April 28, 2025
Vol. 35, No. 793

WRANGLER NEWS
INDEPENDENT

‘Dry Surf: Local Skateboarding History’ opens May 10 in Tempe



High Roller skateboard park in Phoenix in the late 1970s. The exhibit “Dry Surf: Local Skateboarding History” opens May 10 at Tempe History Museum. See story inside. (Courtesy of Glen Buckles)

RENOVATE YOUR GATE

PAGE 7

ECRWSSEDDM
Postal Customer

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Phoenix, Arizona
Permit No. 1424

FREEWAY CHEVROLET

2025 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab

UP TO $12,500 OFF*

OR 2.9% APR* 72 MOS FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS

over 200 IN STOCK!

TRUCK MONTH

CHEVROLET | Together let's drive™



NEW 2024 TRAX!

LEASE $279/MO* 24 MOS FOR ELIGIBLE CURRENT LESSEES

TRADE OR SELL US YOUR VEHICLE – WE MAKE IT EASY!

I-10 & RAY ROAD FREEWAY CHEVROLET

1150 N. 54th St., Chandler
480-735-0399 • FreewayChevy.com

SCAN FOR SPECIAL OFFERS

*2025 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab: up to $12,250 Off select new, unused 2025 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab models from dealer inventory (excludes Trail Boss). Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery by 4/30/25. 2.9% APR financing for 72 months, monthly payment is $15.15 for every $1,000 you finance. Example down payment: 18.8%. Must finance with GM Financial. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. See dealer for details. Take new retail delivery by 4/30/25. 2025 Trax FWD LT: For Current Lessees of a 2020 model year or newer GM or Non-GM passenger car or truck at least 30 days prior to the lease of a new GM vehicle through GM Financial. Customer remains responsible for current lease payments. Each dealer sets own price. $279/month for 24 months. Your payments may vary. Payments are for a 2025 CHEVROLET Trax FWD LT with an MSRP of $23,355. Based on due at signing amount of $1,789 (after all offers). 24 monthly payments total $6,696. Must show proof of lease. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. Lessor must approve lease. Lessee pays for maintenance, repair, excess wear and disposition fee of $395 or less at end of lease. No security deposit required. Payments may be higher in some states. Not available with other offers. Take new retail delivery by 4/30/25.

New Dental Patients Welcome



We accept Most insurance & Medicare plans

NO INSURANCE?
FREE membership with our in-house discount plan. (Call for details)

Different Types of Implant Supported Denture





RIMA PETERS, DMD
- Adult & Kids' Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry, Crowns, Bridges, Implants, Veneers & Botox Treatment
- Adult & Kids' Orthodontics,Braces& Invisalign®
- Adult Oral Conscious Sedation
- Full Mouth Reconstruction
- Root Canal Treatment

JOHN A. CIANCIOLA, DDS, MSD
- Double Board Certified in Periodontology & Implantology
- Periodontal Treatment including gum & bone grafting
- Implant Placement

DR. MARK LAMBRON
- Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- IV Sedation







$49
new patient exam
includes comprehensive exam & full mouth digital images
WARNER VILLAGE COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 5/31/25

FREE
implant & denture consultation
WARNER VILLAGE COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or rior services. Expires 5/31/25

$1000 OFF
braces & clear aligners
WARNER VILLAGE COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Expires 5/31/25

$1650
(4) wisdom teeth for one low price
exam, x-rays, IV sedation & removal
discounted cash price
WARNER VILLAGE COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or rior services. Expires 5/31/25

Warner Village
Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
www.FamilyDentistryAZ.com

8675 S. Priest Dr. #101 • Tempe
Call 480-961-0600
Text 520-428-7167

Sedation dentistry

Scan To Request Appointment

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

COMMUNITY

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com

IN BRIEF



Tempe's CARE 7 Youth Specialists work with local students to promote school safety. (Courtesy City of Tempe)

PROGRAMS

Tempe promotes school safety through art, kindness, education

Encouraged to help keep their schools safe, students across Tempe have been promoting messages like these using chalk art, painted masks, gratitude walls, self-care workshops and other activities as part of the Sandy Hook Promise See Something, Say Something initiative.

Students are working alongside the city of Tempe's CARE 7 Youth Specialists, in partnership with Tempe Union High School District and Tempe Elementary School District, to lead activities that encourage young people to take charge of keeping their friends, schools and communities safe, a city release explained.

Youth Specialists are part of the city's Community Health and Human Services Department, which partners with both school districts to embed special-

• See **Community** on page **11**



Julie Hietter (left) and Lisette Camacho (right) presented the recommended five-year capital improvement program at the recent council work study. (Courtesy City of Tempe/YouTube)

Council shows support for $1.95B capital project program

By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A $1.95 billion capital improvement project program received support from Tempe City Council members during a recent presentation.

City staff spoke to council about the recommended five-year capital improvement program, going over expected projects to be completed, funding sources and acceleration strategies for accomplishing the city's goals.

Lisette Camacho, deputy city manager and chief financial officer, Julie Hietter, interim municipal budget director, and Wydale Holmes, director of the strategic management and innovation office, gave a presentation on the initial recommendation during council's March 20 work study session.

Camacho highlighted that the total five-year plan decreased by 0.5%, equating to about $9 million.

"That's expected because, as you all know, when we developed the current adopted CIP, we used that as the basis for the amount of the general obligations bond election last November," Camacho said.

She said there were few changes in the proposed program's first four years and with the addition of another fiscal year, staff provided department targets for their cash-funded and general obligation bond funded projects for fiscal year 2030.

Their presentation also touched on outreach the city conducted in February and March, seeking resident input about how the city should invest in advancing its strategic performance measures.

In one survey, residents reported on average the most relevant priorities in order of importance were quality of life, safe and secure communities, sustainable growth and development, financial stability and vitality, and strong community connections, Hietter said.

Hietter also highlighted residents' responses about how they would spend the city's money to support those goals, with the top responses including homeless services, multimodal transportation, improving and expanding affordable housing and more.

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission also provided answers to the same survey, reporting the same average response for the priorities targeted for investment. For specific services, Hietter noted there were six that

• See **Capital Projects** on page **5**

Capital Projects

• From page **4**

overlapped with the resident responses.

"These six included homelessness and affordable housing, city infrastructure, public safety and crime prevention and multi-modal transportation," Hietter said.

Financing projects

Hietter went on to discuss funding for the five-year capital plan, which showed minor changes from the adopted plan in terms of where the funding comes from.

She showed the recommended program is largely supported by general obligation bonds, most recently approved by Tempe voters in the November 2024 election.

This election sought voter approval to issue and sell $581.5 million in bonds to enhance the community through public safety and road improvements, improve quality of life in neighborhoods, and increase the amount of affordable housing.



Lisette Camacho (Courtesy City of Tempe)



Wydale Holmes (Courtesy City of Tempe)

Some funding outside of bonds comes from enterprise bonds, special revenue funds and general governmental cash funds. Camacho noted while there are some alternatives, there are some restrictions as to how the city spends its budget.

In regard to the general governmental funds, she said they do use cash to save on interest expenses, but in those cases, it does compete with Tempe's operating budget as general fund dollars are the primary source.

"We are recommending to suspend cash funding of the capital improvement projects for the general fund and also the transit fund and the arts and culture fund, due to the loss of the residential rental sales tax revenue," Camacho said.

Acceleration models

City staff also discussed the current acceleration models recommended to help advance or achieve Tempe's performance measures of ending homelessness, improving the housing inventory ratio, increasing feelings of safety in neighborhoods, police services satisfaction and the pavement quality index.

Holmes said developing these strategies is done through collaboration of the strategy department, its partners from other city departments and members of the community.

With homelessness a top priority for the city and residents, she said strategies to support that goal consist of reducing encampment response time, increasing case management engagements, increasing housing resolutions and increasing permanent housing connections.

Other strategies include focusing on mixed-use, high-density areas to attract development, conducting crime and traffic suppression operations, increasing police training and reducing response time to road improvement issues.

Holmes stressed the importance of communication and collaboration between city departments and the community to accomplish their goals.

"I highlight that because we know that all these performance measures are achieved through multiple department approaches, and it's not just one singular department," Holmes said.

The mayor and council discussed the presentation, expressing support for performance measures outlined and the

• See **Capital Projects** on page **11**

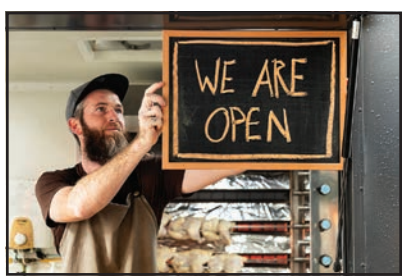


WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

BUSINESS

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com

IN BRIEF



The Tempe Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its Business Excellence Awards. (Metro Creative)

RECOGNITION

Tempe chamber to celebrate Business Excellence Awards in June

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce will present the Business Excellence Awards Annual Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at Culinary Dropout, 149 S. Farmer Ave.

The Tempe Chamber recognizes outstanding businesses and celebrates those that go above and beyond, making Tempe a great place to work and live, with the annual Business Excellence Awards, a press release stated.

"This event is a cornerstone of our chamber's mission to foster a vibrant, resilient economy and a collaborative future for all businesses in our city," Robin Arredondo-Savage, president/CEO of the Tempe Chamber, said in the release.

Tom Binge, Tempe Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, said in the release that the Business Excellence Awards are an exciting event for the chamber — an

• See **Business** on page **11**



Tempe is considering a general business license program to better understand and support the local business community. (Special to the Independent/ Arianna Grainey)

Tempe continues development of business license program

By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tempe City Council recently received a presentation from city staff about a proposed business license program that would allow the city to better support and communicate with the local business community.

Financial Services Director Lauren Calder and Joshua Bies, tax and license manager, delivered the presentation to council during its April 3 meeting, going over the proposed general business license program and discussing it with the council members.

This new program would help to solve the city's issues with managing the number of Tempe businesses, allowing the city to create its own database of businesses outside Transaction Privilege Tax license data from the Arizona Department of Revenue.

Tempe relies primarily on the license data to track its businesses, but this poses an issue as the number of city staff allowed to view the data is restricted, and not all businesses are required to obtain this license.

Calder said there are an estimated 30,000 businesses operating in Tempe, and the city only has significant information about roughly 1,300 of them.

"For us, having that complete database of Tempe businesses will help us to communicate essential updates and provide some business support," Calder said.

The program staff has developed so far would not require businesses obtain a TPT license to obtain the city's potentially new license. The city would charge $25 annually with a target implementation date of Aug. 1.

In comparison to other Valley cities with business license programs, Calder said Tempe's fee structure aligns with the average pricing.

For example, Mesa, Glendale and Peoria all charge $25 for the initial and

• See **License Program** on page **11**

YOUR GATE NEED AN UPDATE?







- GATE EXPANSIONS
- DOG RUNS
- PRIVACY WALLS
- TRELLIS
- NEW CUSTOM GATES
- SECURE KEYPAD ENTRY



RENOVATE YOUR GATE

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

TEXT/CALL 480.331.3704 • RENOVATEYOURGATE.COM

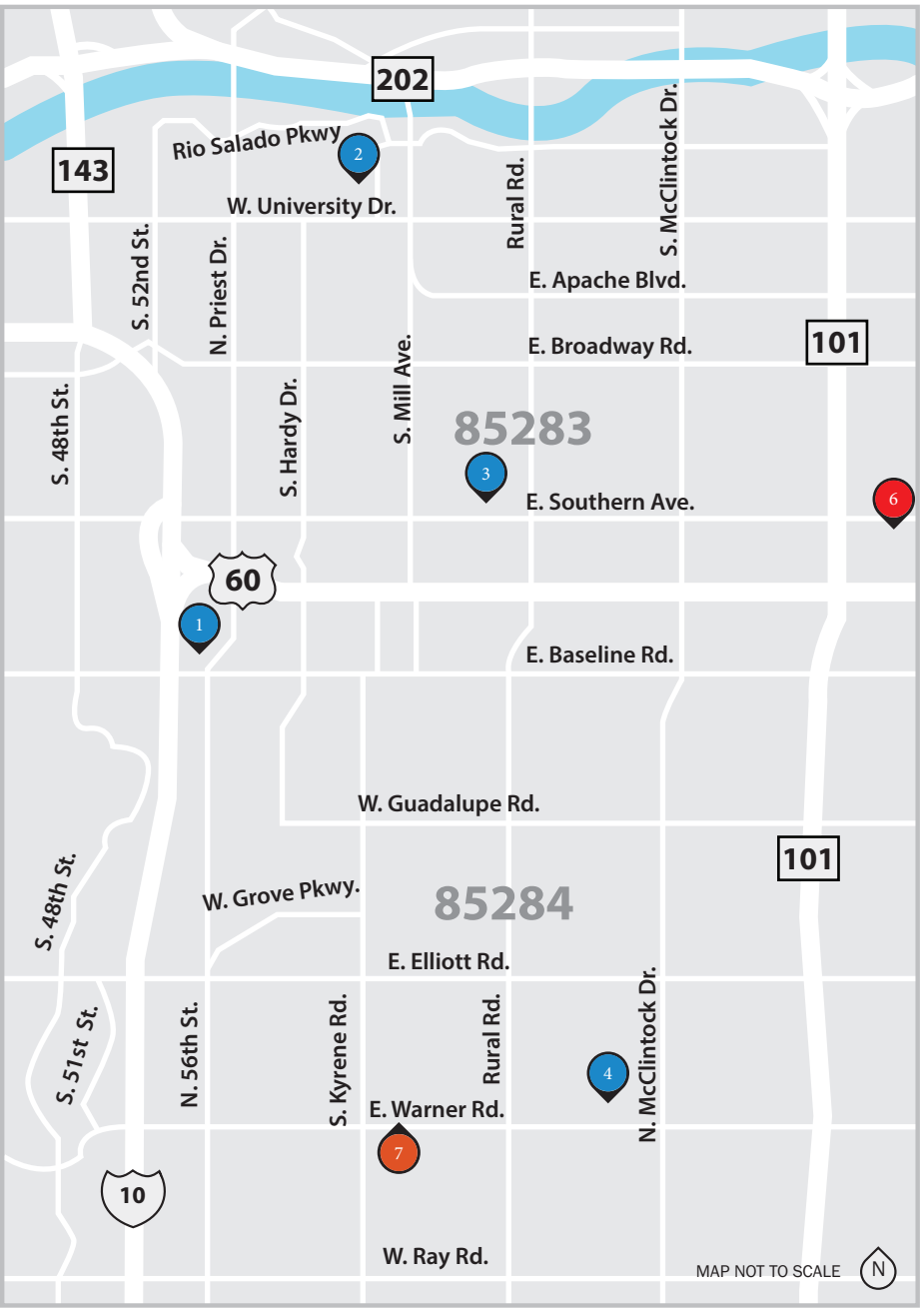
CHANDLER CHAMBER

BBB

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

BUSINESS MOVES

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com



OPENINGS

1 Krispy Kreme, 1540 W. Baseline Road, celebrated its grand opening on Tuesday, April 15, marking the area's newest destination for hot, fresh doughnuts and coffee. The shop is open seven days a week from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Saturday..

2 A new office space for **Offerpad Solutions** recently completed construction on the fifth floor of The Beam on Farmer, 433 S. Farmer Ave. With flexibility and collaboration in mind, the 39,895-square-foot office features executive offices along the perimeter, open workspaces, multiple break areas, and dedicated collaboration zones.

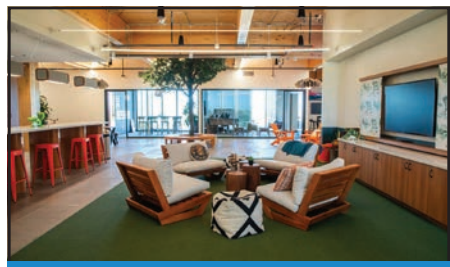
3 Smilebliss Orthodontics, 512 E. Southern Ave., held its grand opening on April 3. For more, call 480-907-0764 or visit smilebliss.com

4 A new Italian restaurant, **Bar Capri**, 1730 E. Warner Road, has opened in south Tempe. From the owners of Freely Taproom & Kitchen, this restaurant replaces the former Slim Thick Cafe. Hours of operation are 3-10 p.m. from Wednesday to Thursday, 3-11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 3-10 p.m. Sunday

COMING SOON

5 Greenlight Communities broke ground on its first Tempe community, **Cabana Kyrene**, 515 W. Guadalupe Road, on March 20. The project will introduce 229 new rental homes, including 90 studio apartments, 93 one-bedroom units and 46 two-bedroom units. For more, visit www.livegreenlight.com

6 Friendship Village, a retirement community at 2645 E. Southern Ave, recently received approval from a Tempe commission for a new residential building within the community. This latest addition will consist of a five-story, multifamily residential building at the community containing 69 units.


OFFERPAD SOLUTIONS


CABANA KYRENE


FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE



CRACKERS & CO. CAFÉ

CLOSINGS

7 Crackers & Co. Café, 285 W. Elliot Road, is closing its Tempe location after 24 years. It will continue to operate its two restaurants in Mesa.

Your Home Sold for 100% of Market Value or We will Pay the Difference . . . Guaranteed*





1. Your Home will Sell for More Money
2. We Sell Homes Faster
3. We Have Buyers in Waiting
4. Your Home is SOLD with Our Guarantees

Sell your home hassle-free with confidence, confidentiality and while offering you Top Dollar and access to our design team



Home Selling Experts and Radio Hosts

SCAN ME

CarolRoyse.com
480-776-5231

Scan with Your Phone for a message from Carol Royse

*Terms Apply

@carolroyseteam

YOURHOMESOLD GUARANTEED REALTY℠
Our Name is Our Promise

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

EDUCATION

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com

IN BRIEF



Tempe student Lukas Tapia's winning art piece from the fourth annual AZ529 Future Career Art Contest. (Courtesy Office of Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee)

ACHIEVEMENT

Tempe student among 15 winners in AZ529 Future Career Art Contest

Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee honored 15 Arizona students, from kindergarten through sixth grade, as winners of the fourth annual AZ529 Future Career Art Contest, including one Tempe student.

The 15 winners represent different schools among district, charter, private schools, Bureau of Indian Education and homeschools, representing all of Arizona's 15 counties, a press release explained.

Lukas Tapia, who wants to be a police officer and attends Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tempe, was among the 15 winners.

AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan and the Arizona State Treasurer's Office invited K-6th graders across Arizona to draw, paint or find a creative

• See **Education** on page **12**



Kyrene School District continues to develop its fiscal year 2025-26 budget. (Special to the Independent/Arianna Grainey)

Kyrene school district projects $2.54M decrease in maintenance, operations revenue

By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Kyrene School District Governing Board recently considered the latest general fund revenue projections as the district's budget development continues, with staff reporting a $2.54 million decrease in maintenance and operations revenue.

Kyrene CFO Chris Herrmann gave a presentation during the governing board's April 8 work study session covering the district's general fund revenue projections, as Kyrene continues to develop its fiscal year 2025-26 budget.

In his presentation, Herrmann explained that the general fund consists of several funds: maintenance and operations, Medicaid, school plant, indirect costs, insurance proceeds, unemployment insurance and advertising.

The bulk of Herrmann's presentation focused on Kyrene's maintenance and operations revenue, which is the largest funding category in the district's budget.

"Kyrene's total M&O revenue does not represent just one amount or one calculation, but is comprised of three main components in that calculation," Herrmann said.

Revenue components consist of the base support level, which reflects the annual per pupil state funding among other consider-

• See **Kyrene M&O** on page **12**

License Program

• From page **6**

renewal fees, while Scottsdale charges $50 and Chandler charges $35 for both fees. Gilbert charges $35 initially and $15 for renewal.

Tempe's license program would offer a five-month grace period before mandatory renewal in January 2027, as previously reported by the Independent.

Calder also noted during the presentation the Tempe Chamber of Commerce endorsed this program, which Vice Mayor Jennifer Adams said "meant a lot," in the council's following discussion.

Adams and other council members expressed their support for the program after the staff presentation.

"I'm a huge supporter of businesses, and I think this is a good way to work with businesses and also with the city to kind of have more communication with businesses in our city on ways that maybe we can help that we haven't thought of yet," Adams said.

However, council members did have recommendations for the plan before its anticipated first public hearing May 22.

Councilmember Randy Keated suggested making the first year free for new businesses, and Councilmember Berdetta Hodge asked staff to consider ways to ensure that the application is accessible to older business owners.

Mayor Corey Woods and the rest of council agreed with Keating's point, expressing support for delaying the initial payment for new businesses and the initial and renewal fee of $25.

Staff was instructed to move forward with that recommendation, as they continue to develop the program before council adoption. The final public hearing, where council will vote on the program, is scheduled for June 5.

Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Reporter Caroline Yu can be reached at cyu@iniusa.org.

Business

• From page **6**

opportunity to recognize contributions from chamber members and the community throughout the year.

Awards include interesting categories like the Cool Place to Work Award and the First Responder of the Year Award, a new award for this year's awards.

"With so many great people and organizations to choose from, I'm excited to see who will come out on top this year," Binge said.

Tom Binge with Renaissance Financial will pass the gavel to Board Chair Elect Laura Briscoe, owner of Laura's Gourmet. Briscoe will oversee the board of directors through the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Tickets for this event can be purchased at www.TempeChamber.org. For information on sponsorship, contact the chamber at 480-967-7891 or email Karin@tempechamber.org.

Capital Projects

• From page **5**

proposed acceleration models supporting them.

Councilmember Berdetta Hodge did raise a point about informing residents of upcoming pavement improvement projects on every Tempe street, which were supported by voters in the most recent bond election.

She questioned whether the neighborhoods would be informed, given that project will tackle even residential streets

"We just had a conversation and we will have signs on every project thanking our residents for trusting us with the bond and that this is happening now," said City Manager Rosa Inchausti.

Holmes also noted during the discussion the city will keep residents updated on the progress of street improvements and other capital projects that are ongoing through a digital platform.

Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Reporter Caroline Yu can be reached at cyu@iniusa.org.

Community

• From page **4**

ists at 12 campuses.

They provide social and emotional support to students who may be struggling with stress, anger, anxiety and more, and assist during crisis situations, the release explained.

They also connect students and their families with city resources such as low-cost counseling and job help to improve their quality of life. Last school year they assisted nearly 1,250 students in both districts.

Youth Specialists work with SAVE Promise Clubs at elementary, middle and high school sites to elevate important messages: be an upstander rather than a bystander, identify trusted adults and be kind to one another.

Read more at yourvalley.net.

Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues.

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities

☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.

☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.

☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

☐ **Listen and learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.

☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.

☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.

Kyrene M&O

• From page **10**

ation, the revenue control limit, which includes the base support level and transportation revenue control limit, and the total M&O revenue, which consists of the prior two components, allocated DAA funds, M&O override and funds from Proposition 123.

Herrmann went into detail on these components, noting that the numbers presented may change based on final adjustment or any state legislation that could be enacted before June, when the board is scheduled to approve the budget.

With the base support level, Herrmann reported that Kyrene, like other districts, has been feeling the impacts of the declining birth rates with its projected kindergarten cohort size estimated at 1,060 for fiscal year 2025-26.

Compared to the outgoing eighth grade cohort for the current school year of 1,622 students, this represents a decrease of 562 students across the district even with the incoming kindergarten class.

"Determining an accurate estimate for enrollment projections is really the starting point for building the base support level component," Herrmann said.

District calculations for the base support level in the coming year show a decrease of about $2.19 million based on the total weighted student count and base level funding expected per pupil from the previous year's budget.

Current projections for the revenue control limit, which includes the base support level, also report about a $2.19 million decrease for FY 2025-26.

Herrmann said that the total M&O revenue for the coming fiscal year is estimated at $110.15 million, which is a decrease of $2.54 million, based on current assumptions with expected state funding and other considerations.

"We are currently working to reduce expenditures and right size our budget, and right size that to the level of state funding that's expected for next year, just like Kyrene has done in similar years whenever funding has declined," he said.



Kyrene CFO Chris Herrmann (Courtesy Kyrene School District)

He said that this does take some time to complete, and it should be available to the board by the end of May or early June.

During the board's discussion, Board President Kevin Walsh questioned how the district would be impacted if state legislation passed that would restrict how Proposition 123 money could be spent if renewed.

Herrmann said that as it stands there are no restrictions, so the district is able to use the money to fund district needs regardless of their purpose, but if such legislation were to be enacted it would cause problems.

"That would make a pretty big impact on our budget, going back taking funds that have already been committed and having to make a different decision, rather than brand new money that would be restricted for different purposes," Herrmann said.

He said that district staff will continue to monitor this as they continue with the development of next year's budget.

Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Reporter Caroline Yu can be reached at cyu@iniusa.org.

Education

• From page **10**

way to make an art piece representing their dream job.

A total of 15 winners were selected from 457 entries. The entries were reviewed by a panel of judges and scored based on the content, creativity, organization and originality of the artwork.

The winners received $529 towards a new or existing AZ529 Education Savings Plan. The amount $529 was selected to pay homage to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, which created the AZ529 plan, according to the release.

The funds may be used for future educational expenses such as tuition for college, trade schools, or workforce development training.

Read more at yourvalley.net.

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

Your Local Team

Caroline Yu
Reporter
cyu@iniusa.org

Don Kirkland
Publisher
dkirkland@iniusa.org

Cleo Riggle
Graphic Designer
criggle@iniusa.org

Heather DeBrosse
Multimedia
Advertising Consultant
hdebrosse@iniusa.org

Jason Brooks
Editor
jbrooks@iniusa.org

Lori Schroeder
Multimedia
Advertising Consultant
lschroeder@iniusa.org

Michelle Gavagan
Multimedia
Advertising Consultant
mgavagan@iniusa.org

Richard Dyer
Managing Editor
rdyer@iniusa.org

To Reach Us
Advertising: 623-972-6101
Customer Service: 888-665-3848
Newsroom: aznews@iniusa.org
Advertising: azads@iniusa.org
Obituaries: azobits@iniusa.org

Arizona Leadership
Circulation Manager: Terri Rodgers.....trodgers@iniusa.org
Digital Sales Manager: Austin Moose.....amoose@iniusa.org
Editor-In-Chief: Patrick O'Grady.....pogrady@iniusa.org
Business Operations Manager: Kathleen Kotzbauer..kkotzbauer@iniusa.org
V.P. of Sales & Marketing: Barbara Wandling.....bwandling@iniusa.org
President & CEO: Charlene Bisson.....cbisson@iniusa.org

Wrangler News Independent e-subscriptions
www.wranglernews.com

Memberships
ARIZONA MEDIA ASSOCIATION
TEMPE CHAMBER of COMMERCE
CHANDLER CHAMBER

© 2025 Independent Newsmedia, Inc., USA. The publication of any advertisement in this newspaper does not constitute an endorsement by the publisher of products or services advertised. All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act. We will not knowingly accept any advertising that is illegal or considered fraudulent.

Spoil Her.

• Handcrafted & Simple •
• Breakfast in Bed •
• Handcrafted Gifts •



Great Harvest Bread Co.

1730 East Warner Road
www.TempeGreatHarvest.com
480-777-1141

MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 11TH!

Time for an UPGRADE?

- Custom Carpentry
- New Patios
- Bathroom Remodeling
- Door & Window Installation

rchildcustomcarpentry@gmail.com
LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED
480-215-3373



NEW NORTH CHANDLER LOCATION NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH!

NOW OPEN!

North Chandler
2855 W. Ray Rd. Unit #5
Chandler, AZ 85224

San Tan Valley
40975 N. Ironwood Rd. Unit #B108
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

15% OFF
Any Dine-In Order.
*Must present coupon at time of payment for redemption
*ONLY VALID AT NORTH CHANDLER LOCATION
LIMIT ONE PER USER
MAXIMUM DISCOUNT VALUE 20
EXCLUDES ALL ALCOHOL
VALID THROUGH 10/01/25*

20% OFF
Any In-Store or Online, Pick-up Order.
*Must present coupon at time of pickup for redemption, online use code below
'TGONCHD'
*ONLY VALID AT NORTH CHANDLER LOCATION
LIMIT ONE PER USER
MAXIMUM DISCOUNT VALUE 20
EXCLUDES ALL ALCOHOL
VALID THROUGH 10/01/25*
NOT VALID FOR DINE-IN

AZ HUGS nonprofit founder sues city of Tempe over permitting issue

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Austin Davis, founder of the nonprofit AZ HUGS, has filed a lawsuit against the city of Tempe regarding its permit rules for special events.

A release from the Pacific Legal Foundation explained that Davis is suing the city over its use of special event permits to "effectively ban charitable efforts such as feeding the homeless."

"The government does not have a monopoly on charity," the release stated. "Americans have the constitutional right to pursue their callings, including helping those in need, without burdensome regulations."

The case Austin Davis vs. City of Tempe was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

Anastasia Boden, senior attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation, said in the release that AZ HUGS should be free to offer food to people who are hungry without facing a costly barrier or threat of criminal prosecution.

"No organization should have to pay $500 for a permit to engage in charity in a public park," Boden said.

Davis founded AZ HUGS in 2020 with the mission of serving Tempe's homeless community.

Its Sunday dinner initiative began serving meals to homeless individuals at public parks, and the nonprofit has grown to provide a range of charitable services like mental health resources, addiction treatment services, temporary housing assistance and employment opportunities.

The release explained that in 2022, the city began charging $500 for a special event permit, which extends to people like Davis who are providing meals to Tempe's unhoused population at city parks.



AZ HUGS founder Austin Davis has filed a lawsuit against the city of Tempe. (Independent Newsmedia/Caroline Yu)

"The permit, which costs $500 for each event and forces organizations to secure costly liability insurance, imposes a criminal trespass charge for any violation," the release stated.

The city of Tempe said in a statement, "When an event is held utilizing city property that is open to the public, Tempe city code requires a special event or other permit. This requirement — which applies equally to everyone — has been a requirement of the Tempe city code for decades.

"While the city has not yet been served with the lawsuit, (we) disagree with the allegations and we stand ready to defend this longstanding law," it states.

As previously reported by the Independent, Davis had applied for the special event permit after receiving violations for holding the weekly dinners in 2024. Davis continued holding the events while awaiting city staff's decisions on the permit.

Tempe ultimately denied AZ HUGS's permit, and with that denial, the group was not allowed to reapply for a permit for one year.

It was reported that Davis was arrested for his continued meal services, and he has since been banned from Tempe parks until 2026 as part of a plea deal regarding his violations of the special event permit rules.

For more information, contact media@pacificlegal.org.

Tempe







Your summer, booked

Tempe SUMMER CAMPS

Have the best summer ever with Tempe's classes, programs and camps! The Tempe Opportunities brochure is jam-packed with exciting activities that begin in June. Quality classes and camps are available for all ages and abilities at convenient times, locations and affordable prices. Summer registration is now open for Tempe residents, with general registration open Monday, April 28. Register at tempe.gov/play. Tempe also offers a variety of camps, ranging from full-day, summer-long options to week-long special interest, sports, arts and STEM choices. Check out the complete list and sign up today at tempe.gov/SummerCamps.



Beat the heat

Kiwanis Wave Pool is open 1-5 p.m. every Saturday in April, Saturday and Sunday in May, and daily from June 1 through July 27. Clark Park is open five days a week with varied hours, and Escalante and McClintock pools will open for the season on Monday, June 2 and will also be open for Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26. Tempe's splash pads at Kiwanis, Esquer, Parque de Soza and Jaycee parks are open now through Oct. 31. Visit tempe.gov/pools.



Spring movies in the park

Tempe's free movie series is back! Grab your loved ones, blankets and a picnic dinner and head over to Kiwanis Park for movie screenings on Friday nights in May. Flicks begin at dusk, approximately 7 p.m. tempe.gov/FamilyFun

- May 2: Moana (PG) & Summer of Fun kickoff starting at 5 p.m.
- May 9: Moana 2 (PG)
- May 16: Coco (PG)
- May 23: Surf's Up (PG)



May the 4th Be with You art workshop

On Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., join exhibiting artist and curator Duane Koyawena at the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts for an art making adventure that's out of this galaxy. All ages will enjoy making mini artworks inspired by the droids and light sabers of the beloved Star Wars franchise. While you're at the Gallery get your picture taken with an interactive HOPI R2 and see artworks by Indigenous artists who love the force as much as you. More at tempecenterforthearts.com.

Calling all Tempe kids ages 6-18



Get ready to explore the Valley for FREE with the Youth Transit Pass - ride the light rail and buses to school, parks, stores and more! Register starting May 19 at the Tempe Transit Store (200 E. Fifth St.) weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Bring proof of residency and the child's birth certificate. Passes will be valid July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. More info: tempe.gov/YouthPass.



Free tech workshops

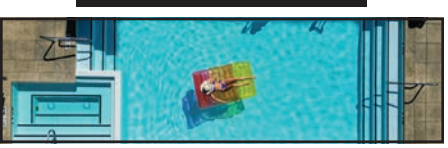
Check out free workshops at Tempe EnVision Center, the City's one-stop resource and resilience hub offering free events and activities designed to improve your quality of life. Sign up for each workshop – no experience needed - at theidia.eventbrite.com

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

THINGS TO DO

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com

MAY 15



Third Thursday College Night

Skysill Rooftop Lounge invites local college students to enjoy an exclusive night tailored to them on the third Thursday of every month with exclusive drink specials

Skysill Rooftop Lounge at Westin Tempe
11 E 7th St., Tempe
6-10 p.m.

MAY 15



Million Voices Whisper 2025 Tour

Grammy Award-winning vocalist, songwriter, musician, producer and Gov't Mule front man Warren Haynes stops in Tempe in support of his new solo album. Tickets can be purchased at www.warrenhaynes.net.

Marquee Theatre
730 N. Mill Ave., Tempe
8 p.m.

JUNE 12



Energy education workshops

The city of Tempe, along with Arizona Public Service, Salt River Project and the Tempe Community Action Agency, is connecting residents to resources that can help lower their energy bills and increase home efficiency.

Tempe EnVision Center
1310 E. Apache Blvd., Tempe
Noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.



The addition of Dry Surf to the exhibit's title was to recognize that it was the name of a small skate park that opened in Tempe in June 1965. (Metro Creative)

'Dry Surf: Local Skateboarding History' opens May 10 at museum

By Don Kirkland
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Hard to imagine that the pastime we laughed about during my days as a hanger-on in California's surfing-crazed 1950s and '60s would not only evolve into a sport but an Olympic sport, at that.

Followed by, no surprise, the logical spin-off — skateboarding.

It was an ingenious response, born I suppose to fill the void left when waves were flat and the likelihood of "hanging 10" had to be put off for a better day.

Now, some 70 years and a march of technological improvements later, it's a passion whose popularity continues to go off the rails.

To celebrate, Joshua Roffler, Tempe History Museum's interim manager, will host the opening night of a nearly year-long exhibit, "Dry Surf: Local Skateboarding History."

Inspiration for the event, according to Roffler, came two years ago from Rob Locker and Don Ho, members of the area's skateboarding community.

Said Roffler: "They had made a really great documentary film, 'High Rollers,' about Arizona's skateboarding history. They wanted to do a public showing at the museum.

"We had the event and it was very successful, with about 200

• See **Dry Surf** on page **21**



Detect colon cancer earlier.

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States in men and women combined – but it doesn't have to be. Regular screenings make early detection, and in some cases even prevention, possible.

Are you 45 or older? Scan to schedule your colon screening or learn more at **dignityhealth.org/azcolon.**

Dignity Health.

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

NEIGHBORS

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com

IN BRIEF



Dick Neuheisel (left), pictured with his wife Jane Neuheisel, recently died at 88. (Courtesy Jane Neuheisel)

COMMUNITY

Shalimar Golf Club owner Dick Neuheisel dies at 88

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Local business owner and former Tempe City Councilmember Richard "Dick" Neuheisel recently died at the age of 88.

A March 29 report stated that Neuheisel, who was also known in the community for founding Tempe Sister Cities and the Tempe Oktoberfest, had died.

Along with founding Tempe Sister Cities, he had taught law classes at Arizona State University, opened his law firm, and owned and operated the Shalimar Golf Club with his wife Jane Neuheisel.

• See **Neighbors** on page **21**

Volunteers needed for organization baking bread for Tempe charities

SPECIAL TO THE INDEPENDENT



Rise & Shine Bread, a volunteer organization, bakes bread for Tempe charities. (Courtesy Rise & Shine Bread)

Rise & Shine Bread, a volunteer organization that bakes bread and provides it to Tempe charities that feed the food insecure, is looking for more volunteer bakers.

Currently, the organization provides 250 individual loaves to Tempe Community Action Agency Food Distribution Center each week, press release stated.

Bakers are asked to volunteer one to four times per month, using the organization's website to sign up. Volunteers are provided a standardized recipe for honey oat wheat bread along with bread bags, ties and labels.

The website includes videos about the project and an instructional video on how to bake the bread. Rise & Shine Bread asks that the volunteers purchase their own ingredients and equipment, but there is a fund to defray the cost if a baker needs assistance.

Financial donations can be made at www.riseshinebread.org.

Founder Andrea White said in the release that the group of volunteers has been called the "bread angels," and they hope to continue helping their neighbors. White along with Karen Maish also recently received the Don Carlos Impact Award for their work.

"Whether baking alone at home or in a group, our bakers feel good about making a difference in our community," White said.

Each day, Monday through Friday, TCAA prepares 50 bags with a loaf of bread, peanut butter or tuna fish, a piece of fruit and a bottle of water and passes it out to those in need, the release explained.

For some, this is the only opportunity to have a balanced and nutritious meal they can eat anytime.

"The response from staff and clients has been great, everyone likes the bread and the mini-loaves are perfect for our homeless population," Casey Hopkins, TCAA food pantry manager, said in the release.

Modeled after similar projects in other communities, Rise & Shine Bread recognizes the prevalence of bread in all cultures, the release stated.

Working with Rio Salado Café, a recipe was developed that includes only bread flour, whole wheat flour, oil, oatmeal, yeast, honey and salt. Founded in 2021, Rise & Shine Bread has provided more than 18,000 mini-loaves for distribution in Tempe, Mesa and Chandler.

Are you **TIRED** of
LOOSE FITTING DENTURES?

Upgrade your life with a more secure option!





We offer implant-assisted dentures and affordable dentistry!

NEW HORIZON
DENTAL CENTER

1030 N Colorado St.
Gilbert, AZ

CONTACT US!

newhorizondental.org
(480) 664-2270

Call us TODAY for a Private Showing 480-244-9392

Keller Gibbs Team
Educating Buyers and Sellers One Home at a Time!
480-244-9392
www.KellerGibbsTeam.com
kw KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY EAST VALLEY



Circle G Ranches
2001 E. Myrna Lane

Beautiful and fully upgraded 5 bedrooms, office, with basement , large lot and pool



WHY *RE-DO* WHEN YOU CAN

Re-New?

Your #1 Cabinet Refacing Company in the Valley

20% OFF
KITCHEN REFACE
with mention of this ad

FREE
IN HOME ESTIMATES

INCLUDED IN EVERY PACKAGE:
New custom doors
New dovetail drawers
Soft-close hinges, tracks, hardware & MORE

FREE
SINK & FAUCET
with granite or quartz countertop purchase
Min required. Must present ad. Some restrictions apply.
Offers Expire 5/31/25



Re-New Cabinets, LLC

480-462-6020
Re-NewCabinets.com

ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB A+

Financing available EnerBankUSA America's home improvement lender of choice

44 Years of Masterful Craftsmanship
Licensed, Bonded and Insured • ROC #293053

COME VISIT OUR NEW REMODELED SHOWROOM
6503 W Frye Rd. Ste 1 Chandler, AZ 85226

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

OPINIONS

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com

Take the Civility Pledge

Yes, I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for people to engage in civil discourse about public issues. Visit iniusa.org/civility-pledge/ to take the pledge.

Your Opinion

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Reader wonders what judge granted suspect's bond

After reading your article on Alex Bangash, the Arizona man awaiting extradition from Texas after being arrested there on multiple sexual- and aggravated assault-related charges, I'd like to know — and I believe that media should be required to provide — the name and court of the judge who gave him bond at all.

That many victims should have made him unbondable forever.

I seriously would like to know what court and judge let him out. We elect many judges, so I want to add this judge to my list of who not to vote for and to vote out.

Thank you for reporting on this. As a Tempe resident, this makes my skin crawl.

Keep up the good work!

Tricia Jacobs
Tempe

Editor's note: This author is using a pen name.

Simple kitchen strategies for reducing food waste

Food waste is a significant environmental concern, with Americans discarding nearly 40% of their food supply annually.

Did you know that Arizona was ranked the most wasteful state in a 2022 analysis, with the highest share of wasted food and the lowest share of recycled food? But it doesn't have to be. Here are four practical ways to reduce waste in your kitchen:

• Plan your meals and shop strategically: Before heading to the grocery store, take inventory of what you already have and plan meals around those ingredients. Create a detailed shopping list and stick to it, avoiding impulse purchases that often end up forgotten in the back of the refrigerator. Consider buying "ugly" produce — fruits and vegetables with cosmetic imperfections that are perfectly edible but often discarded by retailers. Participating in a local CSA — Community Supported Agriculture — program is a good way to eat with the season and to get just enough produce for the week, reducing the potential for waste.

• Transform leftovers into new meals: Yesterday's roasted vegetables can become today's soup or frittata. Stale bread makes excellent croutons, breadcrumbs or bread pudding. Chicken bones and vegetable trimmings create flavorful stocks. Even cake scraps can be repurposed into cake pops or trifles.

• Master proper food storage: Learn which fruits and vegetables should be refrigerated and which should not. Store herbs with stems in water like flowers to extend their life. Use clear containers so you can see what's inside, preventing food from being forgotten. Freeze items approaching their expiration date — overripe bananas for smoothies, vegetable scraps for future stocks or unused herbs

• See **Dempsey** on page **21**

Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

SPEAK UP

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

SHALIMAR GOLF CLUB OWNER DICK NEUHEISEL DIES AT 88

"Thank you for your legacy." — **Debbie T via story comment**

"Dick Neuheisel was a great lawyer, maybe the best in the state. I had him on retainer for several years, he represented me in court dozens of times, and we always won." — **Robert Slaughter via story comment**

"Too bad Shalimar Golf is horribly neglected." — **Grammar_Police via story comment**

NONPROFIT FOUNDER SUES CITY OF TEMPE OVER PERMITTING ISSUE

"You go Austin! How low can they go?" — **Sandra Gonzales via story comment**

SOUTHERN AVENUE PROJECT BEGINS APRIL 14, TRAFFIC AFFECTED FOR 5 MONTHS

"Thank goodness that I rarely travel. (That) part of southern Tempe has had a recent history of taking 50% longer to finish the project than they originally projected." — **Dave Palmer via story comment**

Dry Surf

• From page **16**

people attending.

"When we saw how much interest there was, we started talking right away about creating an exhibit."

As planning got under way, Locker became the planners' community curator, a role that Roffler said enabled him to be instrumental in contacting longtime local skaters and asking them to bring in their old boards, photographs and video clips.

Noted Roffler: "The exhibit is special because it has been created with so much participation from the skateboarding community."

Now, with the museum ready to launch its newest exhibition, Roffler says "the public will be fascinated to see how skateboarding has evolved over the last 60 years, and how Arizona has played a role in that development."

The addition of Dry Surf to the exhibit's title was to recognize that it was the name of a small skate park that opened in Tempe in June 1965.

From that early point forward, Roffler said, Arizona has been "on the cutting edge of skateboarding."

Visitors to the display will see a number of artifacts, including those belonging to Patti McGee, who in the 1960s was said to be the first female professional skateboarder in history.

Additionally, Roffler said, items from Paige Heyn, a Tempean who competed in street skating in the 2024 Paris Olympics, will be on display.

For skateboard enthusiasts — or even those just interested in another dimension of Tempe's evolution — Roffler says the exhibition is definitely worth a visit.

"There will just be a lot or really cool skateboards on display for everyone to see," Roffler said. "I hope that Arizona skaters will be proud of the exhibit, and that non-skaters will be fascinated to learn about this cool history."

An opening reception will be held 5-7 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the museum, 809 E Southern Ave. in Tempe. Exhibits will be on display through Jan. 31, 2026. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Admission is free.

Don Kirkland is publisher of the Wrangler News Independent.

Neighbors

• From page **18**

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods wrote in a social media statement that Neuheisel was "a true Tempe treasure."

"From his service as a Tempe City Councilmember, founding the internationally-recognized Tempe Sister Cities program, and steadfast leadership in countless other nonprofit organizations and charitable causes, he leaves behind a tremendous legacy of public and community service," Woods stated.

He went on to say that the community mourns his loss and that their hearts go out to his family and friends.

District 4 Congressional Rep. Greg Stanton also released a statement online about Neuheisel's death, echoing similar condolences to Neuheisel's loved ones.

"An Army veteran, former ASU instructor, and longtime leader of the Tempe Kiwanis club, Dick Neuheisel's life was defined by selfless public service," Stanton stated. "As a city councilman, he pioneered so many Tempe institutions — like the Sister Cities program to provide humanitarian aid while connecting local students to global opportunities, and the iconic Tempe Oktoberfest."

Read more at yourvalley.net.

Dempsey

• From page **20**

in olive oil. Keep a roll of masking tape and a marker on a string in the kitchen for easy labeling of leftovers that you freeze and/or refrigerate. Remember to include the date, too.

• Start composting: Even with the best efforts, some food waste is inevitable. Create a simple compost system using eggshells, coffee grounds, fruit peels and vegetable scraps. If space is limited, investigate community composting programs or countertop composting systems. The Mill food recycler (I named mine "Chonky") lets you reduce the food waste into a compost that you may use or that can be picked up and redistributed to Valley farmers and growers. These are available through a collaboration between R. City and Mill.

By implementing these simple strategies, we can significantly reduce our environmental footprint while saving money and enjoying more creative meals.

Tracy Dempsey
Tempe

Editor's note: Tracy Dempsey is chef/owner of Tracy Dempsey Originals and ODV Wines in Tempe.

RUMBLE ON THE GRIDIRON:
ARIZONA RATTLERS VS TUCSON SUGAR SKULLS FOOTBALL
With every ticket purchase, you're not just witnessing an epic game but also supporting the local community—Proceeds support community journalism at the Daily Independent newspaper at YourValley.net. It's a win-win!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PREPARE FOR A SHOWDOWN YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS.
LOCATION: DESERT DIAMOND ARENA, GLENDALE
DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH
KICKOFF: 6:05 PM
DON'T WAIT–TICKETS WON'T LAST LONG.
SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY AND BE PART OF THE ACTION!
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities
YourValley.net
PURCHASE TICKETS HERE

Tempe Financial Empowerment Center plans to be completed this year

By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tempe continues its work to launch its Financial Empowerment Center, which aims to support increasing the financial well-being of low- and moderate-income residents through financial coaching.

Community Health and Human Services Director Tim Burch and Rose Harvey from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund gave a presentation during the April 3 work study session, providing council with a planning update for the center, which will be located at the Tempe EnVision Center.

Burch wrote in a city report the department applied for and received a $20,000 one-year planning grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund for the planning process for creation of the center.



City staff is developing the plan for the Tempe Financial Empowerment Center, which will be at the Tempe Envision Center. (Independent Newsmedia/Caroline Yu)

At the end of the planning, Tempe will be eligible for $150,000 in funding for two years from the CFE Fund to implement the program in the city.

Burch said at the meeting the presentation's goal was to link back to the work they've been doing to the core functions of the financial empowerment center, which consists of ending homelessness, reducing the poverty rate and supporting community health and wellbeing.

"So the idea of making sure people have access to high-quality financial counseling, we see as a linkage to ending homelessness," Burch said.

The center will get people back on their feet steadily so that they hopefully don't return back to Tempe's systems, Burch said.

Harvey delved into planning details with council, going over the fund's history and what center initiative entails.

The Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund is a New York-based philanthropic organization with the mission of supporting local governments and embedding financial stability into their infrastructure through grant funding as with Tempe.

Going over the center's concept, Harvey said it's a public service that offers professional, individualized and one-on-one financial counseling as a free public service available to all residents.

"This is a 15-year-old program model, and CFE Fund has been working with local governments for the past 10 years to replicate this across the country," Harvey said.

She highlighted there are 37 financial empowerment center partners open across the country, with more than 189,000 clients served and a $315 million reduction in debt through this initiative.

While it is a national program, Harvey said the group has an "intensive" localized planning process to ensure it works for every community and its residents. She also noted Tempe could be the center to launch in the Southwest.

Harvey emphasized how the financial empowerment center initiative not only provides free, individualized financial counseling to low income residents from trained counselors, but it also supports the city's goals.

"It's really meant to support the existing work the city is already doing to be a supportive program for all the other initiatives and priorities that you all have as local government, ensuring that all your residents are supported from a public point of view," she said.

Additionally, the center is designed to be launched without the need for a pilot program so it is ongoing and sustainable, according to Harvey.

Tempe is continuing its exploratory planning process for the center, with a full-fledged plan to be developed by the end of the year.

Harvey said the CFE Fund and Tempe staff have work to do with outreach to the community about what are their priorities with financial planning. Implementation will include the hiring of a dedicated local government manager for the center and financial counselor, the designing of a training and marketing plan and securing further grant funding.

In the following council discussion, the council members expressed support for the continued work on establishing the Tempe Financial Empowerment Center.

Vice Mayor Doreen Garlid did ask about the time line to implementation, to which Burch said could take anywhere from eight to 12 months.

Garlid asked if that could be accelerated to potentially shorten the time line to six to eight months for the planning and implementation, so community members could start taking advantage of these services as soon as possible.

"We will talk to our technical advisors and absolutely make sure that we keep the efficacy while moving at the speed of the need for our community," Burch said.

Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Reporter Caroline Yu can be reached at cyu@iniusa.org.

EAST VALLEY'S BEST GOLF CART DEALER





We Sell New Club Cars & Evolutions

We'll Beat Any Competitor's Prices!

World of Golf Carts

ELLIOT

MCQUEEN

Gilbert, AZ
worldofgolfcarts.com
(480) 272-8418

Club Car

480-705-9600

Selling or Buying? Your Next Chapter Starts Here!

"What my clients are saying..."

Randy was absolutely incredible throughout our entire home-buying journey! From the very beginning, he was patient, knowledgeable, and fully committed to helping us find the perfect home. He went above and beyond, taking us all over town to explore different neighborhoods and ensure we found the right location for our family. What really stood out about Randy was how much he genuinely cared about our needs and priorities. He never rushed us or pressured us into making a decision. Instead, he took the time to listen, offer thoughtful advice, and answer every question we had (and we had a lot!). His expertise and insights made the entire process feel smooth and stress-free.

-Gloria W.



Randy Courtney
Broker/Owner

Serving AZ clients for life since 1986

RandyCourtney.com

Scan here for Expert Service

Weichert REALTORS

Courtney Valleywide
Independently Owned & Operated

Phoenix Children's

Step Up. Stop Cancer.



Help us stop childhood cancer in its tracks.

Isabella, 4

StepUpStopCancer.org

Harkins Theatres

Layton

5 For the Fight

Save the Dates

SENIOR EXPO

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

THE PREMIER SENIOR HEALTH & LIFESTYLE EXPOS



Sun City • May 5, 2025 • Sundial Recreation Center

Fountain Hills • July 15, 2025 • Fountain Hills Community Center

Sun City • September 24, 2025 • Sundial Recreation Center

Sun City West • October 21, 2025 • Briarwood Country Club

Chandler • February 24, 2026 • Sun Lakes Country Club

INTERESTED IN A SPONSORSHIP?
EMAIL AZADS@INIUSA.ORG OR CALL 623-972-6101

WRANGLER NEWS INDEPENDENT

FROM THE DESK OF DON KIRKLAND

Mailbox & Rack delivery.
WranglerNews.com

It's that time of year for my regular get-together at the hardware store

By Don Kirkland
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Though somewhat unceremoniously, the 80s seem to be upon us — not only temperature-wise but as my own countdown of the years marches on. Yes, that annual celebration of birthdays is now only weeks away, and I don't dread it as much as having to crank our air-conditioning on once again.

Time for my regular get-together with Gary McKay.

Gary, you see, is my go-to guy around this time every year, not only because his hardware store is stocked with all sorts of cool (get it?) ideas for combating summer's inevitable heatwave but for commiserating about ways to stay as comfortable as possible when the thermometer sneaks into the teens, as it always does.

This from a guy like me who spent his teen-plus years playing volleyball on the sandy expanses of California's South Bay oceanfront and hanging out with equally aimless beach bums. Well, we weren't completely unproductive: We did find time for a beer or two (or more?). Geez, how did we ever survive the rigors of those days?

So back to Gary McKay.

With what I gather was a more productive expenditure of his — shall we call them formative — years, Gary will happily share the ups-and-downs of what adds up to nearly a half century, time that has not only helped him create a popular go-to store for all things hardware-related but made it possible for him to get enjoyment from going to work every day.

The store's growth was typical of any new endeavor but has accelerated over time, McKay says. "We're never going to be Rockefellers or anything, but it's a good living for us.

"And what makes it great is we get to do it as a family."

During the summer of 2018, McKay, who also has been a traveling hardware wholesaler, owner of a landscaping business and a volunteer firefighter, bought and reopened a hardware store on the southeastern corner of Ray and Rural roads, now McKay's True Value.

"It was natural to do this," McKay said. "It's in our blood. I've tried to go away from the business but I keep getting sucked back into it.

"I figured I might as well stay."

Shortly after McKay opened his store, he convinced his wife and son, who was managing a pizza shop, to join him, making it a three-generation enterprise. Four if you count Sonny, the store's official greeter. Tail wag optional.

McKay senior, who grew up working in his father's store in South Haven, Michigan, found his way to the Valley in 2002. His brother, Barry, already was here and the owner of two hardware stores in north central Phoenix.

As to the Chandler store's growth in the years since then, McKay says he knew at start-up that the area was ripe for a mom-and-pop hardware operation run by knowledgeable staff and dedicated to providing one-on-one customer service that most big-box competitors typically can't provide.

In the start-up days, while still in the wholesale business, McKay called on the previous owner. He did a demographic analysis. He knew the area was balanced with a good mix of do-it-yourselfers and those who need guidance with home projects. He beefed up the grilling and outdoor department and the fastener department and created a made-to-order screen department.

Now, years later, the response has been overwhelming and favorable, McKay said.

"We wanted to do a few things over the top," he added.

He loves working with customers, gratified by stories like the elderly lady who'd lost her husband. She brought in cookies and brownies after he told her the steps involved in fixing leaky toilet, and she went home and did it herself.

"I enjoy those kinds of rewards," he said. "I don't consider it working. I consider that I'm retired and get to help people."

"My brother and I always told my boys what my dad told us: Hardware is going to be one job that you get paid to get educated in. You're going to take away from this more than you ever give to it, because you'll learn things you're going use the rest of your life."



Don Kirkland

Age, Valley summers and the Big 80s notwithstanding.

McKay's True Value is at 4939 W. Ray Road, Chandler. Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines at https://www.yourvalley.net/civility-checklist.

Imagine your home, totally organized!

Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets, Home Offices, Laundries, Pantries, Wall Beds, Hobby Rooms and more!



40% Off
Plus
Free Installation

PLUS TAKE AN EXTRA **15% Off**

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of $1000 or more or 30% off any order of $700-$1000 on any complete unit order of custom closet, garage, or home office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any unit order of $850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Expires 05/31/25. Offer not valid in all regions.

SPECIAL FINANCING
FOR **12** MONTHS!

With approved credit. Call or ask your Designer for details. Not available in all areas.

2024 © All Rights Reserved. Closets by Design, Inc.





Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

480-764-2884 IN

closetsbydesign.com

Locally Owned and Operated. Licensed and Insured: ROC312904

ClosetsbyDesign®

East Valley readers pick their favorite businesses

The Daily Independent at YourValley.net hosted an online best-of competition where readers vote for their very favorite places to visit. 48,959 people voted for their favorites.

At its core, Valley Favorites helps businesses to thrive. It celebrates the great local businesses and organizations serving our communities and keeps them top of mind with local consumers. Congratulations to those who take home the honors for their local community.



Professional Services

Pet Grooming	K9 Resorts Chandler
Pet Grooming	Well Groomed
Pet Grooming	La Bella Spa
Pet Boarding	K-9 RESORTS CHANDLER
Pet Boarding	TopDog Boarding
Pet Boarding	Pete & Macs
Personal Injury Attorney Law/Firm	Lerner & Rowe
Personal Injury Attorney Law/Firm	Husband & Wife Law Firm
Personal Injury Attorney Law/Firm	Vrana Law
Mortgage Lender	Teresa Dempsey - Cornerstone Financial
Mortgage Lender	Guild Mortgage
Mortgage Lender	Karen Camblin
Internet Service Provider	Cox
Internet Service Provider	Centurylink High Speed Internet
Insurance Agent	The Medicare Navigators
Insurance Agent	Eric Stark
Insurance Agent	Nikki Schaal
Insurance Agency	The Medicare Navigators
Insurance Agency	#NAME?
Insurance Agency	Nikki Schaal - Farm Bureau Financial Services
Independent Senior Living Community	The Summit at Sunland Springs
Independent Senior Living Community	Canyon Winds Independent Living
Independent Senior Living Community	Verena at Gilbert
Funeral Home	Horizon Funeral Care
Funeral Home	San Tan Funeral
Funeral Home	Mountain View Funeral Home
Financial Advisor	James Hundley - Edward Jones
Financial Advisor	Stu Boardman - Edward Jones
Financial Advisor	Ann Martin - Apricity Wealth Management
Financial Advisor	Edward Jones - David Culbertson
Financial Advisor	Julie Reid
Financial Advisor	Mallory Ries
Final Resting Place	Santan Memorial Gardens
Final Resting Place	Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery
Final Resting Place	Valley of the Sun Mortuary & Cemetery

Thank you to our sponsors!

The Medicare Navigators
2370 W. Ray Rd #1
Chandler, AZ 85224
TheMedicareSite.com
480-821-9188
info@themedicaresite.com
Unbiased Medicare help from local agents who care

Estate/Trust Attorney or Law Firm	The Parker Law Office, LLC
Estate/Trust Attorney or Law Firm	Harrison Law
Estate/Trust Attorney or Law Firm	Desert Financial
Customer Service	Premier Health Family Practice
Customer Service	Appliance Equation
Customer Service	Lerner & Rowe
Credit Union	Desert Financial Credit Union
Credit Union	Mountain America Credit Union
Credit Union	OneAZ Credit Union
Computer Repair	uBreakiFix - Phone and Computer Repair
Computer Consulting Firm	Happy Geeks
Computer Consulting Firm	Data Doctors
Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency	Adrianne Lynch
Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency	Ravenswood Realty
Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency	Cre8
Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency	SJ Fowler Real Estate
Commercial Real Estate Agent/Agency	Suzanne Dye
Childcare/Daycare Facility	WonderWise Preschool
Childcare/Daycare Facility	KinderCare
Cellular Phone Provider	T-Mobile
Business/Corporate Attorney or Law Firm	Harrison Law
Business/Corporate Attorney or Law Firm	AVID Esq Group
Bank	Unison Bank
Bank	Meadows Bank
Bank	Academy Bank
Attorney/Law Firm	Lerner & Rowe
Attorney/Law Firm	Harrison Law
Attorney/Law Firm	Browne Law Group The Anti Lawyer, Lawyer
Assisted Living Facility	The Summit at Sunland Springs
Assisted Living Facility	Gold Canyon Assisted Living
Assisted Living Facility	Canyon Winds Assisted Living
Ad Agency	DeBellevue Global Marketing Agency
Ad Agency	Sophisticated Marketing Solutions
Ad Agency	Dawning Public Relations
Ad Agency	Mirex Marketing
Accounting Firm	Queen Creek Accounting

Home & Garden

Outdoor Living	Big B's BBQs
Outdoor Living	Cutting Edge Landscapes
Outdoor Living	Element Mist
Rain Gutter services	Rain Gutter Express LLC
Rain Gutter services	Sun Valley Guttering
Window Repair/Sales	Lifetime Windows & Doors
Window Repair/Sales	Southwest Door and Sas
Tree Service	Family Tree Trimming
Tree Service	Cutting Edge Landscapes
Tree Service	Wayne's Landscaping
Synthetic Lawn Company	Cutting Edge Landscapes
Roofing Company	State 48 Roofing
Roofing Company	True Built Roofing
Remodeling Company	Bulldog Design/Build LLC
Remodeling Company	JPS Restoration & Construction
Remodeling Company	New Level Builders
Pool Installation	AZ Pool Concepts
Pool Installation	Presidential Pools
Pool Installation	The Edge Pools

Check out next edition for the remaining list of winners.
If you can't wait, go to YourValley.net and click on Favorites.


Congratulations
to the 2024 East Valley Favorites!
★2024★
EAST VALLEY
FAVORITES
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA
YourValley.net
You voted. We counted.
And now, the results are officially in!
We present to you the best
our community has to offer -
the East Valley Favorites!
Voting Results:
Or go to
evf.yourvalley.net
WRANGLER NEWS
INDEPENDENT



Tempe has started its $135 million restoration of city streets. (Special to the Independent/Arianna Grainey)

Tempe starts construction on its $135M restoration of city streets

Construction recently began on the city of Tempe's $135 million commitment to restoring the city's street pavement network to excellent condition over the next four years.

The accelerated street improvement project will improve roads and increase overall street safety citywide, a city release explained. Tempe voters overwhelmingly approved the use of bond funds to accelerate the city's paving plans in the November 2024 election.

Improving and maintaining streets and infrastructure is a top priority for the city of Tempe, according to the release.

Mayor Corey Woods said in the release that street improvements ranked among the top three concerns of Tempe residents in the city's 2023 community survey.

"This project is an answer to their request for better streets," Woods said. "I'd like to thank voters for their investment in our community and their patience while the city works to improve their infrastructure."

Construction has begun in multiple areas of the city this week — the order and type of pavement treatment determined by the pavement's history and Pavement Quality Index.

Some streets will require full mill and paving while others will only need lighter treatments such as sealing to extend their lifespan. Tempe uses an analysis method that assigns a PQI score to every street.

The score and type of treatment they receive, along with other scheduling considerations, is used to determine the order in which streets are selected for improvements.

Other construction improvements are being coordinated simultaneously to reduce the number of times roads are impacted. Community members can view the assigned PQI, treatment type and scheduled work for every Tempe street through the city's Performance Measures Dashboard.

Some areas currently under construction or starting soon include Cavalier Hills Neighborhood, Curry Road between Mill Avenue and Scottsdale Road, Rural Road between Southern Avenue and Bell de Mar Drive, Washington Street between Mill Ave and Tempe/Phoenix City Limit, Apache Boulevard between McClintock Drive and the Tempe/Mesa City Limit, Marilyn Ann Neighborhood, Circle G Ranch Neighborhood, Broadway Square and more.

Tempe is coordinating timing of all projects to ensure effective use of resources and time while minimizing the impacts to community members, the release stated. Construction schedules are subject to change.

Find more information on citywide street improvements, project maps and details at tempe.gov/Streets.

CONVERT A BATH®



Remodel, Refinish, Repair!

- Bathtub to Shower Conversion
- Resurface & Repairs
- Shower Door Enclosures
- Complete Tub/Shower Remodels
- Reliable & Ethical

$50 OFF any full refinishing project CONVERTABATH®
Must present coupon at time of estimate. Cannot be combined with any other off or coupon. Not eligible toward projects paid for through government grants. Expires 5/31/25.

$300 OFF a tub/shower remodel CONVERTABATH®
Must present coupon at time of estimate. Cannot be combined with any other off or coupon. Not eligible toward projects paid for through government grants. Expires 5/31/25.

Business Ethics Awards
Licensed, Bonded, Insured ROC#321240
VISA DISCOVER AMEX

Call to schedule your FREE estimate today
480-656-1348
convertabath.com

VA/HISA Grant Experienced
Find us on
National Torch Awards for Ethics

Yin Rising ACUPUNCTURE

Feel Better with Acupuncture

"Anna has been instrumental in helping manage my autoimmune chronic pain and fatigue. She is truly a miracle worker and I am incredibly grateful for her." A.S.

"Anna worked on my Rotator Cuff, my Hip, and the Neuropathy in my feet. All of these have shown significant improvement. I recommend Anna to everyone I come in contact with." J.K.



Find out why 80% of our patients are through personal referrals!

WE GET RESULTS!

$10 OFF First Visit with this ad

Dr. Anna Lunaria
D.Ac. MsAc. L.Ac. CMT CYT CHT
Doctor of Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine
Specializing in Chronic Pain & Autoimmune
30 years of experience

Are you ready to feel better naturally? Book Now!

6101 S Rural Rd Suite 112
(480) 206-6199 Call/Text
www.yinrising.com Book Online

Participation is Voluntary

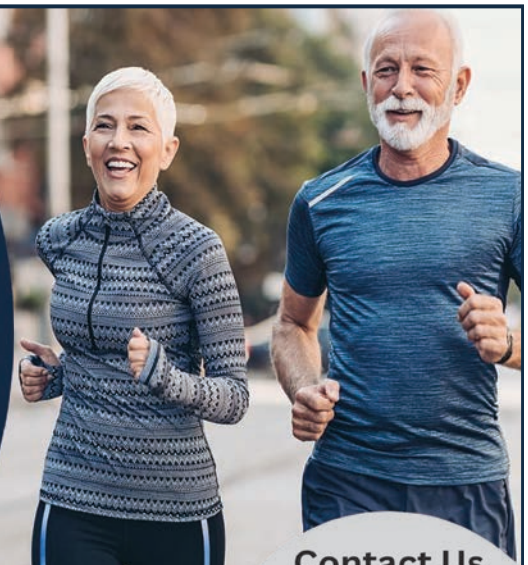
THE FIT-AD TRIAL

65+ and Facing Memory Decline?

Join our Study!

Transportation Provided

Earn up to $375 for Participating



Contact Us
Ph: 602-496-2292
Web: ASUBEAT.com

or Visit our Facebook Page!

ASU Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation
Arizona State University
THE FIT-AD TRIAL

ARIZONA ALLIANCE FOR GOLF

150,000 KIDS
Learning Life Skills Annually



GOLF IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE

AZALLIANCEFORGOLF.ORG | JOIN THE ALLIANCE TODAY

Tempe project adds shade, green stormwater infrastructure near YMCA

Tempe is trading concrete for native shade and rainwater harvesting with the start of its latest shade and green stormwater infrastructure project at Tempe's YMCA, 7070 S. Rural Road.

The project will replace selected areas of asphalt near the YMCA parking lot, Rural Road and Divot Drive with low water use trees, native bushes and groundcover to save water and cool the area, a city release explained.

Coordinated by Tempe's Sustainability and Resilience Division, this sustainable project demonstrates Tempe's commitment to reinvesting in the community while improving resilience to extreme heat.

It is one of three Refresh Tempe projects scheduled for this year that aim to advance the city's sustainable priorities by increasing shade canopy and implementing Green Stormwater Infrastructure.

The project will install a new basin along Rural Road and Divot Drive filled with native plants like yellow bells and hop bushes. Instead of funneling stormwater away like the area's prior stormwater system, the new basin will incorporate GSI to capture stormwater for the plants' use, the release detailed.



One of Tempe's Refresh Tempe projects for this year will install shade and green stormwater infrastructure at the YMCA. (Courtesy City of Tempe)

Islands in the YMCA parking lot will double in size, allowing trees to have the adequate root space to grow to full canopy. Islands will receive woodchip mulch, which releases daytime heat and encourages healthy plant growth.

Construction began March 24 and the project is estimated to finish in September, according to the release.

Sustainability Supervisor Brianne Fisher said in the release that instead of looking at stormwater as a problem, Tempe views it as a solution by designing basins and channeling the water to support 64 new low water use trees to the site and lowering the amount of potable water use.

"Removing select areas of hardscape like asphalt and concrete also help cool the site down quicker in those peak summer temperatures," Fisher said. "We're looking forward to seeing the area benefit from the cooling effect and we thank YMCA for their partnership in this effort."

Two more Refresh Tempe projects related to shade and GSI are scheduled for this year. A Wendler Drive Right-of-Way Refresh, which starts this month, will improve paths and plant native shade along South Wendler Drive between West Garden Drive and Desiree Lane; and Miller Road from McKellips to Curry will receive shade, safety and traffic-calming improvements later this summer.

chandler MUSEUM







Visit our website

chandlermuseum.org

EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW

Ceangal/Connections
March 15, 2024 - July 20, 2025

I Can't Help Myself
January 7, 2025 - June 8, 2025

Gaman
February 4, 2025 - January 26, 2026

Free Admission
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 1-5pm

Tempe pilots real time translation devices through October

The city of Tempe has launched a new pilot program to break down language barriers with the help of AI-powered technology.

In a city as diverse as Tempe, where over 30 languages are spoken, making sure everyone is heard and understood is essential, a city release stated.

The city of Tempe is introducing three Instant Language Assistant devices, created by Translate Live LLC, to help residents who are not fluent in English communicate more effectively when accessing city services.

These devices can translate conversations in real time across more than 200 languages and dialects, from Arabic and Hindi to Mandarin and Spanish.

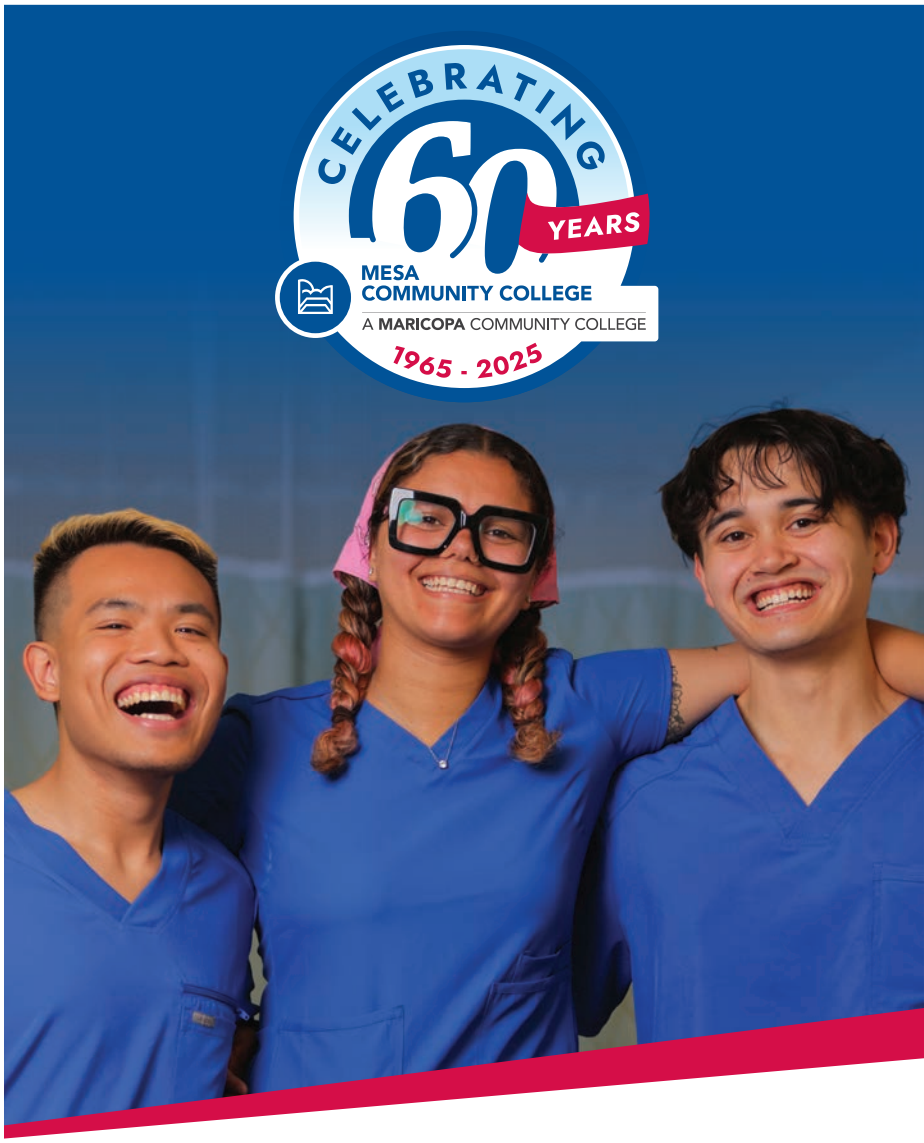
"Everyone in the city of Tempe deserves to be understood when accessing city services. This is another step towards making Tempe more inclusive and equitable," Mayor Corey Woods said in the release.

Running from February through October, the pilot program will test these devices at:

- Escalante Multi-Generational Center – Helping community members navigate recreation programs.
- Tempe City Manager's Office – Supporting communication with Tem-

• See **Translation Program** on page **32**





Your Success.
Our Mission.

For six decades, Mesa Community College has been a cornerstone of the community—shaping futures, building careers, and driving innovation. We look forward to helping the next generation of learners succeed.

mesacc.edu/future-students

Translation Program

• From page **31**

pe City Council staff within their offices and at public meetings.

• Monthly Rotation – A third device will rotate between departments. The device will be at the City Clerk's Office through mid-March then move to the Tempe Public Library.

Each interaction with the device includes a short survey, allowing users to share their feedback and help assess the program's effectiveness, the release detailed.

The devices are HIPAA compliant and feature end-to-end encryption, ensuring that all conversations remain private and secure. This guarantees that residents can communicate with confidence, knowing their personal information is protected.

"This device makes it easier for residents to participate in meetings and activities that can directly impact their neighborhoods and their city. It allows us to remove barriers to inclusion," Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director, said in the release.

Residents can start a conversation by simply selecting their preferred language or dialect and speaking or typing. Conversations are instantly translated, displayed on the device and voiced in real time ensuring clear communication.

For residents whose language isn't preloaded or for those needing American Sign Language interpretation, the devices offer easy access to live translators, according to the release.

This technology also provides accessibility features for people with hearing or communication challenges. Voice-to-text functionality allows individuals with hearing impairments to follow conversations in real time.

This pilot program aligns with Tempe City Council's commitment to fostering equity, inclusion and strong community connections, the release noted.



Tempe is testing a pilot program to break down language barriers using AI technology. (Courtesy City of Tempe)

By removing language barriers, Tempe is ensuring that all residents have equal access to the services and support they need, as well as supporting the city of Tempe's compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which ensures that individuals with limited English proficiency can engage meaningfully with city services.

By prioritizing equitable communication, the city continues its efforts to provide inclusive and accessible services to all residents.

The pilot program is fully funded by the city of Tempe as part of its broader efforts to promote accessibility and inclusivity.

Residents are encouraged to try out the devices and provide feedback to help shape the future of language accessibility in Tempe. Devices are located at:

• Escalante Community Center: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday- Thursday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday at 5 2150 E. Orange St.

• City Manager's Office: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, and during City Council Meetings, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St.

• Tempe City Clerk's Office: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St.

For questions about Translate Live, contact Monique Perry, ADA Accessibility Coordinator, at 480-350-2704 or at monique_perry@tempe.gov

Help keep Chandler graffiti free

If you see graffiti, report it by calling or texting 480-782-4322, using the PublicStuff app, filling out an online form, or sending us an email to blight@chandleraz.gov. We'll remove it fast—we're committed to removing graffiti within 24 hours.

See it, report it, and take pride in our city!

Learn more: **chandleraz.gov/graffiti**

CHANDLER arizona



NOW ENROLLING

Find your future [IN] Tempe Union

TempeUnion.org/Enroll

I'M [IN] Tempe★Union HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tempe • McClintock • Marcos de Niza • Corona del Sol
Mountain Pointe • Desert Vista




19 Career & Technical Education Programs
Tempe★Union CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

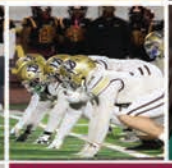
International Baccalaureate
37 Courses @ THS

THE PEGGY PAYNE ACADEMY
Gifted Academy @ MHS






Class of 2024
$64 M in Scholarship Awards


6 Comprehensive High Schools



All 6 Tempe Union schools are currently A-rated by AZ Dept of Education



184 Honors & Advanced Courses



Dual Enrollment with Community Colleges to earn credit for or towards Associate Degrees

ACADEMICS • ACTIVITIES • ATHLETICS

Tempe High | McClintock | Marcos de Niza | Corona del Sol | Mountain Pointe | Desert Vista

Tempe★Union★Online

Find Your Opportunity Today!

Non-Surgical Treatment of Varicose & Spider Veins

OVER 30,000 PATIENTS TREATED SINCE 2005



Love Your Legs... *Again!*

Stunning Results!

- In Office Procedures
- Minimal Recovery Time
- Performed By A Physician
- Free Screenings Available

Optima vein care

bioTE CERTIFIED PRACTITIONER

Covered by Most Insurance and Medicare/AHCCCS

Princess Medical Center
8575 E. Princess Dr. Suite 117,
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
480-496-2696

Chandler Medical Office Bldg
485 South Dobson Rd. Suite 103,
Chandler, AZ 85224
480-899-8930

Now Offering REACTEVATE Hormone Replacement Therapy for MENOPAUSE & ANDROPAUSE

Call today: 480-496-2696

www.OptimaVeinCare.com | WWW.REACTEVATE.COM

Tempe to address Victory Acres street paving issues this summer

By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Residents of Tempe's Victory Acres neighborhood recently spoke out about issues with the repaving of their residential streets, as many of them are left with damages even after the city completed repairs.

The Victory Acres Neighborhood Association held a community meeting on March 4, where city officials attended to discuss the issues observed by impacted residents and to work toward solutions.

Eric Iwersen, Tempe's transportation and sustainability director, and Mark Weber, deputy public works director, were present to answer residents' questions and to provide additional information as necessary.

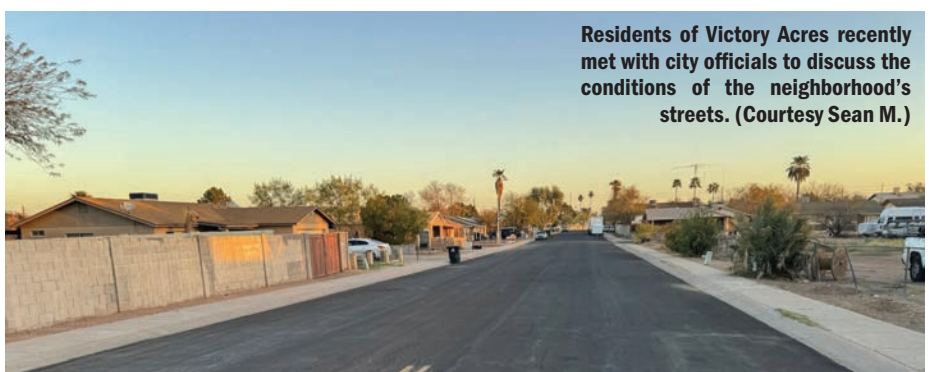
Victor Jimenez, head of the Victory Acres Neighborhood Association, explained at the meeting that he had heard about the city's repaving of streets by Optimist Park and went to check out the conditions of the roads in another neighborhood.

"Their streets are immaculate, and ours, every time a street sweeper comes by, the street comes up," Jimenez said.

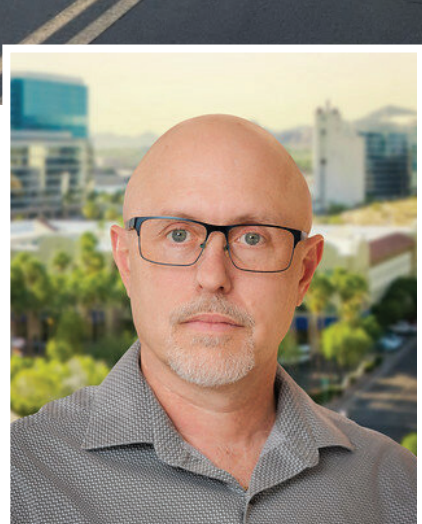
He went on to say that he wasn't sure if this was an issue with a lack of funding, but he and other residents shared their experience with their repaved roads not being able to withstand the traffic it receives.

Weber said at the meeting that the city is aware that the street is "unraveling," despite the fact that the streets in the Victory Acres neighborhood were just paved last summer.

He went on to say that the treatment that the city used typically works, but in the neighborhood's case, there was not enough binder used in the mixture when the city put the paving down.



Residents of Victory Acres recently met with city officials to discuss the conditions of the neighborhood's streets. (Courtesy Sean M.)



Mark Weber, deputy public works director (Courtesy City of Tempe)



Eric Iwersen, transportation and sustainability director (Courtesy City of Tempe)

Weber said that there is a warranty for the original treatment, and the city plans to treat the roads again in June in order to make sure all of the impacted areas are addressed.

"We want to give it as much time under the warranty, so that we make sure we get everything taken care of," Weber said.

The city had apparently used a slurry seal, which is a thin seal that is used on roadways to help in preserving the surface and extending its lifespan.

Some residents took issue with this choice given that it was improperly implemented and the resulting damage to the streets. Residents at the meeting shared that "rocks are coming up all the time" as cars, buses and other vehicles pass by, also questioning why a different treatment, like asphalt, could not be used.

Weber said that this treatment was chosen based on the condition of the neighborhood's roadways and its uses over time.

Some roads with heavier traffic, like those along bus routes, received asphalt paving, but streets within the residential area were given the slurry seal. This proves to be an issue, according to Victory Acres residents, who have said that buses running late typically will cut through the neighborhood in order to make it to the next stop.

Iwersen said that residents should alert the city when they see buses cutting through their neighborhood, as Tempe works with Valley Metro and its Orbit line drivers to ensure they are following proper protocol.

"We're always having to kind of train and re-train and reintroduce those topics that are important to us in our neighborhoods," Iwersen said.

One resident, Irene Larios, said that she expects that the city follows through with their estimate of completing the repairs this summer, making the road "nice and clean" for the Victory Acres neighborhood.

"We deserve the same respect and the same quality of work for this neighborhood," Larios said.

Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Reporter Caroline Yu can be reached at cyu@iniusa.org



True Value

Mckay's True Value Hardware
4939 W Ray Rd
Chandler, AZ 85226
480-686-8064

Screen Repair **Service**

McKay's True Value® is the place for screen repair and replacement! You'll get expert service at a fair price on repair or replacement of window, patio and door screens. Refresh your old screens—and your home—with help from your local True Value.



Be a legend. Insure your life.

Mary Contreras, Agent
2145 E Warner Road
Tempe, AZ 85284
Bus: 480-775-7788
mary.contreras.gpdf@statefarm.com
Hablamos Español

With the right life insurance, you can leave a legacy for your family. I'm here to help. LET'S TALK TODAY.

State Farm®

State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI)
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)
1708145 Bloomington, IL

The Nick Bastian Team
Your Real Estate Experts

REALTY EXECUTIVES

Community Spotlight: Alta Mira



Alta Mira is perfectly located in South Tempe near the 101 and Warner Road. With easy freeway access and all of the amenities of the area including restaurants, shopping and outstanding schools, Alta Mira residents love their community. We especially love Goodwin Park's playground, basketball courts, BBQ grills and picnic tables. The large lots and year-round community activities are a huge plus, too.

Get more information and see homes currently for sale at: NickBastian.com/Alta-Mira
We provide information about many other 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!

NickBastian.com 602-803-6425



Knowledgeable.
Trustworthy.
Professional.
Experienced.

Work with a Top Producer for Realty Executives who is a community expert. Nick has over 32 years of experience helping buyers and sellers in the area.

EVIT files lawsuit against Adelante Healthcare over 2011 lease agreement

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

East Valley Institute of Technology has filed a lawsuit challenging a 14-year-old lease agreement with Adelante Healthcare.

EVIT's action is unwarranted, disruptive and a threat to both health care access and student training programs, Adelante Healthcare said in a statement.

EVIT reported in September 2024 an internal review had discovered a lease signed in 2011 may have resulted in the school not being paid fair market value for rent while a third party may have made millions of dollars on the deal. The review found the lease for Adelante Healthcare, a community health center on the EVIT Main Campus, 1601 W. Main St. in Mesa, signed by previous EVIT administration in 2011, may not have been approved by the EVIT Governing Board as required by law, EVIT said at the time.

For more than a decade, Adelante's $15 million, 42,000-square-foot medical facility on EVIT's campus — built at no cost to EVIT — has been a resource for Mesa residents and a training ground for future health care professionals, the release from Adelante states.

Adelante has trained 86 EVIT students between 2017 and 2024. Adelante has employed more than 55 EVIT graduates, the release states.



East Valley Institute of Technology has two Mesa campuses — at 1601 W. Main St. and 6625 S. Power Road. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Since 2020, the facility has provided more than 50,000 patients with health care services across 331,000 visits. No dedicated health facility within a 10-mile radius offers such comprehensive, community-focused care, it states.

"Despite these clear benefits, EVIT filed a lawsuit on Feb. 26 challenging the validity of a lease agreement the district helped negotiate, approve and promote in 2011. At the time, EVIT's board and attorneys were fully engaged in the process, and the lease was reviewed by one of Arizona's most respected law firms," according to the release.

"EVIT's attempt to rewrite history here is puzzling, to say the least," Pedro Cons, Adelante Healthcare's chief executive officer, said in the release. "EVIT sought out a partnership with Adelante. EVIT's board and leadership were instrumental in developing the plan for the facility, which they approved with advice from experienced attorneys. Now, after 14 years of saying nothing while reaping the benefits of this partnership, EVIT has gone on the attack in what feels like a grab for cash or political leverage. Either way, Adelante — which has done nothing wrong — looks forward to defending our actions and reputation in a court of law."

Adelante's current leadership team, which had no involvement in the lease negotiations, has conducted an internal review of the agreement and its execution. That review found no evidence of impropriety at any point in the past 14 years, the release from Adelante states.

"EVIT's unfortunate decision to take legal action against a longtime partner jeopardizes health care for tens of thousands of Mesa residents and a quality education for scores of much-needed health care professionals," Cons said in the release. "It's a distraction that detracts from the serious work this partnership was created to accomplish. Mesa's residents, the medical practitioners of tomorrow, and local taxpayers deserve much, much better."

For information on Adelante Healthcare, go to AdelanteHealthcare.com.

Read the latest about the lease agreement with Adelante Healthcare at https://www.yourvalley.net/

EAST VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

EVIT is a public trade school providing 50 career training programs for East Valley high school students and Phoenix-area adults at two central campuses in Mesa.

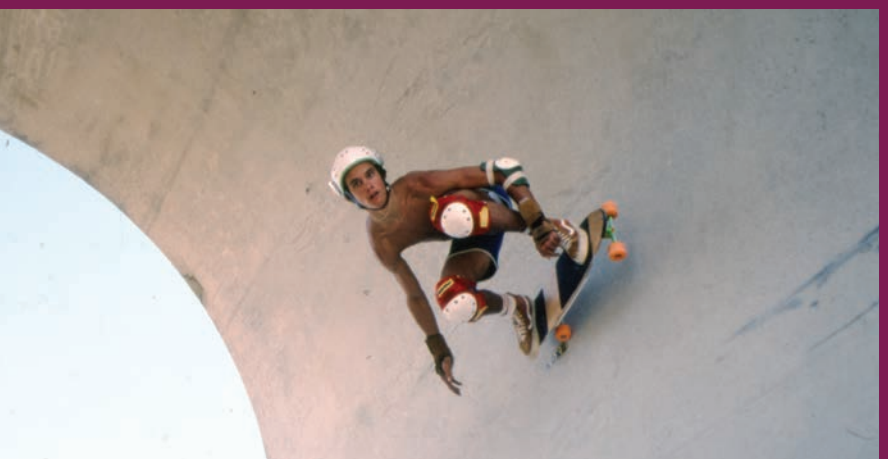
East Valley school districts include Apache Junction, Mesa, Queen Creek, Cave Creek, Chandler, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Higley, J.O. Combs, Scottsdale and Tempe.

Classes are 8-10:35 a.m. or noon-2:35 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes with four-hour blocks are 7-11 a.m. or noon-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are also held at satellite campuses, according to https://www.evit.edu.

Gateway
Health Wellness and Aesthetics
6000 S McClintock Dr, Ste B,
Tempe, AZ 85383
602.481.3149
GatewayHWA.com
Hours: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm
E Guadalupe Rd
S McClintock Dr
Uniting Primary Care, Wellness & Aesthetics
Mother's Day Special:
$50 OFF
base price on Aesthetics
including Botox & Hydrafacials.
Offer valid for entire month of May.
FREE
SERVICE
if you bring in
5 people
TEMPURATURES HEATING UP? WE OFFER IV HYDRADTION!

Tempe Arts +Culture Connections

Tempe
Arts + Culture



Opening Celebration: Dry Surf, Local Skateboarding History

5 p.m. | May 10
Tempe History Museum
809 E. Southern Ave.

Come celebrate a history of skateboarding in the Salt River Valley. Join us for the exhibit, skateboarding demonstrations and a live DJ. Light refreshments provided.

tempe.gov/MuseumExhibits



May the 4th Be With You: Art Workshop

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Sunday, May 4
Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts
700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy.
Free Event

All ages will enjoy making mini artworks inspired by the beloved *Star Wars* franchise.

TempeCenterForTheArts.com



Performances at the Museum

7 p.m. | Friday nights
Tempe History Museum
809 E. Southern Ave.
Free Event

Live, local music!

May 2 – Dry River Yacht Club
May 23 – Calumet

tempe.gov/MuseumEvents



Never Miss Out on Fun!

With over 300+ events each year, there's always something happening in the Tempe's Arts + Culture scene! Get the inside scoop on upcoming performances, exhibits, classes and more. Sign-up today!

tempe.gov/ArtsNewsletter

© 2025 City of Tempe Arts + Culture. All Rights Reserved. Names, text and images are copyrights or trademarks of their respective owners.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED ADS

VISIT US @ iniusa.org/classifieds | EMAIL US: azads@iniusa.org

DEADLINE: Wednesdays by 3pm | OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

EMAILS

azads@iniusa.org
legals@iniusa.org
azobits@iniusa.org

To place your ad call us at
623.972.6101

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities

AUTOMOTIVE, GARAGE SALES & MERCHANDISE RATES

$20 per market - 30 words
Your ad appears in the newspaper of choice plus online
$5.00 for color and each additional photo
25¢ extra per additional word

$60 four markets - 30 words
Your ad appears in four newspapers of choice plus online
$5.00 for color and each additional photo
25¢ extra per additional word

BUSINESS/SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES

Starting at $30
for one column by two-inch advertisement
$15.00 per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
Logo and photos included
4-weeks minimum

EMPLOYMENT ADS

Starting at $30
for one column by two-inch advertisement
$15.00 per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
Logo and photos included
No minimum commitment requirement

CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE
Create Your Own Ads Online, It's Easy!
Go to: iniusa.org/classifieds
then select "Place an ad"

Part Time

Remote Job Opportunities:

Part-Time Data Entry Specialist
We are seeking a detail-oriented and self-motivated individual to accurately and efficiently manage data in a flexible work environment.

Part-Time Customer Care Representative
We are looking for a customer-focused and reliable individual to assist with inquiries and provide support to our clients. Strong communication skills and a friendly demeanor are essential.

To Apply: Please send applications to apply@willowsbridgepc.com

Miscellaneous

BLUE MOON
ESTATE SALES
SEE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU
BlueMoonEstateSales.com/Mesa
480-932-9439

Roofing

Senior & Military Discounts
YORK
ROOFING & PAINTING LLC
Specializing in Repairs & Replacements
Roof Repairs • Roof Replacements • Flat Roofs Coatings • Tile • Shingles Foam Roofing • Mobile Home & Patio Roofs • Turbine Repairs • House Painting
John York - Owner/Operator
602-705-5209
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
ROC #188602 #327991, #327992, #327993
FREE ESTIMATES

Classified doesn't cost... It Pays!

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities

For information, Call the Independent at
623-972-6101
iniusa.org/classifieds

Painting **Stucco** **Siding** **Doors & Windows**

We Do It All: Arizona's Leader for Exterior Remodeling & Repair




Painting


Stucco


Siding


Doors & Windows

- "Armorcoat" Arizona's Toughest Paint - Won't Chip, Flake or Peel
- Long-Term Paint Solution For Stucco, Block Or Wood Homes
- Stucco Transformations & Repairs - Update To New Sand Finish
- Siding Upgrades & Repairs - James Hardie & Fascia Replacement
- Doors & Windows - Custom Built & Installed -Lower Energy Bills

★★★★★

America's Home Pros did a fantastic job on my house! It required a lot of repair work prior to painting - woodwork & stucco. All of it was handled in-house & turned out great! Everyone who communicated with me (salesman, inspector, office manager, owner, color consultant, project manager, site supervisor & workers) were professional, knowledgeable, responsive & friendly. Work was done on schedule & I love the results. Maureen M.

Spring Special
20% OFF
Expires 5/31/25

ROC #338650

America's HOMEPROS

AHOMEPROS.COM

Call us NOW!

480-712-5770

YOU'LL ♥ LIVING IN THE LAKES!



Lake Park Villas Condo
2 Bed/1 Bath/1050sqft



Updated Single Level w/Swimming Pool
931 E Eveningstar Ln • $724,000
4 Bed/2 Bath/2,102sqft



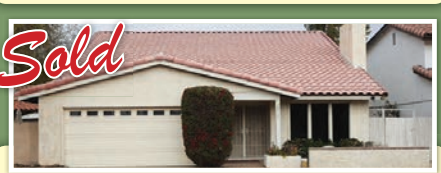
Custom on The Island w/Swimming Pool
1070 E Sandpiper Dr • $879,000
3 Bedroom + Den/2.5 Bath/2,664sqft



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



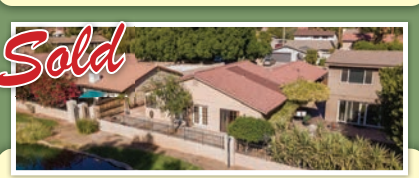
Custom in the Coves w/Swimming Pool
1302 E Steamboat Bend Dr • $779,000
5 Bed/3 Bath/2,544sqft



Home on the Rapids
5514 S Jolly Roger Rd
4 Bed/2.5 Bath/2250sqft



Waterfront in The Coves
1300 E Commodore Pl • $815,000
3 Bedroom + Den + Loft/2 Bath/2,466sqft/Pool



Single Level on East Lake
1523 E Driftwood Dr $579,000
3 Bedroom/2 Bat/1,629sqft



Waterfront in The Coves
1405 E Whalers Way • $715,000
3 Bedroom/2 Bathroom/1897sqft



Resort Living on the Island
1064 E Sandpiper Dr • $885,000
3 Bed + Den/3 Bath/2,871sqft



Runaway Point Condo
$331,500
2 Bedroom 2 Bathroom, 1144sqft



Waterfront Townhouse in Village Landing
2 Bedroom 2 Bathroom, 1212sqft • $540,000



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

The Lakes #1 Realtor! Thank you!

REALTY EXECUTIVES

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY · REALTOR® · MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE MLS