

Tempe municipal golf courses see new life as Shalimar closes its doors



By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The beloved Shalimar Golf Club closed its doors at the end of April, leaving residents uncertain about its future as a golf course and what opportunities will remain if the proposed housing development at the site receives city council approval.

However, the city's two municipal golf courses do have some recent improvements for residents in north and south Tempe to take advantage of.

• See **Shalimar** on page 5

Tempe's golf scene is changing with Shalimar Golf Club closing, and the two municipal courses seeing major changes. (Courtesy City of Tempe)

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IN BRIEF

CLEANUP

Volunteers commemorate Earth Day removing litter

Thirty-one volunteers dedicated a Tuesday morning to an Arizona Department of Transportation Adopt a Highway Earth Day event in Tempe, collecting litter along a section of Loop 202.

Working along the Red Mountain Freeway right of way in the Salt River bed, the volunteers filled 41 bags with trash and removed other items, including shopping carts, three electric rental scooters, yards of metal pipe and more, according to an ADOT release.

In 2024, volunteers removed 10,400 bags of litter while contributing 17,891 hours of labor worth \$538,000, state transportation officials said.

For more: azdot.gov/adopt-a-highway.

SENTENCED

Tempe mother who killed her children with meat cleaver gets life in prison

A 44-year-old woman has been sentenced to life in prison for murdering her son and daughter in a Tempe apartment by hitting them dozens of times with a meat cleaver.

Yui Inoue received two consecutive life sentences in the 2021 deaths of the 7-year-old boy and 9-year-old girl, authorities said.



One of the resolutions sought the authorization of a maximum dollar amount of up to \$2.9 million for an individual job order to procure construction services for the replacement of ultraviolet valves and filter rehabilitation at the facility, 6600 S. Price Road. (City of Tempe)

Contract OK'd for South Tempe Water Treatment Plant improvements

By Caroline Yu

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tempe City Council recently considered two resolutions related to infrastructure improvements at the South Tempe Water Treatment Plant.

Both were approved in 7-0 votes of the council at the May 1 meeting.

One of the resolutions sought the authorization of a maximum dollar amount of up to \$2.9 million for

an individual job order to procure construction services for the replacement of ultraviolet valves and filter rehabilitation at the facility, 6600 S. Price Road.

City council also voted on approving a job order with Garney Cos. for the completion of the UV disinfection system and rehabilitation of the plant's filter system improvements.

The South Tempe Water Treatment Plant was constructed in the late 1970s, and since then, there

have been several expansions and improvements, which were made to reach a rated maximum treatment capacity of 50 million gallons per day.

Barrett Jurgemeyer, principal civil engineer, wrote in a city staff report that during recent high-capacity treatment events, operational challenges were identified that could prevent Tempe from using the full rated capacity of the plant.

• See **Contract** on page 15

Shalimar

• From page 1

Shalimar Golf Club, a Tempe attraction for over 40 years at 2032 E. Golf Ave., closed its doors on April 30, after its owners began working with a developer to reimagine the space as a new housing development.

Over the last year, the Shalimar Association, a residential group that aims to protect the course, has been working to fight the rezoning of the golf course before the sale is finalized to protect the green space. Carl Streiff, president of the association, has been at the forefront of the Save Shalimar campaign – recruiting other residents, speaking with the owners and sharing their concerns with Tempe City Council.

Streiff says that the Shalimar community is understanding of the owners' decision to sell the property, which was becoming increasingly expensive to maintain, according to local reports. But that doesn't mean that the course's neighbors are pleased with the potential new development.

"I think the No. 1 misconception if there is one is that we are trying to block a sale, and we're not," Streiff said. "We're absolutely OK with the owner



After over 40 years, Shalimar Golf Club closed its doors at the end of April. (Courtesy Carl Streiff)

selling the property, our issue has been and is rezoning."

The proposed housing development seeks to rezone Shalimar into a much higher density to allow for the project's scale, which according to Streiff, would completely change the character of the neighborhood.

Shalimar Golf Course has been a community

• See **Shalimar** on page 11



Carl Streiff, pictured here with his family, is working to preserve the Shalimar Golf Club amidst rezoning efforts. (Courtesy Carl Streiff)

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IN BRIEF

MANAGEMENT

Kidder Mathews to manage Amkor HQ

Kidder Mathews Asset Services has been selected by New-Street Properties to manage the corporate headquarters of Amkor Technologies, 2045 E. Innovation Circle in Tempe.

The 97,504-square-foot facility sits within the Arizona State University Research Park, a growing hub for innovation and home to the new Chips for America R&D campus, a press release explained.

GIVING BACK

Four Peaks Brewing hosts annual event for teachers

Four Peaks Brewing Co. is once again stepping up for educators with its 14th Annual Four Peaks For Teachers program.

This year, the initiative is to provide teachers with free choose-your-own supply kits and will award five deserving teachers with \$1,000 grants, with one grand prize winner receiving a grant of \$3,000, a press release explained.

Through the "Thank a Teacher" campaign, five teachers will each receive \$1,000 cash grants, with one grand prize winner receiving \$3,000 to support their work in whatever way they need the most.

Nominations close Thursday, June 5 at www.fourpeaksforteachers.org.

Valley's housing market supply sees return to normal

By Brent Ruffner
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Valley's housing market supply is nearly five times higher than it was at the beginning of 2022, according to Tina Tamboer, a Phoenix-based housing analyst, marking a return to a more normal market.

Currently, there are 24,000 housing listings available in the Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service, up from a meager 5,000 listings in 2022, Tamboer said.

The current amount of Valley housing listings is considered normal after the area has been "under-supplied for a long" time, Tamboer said.

"Buyers are super picky now because they have so much to choose from," the housing analyst said. "It's a good time to be a buyer. Whatever buyers ask for, they seem to get these days."

The average for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage is at 6.76% as of May 1, according to the Freddie Mac website.

On May 7, the U.S. Federal Reserve announced it would not lower interest rates despite economic activity continuing at a "solid" pace, according to its website.

Still, seller prices have softened by a 1.3% drop in the median price, Tamboer said. The national median price for a single-family home is \$431,250 as of April, according to the Associated Press.



The Valley's housing market supply is nearly five times higher than it was at the beginning of 2022, according to Tina Tamboer, a Phoenix-based housing analyst, marking a return to a more normal market. (Independent Newsmedia/Brent Ruffner)

The median home price for a single family home is \$500,000 in Maricopa County, according to Tamboer.

"(If rates go) below 6.5% I think we will see a (positive) turn in the market," Tamboer said.

Cities on the outskirts of down-

town Phoenix are currently in a buyer's market while cities more centrally located like Glendale are in a seller's market, the housing expert said.

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

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LIQUOR LICENSES

The Tempe City Council on April 10 voted as part of a consent agenda with other items to recommend the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control approve:

- 1 • a series 12 restaurant liquor license for **Mijana Entertainment Group LLC**, 1290 N. Scottsdale Road No. 107-110.
- 2 • a series 12 restaurant liquor license for **Sexy Burger Tempe LLC**, 414

S. Mill Ave. No. 101.

The Tempe City Council on May 1 voted as part of a consent agenda with other items to recommend the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control approve:

- 3 • an acquisition of control of a series 7 beer and wine bar liquor license for Goldwater Brewing Co. @ Crossings LLC, dba **Goldwater Brewing Co.**, 9895 S. Priest Drive, Suite 102.
- 4 • a series 4 wholesaler liquor license for the new business, Pet Reserve Wines LLC, dba **Pet Reserve Wines**, 1031 W. Geneva Drive.
- 5 • a series 6 bar liquor license for Mill Ave Entertainment Group LLC, dba **University Sports Grill**, 740 S. Mill Ave. Suite No. D130.
- 6 • a series 6 bar liquor license for Shree Ram LLC dba **Mills Modern Social**, 83 E. Broadway Road.
- 7 • a series 10 beer and wine store liquor license for ODV Wines LLC, dba **ODV Wines**, 1323 W. University Drive.
- 8 • a series 12 restaurant liquor license for Ghost Ranch Tempe LLC, dba **Ghost Ranch**, 1006 E. Warner Road Suites 102-103.
- 9 • a series 18 craft distiller liquor license for Outlaw Distillery AZ LLC, dba **Adventurous Stills**, 2125 E. Fifth St. Suite 102.

OPENINGS

- 10 **FAAVA Mediterranean Cuisine**, 3491 W Frye Road Suite 2 in Chandler, recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The business is open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, closed Mondays, according to <https://www.faava.us>.



TRUWEST CREDIT UNION

11 Property damage restoration company **1-800 Water Damage** has opened its fifth Arizona franchise location in Tempe. The franchise location at 1730 W. 10th Place Suite No. 2 in Tempe opened recently and is owned and operated by Dan Barash and Ed Saavedra. Go to <https://www.1800waterdamage.com/tempe-west-chandler>.

12 **Kids Empire**, an indoor playground for family entertainment for all ages, opened its 100th location at 3455 W. Frye Road Suite No. 2 in Chandler, in December, with plans to expand more in Arizona. Go to <https://www.kidsempire.com>.

AWARDS

13 **TruWest Credit Union**, including at 1345 W. Warner Road in Tempe, recently announced that Priority Financial Group has named it Financial Institution of the Year. This award underscores TruWest's commitment to excellence in providing exceptional wealth management services and support to its members. Go to <https://truwest.org>.

IN THE NEWS

14 Kidder Mathews Asset Services has been selected by NewStreet Properties to manage the corporate headquarters of **Amkor Technologies**, 2045 E. Innovation Circle in Tempe. The 97,504-square-foot facility sits within the Arizona State University Research Park, a growing hub for innovation and home to the new Chips for America R&D campus.

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OPINIONS

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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.

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

KYRENE BOARD CONSIDERS RENEWING MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS OVERRIDE

"I sat on a Kyrene Parent Superintendent Council for several years and came to understand the M&O override as fundamental to delivering and maintaining functional schools that meet family and community expectations. In essence, the override funds the difference between a base amount the legislature commits and the actual cost of delivering the type of education expected. This means the M&O override pays for things like classroom teaching positions that help to maintain student-teacher ratios at far more favorable levels than otherwise possible; for educational technology that was not foreseen when the funding formulas were created in the 1980s; and to maintain options for physical education, music and the arts in our schools, among many other general funding needs." — **Mike Low** via story comment

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IS HOW WE BUILD VALLEY'S UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

"Knowing how to handle money is a very important asset" — **Jim Dalton** via story comment

TEMPE COMMISSION DIVIDED ON NEW 29-STORY MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

"Yikes!" — **Carol M.** via story comment

"What an insult to the little church next door" — **Martha W.** via story comment

"No thank you! We're short on water today!" — **Mary Kay** via story comment

TEMPE ORDINANCE AIMS TO MAKE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS MORE AFFORDABLE

"I am just hoping no second story ADU's in a single story neighborhood. I really don't want anyone peering down on me in my backyard!" — **Geraldine M.** via story comment

TEMPE TO CREATE ALMOST 400 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

"Affordable to who? Millionaires?" — **Jack Erickson** via story comment

"Tempe is known not to follow through, I bet the affordable is going to be market rate plus 10%. They can barely handle the

homeless population." — **Domnick Eger** via story comment

"I would be amazed if this really happened and they say affordable. What they don't say is low-income affordable. Any price is affordable for someone." — **Matt Jasmin** via story comment

"And what is affordable? All of your paycheck or 30% of your paycheck?" — **Scott Rudesill** via story comment

TEMPE MEETINGS SET FOR MAY 6 ON PROPOSED HEAT SAFETY ORDINANCE

"This seems stupid because people who work get 15 minute breaks every two hours, 'regular' rest breaks during extreme heat, 10 minutes every two hours when a heat advisory is in effect." — **Diane Jaquith** via story comment

TEMPE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES SEE NEW LIFE AS SHALIMAR CLOSES ITS DOORS

"I think there is a special place in you know where for the developers who encourage this travesty, and I'm not allowed to say exactly what I think because I keep being corrected to be kind but this is not a kind situation." — **Cary G.** via story comment

Shalimar

• From page 5

hub for Tempe residents – offering a place of gathering for golfers and non-golfers alike.

“We’ve had many events and a lot of favorable memories, and it’s somewhat of an anchor of this part of Tempe,” Streiff said.

He also believes that a new, high density housing development is not consistent with the existing neighborhood, suggesting that this kind of project would not be of benefit to the surrounding home values.

Other potential concerns with the rezoning include increased traffic, a loss of 44 acres of green space and a threat to the animals living around the course.

The Tempe Development Commission is expected to consider the project after the developer conducts neighborhood meetings about the project in June, and until then, Streiff and other Save Shalimar supporters will continue to push for the preservation of the golf course to hopefully bring about an alternate solution.

Unlike Tempe’s two public golf courses, Shalimar, a nine-hole course, is privately owned and operated. Streiff says that neighbors don’t expect the city to come in and take over, but he thinks that there’s an opportunity for a business to step in and bring new life to the club.

Shalimar has a longstanding clientele base for a smaller course, and its other amenities like its restaurant and bar attract non-golfers. Streiff says an additional event venue on site would be a major draw to bring in and retain the club’s patrons.

“It could be a real boom as far as business,” he said. “You also have a built-in clientele – a large one – that are very much used to going to Shalimar to eat, to golf, to drink, to hang out, and we want to



The Ken McDonald Golf Course will be conducting renovations of its clubhouse soon. (Courtesy City of Tempe)

see that brought back to life as Shalimar 2.0.”

What’s left of Tempe golf

It seems that Shalimar’s next steps are still uncertain as the rezoning of the course remains up in the air, but that doesn’t mean the Tempe community has no remaining golf opportunities for residents and visitors.

Tempe has two public-private golf courses: Grass Clippings Rolling Hills and the Ken McDonald golf courses, which both have and are expected to have major improvements to “ensure the

Alex Jovanovic
(Courtesy City of Tempe)



long-term viability of public golf,” according to the city’s website. Tempe City Council began negotiating with two firms in 2022 to take on a land lease and capital improvements at the two courses, transferring operational duties to these partners while still retaining ownership.

• See **Shalimar** on page 12

Civility Checklist

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



❑ **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.



Residents are concerned about how the closing of Shalimar Golf Club and potential rezoning could negatively impact the area. (Courtesy Carl Streiff)

Shalimar

• From page 11

Grass Clippings took on the Rolling Hills Golf Course, and CourseCo entered into a lease agreement for the Ken McDonald Golf Course. The former has since reopened the course with many improvements, such as new lighting and dining, while the latter is still in the design phase.

With the Ken McDonald Golf Course, 800 E. Divot Drive, the city and CourseCo are creating an improved clubhouse that will have a larger interior footprint, indoor and outdoor space, increased parking and a below ground cart barn.

Alex Jovanovic, deputy community services director, said that the earliest construction could start in July based on the project's funding, but he

estimated that it will likely start in fiscal year 2026.

Work still needs to be done in the conceptual design process, conducting public outreach and beginning to work with an architect to guide them.

"They're looking at things like cost estimating and those kinds of things just to see what can actually be done within the budget that's allocated," Jovanovic said.

Once those have been finalized, work can begin on bringing the city and CourseCo's vision of the new Ken McDonald Golf Course to life.

Jovanovic said that people oftentimes view golf as an extra amenity and not as important, but Tempe sees it as a part of quality of life — a major priority for the city. A part of that quality of life includes this facility, and being a municipal golf course means that Tempe has a responsibility to maintain it.

The 50-year-old clubhouse has some features that have reached their life expectancies, and it's necessary for the city to now improve upon them.

Tempe wants to not only provide a space for its residents to enjoy, but hopefully these changes can bring in other people from around the Valley to play some golf or just to gather with the community.

"We'd like people to experience the golf course outside of golf, just traditional recreational opportunities, special events," Jovanovic said. "So having additional parking there, revamping or renovating the clubhouse, allows for those opportunities."

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.



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Last chance to register

Summer classes and camps begin soon, with offerings for all interests. Check out these amazing ones coming up or peruse the whole list: tempe.gov/SummerCamps



- June 2-6 - Arizona Science Center; Sky-High Science
- June 2-6 - Play-Well TEK*; Radical Rides with LEGO*
- June 9-13 - Black Rocket; Minecraft Redstone Engineers
- June 30-July 3 - Movers and Makers; Swifties Unite
- July 7-11 - Movers and Makers; Desert Discoveries



Raise the woof: Kiwanis dog park opens soon

Have a paw-sitively good time at the Kiwanis Dog Park grand opening celebration on Saturday, May 31, from 8-10 a.m. Enjoy fun giveaways and snacks, and join in for remarks and a ribbon cutting at 8:30 a.m. The new park, located on the northern end of Kiwanis Park near Ash Avenue and Baseline Road, features four distinct pods, including a small dog area, agility course, water features and two shade structures. New trees, sidewalks and lighting make for an ulti-mutt experience. Following the grand opening, the dog park will be open every day, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. tempe.gov/ParkUpdates

Photo enforcement at 14 Tempe intersections

Photo enforcement cameras were installed at 14 high-risk intersections as part of Tempe's ongoing commitment to improve road safety. Fines will be issued beginning June 5. Studies show that photo enforcement can reduce collisions by more than 50%, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. See a map of the camera locations and get updates.



tempe.gov/PhotoEnforcement

Two Juneteenth Celebrations on June 14

Downtown Tempe Authority is bringing back the block party energy for a second year from 7-11 p.m. Last year set the bar, and this year, they're turning it up even more. Expect a night filled with live DJs, hip-hop dance battles, a pop-up roller rink, Double Dutch performances (and your chance to jump in!), spoken word, interactive art, soul food vendors, a mobile cigar lounge, the final rounds of our Barber Battle and an old school ice cream truck serving up nostalgia.



downtowntempe.com/Juneteenth

Tempe's African American Advisory Committee presents the 12th Annual Juneteenth Celebration to educate the community and celebrate freedom from slavery in the United States. The celebration will be held Saturday, June 14, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. This free, family-friendly event includes hands-on activities, performances, community resources, story time, food trucks and more! tempe.gov/Juneteenth

Stay safe as summer heats up

Arizona's heat can be dangerous and sometimes deadly for people who are unsheltered, people with health conditions, older adults and households without access to adequate air conditioning. Our region's heat relief season has begun and Tempe wants to ensure all residents stay cool, stay informed and stay safe.



Throughout Tempe, you can find various Hydration Stations where residents can cool off and refill their water bottles or use a drinking fountain. Some church and community locations serve as Cooling and Respite Centers and provide bottled water and snacks, space to rest and connections to resources such as shelter, health care and rent and utility assistance.

- Church of the Epiphany | **Cooling Center** | 2222 S. Price Rd.
- Escalante Multigenerational Center | **Hydration Station** | 2150 E. Orange St.
- Kiwanis Recreation Center | **Hydration Station** | 6111 S. All America Way
- North Tempe Multigenerational Center | **Hydration Station** | 1555 N. Bridalwreath St.
- Tempe Public Library | **Hydration Station** | 3500 S. Rural Rd.
- Terros Health-Priest Drive Recovery Center | **Hydration Station** | 1642 S. Priest Dr.
- The Native Action Program Respite Center | **Respite Center** | 1400 S. McClintock Dr. Suite #5
- University Presbyterian Church | **Respite Center** | 139 E. Alameda Dr. | Opens June 1
- Westside Multigenerational Center | **Hydration Station** | 715 W. 5th St.

See the hours of operation and holiday schedules at tempe.gov/HeatRelief.

IN BRIEF



Rati Tabatadze



Johanna Villanueva

SCHOLARSHIP

Local students awarded
2025 Flinn Scholarships

Two Tempe students are a part of the 20 Arizona high-school seniors awarded the 2025 Flinn Scholarship, the state's most prestigious merit-based award that provides a full ride to an Arizona public university.

The students from Tempe are Rati Tabatadze, a student at Gilbert Classical Academy, and Johanna Villanueva, a student at Marcos de Niza High School.

The 40th class of Flinn Scholars receives a comprehensive package valued at more than \$135,000 over four years, including the cost of tuition, fees, housing, meals, and at least two study-abroad experiences, including a two-week group summer seminar following freshman year, a press release explained.

The 20 Flinn Scholars representing 20 high schools will be attending Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona starting this fall.

The Flinn Scholarship is supported by the Phoenix-based Flinn Foundation.



The Kyrene School District Governing Board recently celebrated the 2025 District Poetry Contest Winners. (Kyrene School District)

Kyrene honors winners of annual District Poetry Contest

The Kyrene School District Governing Board recently honored 27 of the district's most talented young poets during a special recognition.

Students who attended were the grade-level winners of the annual District Poetry Contest, according to a district release. The contest highlights the creative voice of Kyrene students and reinforces the importance of literary expression in education.

Each spring, students across all Kyrene schools are invited to submit their poetry for consideration. Poems are first reviewed at the school level, with one winner selected per grade,

according to the release. These winning poems are then submitted anonymously to a district-wide panel for final judging.

This year, three district winners were selected at each grade level, showcasing exceptional talent and originality from students in kindergarten through eighth grade. All district winners received a certificate of recognition, and all poems can be read in this year's digital anthology.

The timing of this recognition is especially meaningful as April was nationally observed as Poetry Month — a time when communities reflect on the power of words and celebrate

the poets who inspire us, the release noted.

The 2025 District Poetry Contest Winners are:

Kindergarten:

- Aiden Gill, Kyrene de las Manitas Innovation Academy

- Jack Jeska, Kyrene del Milenio

- Anbessa Lacey, C.I. Waggoner

First grade:

- Trey Sueing, Kyrene de la Colina
- Austin Fertlemes, Kyrene de los Lagos Dual Language Academy

- Kolbe Dhaenens, C.I. Waggoner

Second grade:

• See **Poetry Contest** on page 15

Poetry Contest

• From page 14

- Gemma Logan, Kyrene de los Cerritos Leadership Academy
- Adam Quezada, Kyrene de las Lomas
- Lilliana Queior, Kyrene de la Mariposa Computer Science Academy
- Third grade:
 - Hannah Almeyda, Kyrene del Cielo

- Talyah Holmes, Kyrene de las Lomas
- Gianna Nicol, Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy
- Fourth grade:
 - Abigail Mendoza, Kyrene de los Cerritos Leadership Academy
 - Kareem Teleb, Kyrene del Cielo
 - Emagene Durot, Kyrene de la Colina
- Fifth grade:
 - Tiffany Nguyen, Kyrene de la Colina

- Claire Cadillo-Hammond, Kyrene de la Mirada Leadership Academy
- Delilah Holm, Kyrene de la Sierra
- Sixth grade:
 - Hope Skousen, Kyrene Akimel A-al Middle School
 - Abigail Robles, Kyrene Middle School
 - Arielle Bonner, Kyrene Traditional Academy
- Seventh grade:

- Elise Klucsarits, Kyrene Akimel A-al Middle School
- Roshan Walia, Kyrene Altadena Middle School
- Natalia Quintanilla-Pina, Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School
- Eighth grade:
 - Anna Cheng, Kyrene Altadena Middle School
 - Lily Zink, Kyrene Centennial Middle School
 - Liana Ballard, Kyrene Middle School

Contract

• From page 5

“This project will address those challenges,” Jurgemeyer stated. He noted in the report on the resolution to authorize a maximum cost that the project was initially expected to cost less than \$2 million, based on the cost of similar work that has been completed in the

last five years.

Recent increases in material costs and the larger scope of the project, compared to previous work, however, have caused the projected cost to increase.

“Staff have reviewed the construction proposal and determined that the cost is reasonable for the work proposed,” Jurgemeyer stated.

If council votes to approve the

maximum cost and to approve the job order, Garney Cos. will be responsible for the scope of work, which entails the replacement of four UV system butterfly valves, the rehabilitation of two filters’ underdrains, replacing media in two filters, and rehabilitating three hatches at three filters.

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

An aerial image from the city of Tempe of the South Tempe Water Treatment Plant at 6600 S. Price Road. (City of Tempe)



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JUNE 14-29



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Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway
<https://atc.org/show/ms-holmes-and-ms-watson-apt-2b/>

JUNE 14



Juneteenth celebration

The African-American Advisory Committee presents the 11th annual celebration to educate the community and celebrate freedom from slavery in the U.S. Free, family-friendly event with hands-on activities, performances, vendors, story time, a video game trailer, police and fire vehicles, food truck vendor and more. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

Tickets on sale for Tempe 4th celebration at Diablo Stadium

Celebrate Independence Day in Tempe with live music, activities for the whole family, and a drone show and fireworks display.

Tempe's 4th of July Celebration brings a fun-filled evening of festivities to Tempe Diablo Stadium, 2200 W. Alameda Drive, on Friday, July 4, from 5-10 p.m., according to a release.

Enjoy water slides, bounce houses, face painting and balloon animals, all included with admission. Rock out to live performances by DJ Soloman, Casey Ryan, and The Instant Classics. Traditional baseball fare and beverages will be available for purchase at locations throughout the stadium.

Bring picnic blankets and grab a spot on the field, or pick one of the general admission seats in the bowl to view the drone and fireworks show to top off the evening. Parking at the stadium is free.

Ticket information:

- \$10 in advance — Ages 13 and older must purchase tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-of-tempe-4th-of-july-celebration-with-fireworks-tickets-1301225704109?> in advance before the day of the event to receive the discounted rate

- \$15 day of event — Tickets purchased online the day of the event, or at the door. Free for children 12 and under. Free admission included with a paid parent/guardian ticket

Purchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-of-tempe-4th-of-july-celebration-with-fireworks-tickets-1301225704109?> to reserve your spot in the event of a sellout, and save \$5 per ticket.



Tempe's 4th of July Celebration brings a fun-filled evening of festivities to Tempe Diablo Stadium, 2200 W. Alameda Drive, on Friday, July 4, from 5-10 p.m. (Independent Newsmedia, Arianna Grainey)



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Peoria • March 26, 2026 • Westbrook Village

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IN BRIEF

ON LIST

Kyrene among districts named 'out of compliance' with federal DEI bans

Kyrene School District and several others districts in the Phoenix area have been deemed not in compliance with new federal guidelines on diversity, equity and inclusion programs, according to the Arizona Department of Education.

While court cases have halted President Donald Trump's administration from acting on efforts to restrict federal funding to those schools that move away from diversity, equity and inclusion programs, ADE compiled a list of districts.

Nineteen states have sued the Trump Administration on April 25 in the latest lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of the proposed diversity, equity and inclusion ban. A federal judge had already blocked the ban in another lawsuit filed by the National Education Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The U.S. Department of Education, with its original guidance that could have stripped federal funding from those schools and districts that did not ban the programs, has sent letters to states that no action can be taken against schools and districts that do not abandon those diversity, equity and

• See **Education** on page 22



Kyrene School District will seek a continuation of the district's M&O override. (Courtesy Kyrene School District/Billy Hardiman)

Kyrene seeks continuation of M&O override

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Kyrene School District is seeking a continuation of its maintenance and operations budget override on the November ballot, after the Kyrene Governing Board voted to seek a continuation of the 15% M&O override.

The board's unanimous vote at a special meeting on April 29 follows a recommendation by the Kyrene Long Range Planning Committee, presented during the April 22 regular governing board meeting, a district release explained.

The override continuation proposal will appear on the ballot for Kyrene voters in the Nov. 4 general election.

Overrides allow local voters to approve additional funding beyond state allocations for school district operating costs. In Kyrene, M&O override funds support the following:

- Small class sizes
- Special area instruction
- Targeted student support services
- Competitive salaries to attract and retain top educators

Kyrene Superintendent Laura Toenjes said in the release that the override generates about \$14 million in additional operating funds, equivalent to 200 teaching positions.

"That's more than 20% of all

Kyrene teachers," Toenjes said.

The ability to use M&O overrides for salaries and other day-to-day operational costs is distinctly different from bonds and capital overrides, which can only be used for capital projects such as infrastructure, transportation and technology, the release explained.

Kyrene has been operating under a locally supported M&O override for more than 20 years. That override lasts a maximum of seven years unless it is renewed early.

Voters last approved the override continuation in 2021. If it is not renewed, the annual amount phases down by one-third in the sixth year

• See **M&O Override** on page 22

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mesacc.edu/future-students



IN BRIEF

PERMITS

228 building permits issued in April in Tempe

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A total of 228 building permits were issued in the city of Tempe for April 2025.

Examples of building permits filed, according to <https://www.tempe.gov/government/community-development/building-safety/building-permits-issued>, by address, title, description of work, type, when issued, applicant and owner, were:

- 525 W. 21st St., 85282; Lucid Motors; installation of pallet racking; commercial addition/alteration; issued April 1; Arnold Machinery; Baxter Healthcare Corp.
- 7700 S. River Parkway, 85284; AMAT cleanroom expansion Phase 3, renewal of expired permit to raise existing cleanroom ceiling and expansion of suite; commercial addition/alteration/remodel; issued April 3; ASU; not listed.

• See **Development** on page 24



A rendering of the proposed Tempe Townhomes development at 2152 E. Wildermuth Drive. (City of Tempe)

Commission approves plan review for town house development

By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Tempe Development Review Commission recently approved a construction document for Tempe Townhomes, a new residential development that will create 35 dwelling units.

During the April 22 meeting, the commission voted to approve the development plan review for Tempe Townhomes at 2152 E. Wildermuth Drive. The development plan review, which includes the site plan, building elevations and landscape plan, was ap-

proved on consent.

City planner Lucas Jensen explained in a staff report that the new single-family residential townhome development consists of seven three-story buildings with 35 dwelling units on a little under 2 acres.

"There are three building types, a four-plex, five-plex and seven-plex with a total of six two-bedroom units and 19 three-bedroom units in the development," Jensen stated.

Required parking for the development is provided through a two-car

garage for the three-bedroom units and a one-car garage and surface parking for two-bedroom units. There are also 13 surface parking spaces on site for guest parking.

Currently, there are two single-family homes on the site, which will be demolished as part of the proposed project, according to Jensen.

In the report, Jensen wrote that the project has been reviewed four times, with the first in August 2024 and the latest formal review on March 26. The

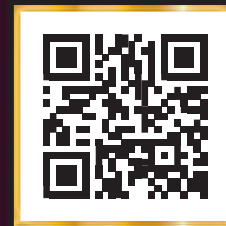
• See **Town Houses** on page 24

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M&O Override

• From page 18

and two-thirds in the seventh year.

Kyrene Long Range Planning Committee,

At the board's April 22 meeting, Kyrene CFO Chris Herrmann continued a presentation on the Long Range Planning Committee's recommendation to the governing board to continue the district's M&O override.

Members from the committee also presented, providing additional

details on why Kyrene should call for an election.

Notably, the presentation explained that Kyrene's annual M&O funding could decline by \$4.8 million in the 2027-28 school year without the continuation of the M&O override.

This poses a problem as Kyrene would have to rely on state funding for its ongoing operational expenses, while M&O override dollars account for over 10% of the overall funding for operational costs across the district.

Committee member Greg Lar-

son, a Kyrene parent, said that the recommendation for the board to call for the special election came from a detailed process that examined the community's understanding of the override and how it impacts them.

"The consensus was, this is not a tax increase. This is simply a continuation of something that has been in existence for several years," Larson said.

He said that with the group's development of its recommendation, there was overwhelming support for the district to call for the continua-

tion of its M&O override from the committee of about 50 people from the community.

Kyrene community members have historically shown support for M&O overrides, District Additional Assistance overrides and bond elections, with all funding measures passing during this time of the year except for one year in November 2020, Herrmann noted.

The above includes reporting by Caroline Yu. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

Education

• From page 18

inclusion programs.

Kyrene School District, which has schools in Phoenix, Chandler and Tempe, initially held off on submitting its certification to await

guidance from the courts or the U.S. Department of Education.

In an emailed statement from the district, it said that clarity on the issue has come with the U.S. Department of Education no longer requiring the certification and directing states to stand down.

"It's unclear why the Arizona Department of Education would list districts as compliant or non-compliant based on paperwork that is no longer even required," the district stated. "As Kyrene has repeatedly stated (and previously certified in writing for Federal grants),

all Kyrene policies and practices — including policies around equity, inclusion, and social-emotional wellness — are fully compliant with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

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Connolly Middle School



Class Act
Suzanne Morales
Arredondo Elementary School

Kyrene School District



Teacher of the Year
Bethany Goshtasbi
Kyrene de los Niños Elementary



Lifetime Achievement
Carrie Furedy
Kyrene District Office



Rising Star
Brooke Thomas
Kyrene de los Niños Elementary



Leadership
Scott Maxwell
Kyrene Middle School



High Impact
Dori Rabbani
Kyrene Altadeña Middle School



Inspiration
Melissa Campbell
Kyrene Middle School



Class Act
Margarita Gonzalez Cabrera
Kyrene Monte Vista Elementary

Tempe Union High School District



Teacher of the Year
Kim McElwain
McClintock High School



Lifetime Achievement
Elizabeth Stone
District Office



Rising Star
Melissa McLaughlin
McClintock High School



Leadership
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Desert Vista High School



High Impact
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Town Houses

• From page 20

applicant, Sustainability Engineering Group, made additional revisions to the submitted proposal on April 8, addressing staff comments from the review period.

Staff comments in the submitted development plan review included providing an eight-foot detached sidewalk along Wildermuth Drive, adding access control gates and driveway modifications for one-way circulation and removing on-street parking along Wildermuth Drive.

Jensen wrote that based on the provided information and staff's analysis,

it was recommended that the commission approve the development plan review, as the request met the required criteria and will conform to the conditions.

There were only two non-standard conditions of approval included within the development plan review. One states that "construction of all new perimeter (concrete masonry unit) walls shall be coordinated with adjacent property owners."

The other non-standard condition holds that all exterior lighting on private property used for meeting required lighting levels shall be controlled by a photocell, not on a timer or switch.

*To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at
AsOpinions@iniusa.org.*

Development

• From page 20

♦ 6000 S. Lakeshore Drive, 85283; Marcos de Niza High School foundation repair, installation of push piers; other; issued April 8; Arizona Foundation Solutions; Tempe Union High School District 213.

♦ 1300 W. Warner Road, 85284; Honeywell, electrical only - building 1206; mechanical, electrical, plumbing; issued April 22; Ware Malcomb; Robert Chase.

♦ 1753 E. Broadway Road, 85282; The Orange Chicken Spot, Suite 103; tenant improvement; issued April 23; Howard Li; NG 1753 LLC

♦ 1811 E. Apache Blvd., 85281; Hechalou Tempe, Suite 114; tenant improvement; issued April 23; not listed; Harmony Decor LLC;

♦ 2420 W. Baseline Road, 85282; Celerion Biolab; convert existing file storage room; tenant improvement; issued April 23; GHC-Orcutt Winslow; Celerion.

♦ 2005 W. 14th St., 85281; Microchip Building T4; tenant improvement; tenant improvement — demolition; issued April 25; Microchip

Technology Inc.; Hohokam III Developers LLC.

♦ 2405 S. Industrial Park Ave., 85282; Haynes Mechanical; tenant improvement; commercial addition/alteration/remodel; issued April 25; Pinnacle Design Inc; Industrial Park Center.

♦ 515 E. Continental Drive, 85288; Abiding Savior; re-route of gas line; mechanical, electrical, plumbing; issued April 25; BMS CAT; Abiding Savior Evangelical Lutheran.

♦ 1215 W. Rio Salado Parkway, 85281; Riverside Suite 213; tenant improvement; issued April 25; Architierra Design LLC; Riverside CII LLC.

♦ 8830 S. Kyrene Road, 85284; Spaghetti Shark Kyrene Suite 101; tenant improvement; issued April 25; 312 Architect and Design; not listed.

♦ 1100 E. Apache Blvd., 85281; El Paisano Market Suite 129 (Range 129-131); tenant improvement; issued April 25; B.E. Designs LLC; not listed.

♦ 1000 E. Apache Blvd., 85281; The Carmin (rooftop amenities); replacement of existing running track with pickleball courts; other; issued April 30; Alden Street; not listed.

Altadeña students raise \$1,500 for clean water for families in South Sudan

Seventh-grade students at Kyrene Altadeña Middle School walked to help make a difference for families in South Sudan.

The fundraiser, nearing its 10th year, will help provide clean water for impoverished communities, according to a release.

During students' English Language Arts class period, students each carried two gallons of water on a walk around fields at Altadeña, raising money with each completed trip. In addition to fundraising, students were recreating the experience of a character in the book, "A Long Walk to Water."

The book tells the story of a young Sudanese girl who walks barefoot every day for hours to collect water.

"We had a lot of support this year for the Water Walk," Tara Camarano, a seventh-grade ELA teacher, said in the release. "The community came together to help raise the money. Students gained a great sense of empathy as they learned how much work it is to walk a long distance carrying water. They now have a new appreciation for what many go through daily in South Sudan."

Camarano also entered a drawing hosted by Water for South Sudan — and won — securing a special visit to Altadeña's campus. In May, a representative from the organization will meet with students to share how their fundraising efforts are transforming communities in South Sudan.



The funds help to build wells for Sudanese villages, where women and children walk an average of 3.7 miles per trip to collect water, which is often contaminated. (Metro Creative Connection)

"We have an upcoming live presentation with a representative from Water for South Sudan Inc. where students will learn about water scarcity in South Sudan and be given an overview of the drilling, rehabilitation, and sanitation projects," said

Camarano.

Each year, seventh-grade ELA teachers aim to raise at least \$1,000 for the Water for South Sudan organization. The students exceeded their goal again this year and raised more than \$1,500.

The funds help to build wells for Sudanese villages, where women and children walk an average of 3.7 miles per trip to collect water, which is often contaminated. According to Water for South Sudan, only one out of ten people there have access to basic sanitation. Since the fundraiser began, Altadeña Middle Schoolers have raised nearly \$20,000 and partially sponsor a well in South Sudan and are looking into sponsoring a second.

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Death of an animal can cause as much heartbreak as loss of a human friend

By Don Kirkland

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

May marks the third anniversary of Bella Kirkland arriving at our home to claim her spot on, or more accurately, in my bed. That's where she joined the ranks of Suzie, Jodi, Sandy, Sophie and Heidi Kirkland, all of whom have moved on to loftier accommodations.

No, we hadn't grown apart. Meals were always on time. Morning, afternoon and evening expressions of love were never overlooked. Romantic walks, hugs and kisses were regularly

given and taken.

So what was the problem, you ask? Simply the reality that the guy upstairs must think that if dogs spent less time with us on earth than, say, elephants, more dogs (and more people) could share in the pleasures of having meaningful access to one of God's many creatures.

This relates in a way to the recent passing of Indu, one of the Phoenix Zoo's most loved inhabitants, who became ill and was euthanized earlier this month at the ripe old (?) age of 59.

Understandably, at least as viewed by this animal lover, the death of such a creature — any one — can cause nearly as much heartbreak as that of a human friend. Take for example the reaction conveyed by the daughter of my friend's zoo co-workers when the decision was made (necessarily, it was emphasized) to put an end to Indu's life-altering ailments.

Although I haven't experienced the agony of losing an animal of such magnificence, I am nonetheless saddened

• See **Bella** on page 30



Don Kirkland



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Tempe Woman's Club returns to historic clubhouse built in 1936

Group seeks sponsors to continue legacy of service

Tempe Woman's Club is returning to its historic clubhouse, a landmark that has served the community for nearly a century.

As the club re-establishes its home base, Tempe Woman's Club is seeking sponsors and donors to help preserve this historic space and support the ongoing charitable work that has defined the organization since 1913, according to a release.

The adobe clubhouse at 1290 S. Mill, designed by renowned Arizona architect Kemper Goodwin and built in 1936, has long been a hub for

civic engagement, philanthropy and social events in Tempe. Listed on both the Tempe Historic Property Registry and the National Register of Historic Places, the building has hosted generations of community service projects, fundraising events and educational programs that have positively impacted countless lives, the release states.

"We are thrilled to be moving back into our beloved clubhouse, a space that has stood as a testament to the power of women working together to improve our community," Luanne Davis, president of Tempe Woman's Club, said in the release. "Now, as we embark on this new chapter, we need the support of lo-

• See **Woman's Club** on page 30



The clubhouse at 1290 S. Mill in Tempe. (Tempe Woman's Club)



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Council to discuss adding agritainment land use to zoning, development code

Text amendments are planned on new land uses for agritainment, data centers and extreme water users in the Tempe zoning and development code.

The Tempe Development Review Commission on May 13 voted unanimously on a consent agenda with other items to recommend that the Tempe City Council approve the changes, which include text amendments for clarification to smoking establishment and tobacco retail land uses, modifications to applications, updates to security plans and definitions.

Agritainment is proposed as a land use in the AG, agricultural zoning district with uses including, but not limited to, fitness, education, special events, festivals and markets, art exhibits, agricultural food processing, petting zoos, camping, short term rentals, and similar entertainment attractions.

The current zoning and development code was adopted and implemented in 2005 and has had approximately 75 amendments in the past 20 years. City staff have been tracking and compiling needed zoning and development code changes, corrections and items in need of clarification, according to a city document.



Agritainment is proposed as a land use in the AG, agricultural zoning district with uses including, but not limited to, fitness, education, special events, festivals and markets, art exhibits, agricultural food processing, petting zoos, camping, short term rentals, and similar entertainment attractions. (Metro Creative)

The Tempe City Council is scheduled to hold its first public hearing June 5 on the requested zoning and

development code text amendments and associated Tempe city code text amendment. The council on July 1 is

scheduled for a second and final public hearing for zoning ordinance and associated code text amendments.

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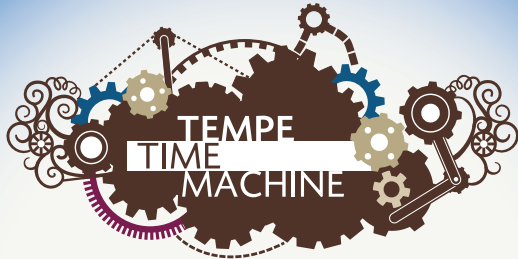
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tempe.gov/EdnaArts

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tempe.gov/TimeMachine



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June 14 | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tempe History Museum
809 E. Southern Ave.
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tempe.gov/juneteenth



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June 21 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy
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Woman's Club

• From page 27

cal businesses, organizations and individuals to ensure that we can continue our mission for generations to come."

Tempe Woman's Club's fundraising efforts will focus on maintaining and restoring the clubhouse while continuing key community initiatives, including providing resources for other Tempe nonprofits, supporting domestic-violence survivors, supporting the Tempe Family Advocacy Center and feeding those in need. In 2024, Tempe Woman's Club donated 4,800 volunteer hours, completed 160 community projects, gathered \$30,000 worth of in-kind donations and fundraised more than \$18,000 for local causes.

Sponsors and donors will have the unique opportunity to be part of a historic legacy that has shaped Tempe for over 110 years. Tempe Woman's Club is looking for sponsors and donors to raise \$500,000 to complete various projects at the clubhouse including replacement of the electrical system, new windows, rotting wood and stucco on exterior, paint interior, code compliance for landscaping, parking lot repave-

ment, furniture, floor refinishing, kitchen equipment, HVAC replacement and roof if needed.

Once Tempe Woman's Club re-occupies the clubhouse, all Tempe Woman's Club meetings will be hosted there, including Book Club and community projects, such as packing parties for Women4Women. Tempe Woman's Club will offer to host the biannual GFWC-Central District meeting and statewide GFWC-AZ Convention and Board of Directors meeting. The clubhouse also will be available to rent by community groups for their events.

The club is planning a celebratory open house event to welcome the community back into this historic space. Details will be announced soon.

For information on sponsorship opportunities or to make a donation visit www.tempewomansclub.com or contact Luanne Davis at gfwc-tempewomansclub@gmail.com.

About Tempe Woman's Club

Founded in 1913, the Tempe Woman's Club is dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service. With a focus on civic engagement, education and philanthropy, the release states.

Bella

• From page 26

by the process of ending the time on Earth of any such creature, large or small.

Which is why, when our longtime co-writer and friend Andrew Lwowski shared with his co-workers the reasons behind his decision not to pursue a degree in veterinary science while he was a student at the University of Arizona — one of the acclaimed such programs — we understood.

While he didn't list it as one of the reasons behind his decision, five names came to my mind: Suzie, Jodi, Sandy, Sophie, Heidi. For me to have to deal with the reality of so many loved ones leaving our lives — and our love — within such a short timeframe ... not an experience I'd want to confront again. Six times over.

Don Kirkland is publisher of the Wrangler News Independent. 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>.

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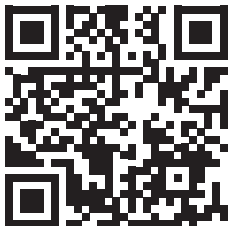
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Charo, Canadian Brass to perform in 2025-26 Tempe Center for the Arts season

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tempe Center for the Arts' upcoming season includes performances by Sweet Honey in the Rock, Wakka Wakka, Pilobolus Dance, Canadian Brass, Charo, and partnerships with ASU Gammage and Arizona Theatre Co.

"Programming at Tempe Center for the Arts in the 2025-26 season will offer a dynamic mix of national touring acts, performances by local artists and free or lost-cost community events," said Brenda Abney, community services deputy director for arts and culture, during a May 8 city council work session.

"TCA and its partners will expand programming beyond the musical focus to embrace a broader range of artistic disciplines and styles," she said.

They include theater, dance, comedy, family programming, cultural celebrations and emerging forms such as a virtual-reality partnership with ASU Gammage, Abney said.

"Highlights include an Indian American modern fusion dance company, global music from a Jordanian singer, a Latina international icon and a renown African American musical group that incorporates Ameri-



For 2025-26, Tempe Center for the Arts is to explore more free programming with community events to ensure inclusive and accessible arts experiences. (Metro Creative)

TCA HOME AND RESIDENT THEATERS

Tempe Center for the Arts' home and resident theaters include:

- Arizona Theatre Co.
- Stray Cat Theatre
- Arizona Wind Symphony
- CONDER/dance

- Cultural Coalition
- Phoenix Children's Chorus
- Hayden's Ferry Chamber Music Series
- Tempe Community Chorus
- Tempe Symphony Orchestra

Source: City of Tempe

can Sign language into their programming," she said.

"We're also proud to spotlight the rich and important work created and

presented by our own community. This includes a full season of plays from our home company, Arizona Theatre Co., and exciting work from

TCA's nine resident companies," Abney said.

TCA also will explore more free programming with community events to ensure inclusive and accessible arts experiences, she said.

Free and community events planned, according to the presentation, include:

- ASU Performance with a View
- Gallery @ TCA
- Walk-in Wednesdays Open Mic Night

- Native Holiday Market
- El Puente Festival
- Draw-A-Thon
- Drag & Draw
- Indigena Cultural Celebration
- Arizona Theatre Co./TCA Latino New Play Festival

"Along with expanding and diversifying our programming portfolio, TCA will offer scaled pricing for our tickets to our TCA Presents series and make more free programming available to the public," Abney said.

Tempe Center for the Arts is at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Go to <https://www.tempecenterforthearts.com>.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

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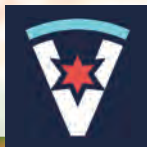
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Thanks to the Independent Newsmedia, we're not just a pizzeria — we're part of the community, and it's been amazing to see the growth we've experienced. We highly recommend advertising here to anyone looking to connect with local customers!

Isaac Younan

— Isaac Younan, Owner



The city's six advanced life support ambulances are available 24/7 and are staffed by 39 employees — 18 emergency medical technicians and 21 paramedics. There is also one ambulance transportation supervisor. Total transports were 12,488 in 2024. (Metro Creative)

Council updated on 6 ambulances at Tempe Fire and Rescue

By Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

It has been a decade since Tempe officials gave the go-ahead to start a city ambulance service to transport sick and injured citizens, and officials say the transition from private service has been successful.

The city of Tempe was awarded its certificate of necessity for ambulance service through Arizona Department of Health Services in 2016, began service with two ambulances in 2017, and added two units in 2019 and two more in 2022, Interim Tempe Fire and Rescue Chief Darrell Duty said at a May 8 city council work session.

Greg Ruiz, former Tempe fire chief and now interim Tempe chief deputy city manager, recalled at the work session how fire officials a decade ago sought to add an ambulance service.

TEMPE AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS

Total transports of individuals for 2018-24 are:

- 4,222 in 2018
- 7,927 in 2019
- 7,404 in 2020
- 8,920 in 2021
- 12,635 in 2022
- 13,256 in 2024
- 12,488 in 2024

Source: City of Tempe

cadre sought to add an ambulance service.

"Roughly 10 years ago we stood

• See **Ambulances** on page 36

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Ambulances

• From page 34

in the chambers and we presented to mayor and council our concerns with the ambulance industry at that time. At the conclusion of that meeting, we were given a directive to go forward and seek the CON — or certificate of necessity — which would provide us with the permission through the state to transport sick and injured citizens here in Tempe as well as our neighboring communities. We did just that and 10 years later we're here to present the build-out program; we've been build-out for about three years," he said.

The city's six advanced life support ambulances are available 24/7 and are staffed by 39 employees — 18 emergency medical technicians and 21 paramedics. There is also one ambulance transportation supervisor. Total transports were 12,488 in 2024,



Interim Chief Darrell Duty (City of Tempe)

Interim Chief Darrell Duty said.

"I'm happy to report the transition to Tempe Fire and Rescue ambulance service has been a success. We're providing high-quality emergency medical care and transportation and we're excited about the fu-



Interim Tempe Chief Deputy City Manager Greg Ruiz (Billy Hardiman)

ture of this service," Duty said.

The city's enterprise fund in fiscal year 2023-24 purchased a ninth ambulance for Tempe, he said.

"It's very important that we have the correct number of vehicles that

are available for us to use. As I mentioned before, we have got six units that are staffed 24/7 and then we have three reserve units so that if an ambulance has to go in for maintenance or repair we still have a vehicle that we can put the crew in so they can continue to provide service," Duty said.

Every Tempe fire truck and ambulance has a LUCAS device that provides mechanical chest compressions, he said.

Councilmember Berdetta Hodge said she has seen Tempe Fire and Rescue in action.

"Just commend your whole staff," she said. "I've never heard a negative ... comment about the fire department and I'm just very honored and proud to have such a great fire department in our city," Hodge said.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AZOpinions@iniusa.org.

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5 FOR THE FIGHT



20-story mixed-use Leo Tempe development to have 2,300 bedrooms

By Richard H. Dyer

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A 20-story mixed-use development with housing and commercial on 3.61 acres is planned for the southeast corner of South Rural Road and East University Drive in Tempe.

The Tempe Development Review Commission on May 13 voted 6-0 to recommend that the city council approve the project's development plan review. Voting were Chair Andrew Johnson; and Commissioners Stefan Richter; Charles L. Redman; Robert J. Miller, an alternate member; Linda Spears; and Rhiannon Corbett, an alternate member.

The applicant is Snell & Wilmer LLP.

The Leo Tempe project at 835 S. Rural Road has almost 14,000 square feet of commercial space and 786 units containing 2,300 bedrooms. Each of the two mixed-use buildings is 236 feet 10 inches high. The parking garage is 121 feet 8 inches high with perforated metal screen panels.



The Leo Tempe project at 835 S. Rural Road includes 786 units containing 2,300 bedrooms and almost 14,000 square feet of commercial space. Each of the two mixed-use buildings are 236 feet 10 inches high. (City of Tempe)

"The applicant is proposing a development with 20-story buildings and one 10-story parking garage," Senior Planner Karen Stovall said during the meeting. "Commercial uses are proposed on the first floor of the building with street frontages ... with amenities on levels two through 20."

Plans propose one driveway on Rural Road on the south end of the site, one passenger driveway on University Drive on the east end of the site that leads into the garage, and an additional driveway on University Drive for fire and emergency vehicles that is designed

with mountable curbs and signs to restrict passenger vehicle access, according to city records.

The Tempe Development Review Commission holds public meetings and hearings to provide analysis and recommendations to the city council regarding general land use policies and applications where the commission has recommendatory power and to render final decisions on specified applications where the commission has final decision-making power, including, but not limited to, all aspects of a proposed and future development, according to a membership roster PDF on the city's website.

The Development Review Commission has seven members and three alternates; the latter serve at the commission hearing whenever a regular member is unable to attend or must decline due to conflict of interest, it states on the document.

Richard H. Dyer can be reached at rdyer@iniusa.org, or on X @rhdyer. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at [AzOpinions@iniusa.org](https://www.azopinions.com/iniusa.org).

The Nick Bastian Team
Your Real Estate Experts

REALTY EXECUTIVES

Community Spotlight: Estate La Colina



Conveniently located in South Tempe near McClintock and Warner Road, Estate La Colina has it all. With easy freeway access and area amenities like restaurants, shopping and outstanding schools, residents love the lifestyle this community has to offer. Estrada Park is located right inside Estate La Colina and features an updated playground, basketball courts, BBQ grills and picnic tables. With several community events planned throughout the year, neighbors gather together to catch up and meet new friends. What's not to love?

Get more information and see homes currently for sale at: NickBastian.com/Estate-la-Colina

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!



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.

NickBastian.com 602-803-6425



YOU'LL LIVING IN THE LAKES!

Sold



*Custom on The Island
w/ Swimming Pool*

1070 E Sandpiper Dr • \$849,000
3 Bedroom + Den/2.5 Bath/2,664sqft

Under Contract



*Updated Single Level
w/ Swimming Pool*

931 E Eveningstar Ln • \$695,000
4 Bed/2 Bath/2,102sqft

Sold



*Lake Park Villas
Condo*

2 Bed/1 Bath/1050sqft • \$259,900

Sold



Waterfront on the Island

1065 E Sandpiper Dr
4 Bed/2.5 Bath/2,520sqft

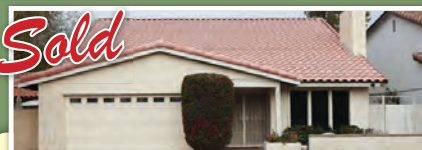
Sold



*Custom in the Coves
w/ Swimming Pool*

1302 E Steamboat Bend Dr • \$779,000
5 Bed/3 Bath/2,544sqft

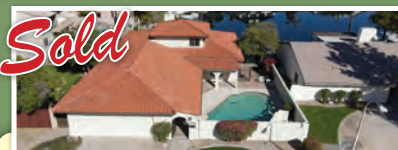
Sold



Home on the Rapids

5514 S Jolly Roger Rd
4 Bed/2.5 Bath/2250sqft

Sold



Waterfront in The Coves

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

Sold



Single Level on East Lake

1523 E Driftwood Dr • \$579,000
3 Bedroom/2 Bath/1,629sqft

Sold



Waterfront in The Coves

1405 E Whalers Way • \$715,000
3 Bedroom/2 Bathroom/1897sqft

Sold



Resort Living on the Island

1064 E Sandpiper Dr • \$885,000
3 Bed + Den/3 Bath/2,871sqft

Sold



*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!

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

