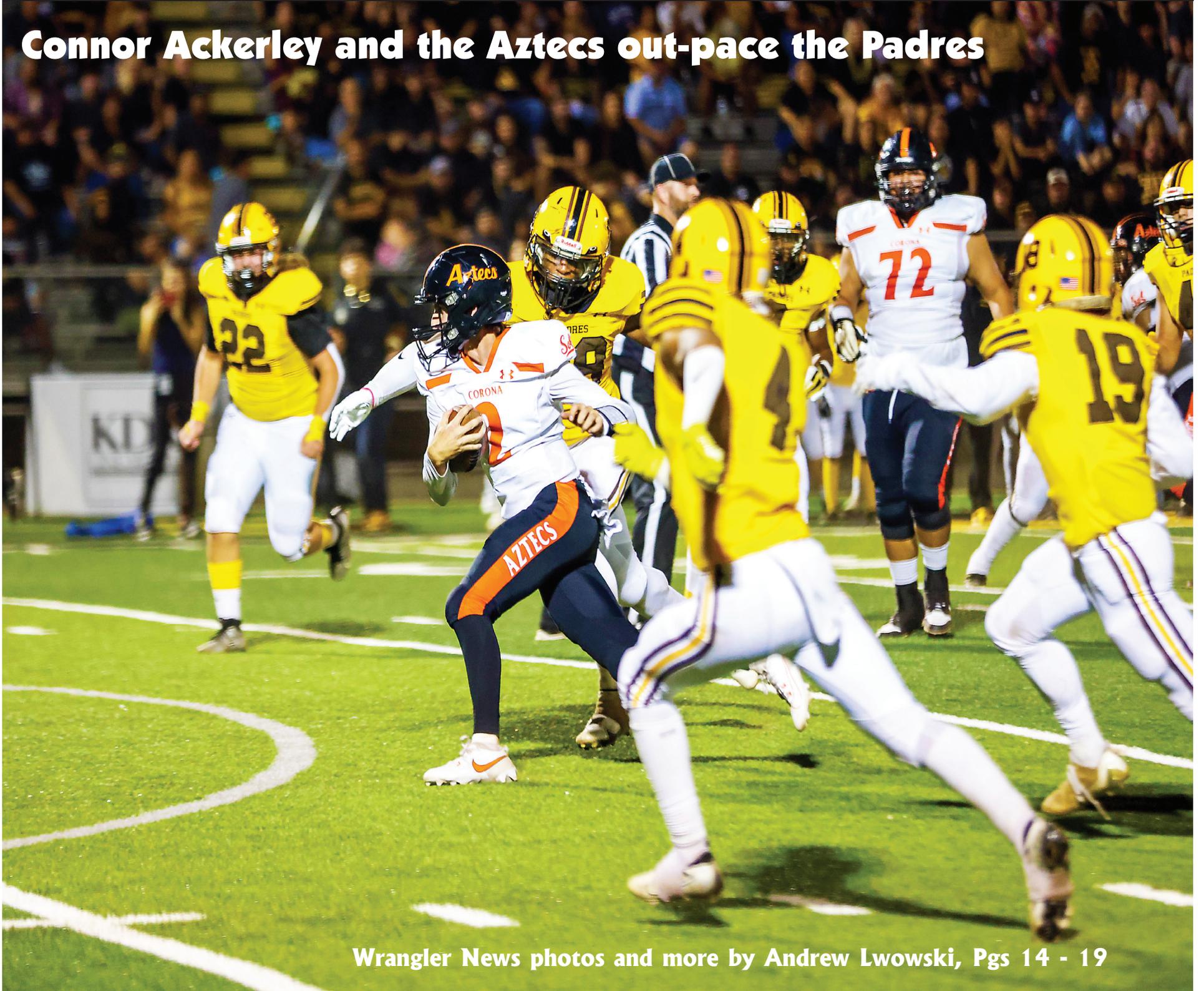
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SPORTS

Connor Ackerley and the Aztecs out-pace the Padres



Wrangler News photos and more by Andrew Lwowski, Pgs 14 - 19

Retrospective

Corona drubs Marcos in crosstown matchup

Commentary & photos
by Andrew Lwowski



Andrew Lwowski

Corona del Sol closed the latest chapter on its rivalry with Marcos de Niza with a 56-7 blowout victory.

Despite the schools being separated by just a few miles, the Aztecs and Padres faced each other during Week 5 for only the third time since 2006.

The last time the two programs went head-to-head on the gridiron was in 2015, and I was a sophomore at Corona. At that time a sports ban had just been lifted and both schools had the game circled on the schedule. Meanwhile, a separate battle was going on off the field, kick-started by the two student sections. The Aztecs aimed for a USA theme against their cross-town rival, which received local and national attention ahead of the game with the Padres' student body, which was more ethnically diverse.

Administration stepped in and declared the theme an orange-out, with any students dressing in question to be denied access due to the meaning behind the choice of theme.

Protestors from both sides of the issue made their presence known—those for allowing the students to dress how they pleased, those who were against the USA-out given the intent.

The Tempe Union school district went on to say the color ban was indeed false and all colors were welcome. However, it was too late, as tensions had come to an all-time high, with fuel from media attention and students engaging with one another online.

The October air was crisp and the Corona stands were packed, the chants loud. I remember the media presence at the stadium and the increased security.

Marcos went on to win, 22-15. I

remember much more of the build up leading to Friday than the game itself, but it has been a memory that has stuck with me through the intervening years.

Corona traveled to Marcos again for the opening round of the playoffs that season, with Marcos getting the better of Corona, 14-7.

It's been eight years since the Aztecs and Padres met on the field and I'm now 24. However, Week 5's matchup between the two schools was in a much better environment. Regardless, heightened security was present, and the officiating was tight.

Any excess celebration or taunting was immediately called.

"This is an emotional game," Coach Jake Barro said. "You grew up with a lot of these kids; we all know each other. You're bringing back a rivalry that hasn't been played in a long time, so the message was treat it like a normal game but understand what it is."

Nonetheless, both student sections were packed, and stands filled with parents and those supporting the community created an observable atmosphere. In the end, the Aztecs were able to dismantle the Padres and get back into the win column after a 1-3 start to their season.

Both programs have gone through changes since the last meeting. The Aztecs are now in the now 6A conference (division I) and the Padres in 4A (division III). Corona is now led by Barro, an Aztec alumnus himself.

Barro is familiar with the Tempe rivalry and even added that his grandfather coached at both programs.

"I have an interesting perspective here," Barro said with a laugh.

"So my grandfather obviously coached at Corona, and when Marcos de Niza opened, he left to open Marcos — coach there.

"My uncle went through Marcos, I've had family go through Corona, my family is on both sides. It's fun to be part of it and see it, but I'm glad I'm on (Corona's) side of it."



For only the third time since 2006, Corona's Aztecs and Marcos de Niza's Padres met on the gridiron. Both teams understood the significance and played with a burning passion, with the Aztecs prevailing.

Pictures on this page: Kambrel Walker flashes the Shedeur Sanders celebrate after the Aztecs connect for a touchdown. Lorenzo Alexander of the Padres eludes Aztecs defenders on an outside run.

Facing page, clockwise: Quarterback Connor Ackley gets hoisted up by his offensive line after a touchdown. Michael Turner of the Padres attempts to run through an Aztec defender. Coach Jake Barro of Corona monitors his team and the game from the sidelines. — AL





SPORTS NOTEBOOK . . . with Alex Zener



Back row, from left: Felipe Jue, Sean Waters, Zachary Wiesner, Pablo Frausto, Stephen Brown, Jay Rodina, Jaden Lyon, Front row (left to right): Aidan Weber, Maria Gonzales, Paige Davies-Boerner, Lauren Luscombe, Rae Benally, Michael Brewer.

— Photo courtesy Janell Davies

‘Amazing’ work ethic nets winning results

The top Aztec runners, freshmen through seniors, have started to emerge now that Corona’s boys and girls cross country teams have competed in five meets so far.

At the beginning of the season, the top two runners from the girls team, according to head coach **Brian Crane**, were senior **Sloan Guess** and sophomore **Addison Stewart**.

“Sloan and Addison have been training hard and received medals in the first three meets,” said Crane. “Their work ethic is amazing and they have pushed the other young ladies on our team.”

The Aztecs are a young team when you consider

that four out of the nine top varsity runners are freshmen and two are sophomores.

In addition to seniors **Paige Davies-Boerner** and **Maria Gonzales**, several of these younger runners have surfaced during the season, including freshmen **Mya Armijo**, **Rhima Edkaidek**, **Isobel Mackinney** and **Naomi Jue** and sophomore **Aubrianna Horton**.

For instance, Stewart was the top finisher for the Aztecs in the Sweepstakes or Premiere class when Corona’s boys and girls cross country teams competed at the Desert Twilight XC Festival at the Toka Stick Golf Club on Sept. 29.

It was estimated that about 6,000 athletes from 248 schools spread out over five states competed at that event.

The Desert Twilight had 26 categories, 12 for each gender, in which racers could compete. The top category was the Sweepstake or Premiere class

race.

Stewart came in 52nd out of 147 racers in this category. She was followed by Davies-Boerner, who crossed the finish line in 61st place and Guess in 79th.

Corona’s next five runners to finish included Armijo, Edkaidek, MacKinney, Horton and Jue. The combined scores gave the Aztecs 13th place as a team.

The top 10 runners for the boys team, which has emerged as the season has progressed, include seniors **Zachary Wiesner**, **Stephen Brown** and **Sean Waters**, junior **Henry Yazzie**, sophomores **Jack Black Feather** and **Blake Yosowitz** and freshman **Santiago Araiza**.

Out of the four events this fall, a different runner finished first for the boys team every time.

For instance, at the Chandler Invitational, held on Sept. 2, the categories were based on grade

level.

Araiza was the top runner for Corona to cross the finish line in the freshman category. He came in 17th place with a time of 18:14.5.

In the sophomore category, Yosowitz was the top finisher, crossing the finish line in 50th place with a time of 1:07.7 while in the junior category, Yazzie was the top finisher.

Running in the senior category, Brown was the top Aztec racer. He came in 47th with a time of 18:40.2 and was followed by Waters, Wiesner, **Felipe Jue, Jay Rodina, Pablo Frausto, Guillermo Gonzales and Michael Brewer.**

At the Fountain Hills Invitational on Sept. 9, the Aztecs came in at 14th place out of the 31 teams that competed in the Mens Large School (D1/D2) Varsity category.

Brown was the first runner to finish for the Aztecs, coming in 67th with a time of 18:15.41. He was followed by Wiesner, Yazzie, Waters and Araiza.

Also, at the Oja Roja on Sept. 15, the team finished in 14th place out of 37 schools.

Wiesner, in 83rd place out of 292 racers, was the top finisher for Corona. He was followed by Araiza, Brown, Waters and Yazzie.

The Aztecs competed at the Desert Twilight in the Mens Large School Varsity category where the top five runners scored 244 points to give Corona's team eighth place.

Once again, a different runner emerged as the first Aztec to cross the finish line.

Black Feather was the top finisher for Corona when he crossed the finish line in 38th place out of 246 racers from 34 high schools who competed in this event.

Black Feather was followed in this race by Wiesner in 40th place, Araiza, 50th, Yazzi, 74th and Brown in 78th place. Waters and Yosowitz also finished the race for the Aztecs.

The Aztecs recognized their seniors at the Fountain Hills Invitational on Sept. 9.

Seniors who were showcased at that event included, from the girls team, Davies-Boerner, Gonzales, **Lauren Luscombe and Reagan Benally** and from the boys team Brown, Wiesner, Waters, Gonzales, **Aidan Weber, Felipe Jue, Frausto, Rodina, Brewer and Jayden Lyon.**

In the Fountain Hills Invitational Womens 3,200 Meters Large School category, where the girls team took third place out of 11 schools, Davies-Boerner took first place, Garcia was 12th, Luscombe came in 32nd and Benally was 74th.

The Aztecs have one more invitational during the regular season, the Casteel Invitational, on Oct. 13, at Mansel Carter Oasis Park in Queen Creek.

Next up will be the Southwest Sectional on Oct. 25 at Crossroads Park in Chandler and then the D1 state championship meet to be held on Nov. 4 at Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix.

After the state meet, some Corona runners will compete on Nov. 18, at the NXR Southwest Regional Championships held at the Coyote Run Golf Course at Leisure World in Mesa.

Marcos de Niza

The Padres had 10 runners compete at the Desert Twilight XC Festival on Sept. 29 at Toka Stick Golf Club.

Marcos had five runners finish the Men's Large School Varsity race, where the top three finishers for the Padres were seniors.

Vladimir Lopatin was the top finisher for Marcos when he crossed the finish line in 164th place out of 246 racers in that event.

Fellow seniors **Michael Richardson** and **Cesar Villalobos** were next to finish for the Padres.

The fourth runner was sophomore **Adrian Starnes**, followed by senior **Jayden Copeland.**

Four runners competed for the Padres in the Mens Large School Open 2.

Freshman **Henry Ellsworth** was the top finisher for Marcos when he finished in 109th place out of 170 races in that event.

Ellsworth was followed by sophomore **Tisean George**, senior **Steve Campoy**, and sophomore **Samual Golay.**

The girls team had one runner compete and finish the race in the Womens Large School Varsity event at the Desert Twilight when sophomore **Ashlynn Sieveking** raced against 174 of the best runners from 21 teams.



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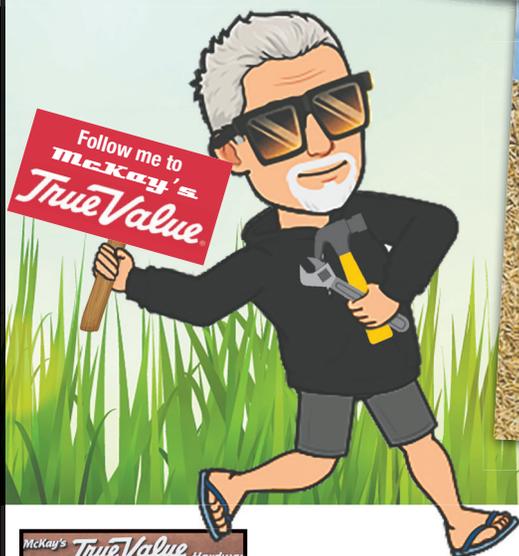
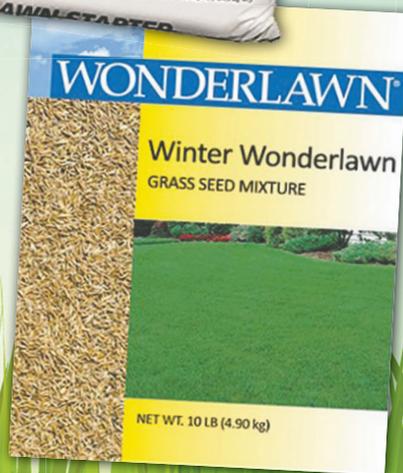
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Corona football

After losing 0-42 against a very good Chandler High School team, the Aztecs came back on Sept. 22 to defeat Marcos de Niza 56-7 and improve their record to 2-3 before starting to play against their section opponents in 6A Central on Oct. 6.

Against the Padres, quarterback **Connor Ackerley** completed 19 out of 23 attempted passes for a total of 337 yards and three touchdowns.

Junior **Raiden Vines-Bright** was the leading receiver on the team, with seven receptions for 195 yards and three touchdowns.

Senior **Zuri Glenn** caught three passes, one which resulted in a touchdown.

Freshman **Jai Jones** caught six passes for 51 yards while junior **Domonick Ruiz** caught two passes for 24 yards.

Some highlights included Ackerley's longest pass, 52 yards, complete to senior **Crew Swearingen** which was almost as long as Swearingen's 54 yard completed pass to Vines-Bright for a touchdown.

Ackerley and Swearingen were the leading rushers on the team where Ackerley scored two rushing touchdowns while Swearingen rushed for 36 yards.

Senior **Quinton Bradley** rushed for 12 yards and one touchdown while fellow senior **Jason Mustacchia** carried the ball three times for 14 yards.

The defense had what is almost unheard of, the same number of solo tackles, 32, as they did assisted tackles, 32.

Senior **Key'von Thomas** and senior **Elijah McKay** both had four solo tackles and one assisted tackle for a total of five tackles.

Freshman **Jamar Patterson** led all tacklers with a total of six tackles while senior **Isaiah McKay**, senior **Shaun Nketiah** and senior **Kambrel**



Senior Paige Davies-Boerner (left) finished first and senior Maria Gonzales (right) came in 12th in the 2-mile big school race at Fountain Hills Invitational, where they both received medals. — Photo courtesy Janell Davies

Walker each had five total tackles.

Four players had a tackle each for a loss, including senior **Brandon Holmes**, Jai Jones, junior **Jantz Dye** and sophomore **Jaz Tureaud**.

Holmes intercepted the ball twice and senior **Ariyon Wade** recovered a Padre fumble.

Senior kicker **Luke Holly** was eight for eight in point-after kicks to score eight points for the Aztecs.

The Aztec were scheduled to play a section opponent, Salpointe Catholic, in Tucson on Oct. 6 before another away game at section opponent, Mountain Pointe, on Oct. 13.

Corona will then have two more section opponents, home against Brophy College Prep on Oct. 20 and away against Desert Vista on Oct. 27.

The Aztecs last regular season game will be against a non-section team, Casteel from Queen Creek, at home on Nov. 3. It is at this game that the seniors will be honored.



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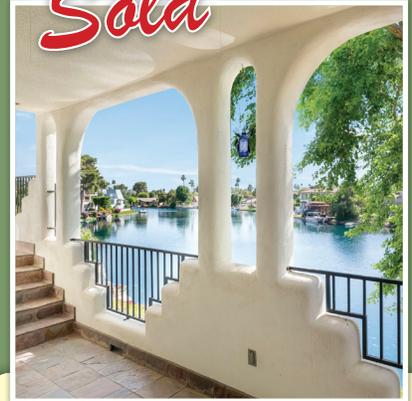
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DIVERSIONS

Pups frolic as beloved holdovers from Canadian TV cartoon

By M.V. Moorhead



“They're cute little pups that drive around in cars. I know it sounds weird, but just go with it.” So says a character near the beginning of *PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie*, by way of describing the premise.

More specifically: The little pups live in palatial digs in "Adventure City," where each of them specializes in some form or other, vaguely breed-appropriate, of public safety. Scout the German Shepherd is a police dog; Marshall the

Dalmatian is a firefighter; Skye the Cockapoo pilots a rescue helicopter; Bulldog Rubble does construction and demo; Zuma the Lab does water rescues, mutt Rocky handles recycling, and Liberty the Dachshund, introduced in 2021's *PAW Patrol: The Movie*, has a gift for training the members of the Junior Patrollers, a trio of Pomeranians.

Ryder is the human boy who leads the gang.

I'll confess that moment-to-moment, I have some trouble keeping them all straight in my mind; the characters don't, for me, have terribly distinct personalities. But to their intended audience, the pups have been beloved figures since the Canadian TV cartoon, developed by Keith Chapman of Bob

the Builder fame, was launched on Nickelodeon in 2013.

If you thought it was weird before, wait until you get a load of *Mighty Movie*. The story takes a sci-fi/fantasy twist this time that puts it more in the realm of a *Marvel* or *Power Rangers* flick than a *Boy-and-his-Anthropomorphic-Dogs* story. Drawn in from space by a mad scientist villain with a magnet, a meteor crash lands in Adventure City, and fragments from it give the pups superpowers. Some of these seemed counterintuitive to me. Marshall, for instance, gains the power to conjure fire from his paws; shouldn't he command water or flame-retardant foam or something?

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Anyway, as with the first feature, *The Mighty Movie* is not an experience to seek out if you don't have a five-year-old who requires it, but it's not disagreeable to sit through if you do get stuck at it. The dialogue has funny, self-aware touches, including another fourth wall gag about the film's transparent merchandising strategy. The voice cast includes some name players, including Serena Williams, Kristen Bell, James Marsden, Chris Rock and most notably Taraji P. Henson as the rather chic, green-haired mad scientist.

Ron Pardo is also back, as Humdinger, Adventure City's narcissistic former mayor. I thought perhaps the first film was using the character to reference a certain real world public figure; my suspicion was strengthened in *Mighty Movie* when Humdinger, sensing public hostility toward him, remarks "This is why I hate free and fair elections."

Humdinger's entourage of cats seems intended as further evidence of his villainy. A suggestion: In the spirit of inter-species equity and amity, perhaps in the next *PAW Patrol* movie a heroic kitty should be introduced to the team. Cats have paws too, after all.

PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie is rated PG and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, AMC Abwatukee 24 and other multiplexes Valleywide.



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Tempe renewing efforts to improve Eighth Street between Rural Road and McClintock Drive for bicyclists, pedestrians.

After conducting preliminary outreach, city officials say the project originally was expected to start construction in 2019.

However, it was delayed after the discovery of a significant prehistoric archaeological find.

According to officials, Tempe continues to engage in consultation with the four southern tribes of Arizona to create a redesigned streetscape plan developed to respect, preserve and celebrate the archaeological discovery, as well as incorporate it into the plan.

The project may include redesigned on-street parking, Americans With Disabilities Act-compliant bicycle and pedestrian improvements and a proposed multi-use path, with landscape and lighting.

The project is designed to emphasize safety, access, comfort and sustainability.

South Tempe and other interested city residents are being encouraged to attend public meetings to view the redesigned streetscape plan and provide feedback during a Zoom meeting at noon Wednesday, Oct. 18 or an in person meeting at 6 p.m. the same day at EnVision Center, 1310 E. Apache Boulevard.

The project is included in the city's Transportation Master Plan, with construction due to start in fall 2024.

Work is funded through a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant and Tempe Transit Tax funds.

For more information about the Eighth Street Streetscape project, and to comment online Oct. 18 to Nov. 1, visit tempe.gov/8thStreet.

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Help is on the way for seniors wanting to know more about using cellphones, tablets



If you're a senior resident and feeling a bit overwhelmed with how to use technology—especially that pesky cell phone—mark your calendar for an upcoming Golden Neighbor's Technology Tips event.

Chandler's Golden Neighbors program is partnering with technology experts from SeniorTechPal, a nonprofit created by former Intel employees and

supported through volunteers from Intel.

The experts will review technology tips and answer your "How do I..." tech questions. Attendees are encouraged to bring their cell phones/tablets to the event.

The free event will be held 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Chandler City Hall, 175 S. Arizona Ave., second floor, Training Rooms A & B.

A light breakfast will be provided.

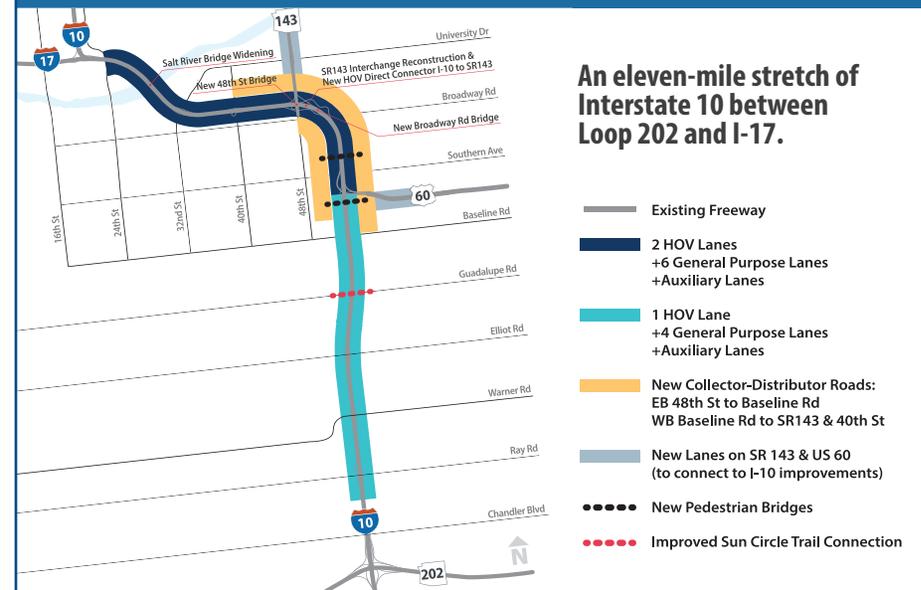
Attendees may RSVP to the city's Neighborhood Programs Office at 480-782-4362, or via email at neighborhood.programs@chandleraz.gov.

For more information about Chandler's Golden Neighbors program for senior residents, visit chandleraz.gov/GoldenNeighbors.



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REFLECTIONS

Memories of our early days . . . and teriyaki

On life minus these good friends, good times, good food

By Don Kirkland

One of the pleasures we share via travels through our local neighborhoods is the familiarity we develop for certain long-held favorites: Restaurants, stores, schools, providers of professional services—people and places we know and look forward to seeing or in some way interacting with every time we pay a visit.

How often we engage with these go-to relationships isn't particularly relevant. It's the fact that we experience a comfort level, a sense of confidence, a little breath of happiness with each one, whenever it happens through days, months, years.

And with that comes an expectation that those same people and places will always be there, always conducting business, always glad to see us. We don't stop to consider whether the reality of the passage of time will eventually throw a mental monkey-wrench into this kind of thinking. The reality is that no one, no place will be there forever, awaiting—hopefully even looking forward to—our visit.

So it was disappointing, a forced recognition that these same “favorites” will come and go with the passage of time—to discover that the owners at Teriyaki Kitchen on Guadalupe Road, just east of the Price/101

Freeway at Dobson Road, plan to retire soon and enjoy the freedom that winding down a 30-year-old business is intended to provide.

Thirty years.

That, coincidentally, is exactly how long Wrangler News has been around. As the Kitchen's street-front sign reminds us: “In business since 1992.” No, we don't have an illuminated banner outside our office, but if we did it also might say, “In business since 1992.”

Wow. What an eye-opener to someone who doesn't watch the calendar until it tells me it's time to retire but instead views the dawning of each new day as an opportunity to be with old friends, make new ones, enjoy the challenges, the deadlines—everything that comes with owning a small (can we say “hometown”?) business that seems to bring as much enjoyment to its readers as it does to us.

So hereby hangs the question: Will Wrangler News be around forever? If it was totally up to me, I'd say it's a definite maybe. But the years have a way of creeping up on us (see “passage of time” above).

The knowledge that those same 30 years that Teriyaki Kitchen has brought mealtime pleasure to thousands—it's much like the times people have told us: “We love your little newspaper.”

As to Teriyaki Kitchen, no one appears

to be ready to slide effortlessly into an ownership role and ensure that all of us longtime customers won't even notice the change. (Their daughter and only child is now a pharmacist in Boston, they tell us, and likely not a candidate for hashing-up those crab puffs, katsu bowls or the always popular teriyaki beef that have been trademarks of the place for another stretch of the same 30 years).

Which brings me back to the question of Wrangler News and the years that lie ahead. Fortunately, the dedicated, hardworking, talented (did I mention younger?) crew that supports our day-to-day publishing rat-race seems to love what they do and look forward to what lies ahead for them when it's time for me to call it quits.

Perhaps like the nice folks at Teriyaki Kitchen, they know that building 30 years' worth of satisfied readers isn't much different than building a Bento box full of beef yakisoba and curry chicken. And almost as enjoyable.

Note: If you don't want to miss one final chance for some truly memorable Japanese cuisine, Teriyaki Kitchen is at 2028 W. Guadalupe Road, Mesa. Hopefully open through October. Closed on Mondays.

Don Kirkland is the founder and publisher of Wrangler News.

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue writes another happy ending

50 dogs found in dire circumstances; neighbors enable massive rescue

By M.V. Moorhead

This past month the local news was filled with a sad and horrific story, made sadder and even more horrific because it isn't the first time we've heard it. A woman in Chandler was arrested and charged with 55 counts of animal abuse, the same number of counts of animal cruelty, and one felony count of vulnerable adult abuse.

Police say that the woman had more than 50 dogs in her home. Some were special needs animals; the woman said that she ran a rescue for such dogs.

Unfortunately, according to Chandler Police and Arizona Humane Society officials, who made a welfare check after neighbors expressed concern, the dogs were actually in need of rescue, having been denied medical attention and forced to live in their own waste.

There were dead animals on the premises, including several stored in the woman's freezer. The woman's elderly mother was also exposed to the dangerous environment.

Such stories show up in the media from time to time, both locally and nationally. But with a story this extreme originating in our own back yard, so to speak, we decided to seek out insights from one of our own neighbors with expertise in this area: Jodi Polanski, executive director of Lost Our Home Pet Rescue in Tempe.

"Typically, it happens when people want to take care of them, and they get in over their heads" says Polanski of such cases.

"At a certain point you just physically can't keep up. From what I understand, in this case they weren't being adopted out. [In shelter work] you have to do the second part—find them homes."

Polanski says that if people have concerns that someone in their neighborhood may have fallen into a predicament of this sort, they should contact either the local police or the Arizona Humane Society. "They go to the house for a welfare check,



Lost Our Home founder Jodi Polanski and a furry friend

— Wrangler News file photo

and can do investigations of abuse and neglect."

By contrast, Lost Our Home Pet Rescue is a model example of an animal charity that developed in a positive way.

"I was doing mortgages, and volunteering at an animal shelter," recalls Polanski. "During the 2008 foreclosure crisis I was hearing stories of Realtors about finding pets that were abandoned." As people lost their homes, Polanski learned of more and more animals found in houses, not only from Realtors but from neighbors, as well as from locksmiths called in to change the locks.

"So I thought, I'll just start a small shelter," she says. She initially envisioned it as a short-term project, but a decade and a half later it's a 1,200-square-foot shelter capable of accommodating 80 to 100 dogs and cats, along with a large network of foster care volunteers, allowing Lost Our Home to serve as many as 250 pets at any given time (the publisher of *Wrangler News* has adopted two dogs from Lost Our Home, with great results). The center also provides temporary care to pets

who must be separated from their owners due to homelessness, domestic violence or other difficult but not permanent situations.

At this writing, the pets rescued in Chandler are not yet available for adoption (several had to be euthanized).

Asked what sort of special challenges people might face in adopting or fostering pets who have come from a situation like this, Polanski notes "It's actually a lot like an animal from a puppy mill. They're very undersocialized and need medical and nutritional care."

One of the best things that can be done to help animals that have come from abusive or neglected backgrounds, says Polanski, is "having them get to know people."

"Not just you, but friends and neighbors, and strangers."

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue is located at 2323 S. Hardy in Tempe. For details go to lostourhome.org or call 602-445-7387.

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Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods started in 1998 as a *cooler* alternative to National Night Out, typically scheduled in August.

The G.A.I.N. initiative encourages neighbors to get to know each other during this annual event hosted by individual communities. Be sure to participate in your neighborhood event promoting crime prevention through community involvement!

The Nick Bastian Team will be at the Estate La Colina event held at Estrada Park 3-6 pm.
Stop by and say "Hi"!



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