# WRANGLER

Sept. 7-20, 2024

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Smiles all around at Tempe's Lost Our Home pet rescue after it received funding from a \$1 million grant to help provide better lives for senior dogs. More on Pages 10-11.

Wrangler News photo by Kathryn Baldanza

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## PAGE 3



#### HELLO, NEIGHBOR

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Cole, Will and Luke Bastian, sons of South Tempe's Nick and Lori Bastian, pay their respects at a previous Healing Field observance

Photo courtesy Bastian famil

## Once again, memories — and some renewed optimism Shared views of the tragedy of 9/11

Wrangler News asked community leaders from Tempe and West Chandler for their reflections regarding the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that took the lives of 2,996, and what message they have for their fellow Americans.

Jennifer Adams — "This somber occasion is an opportunity to ensure we never forget the nearly 3,000 Americans who perished and how this horrible event forever joined our nation in solidarity. My college roommate, Julie Geis, was one of the bright lights who was extinguished that day. Every year, I look for her commemorative flag at Tempe's Healing Field event

and feel connected to her again.

Everyone is invited to Tempe Beach Park to pay respects and remember those unforgettable feelings of tragedy and unity." — Jennifer Adams is a Tempe city councilmember

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Christine Ellis — I am certain that you will never forget where you were on this terrible day, now known as the 9/11 terror attacks on the United States. As for me, I was in Queens, New York, getting ready for my flight back to Arizona. One thing I vividly recall, is the unity that sprang from this disaster. To my fellow Americans, never forget that moment where we were all Americans, helping each other through this time of need. United we will always stand stronger. — Christine Ellis is a Chandler city councilmember

Nick Bastian — I'd like to invite the members of our community to join myself and the rest of the Exchange Club of Tempe at the Healing Field where members of our community join us in placing flags in the ground to help remember each life lost that day. The Healing Field will stand at Tempe Beach Park from 9/10 – 9/12. Information and volunteer opportunities can be found at TempeHealingField.org. We will never forget. — Nick Bastian is chairman of the Healing Field committee and Tempe Realtor

Doug Royse — In one week, we will remember our fellow Americans who were killed on September 11th, 2001, in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon or the field in Pennsylvania. Their lives mattered. Together, let's pay our respects at the Tempe Healing Field on this 20th anniversary. — Doug Royse is a Tempe businessman

Michael Pollack — Dates that live in our minds are often a reflection of the significance that they hold for us, whether it's a wedding, birth of a child, or painful loss of a loved one. The anniversary of September 11, 2001 is a time for remembrance and reflection, honoring the heroes, victims, and loved ones.

I think it's important to honor the memories of all of those who lost their lives by also remembering the resilience and strength of communities that came together to grieve, to work, to offer support and condolences side by side, putting all differences between them out of their minds.

To honor this day let's reflect on what was accomplished when cities, communities, and neighborhoods worked as one to bring our country back together after the heartbreak that will forever live in our hearts and minds.

We must remain diligent in our efforts to protect the greatest country in the world "The United States of America". — Michael Pollack is a real estate and shopping center developer Bill Meiter — America, since its inception, has stood a beacon of freedom and liberty to the entire world. Regardless of attacks foreign or domestic, America continues to stand tall as the freest, most prosperous, and most generous nation to ever exist. The terrorists on 9/11 tried to bring America to its knees, when all they truly did was galvanize a nation together. May 9/11 be a reminder, that freedom isn't free...liberty must be cherished...and blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Psalm 33:12). — Bill Meiter, Lead Pastor, Arizona Community Church

Donna Killoughey — Although it is somber, my children and I are peaceful and filled with joy at the years we had with my husband Gary and the manner in which we have survived and bonded as the successor family. My two children will be with me on the day of the observance this year. — Donna Killoughey's husband Gary perished at the World Trade Center

Andrew Bird — All these years after the day so many of us remember as so devastating and terrifying to the U.S.—and more importantly, to us and our loved ones—of course we haven't forgotten, given we were around to experience it as it unfolded. It would be downright unjust to forget at all. It is likely that most of us remember that day as saddening, fearful, angering, or worrisome. And yet there is so much more to glean from that fateful collective experience that many of us, still yet to this day, fail to recognize: how incredibly blessed we are to have experienced that together.

We sometimes fail to recognize that, through the terrible lens of the events themselves and perhaps those we choose to blame, we as a nation were given an opportunity to respond with grace, humility, and fellowship, ultimately placing us all in a position to heal, to learn, and to grow collectively as a nation. Painful experiences such as September 11th prove to be, more often than not, the firm foundation upon which we become stronger, bolder, and wiser, as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

Having lost my father in these attacks, I feel deeply linked with this collective pain, and a duty to do whatever I can to help our nation heal. Now, as a man who has taken full advantage of the opportunity granted to him to heal from this traumatizing experience, I challenge anyone reading this to adopt this perspective of that fateful day. I challenge you to do whatever is necessary to extract the beautiful, the graceful, the benevolently meaningful, from that day. And I challenge you to deeply reflect on how that elusive perspective can most certainly be applied in our society and in our individual lives today — to see the parallels as far as collective pain and struggle, economic

and political divisiveness, societal and international crises, as well as the countless other points of contention that plague our country today. Ask yourself: has this divisiveness benefitted us at all in the past, in the context of September 11th? In what world can those divides between us benefit us as a nation with what we struggle with today? How can I, as a citizen and steward of this country, ensure that our nation—myself, my loved ones, and my fellows—can learn how to experience the world through this perspective of grace, humility, and fellowship, and again be a living example of collective healing and cooperation?

I believe I speak for many of us today when I say that we feel lost, confused, and a bit fearful of what the future holds. Yet I still deeply believe in the power that we as a nation exhibited on September 11, 2001. I deeply believe that, with that power on our side, we can transform these feelings of confusion and fear into deeply meaningful and mutually beneficial action towards creating the ideal America once more. We can use the pain and struggle that we all felt on that day — and more importantly, what we learned and how strong we became— to overcome the divisive issues which plague our nation, and become yet much stronger and united.

Andrew Bird's father Gary Bird perished in the
 9/11 attack at the World Trade Center



### Waymo adds airport stops

Waymo One riders in Tempe and West Chandler now have 24/7 access to curbside pickups and dropoffs at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport terminals 3 and 4.

This is the culmination of Waymo's work with Sky Harbor officials and the city of Phoenix to expand service offerings at the airport.

Waymo now surpass 100,000 total trips to and from the airport since the company began offering service to Sky Harbor in Dec 2022.

Waymo began offering riders curbside terminal access overnight (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.) last December, before beginning a phased rollout of 24/7 access in June.

Waymo is currently serving thousands of airport trips per week and says it has seen steady trip growth since it began offering direct terminal access late last year.

Additionally, officials say
Waymo One riders can now access
an additional 90 square miles of
Metro Phoenix, making the largest
autonomous ride-hail territory in the
United States even larger.

Riders benefit from access to 315 square miles of the Valley, with the expanded service area stretching further into north Phoenix, as far as Desert Ridge.

Looking further northeast, tourists and golf-lovers alike will now be able to take a Waymo to and from more of Scottsdale's resorts, opening up desert attractions and golf courses like TPC Scottsdale.

The service also expands east to more of downtown Mesa and destinations like Mesa Arts Center and Pioneer Park.

#### Multicultural festival nearing



Chandler is seeking participants for its 30th annual Multicultural Festival. Applications are being accepted for food and beverage trucks or booths, merchandise vendors, informational booths and cultural performers for the cross-cultural stage.

Applications are available online at chandleraz.gov/VendorApplication.

The first review of applications will be on Sept. 30, with priority given to cultural vendors and performers.

The annual event will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park: Stage Plaza, 178 E. Commonwealth Ave., in downtown Chandler.

Now in its 30th year, the event is designed to celebrate the cultural diversity of Chandler's community through live music, dance, art, storytelling, cuisine and more.

Attendees will find live performances on two stages, a lowrider car show and an international shopping market featuring unique items from around the world.

For more information about the Multicultural Festival, visit chandleraz. gov/MulticulturalFestival. Interested exhibitors may contact Dara Gibson with the city's DEI Division at 480-782-2221 or dara.gibson@chandleraz. gov for more information or questions





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## Our future as a publisher; your future as our loyal reader

## Farewell to a favorite, hello & welcome to a newcomer

#### By Don Kirkland

past 20 or so years have you driven past our offices on Warner Road opposite what used to be GoDaddy's sprawling campus, just west of the Price/101 freeway? A lot, I'm guessing.

For us, pulling into the parking spot under our big Wrangler News sign is a nearly everyday occurrence. Not only is it where we crank out stories and photos for our readers' enjoyment but a place we love and plan to occupy for many more years to come. In other words, nothing much to report on the news front.

One change that we have experienced recently, however, involves our veteran writer/photographer Andrew Lwowski, who is moving into an exciting new job in Washington state. Although we'll miss him, we're delighted that he's taken a significant step toward advancing his abundant skills even further.

To fill the spot vacated by Andrew, we've recruited Kathryn Baldanza, a longtime South Tempe resident, Marcos de Niza graduate and neighborhood advocate.

Not only does Katie's addition to our staff help to sustain the relationships we've built over the years but gives us a timely opportunity to review where we've been since the late 1980s when the idea for a truly neighborhood-friendly newspaper was born.



As some no doubt recall, we called it Warner Wrangler in those days — Warner because we delivered it to driveways on both sides of the major thoroughfare through the area,

Wrangler because of the proximity to some of the original horse properties in Buena Vista Ranchos and other upscale communities nearby.

Now, we're using our "Welcome Katie" days as a convenient time to think about where we'd like to see Wrangler News go in the next few years. And, at the same time, strategize ways to get there. Let's begin by making it clear that, just as we don't plan to be moving our offices any time soon, we're going to continue producing the kind of bi-weekly publication that we think sets us apart from others. One that seeks out stories about interesting people in the close-knit neighborhoods of South Tempe and West Chandler. One that focuses on upbeat stories that help to reinforce the sense of community which we believe sets this area uniquely apart from others.

Already Katie has designed a questionnaire aimed at involving you, our readers, in continuing to find and develop the kind of content you want to see.

She's helped us delve into a whole new world of digital coverage, which we'll tell you more about in the very near future.

So while we know that change can be a positive force for the future—as we know it will be for Andrew—you can count on us being the same "Warner Wrangler" that we've been for three-plus decades.

And that assurance is just one small indicator of the sense of neighborhood that we believe is part of the glue that holds this community together.

Don Kirkland is the founder and publisher of Wrangler News.

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## Dental screenings coming to MCC

Tempe and West Chandler residents are among those eligible for complimentary oral health screenings being offered by dental hygiene students at Mesa Community College.

Screenings are scheduled Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

Appointments are available at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and can be scheduled by calling 480-248-8195. Time slots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligible candidates for the screenings are those who have one or more of the following listed conditions below.

- Five or more years since last dental cleaning
- Diagnosed as needing deeper gum cleaning and have not started treatment
- Gums that bleed while brushing, eating or talking
  - Gums that are tender and sore to the touch

The screenings are not comprehensive exams, and treatment will not be provided. Patients qualifying for therapeutic, deeper cleanings to treat advanced periodontal/gum disease infection will be treated during multiple evening visits scheduled after the event.

Current MCC students and employees may receive services at a discounted rate, with a high-end estimate of \$360.

"Sometimes even individuals with dental insurance could experience an out-of-pocket expense ranging from \$600 to \$800," said Dawn Brause, MCC allied health cinical coordinator.

Screening participants must agree to have a full set of x-rays taken. Patients may obtain a copy of their x-rays for \$20. Screening includes, but is not limited to:

- Thorough health history exam
- Blood pressure and glucose screenings
- Head/neck and oral soft/hard tissue evaluations



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# Screenings save lives.

**September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.** Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, after skin cancer. Be sure to visit your primary care physician regularly and schedule your annual screening. Screenings are the easiest way to catch and treat prostate cancer as early as possible.

Scan to schedule your annual screening or visit dignityhealthazcancer.org.





## Cover Story

# Lost Our Home finds generous boost for its aging pups

Tempe rescue group shares \$1 million from a U.S. charity

#### Staff special report

Wrangler News photos by Kathryn Baldanza

There's good news for old dogs this summer as The Grey Muzzle Organization announces the recipients of its annual grants. Dogs at Tempe's Lost Our Home Pet Rescue are among the beneficiaries.

Lost Our Home is one of 100 animal welfare groups chosen from nearly 400 applicants to receive a grant to help local senior dogs and the people who love them.

The winning groups are sharing more than \$1 million in grants to help save and improve the lives of at-risk old dogs in their communities.

"This grant will help us give senior dogs like 7.5-year-old Tootsie the veterinary and dental care she needs so she'll be ready to go to her forever home," said Jodi Polanski, executive director of Lost Our Home.

"No one is more grateful or loving than an older dog, and we're looking forward to helping more senior dogs get the second chance they all deserve."

Over the past 16 years, national nonprofit Grey Muzzle has provided more than \$5.7 million in grants to support its vision of "a world where every senior dog thrives, and no old dog dies alone and afraid."

"Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we're delighted to help deserving organizations like Lost Our Home Pet Rescue make a positive difference in the lives of dogs and people in their communities," Grey Muzzle's executive director Lisa Lunghofer said.

"Many senior dogs in South Tempe and West Chandler are enjoying their golden years in loving homes, thanks to the lifesaving work of Lost our Home.

#### Six years, 37,000 new homes

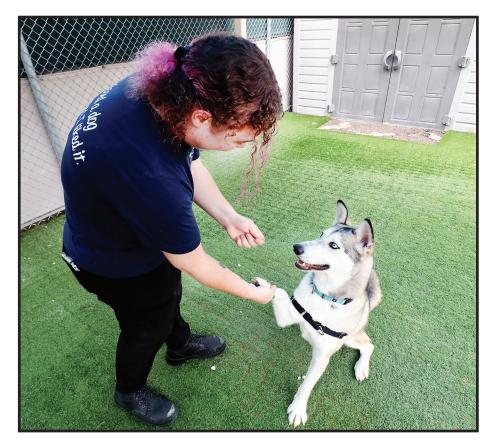
Lost Our Home was founded in 2008 in response to the thousands of pets in need due to the economic downturn in general, and the foreclosure crisis, in particular.

Its mission is to provide compassionate services to pets and pet parents in crisis. As the first shelter in Arizona dedicated to rescuing pets abandoned or at risk of homelessness due to pet parents' life crises: eviction, domestic violence, job loss, illness, and more, it is dedicated to bridging the care gap between people who find themselves in crisis and the pets who often have no place to go during these challenging circumstances.

Programs are geared towards: Rescue and intake of abandoned and homeless pets; a pet food bank to provide a safety net for pet parents who temporarily cannot afford to feed their pets; a 90 day temporary pet care program for people in crisis; as well as a Tempe first responders program that provides 24/7 access to the shelter when a situation involves a pet that needs a safe place to go.

Lost Our Home has helped over 37,000 pets in a time of crisis, adopted more than 11,000 pets, provided over 135,000 nights of safe shelter to pets whose owners were in crisis, and provided over 1 million nutritional meals to hungry pets through their Pet-Food Bank Program. Lost Our Home Pet Rescue specializes in helping domestic violence victims with their pets. They have valued partnerships with several domestic violence shelters to serve victims and their pets.

To learn more about Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, visit LostOurHome.org, or call (602) 445-7387 (PETS).





Senior dogs at Lost Our Home pet rescue will get an array of added services as a result of Grey Muzzle's contribution.





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## COMMENTARY

## Departure of a favorite & a new beginning

By Andrew Lwowski



vividly remember my first assignment, an ice bath challenge to combat veteran suicide.

I recall wearing a button-down shirt that my mom recommended, my Wrangler News credential and walking up with my camera in

hand. I was shy and nervous.

I stood around, behind the scenes — likely looking out of place — for a while before searching inside the veteran post for the lady I was supposed to meet.

I conducted my handful of interviews and took plenty of photos, praying I had what our publisher, Don Kirkland, was looking for. It took me a few hours to finish business and return home, and promptly began writing.

That was in 2021. One of those photos made the cover and now, three years later, it's a bit odd when my photos aren't on the cover anymore.

As you may have read in our previous issue, I'll be moving on to cover sports in Washington state. It's a big step for me, moving to a place I've never been to and meeting a whole new community; but it'll also be a big step for Wrangler News.

Wrangler News was my first journalism experience outside of courses at ASU. If it weren't for my mother who harped on me to reach out for any type of experience, who knows where I'd be.

I began as a freelance writer, authoring a story per issue with photos to go along with it. From the moment I got there, Don was welcoming and encouraging. After all, my first assignment made the front cover. As time went on, I settled in and gradually increased my workload.

I slowly took on more responsibility with Wrangler. After a year or so, I worked my way from freelance writer to content coordinator — a title I never truly understood, but it opened the door for more stories and photos.

Another year went by, more faces came and went as I stayed alongside Don. I took charge of sports coverage and stepped up as chief photographer. There are very few, if any, papers that will offer that package of writing while providing your own photography, something I never took for granted.

Another year went by before Wrangler went yet through another makeover. I stepped into the associate publisher chair and picked up the advertising, accounting, photo editing and layout on top of my previous duties as a writer and photographer. It wasn't easy, being a one-man show, but something I learned to take pride in and love.

Over the last year, something clicked for me. I couldn't tell you what it was or when it was. Maybe it was the workload; maybe it was becoming the face of Wrangler News at high school games, city events and community gatherings, but it overpowered me.

There was a great sense of pride and joy knowing it's my job to work with all of you in the community I grew up in and have shared for the last 25 years. My passion for covering high school athletics and to provide coverage and a voice to athletes who cherish the opportunity to see their face and names in a paper made it a pleasure to work with everyone I've met.

So, as I turn the page and write my next chapter of my life and career, thank you to all the people I've worked with in the small Wrangler office; to all the athletes who allowed me to share their stories; to the coaches for working patiently with me—through the wins and losses; the parents and teachers; to our advertisers who I've worked with; and most importantly, Don.

If it weren't for you, Don, for allowing me to stick around and giving me the freedom of creating my own stories, unique angles and creative ideas, I wouldn't be ready for my next adventure.

I hope that I've left Wrangler News better than I found it and I hope that you all continue to support and read in my absence.



MCC students from the Kyrene Corridor are among the beneficiaries of a grant to promote learning in the construction trades.

## Construction trades aspirants benefit from \$1 million gift to MCC

#### By Barbi Walker-Walsh

Tempe and West Chandler residents who aspire to build careers in the thriving construction industry have a new reason to celebrate.

A \$1 million Lowe's Foundation grant to the Maricopa County Community College District will enhance construction trades programs at Mesa, South Mountain and Rio Salado community colleges, both of which are conveniently accessible to Kyrene Corrifdor residents.

With nearly 19 percent of MCCCD's students from Tempe and Chandler, the investment boosts both cities' and the state's future.

Tempe, already experiencing rapid growth, is projected to see its population surge by 38 percent by 2060, fueling a 31 percent increase in employment, according to the Maricopa Association of Governments.

Chandler is also witnessing a construction boom, with major projects like the Go AZ Ave industrial development and the sprawling Schrader Farms Business Park underway. Thus, MCC and its related colleges, with enhanced construction trade programs, seem to be at the forefront of shaping the area's tomorrow.

"The sky's the limit here," Tempe Mayor Corey Woods said in a recent article by Working Nation, which focused on Tempe's growth driving the opportunity for skilled trades and education.

He also noted that the grant's addition aligns perfectly with the city's vision of fostering a robust and trained workforce to support its development.

Maricopa County is short 195,000 skilled trades workers, according to David A. Cain, Ph.D., program director of construction management/ trades and architecture at MCC. Underscoring this urgency, he said that for every

five people retiring, only two are taking their place, opening up approximately 10 million skilled labor jobs nationwide.

The grant, crucial in this context, will enable MCC to expand its facilities, purchase state-of-theart equipment, and hire additional staff, ensuring its students receive the highest caliber training.

Cain said the funds have enabled MCC to include a construction laydown yard similar to those found on most large building project sites in Maricopa County.

"The site provides students opportunities to learn how to navigate the weather conditions they will experience working in the construction industry in Arizona," he said. The funds will also bolster South Mountain Community College's Construction Trades Institute, which offers fast-track certificates in carpentry and electrical systems.

At Tempe-based Rio Salado College, Ken Wilk, Faculty Chair for Applied Technology, said the grant will support its unique Incarcerated Re-Entry Program. The program provides OSHA training and certifications to help individuals transition into successful careers upon release from prison, such as Don, who took advantage of Rio Salado College's program while incarcerated.

He graduated with two degrees in 2017 and has embarked on a new life. Between 2011 and 2017, Don completed several work-based education programs, including electrical, carpentry and automotive. "While I was away, I began looking to try and find ways for those years not to be a total loss," Don said.

"When I saw the opportunity to take classes and learn new skills, I jumped on it knowing I would have to reinvent myself upon release." Don rounded out his education by finishing the general studies and elective credits required to complete associate degrees in arts and workforce re-entry.

"The education I received was immensely helpful," he said. "I started out doing punch list work in the construction industry where I used the skills I learned in carpentry and electrical."

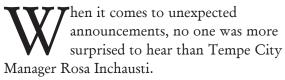
Cain and other officials say the investment's impact extends beyond individual students to the entire community. A well-trained construction workforce ensures high-quality, efficient project completion, attracting further investment and development. It also translates into good-paying jobs. According to the Construction Labor Market Analyzer, Arizona's median annual pay for electricians and plumbers exceeds the state average.





# From diversity to disease detection: Rosa Inchausti's leadership earns her a coveted ATHENA nod

#### By Barbi Walker-Walsh



Inchausti has been selected as a finalist for the prestigious 2024 ATHENA Award, recognizing what selection committee members recognized as "her exceptional leadership, mentorship and community contributions."

Said Inchausti:

"I wasn't even expecting the call, so I was shocked, humbled and very much appreciative."

ATHENA awards, presented by the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, highlight women's significant contributions in the Valley.

They honor those who have achieved notable success in their fields and who serve as role models for others.

This year marks the 37th anniversary of the awards, with winners to be announced at a ceremony on Oct. 24.

A longtime public-agency innovator, Inchausti has been making waves in Tempe for over three decades.

She's racked up an impressive list of "firsts," including Tempe's first female city manager and bilingual marriage and family therapist.

As the city's first diversity director, she authored Tempe's related guidelines and collaborated with the City Council to pass the state's first-ever city-chartered anti-discrimination ordinance. As the first strategic management director, she implemented a system linking the city's budget directly to critical goals.

Her leadership as deputy city manager was also

pivotal in reducing opiate use in Tempe.

However, one of her most impactful contributions was pioneering wastewater science to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inchausti spearheaded Tempe's collaboration with Arizona State University professor Rolf Halden to identify COVID-19 hotspots through wastewater analysis, a method that has since become an international model for detecting infectious diseases.

"(It is) probably one of the highlights of my career here," Inchausti said. "It was such a scary time for all of us, but working with the CDC was a game changer."

The partnership allowed Tempe to pinpoint geographic hotspots, providing critical early warnings.

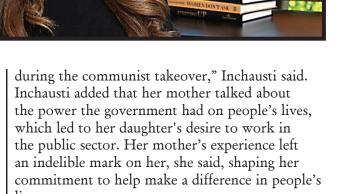
"I vividly remember being in Arkansas with my sister, visiting family, when Dr. Amy from the CDC called. She wanted to talk about adopting our technology. The CDC had been looking into sewer surveillance and saw Tempe as a potential test site."

Inchausti's efforts brought national attention to Tempe and secured a \$1 million grant from the CDC to develop the project further.

"This project allowed the CDC to fund Tempe and mentor other cities nationwide on the partnership with ASU, tool development, and collaboration with the city's water department," she said, which highlights her forward-thinking leadership.

The values and resilience she learned from her mother are at the heart of her commitment to public service.

"One of the strongest women in my life was my mother. She was an immigrant who left Cuba



Growing up in a household of Cuban exiles who sought freedom from oppression, Inchausti's first language was Spanish. English was seldom spoken, even after the family relocated from Miami to Los Angeles during her childhood.

She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola Marymount University and a master's in counseling education from Northern Arizona University.

Inchausti began her career with Tempe as a bilingual marriage therapist in the Social Services Office before transitioning to a role focused on diversity.

Knowing where you come from and maintaining that while moving forward are vital elements in Ichausti's leadership style.

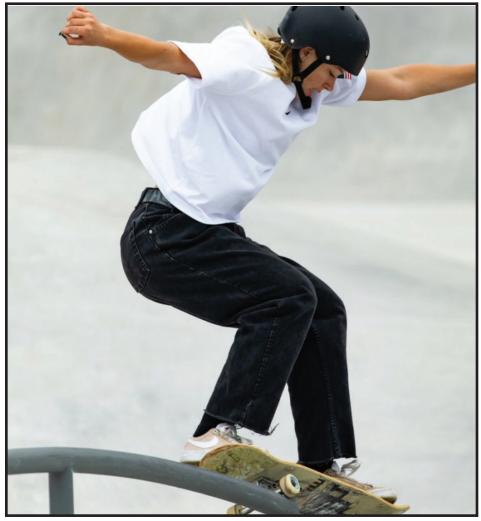
Reflecting on her career, Inchausti emphasizes preserving Tempe's essence while planning for its future.

"I'm lucky to have been a resident for 30 years and raise my own kids here," she said.

"My kids tease me that I always say the brand for Tempe should be 'big city amenities, smalltown feel.'

"As the city continues to grow, we need to stay agile and flexible, yet always return to the soul and DNA of Tempe, ensuring it remains accessible and connected to its residents."





## Paige Heyn: Tempe skateboarding Olympic sensation

By Barbi Walker-Walsh

ad, I'm gonna be a pro skateboarder when I grow up, a young Paige Heyn confidently declared to her father at just five or six years old.

Today, the Tempe native is living out that dream, emerging as a formidable presence in the world of street skateboarding.

Paige has risen through the ranks with a powerful and technical style while overcoming challenges. Her relentless determination and undeniable talent have quickly established her as one of the sport's exciting rising stars.

The path to the Olympics is demanding and Requires immense sacrifices—something Paige, now 16, understands all too well. "They stack up," said her father, Brendon Heyn, acknowledging the many personal costs his

daughter has endured as she works to become a skateboarding champion. Among these sacrifices is the loss of a typical teenage social life.

Due to her rigorous training and travel schedule, Paige doesn't have many local friends, but she's forged deep connections with peers from around the world.

Skateboarding also provided Paige with a much-needed escape during a challenging period. When her parents divorced five years ago, it was difficult for her, but focusing on skateboarding helped her navigate those challenge."

It gave her a place to be free of the stresses," her dad said. Paige's skateboarding path began when she was just four years old, thanks to a homemade board from her uncle.

By age eight, she was training at Kids That Rip (KTR), an indoor action sports center owned by the family of Olympic gold medalist Jagger Eaton.

Although she started skateboarding later

than many, Paige's talent, mindset, and rapid progression quickly set her apart. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, she was not only one of the youngest members of Team USA but also one of only three 16-year-olds on the team. Paige's impressive performance earned her a sixth-place finish with 163.23 points in the women's skateboard street final, solidifying her status as a rising star in the sport.

But it's time to get back to the grind. Paige has her sights on the next Olympics in Los Angeles. After training and making it to the Paris Olympics, she knows the hard work that goes into it.

Paige's story is one of resilience, dedication, and exceptional talent.

As she continues to rise in the world of skateboarding, she remains a shining example of what can be achieved with passion and perseverance.



## Flags unfurled: Lady Aztecs on the chase for change

**By Austin Hepola**Photos by Kathryn Baldanza

The objective of flag football is universal: chase down the opposing players' flags to prevent them from scoring.

Women's flag football teams across the Valley, such as at Corona del Sol High School, are not only chasing for flags—they're also on the chase for change.

In 2023, the Arizona Interscholastic Association announced that girls flag football was coming to the desert. With the inaugural season in the rearview, the Aztecs now have their sights set on an exciting 2024 season as they look to launch the sport to new heights.

"The treadmill is moving at a fast pace, and everybody has to really just pick it up," said

Corona's girls flag football coach Lacette Tirado-Holt, who will enter her first year as head coach for the Aztecs.

"We have a lot of girls coming out that are multi-sport athletes and sometimes, if they want to think about continuing to play after high school, they have to really pick what that sport is going to be.

"And if it's flag football, we need a lot more colleges buying in."

Tirado-Holt envisions a path for young women to continue playing the game they love. The sport is rapidly growing nationwide as well, as the International Olympic Committee approved the inclusion of flag football for the

2028 Olympic games in Los Angeles. "We have to pick up and everybody's got to keep moving, because it's growing, and we need to be able to offer all of that so that our girls can continue to play at a high level and beyond high school," she said.

In years past, there weren't as many opportunities for young women to participate in any form of football. Aztec linebacker and team captain Miquela Tammaro realizes what this can mean for future generations of girls looking to score touchdowns.

"It will be great for opening up opportunities for girls in the future," Tammaro said. "As a kid, I loved watching football and going to all the ASU football games, but I could never play."

Tammaro exudes enthusiasm for the way the sport has caught on, adding that she is excited to see more women engaging in it. In her eyes, it offers a lot more than just X's and O's.

"Flag football is a sport that anyone can learn, and it's great for increasing physical fitness and social skills in today's youth," she added.

The Aztecs' inaugural season was a tale of two stories as the program went 5-8 in 2023. They were off to a hot start, winning four of their first five games but then losing seven of the last eight games to end the year.

If all works out as expected, 2024 will serve as a new chapter for Corona's flag football program. Instead of lingering on last year's result, the team plans on channeling its momentum into motivation heading into the second season.

"We are working harder and have more dedication to this sport," said quarterback and team captain Alana James, who is eager to lead her teammates to an improved season.

"We have more girls that have joined the team, and people can expect that we are all in this year."

With a season under their belt, it's time for the Aztecs to flex their prowess on the gridiron.

The Aztecs will open their 2024 season on the road against the West Point Dragons on Sept. 17.







Second-year head coach Kenny Dillingham was joined by ASU booster contributor Charles "Nap" Lawrence.

## S. Tempe notables join in hype for ASU startup

Story & photos by Hannah Garcia

s the Arizona State football team prepares to hit the ground running in the fall, the team hosted a kickoff luncheon to get fans excited for a new start. After going 3-9 in Head Coach Kenny Dillingham's first season, the team is looking to turn the page.

One fan who looks forward to the upcoming season is South Tempe resident Nap Lawrence. Lawrence has a long history with the university. After growing up in Eloy, he attended ASU and graduated with a marketing degree in 1962. His son, wife and daughter graduated from ASU. Lawrence has long been an ASU sports supporter,

holding ASU basketball and football season tickets, but his connection to the football program has recently become more personal.

Lawrence's grandson, Carston Kieffer, a Corona del Sol class of 2023 graduate, is now a second-year member of the football team.

Kieffer was recruited by Interim Head Coach Shaun Aguano as a preferred walk-on during his senior year. He had traveled all over the country looking for schools to recruit him, but ASU was close to home.

For Kieffer, going to ASU was special, not only because the team gave him his first offer, but

he had grown up a Sun Devil fan.

Kieffer redshirted his freshman year, and is currently competing for the starting kicking job. Although he was still seeking a scholarship, Kieffer notes that all players are held to the same standard of excellence.

Both Kieffer and Lawrence felt that as long as he continued to work hard, he would be guaranteed the starting position.

Kieffer acknowledges that there is an underdog mentality going into the 2024 season. The team is currently picked to finish second-to-last in their new conference, the Big 12. Coach Dillingham



Quarterback Trenton Bourgeut (left), lineman Ben Coleman, linebacker Keyshawn Elliot and Tim Healy spoke at ASU's Luncheon.

reminds the Sun Devils that every day, Kieffer says.

Dillingham is well aware of Arizona State being an underdog. After former head coach Herm Edwards was fired three games into the 2022 season, Dillingham faced a fanbase that was demoralized and disappointed. Nap Lawrence, however, was just the opposite.

When Dillingham was announced as head coach in 2022, Lawrence felt the need to step up, and donated \$1 million towards the team's NIL funds. Lawrence had initially been an NIL opponent, feeling that it would be the end of college sports as it's become known. Rich schools would be put way ahead, and ASU would be left behind. However, he quickly came to realize that NIL was the best thing that could happen to the sport, Lawrence says. With Lawrence's donation and other donations by Sun Devil fans and alumni, Dillingham is now able to recruit better players for the program. Players are able to put themselves ahead and make money while still being full-time athletes. Lawrence and Kieffer both anticipated a much improved team.

Lawrence and Kieffer were not the only Sun Devil well-knowns emphasized at the luncheon. Newly minted ASU Athletic Director Graham Rossini spoke about his Sun Devil roots. Rossini had been born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, but decided to move to the Southwest to attend ASU. He was a member of the club baseball team, but quickly realized that would not be his career path. Rossini credited the university for connecting him to his wife, and for giving him a passion for sports business. He emphasized the university's focus of continuing the tradition of bringing back alumni, as nine of the 26 head coaches for the university were Arizona State alumni.

Rossini spoke about his vision to recruit local athletes, and to have those athletes to continue to come back after graduating to help grow the program and foster the Sun Devil community.

At my luncheon table, I got to converse with Tight Ends' Coach Jason Mohns. Mohns was born and raised in Arizona, as both of his parents had been Sun Devil graduates. Mohns himself graduated from ASU in 2004. Coaching had never been in his career path, until he was offered an opportunity to coach for youth sports in Scottsdale. He first coached girls basketball, then flag football. From there, he was asked by Saguaro High School to be their Freshman Football coach. Mohns felt ill-prepared for the position, but took the job anyway. After three years, he was asked to become the offensive coordinator for the Sabercats, and the following year he became the head coach. Mohns valued his time mentoring youth in his hometown, and continued that work when he was hired at ASU in 2022.

Echoing that message, Coach Dillingham came on stage to discuss the season ahead. Dillingham began by acknowledging the growing support he had witnessed for the program ever since being named head coach. He became emotional, as his players say he's famous for, describing how much it meant to him to come home to Arizona and coach at his alma mater. Dillingham discussed how just because schools like Wyoming and Mississippi State were unranked, did not mean that the non-conference schedule would be easy. Just last season, Wyoming had beaten a ranked Texas Tech Team and was tied with eventual CFP team Texas for three quarters of their matchup. Dillingham did not underestimate his opponents, and looked forward to showing the world what his team could do.

The team lost key position players such as quarterback Jaden Rashada and wide receiver Elijah Badger to the transfer portal in the offseason, but this didn't put a stop to Dillingham's offense. Michigan State transfer Sam Leavitt was brought in as a part of a transfer class rated 30th in the nation, and recently named the starting quarterback. The Sun Devils also boast a 2024 recruiting class that is number 43 in the nation, which included four local Arizona players. Dillingham hopes that his Activate the Valley message still runs strong amongst the fan base, and would help continue to build Sun Devil legacies among players and students for years to come. Sun Devil fans saw the 2024 team in action as they face off against Wyoming in their season opener on August 31 at Mountain America Stadium.

## SPORTS NOTEBOOK



Corona's girls golf team, led by Angela Yu's one-under par 35 score, won their first match by 44 strokes. Team, from left, includes Ellie D'Aquila, Angela Yu, Layla Davila, Sadie Peterson, Natalia Hoffman. Photo courtesy Albert Ettinger

## Open-enrollment poses issues for students seeking sports



By Alex Zener

Corona's girls golf team returned five golfers from last year's team but it's the younger players, especially two freshmen, who are having an impact on the team's success.

"This year's team is all about our youth movement," said

head coach **Albert Ettinger**. "We have four freshmen, five sophomores and one returning senior."

The returning players are senior Layla Davila and sophomores Sadie Peterson, Natalia Hoffman, Katie Eberle and Gabby Passante.

"Layla, our only senior, playing in her third year on varsity, is providing our team with experience and leadership skills," said Ettinger.

"Sadie and Natalia gained a lot of experience last season, both participaing in the state championship tournament last season as freshmen," said Ettinger.

In addition to the five returning golfers, the team added five new faces to the mix of players, all vying for a spot in the top five to play in each competitive match.

"We are very excited to have an infusion of young, talented golfers join the team," said Ettinger, "including sophomore Mackenzie Flynn and four freshman, Angela Yu, Ellie D'Aguila, Marissa Picarello and Hannah Hammer."

Last month, Corona played a match against Chandler and Sunnyslope, winning its first event of the season with a team score of 163. The next best was 44 strokes higher with Sunnyslope coming in with 207.

"Freshman Angela Yu is playing with the

confidence of a veteran golfer, claiming the No 1 seed on our team," said Ettinger.

"Angela's one-under par, 35, in her first high school match, helped lead the rest of the team of Layla Davila, Sadie Peterson, Natalia Hoffman, and Ellie D'Aquila to put together our best team score in the last few seasons," said Ettinger.

Assistant coach Dave Leonard should also be given credit for his dedication to helping the players improve their game and for the passion he brings to the course every day, according to Ettinger.

Corona was scheduled to play a match against Hamilton and Basha on Sept. 4 before participating in the Prescott Invitational at Antelope Hills golf course on Sept. 7.

#### Net update

Corona's girls volleyball team missed out playing in the finals after defeating all but two teams they faced in the House of Payne Girls Volleyball Tournament hosted by Chandler High School Aug. 30-31.

The two teams the Aztecs lost to, Sunnyslope and Sandra Day O'Connor, were those who played in the finals, with last season's 6A champion, Sandra Day O'Connor, losing to the Vikings in three sets.

The Aztecs, led by senior outside hitter Alyssa Aguayo and several juniors including setter Avery Lim, middle blocker Hayden Conner, outside hitter Taryn Vesely, middle blocker Kennedy Allen and sophomore libero Erin Clark, defeated five 6A teams at the House of Payne Tournament.

On Aug. 30, Corona defeated Chander, Mesa and Mesa Mountain View. They lost to Sandra Day O'Connor in three sets, winning the first 25-12 before the Eagles rallied to win the second set, 19-25, forcing a third tiebreaker set which went down to the wire with the Eagles pulling ahead to win 14-16.

The Aztecs rebounded to defeat Hamilton in two sets, 25-23, 25-23, and Highland in two sets, 25-18, 25-20, before playing their last match against

Sunnyslope.

Corona lost the first set, 22-25, to the Vikings before pulling out a win in the second set, 25-22 and forcing a tiebreaker to 15 third set which they lost 7-15.

Up next, the Aztecs were scheduled to play two home games. First, Perry, who has been notoriously competitive the last few years, on Sept. 4, and then Higley on Sept. 5.

The very next day Corona is scheduled to play in the Tournament of Champions, Sept 6-7, hosted by Westwood.

#### **Pearsall shooting**

In case you missed it, Corona alumni and former standout football player now an NFL rookie for the San Francisco 49ers, **Ricky Pearsall**, was shot in the chest after an attempted robbery by a 17-year-old in San Francisco on Aug. 31.

It is believed that he was targeted because he was wearing an expensive watch while walking down the street a block away from San Francisco's Union Square.

Pearsall was walking alone carrying shopping bags to his car shortly after 3:30 p.m. when the suspect tried to rob him. There was a physical altercation where both Pearsall and the suspect were shot by the suspect's gun, according to a news briefing by San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott.

The bullet entered Pearsall's chest and exited his back without hitting any vital organs according to his mother, Erin Pearsall, on a Facebook post.

He was able to leave the hospital on Sunday, less than 24 hours later and is expected to have a full recovery.

The suspect is in police custody awaiting the investigation.

Pearsall was the leading receiver on the Aztecs' football team his junior year, 2017, catching 74 passes for 1,153 yards or an average of 115.3 yards per game

scoring 13 touchdowns.

He set the Arizona High School 6A receiving yard record as a junior with 342 receiving yards in a single game against Gilbert High School.

His senior year, 2018, he was once again the leading receiver with 10 touchdowns on a team that only won one game that season.

Even with the Aztecs' lackluster season, Pearsall obviously impressed the Arizona State coaching staff because he received a full-scholarship in 2019 where he played until 2021, the year he received PAC-12 All-Conference Honorable Mention.

As a true freshman at ASU, Pearsall was recognized as versatile with the ability to play various positions leading to him playing on special teams as well as a wide receiver a wide receiver who 18.3 yards per game.

ASU only played four games in 2020 in which Pearsall, as a wide receiver, caught six passes for 86 yards and a touchdown. He may be most remembered from his time at ASU for his 51-yard touchdown pass against UCLA.

Pearsall, who qualified for an extra year due to the pandemic, entered the portal and transferred to the University of Florida where he started in 22 games as the Gators wide receiver during the 2022 and 2023 season.

His senior year he led the team in receptions (65), receiving yards (965) and receiving yards per game (80.4).

Pearsall earned his bachelor's degree in education sciences (Fall 2023) before he was drafted in the first round in April as the No. 31 overall pick in the 2024 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers.

It was believed that the 49ers were hoping that Pearsall could play his rookie season as a back up to starters Brandon Aiyuk, a former teammate of Pearsall at ASU, and Deebo Samuel.

Pearsall had just recently returned to practice with the 49ers after being hampered by hamstring and shoulder injuries.



## **DIVERSIONS**



### Memories of an 'awesome' talk with Gena Rowlands



Moorhead

By MV Moorhead

In 2000, I got to briefly interview Gena Rowlands ahead of her appearance at a showing of *A Woman Under the Influence* in Scottsdale.

At the beginning of this chat, I indulged in a rather shamelessly unprofessional bit of gush:

"You know, I talk to famous people all the time, so I don't get starstruck much anymore," I told her.

"But talking to you is an exception." Rowlands acted very girlishly flattered. Maybe she

#### **FILM FARE**

really was, or maybe she was just acting. Either way, it was an honor to be on the receiving end of it.

The word awesome gets thrown around a lot, but Gena Rowlands, who departed us on August 14 at the age of 94, truly was awesome.

She did a lot of routine roles in polished, above-average dramas that seemed like they were just to pay the bills, and she was good even in that stuff, like *Hope Floats, The Mighty, Something to Talk About* or

the kid movie *Paulie*. She even won an Emmy for playing the title role in the 1987 TV movie *The Betty Ford Story*.

But when she worked with John Cassavetes—in A Woman Under the Influence, in Minnie and Moskowitz, in Gloria, in the underrated Tempest (directed by Paul Mazursky, but opposite a brilliant Cassavetes as her leading man) or in the grueling Opening Night—she was luminous. Potent as they are at their best, the films that Cassavetes directed can also be overwrought and exhausting, but her classic performances make them indispensably worth it.

Just a day or two before Rowlands passed on, however, I got a taste of her from earlier in her career.

I happened to see her, very young, in an episode of *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour* called "Ride the Nightmare," opposite Hugh O'Brian.

One of O'Brian's criminal cronies, who he betrayed years earlier, has come seeking revenge, and is holding him at gunpoint. But when the crook gets a load of Rowlands, as O'Brian's wife, he can't help but remark "You did alright for yourself; she's a winner."

Indeed she is. Rest in peace and joy goddess.

#### 'Alien: Romulus'

In the space shocker *Alien: Romulus*, a band of young scavengers bust into a huge derelict spaceship in orbit around the cheerless, sunlight-free mining planet on which they live. They're hoping to filch equipment that will allow them to escape their indenture, and they repeatedly express confidence that they'll be in and out in half an hour, and nothing can go wrong.

So in they go, get the stuff they need, and sail off to a new world where they live happily ever after. The end.

Just kidding. The result, in this seventh entry in the *Alien* series, is of course another gory encounter with an infestation of the elegantly spindly, terrifying creatures in all of their various stages of development, from "facehugger" to "chestburster" to full-grown fang-bearer.

Though it's not close to the 1979 original, *Romulus* is on the more watchable end of the franchise, deliberate and creepy for the first half, and non-stop in the second. It's a little unvaried and dark, however, and until the climactic scenes it doesn't really give us much that's new. Toward the end, the shots of the ice ring around the planet that the ship is approaching have a certain magical beauty, but otherwise we're mostly stuck in the chiaroscuro space dungeon.

The star is Cailee Spaeny, who played the fresh-faced young journalist in *Civil War* earlier this year. She's sympathetic, but the movie is stolen by David Jonnson as her companion Andy, a sweet, dad-joke-dispensing android who gets a reboot that gives him an upsetting personality change.

Andy may be the best robot with divided loyalties since Robby in *Forbidden Planet*.

In *Sing Sing*, a troupe of actors, all incarcerated, work to put up a show in the notorious maximum security state prison in New York. They're members of the institution's Rehabilitation Through the Arts program (RTA). At the center of the company is John "Divine G" Whitfield (Colman Domingo).

In prison for a crime he did not commit, Divine G not only throws his soul into his theatre work, playing Shakespearean leads like he should be onstage in Central Park, he also assists his fellow inmates with appeals and preparation for parole hearings.

His anger at the injustice of his circumstances is unmistakable, yet it's less scary than the intensity with which he works to control and channel it; he knows too well that giving vent to rage would be futile and harmful to his cause. Besides, he's a true believer. His positivity is an act of faith, sometimes a Herculean one.

Like its hero, the movie, directed by Greg Kwedar from a script he wrote with Clint Bentley, is taut and melodrama-free. Perhaps because so many of the actors were actually incarcerated people--many of them RTA veterans playing themselves--Sing Sing has almost a documentary feel at times. Yet it also has, with almost no violence or other prison-movie cliches, the charge of high drama. Clarence "Divine Eye" Maclin and Sean San José are particularly memorable among the other company members. A word should also be said for Paul Raci, who plays Brent Buell, the diplomatic, unflappable director and playwright.

But the core of the film is Colman Domingo. Rarely does an actor give us so much heart to invest in with so little hamming or telegraphing. It's a classic performance, both for its emotional impact and for its discipline.

Alien: Romulus and Sing Sing are both rated R. Alien: Romulus plays at Tempe Marketplace, Arizona Mills, Chandler Fashion 20 and other multiplexes Valleywide. Sing Sing plays at Harkins Camelview in Fashion Square.



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## Tempe Prep students earn Congress' highest honor

Recent graduates of Tempe Preparatory Academy received Congress' highest honor for youth, the U.S. Congressional Award Gold Medal, presented by Congressman Greg Stanton. With over 400 hours of voluntary public service and having met goals in physical fitness, personal development and expedition/explorations, the medalists include Catherine Ross and Borislava Panayotova, both studying on full scholarships

at Princeton University; Theresa O'Connor, studying at University of Notre Dame; and Tamsin Hurlbut, about to begin studies at Stanford University. Recipients with 100 hours of voluntary public service include Niamh Waddell, now on appointment with a full scholarship at the U.S. Naval Academy; seniors Ellie Han, Brian Mause, Minh Thu Nguyen and Joseph O'Connor; and freshman Nicandra Acosta. Receiving the Congressional Award Silver Medal with 200 hours of volunteer service was sophomore Ray Acosta. The students have volunteered with a variety of Tempe non-profit

organizations, such as the Aris Foundation, Women4Women Tempe, Tempe Public Library, Saving One Life Pet Rescue, HonorHealth, Paz de Cristo and peer tutoring at their schools. Stanton noted that the recipients "have strengthened our community through countless hours of public service and personal development." He also noted that their commitment has helped to "nurture tomorrow's leaders and the country's future."

— Photo and details courtesy Tempe Preparatory Academy and Karin Moffitt



# Tempe Arts +Culture Connections



## Register for Fall Art Classes at Edna Arts!

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tempe.gov/EdnaArts





#### Kandace Springs

7:30 p.m.
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TempeCenterfortheArts.com

### **Closing Art Reception**

6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27 Connections Café at Tempe Public Library

"Outside In: From Studio to the Neighborhood" presents the art of Rachel Slick and Timothy Schirack who have designed unique art pieces for Tempe neighborhoods: Alameda Meadows, McClintock & Santo Tomas.

tempe.gov/PublicArt



## La Voz de la Experiencia / The Voice of Experience

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17 Tempe History Museum

Hear shared personal experiences related to César Chavez's Farm Labor Movement as panelists share historical notes believed to be significant and connected to the Valley and Arizona.

tempe.gov/MuseumEvents



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#### Explore the Future of Sustainability at the Tempe Chamber Sustainability Summit presented by SRP

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to attend the 2024 Sustainability Summit, presented by SRP, on Friday, September 27th at the PERA Club. This event will include key experts who will offer business solutions and programs to help your organization save money and resources through sustainable practices.

Panel discussions will include a discussion on Energy Generation with SRP & APS, moderated by the City of Tempe's Director of Transportation and Sustainability Director, Eric Iwersen.

Additionally, a panel discussion on innovations in various industries will include notable Tempe brands like Four Peaks Brewing Company.

This event is open to the public with registration being available at www.tempechamber.org

Please contact karin@tempechamber.org for sponsorship opportunities.



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## COMMENTARY

# Celebrate our republic on Constitution Day

By Mark Stewart



handler will celebrate Constitution Day on Sept. 17, a moment dedicated to commemorating the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787. This free event at 8:30 a.m. in the Chandler City Hall courtyard will feature a proclamation, speakers from the community and Constitution-themed activities and refreshments. Visit chandleraz.gov/constitutionday for details.

While it might not carry the fanfare of the Fourth of July, Constitution Day offers a unique opportunity for Americans to reflect on the document that forms the bedrock of our Constitutional Republic. It is the living framework that defines our government, safeguards our liberties and upholds the rule of law. It is the reason we can speak our minds, worship freely and expect a fair trial.

The Constitution is a product of its time and a timeless document, crafted by visionaries who, despite their imperfections, understood the need for a government that could adapt and endure through the ages. It has guided us through crises and triumphs, and it will continue to do so if we hold true to its principles.

It's important to consider the context in which the Constitution was written. The framers, fresh after the Revolutionary War, were determined to create a government that would avoid the pitfalls of absolute power. They debated fiercely, compromised and ultimately produced a document that balanced the need for a strong central government with the protection of individual rights.

Their work was not perfect; the original Constitution did not include provisions for many people, including women, Native Americans and enslaved people. However, they wisely included mechanisms for change, recognizing that the Constitution would need to evolve as the nation grew and matured.

This adaptability is the Constitution's greatest strength. Through the amendment process, we have expanded voting rights, abolished slavery and guaranteed equal protection under the law. It is a living document that requires our active engagement and

vigilance. Each generation has a responsibility to interpret, defend, and, when necessary, amend it to meet the challenges of their time.

Yet, in recent years, we have seen increasing polarization and a worrying trend of viewing the Constitution through a partisan lens. Constitution Day should remind us that this document belongs to all of us—regardless of political affiliation. It is not a weapon to be wielded against our opponents, but a unifying force that ensures our nation remains a Republic of, by and for the people.

The Constitution is our collective heritage that embodies the enduring spirit of democracy. We celebrate the freedoms it guarantees, the framework it provides for resolving disputes peacefully and the vision it represents for a just and equitable society. I hope you'll join me in Chandler on Sept. 17 as we honor our Constitution.

Mark Stewart is a member of the Chandler City Council.

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#### Community Spotlight: Alta Mirada Townhomes





Alta Mirada is one of our favorite neighborhoods!
You will love the easy-care lots, amenities and welcoming community. Perfect for those wanting to downsize and stay in South Tempe.

Get more info and see homes currently for sale at:

NickBastian.com/Alta-Mirada

We provide details and insider information about many other amazing Kyrene Corridor communities on our website, too.

If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the area, give us call. We are happy to help!



Knowledgeable.
Trustworthy.
Professional.
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Work with a Top Producer
for Realty Executives
who is a community expert.
Nick has over 30 years of
experience helping buyers
and sellers in the area.



## YOU'LL



## LIVING IN THE LAKES!



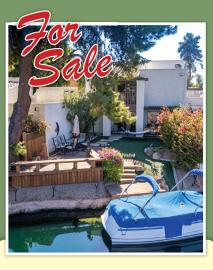
Wateerfront on the Island
1065 E Sandpiper Dr
4 Bed/2.5 Bath/2,520sqft



Resort Living on the Island
1064 E Sandpiper Dr • \$895,000
3 Bed + Den/3 Bath/2,871sqft



Waterfront Townhouse
1042 E Driftwood Dr • \$725,000
2 Bed + Den/2 Bath/1700sqft



Waterfrout Townhouse
1044 E Driftwood Dr • \$759,000
3 Bed/2 1/2 Bath/1,942sqft



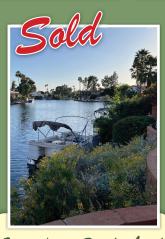
Single Level
Built in 1995
980 E Leeward Ln • \$610,000
3 Bed/2 Bath/2,088sqft



Single Level
on Morningstar Lane
918 E Morningstar Ln \$485,000
4 Bed/2 Bath/1,976sqft



Waterfront
In Harbour Village
5200 S Lakeshore Dr #223
2Bed/2 Bath/1,206sqft



Waterfront Single Level on The Island 1113 E Sandpiper Dr • \$792,000 3 Bed/2 Bath/2,366sqft



Waterfrout Condo in Runaway Point 1209 E Northshore Dr #242 • \$471,488 3 bed/2 bath/1,392 sq ft



THE LAKES AMENITIES - Swimming, Tennis, Pickleball, Racquetball, Fitness and More! HOA Dues Only \$122/month!

The Lakes #1 Realton! Thank you!

Dan Birk • The Lakes Specialist - Lakes Resident since 2007 Realty Executives / 602.369.1145 / dbirk@realtyexecutives.com



