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**WRANGLER  
NEWS**



**One man's journey to homed from homeless, described in our story on pages 16-17, is especially timely following the Supreme Court's June 27 ruling**

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# Wheeling-in to summer: Tempe's new Bike Heroes

Season's heat no obstacle to teens' pursuit of a passion

*Editor's note: Every so often, those of us at Wrangler News get an unexpected jolt of genuine neighborhood joy. When it happens, it adds even more justification to our basic premise of publishing: That the traditional focus of newspaper pages all too often misses the happily creative contributions of people who love their community and are eager to share their continuing excitement for the things that bring pleasure to us all. The following seems to amplify that kind of thinking. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.*



Milo Coleman, left, with Tempe Councilmember Berdetta Hodge and Nathan Sain.

— All photos courtesy Tempe Bicycle Action Group

## Conversation with Steven Gerner

Get ready to shift into high gear now that a winner has been selected for the 2024 Bike Hero award, designed to honor organizations focused on making biking better in Tempe.

This year, Tempe recognized two champions of cycling — the McClintock High School Bike Club and Broadmor Elementary's Bike Bus.

According to Tempe Bicycle Action Group's Steven Gerner, these two pedal-powered dynamos of enthusiasm made what he calls “a

— Continued on Page 4

Visit [WRANGLERNEWS.COM](http://WRANGLERNEWS.COM) for updated news, photos and videos

massive impact on Tempe's cycling scene" by helping students thrive on their passion for bike-riding.

#### **Broadmor Bike Bus: Rolling to Success**

— This concept takes idea of a school commute to a whole new level, according to Gerner. It involves groups of children biking to school together, led by an adult "bus driver" on a bike—a moving classroom of fun, fitness and friendship, according to the group's advocates.

Parents and kids join the convoy as it rolls

'Being part of the Bike Club has been awesome. Learning how to fix bikes and understanding how they work has helped me a lot with problem-solving, which is great for my schoolwork.'

— Ethan Burns  
Bike Club co-chair

by, turning the trek to school into a mini-biking festival.

Kendra Flory, co-founder of Bike Bus, says her group gets a lot of pride from its members' involvement.

"Seeing the joy and confidence on the kids' faces as they ride to school is absolutely priceless. The bike bus not only teaches them bike safety and road awareness but gives them a sense of independence and a love for cycling that will last a lifetime."

Hannah Moulton Belec, the other visionary behind Bike Bus, is likewise thrilled with the event's continuing popularity.



Tempe Bicycle Action Group: Ready to roll.

"We started our bike bus two years ago because we wanted to create more demand for better bike infrastructure and demystify biking to school.

"Our hope is that kids will be confident and continue safe biking to school on their own or with parents, especially on high-use routes like College Avenue. We also hope that other schools will want to create their own bike-to-school initiatives, and we're here to help if they do."

#### **McClintock High School Bike Club:**

**Pedaling to Empowerment** — The McClintock High School Bike Club, online at [www.mhsbikeclub.org](http://www.mhsbikeclub.org), has quickly become a cornerstone of bicycling in Tempe, according to the group's organizers.

Every Friday, the club transforms into a hub of activity, where students engage in bike maintenance, safety workshops and community service projects repairing bikes for refugees with Welcome to America Project.

The participants' work is not just about bikes, notes Gerner. It's about building a community by learning hands-on practical skills.

Ethan Burns, co-president of Bike Club, agrees:

"Being part of the Bike Club has been awesome. Learning how to fix bikes and understanding how they work has helped me a lot with problem-solving, which is great for my schoolwork.

"It's so cool to build bikes for those in need and even fix my friends' bikes."

Connor Clemens, the group's co-president, highlights what he views as an important mission.

"My friends and I have a hard time getting to school safely on bikes. We've got potholes, poorly maintained roads and bike lanes that just disappear.

"It's time we fix our infrastructure so no one has to guess if they'll arrive at school in one piece. We need safe and reliable routes for everyone."

**Celebrating Our Heroes** — Tempe City Councilmember Bredetta Hodge applauds these initiatives, "The impact of the Broadmor Elementary Bike Bus and the McClintock High School Bike Club on our community is immeasurable. They are fostering a culture of safety, fitness, and sustainability that will benefit Tempe for generations. These programs are a testament to the power of grassroots initiatives in creating positive change."

As we celebrate these Bike Heroes, let's remember that every pedal stroke they take is a push towards a brighter, more bike-friendly future.

The Broadmor Bike Bus and the McClintock Bike Club are not just changing the way we commute; they're changing the way we live.

Join us in congratulating these incredible groups and support them as they continue to inspire, educate and lead our community on the road to a healthier, happier Tempe.

The Tempe City Council presented these awards at its meeting on June 27. Let's keep the wheels turning and the spirits high—because in Tempe, life is even better on a bike!

# High-speed internet service coming to wider area

A new provider of low-cost, high-speed internet is coming to Tempe following action taken by the Tempe City Council on June 27.

"This is a giant leap for the city," said Councilmember Randy Keating, who has been part of the effort since 2016.

Some sections of Tempe do not currently have high-speed internet service, according to city planners.

In order to correct the deficiency, councilmembers approved a new fiber license and right-of-way use agreement that can be used to grant

internet service providers access to the city right-of-way for the construction and maintenance of fiber optic networks.

Will Novak, government and community affairs manager for Google Fiber, provided details about the planned service during a council session.

"While we are still working out details, we are excited that we could be the first new ISP and fiber entrant into the City of Tempe."

Internet providers can now pay a yearly fee for each linear foot of right-of-way their facilities occupy, along with a yearly fee of 2% of their revenue for providing internet services, or negotiate

an agreement to provide in-kind materials or services to Tempe.

Applicants will apply for licenses with the city's Public Works Department, and the city engineering office will issue licenses to qualified applicants.

The license will also help ensure that Tempe's rights of way are disturbed less frequently for construction projects, officials said.

Tempe will offer the schedule for paving and road improvements to help ensure cost savings and less disruption to neighborhoods.

Information: [tempe.gov/TempeFiber](http://tempe.gov/TempeFiber)

# Chandler general plan gets new leadership, quality-of-life pledge



Snyder

Chandler City Manager Josh Wright has announced the hiring of Kevin Snyder as Chandler's new development services director. Snyder is slated to begin his new role in August.

According to Wright, Snyder will guide the city's upcoming general plan update and a variety of services aimed at benefiting

residents and the business community.

Snyder has more than 30 years of planning and development experience working with cities in Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington, as well as in the private sector. He also served as community development director for the city of Indio, Calif., overseeing building and safety, housing

and neighborhoods, permits and land use planning.

Snyder said the office will continue its work with West Chandler and other city residents and businesses to make development decisions that contribute to what he termed "community quality of life, prosperity and safety."

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Ryan Reeves, left, Chandler Airport manager and Scott Rinkenberger, airport operations manager, volunteering for annual For Our City Day project.

— City of Chandler photo

# Calling all neighborhood leaders:

## Chandler wants YOU!

By Barbi Walker-Walsh

Chandler is strengthening its bond with Westside and other city residents through a neighborhood registration program, an initiative designed to foster communication and collaboration between homeowner groups and city officials.

The program offers a range of benefits for registered neighborhoods, including financial aid for community projects like graffiti removal, educational resources such as neighborhood management and development workshops, and regular city service and event updates.

By promoting a stronger sense of community, providing access to valuable resources, and ensuring effective communication between neighborhood leaders and city officials, the program significantly enhances the quality of life in Chandler neighborhoods.

"Our objective is to identify other leaders in Chandler neighborhoods and encourage them to engage with their neighbors," said Priscilla Quintana, neighborhood preservation program manager for the city of Chandler.

She noted that the program focuses on building a sense of community by encouraging residents to meet their neighbors and work together to create a more robust,

vibrant neighborhood.

Through a neighborhood registry, the program establishes a direct link between neighborhoods and the city. This registry lets city staff stay informed about neighborhood issues and concerns, facilitating a more responsive and practical approach to addressing local needs.



Barbi

Registered neighborhoods gain access to \$75,000 in available funds for neighborhood gatherings, meetings and beautification projects. These benefits are not just perks but opportunities that can help neighborhoods thrive.

"Funding for the next fiscal quarter is just around the corner," said Chandler public information officer Stephanie Romero. She and Quintana encourage neighborhood leaders to take advantage of the opportunity and the available funding.

Romero points out that neighborhood leaders are crucial to the program's success. They are responsible for

— Continued on Page 7

disseminating information within their neighborhoods, working with neighbors to address concerns, and collaborating with city officials to resolve issues.

The program offers support and resources to help them fulfill their roles effectively, spurring grassroots community efforts and improving the quality of life in each neighborhood through resident involvement.

One such initiative is "Let's Pull Together," a volunteer program assisting senior residents, persons with disabilities, veterans and families experiencing hardships by maintaining their yards, carports and alleyways.

Volunteers can engage in helping with yardwork, painting homes or removing unwanted items.

The projects usually last one day but leave a lasting impact on both the residents and the community. Individuals, families and groups of any size are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Another significant event is "For Our City Day," mobilizing hundreds of neighborhood volunteers to revitalize an entire neighborhood in just one day. Activities like essential yard maintenance, painting, cleaning up alleys or spreading gravel are similar to the Let's Pull Together initiative, but the results are on a grand scale. They help revitalize and preserve Chandler neighborhoods while supporting community cohesion and collaboration.

Neighborhood leaders can also attend educational and informational presentations on community development

and well-being topics and receive regular updates on city events, programs and services, which help keep residents informed and engaged.

When neighborhood leaders register their neighborhood for the program, they support Chandler's senior residents in need through the city's Golden Neighbors program.

The program offers cost-of-living assistance, resources for extensive home repairs, everyday supplies and transportation help.

The service is designed to help senior residents financially and economically and allow them to connect with neighbors while building a social network.

According to studies, social isolation and loneliness are linked to severe health conditions, including nearly a 50 percent increased risk of dementia.

By participating in this program, residents can make a significant difference in the lives of their senior neighbors and foster a sense of compassion and care in the community. The city also provides essential items for Chandler seniors, such as toilet paper, hand sanitizer, socks, diapers and various cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

Seniors or those who know a senior in need are encouraged to schedule a pickup time by calling 480-782-4348.

Due to restrictions on the financial services program, this service is only available to Chandler residents.

The city has several engaging volunteer opportunities and encourages anyone interested in joining to help make a difference in the community. City officials said no experience is necessary to make a lasting impact.

Whether it's through the Golden Neighbors program, Let's Pull Together initiative, or For Our City Day event, there are numerous ways for residents to get involved and make a meaningful difference in their community.

For more information, visit the city of Chandler's Volunteer Opportunities page: [Volunteer Opportunities | City of Chandler](#).

Residents and neighborhood leaders interested in joining the neighborhood registration program can apply any time by visiting the Neighborhood Programs webpage, completing the registration form and submitting it online. Contact information and registration are located on the Neighborhood Programs webpage.

To find out if your neighborhood is registered, or to register, go to the Neighborhood Registration City of Chandler page on the city of Chandler's website.

Or contact Priscilla Quintana, neighborhood preservation program manager, at 480-782-4363 or [priscilla.quintana@chandleraz.gov](mailto:priscilla.quintana@chandleraz.gov)

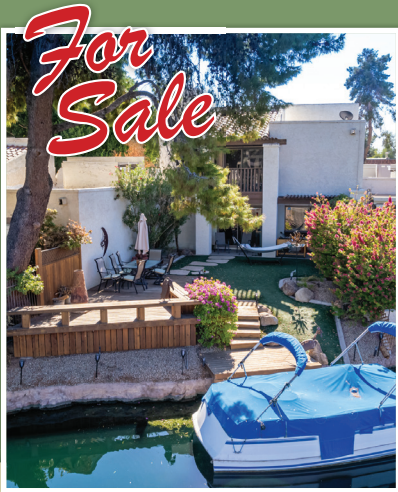
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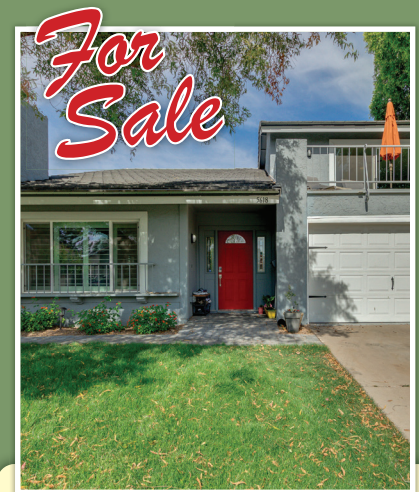
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# Flipping for an escape from the heat

Families and friends flock to Chandler's Nozomi Aquatic Center to seek relief from the sweltering summer heat. Lines of kids looking to impress with flips, swirls and a splash lined up at the diving boards, while smaller tikes waded through the shallow play zone filled with kidsize structures and spouting water. Others enjoyed the free swim area where they could lounge and cool off in summer's heat.

— A Wrangler News photo story by Andrew Lwowski







# SPORTS

## Trojans take a Swiss Army Knife approach for '24

Stories on this and facing page by Andrew Lwowski



Valley Christian football coach Jake Petersen witnessed something special in 2023. Having replaced 10 of 11 starters on offense and nine of 11 starters on defense, Petersen's Trojans marched to an unexpected 11-2 overall record with a semifinals appearance.

His team wasn't the most talented, but it had leaders, he said.

"Anyone that looked at our team from the year before, everybody thought we were going to be down, you know. They thought we were

going to be more like a 500 team," Petersen said.

"We ended up being better. We had a couple of guys that were leaders that stepped up to hold kids accountable to a standard that nobody wanted to let one another down.

"When you don't have coaches that are just holding kids to a standard—the players themselves are holding them to a standard—it makes a bigger difference than some of the skills and the X's."

Now, a year later with a handful of returners, Petersen is looking for his team to lean into that experience and improve on last year's success on the gridiron.

Part of that process is tapping into the strength of the offensive and defensive lines, with quarterback Gunnar Link, tight end Cole Bastian and receiver and middle linebacker Caleb Lewis having graduated.

Link threw for over 3,300 yards and 44 touchdowns last season. Bastian accounted for nearly 500 yards and eight total touchdowns, while Lewis registered 971 all-purpose yards with 11 total touchdowns and recorded a team-leading 10.4 tackles per game.

Quarterback, the natural leadership position on the team, is now void and a battle for true starter is underway.

With that, Petersen says that the team won't

be as quarterback-centered to mitigate stress.

To most, that can cause sleepless nights. For Petersen? That excites him.

"In a lot of aspects, your quarterback goes down and you're out of luck. Because of what we have up front, we're going to rotate four different guys, probably at running back throughout the season.

"So, I think we're pretty deep there. Our offensive line is actually pretty deep as well, but that's, I think, the thing we're most excited about. We don't have just one guy that, if that guy gets injured or if another team tries to take that away, we've got a lot of options.

"We're not a one trick pony where people can try and take one thing away, and then, you know, we're stuck. So, I think our ability to adapt to whoever we're playing is going to be the biggest benefit for us."

The Trojans are also returning roughly 26 juniors, says Petersen. Among that group is receiver Asher Hanzal, who logged 63 receptions for 901 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2023. Petersen had high praise for his wideout, who he believes will help the run game by drawing double coverage. With varsity experience and returning playmakers, Petersen is looking for another deep run in the 3A conference—one that may end with hardware and rings.

“We’re not a one trick pony where people can try and take one thing away, and then, you know, we’re stuck. So, I think our ability to adapt to whoever we’re playing is going to be the biggest benefit for us. — Coach Petersen

# Confidence key to Sentinels' success

The Seton Catholic Sentinels have yielded just six wins over the past three seasons. When you've been down for so long, half the battle is physical and the other half is in your head, says coach Pete Wahlheim.

However, Wahlheim believes his program will turn heads this season, and it's been a long time coming.

The 2024 roster is shaping up to have roughly 23 seniors, all of whom have been chiseled from the agony of defeat and are ready to make their mark.

"This is a group that we knew was going to be pretty darn good when they came in years ago," Wahlheim said. "[I] played a lot of them as freshmen and sophomores, so all the guys that contributed have been playing varsity now for three, going on through four years. So, it's time to start to win some games.

"They've got, you know, two or three years of getting pushed around under their belt and learning. So that should bear fruit."

Through the summer workouts, Wahlheim has seen strides in growth not only physically, but mentally. Part of that is thanks to his offensive assistant, Jared Zimmerman, who utilizes his advanced degrees in sports psychology to render support.

And from what Wahlheim has seen, confidence and swagger are creeping back into the once mighty Sentinel program. A strong summer training program, paired with outstanding spring ball and local



Seton Catholic coach Pete Wahlheim expects a playoff-caliber team in 2024.

tournaments, have offered an additional boost.

"Winning breeds winning, and so does losing. And it's hard to get those guys to understand how close they are to being really good...I think we're better all the way around."

Searching for answers, Wahlheim transitioned to the offensive side of the ball. He acknowledges that he may have "overcoached" the defense in years past, so by adjusting the scheme it allows his opportunistic defense the liberty to fly around and make plays. In return, he can focus on generating points.

"The goal this year is to be more balanced, and be able to control the game a little bit more that way," he added.

Wahlheim will have three-year starting

quarterback Chase Dickson and four-year starting tailback Ryan Creech, who he deems the "heart and soul" of the offense.

While looking for more production, he admitted it's tough to put his team in position for a long season when there are only 200 boys at the school.

Competition in practice and depth become a luxury.

Nonetheless, Wahlheim has a strong belief in his 2024 roster.

"I think this will be a playoff team all day long," he said. "I think if we keep our confidence up and we play well early, we have a chance to be really good...the sky's the limit for us.

"I think if we don't make the playoffs, we underachieved. But once we get there, you know, anything's possible."

# Corona, Marcos athletes top All-City picks



Corona and Marcos both had student athletes that were recognized by the Tempe All-City Association at the Spring Sports banquet in May.

Eight of the 13 Corona athletes honored were from girls teams, including **Abby**

**Ritchhart, Jami Sheehan, Miquela Tamaro** for softball, **Christina Cooper** and **Morgan Beatty** for track, and **Alia Shahana, Madison Wasson** and **Chloe Daniel** for tennis.

Corona's softball team made it all the way to the quarterfinals before losing to Hamilton and being eliminated from the 2024 AIA Softball 6A State Championship.

The three players chosen by the Tempe All-City committee were instrumental in helping their team, who entered the Conference Play In as the No. 20 seed and had finished fifth in their section with only a 2-8 record, to play six games in the state championship playoffs.

Ritchhart, a senior, was honored for her skills at the catcher position. She ended the season with a 0.951 fielding percentage playing in all 36 games putting out 142 runners and assisting on 14 more.

"Abby was recognized due to her ability to be a game changer both behind the plate and on offense," said head coach **Sean Thornton**. "She has a great arm and threw almost everyone out."

"In addition, defensively she called great games and is also known as a catcher not to try to run or steal base while she is behind the plate," said Thornton. "Abby's leadership skills were recognized by other coaches."

Ritchhart was also an excellent batter for the Aztecs. She led the team in home runs, runs batted in and slugging percentage.

## SPORTS NOTEBOOK with Alex Zener



Corona senior **Abby Ritchhart** was honored at the Tempe All-City Association Spring Sports banquet for her softball skills as a catcher. — Photo courtesy Stephanie Tamaro

Sheehan, a sophomore, was honored for the outfielder position where she put out 37 runners, assisted on four and engaged in three double plays.

"In the outfield, Jami has tremendous speed. She

can cover so much ground to track down a ball and then has a great arm with the ability to throw anyone out at any base," said Thornton. "When batting, Jami is a table setter at the plate who gets on base

frequently.”

Junior Tamaro was honored for the designated player position for her skills at bat. She had a 0.375 batting average with 36 hits, 26 RBI's and 17 runs.

“The category for designated player was added this year due to the fact it was hard to overlook how good Miquela was offensively for us,” said Thornton. “She was one of our strongest hitters and constantly came up with on big hit after another.”

Junior Morgan Beatty was honored for her skill in the triple jump. She set a personal record jump of 36 ft. on April 18 at the Tempe All-City Championship track meet to take first place. Beatty qualified for the triple jump at the AIA Division I Championships where she came in 20th.

Sophomore Christina Cooper participated in several track and field events last spring including running the 100 meters, 200 meters, 800 meters, 1600 meters, 100-meter hurdles and the 4x100 relay but was remarkable in the field events.

During the season Cooper competed in the shot put, javelin, high jump and long jump but her best event was in the pole vault for which she was recognized at the Spring Sports banquet.

Cooper vaulted in 10 track meets over the season and won first place seven times including a first-place jump of 11-ft-3-in at the Tempe All-City Championship.

She set a personal record vault of 11-ft-9-in to take third place at the AIA Division I Championships.

At the AIA State Championships, Cooper came in eighth with a pole vault of 11 ft.

Corona's girls tennis team, with the help of Shahana, Wasson and Daniel, made it to the semifinals of the team portion before losing to Desert Mountain, which went on to play Xavier Prep in the finals.

Only a freshman, Shahana, who qualified to play in the singles DI state championship, was recognized for her skills on the singles court.

Wasson, a senior, and Daniel, a junior, were recognized for their ability on the doubles court. They qualified to play in the D1 doubles state tournament.

Five athletes from Corona's boys team were

honored, including **Zuri Glen** and **Juleus Lewis** for track, **Aidan Yu** for tennis, and **Luke Vlcek** and **Joseph Azzlyn Potts** for volleyball.

Glenn competed in some track events, mostly running with the 4x100 relay teams, but his main concentration was on the two field events that he was recognized for at the All-City Spring Banquet: the long jump and the triple jump.

Glenn took first place in the long jump his senior year at five track meets, including the 84th Nike Chandler Rotary Invitational and the Tempe All-City Championship, where he matched his longest jumps of the season at 22-ft-11.

Glenn qualified to compete in the long jump event at the AIA State Championships by taking fifth place at the AIA Division I Championships.

Glenn was first, as well, at the Tempe All-City Championship in the triple jump event when he leaped 43-ft-4-in. He had his longest jump of 43-ft-5.75-in at the AIA Division I Championships where he finished in 10th place.

Yu, a junior, made it into the second round of the 2024 AIA Boys Tennis Division I Singles Championship and was recognized for his tennis skills on the singles court at the spring banquet.

Senior Vlcek received an award for his skills at the libero position where he played outstanding volleyball in both the digging and serving statistical categories.

Vlcek led the Aztecs in digs with 525 or 5.7 digs a set and in service aces with 31 or 0.3 service aces per set. He was tied in service aces with fellow senior **Jake Peshak** who was the setter on the team.

Potts, recognized for his skill as an outside hitter, led his team in his senior volleyball season with 273 kills or 3.1 kills per set.

Marcos had five athletes honored at the Spring banquet, including seniors **JP McIntyre** and **Shane Ellett** from the boys teams and **Leila Rodriguez**, **Sophia Franco** and **Dakota Dunn** from the girls teams.

McIntyre was honored for his baseball infield skills but he often pitched and led his team in several offensive categories. He started as pitcher in seven games and made nine appearances where he struck

out 31 batters and had an ERA of 5.05.

At bat, he led the team with 17 RBI's, 19 hits and a 0.417 slugging percentage. He scored 17 runs, had one home run and one triple.

Ellett, who was honored for his skills as an outside hitter, led his Padres volleyball team with 152 kills or 2.5 kills per set hitting 0.334.

He was also second on the team with 15 total blocks and second on the team with 30 service aces.

The Padres softball team had one of its better seasons, starting off with seven wins before losing a game. They went on to win seven more to end the season with a 14-5 record, with the help of two sophomores and a junior.

Rodriguez, only a sophomore, was recognized for her skill as a pitcher by the Tempe All-City Association.

She had a significant impact on the success of her Padres softball team, but she was more than a pitcher. Rodriguez led her team in several offensive categories, as well.

Rodriguez started 14 games, pitching 84 innings. She was credited with winning nine of those games where she struck out 98 batters and only allowed 17 earned runs giving her an ERA of 1.42.

While at bat, Rodriguez led the team in hits, on-base percentage, home runs, doubles, triples and slugging percentage.

She ended the season with a 0.702 batting average.

Franco, a junior, was recognized for her infield play. She usually played catcher, but like Rodriguez, was good at batting, as well.

Franco was second on the team in on-base percentage, slugging percentage, doubles, triples with a batting average of 0.478.

Dunn, a sophomore, was also recognized for her infield play.

She usually played shortstop. Similar to Rodriguez and Franco, Dunn was also good on offense.

Dunn was right behind Franco in batting average at 0.473 plus in the categories of slugging percentage, double and triples.

# Homes for the homeless: A Tempe initiative proves its worth

Timing relates to ruling by Supreme Court that bans sleeping outdoors

Special report  
by Susie Steckner



Keith Holmes in his new job delivering trash and recycling cans to city neighborhoods.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: A June 28 Supreme Court ruling upholding an Oregon ban on sleeping outdoors could alter how cities in the West address homelessness. As a result, this piece by city of Tempe communications staff member is especially timely.*

It's 9 a.m. on Saturday and another typical day comes to life outside Tempe's shelter for people who are homeless. A train speeds past, a couple walks down the sidewalk, a car makes its way along a side street.

Inside Room 117, a new life is taking shape.

Keith Holmes is packed up and ready to move into his new, permanent home. He has a bike, three overstuffed bags, a few odds and ends – and a path forward.

The shelter offered a safe haven where Keith could make plans for the future, thanks to the Tempe Works program that connected him to a job and steady paycheck, by which city staff assisted him with his housing voucher to offset rent.

All of these city-developed support programs helped Keith move from homeless to housed. Keith is one of about 1,675 people the city of Tempe has assisted with a housing resolution in the past two years.

Helping those experiencing homelessness was residents' top priority in the 2023 Community Survey.

Tempe invested \$72 million last year on programs to assist unsheltered individuals and families, and to provide affordable housing options and other strategies to help keep people housed.

These investments touch lives every day.

A journey of just a few blocks changes Keith's world.

He slips his keys into the lock of his apartment and takes in his new home: a tidy one-bedroom, one-bath with a good-sized kitchen and back patio.

A smile stretches across his face.

"This is way better than what I had before. It's hard to believe I'm here," he says.



## Meeting community needs

Tempe's long-held goal is to make homelessness rare, brief and one time.

In the city's 2023 community survey, residents said addressing homelessness was a top priority. Through significant investments and innovations, the city is meeting wide-ranging needs and helping more people like Keith off the streets and into housing.

Keith lost his job as a bus driver and then his apartment.

He became homeless for several weeks. He connected with I-HELP, one of the city's nonprofit shelter partners operated by Tempe Community Action Agency, and later transitioned to the city's Sue's Espacio bridge shelter.

Tempe purchased the shelter, a 40-room motel, in 2021.

The investment in a bridge shelter means residents in Tempe can move off the streets and plan for housing more quickly.

Building on that success, the city is currently in the process of acquiring another motel that will open as a bridge shelter next year.

## Tempe Works jobs program

A key step in Keith's path forward was connecting with Tempe Works, the city's jobs program for people who are unsheltered.

Approved by the City Council in 2017, the program connects people with city jobs in areas like Solid Waste and Parks and also with private employment partners in Tempe.

Along the way, staff works with participants to locate shelter, housing and other resources that can help end their homelessness.

Through Tempe Works, Keith landed a job in the city's Solid Waste division. He works as a truck driver delivering new trash and recycling cans to residents across the city.

Every day, Keith hops on light rail at 5 a.m. and heads to the station closest to work.

Then he rides his bike the remaining five miles. At 2 p.m., his shift ends and he does the reverse to get home. He lost his car when he was on the streets and relies on light rail and his bike to get where he needs to go.

## From homeless to housed

Every person experiencing homelessness has a unique story. Keith is no different.

What is the same is the need for a comprehensive system of support to address all the complexities surrounding an unsheltered person or family.

This includes not only the city of Tempe but nonprofits, faith groups and community organizations.

That system changed Keith's life.

His new home is a half-mile down the road from the shelter and a world away from homelessness.

The large apartment community features a hotel-like lobby with free coffee, gathering spaces, a pool and other amenities.

A passionate cook, Keith was happy to see the stainless steel appliances in his new kitchen. He was thrilled to discover the in-unit washer and dryer, describing the half day it usually takes at the laundromat including the trip via light rail and bike.

The icing on top? Move-in happened just in time to celebrate his 53rd birthday at his own home.

Today, Keith's apartment is filled with the smells of his home-cooked soups and meals like roasted chicken and vegetables. And his future is filled with hope and a desire to help others.

"With my experiences with housing and the income from working for Tempe Solid Waste, I've been able to help others on their journey out of homelessness," Keith said.

"Purchasing bus passes occasionally, assisting with bicycle repairs, information I've gained to help guide others, such as what questions to ask and who to ask.

"Being able to share experiences and small resources is fulfilling."

## Give help

There are many ways that people and organizations can help assist those who are unsheltered by working through existing, safe opportunities.

Tempe's goal is to make homelessness a rare, brief and one-time occurrence.

- Consider volunteering with the city's HOPE homeless outreach team to help connect those in need to shelter and resources. Get details at [tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness](https://tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness).
- Volunteers are needed for the city's summer Point-in-Time homeless street count July 17, from 6 a.m.-noon. Data collected help guide city decision-making about programs and services. Open to those ages 18 and older.
- The city's CARE 7 crisis response team relies on volunteers for a range of assistance serving those in need. Get details at [tempe.gov/CARE7](https://tempe.gov/CARE7).
- Become an employment partner with the city's Tempe Works program to help unsheltered women and men connect to jobs. This life-changing program is a step toward helping people end their homelessness. Get information at [tempe.gov/TempeWorks](https://tempe.gov/TempeWorks).
- Tempe Community Action Agency operates the I-Help shelter and a food pantry. Learn how you can donate or volunteer at [tempeaction.org](https://tempeaction.org).
- Aris Foundation hosts a weekly permitted gathering at Mountain Park Health, which brings together food and resources. Get details at [arisfoundation.org](https://arisfoundation.org).

Learn more about Homeless Solutions at [tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness](https://tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness).



As Tempe Center for the Arts stretches its reach for performance creativity, here's a group that loses no chance to make the most of a full range of opportunities.

## Multi-year programming to highlight Arts Center seasons

The seemingly growing ranks of avid theatergoers in Tempe and West Chandler have plenty in store as Tempe Center for the Arts reveals its resident company partners for the 2024–27 seasons.

According to Kelly Taylor, who oversees marketing for the popular center, seven local performing arts and cultural organizations were chosen through a public submission and assessment process involving representatives from the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission and TCA.

Each was selected, Taylor reports, for its potential to contribute creative vibrancy, cultural literacy, inclusion and regional distinctiveness.

Through a tailored range of marketing, rental space and financial benefits, the performance companies are supported to advance their long term artistic and business goals through a multi-year commitment to presenting at TCA.

While TCA's Resident Company program has successfully operated for years, the refreshed 2024-27 format provided opportunities for new

organizations to apply, Taylor noted.

New local companies include Cultural Coalition, Tempe Community Chorus and Phoenix Children's Chorus. Returning companies include Arizona Wind Symphony, CONDER/dance, Stray Cat Theatre and Hayden's Ferry Chamber Music Series.

Each brings entertaining and impactful programs to TCA's existing lineup of seasonal performances by national touring artists as well as several local performing talents.

Upcoming events and performances will include what Taylor describes as diverse ancestral culture of Latine, Indigenous and Chicano peoples, chamber music, edgy indie theater, symphonic music and energizing dance as well as new choral opportunities for youth and adults.

"Resident companies serve as hubs for creative vitality and community involvement and play an essential role in sustaining a buzzing arts center where everyone can feel they belong," said Brendan Ross, deputy director of Tempe Arts and Culture.

"Over the next three years, it is estimated that these companies will collectively present 230 events, provide jobs for 375 artists, involve 1,650 community members as active arts participants, and entertain an audience of more than 55,000 people from all walks of life," he said.

Mayor Corey Woods added his own perspective to the upcoming season.

"Local arts organizations have been a valued part of TCA since it opened 17 years ago," said Woods.

"This refreshed resident program ensures that TCA continues to align with the current needs of the city's arts sector.

"I am proud to see such a diverse range of programming and initiatives that unite our community on so many levels."

A number of Tempe Center for the Arts Resident Company performances are free to the public, and no show is exactly the same. Information about the various programs is available at [TempeCenterForTheArts.com](http://TempeCenterForTheArts.com).

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Please contact **480-350-8234** or [characterareas@tempe.gov](mailto:characterareas@tempe.gov) to request additional information.

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En los últimos meses, han compartido sus comentarios y los hemos escuchado. ¡El borrador del plan del Área de Carácter del Suroeste de Tempe ya está listo para su revisión!

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Consulte el borrador del plan y envíe sus comentarios en línea hasta el **15 de julio** en [tempe.gov/CharacterAreas](https://tempe.gov/CharacterAreas). Esta es una de las últimas oportunidades de entrada disponibles para este proceso de planificación.

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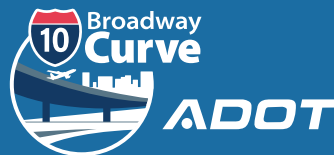


# Find your lane.

## How to Navigate the I-10 Collector-Distributor (CD) Roads

These new collector-distributor (CD) roads separate local traffic from through-traffic entering and exiting the freeway. They reduce the need to change lanes and keep traffic flowing. Look for the overhead signage to help guide you to the correct lane for your destination.

Find more detailed info at [i10broadwaycurve.com/findyourlane](http://i10broadwaycurve.com/findyourlane).



## W. Chandler, other city residents get new, lower tax rate

**G**ood news for West Chandler and other city residents: The City Council has lowered the city's primary property tax rate for the ninth consecutive year to help minimize the impact of increased property values.

The one cent rate reduction brings Chandler's combined property tax rate to \$1.0826 per \$100 of assessed property value for fiscal year 2024-2025, which began July 1.

The combined property tax rate consists of primary and secondary rates. The primary property tax rate of \$0.2126 per \$100 of assessed

value funds the general operations of the city.

The secondary property tax rate of \$0.87 per \$100 of assessed value funds debt service payments on outstanding general obligation bonds used to pay for capital improvement projects.

The city of Chandler rate represents roughly 11 percent of the total property taxes paid by residents.

Public schools and community college districts account for roughly 70 percent of a typical property tax bill in Chandler, while Maricopa County and special taxing districts make up the remaining 19 percent.

For more information about Chandler's budget and property tax, visit [chandleraz.gov/budget](http://chandleraz.gov/budget) or call the budget office at 480-782-2254.

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*Correction:* The name of Thew Elementary School Principal Nate Maruca was inadvertently misspelled in our June 15-July 5 edition. Additionally, his time with the Tempe Elementary district is 21 years, not eight years as stated. We apologize for the error.

# Introducing the city's archived records search portal

Chandler has just launched its new archived records search portal. If you're trying to find a city ordinance, resolution, election record, or agendas and meetings from City Council and boards/commissions — it's now easier to find. Start your online search at [chandleraz.gov/ArchivedRecords](http://chandleraz.gov/ArchivedRecords).



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### Tempe Chamber hosts 2023 Sun Devil Football Kickoff Luncheon at Sun Devil Stadium

Celebrating its 23rd year, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and ASU Alumni are proud to partner with the entire ASU Sun Devil Football organization to help celebrate the start of the 2023 season with the Sun Devil Football kickoff luncheon, presented by San Tan Ford! The event will be Friday, August 25th and will be held at the San Tan Ford Club inside Sun Devil Stadium!

With views of the field and "A" mountain, this venue will make you feel like you are part of the game! Highlights include emcee Tim Healey giving his insights into the upcoming year, an interview with starting players, and Coach Kenny Dillingham. You'll also hear from the leadership of the ASU Alumni Association and ASU Athletics.

This event is open to the public. Registration is now open at [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org)

Please contact [david@tempechamber.org](mailto:david@tempechamber.org) for sponsorship



**Friday, August 23**  
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## DIVERSIONS FILM FARE

# Viewpoints merge in Nichols' 'The Bikeriders'

By M.V. Moorhead

There are many variations within the genre, but overall, biker movies tend to fall into two broad categories. There are those, exemplified by *The Wild One* (1953), in which the bike gang is seen from the point of view of mainstream society, and those, like *The Wild Angels* (1966) or *Easy Rider* (1969), where mainstream society is seen from the point of view of the bikers.

The new “wheeler” *The Bikeriders* manages to have it both ways. Adapted by writer-director Jeff Nichols from the 1967 book by photojournalist Danny Lyon, the film traces the growth of a fictitious Chicago area club, The Vandals, based on The Outlaws, with whom Lyon embedded off and on throughout the ‘60s.



Moorhead

It’s very much an insider’s view, focusing less on riding action than on the tempestuous relationship between Johnny (Tom Hardy), the club’s founder, and Benny (Austin Butler), his beautiful, stoic, monosyllabic right-hand man. *The Vandals* begins as a racing and social club—Johnny, a truck-driving family man, is initially inspired by seeing *The Wild One* on TV—but criminality and ugly violence gradually

creep in.

Wisely, however, Nichols makes a mainstream viewpoint central to the film as well.

The story is narrated to Kathy (Jodie Comer), a respectable young working-class woman who stumbles into a biker bar one night to meet her girlfriend, and is unimpressed, not to mention understandably scared, by what she sees.

She’s unimpressed, that is, until she gets a look at the angelic Benny at the pool table, and can’t keep an infatuated smile off her face.

Despite Benny’s anomie and recklessness, before long he and Kathy are a couple, and she’s in competition with Johnny for Benny’s devotion.



The beguiling Jodie Comer’s Kathy is the live wire in *The Bikeriders*. A Brit of course, Comer lays on a Chicago accent as thick as a deep dish pizza as Kathy tells us, in hilariously bemused terms, about both the follies of bike gang life and her own folly in loving the seemingly emotionless, self-destructive Benny.

Her sensible, self-deprecating take is pre-emptive to how many of us in the audience may feel, and keeps *The Bikeriders* from skidding into cornball melodrama.

None of this is to say that the movie’s other elements aren’t top-notch.

It’s full of fine performances: Hardy, sporting a sort of buzzy, mild-mannered Brando voice, has a quietly tragic appeal as Johnny.

By the nature of his character, Butler is asked to play Benny very close to the vest, but he brings a star presence to the part. Damon Harriman, Boyd Holbrook, Emory Cohen and others are strong in supporting parts, and Norman Reedus drops in as “Funny Sonny,” an unnerving representative of a California club.

As the frazzled Zipco, who wanted to serve in the Army, Michael Shannon makes his big monologue a knockout.

*The Bikeriders* is also one of the best-looking movies of the year, stunningly shot in Grant Wood-esque midwestern tones by Adam Stone.

Like the biker pictures from the period it depicts, it seems to be made up of images of real people, objects and places, lovingly captured but rock-solid. In our computer-generated era, this is refreshing; for all its brutality, this movie takes the world in a love embrace.

*The Bikeriders* is rated R and plays at Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide.

*M.V. Moorhead has been a Wrangler News contributor for more than 10 years. He previously was the film critic for Phoenix New Times and has written for numerous other publications around the country.*



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## Draw-a-Thon: A door opener for the exercise of kid creativity

Tempe Center for the Arts' recent Draw-a-Thon opened a doorway to creative thinking and passion for its guests. Stations were set up for kids to enjoy coloring, live-model sketching with an artist from XICO, collaborative teamwork and more.



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**VOTE IN-PERSON OR  
DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT**  
ON  
**July 30**

Voting questions? Go to [www.BeBallotReady.vote](http://www.BeBallotReady.vote)

***CicelyforChandler.com***

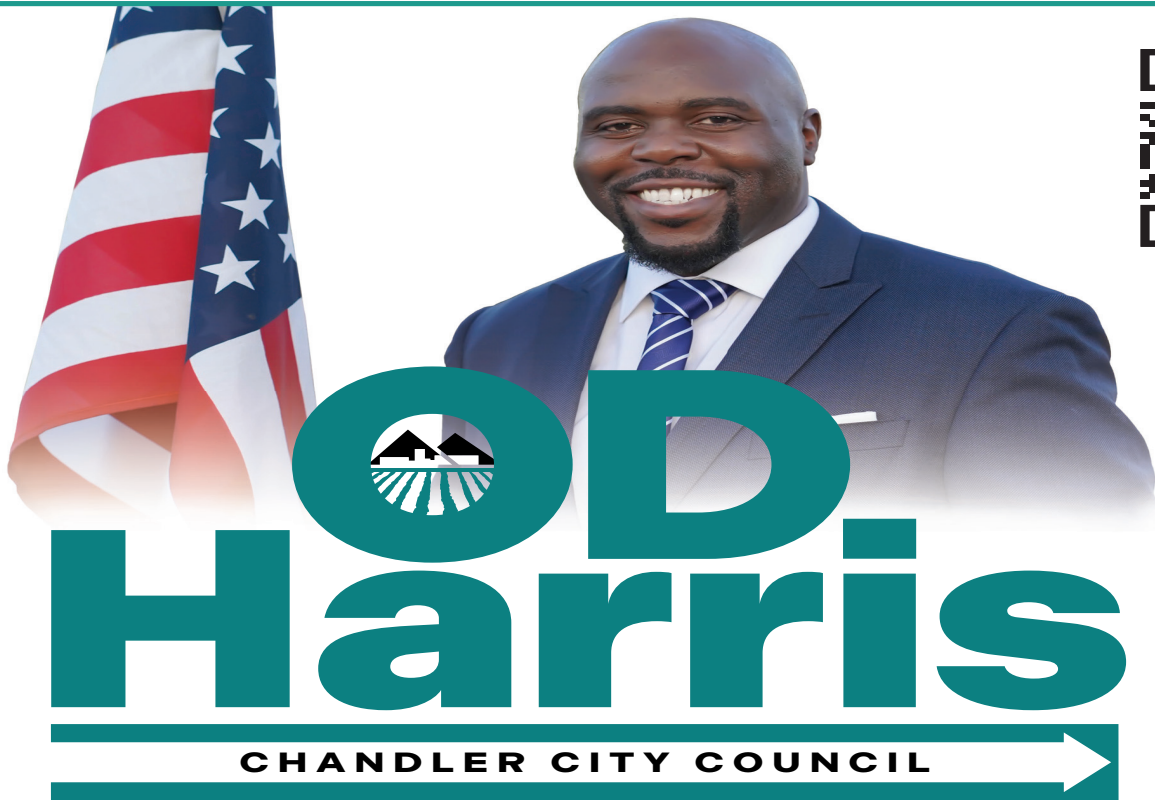
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BY**

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**Re-elect Vice Mayor**

[www.ODHarrisForAZ.com](http://www.ODHarrisForAZ.com)

**OD Harris is:**



US Army Veteran



Small Business Owner



Founder of a Chandler Based Nonprofit



Community Advocate

**OD Values:**

- Faith
- Family
- Community
- Entrepreneurship

**Vote OD Harris for  
Chandler City Council on July 30, 2024**



# COMMENTS

By Joel Navarro



**Dear Tempe Community** — As I step down from my role on the Tempe City Council after 16 years of dedicated service, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the honor of serving this incredible community. Reflecting on my time in office, I am filled with pride for what we have accomplished together.

#### Achievements and Milestones

During my tenure, we have seen significant improvements in our city:

- **Public Safety:** Enhanced our police and fire departments, ensuring a safer Tempe for all residents.
- **Neighborhood Improvements:** We initiated programs to strengthen community ties and improve local amenities.
- **Parks and Recreation:** We expanded and upgraded our parks, providing more green spaces and recreational opportunities for families.
- **Housing Initiatives:** We worked tirelessly to address housing affordability and increase access to quality housing.
- **Education Initiatives:** We remained staunch advocates to fully fund high-quality Tempe PRE-K.
- **Wastewater Testing:** We supported nationally-recognized wastewater testing program to track and monitor opioid use in the community.

#### Community Collaboration

None of these achievements would have been possible without the collaborative efforts of my fellow council members, city staff, and, most importantly, you—the residents of Tempe. Your feedback, participation in city events, and unwavering support have been the driving force behind our progress.

#### Thank You

Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me over the past 16 years. Serving you has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I look forward to continuing to serve and support Tempe in new ways in the future.

Warmest regards, Joel Navarro.

*Joel Navarro is a member of the Tempe City Council.*

**The Nick Bastian Team**  
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## Community Spotlight: Buena Vista Ranchos



With so many amazing communities in the Kyrene Corridor, we provide details and insider information about many of them on our website.

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[NickBastian.com/Buena-Vista-Ranchos](http://NickBastian.com/Buena-Vista-Ranchos)

If you or anyone you know is thinking of buying or selling a home in the area, check out our website and give us call. We are happy to help!



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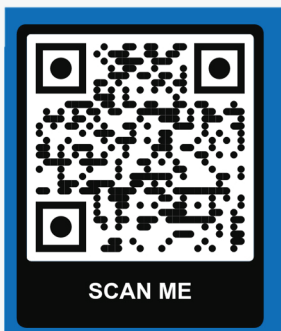


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